

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS



The Seattle Mariners celebrate after defeating the Toronto Blue Jays, 10-9, in Game 2 to win the American League Wild Card Series at Rogers Centre on Oct. 8, 2022, in Toronto.

Vaughn Ridley/Getty Images-TNS

Mariners erase 7-run deficit, sweep Blue Jays with 10-9 win

Seattle advances to division series

BY IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO — Carlos Santana and J.P. Crawford delivered before Adam Frazier capped Seattle's historic comeback with one sweet swing.

A little October fun for a new generation of Mariners.

Frazier hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the ninth inning, and Seattle erased a seven-run deficit while topping the Toronto Blue Jays 10-9 on Saturday, Oct. 8 for a sweep of their AL wild-card series.

"Those are the kind of moments you picture yourself in in the backyard when you're a kid," Frazier said.

It was the biggest road comeback win in playoff history and baseball's largest comeback victory to clinch a postseason series.

Yup, it was quite a day for a franchise making its first playoff appearance since Hall of Famer Edgar Martinez and company were eliminated by the New York Yankees in the 2001 AL Championship Series. Next up for this group of Mariners is Houston in the AL

Division Series.

"To go to the World Series, you have to go through Houston," manager Scott Servais said. "They're really good. We understand that. We're really good."

Seattle got off to a 29-39

start this season, but it went 61-33 from June 21 on, trailing only the Astros (65-31) among AL teams over that span.

After winning 4-0 in the opener of the best-of-three series, the Mariners trailed 8-1 through five innings in Game 2. But they roared back, tying it with four runs in the eighth.

With two out and the bases loaded, Crawford hit a blooper to center against All-Star closer Jordan Romano.

"I was praying to the baseball gods to just let that ball sit," Crawford said.

Center fielder George Springer and shortstop Bo Bichette went hard after the

sinking liner, but it landed as the two collided. All three runners scored on the double, tying it at 9.

"It seems everything that could go wrong did go wrong in a very short period of time," interim Blue Jays manager John Schneider said.

Bichette was able to stay in the game, but the 33-year-old Springer had to be helped to his feet before he was carted off

the field. The four-time All-Star encouraged the cheering crowd as he departed.

Schneider said Springer was "doing OK" and would be evaluated further.

The Blue Jays have lost five straight postseason games and eight of nine. Toronto, which finished one win short of a playoff berth in 2021, heads into another offseason on a disappointing note.

"It's going to take some time," Schneider said. "Probably take a vacation or two."

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—Scott Servais, Mariners manager

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Beavers nip Stanford in game's final seconds

BY JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Ben Gulbranson threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to TreShaun Harrison with 13 seconds remaining and Oregon State overcame a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Stanford 28-27 on Saturday night, Oct. 8.

"We keep fighting until the last second," Gulbranson said. "With this team, anything is possible."

The Cardinal (1-4, 0-4 Pac-12) appeared to be in control of the game when they took a 24-10 lead into the fourth quarter with Oregon State (4-2, 1-2) using a backup quarterback. Instead, they collapsed down the stretch and lost their 11th straight game against an FBS opponent.

"I'm not going to be all sunshine about us playing our best game because we have to finish," coach David Shaw said. "We had a chance to put the game away and didn't do it."

Gulbranson threw a 21-yard TD pass on fourth down to Silas Bolden on the second play of the fourth quarter to start the comeback.

"That was definitely a spark plug for us," Gulbranson said. "We rode that energy and finished pretty strong."

Damien Martinez added a 43-yard touchdown run to make it 24-22 but the Beavers missed both 2-point tries to keep Stanford in the lead.

The Cardinal nearly ran out the clock before settling for a 46-yard field goal with 58 seconds left.

But Gulbranson needed only three plays to go 76 yards for the win. After two short completions, he took a shot down the sideline for Harrison, who leaped over Ethan Bonner for the catch. Patrick Fields appeared in position to make the tackle but Harrison got by him for the score.

"I was thinking touchdown," Harrison said. "Got to score. Got to make a play for the team. That's all I was thinking. When I saw nobody in front of me, straight green grass. Was think-

ing touchdown all the way?"

Gulbranson finished 20 for 28 for 250 yards and two TDs in his first collegiate start in place of the injured Chance Nolan.

He also authored the third comeback from 14 points down to start the fourth quarter in school history. The only other times it happened, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, came in 1981 against Fresno State and 2018 against Colorado.

Tanner McKee threw two long touchdown passes to Brycen Tremayne but it wasn't enough for the Cardinal, who haven't beaten an FBS team since topping Oregon on October 2, 2021. Stanford set a school record with its 10th straight conference loss.

RARE LEAD

When the Cardinal drove 78 yards on their opening possession for a 1-yard TD by Casey Filkins, it left them in an unusual spot. It marked the first time since October 30, 2021, against Washington that Stanford led a game at any point against an FBS opponent. The Cardinal had gone seven full games and 431 minutes, 44 seconds of game action between leads.

THE TAKEAWAY

Oregon State: After losing back-to-back games against ranked opponents USC and Utah, the Beavers were able to get back on track against an easier opponent. With Nolan (neck) and star tight end Musgrave (knee) sidelined, Oregon State struggled to get going offensively until the fourth quarter but did enough for the win.

Stanford: The Cardinal had been outscored 20.4 points per game during the 10-game skid against FBS teams coming into the game as they were rarely competitive. This loss might have been even more painful as they seemed to have the game under control until the end.

UP NEXT

Oregon State: Hosts Washington State on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Stanford: Visits Notre Dame on Saturday, Oct. 15.

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