

# JD Martinez holds no grudge against Astros, who released him

By JIMMY GOLEN  
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — J.D. Martinez wants to thank the Houston Astros — not get back at them — for releasing him when he was struggling to make himself into a star.

The Red Sox slugger credits his growing pains in Houston for teaching him “how to fail,” a lesson he credits with transforming him into an MVP candidate who helped Boston win a franchise-record 108 games and reach the AL Championship Series against his former team.

“My failures in Houston is what made me who I am,” Martinez said Friday, a day before the Astros and Red Sox open the best-of-seven series. “There’s really no animosity there. In a sense they did me a favor by allowing me to leave and play on another team.”

It will be the second straight year the Red Sox and Astros meet in the post-season — last year it was the ALDS — and the second straight year that aces Chris Sale will go against Justin Verlander in the opener.

The biggest difference this time: Boston has Martinez on its side.

And the Astros could have.

Martinez made his big-league debut for Houston in 2011, driving in 28 runs in his first full month in the majors. After playing part time the next two years — hitting 18 homers with 91 RBIs in 199 games — he was 26 years old and batting .167 in the spring of 2014 when the Astros released him, preferring to give the at-bats to top prospect George Springer.



Boston Red Sox right fielder J.D. Martinez gestures as he is interviewed prior to a workout at Fenway Park on Friday in Boston. The Red Sox face the Houston Astros in baseball’s American League Championship.

really am.”

Now Martinez is one of the keys — with Mookie Betts, who is expected to edge him for the AL MVP award — on a Red Sox team that won a third straight AL East title but advanced in the playoffs for the first time since 2013, eliminating the rival New York Yankees in the ALDS.

The Central Division champion Astros did OK, too, winning their first World Series last year; Springer was Series MVP.

So, no hard feelings.

“God gave me another opportunity and put me in a good situation with Detroit. And that’s kind of where I continued to grow until where I am today, really,” Martinez said. “And if it wasn’t for that I probably wouldn’t be here right now. Who knows where I would have been?”

Saturday night’s opener will be a rematch of Game 1 of the ALDS last year, when the Astros jumped on Sale for seven runs in five innings, including back-to-back homers by Alex Bregman and Altuve in the first.

Altuve added another homer in the fifth. Sale and Verlander each came out of the bullpen in Game 4, with the Red Sox lefty outpitching the Astros ace before tiring in his fifth inning of relief and taking the loss as the Red Sox were eliminated. With the teams meeting one round further along this year, the stakes are even higher.

“Obviously, the winner of this one goes to the World Series,” Sale said. “We know who we’re up against. He’s obviously one of the best around, and really good in the postseason.”



AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File  
In this June 26 photo, New York Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius prepares to throw to first in Philadelphia.

## Yankees’ Gregorius needs arm surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees star shortstop Didi Gregorius needs Tommy John surgery on his right elbow after injuring himself making a throw in Boston during the AL Division Series, and there’s no telling exactly when he’ll be able to play again.

General manager Brian Cashman said Friday that Gregorius will be out “until sometime next summer.” Cashman said the team will have a better idea about his return after surgery, which hasn’t yet been scheduled.

The surprise announcement at Yankee Stadium led to immediate speculation the team might eventually make a big move to fill the void — pursuit of All-Star infielder and free agent-to-be Manny Machado, now in the NL playoffs with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In the meantime, second baseman Gleyber Torres is the Yankees’ top internal solution at shortstop, Cashman said.

“The best option is Didi,” Cashman said. “We’ll wait on him.”

The 28-year-old Gregorius is the anchor of the Yankees’ infield, popular with his teammates and a fan favorite.

**ALCS**

**Houston Astros**      **Boston Red Sox**

Game 1, Sat. 5:09 p.m.



Grounds crew workers prepare the field prior to a workout at Fenway Park on Friday in Boston. The Red Sox face the Houston Astros in Game 1 of baseball’s American League Championship on Saturday.

couple of tough years with us in the big leagues. But I think the best thing that happened to him was going to the Tigers and becoming the player that he is.

Verlander was Martinez’s teammate in Detroit and said he was “there from the moment he turned his career around.”

“He went and completely revamped his swing that off-season, and saw immediate dividends,” Verlander said. “(He) never stopped hitting. Seeing somebody like that who works so hard and turned their career around to where he’s at now, as a fellow player, and you respect it and I’m happy for him. I

“My failures in Houston is what made me who I am.”

— J.D. Martinez, Boston Red Sox

**EASTERN OREGON marketplace**

Place classified ads online at [www.eastoregonmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonmarketplace.com) or call 1-800-962-2819 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, leave a voicemail and we’ll confirm your ad the next business day. Email us at [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com) or fax: 541-278-2680

Deadline is 3 p.m. the day before publication

We accept:

211 S.E. Byers Ave.      333 E. Main St.  
Pendleton, OR 97801      Hermiston, OR 97838

See [www.eastoregonmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonmarketplace.com) for classified ads from all over Eastern Oregon

**EAST OREGONIAN • HERMISTON HERALD • BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE • WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN**

**104 Special Notices**  
BUYER meets seller every day of the week in the classified columns of this newspaper.

**Always great for a laugh.**

Check out the color Comics in the **WEEKEND EDITION**

**EAST OREGONIAN**  
Call 1-800-522-0255 to subscribe

**104 Special Notices**  
**PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD ON THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION.**

While we are happy to make any necessary corrections, we can not be responsible for errors appearing for multiple days. Thank you!

**CLASSIFIED LINE AD DEADLINES**

East Oregonian  
3pm the day prior to publication

Hermiston Herald  
10am Tuesday

1-800-962-2819  
[classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com)

**166 Good Things to Eat**

Davis Orchards Fruit Stand  
9am-5pm  
Closed Saturdays

Apples & Pears

53285 Appleton Road  
Milton-Freewater, Oregon  
541-938-7093 ext 2

**GET A JOB... check out the employment Classifieds today!**

**184 Personals**

Contact Dayle or Grace at [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com)  
1-800-962-2819  
to place your classified ad!

**204 Automobiles**

2004 Toyota Corolla CE Front wheel drive, automatic, 4 new tires, silver grey, 72k miles. \$4950  
541-969-9518

**219 ATVs/Motorcycles**

2016 Honda UTV Honda Pioneer 1000, 128 miles, extras \$14,000. Walla Walla, WA. (509)730-3795

**360 Garage Sales**

\*\*\*\*Trying it again - hoping for SUNSHINE!  
Misc. household items; some furniture; clothing; last of Estate items

1813 SW 43rd Street Pendleton. Sat Oct 13 8am - 3pm

**LIVING TRUST SALE**

New stuff, twin size day bed, 4 drawer filing cabinet, Kitchenaid stand mixer, Antique bedroom chair, Hobby & Scrapbooking supplies, floor lamp, kitchen ware, pictures, material, fabric and \$1.00 shrubs.

720 SE 9th St. Pendleton 9am-?  
Friday 10/12 & Saturday 10/13

**502 Real Estate**

How Much is your Home Worth? Call Matt Vogler, The Weekend and After Hours Realtor, for a free Market Analysis. 541.377.9470. More Listings needed to meet current buyer demand!

John J. Howard & Assoc.  
(541) 377-9470

Classified Ads work hard for you!

**502 Real Estate**

TURN HERE for Professional Courteous Representation -Find your new home- 3 or 4 bedroom home, garage or Shop? Call Kerry at Turn Here Realty to find the one on your wishlist. 541-377-6855

**TURN HERE REALTY & TRAVEL**  
305 SW Court Ave

Thinking of selling or buying a home? I am happy to help with all your real estate needs and I am available evenings, weekends and holidays to accommodate your busy schedule. Also available on short notice. Call Carolyn Rovier  
**Ranch-N-Home Realty**  
541-786-0822

**504 Homes for Sale**

Prices are up! Now may be the time to gain some equity and move up to a larger home. Call Matt Vogler for a free Market Analysis.

John J. Howard & Assoc.  
(541) 377-9470

**CLASSIFIEDS ARE** the place to but it, sell it or find it... check us out for what you need!

TURN HERE for Seller financing. Call Kerry at 541-377-6855. TURN HERE at 305 SW Court and drop by or call 541-377-6855

**TURN HERE REALTY & TRAVEL**  
305 SW Court Ave

Current MLS listings include several 3 and 4 bedroom, 2 bath homes for sale in popular locations. Call Matt Vogler, “The Weekend and After Hours Realtor” for addresses and pricing.

John J. Howard & Assoc.  
541.377.9470

CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS!

**504 Homes for Sale**

Call the “Weekend & After Hours Realtor” to view homes at a convenient time for you. Available on Short Notice, Special Financing Program Information! Call Matt Vogler, 541.377.9470

**John J. Howard & Assoc.**  
(541) 377-9470

\$77,500- Two for the price of one! 2 homes on this lot, total of 1024sf (m/l), 3 bed, 2 bath. Both in really good shape. Outbuilding. Jerry 541-969-6378 cell. #18335992

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

RMLS#18437195 Cute 3 b/r 2 bath home on North Hill. Family room or 4th bedroom, deck with awning, hot tub, dog run, garage/shop. all for only \$193,000. Call Cathy for more info (541) 215-0103.

**Garton & Associates**  
541-276-0931

Looking for a new place to live? The classified ads offer a complete section of homes, apartments, and mobile homes to fit your needs. Check daily for new listings!

\$228,500- Charming bungalow. Large living room, formal dining, breakfast nook in kitchen. Back yard entertaining space, finished basement. Dog run and storage shed. Vicki 969-9441 cell. #18091471

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

**504 Homes for Sale**

\$165,000- Super tidy home! Bathrooms and kitchen remodeled. Hardwood floors, gas log fireplace, newer windows and sidings. Trex deck, garden area, detached garage. Dori 541-310-1001 cell. #18173717

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

\$239,000- 2080sf(m/l), 3 bed, 3 bath home, a list of the repairs and improvements is available. Living room, family room, office, bonus rooms, updated kitchen. Marsha 541-377-5152 cell. #18166827

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

\$248,500- North Hill/ Great views. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1942sf (m/l) home with 2-car garage, office/ 3rd bedroom, UGS, fenced yard, back patio/ deck. Updated kitchen, roof, HVAC. Kevin 541-959-8243. #18577079

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

\$135,000- Pilot Rock. 3 bed, 1 bath w/ 1072 sf (m/l) w/ attached garage. Fenced back yard w/ dog run, central air heating and cooling, new certified wood stove. Jason 760-409-6842 cell. 18195052

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

\$259,900- A slice of paradise! Beautiful, 1-level Pendleton home sitting on almost an acre. Graciously remodeled with lovely features throughout. 323 NE 4th. Molly 541-969-4188. #18330541

**Coldwell Banker & Associates**  
541-276-0021

Classified Ads work hard for you!