

Sports

WORLD SERIES GAME ONE

Red Sox top Kershaw, Dodgers

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

BOSTON — The Fenway Funhouse proved too tricky, too cold and just too much for the beach boys.

Andrew Benintendi, J.D. Martinez and the Boston Red Sox came out swinging in the World Series opener, seizing every advantage in their quirky ballpark to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 on a chilly, windy Tuesday night.

Benintendi had four hits, Martinez drove in two early runs and pinch-hitter Eduardo Nunez golfed a three-run homer to seal it. The 108-win Red Sox got a solid effort from their bullpen after an expected duel between aces Chris Sale and Clayton Kershaw never developed.

From the get-go, old Fenway Park caused all sorts of problems for the Dodgers.

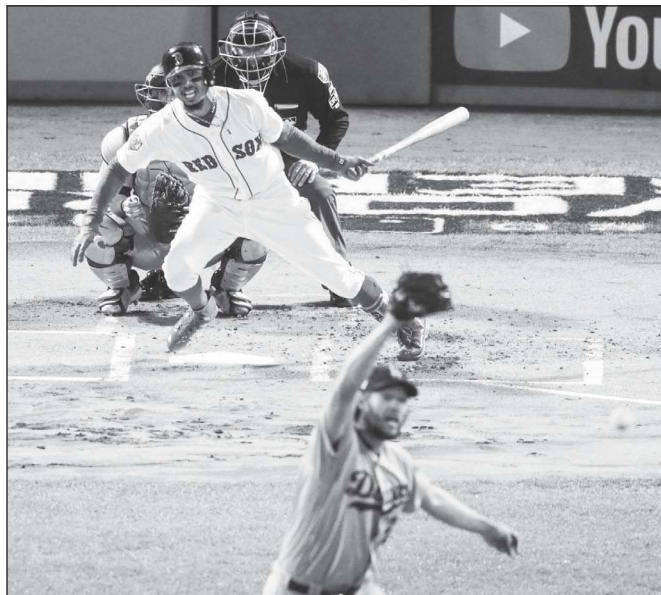
Mookie Betts led off for the Red Sox with a pop that twisted first baseman David Freese as he tried to navigate the tight foul space near the stands and gauge the gusts. Lost, he overran the ball and it dropped behind him.

"You never really know," Benintendi said. "The flag will be blowing one way, and the wind is actually blowing the other. You have to be on your toes pretty much."

Given a second chance, Betts lined a single that set up a two-run first inning.

"It was important for us to score first and kind of put some pressure on them," he said.

In the seventh, newly inserted left fielder Joc Pederson looked hesitant as he chased Benintendi's soft



Robert Gauthier / Los AngelesTimes-TNS

The Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts singles in the first inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers during Game 1 of the World Series at Fenway Park in Boston on Tuesday.

fly, rushing toward the seats that jut out down the line. The ball ticked off his glove for a ground-rule double, and soon Nunez connected off Alex Wood to break open a 5-4 game.

"We didn't play the defense that we typically do. I thought we left some outs out there," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And it didn't make Clayton's job any easier."

The crowd and cold temperatures were no picnic for Los Angeles, either.

The oddly angled ballpark became an echo chamber even before the first pitch. Chants of "Beat LA!" began early, Kershaw got heckled with a sing-song serenade and Dodgers villain Manny Machado heard loud boos all evening.

Only one person wearing Dodger blue drew a cheer: Roberts, saluted in pregame

introductions for the daring steal that turned the tide in Boston's 2004 playoff comeback against the Yankees.

"I think we had the advantage tonight with the weather and stuff. We've been playing through it," Red Sox pitcher Nathan Eovaldi said.

It was 53 degrees at first pitch and it dropped into the mid-40s by the end. That was the coldest game for Los Angeles this season and quite a contrast from last year's World Series, when it was a record 103 degrees for the opener at Dodger Stadium against Houston.

"We won Game 1 last year and lost the Series, so maybe we'll try it out this way. See if we can win one," Kershaw said.

Game 2 is Wednesday night, when it's supposed to be even colder. David Price, fresh from beating Houston

in the ALCS clincher, starts against Hyun-Jin Ryu.

Both teams rely heavily on analytics, and it showed: With each manager searching for the most beneficial matchup, the clubs combined to use 12 pitchers and six pinch-hitters.

Benintendi scored three times for Boston, trying for its fourth championship in 15 seasons.

Matt Kemp homered and Justin Turner had three hits for the Dodgers, aiming for their first crown since 1988. Machado drove in three runs, and his RBI grounder in the fifth inning made it 3-all.

Boston retook the lead in the bottom half when Xander Bogaerts hustled to beat out a potential inning-ending double play — Dodgers reliever Ryan Madson seemed to celebrate a little too early.

Rafael Devers followed with an RBI single, making it 5-3 and giving himself an early birthday present. He turned 22 at midnight, three minutes before the game ended.

Martinez, who led the majors with 130 RBIs, gave the crowd a scare when his foot slipped rounding second base on a run-scoring double in the third. He fell hard, but soon got up.

Steve Pearce, ruled safe at first on a replay review, scored from there on Martinez's double. The ball hit a metal garage-type grate on the far center-field wall and took a weird carom, giving Pearce extra time to score.

Wizards hand Blazers first loss

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Markieff Morris couldn't believe the Blazers kept leaving him open.

Morris had 28 points, including a career-high six 3-pointers, and the Washington Wizards won their first game of the season with a 125-124 overtime victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday night.

"After the second (3-pointer) I was like, 'Are they really gonna let me shoot the ball?' I think that's the most I ever shot," Morris said. "I was playing (Jusuf) Nurkic and he couldn't cover the pick and roll and the three so they just had to give something up."

Bradley Beal added 25 points for the Wizards, and Otto Porter Jr. blocked Damian Lillard's layup attempt at the final buzzer to seal the win. There were 29 lead changes and 23 ties.

Lillard had 29 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Trail Blazers, who lost their first game after opening the season 2-0.

Morris had a layup and a free throw to put the Wizards ahead 120-117 in overtime. Lillard's layup got Portland closer, but Morris landed a 3-pointer with 38.5 seconds left.

Lillard's jumper got Portland within a basket before John Wall's 17-footer with 10.1 second left looked to all but seal it for the Wizards. CJ McCollum made it interesting with a 3-pointer for the Blazers and Wall missed a pair of free throws, but Porter blocked Lillard's attempt to win it with a layup at the buzzer.

"The kind of effort we had, we put ourselves in position to win the game," Lillard said. "We just didn't execute, on the defensive end or the offensive end, as good as we needed to to win it. That's frustrating."

Nurkic finished with 22 points and 18 rebounds for the Blazers.

The game was close throughout the second half. Portland led 102-97 with 3:08 left but the Wizards pulled in front 105-103 on Morris' 3-pointer.

Lillard's 3-pointer tied it again at 108 with 52.2 second left. Nik Stauskas hit a 3-pointer to put Portland ahead with 13 seconds left. But Beal made a 3 for the Wizards with 7.4 seconds to go to tie it again and the game went to overtime.

Blazers coach Terry Stotts praised Morris.

"That was a tough matchup with guarding the pick and roll with him. We brought Moe (Harkless) in and they went down to the post. He had a terrific game, inside and out."

It was the first of a five-game road trip for the Wizards, who lost two at home to open the season, including a 117-113 loss to Toronto on Saturday night. Beal scored 32 points and became the career leader in 3-pointers in the loss and coach Scott Brooks was ejected on a technical.

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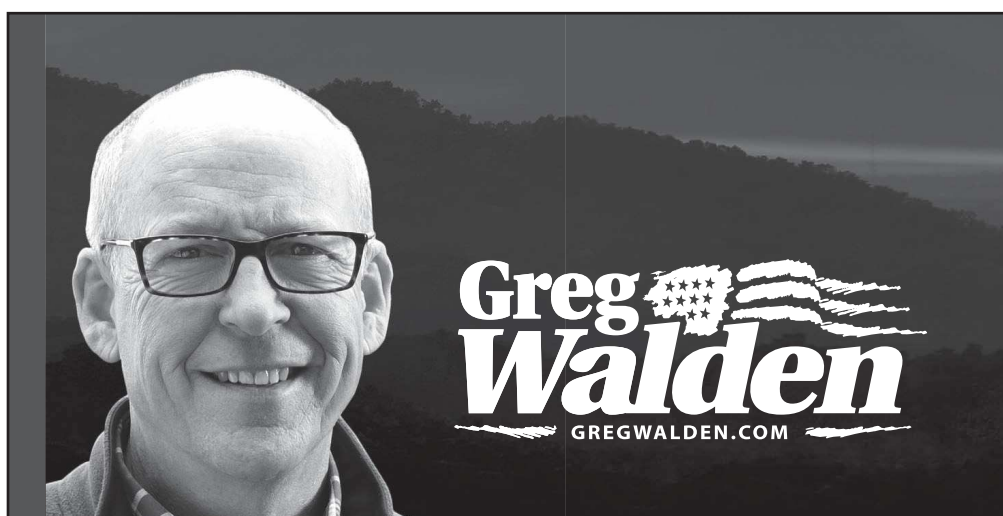


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