



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot's Cody Stratman breaks loose for one of his four touchdowns in the Blue Devils' 66-14 victory over Palmer in the opening round of the Nebraska Class D2 football playoffs on Thursday in Wynot, Nebraska.

Blue Devils Blast Past Palmer



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot's Dawson Sudbeck, 5, congratulates teammate Cody Stratman after a first-quarter touchdown in the Blue Devils' 66-14 victory over Palmer in the Class C2 football playoffs on Thursday in Wynot, Nebraska.

Wynot To Host Lawrence-Nelson In 2nd Round

BY DYLAN HUGGINS

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WYNOT, Neb. — Cody Stratman had four touchdowns for Wynot which rolled past Palmer 66-20 during the first round of the Nebraska Class D2 playoffs on Thursday in Wynot.

In the first quarter, Stratman had three touchdowns including a 41 yard touchdown and a 28 yard touchdown. Palmer responded in the second quarter with two touchdowns from Kaiden Reimers.

Wynot scored 24 points in the second half including a five-yard rushing touchdown from Nate Wiesler.

Wynot head coach Steve Heimes thought his team had a great performance.

"I thought the night went pretty well for us and we felt offensively we could probably do what we wanted and for the most part that's what we did," Heimes said.

"It's a great weapon to have and it's something that you just can't replace," he said. "On any play he can make two, three, or four guys miss and he can be gone."

Stratman acknowledged that even though he scores multiple touchdowns, that football is a team.

"It just means that everyone is doing

their job and it's getting done like we planned," Stratman said.

"It also means that it went the way our game plan was set up and it just feels amazing when everyone is cheering," he said.

In the win for Wynot, Jalen Wielser had 223 passing yards and three passing touchdowns. Dawson Sudbeck had one catch for 66 yards.

On the defensive side, Cale Sudbeck had eight total tackles.

Wynot faces Lawrence Nelson in the next round of the D2 playoffs on Wednesday at Wynot.

Follow @dhugg23 on Twitter.

Other Playoff Games

Bloomfield 80,

Lourdes Central Catholic 48

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. — Tyler Holz exploded for 398 total yards and seven total touchdowns as Bloomfield routed Lourdes Central Catholic 80-48 in a Class D1 upset Thursday in Nebraska City.

Holz had scoring runs of 33, 45, 22, 1, 18 and 27 yards, and also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Devin Johnson.

Also for Bloomfield (6-3), which was the No. 12 seed, Quinten Moles and

Luke Fehringer each had two touchdown runs, and both rushed for over 100 yards.

Bloomfield advances to play Guardian Angels Central Catholic (9-0) next Wednesday.

BLOOMFIELD (6-3).....16 30 14 20 - 80

LOURDES CENTRAL CATHOLIC (7-2).....0 14 20 14 - 48

Madison 61, Tea Area 24

MADISON — A high scoring first half saw Madison build a solid lead and push passed Tea Area 61-24 in the first round of South Dakota Class 11A playoff action on Thursday night.

Marion (10-0) scored 47 points in the first half with Brodi Frederiksen scoring five touchdowns in that time. Frederiksen would add a sixth in the third quarter and end the night with 175 rushing yards on 21 carries. Mitch Hansen completed six passes for 70 yards and was intercepted twice.

Zach Gors led Tea Area with 103 total rushing yards on nine carries. Payton Conrad completed 12 passes for 184 yards and was intercepted three times. Jeremiah Maka recorded eight tackles for Tea.

Marion will take on the winner of game two between Sioux Falls Christian and Belle Fourche on Nov. 6.

TEA AREA (6-4).....14 3 0 7 - 24

MARION (10-0).....20 27 14 0 - 61

Royals' Rotation Puts The 'World' In The World Series

BY ERIC NUNEZ

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Yordano Ventura is the flamethrower who stares down hitters. Johnny Cueto has flowing dreadlocks and nicknamed his motion "The Rocking Chair." Edinson Volquez is the always ebullient guy who pitched just hours after his dad died.

And together, the Kansas City trio is about to put the world in the World Series.

When Ventura takes the mound at Citi Field on Friday night to face the New York Mets, the Royals will become the first team in Series history to start three pitchers born outside the United States.

Each from the Dominican Republic, too.

"The fact that we are all in this together is priceless," Ventura said. "This is so exciting. You feel proud that this is something historic, but at the same time you're aware this is also unique. Nobody knows if three Dominican pitchers will be ever starting again for the same team in World Series."

Before this year, six Series teams had started two pitchers from beyond the

U.S., STATS said. Those pitchers came from Cuba, Canada, Venezuela and the Netherlands, among other countries.

Ventura starts with Kansas City holding a 2-0 lead.

Ever since the Royals got Cueto from Cincinnati in a trade in late July, it seems the KC clubhouse has come to resemble a Dominican neighborhood.

"Take a look, we all lined up together here. This is the Dominican corner," said Kelvin Herrera, another Dominican and a key member of the bullpen. "We have families, but during the season we spent more time together bonding in the field. I think that makes us a family."

That family of right-handers came together in the past year.

Ventura is the one with more tenure with the Royals, a winning pitcher in Game 6 of the 2014 World Series. He had the highest velocity this year among starting pitchers who qualified for the ERA title at 96.79 mph.

After the offseason departure of their ace James Shields in free agency, the Royals signed Volquez to a two-year, \$20 million contract. He led the team in wins (13) and ERA (3.55) during the regular season.

The 32-year-old allowed three runs over six innings against the New York Mets in Game 1 on Tuesday. His father, 63-year-old Daniel Volquez, died of heart failure just before he started. The Royals won 5-4 in 14 innings.

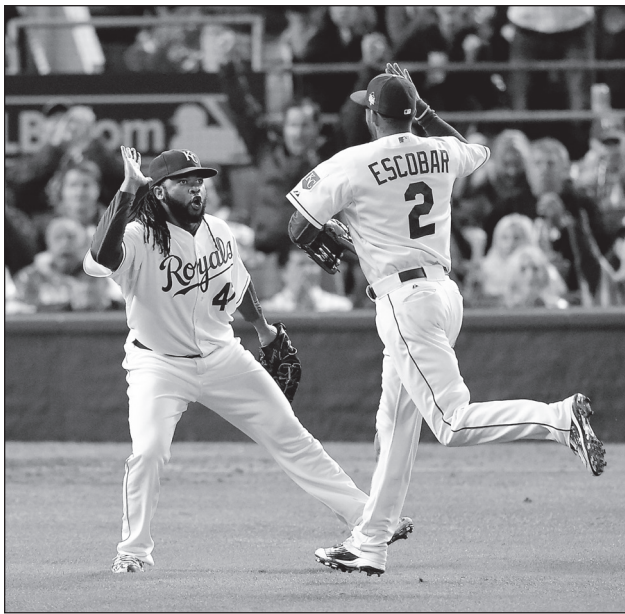
Cueto, a soon-to-be-free agent, was acquired at the trade deadline from the Reds. He delivered on Wednesday night, completing a two-hitter in a 7-1 victory. He was a teammate with Volquez, both starting for the Reds in the 2010 NL Division Series against Philadelphia.

"At first it was a little strange because I didn't know most of the guys, but I became comfortable quickly," Cueto said. "We're three Dominicans, tremendous pitchers. We got along as brothers, there's no envy among us. Everybody is trying to help each other."

No telling if any of Cueto's fellow pitchers will benefit from copying his slowed-down, wiggling windup. He calls it "La Mecedora" — the Rocking Chair.

"I read swings, I read rhythms. And I come up with these different type of windups because of the rhythm that I feel is going to be effective on that particular pitch," Cueto said.

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DAVID EULITT/KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS

Kansas City Royals pitcher Johnny Cueto, left, and short-stop Alcides Escobar celebrate after finishing the top of the eighth inning against the New York Mets during Game 2 of the World Series on Wednesday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals won, 7-1, for a 2-0 series lead.

Heat Is On: Mets Need It From Noah In Game 3 At Home

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The man-child on the mound was simply getting some work in, two simulated innings to sharpen up for the World Series.

It was late afternoon at Kauffman Stadium, dimmed by dark clouds on this overcast day in Kansas City, and even his New York Mets teammates wanted no part of 6-foot-6 Noah Syndergaard.

David Wright bounded into the batting cage, watched a few fastballs whizz by like pellets fired from a BB gun, and stepped right back out.

"How are you supposed to hit that?" he asked buddy Michael Cuddyer.

A chuckling group of Mets marveled at Syndergaard's sizzling cheese the day before the Series opener — but now they've placed the heat squarely on their rookie starter. With the National League champs trailing 2-0 in the best-of-seven set, the 23-year-old thunderbolt aptly nicknamed Thor pitches Friday night against Roy-

als right-hander Yordano Ventura. And the Mets know perfectly well they can't afford to lose.

"I feel like being able to watch the past two games has really helped me out and helped me devise a game plan," Syndergaard said.

Both teams canceled workouts Thursday at Citi Field, all dressed up to host its first World Series with a game featuring two of the best arms in baseball.

Syndergaard's fastball averaged 97.1 mph during the regular season, the highest velocity of any major leaguer who pitched at least 150 innings, according to STATS.

The 24-year-old Ventura ranked third at 96.3 mph.

In the NL playoffs, Syndergaard threw 22 pitches at least 100 mph and topped out at 101, STATS said.

Ventura can touch the century mark, too.

"Right now I'm not worried about velocity at all. I just want to go deep in the game," Ventura said, with teammate Christian Colon translating.

But while Syndergaard certainly brings it, so do Mets ace

Matt Harvey and Jacob deGrom. And despite their 95-98 mph heat, neither one was able to throttle a Royals lineup that's mastered the lost art of consistently making solid contact.

"This team likes the fastball," said ALCS MVP Alcides Escobar, the first batter Syndergaard will face.

Kansas City's aggressive leadoff man is batting .364 with 12 runs, eight RBIs and seven extra-base hits this postseason.

"It's something else being able to watch Escobar walk up there and swing at the first pitch almost every single game," Syndergaard said. "I have a few tricks up my sleeve that I'll be able to break out tomorrow night. I'm looking forward to it."

Scolded by Wright in spring training for eating lunch in the clubhouse during an intrasquad game, Syndergaard acknowledged a rookie mistake and agreed he should have been on the bench looking to learn something.

And despite all the attention his fastball draws, the rapid development of Syndergaard's second-

ary pitches has been the key to his immediate success.

"The amount of confidence that I've gained throughout this entire season and the journey has been an unbelievable experience for me," he said.

After making his major league debut in May, Syndergaard picked up a two-seamer that runs to his arm side and fine-tuned his changeup. He gained control of his sharp slider without losing the ability to bend in that slower curveball.

Veteran teammate Michael Cuddyer used the words maturity, transformation and evolution in describing Syndergaard's season.

"We're really excited to see him on this stage and see him pitch tomorrow night, and very confident to have him out on the mound," Cuddyer said.

All the improvements along the way helped Syndergaard finish 9-7 with a 3.24 ERA and 166 strikeouts in 150 innings — not to mention a long home run to straightaway center field.

Then the right-hander went 1-1

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Vin Scully Says He's 'Chafing At The Bit' To Return In 2016

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully says he's "chafing at the bit" to return to the Los Angeles Dodgers' booth next year.

Scully has recovered from an unspecified medical procedure that caused him to miss calling the team's playoff appearance against the New York Mets. He turns 88 on Nov. 29.

In his first public comments since the procedure, Scully said in an interview with SportsNet LA that he's eager to return for his 67th season, which is expected to be his last.

"Oh yeah, definitely," he said in the interview taped Wednesday. "I'm looking forward to next year, maybe because it's my last year. ... I am chafing at the bit."

The interview is scheduled to air Thursday on the Dodgers' television home.