**SAN ANTONIO DEFEATS MIDTOWN, 4 GAMES TO 1,**

**TO WIN 2020 NABC WORLD SERIES!**

 This newsletter contains series and game summaries for the 2020 NABC World Series and other playoff series. The box scores and playoff statistics are all available in the final C-file that I distributed by e-mail. Congratulations to manager Larry Bond and the #1 seeded San Antonio Spartans, who won the championship in an exciting 5 game series over manager Bryan Rizzo and the #2 seeded Midtown Muddogs, in the first NABC World Series played using Zoom. The Spartans won the first 2 games, dropped game 3 and then won the next 2, to take the title. This was the 8th matchup of #1 and #2 seeds in the World Series since seeding began in 2000, and the 6th time that the #1 seed prevailed. The last previous match-up of the top two seeds occurred in 2018, when #2 San Antonio swept the #1 Livonia Lynx. Not only the WS games, but all playoff games were played online via Zoom this season. Thanks to all playoff managers for completing the games promptly.

For San Antonio manager Larry Bond, this was the 26th playoff appearance in his 41 NABC seasons with the Spartans. Larry has now led the Spartans to 14 World Series and 9 championshipos, the most of any NABC manager. Their last previous title came in 2018. Before Larry took over the franchise had played 3 years with no playoff appearances..

For Miodtown manager Bryan Rizzo, in his 33rd NABC season, this was his 9thplayoff appearance, and his first time in the finals. The Midtown franchise now has 18 playoff runs in 44 seasons overall, plus 1 World Series title in 3 appearances, with the only previous championship in 1985, as the Emerald Bay Mastodons, under the guidance of manager Phil Henson.

 Over the course of the post-season, San Antonio’s offense was led by J.T. Realmuto (13-38, 4hr, 9r, 9rbi), Alex Bregman (14-50, 6-2b, 13r), Charlie Blackmon (10-45, 3hr, 8r, 10rbi) and Christian Yelich (9-44, 4hr, 8r, 8rbi). Jacob deGrom and Hyun-Jin Ryu each posted 2-0 records as starters and Will Smith (2-1, 1.35) was effective in relief. Gleybar Torres (11-44, 4hr, 10rbi), Mike Trout (9-36, 4hr, 6r, 6rbi) and Matt Chapman (12-42, 6-2b, 7r) keyed the Muddogs offense, while Rich Hill (3-0, 2.35) stood alone as the most effective Midtown hurler. In the post-season, San Antonio out-scored their opponents 64 to 51, while Midtown scored 47 runs, but allowed 55 in total, both over 12 games.

 ***Congratulations to both Larry and Bryan for making it to the finals, and thanks to all NABC managers for another great year!***

**PLAYOFF RESULTS:**

Play-In Game: Buffalo Bison defeated Danbury Dirt Dobbers

First Round: Wyandotte Falcons over Rivertown Otters, 4 games to 1.

 Buffalo Bison over Mill City Mojo, 4 games to 1.

Second Round: San Antonio Spartans over Buffalo Bison, 4 games to 3.

Midtown Muddogs over Wyandotte Falcons, 4 games to 3.

**World Series: San Antonio Spartans over Midtown Muddogs, 4 games to 1.**

**WORLD SERIES – San Antonio 4, Midtown 1 (Played via Zoom, by Larry Bond and Bryan Rizzo, highlights from Larry Bond and Bryan Rizzo)**

The #1 seeded Spartans rolled to the championship winning 4 of 5 games, by droping only game 3, to secure their league-best ninth NABC title. The #2 seeded Muddogs, in manager Brian Rizzo’s first WS appearance were unable to rally after dropping a pair of 1-run decisions in the first 2 games. San Antonio outscored Midtown 27 to 21 overall, with each team slamming 8 home runs in the 5 games. Charlie Blackmon (7-17, 3hr, 5r, 9rbi), Alex Bregman (8-21, 4-2b, 8r), Xander Bogaerts (10-20, 3rbi) and J.T. Realmuto (2hr, 4rbi) and Jurickson Profar (7-29, 3-2b, 6r) led the Spartans on offense. Jacob deGrom won both his starts with a 3.31 ERA to lead the Spartnas pitchers. Gleybar Torres (6-19, 2-2b, 3hr, 7rbi), Mike Trout (6-18, 2hr, 4r, 3rbi) and David Dahl (5-19, 3r, 4rbi) led the way for the Nuddogs.

**Game 1: Midtown (Tyler Glasnow) at San Antonio (Jacob deGrom)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 5 Midtown 4**

Midtown jumped out to a 1-0 1st inning lead when Cody Bellinger walked and Trey Mancini followed with a single that scored him all the way from 1st. In the 2nd, Hunter Pence was caught stealing on a failed H&R play, but Carlos Santana followed that with a solo HR to tie it up for San Antonio. Carson Kelly untied it with a leadoff HR in the 3rd, but that lead only lasted until the 4th, when Michael Conforto launched a solo HR. The Spartans then took the lead for good with a 2-out 3-run rally in the 5th, which featured an RBI double by Xander Bogaerts followed by a Charlie Blackmon 2-run HR. The Muddogs sliced the lead to 5-3 in the 7th when David Dahl doubled and came around on a single by Gleyber Torres, and then Mike Trout made it a 1-run game with a solo HR in the 8th. After deGrom plunked Matt Chapman with 1 out in the 9th, Spartan closer Shane Greene came in to record the final two outs without incident. **Final 5-4 SAN**. Trout & Bogaerts were the only players in the game with more than 1 hit.

**Game 2: Midtown (James Paxton) at San Antonio (Gio Gonzalez)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 2 Midtown 1**

If any game in this series could be pegged as a potential slugfest, it would have been this one. However, that's not the way it worked out. Paxton & Gonzalez matched zeroes through 6 innings. Finally in the top of the 7th, Midtown broke through off Gonzalez when Chapman doubled and scored on a 2-out single by Luis Arraez. J.T. Realmuto knotted it up in the 8th, spoiling Paxton's shutout bid with a leadoff HR. In the 9th, the Spartans mounted a rally against Midtown reliever Taylor Rogers. With 1 out, Blackmon singled, and after a Pence force-out at 2nd pinch hitter Edwin Rios drew a walk. Liam Hendriks then relieved Rogers, and the Spartans countered with David Freese as a pinch hitter for Tommy Pham. Freese slapped a single through the infield to score Pence with the winning run.  **Final 2-1 SAN**. Arraez had 3 hits for the Muddogs in a losing cause.

**Game 3: San Antonio (Justin Verlandere) at Midtown (Rich Hill)**

 **Final Score: Midtown 9 San Antonio 5**

Midtown keeps the home team winning streak going with a 9-5 victory.  David Dahl and GleybarTorres each hit a homer and drive in 3 for Midtown while Rich Hill goes 7.2 innings for the win. Charlie Blackmon drove in 4 runs for the Spartans.

**Game 4: San Antonio (Justin Verlander) at Midtown (Rich Hill)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 11 Midtown 5**

Not happy about losing a game, San Antonio jumped out to an 11-0 lead through the first 5 innings.  Alex Bregman had 3 hits and 3 runs, while Blackmon added 3 hits and 3 RBI to pace the attack for the Spartans. J.T. Realmuto had 4 RBI while Hyun-Jin Ryu went the distance in an 11-5 win. Torres had 2home runs and 3 RBI in a losing cause for the Muddogs.

**Game 5: San Antonio (deGrom) at Midtown (Glasnow)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 4 Midtown 2**

Jacob DeGrom!  San Antonio got a run in the first on a Xander Boegarts sac fly and DeGrom kept it a 1-0 until the 8th.  Bregman (monster series) then delivered a 2 run triple and Christian Yelich added a sac fly to give San Antonio a 4-0 lead.  In the bottom of the ninth, after being held to just 1 hit through 8, Midtown made it exciting with 3 straight hits.  They made it 4-2 and brought the tieing run to the plate twice, but could not muster another hit.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round –San Antonio 4, Buffalo 3 (Played via Zoom, by Larry Bond and John Duke, highlights from Larry Bond and John Duke)**

In an exciting and very closely contested 7-game series between two old division rivals, the #1 seeded San Antonio Spartans, managed by Larry Bond, outlasted John Duke’s #6 seeded Buffalo Bison. All 7 games in the series went to the home team as the Spartans won the first 2, the Bison took the next 3 and the Spartans came back with a pair of 3-2 wins in games 6 and 7. Overall, the San Antonio outscored Buffalo, 37 to 30 and led in home runs, 14 to 8. Christian Yelich (7-28, 4hr, 5r, 7rbi), J.T. Realmuto (9-23, 2hr, 6r, 4rbi) and Xander Bogaerts (8-28, 3-2b, 5r) led the Spartans, while Justin Verlander went 9 innings in both of his starts with a 1.50 ERA for the winners. Eric Thames (8-26, 3hr, 4r, 6rbi), Nolan Arenado (6-30, 2hr, 6r, 4rbi), D.J. LeMahieu (7-29, 3-2b, 5r) and Brandon Crawford (2hr, 4rbi) led the Herd offense. Also, relievers Will Smith for SAN and Emilio Pagan each posted 2 wins in the series. No carryover injuries for San Antonio in the World Series.

For Buffalo manager John Duke, this was the 29th playoff appearance in his 42 NABC seasons at the helm of the Bison. Buffalo has 4 NABC titles in 8 World Series appearances under manager Duke, with the most recent title in 2012.

**Game 1: Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw) at San Antonio (Jacob deGrom):**

 **Final Score San Antonio 5 Buffalo 3**

The Spartans jumped out to a 2-0 1st inning lead on Christian Yelich’s 2-run HR before some adversity struck. deGrom walked off the mound with a 9-day arm injury after facing only 5 batters. The Bison took advantage with a 2-run rally in the 3rd and then the teams traded single runs in the 4th and 5th. The Spartans went ahead for good with a run in the 6th and added an insurance run in the 8th off Kershaw, who went the distance in a losing cause. Five Spartan relievers combined to hold off the Bison, with Will Smith recording the win and Shane Greene earning a save with a 1-2-3 9th inning. Tommy Pham and J.T. Realmuto of San Antonio were the only batters on either team to collect 2 hits. Final SAN 5-3.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Cole Hamels) at San Antonio (Justin Verlander):**

 **Final Score San Antonio 9 Buffalo 1**

In what would turn out to be the only lopsided game of the series, The Spartans battered Hamels for 5 runs in the 1st, with a Hunter Pence grand slam sending him to the showers without having recorded an out. While Xander Bogaerts & Alex Bregman & Derek Dietrich added HR’s along the way, Verlander cruised along with a 1-hitter until the 9th inning, when a solo HR by Eric Thames spoiled his shutout bid. Final SAN 9-1.

**Game 3: San Antonio (Hyun-Jin Ryu) at Buffalo (Alex Young):**

 **Final Score Buffalo 7 San Antonio 6 (10 innings)**

The Bison led 6-2 after 4 innings before Ryu setteled down and the Spartans rallied in the late innings to send the game to extra frames. In the 10th inning, Buffalo tallied an unearned run when Marwin Gonzalez delivered a 2-out walkoff RBI single, his 4th hit of the game for the victory.

San Antonio2: Charlie Blackmon single, J.T. Realmuto 2-run HR, 2-0 Spartans

Buffalo2: Mike Yastrzemski single, luke Voit single, James McCann RBI isngle, Marwin Gonzalez RBI single, Tyler Naquin RBI single, 3-2 Bison

B3: Bo Bichette single, Nolan Arenado 2-run HR, 5-2 Herd

B4: D.J. LeMahieu single, Bichette RBI double, 6-2 Bison

S8: PH Edwin Rios walk, Christian Yelich 2-run HR, RP Emilio Pagan in, David Freese solo HR, 6-5 Bison

S9: PH Michael Conforto solo HR, tied 6-6

B10: vs. RP Shane Greene, Arenado reaches on Alex Bregman E-5, PH Eric Thames walk, Gonzalez walkoff RBI single, 7-6 Bison

**Game 4: San Antonio (Matt Shoemaker) at Buffalo (Devin Smeltzer):**

 **Final Score Buffalo 7 San Antonio 6 (12 innings)**

Another walkoff win by the Herd, this time in 12 innings after a back-and-forth game was tied at 6 after 7 innings. Both sides were scoreless until the 12th frame, when Mike Yastrzemski slashed a 2-out RBI double (his 4th RBI of the game) to drive home Nolan Arenado from 1st base with the winning run.

S3: Tommy Pham single, J.T. Realmuto RBI double, Christian Yelich single and Realmuto scores on Yastrzemski E-8, 2-0 Spartans

B3: Brandon Crawford solo HR, D.J. LeMahieu walk, Arenado walk, Yastrzemski atones for error with 3-run HR, 4-2 Bison

S4: Xander Bogaerts doiuble, Charlie Blackmon single, Hunter Pence RBI single, 4-3 Bison

S5: Yelich solo HR, Bogaerts double, RP Amir Garrett in, Blackmon walk, Pence walk, Carlos Santana 2-run single, 6-4 Spartans

B7: Jackie Bradley single, Eric Thames 2-run HR, tied 6-6

B12: vs. RP Will Smith, Arenado single, RP Shane Greene in, Yastrzemski walkoff RBI double, 7-6 Bison

**Game 5: San Antonio (Randy Dobnak) at Buffalo (Kershaw):**

 **Final Score Buffalo 8 San Antonio 5**

The Spartans tally single markers in the 3rd and 4th behind substitute starter Dobnak, but the roof caves in in the 5th as the Bison tally 8 runs (highlighted by Brandon Crawford’s 3-run home run) to win going away. The Spartans score 3 in their 9th to make it (too) interesting.

S3: J.T. Realmuto solo HR, 1-0 Spartans

S4: Xander Bogaerts single, Charlie Blackmon HBP, Carlos Santana single, Tommy Pham FC RBI ground out, 2-0 Spartans

B5: David Peralta walk, Luke Voit single, James McCann RBI single, Crawford 3-run HR, D.J. LeMahieu walk, Eric Thames 2-run HR, Nolan Arenado single, Peralta RBI double, Voit RBI single, 8-2 Bison

S9: Pham solo HR, J.T. Realmuto double, Alex Bregman RBI single, Yelich single, Bogaerts single, RP Emilio Pagan in, PH David Freese RBI single, Edwin Rios flies out deep to RF Jackie Bradley, 8-5 Bison

**Game 6: Buffalo (Hamels) at San Antonio (Verlander):**

 **Final Score San Antonio 3 Buffalo 2 (12 innings)**

Nolan Arenado gave the Bison a 2-0 lead in the 1st with a 2-run HR off Verlander. Hamels was much sharper this time around, pitching 6 strong innings. He allowed only 2 hits and a run that scored on a DP grounder, and departed with a 2-1 lead. Both teams found base-runners hard to come by, but the Spartans eked out a tying run in the 8th when Alex Bregman’s sac fly scored pinch runner Nick Ahmed. The teams then racked up more zeroes until the bottom of the 12th, when Edwin Rios launched a walkoff solo HR off Bison reliever Alex Claudio to end the game. Final SAN 3-2 (12)

**Game 7: Buffalo (Young) at San Antonio (Ryu):**

 **Final Score San Antonio 3 Buffalo 2**

This was another game where hits were scarce, each team finishing with only 5. The Bison were gifted a run in the 1st inning when a 2-out Mike Yastrzemski fly ball popped out of Christian Yelich’s glove, allowing D/J/ LeMahieu to score. However, Yelich atoned for his gaffe with a 2-run HR in the 3rd off Young. A 4th inning Tommy Pham sac fly made it 3-1, but in the 5th the lead was halved when LeMahieu (the only player in the game with 2 hits) doubled off the wall to score James McCann from 2nd. The teams then put up more zeroes the rest of the way. Ryu pitched into the 9th, and Brandon Kintzler came on for a save. Final SAN 3-2.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round – Midtown 4, Wyandotte 3 (Played via Zoom by Bryan Rizzo and Dave Brim, highlights by Bryan Rizzo and Dave Brim)**

The #2 seeded Midtwon Muddogs, managed by Rick Christainson defeated manager Dave Brim’s Wyandotte Falcons, in an exciting and tense 7 game series between division rivals. The home team won all 7 games, meaning that Midtown took games 1,2,6 and 7, with Wyandotte capturing the middle trio of contests. The Falcons outscored the Muddogs, 28-26 over the 7 games, but Midtown led in home runs 11-10 and managed to win the close games including an extra inning triumph in game 7! Matt Chapman (8-24, 5-2b, 4r), Cody Bellinger (6-19, 3r, 3rbi, 4bb) and Luis Arraez (6-23, 3r, 4rbi) led the offensive attack for Midtown, while Anthony Rizzo and Mike Trout each added 2 home runs. Rich Hill posted 2 wins with a 1.17 ERA to lead the Muddogs staff. Javier Baez (6-24, 3-2b, 2hr, 4r, 3rbi), Mookie Betts (7-29, 4-sb, 3r) and J.D. Davis (5rbi despite just 4-28) led the disappointing Falcons offense, while kyle Schwarber added 2 home runs. Carlos Correa of Midtown was injured ofr 20 days during game 7, so he is not available to play in the World Series.

This was the thirteenth playoff appearance in 36 NABC seasons for Wyandotte manager Dave Brim, the only manager in the history of the Wyandotte franchise. Mgr. Brim has 2 World Series wins in 5 appearances in the NABC World Series, with his most recent championship in 2005.

**Game 1: Wyandotte (Kyle Hendricks) at Midtown (Tyler Glasnow):**

 **Final Score: Midtown 4 Wyandotte 3**

Game 1 saw Javier Baez homer for the Falcons in the third, but Anthony Rizzo answered in the bottom of the inning to tie it at 1-1.  Kyle Schwarber's solo shot gave Wyandotte a 2-1 in the 5th, but Luis Arraez answered with an RBI hit in the bottom of the 5th to tie it at 2.  Then Arraez and PH Reese Mcgwire homered in the 8th to give MIdtown a 4-3 win behind Tyler Glasnow.

**Game 2: Wyandotte (Lance Lynn) at Midtown (Rich Hill):**

 **Final Score: Midtown 4 Wyandotte 0**

In game 2, the story was Rich Hill who threw a complete 4-hit game shutout as Midtown won 4-0.  Matt Chapman (a 2-run shot in the 1st inning), Arraez and Carson Kelly all went deep for Midtown.

**Game 3: Midtown (Charlie Morton) at Wyandotte (Patrick Corbin):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 3 Midtown 1 (11 innings)**

A true pitcher’s duel with both Morton and Corbin pitching 9 innings.  Morton picked up 15K’s, while Corbin added 12.  The game was tied 1-1 after 9.  In the bottom of 11th, Andrew McCutchen, who had entered the game late as a PR, ends the game with a walk-off 2 run HR.  Final score 3-1.

**Game 4: Midtown (James Paxton) at Wyandotte (Luis Castillo):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 11 Midtown 6**

The Falcons win the only semi blow out game of the series with a 9 run 5th inning led by BTB HR’s by Kyle Schwarber and Paul Goldschmidt.  Schwarber went 3 for 3, with a double, homer and 3 RBI. J>D> Davis added 2 hits and 3 RBI. Final Score 11-6.

**Game 5: Midtown (Glasnow) at Wyandotte (Hendricks):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 3 Midtown 1 (11 innings)**

Midtown holds a 3-1 lead going into the bottom of the 8th inning, but it’s another come back win for the Falcons as they score 5 runs in the 8th inning, led by a 3 run PH home run by Sam Hilliard off Falcons closer Felipe Vazquez.

**Game 6: Wyandotte (Lynn) at Midtown ( Hill):**

 **Final Score: Midtown 4 Wyandotte 2**

Game 6 was a 4-2 Muddogs win with a Cody Bellinger homer giving the home team a 3-2 lead in the 6th. Mike Trout also homered for the Falcons, while Ozzie Albies and Paul Goldshmidt hit solo shots for the Falcons.

**Game 7: Wyandotte (Corbin) at Midtown (Morton):**

 **Final Score: Midtown 4 Wyandotte 3 (10 innings)**

Game 7 went extra innings and Trey Mancini won it with a walk-off RBI single to score Cody Bellinger. The Falcons took a 3-0 lead in the 4th, highlighted by a solo HR by Jonathan Villar, but the Muddogs rallied behind a 2-run shot by Gleyber Torres in the 6th and a solo shot from Mike Trout in the 7th to forge the 3-3 tie.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round – Wyandotte 4, Rivertown 1 (Played via Zoom by Rick Christianson and Dave Brim, highlights from Rick Christianson and Dave Brim)**

The #5 seeded Wyandotte Falcons upset the defending champion Rivertown Otters, the #4 seed, in a tight 5 game series, as 3 of the 5 games were 1-run affaris and the largest victory margin was just 3 runs. The Falcons won the first 3 games, dropped one and clinched in game 5. The Otters were outscored 22 to 16, overall, and the Falcons led in home runs, 11 to 9. Jonathan Villar (5-17, 2hr, 5r, 4rbi), Kyle Schwarber (6-16, 3hr, 4r), Paul Goldschmidt (5-15, 2hr, 4rbi) and Eugenio Suarez (2hr, 5rbi) paced the Falcons offense, while Kyle Hendriks won both of his starts and posted a 2.84 ERA. Kirby Yates registered a save in each of the 4 Wyandotte victories. Howie Kendrick (8-20, 3hr, 6rbi) and Nelson Cruz (7-20, 2hr, 3r) were the only consistent hitters for the Otters, as the Falcon pitching staff recorded a 3.00 ERA.

 For Rivertown manager Rick Christianson, this was the 8th playoff appearance in his 8 seasons in the NABC and Rick had 2 championships in his 2 World Series appearances, including winning the 2019 title. The Rivertown franchise has made 26 playoff appearances in 44 seasons and has 8 championships in just 10 WS appearances.

**Game 1: Wyandotte (Kyle Hendricks) at Rivertown (Zack Greinke):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 4 Rivertown 3**

Ex-Otter Kyle Hendricks faces Zack Greinke

*T 1* Mookie Betts homers  1-0 Falcons

*B 2*J.D. Martinez ties it with a solo shot

*T 6*    Jonathan Villar homer puts Wyandotte back in front 2-1

*B 6*    Danny Santana ties it with a homer.

*T 7*Kyle Schwarber homers 3-2 Falcons

*T 8*    Villar  hits his second of the day.  4-2

*B 8*    Nelson Cruz homers to make it a one run game

*B 9*    Kirby Yates finishes it off

***Final Score:  Wyandotte 4, Rivertown 3   All runs in the game score on solo homers!***

**Game 2: Wyandotte (Lance Lynn) at Rivertown (Mike Clevinger):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 8 Rivertown 7**

*T 1*    J.D. Davis singles in a run

*T 2*    Paul Goldschmidt hits a two run homer, Villar singles in another  4 zip Falcons!

*B 2*    RBI single by Stephen Vogt makes it 4-1

*T 5*Villar walks, takes 2nd on h&r ground out, move to 3rd on a passed ball, and scores on Davis slow ground out.  5-1 Wyandotte

*B 5*3 run homer by Howie Kendrick makes it a one run game.  Falcons 5, Otters 4

*T 6*Goldschmidt smacks his 2nd 2 run homer of the game.  Three run lead for Wyandotte.

*B 6*    Jay Bruce’s 2 run shot makes it 7-6

*B 7*    Danny Santana doubles home the tying run.  7-7

*T 8*    Schwarber homers.  Falcons are back on top.

*B 9*Yates sets the Otters down 1-2-3

***Final Score:    Wyandotte 8, Rivertown 7***

So far there have been 12 homers hit in the series, 7 by the Falcons, 5 by the Otters.

***The series moves on to Wyandotte with the Falcons holding a two games to none lead.***

Note: Villar is 4 for 6 with 3 walks, 4 runs scored 3 RBI, 2 homers and 2 stolen bases.  He, Schwarber and Goldy each have 2 homers.

**Game 3: Rivertown (Stephen Strasburg) at Wyandotte (Patrick Corbin):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 6 Rivertown 3**

T1—Howie Kendrick 2 run HR

B2—Kyle Schwarber HR, 2-1

B4—SF Eugenio Suarez 2-2

T6 Kendrick hr 3-2

B6—Suarez 3 run HR

B8—J.D. Davis HR 6-3

Falcons 3 HR’s do the job

WP—Corbin  LP—Strasburg  SV—Kirby Yates

**Game 4: Rivertown (Wade Miley) at Wyandotte (Lusi Castillo):**

 **Final Score: Rivertown 1 Wyandotte 0**

T4—Nelson Cruz HR, 1-0

That’s it!

WP—Miley  LP—Castillo  Sv—Aroldis Chapman

**Game 5: Rivertown (Greinke) at Wyandotte (Hendricks):**

 **Final Score: Wyandotte 4 Rivertown 2**

T2—Josh Reddick doubles, 1-0

B3—Mookie Betts double, 1-1

B4—Suarez HR, 2-1

B5—Jonathan Villar single 3-2

T6—Yadier Molina HR, 3-2

B7—Betts double, 4-2

WP—Hendricks  LP—Greinke  SV--Yates

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round –Buffalo 4, Mill City 1 (Played via Zoom by Rob Skogen and John Duke, write-up by Rob Skogen and John Duke)**

The #6 seeded Bufalo Bison took the final 3 games at home to win a tense opening round series upset over the #3 seeded Mill City Mojo. The Bison outscored the Mojo 27 to 21 over the 5 games and enjoyed a decisive 13 to 6 edge in home runs. Nolan Arenado (8-20, 2hr, 4r, 4rbi), Mike Yastrzemski (5-17, 3hr, 6r, 5rbi), Luke Voit (5-17, 2hr, 6rbi) and Marcus Thames (5-15, 3-2b, 3r) led the powerful Bison attack. Alex Young posted 2 victories with a 2.35 ERA in 15.1 innings over 2 starts, while Emilio Pagan posted 3 saves with a 0.00 ERA. Ketel Marte (6-19, 2hr, 4r, 6rbi) led the Mojo with strong support from Yoan Moncada 99-19, 4r, 3rbi) and Fransico Lindor (7-20, 3r, 3rbi). No carryover injuries for Buffalo.

Congratulations to Mill City manager Rob Skogen for leading the Mojo to the playoffs in his first NABC season. The Mill City franchise now has 13 playoff apearances in 44 NABC seasons and has won the title in 2 of its 3 WS played. Their last title was as the Mt. Clemens Phillies, managed by Lloyd Mest in 1982.

**Game 1: Buffalo (Alex Young) at Mill City (Mike Soroka):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 4 Mill City 3**

Buffalo bats draw first blood as the young Mike Yastrzemski takes Mojo ace Soroka deep for a 2 run blast in the first frame. Jackie Bradley Jr doubles the score with a 2 run shot of his own in the 6th. Rookie hurler Young has his stuff working early, holding the home team scoreless into the 7th until Francisco Lindor puts one into the seats to finally put them on the board.

Mojo show signs of life in the 8th with pinch runner Manny Margot sparking a rally by stealing his way into scoring position and then scoring on a Mike Tauchman double, to cut the lead in half, forcing the Bison manager to go to his closer early. Team Captain Ketel Marte delivers a clutch 2 out double off Emilio Pagan to make it a 1 run game. Despite a 2 out double by Freddy Galvis in the bottom of 9, Pagan takes care of business and closes off the victory.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Cole Hamels) at Mill City (Eduardo Rodriguez):**

 **Final Score: Mill City 9 Buffalo 7**

With spirits sagging a bit after dropping the first game, the pressure was on. Eduardo Rodriguez was all nerves, loading the bases with 3 walks in the first inning and hanging a curveball for a triple into the corner off the bat of slugger Luke Voit for another early Bison lead.

Mojo get on the board thanks to a Freddy Galvis solo shot in the 2nd. Yastrzemski matches him in the 3rd to keep the Bison lead at 3. In the bottom of 3rd, Lindor keeps the inning alive on a 2 out bloop double and Marte mashes one to make it a one run game.

Hamels takes a lead into the 5th, but is yanked early after allowing a couple of baserunners without getting an out. Bison Manager calls for Ryne Harper and he gets a couple outs before Marte knocks him out with another big bomb to put the Mojo up by 2. Robert Stephenson comes on in relief to get the last out, but coughs up a solo shot to Yuli Gurriel.

With the lead at 4, Rodriguez is given a chance to go back out for the 6th, but runs into trouble as the Bison

mount a rally. Tim Hill is called out of the pen and gets a couple outs, but allows a run to score on a James McCann single and finds himself with a bases loaded jam before Mill City Manager calls Ryan Pressly into action as the go ahead run comes to bat. After a long, loud foul ball, DJ LeMahieu swings through the high heat to end the inning, with Mojo holding on to a 3 run lead.

Bison fail to convert an 8th inning run as JBJ blows through the 3rd base coach's sign and gets thrown out at the plate. Yoan Moncada contributes an 8th inning insurance run with a base knock in his return to action from injury. Bison make it interesting with a 2 run blast from Bo Bichette in the 9th off Michael Lorenzen, but Roberto Osuna comes in and slams the door shut to even the series.

**Game 3: Mill City (Luke Weaver) at Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 7 Mill City 5**

The Mojo scored 4 times in the 3rd inning to establish a 5-1 lead over Kershaw, but the Herd rallied with a solo home runs in each of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th innings to tie the game at 5, before Mike Yastrzemski delivered a dramatic walk-off 2-run HR in the bottom of the 9th for the win.

Buffalo1:  D.J. LeMahieu walk, Arenado RBI double, 1-0 Bison

Mill City 2:  Yoan Moncada single, SB, Oscar Mercado RBI single, tied 1-1

M3:  Ketel Marte triple, Francisco Lindor walk, Yuliesky Gurriel RBI single, Moncada RBI single, Freddy Galvis RBI single, James McCann PB scored Moncada, 5-1 Mojo

B4:  Luke Voit solo HR, 5-2 Mojo

B5:  Arenado solo HR, 5-3 Mojo

B6:  Voit solo HR, 2nd of game, 5-4 Mojo

B7:  vs. RP Ryan Pressly, Arenado solo HR, 2nd of game tied 5-5

B9:  vs. RP Osuna, Eric Thames double, Yastrzemski 2-out, 2-run HR, 7-5 Bison

**Game 4: Mill City (Chris Paddack) at Buffalo (Devin Smeltzer):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 5 Mill City 3**

The Bison pecked away at Paddack for a 4-1 lead after 4 frames and withstood a late rally from the Mojo.

M1:  Ronald Acuna single, Lindor H&R single scores Acuna from first, 1-0 Mojo

B2:  Voit double, McCann single, Bradley RBI double, LeMahieu SF, 2-1 Bison

B3:  Yastrzemski walk, David Peralta H&R single, Voit RBI groundout, 3-1 Herd

B4:  Brandon Crawford solo HR, 4-1 Bison

M6:  Marte walk, Galvis walk, RP Ryne Harper in, PH Mauricio Dubon RBI single, 4-2 Bison

M7:  RP Amit Garrett in, Acuna solo HR, 4-3 Bison

B8:  RP Pressly in, Peralta solo HR, 5-3 Bison

**Game 5: Mill City (Soroka) at Buffalo (Young):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 4 Mill City 1**

The Bison took a 3-0 lead in the first 3 innings and held the Mojo off to secure the series victory.  Young allowed 10 hits, but just 1 run over 8 superb innings.

B2:  McCann solo HR, 1-0 Bison

B3:  LeMahieu single, Thames 2-run HR, 3-1 Bison

M7:  Acuna single, Moncada RBI single, 3-1 Herd

B7:  Voit single, PR Naquin SB, Jackie Bradley RBI double, 4-1 Bison

**PLAY-IN GAME (Played via Zoom by John Duke and Steve Davis, highlights by John Duke)**

**Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw) at Danbury (Gerritt Cole):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 6 Danbury 1**

Clayton Kershaw held the Dobbers to just 1 run on 6 hits over 7.2 innings to get the win over Gerritt Cole.  Luke Voit slammed a pair of 2-run home runs to lead the Herd attack.  James McCann added a solo shot for the Bison, while Jason Castro slammed a solo homer for the only Danbury tally.  Voit had 3 hits and 4 RBI for Buffalo, while Nolan Areando also had 3 hits and singled to drive home the first run of the game.

**2021 NABC DRAFT MEETING**

 **Please don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 13th, 2021, for the annual NABC rookie draft and league meeting.**