



Sports




AIR MOOKIE

Dodgers advance to 3rd World Series in 4 years


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WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

Games we're watching this week




vs.



DodgersRays



Teams we're paying attention to



Athletes we're paying attention to

Mookie Betts vs. Ji-Man Choi

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn

Have a great week, Huskies!

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Jorge Eckardt

@jorge_eckardt31

Being able to have a talent like Mookie Betts come up through your minor league system is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and when that happens, lock that man up for life.

Mike Mavredakis

@MMavredakis

Can you imagine trading Mookie Betts

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MLB NLCS Recap: Dodgers get back to World Series (again)



The Los Angeles Dodgers pose after winning Game 7 of a baseball National League Championship Series against the Atlanta Braves Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Arlington, Texas. PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

by Jonathan Synott
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jonathan.synott@uconn.edu

Dodgers 4, Braves 3
And just like that, the woes of Atlanta fans continued as the Braves officially blew their 3-1 NLCS lead, losing to the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-3. The previous record of NLCS teams with a 2-0 lead in the series all-time was 28-3, an ominous callback to the Atlanta Falcons’ infamous choke job against the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LI. The silver lining for Braves fans is that this team is young, and they have a bright future ahead of them. Getting the start in this must-win game were two youngsters, the Dodgers’ Dustin May (23 years old, second year in MLB) and the Braves’ Ian Anderson (22 years old, rookie). Anderson could have been better, going three full innings and allowing two runs off of five hits. May only opened the game for LA, throwing one inning, while allowing one run off of one hit and two walks. LA got off to a tough start early, as the Braves put runners on first and second before a Marcell Ozuna single drove in a run. Fortunately for them, a double play and a strike-out limited the damage to one. The next inning, Dansby Swanson welcomed LA pitcher Tony Gonsolin into the game by hitting a second-

pitch bomb out to left field to give Atlanta a 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the third, the Dodgers were able to string together a couple hits, as a walk, a big double down the line from Max Muncy and a single from Will Smith tied the game up at two apiece. The Braves struck back immediately, as an Austin Riley single brought in a run with no outs in the inning. More damage might have been done that inning, if not for a very bad base-
run-
ning
error that
turned a run-
down
fielder’s
choice into a double
play, stopping

all momen-
tum Atlan-
ta might
have had.
They
tried to
get it
back



the
next
inning
with
a big
fly ball
from
Ronald
Acuña
Jr., but a
“routine”
home run
robbery by

star outfielder Mookie Betts kept the lead at one. In the bottom of the sixth inning, a pinch hitting appearance made LA manager Dave Roberts look like a genius, subbing in Kiké Hernández for Joc Pederson. Hernández proceeded to hit a solo shot to tie the game at 3-3. Later on in the 7th, the spotlight was on reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger, who hit a no-doubter solo home run to give the Dodgers the lead for the first time all night. The Bellinger homer proved to be the last run all night, as three scoreless, hitless innings from Julio Urias kept the Braves’ offense at bay, helping the Dodgers close out a massive comeback en route to the World Series for the third time in four years. They are set to play the Tampa Bay Rays in a battle of No. 1 seeds starting Tuesday night.

CJ CUP RECAP: KOKRAK WINS FIRST PGA TOUR EVENT

by Matthew Garry
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
matthew.garry@uconn.edu

Jason Kokrak won for the first time on tour in a star-studded CJ Cup in Las Vegas this past weekend, shooting the best score in Sunday’s final round to capture the victory. Despite starting the day three shots back, he was ultimately able to outlast Xander Schauffele and secure the win.

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Kokrak started his day off strong, carding four straight birdies on the front nine and entering the final nine holes with a two-shot lead. Schauffele then went on a run of his own, recording three straight birdies to tie Kokrak for the lead on the 13th. The pair then entered the 16th hole tied for the lead. Schauffele ended up in the deep rough after his drive, and rather than pitching out into the fairway, he tried to set up a close approach shot but was unable to reach the fairway and stayed in the rough. This led to him making the only bogey of his round, and he was never able to recapture the lead as Kokrak finished off his round with a birdie on the 18th for a Sunday best of 64.

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Russell Henley, the 54-hole leader by three shots, made an early bogey and fell behind during Kokrak’s four birdie run, and he was unable to recover. He shot a 70 to tie for third. Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy, both early favorites for the win, didn’t play very strong golf and closed their disappointing weekends with 74s. Kokrak’s victory comes at a perfect time, as this win moves him up to fourth in the FedEx Cup standings and qualifies him for the rescheduled Masters Tournament happening later this year. Schauffele’s second place finish moved him back into the top 10 and into eighth place.

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The Tour’s next event is the ZOZO Championship, where Tiger Woods is the defending champion. He returns to try for his PGA Tour record 83rd tournament, but it will not be easy amidst a star-studded field that includes the top 10 players from last year’s FedEx Cup, including Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm, Patrick Reed and Colin Morikawa.



Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts celebrates after winning Game 7 of a baseball National League Championship Series against the Atlanta Braves Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Arlington, Texas. PHOTO BY TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Throwback Photo of the Day | Slingin it



In this file photo, the Huskies took a tough loss against Temple with a final score 13-17. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, ASSOCIATE VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NFL: Le’Veon Bell and the Chiefs’ payroll



This Sept. 22, 2020, file photo shows New York Jets running back Le’Veon Bell watching from the sideline near the end of the second half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, in Foxborough, Massachusetts The New York Jets surprisingly released Bell, ending a disappointing tenure after less than two full seasons. PHOTO BY STEVEN SENNE/AP

by Cole Stefan
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

The Kansas City Chiefs’ bank made yet another huge withdrawal when they signed running back Le’Veon Bell for the remainder of the season at \$1.05 million. After one-plus disappointing season in the Meadowlands, the New York Jets, who owe Bell \$15 million over the next two seasons, decided to cut their running back after not being able to trade him away. This signing covers two grounds for both sides as Bell immediately returns to a contending team for the first time since his days on the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Chiefs continue looking to defend their Super Bowl LIV victory over the San Francisco 49ers. There is one question regarding this signature signing though: How much payroll will the Chiefs have in the future?

The Kansas City Chiefs, established in 1963, decided to celebrate their first Super Bowl victory in 50 years in a grand style. First, they signed Patrick Mahomes to a 10-year extension for \$450 million, which kicks in starting 2022 when he is paid \$50 million a season. Then, they extended Travis Kelce for four more years and \$57.25 million, which also kicks in starting 2022. Already spending \$107.25 million on big names to start in two seasons, the Chiefs continued to sign and extend as Chris Jones stayed on the team

for four more years and \$8 million as a huge part of the Chiefs’ shutdown defense. Tyreek Hill also earned a payday as he got a three-year and \$54 million extension to be an incredible WR1 for Mahomes. These four are not even the four highest paid players on the team. Frank Clark is currently earning \$20.8 million this season for five years at a total of \$104 million. So that brings the value of the top five guys up to \$71.23 million this season alone. When the contracts of Mahomes, Kelce and Hill kick in, that number skyrockets to around \$105 million dollars per year starting in 2022.

The Chiefs have \$5.9 million in cap space available, the eighth lowest in the league, and they have a lot of guys to resign heading into next season, including Bell, Alex Okafor, Daniel Sorensen, Sammy Watkins, Kelechi Osemele and others. Without doing the math, those players’ contracts already exceed the cap space. The next best option would be

to let all of them walk into free agency, but knowing the Chiefs, they will try to re-sign some of the players to keep them contending.

Despite all this spending to keep the big names in town, the biggest reason that I bring up this concern about payroll and cap space is because of performance. The only reason these players are getting paid so much is because of their elite performances.

Look at how much Mike Trout and Mookie Betts are getting paid (a combined \$791.50 million and 24 years). That is because they are the best in the MLB. Even Khalil Mack, Deshaun Watson and Aaron Rodgers (\$431 million combined over fourteen years, which is less than Mahomes’ extension) are getting paid handsomely because of their stellar perfor-

mances. However, and this is the case in multiple leagues, not everyone performs like their contract asks them to or how the fans expect.

Look at Albert Pujols. He is under a 10-year, \$240 million contract with the Los Angeles Angels where he was expected to continue to rake like he did in St. Louis. Instead, he turned into a disappointment whose best highlights were hit number 3,000, RBI number 2,000, home runs 600 and 661 and one All-Star appearance. Let us also use Bell here; he was getting paid for four years and \$52.5 million after holding out for a season before rushing for a touchdown just four times and having no rushes greater than 19 yards. Part of that might just be the Jets, but Bell was just disappointing. Finally, look at the infamous 15-year deal given to Rick DiPietro for a total of \$67.5 million. The Islanders thought he was the goalie of their future, but he just turned out to be a tragic disappointment who severely underperformed his contract and his No. 1 overall pick status. As a result, he was bought out and the Islanders owe him \$1.5 million until 2029.

As seen above, the biggest issue about being a disappoint-

ment under a big contract is the money. If someone is cut or traded, they still receive the money. If they are bought out, they will still be paid beyond the contract’s end. That is the case with players such as Bobby Bonilla (\$1 million a year until 2035 from the New York Mets) and Todd Gurley (\$7.55 million from the Los Angeles Rams). If Mahomes’ and Kelce’s new extensions lead to massive disappointment, then soon their contracts will just take up cap space. Should they be released, the Chiefs will end up owing them a lot of money, restricting a new era of elite Chiefs’ football.

Bad contracts exist and occur, but they cannot be predicted. Events such as injuries or underperforming can change the way a contract is looked at. Initially, a signing can be seen as a huge win for a team, but if the player performs badly, the signing is a regrettable action. Nonetheless, the bigger issue is what happens when the contracts take up a portion of the team’s total salary, thus preventing the team from officially rebuilding (see the Detroit Tigers and Miguel Cabrera’s contract) or having enough money to improve. I understand the Chiefs are in a win-now mode to head back to the promised land, but they should manage their finances very carefully with their next signings, or the bank will be paying the price, literally, for years.



Gase, frustrations and struggles all remain for 0-6 Jets

NEW YORK (AP) — Frustrated fans woke up Monday morning to the reality that things remain the same for the New York Jets.

In a word: painful. Adam Gase is still the coach. The offense is still struggling. So is the defense. Special teams, too. But, hey, at least the 0-6 Jets are now “winning” the slow crawl to the No. 1 overall draft pick. Whether that ends up being Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence remains to be seen.

One thing’s for sure, though: This season has been tough all around.

“You can get all caught up in the emotions of this game and the outside noise of the fans, but no one cares more than the guys in the locker room,” guard Greg Van Roten said. “This is my job. I get paid to play football. I love this game and I want to go out there and play a perfect game every week. It’s incredibly frustrating when you lose a game.

“It’s even more frustrating when it’s not even close because you have a short window to do this as a professional athlete.”

Van Roten, a native of Long Island, grew up a Jets fan and said his father Thomas has followed the franchise for nearly 60 years.

“As frustrated as the fans are, I understand that, but I’m way more frustrated than you are because this is a year of my playing life that’s not going the way that you want it to go,” said Van Roten, in his first season with the Jets. “Dealing with that, you allow yourself to do your job and this is what you get paid to do, so you’ve got to find a way to stay positive, block out that noise and just play a good game the next time you get to go out there.

“Because, eventually, there’s not going to be a next time.”

Van Roten credited the embattled Gase with trying to find



A New York Jets fan reacts to the team performance during the second half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Florida. PHOTO BY LYNNE SLADKY/AP

different ways to turn things around, from when they’ve met to how they’ve communicated and who has attended meetings. He said the coach showed about 30 plays Monday of Sunday’s 24-0 loss at Miami to understand what the players were thinking in those situations and how they can all improve moving forward.

“You don’t want to show up on a Monday and it’s the same as last week and the same as the week before that when you’re not being successful on Sundays,” Van Roten said. “He is doing everything he can do to make sure we’re all set to go for our next opponent.”

WHAT’S WORKING
Joe Douglas’ cellphone. With the Jets’ season spiraling, the fire sale is officially on.

Last week, the general manager tried finding a trade partner to move Le’Veon Bell before ultimately releasing him last Tuesday. After the game Sunday night, Douglas agreed to deal veteran nose tackle Steve McLendon to Tampa Bay. The Jets also sent a 2023 seventh-rounder to the Buccaneers in exchange for the Buccaneers’ sixth-rounder in 2022.

Douglas is likely not done, especially with plenty of time before the NFL’s trade deadline on Nov. 3.

WHAT NEEDS HELP
Well, everything. But one key area that has been brutal: third-down efficiency. The Jets were an awful 2 of 17 in those situations at Miami, a major reason for their inability to get on the scoreboard.

“Hey, man, it was a tough game and the only thing you can do in these situations is just hold your head up high and keep on fighting and fighting and fighting,” quarterback Joe Flacco said. “It was ugly.”

But it hasn’t just been that game. New York is last in the NFL with a 30.23% conversion rate on third downs.

STOCK UP
Marcus Maye. The safety provided one of the season’s lone highlights when he intercepted Ryan Fitzpatrick by pinning the ball against his backside while on the ground — The Butt Pick — and then securing it behind his back. It was an athletic play for Maye, who was moved this week to the deep safety role while Bradley McDougald was switched to the strong safety spot.

STOCK DOWN
Flacco. The 35-year-old quarterback hasn’t been able to do much in Sam Darnold’s place to get anything going on offense. Against the Dolphins, he was 21 of 44 for 186 yards with an interception and two penalties. He also lost 28 yards on one of his three sacks.

“I definitely made some mistakes and have got to clean some things up and keep on going,” Flacco said. “But we’re playing in some really tough conditions right now and we’ve just got to keep getting better.”

INJURED
In addition to Darnold and LT Mekhi Becton, LG Alex Lewis has what Gase says is “multiple” shoulder issues and is week to week. ... OL Chuma Edoga has a calf injury. ... S Matthias Farley has a sprained ankle. ... LB Frankie Luvu could miss time with a groin injury.

KEY NUMBER
0 — The number of points the Jets scored against the AFC East-rival Dolphins. It marked the first time New York was shut out by Miami since losing 14-0 in the AFC championship game in January 1983.

NEXT STEPS
Could things get worse? Oh, yeah. The Jets’ schedule is tough over the next several weeks: home vs. Buffalo, at Kansas City, and at home vs. New England on a Monday night before the bye-week break. For the record, no Jets team has started 0-9. Not even the 1996 squad, which opened 0-8 on its way to a franchise-worst 1-15.

Kershaw’s latest World Series chance with Dodgers near home

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Clayton Kershaw has pitched in the final game of the season for the Los Angeles Dodgers six of the last seven years. None of those were followed by lifting the World Series trophy.

There are his three National League Cy Young Awards, even an MVP during one of his 21-win seasons, and the current streak of eight consecutive NL West titles for the Dodgers.

But the 32-year-old ace lefty has a losing record (11-12) in the postseason — and Los Angeles hasn’t won a World Series since 1988. That is the same year Kershaw was born in Dallas, where he still lives and not far from where he is about to get another chance to change that for the Dodgers and add a huge missing piece to his otherwise sparkling resume.

“I was throwing sim games May and June in Dallas, thinking about, man, are we even going to play a season?” Kershaw said Monday.

And now for the third time in four years, Kershaw is set to start Game 1 of the World Series for the Dodgers, who were on the verge of their season ending when he left his NL Championship Series start last week in Arlington, Texas, where the World Series is also being played.

California-born Tyler Glasnow, a 27-year-old right-hander who grew up watching the early part of Kershaw’s career, starts Tuesday night for the Tampa Bay Rays in their first World Series game since 2008. Glasnow was 5-1 with a 4.08 ERA in 11 starts during the regular season and is 2-1 with a 4.66 ERA in four postseason starts.

The World Series opener comes a week after Kershaw was scratched before his scheduled start in Game 2 of the NLCS against Atlanta because of back spasms. He instead started two



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw celebrates near the family area after winning Game 7 of a baseball National League Championship Series against the Atlanta Braves Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Arlington, Texas. PHOTO BY ERIC GAY/AP

days later in Game 4, which was tied 1-1 before he left after allowing three hits in a row to start the sixth in what became a six-run inning for the Braves on the way to a 10-2 win and a 3-1 series lead.

But the Dodgers then won three consecutive games when facing elimination — only the second time in their storied history they did that. Kershaw was in the bullpen stretching at times during Game 7 on Sunday night, but never entered the clinching 4-3 victory.

Before these unusual playoffs

after the pandemic-shortened regular season, with the Dodgers already playing the Division Series and NLCS there, Kershaw hadn’t pitched professionally in Arlington. His rotation turns never matched up with trips to Texas, not at the old stadium across the street where he used to watch the Texas Rangers and one of his favorite players, Will Clark — the reason he wears No. 22 — or for the Dodgers’ series at the new \$1.2 billion Globe Life Field at the end of August.

Kershaw was 6-2 with a 2.16

ERA in 10 starts during the regular season, then had 13 strikeouts in eight scoreless innings to win the clinching Game 2 against Milwaukee in the first round. He went six innings to beat San Diego during the NLDS in his first Arlington start.

“He’s so competitive,” first-year teammate and 2018 AL MVP Mookie Betts said. “He does everything right.”

But as good as Kershaw has been in going 175-76 with a 2.43 ERA in the regular season over his 13 seasons, the eight-time

All-Star has had plenty of disappointing finishes in the postseason, when his ERA is nearly two runs higher at 4.31.

— In relief during Game 5 of the NL Division Series at home against Washington last October, Kershaw allowed back-to-back homers to start the eighth that tied the deciding game before the eventual World Series champion Nationals won on a grand slam in the 10th.

— There was a scoreless inning in relief to close out Game 7 of the NLCS in 2018 before he lost both his starts against Boston in that World Series — Game 1 and the deciding Game 5.

— His World Series debut in 2017 included 11 strikeouts while allowing one run over seven innings to win Game 1 at home against the Astros. But after LA took an early 4-0 lead in Game 5 at Houston, Kershaw gave up six runs and left after 4 2/3 innings — whether he tipped his pitches, or the Astros benefited from their illegal sign-stealing scheme that was revealed years later. The Astros won that game 13-12 in 10 innings, and clinched the series in Game 7, when Kershaw pitched four scoreless in relief at Dodger Stadium.

— Kershaw was the loser in season-ending games against the Cardinals in the 2013 NLCS and the NLDS the next season. He was 2-0 with a save in his first four appearances during the 2016 postseason before losing the deciding Game 6 of the NLCS against the Chicago Cubs.

“Postseason, you have that experience to draw on, just trying to learn from that as best we can,” Kershaw said. “At the same time, every year is different. Every team is different. The Rays are a different team than the Astros and the Red Sox. I’m going to prepare like I always do and be as ready as I can be.”

For another chance.