

Red Sox grand in win over K.C.

Associated Press
J.D. Drew and Mike Lowell hit grand slams to help Daisuke Matsuzaka remain unbeaten, and the Boston Red Sox completed a sweep of their seven-game homestand with an 11-8 win over the Kansas City Royals on Thursday.

Drew and Lowell were the first Red Sox to hit slams in the same game at Fenway Park since Tony Armas and Bill Buckner on Aug. 7, 1984. The last time Boston had two slams in a game was when the switch-hitting Bill Mueller hit both — one from each side — at Texas on July 29, 2003.

Matsuzaka (8-0) gave up three runs on six hits, walked six, struck out seven and threw two wild pitches while becoming the AL's first eight-game winner.

Jonathan Papelbon got the final three outs for his 14th save.

Brian Bannister (4-6), who allowed seven runs on 12 hits, couldn't work his daytime magic against the hot Red Sox. Entering the game, he was 4-0 with a 0.62 ERA in day games.

Rangers 8, Twins 7
Josh Hamilton hit a two-out homer in the 10th inning to lift Texas.

Hamilton's drive into the left-field seats against Brian Bass (1-1) gave him 12 homers, matching Chicago's Carlos Quentin for the AL lead. Hamilton went 2-for-4 and moved past Minnesota's Joe Mauer for the best average in the league, .335. He has 53 RBIs, too, by far the

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

most in the majors.
Joaquin Benoit (3-1) loaded the bases in the eighth and surrendered a two-run single to Justin Morneau that tied the game at 7, but he settled down for a scoreless ninth and the victory. Closer C.J. Wilson pitched a perfect 10th for his ninth save.

Tigers 9, Mariners 2
Brandon Inge and Matt Joyce homered, and after scoring 14 runs in their previous seven games — six of them losses — the Tigers scored 30 in a sweep of Seattle.

Jeremy Bonderman (3-4) won for the first time in four May starts, allowing two runs and eight hits with two walks in six innings. He struck out two.

Freddy Dolsi picked up his first major-league save with three shutout innings.

Miguel Batista (3-6) fell to 1-4 in his last six starts, giving up five runs — four earned — on seven hits in three innings.

National League

Braves 4, Mets 2.
Even Johan Santana couldn't stop Chipper Jones and the Atlanta Braves from completing a four-game sweep of the Mets.

Jones drove in the go-ahead run during a three-run seventh inning and Atlanta beat New York 4-2 on Thursday night behind



J.D. Drew, second from right, is welcomed home by Boston Red Sox teammates Mike Lowell, left, Kevin Youkilis (20) and Manny Ramirez after Drew hit a grand slam off Kansas City Royals starter Brian Bannister during the second inning of Thursday's game at Fenway Park. The Red Sox also got a grand slam from Lowell on the way to an 11-8 victory over the visiting Royals.

Tim Hudson to complete its first four-game sweep of the Mets in five years.

Carlos Beltran and Carlos Delgado homered on consecutive pitches from Hudson in the second inning. But Santana (5-3) couldn't hold the 2-0 lead while giving up a career-high 12 hits and four runs, three earned, in seven innings.

The left-hander did not walk a batter but had only one strikeout, a season low, while losing for the first time since April 12. The struggling Mets fell to 22-23 with their seventh loss in 10 games, a frustrating stretch that has led to speculation about manager Willie Randolph being fired.

New York dropped below .500 for the first time since

April 13.
Hudson (7-3) gave up seven hits and two runs in eight innings. He had four strikeouts and no walks.

Pirates 8, Brewers 4.
Jason Bay and Xavier Nady homered and the Pittsburgh Pirates took advantage of Milwaukee's inability to drive in runners to beat the Brewers 8-4 Thursday night and avoid a series sweep.

The Brewers, losers of nine in a row on the road before the series started Tuesday, were denied their first three-game sweep in Pittsburgh since PNC Park opened in 2001.

A night after Brewers ace Ben Sheets allowed 11 hits but still pitched a complete game to defeat Pittsburgh 4-

1, the Brewers got 14 hits but left a season-high 14 on base. They were 2-for-11 with runners in scoring position, failing repeatedly to get to Pirates starter Tom Gorzelanny (4-4).

Marlins 4, D'backs 0
Andrew Miller limited the Arizona Diamondbacks to five hits in seven innings Thursday night, and Florida won 4-0 to complete a series sweep in a showdown of first-place teams.

The series was the most impressive yet by the Marlins. The team with baseball's lowest payroll built its improbable NL East lead with the help of a weak early schedule, but there was nothing fluky about the way they swept NL West leader Arizona.

Day after blown call, new net installed at Yankee Stadium

Associated Press
NEW YORK — A day after a blown home run call, the House that Ruth Built became the ballpark that A-Rod remodeled.

Yankee Stadium workers put up netting Thursday on a staircase just beyond the right-center field wall, the spot that confused the umpires, cost Alex Rodriguez a home run and intensified baseball's debate about instant replay.

"It'll make it a little easier out there," umpire crew chief Tim Welke said.

Nothing was easy for Welke's crew Wednesday night on a play that became the majors' third missed homer call in four days.

Rodriguez thought he'd hit his second home run of the game for the New York Yankees, yet wound up with a double when his rocket shot ricocheted off the side of that cement staircase and quickly

bounced back into play. The staircase, painted yellow, is situated about 2-3 feet behind the fence.

Welke, working at second base, and the other umps huddled and ruled the ball had stayed in play. "We couldn't see it," Welke said. "We just didn't know for sure."

An inning or two later, Johnny Damon was jogging to his spot in left field and gave Welke the bad news: Replays clearly showed the ball flying over the wall.

"I felt terrible," Welke said. "I mean, I think I know how hard it is to hit a home run in the major leagues. I had trouble sleeping after something like that."

Coincidentally, as Welke spoke outside the umpires' locker room before Thursday night's game between the Yankees and Baltimore, Rodriguez walked past on his way to the indoor batting cage. Headphones on, Rodriguez did not glance at Welke.

The play had no real effect on the outcome. Rodriguez eventually scored and the Yankees beat the Orioles 8-0.

Yankee Stadium is 85 years old, and this is the final season for the ballpark. Never too late for a little bit of renovating, though.

"I think it will help. They told me what they were doing and it made sense," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "If it happens again, hopefully the ball slows down and doesn't come flying back so fast."

On Sunday night, Carlos Delgado of the New York Mets lost a home run at Yankee Stadium when umpires reversed the original call and said his drive was foul. The ball actually glanced off the top of the left-field wall, hit the foul pole and fell into the seats.

On Monday night, Geovany Soto of the Cubs hit a ball at Houston that should've been called an auto-

matic home run. Instead, umpires ruled it was in play and Soto ended up with an inside-the-park homer.

The next day, baseball executive Bob Watson was present as workers at Minute Maid Park removed a piece of wood in center field that was painted yellow and caused confusion.

"There's no need for that type of confusion at a big league ballpark," Watson said.

On Thursday, baseball said one of its top officials will develop a proposal for instant replay that could be tested later this year in the Arizona Fall League.

Umpires would have to approve the use of replay in the majors.

"Anything that makes our job easier, I'm in favor of," Welke said. "That was embarrassing what happened last night, and I'm sorry. But sometimes you have to take one step backward to take two steps forward."

NORWALK LITTLE LEAGUE ROUNDUP

MAJORS

Monker Grotto 13 Matarese 0

Jordan Keyes had two doubles and a triple with five RBI to lead Monker Grotto to victory. Jeff Patenaude went 2-for-3 with a triple with four RBI for the winners. Jack Hefferan added two hits. Nick Lampman and Kevin Cronin combined on the three-hit shutout. Hunter Sharkey, Sam Starkman and Peter O'Connor had the hits for Matarese.

Matarese 6, Eagles 5

Keegan Roberts, Corey Hayes, Nick Lockwood, Starkman and Shaun Davis each had two hits for Matarese. Lockwood got the winning hit and was the winning pitcher. For the Eagles, Tyler Annunziata had two hits and two RBI, including a home run, and Brendan Hanzlik went 3-for-3 with an RBI.

Laurel 6, Jaycees 5

Thomas Clynne's two-run double in the bottom of the sixth capped a come-from-behind victory for Laurel AC. Trailing 4-1 in the fifth, Latrell Johnson's two-run triple got Laurels back in the game. Roger Quiroga pitched the last two innings to pick up the win. For the Jaycees, starter Will Ayles fanned eight while giving up four hits. Ayles and Scott Brandfellner had two RBI each.

Lions 5 Rowayton Pizza 4

Aaron Coreau got the win and Bobby Butler picked up the save for the Lions Club. Trailing 3-1 in the third, the Lions scored four runs on RBI singles by Trevor Remy and Coreau, and a two-run double by Sean Butler. Brandon Cruz also had an RBI single for the winners.

For the Lions, Megan Root and Chris Shur had RBI triples Seth Kantzler had an RBI single, and Dawson Jones had an RBI double.

In the sixth inning, Shur singled for Rowayton and stole second and third. With two outs he tried to steal home but was cut down Shur to end the game.

Kiwanis 8 Brendans 10 2

Tristan Opdahl sparked the Kiwanis offense with a two-run homer. Mark Ballard, Chris Winthrop, Sean Welch, Chris Lato, Tom Henderson and Nick Calabrese had hits. Mark Ballard stole home for Kiwanis.

Rotary 11, Kiwanis 1

Kevin Love and Thomas Boguski pitched for Rotary. Mike Boguski had three hits and an RBI, Ryan Evans had three RBI, Luis Santos had a double and a stolen base, and Jack Careccia and Thomas Boguski had a sin-

gle and an RBI apiece. For Kiwanis, Sean Welch and James Henderson had singles and Austin Wooten had a sac fly.

TRIPLE AAA

John Glover 13 John's Best Pizza 13

For Glover, Mo Ortiz went 4-for-4 with two doubles, a triple and had five RBI; Rj Kenez was 3-for-3 with a homer and three RBI; Kevin McQuillin was 3-for-3 with an RBI, and Sam Delio was 3-for-4 with a double. For John's Best, Mickey Manella and Teddy Wisniewski had two 2 hits apiece.

C&C Landscaping 17 Norwalk Pizza & Pasta 11

C&C was led by Codi Mastropietro, who was 4-for-4 with 4 RBI, John Smith, who had three hits and three RBI, and Ari Lander with two hits. For Pizza & Pasta, Peter Kotulskys had two hits including a double and three RBI. David Maya had three RBI in the loss.

Marinello's Deli 8 Diamond Deli 3

The pitching of Johnny Swick and Connor Halloran closed the door on Diamond Deli. They combined to fan 11. At the plate, Nick Covino doubled and drove in two. Joey Benincaso and Tommy Benincaso had a hit and an RBI each, and Halloran, Mike Powers and Paul Powers had hits. For

Diamond Deli, Brendan Brown had a triple, double and single. Jose Lopez had a two-run double. Kevin Piscarita came on in relief and fanned five.

Italia 17

Marinello's Deli 16 Italia overtook

Marinello's in the bottom of the last inning on Connor Madden's three-run homer. It was his second of the game giving him six RBI. Harrison Hefferan had four RBI for the winners, and BJ Buckle and Matt Crowley drove in two runs each. Alex Barone was 3-for-3.

For Marinello's, Joey Benincaso singled twice, doubled and drove in three; Nick Covino had three singles and three RBI, and Will Smith and Shawn Hanzlik had a single and an RBI each.

TNS Group 11 Stew Leonard's 4

TNS was led by Dillon Viscardi, who went 3-for-4, and Mike Pascarelli who went 4-for-4. Both homered. Max Chermayeff went 2-for-3. Stew Leonard's was led by Giancarlo Ceci, who singled, doubled and drove in three runs, and Matthew Salata, who had two hits and an RBI.

G&G Pizza 15 Diamond Deli 12

Shane Kilcoyne led the G&G offense with a single, a homer, and five RBI. Jack Coulter singled and scored three runs. Ryan McGonigle

doubled, Philip Uva had three RBI and Jack Coulter singled for the winners. For Diamond Deli, Matt Arduino had a pair of singles and four RBI.

C&C Landscaping 6 Partners 5

C&C Landscaping scored two runs in the top of the sixth to pull out the win. Codi Mastropietro tripled, his third hit of the day, with one out. Ryan Edwards doubled to tie the game and Nicholas Howard knocked in Ryan with a base hit. Howard pitched five innings and Mastropietro closed out the game with one scoreless inning.

For Partners, Reid Singewal and Matt Diurno had a triple and two RBI, Kyle Mossop had a single and a double, and Ben Hufnagel, Anthony Granchelli, Sean Geercken and John Skroly had hits.

MINORS

Slovin Chiropractic 8 Advanced Pediatrics 6

Slovin was led offensively by Eric Placio, Matthew Vaccaro, and Jady Grant, each with multiple hits. For CAP, Alex Canevari, Francisco Gonzalez, Zach Hurd, Kyle Hyzy and Joey Somma all had multiple extra-base hits.

Evans Distribution 17 McMahon Ford 11
Shane Popkins, Jimmy

HS ROUNDUP

BOYS LACROSSE

Newtown 9, Weston 5

Fresh off its opening-round upset victory over No. 3 seed Masuk 24 hours earlier, the Weston High boys lacrosse team lost to No. 2 Newtown 9-5 in the SWC semifinals Thursday at the WHS field.

The sixth-seeded Trojans, who knocked off Masuk 12-6 on Wednesday, only trailed 2-1 after one quarter and 4-2 at halftime. But Newtown scored four unanswered goals in the third period to open up an 8-2 lead and secure the win.

Robbie Corbisco scored two goals for Weston, while Jeff Ledwick added a goal and an assist. Sean Ledwick and Brian Rogers each had one goal. Josh Briskman recorded 12 saves in goal.

Newtown will face the winner of Thursday's second semifinal contest between New Milford and New Fairfield for the SWC crown.

BOYS TENNIS

Greenwich 4, Staples 2

After losing to the Cardinals 7-0 last week, Staples gave its nemesis a battle in Thursday's FCIAC championship match.

Ivan Blaustien won a three-set thriller at No. 3 singles while the doubles team of William Bohannon and Matt Greenberg won in two sets to account for the Wreckers' two points.

The match was moved indoors because of weather.

BOYS TRACK

Trojans seventh

Max Champtaloup captured first place in the shot put to lead Weston to seventh place at the SWC boys track championship meet.

Champtaloup also finished third in the javelin (160-8) as the Trojans accumulated 42 team points, one point behind sixth-place Joel Barlow. Bunnell easily won the team crown.

Weston also finished runner-up in the 4 x 400 relay as the quartet of Oliver Gaffney, Nick Mello, Paul Philpott and Jim Gaffney turned in a time of 3:33.4.

The 4 x 800 relay of James Bloom, Ryan Gilmore, Stephen Barber and Mello came in third in 8:39.9.

Also earning medals were Jim Gaffney, who was fourth in the 400 meters (52.5), and a pair of fifth-place finishes by Jackson Edelman in the javelin (152-0), Andrew Vento in the triple jump (41.2), and Bloom in the 800 meters (2:04.8).

BOYS GOLF

Greenwich 158 Norwalk 220

On Wednesday, the Bears bowed to Greenwich (17-1) at Griffin Golf Club. Dean Efstathiades led the Bears with a 46.

Evans, James Cirifalco and DJ Surace led the Evans attack.

For McMahon, Taryn Calderon, Ilya DeNunzio and Cole Paredes had base hits.

F&G Construction 10 Fairfield County Savings 8

F&G was led by CJ Zezima (two doubles and a homer), Peter Baez (two homers), and James Rodican and Sean Mitchell with three hits each. F

airfield County Savings Bank was led by Jack Leverenz, Robert Myer and Cameron Langrin, each with multiple hits.

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