AP Photo/Charles Krupa

Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) fouls Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart during the first quarter of Game 5 of an NBA basketball playoff series in Boston, Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

Celtics eliminate 76ers in Game 5

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON — With 2.4 seconds left and the Boston Celtics leading by two, Marcus Smart had a chance to clinch Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals and eliminate Philadelphia by making a pair of free throws.

He missed the first.

He could have made things more difficult for the 76ers by missing the second one on purpose, and forcing them to go the length of the court with the clock running. He chucked it against the rim; it went in.

That gave the 76ers a chance to win with a desperation 3-pointer. The full-court inbounds pass went into the left corner, and who was there to intercept it, heaving it back into the air to run out the clock?

To the surprise of no one in a Celtics uniform, it was Smart.

"That's a Marcus Smart sequence. That just describes him so well," guard Jaylen Brown said after Boston beat Philadelphia 114-112 on Wednesday night to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year. "If it came down to one guy coming up with it, everybody's got their money on Smart."

Jayson Tatum scored 25 points, Brown had 24 and Terry Rozier scored 17, sinking a pair of free throws to make it a four-point game with 9.8 seconds left after forcing Joel Embiid's turnover. Al Horford added 15 points and eight rebounds for Boston.

The Celtics will play Cleveland in the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year. Game 1 is Sunday in Boston. It's the Celtics' first back-to-back trips to the conference finals since making it five straight times in the original Big Three era from 1984-88.

"When you get here, you're flattered by the thought of the Boston Celtics," coach Brad Stevens said. "You realize if you're going to break records here, you're going to break bad ones. Because none of the good ones are reachable."

Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers, Dario Saric had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists. The 76ers rode The Process back into the playoffs for the first time since 2012, winning won 20 out of 21 games before Boston beat them three straight times to open the conference semifinals.

"The Process is never going to end," Embiid said. "This is a process to get to the playoffs, we did it. This was a process to get to the conference finals, we didn't. Next year, that's our goal."

In a game that featured 21 lead changes — the most in the playoffs this year — the Celtics scored eight straight points in the final 1:37, taking the lead on Tatum's layup with 23 seconds left. Embiid had a chance to tie it but he missed a heavily contested layup, failed to tip it back in and then grabbed that rebound, too.

Rozier knocked the ball out of his hands, off his leg and out of bounds with 10.8 seconds left.

"Just a championship play, that's all," said Rozier, who made a pair of free throws to make it 113-109 — eight straight points for Boston.

J.J. Reddick's 3-pointer cut the deficit to one, and then it was Smart's turn. Coming off the bench, he had 14 points, six rebounds, six assists and three steals.

"He's made for this," Stevens said. "He's made for these moments. We can go through the stat line all you want, but when your season's on the line and you need to do really hard things, he can do really hard things."

BRIEFLY

Dbacks allowed to leave Chase Field

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Diamondbacks can leave Chase Field to find a new home by 2022 without penalty following a vote by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

The Diamondbacks reached an agreement with the Maricopa County Stadium District last week to allow the team to leave Chase Field up to five years early if it drops lawsuit demanding $187 million in upgrades.

The board voted 4-1 on Wednesday to approve the deal.

The Diamondbacks have played at Chase Field in downtown Phoenix since 1998, when they joined MLB as an expansion team.

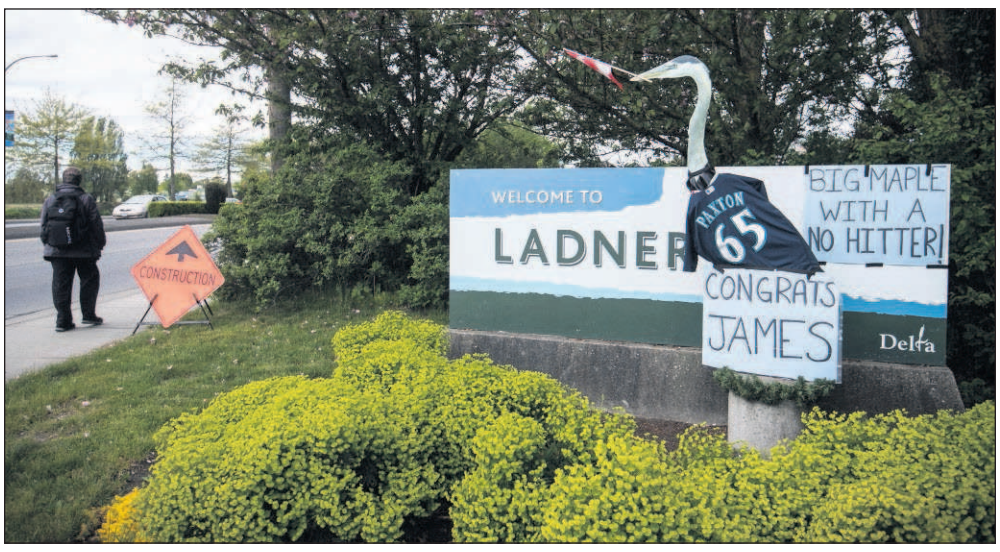
The Diamondbacks filed the lawsuit last year, contending the ballpark needed major repairs and upgrades.

Corrections

In the Wednesday, May 9 prep roundup article titled 'Mustang golfers shine at districts,' we incorrectly reported that the Irrigon softball team had defeated the Heppner softball team twice previously in a doubleheader in March, when in fact it was Heppner that won both two games by the combined score of 19-5.

Paxton happy to share no-hitter with Canadian hometown

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press



Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press via AP

A man walks past a welcome sign bearing a heron adorned with a jersey of Seattle Mariners' pitcher James Paxton, in Ladner, British Columbia.

TORONTO — There's a sign on the Ladner Trunk Road outside Ladner, British Columbia, the hometown of Seattle Mariners pitcher James Paxton, welcoming visitors to the coastal community south of Vancouver.

The sign's main feature is a heron, and locals occasionally dress the bird up for big events, such as Canada Day or a Canucks playoff game.

Late Tuesday night, the heron was clad in a Seattle Mariners jersey with Paxton's name and number 65 on the back, honoring the lefty's no-hitter against the Toronto Blue Jays. A Canadian flag was stuck in the bird's mouth, and hand-lettered signs were taped up reading "Congrats James" and "Big Maple with a no-hitter," a reference to Paxton's nickname, and the large maple leaf tattoo on his right forearm.

"Some friends did it last night and they sent me a picture of it," Paxton said Wednesday. "That was really cool to see. The support I have back home is really special. It's just so great of them to think to do something like that."

Paxton became the second Canadian to throw a no-hitter, and the first to do it north of the border, with Tuesday's 5-0 win over the Blue Jays. The official Twitter account of Canada tweeted congratulations to him.

That the game was in Canada meant it aired on television in his hometown, which meant a lot to the six-year veteran.

"It was definitely special to do in Canada," Paxton said. "Having talked to all the people I've talked to since the game, just the ability they had to watch the game because it was in Canada, was really special.

"Everyone was watching," he added. "I got all kinds of text messages and videos of people watching the last out and stuff. It was pretty amazing."

Paxton has been doing a lot of talking since his big game, be it fielding interviews or the three hours he spent on the phone after Tuesday's game.

"I think my voice is starting to go," he said. "It's just been a whirlwind."

Paxton's gem also gave Mariners manager Scott Servais plenty to talk about Wednesday at his previously scheduled appearance at a luncheon for the Jays Care Foundation, the Blue Jays' registered charity.

"Day after a no-hitter, pretty good day to do it," Servais said. "We had fun sharing a few stories with that group from last night's game."

The most popular story, Servais said, was about Mariners arranging to have 'O Canada,' the country's national anthem, play over the clubhouse sound system when Paxton walked in following the game.

"The whole team was waiting for Pax to come in off the field after doing all the interviews and whatnot," Servais said. "Everybody has got their champagne, ready to dump the champagne on his head and do that stuff. As he walks in, 'O Canada' was playing, which I thought was pretty cool. The guys were fired up about it. Pax thought it was great."

Paxton joined Dick Fowler of the 1945 Philadelphia Athletics as the only Canadians to throw a no-hitter. It was the seventh no-hitter thrown outside the United States, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Seattle's defense turned in some sparkling plays to preserve Paxton's no-hitter. Perhaps the best was third baseman Kyle Seager's full-length diving stop on speedy Kevin Pillar's grounder down the line, followed by an off-balance throw that first baseman Ryon Healy snagged on one hop.

"What stood out to me was how much our team was really into it, the fact that we played so well in the field," Servais said. "There were a lot of really good defensive plays behind him."

The Mariners plan to honor Paxton on May 18 when they host Detroit in his next home start.

Paxton's was the sixth no-hitter for the Mariners, and the first since Hisashi Iwakuma did it against Baltimore in 2015. Felix Hernandez threw a perfect game in 2012, and Randy Johnson tossed Seattle's first no-hitter in 1990.

It was the first no-hitter against the Blue Jays and the first in Canada since Justin Verlander did it for Detroit on May 7, 2011. The Blue Jays have been no-hit five times.

The crowd at Rogers Centre rooted for Paxton in the late innings. After his teammates had left the field, he came back out for a final wave.

"Just showing my respect to the Canadian fans," Paxton said. "I really appreciate their cheers after the game, supporting me being Canadian. That was very special. I just wanted to show them that I heard them and that I was very grateful for their support."

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL

Thursday
Hermiston at The Dalles, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Stanfield at Vale (DH), 1 p.m.
Irrigon at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.
Pendleton at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Joseph at Umatilla (DH), 3 p.m.
La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), 3 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Thursday
Weston-McEwen at Echo (DH), 3 p.m.
Riverside at Hermiston JV, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Irrigon at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Pendleton at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Union at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m.
Grant Union at Echo, 11 a.m.
Heppner at Culver (DH), 1 p.m.
La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), 3 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Thursday
Pendleton, Hermiston at CRC Districts (Hermiston), 4 p.m.
Friday
Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Pilot Rock, Heppner at Districts (Athena), 11 a.m.
Umatilla, Irrigon, Riverside at EOL Districts (Umatilla)
Saturday
Helix, Echo, Arlington, Ione, Condon/Wheeler at Districts (Moro), 10:30 a.m.
Mac-Hi at GOL Districts (Milton-Freewater), Noon
Umatilla, Irrigon, Riverside at EOL Districts

PREP TENNIS

Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton (boys) at Districts (Hermiston), 8 a.m.
Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Ione, Helix at Districts (Kennewick), 9 a.m.
Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at Districts (Bend), 10 a.m.
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton (boys) at Districts (Hermiston), 8 a.m.
Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Ione, Helix at Districts (Kennewick), 9 a.m.
Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at Districts (Bend), 10 a.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Big Bend at BMCC (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
BMCC at Columbia Basin (DH), 2 p.m.
Monday, May 14
EOU at Oklahoma City (NAIA Championships Opening Round), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Friday
Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships (at Hermiston), all day
Saturday
Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships (at Hermiston), all day

Prep Standings

Through May 9

PREP BASEBALL

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

	LG	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pendleton	9-2	15-8	168	113	6
Hood River	7-4	13-11	137	114	12
Hermiston	3-7	7-15	92	151	21
The Dalles	2-8	5-16	72	179	25

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
La Grande	10-0	16-2	173	53	3
Ontario	6-4	13-9	174	98	10
Baker	4-6	9-12	119	155	25
Mac-Hi	0-10	6-15	91	192	32

3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Stanfield	11-1	18-5	273	150	3
Vale	10-2	10-7	200	116	10
Joseph	9-3	16-5	191	85	5
Irrigon	7-5	13-8	187	145	13
Burns	5-7	7-14	136	180	16
Umatilla	3-9	7-10	126	135	27
Riverside	2-10	6-15	133	220	28
Nyssa	1-11	1-23	57	354	32

2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pilot Rock	11-1	16-2	168	45	3
Sherman	9-0	14-2	175	62	6
Grant Union	7-5	12-11	158	108	18
Culver	6-3	10-7	122	88	10
Elgin	6-6	6-7	61	61	24
W-McEwen	4-8	6-16	146	210	30
Heppner	3-6	8-12	191	223	27
Union	2-10	3-15	89	204	38
Dufur	0-9	2-15	53	211	37

PREP SOFTBALL

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pendleton	11-0	23-1	248	47	1
Hood River	6-5	18-5	191	72	5
Hermiston	4-6	13-9	161	145	7
The Dalles	0-10	7-16-1	132	210	18

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
La Grande	10-0	17-4	193	55	3
Mac-Hi	8-2	16-7	180	120	5
Ontario	1-9	11-11	189	110	21
Baker	1-9	6-17	151	257	26

3A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Echo	8-2	17-4	255	68	11
Irrigon	6-4	10-13	142	184	15
Riverside	5-4	8-8	100	95	14
W-McEwen	4-5	5-12	158	193	25
Umatilla	0-8	0-12	59	231	37

2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Union	9-1	18-3	216	95	5
Pilot Rock	9-1	17-2	242	52	4
Heppner	2-8	8-11	104	171	14
Culver	0-10	0-21	64	322	28

Basketball

NBA PLAYOFFS
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Wednesday's Game
Boston 114, Philadelphia 112 (BOS wins series 4-1)

Hockey

NHL PLAYOFFS
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Tuesday-Wednesday Game's
No games scheduled.
Thursday's Game
Winnipeg at Nashville, 5 p.m. (Series tied 3-3)
CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7)
Friday's Game
Game 1: Washington at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	10	.722	—
Boston	25	11	.694	1
Toronto	20	17	.541	6½
Tampa Bay	15	19	.441	10
Baltimore	9	27	.250	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	18	18	.500	—
Minnesota	15	17	.469	1
Detroit	15	21	.417	3
Kansas City	12	24	.333	6
Chicago	9	25	.265	8

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	22	14	.611	½
Seattle	20	15	.571	2
Oakland	18	19	.486	5
Texas	15	24	.385	9

Wednesday's Games
Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 2
Texas 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 6, Chicago White Sox 5
L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 0
Houston 4, Oakland 1
Baltimore 5, Kansas City 3
N.Y. Yankees 9, Boston 6
Toronto 5, Seattle 2
Atlanta 5, Tampa Bay 2
Thursday's Games
Boston (Rodriguez 3-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 2-0), 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Kennedy 1-3) at Baltimore (Tillman 1-5), 4:05 p.m.
Seattle (Leake 3-3) at Toronto (Happ 4-2), 4:07 p.m.
Minnesota (Berrios 3-3) at L.A. Angels (Richards 4-1), 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	14	.600	—
Philadelphia	21	15	.583	½
Washington	20	18	.526	2½
New York	18	17	.514	3
Miami	13	23	.361	8½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	20	14	.588	—
Milwaukee	21	16	.568	½
Pittsburgh	21	16	.568	½
Chicago	19	15	.559	1
Cincinnati	10	27	.270	11½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	24	11	.686	—
Colorado	21	16	.568	4
San Francisco	19	18	.514	6
Los Angeles	15	20	.429	9
San Diego	14	24	.368	11½

Wednesday's Games
Cincinnati 2, N.Y. Mets 1, 10 innings
Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 2
Pittsburgh 6, Chicago White Sox 5
Chicago Cubs 13, Miami 4
L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 0
Philadelphia 11, San Francisco 3
Atlanta 5, Tampa Bay 2
San Diego 2, Washington 1
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Thursday's Games
San Francisco (Blach 3-3) at Philadelphia (Velasquez 2-4), 10:05 a.m.
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 2-2) at Miami (Smith 2-3), 4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 2-1) at Colorado (Marquez 2-3), 5:40 p.m.
Washington (Roark 2-3) at Arizona (Greinke 3-2), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Mahle 2-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 4-0) at San Diego (Lyles 0-0), 7:10 p.m.

Soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United FC	7	2	1	22	23	12
New York City FC	6	2	2	20	19	14
Columbus	5	3	3	18	14	10
Orlando City	5	2	1	16	16	13
New York	5	3	0	15	21	10
New England	4	3	2	14	15	12
Chicago	3	4	2	11	13	14
Montreal	3	7	0	9	14	24
Philadelphia	2	5	2	8	6	14
Toronto FC	2	5	1	7	10	15
D.C. United	1	4	2	5	8	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting K.C.	7	2	2	23	23	12
Los Angeles FC	6	2	1	19	20	14
Vancouver	4	5	1	13	10	18
FC Dallas	3	1	4	13	11	7
Minnesota United	4	6	0	12	12	18
Houston	3	3	2	11	18	13
Portland	3	3	2	11	13	14
LA Galaxy	3	5	1	10	12	16
Real Salt Lake	3	4	1	10	9	16
Colorado	2	4	2	8	10	11
Seattle	2	4	2	8	7	10
San Jose	1	5	2	5	12	16

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's Games
Columbus 1, Philadelphia 0
Seattle 2, Toronto FC 1
Sporting K.C. 2, Atlanta United FC 0
Chicago 1, Montreal 0
Los Angeles FC 2, Minnesota United 0
Friday's Game
Houston at Vancouver, 7:30 p.m.

Golf

PGA Tour
THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
Site: Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Course: TPC Sawgrass (Players Stadium). Yardage: 7,189. Par: 72.
Purse: $10.5 million. Winner's share: $1,890,000.
Television: Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (NBC Sports).

FedEx Cup Standings
Through May 6

	Points Money
1. Justin Thomas	1,807$5,298,300
2. Jason Day	1,418$3,757,166
3. Phil Mickelson	1,348$3,647,601
4. Patton Kizzire	1,329$3,177,988
5. Patrick Reed	1,301$3,818,952
6. Bubba Watson	1,286$3,690,454
7. Dustin Johnson	1,176$3,209,658
8. Jon Rahm	1,139$2,787,698
9. Tony Finau	1,112$2,680,235
10. Paul Casey	1,047$2,569,185
Notables	
18. Rickie Fowler	920$2,701,060
29. Rory McIlroy	715$2,261,763
30. Jordan Spieth	709$1,899,046
54. Tiger Woods	481$1,202,827

Auto Racing

NASCAR CUP SERIES
Points Standings
Through May 6
1. Kyle Busch, 466; 2. Joey Logano, 444; 3. Kevin Harvick, 426; 4. Clint Bowyer, 380; 5. Brad Keselowski, 365; 6. Kurt Busch, 358; 7. Ryan Blaney, 346; 8. Denny Hamlin, 344; 9. Martin Truex Jr., 340; 10. Kyle Larson, 307; 11. Aric Almirola, 304; 12. Jimmie Johnson, 268; 13. Erik Jones, 253; 14. Alex Bowman, 252; 15. Chase Elliott, 241; 16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 239; 17. Daniel Suarez, 234; 18. William Byron, 225; 19. Austin Dillon, 221; 20. Ryan Newman, 218.

Upcoming Schedule
Saturday — KC Masterpiece 400 at Kansas Speedway, 5 p.m. (TV: FS1)

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Placed RHP Darren O'Day on the 10-day DL, retroactive to May 7. Recalled LHP Tanner Scott from Norfolk (IL).
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Traded 3B Gio Urshela to Toronto for a player to be named or cash.
DETROIT TIGERS — Placed OF Leonys Martin and RHPs Jordan Zimmermann and Alex Wilson on the 10-day DL. Selected the contract of SS Pete Kozma from Toledo (IL). Recalled RHP Zac Reininger and OF Mikie Mahtook from Toledo. Transferred LHP Daniel Norris to the 60-day DL.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent RHP Keynan Middleton to Salt Lake (PCL) for a rehab assignment.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Traded LHP Anthony McIver to Seattle Mariners for cash.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Placed RHP Trevor Cahill on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Sunday. Recalled OF Dustin Fowler from Nashville (PCL).
TEXAS RANGERS — Sent 2B Rougned Odor and RHP Ricardo Rodriguez to Round Rock (PCL) for a rehab assignment.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed SS Aledmys Diaz on the 10-day DL. Recalled SS Richard Urena from Buffalo (IL).
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Placed RHP Braden Shipley on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Saturday. Recalled RHP Silvino Bracho from Reno (PCL).
ATLANTA BRAVES — Assigned RHP Luke Jackson outright to Gwinnett (IL). Recalled LHP Luiz Gohara from Gwinnett.
CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned RHP Jen-Ho Tseng and LHP Rob Zastryzny to Iowa (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP Justin Hancock from Iowa. Recalled OF Mark Zagunis from Iowa.
CINCINNATI REDS — Selected the contact of C Tony Cruz from Louisville (IL).
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent OF Yasiel Puig to Rancho Cucamonga (Cal) for a rehab assignment. Recalled LHP Scott Alexander and RHP Brock Stewart from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed LHP Tony Cingrani on the 10-day DL. Optioned RHP Yimi García and OF Alex Verdugo to Oklahoma City.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed LHP Wade Miley and INF Nick Franklin on the 10-day DL. Reinstated RHP Corey Knebel from the 10-day DL. Recalled INF Tyler Saladino from Colorado Springs (PCL). Sent LHP Boone Logan to Colorado Springs (PCL) for a rehab assignment.
NEW YORK METS — Optioned C Tomas Nido to Las Vegas (PCL). Recalled SS Luis Guillorme from Las Vegas. Transferred RHP Anthony Swarzak to the 60-day DL.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent LHP Brett Cecil to Springfield (TL) and RHP Alex Reyes to Palm Beach (FSL) on rehab assignments.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed OF Mac Williamson on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 28.