

= 2015 World Series =

The 2015 World Series was the 111th edition of Major League Baseball 's championship series , a best @-@ of @-@ seven playoff between the National League (NL) champions New York Mets and the American League (AL) champions Kansas City Royals . The series was played between October 27 and November 1 , with the Royals winning the series 4 games to 1 . It was the first time since the 2010 World Series that the World Series extended into November . The Royals became the first team since the Oakland Athletics in the 1989 World Series to win the World Series after losing in the previous year . It was also the first World series since the 2009 World Series to not feature the St. Louis Cardinals or San Francisco Giants as the NL Champions .

The Royals had home field advantage for the first two games of the series because of the AL 's 6 ? 3 victory in the 2015 All @-@ Star Game . It was the 13th World Series in which home field advantage was awarded to the league that won the All @-@ Star Game . The series was played in a 2 ? 3 ? 2 format : the Royals hosted Games 1 and 2 , and the Mets hosted Games 3 , 4 , and 5 (there was no Game 6 or 7 , which the Royals would have hosted) .

The Royals won Game 1 in extra innings , tying for the longest game in World Series history . The Royals also won Game 2 with a complete game by Johnny Cueto , who allowed only one unearned run and two hits . With the series shifting to New York , the Mets won Game 3 with home runs by David Wright and Curtis Granderson . The Royals came from behind to win Game 4 after an error by Daniel Murphy led to a blown save by Jeury's Familia . Game 5 also went into extra innings , where bench player Christian Colón drove in the go @-@ ahead run for the Royals , who clinched the series . Salvador Pérez was named the World Series Most Valuable Player .

= = Background = =

= = = New York Mets = = =

The Mets made their fifth appearance in the World Series after sweeping the Cubs 4 ? 0 in the 2015 National League Championship Series (NLCS) . They had split their four previous appearances , winning the 1969 World Series against the Baltimore Orioles and the 1986 World Series against the Boston Red Sox , while losing the 1973 World Series against the Oakland Athletics and the 2000 World Series against the New York Yankees , their cross @-@ town rivals .

The Mets qualified for the postseason by winning the National League (NL) East , their sixth division title . They faced the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 2015 NL Division Series , winning in five games . In the 2015 NLCS , Daniel Murphy led the team by hitting home runs in each game of the four @-@ game sweep of the Chicago Cubs . By winning the NLCS , the Mets ensured that they have the most World Series appearances by an expansion franchise with five . In addition , the Mets have made World Series appearances in all but one of their six decades of existence , not appearing in any that were played during the 1990s . This was the first World Series appearance for Mets ' manager Terry Collins .

= = = Kansas City Royals = = =

The Royals made their second consecutive appearance in the World Series , both under Ned Yost , and fourth overall . They won the 1985 World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals , and lost their two other appearances , the 1980 World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies and the 2014 World Series against the San Francisco Giants . The Royals qualified for the postseason by winning the American League (AL) Central , their seventh division title and their first since winning the AL West in 1985 . They faced the Houston Astros in the 2015 American League Division Series , winning in five games . They followed that up in the 2015 American League Championship Series , beating the Toronto Blue Jays in six games .

By winning the ALCS , the Royals became the first team to play in consecutive World Series since

the Texas Rangers played in the 2010 World Series and 2011 World Series .

= = = Series preview = = =

The series began on October 27 . As the AL won the 2015 All @-@ Star Game , the Royals had home field advantage for the series .

The Mets and Royals had not played since 2013 . Though the Mets boasted four starting pitchers who could throw over 95 miles per hour (153 km / h) in Matt Harvey , Noah Syndergaard , Jacob deGrom and Steven Matz , the Royals had the best team batting average against pitches over that speed during the 2015 season . While the Mets starting pitchers had the best strikeout @-@ to @-@ walk ratio in the majors , the Royals , consisting of strong contact hitters , led baseball in contact rate . The Royals also had a superior defensive team , finishing second in the majors in Defensive Runs Saved , while the Mets finished 21st . The Royals bullpen , anchored by Wade Davis and Kelvin Herrera , also provided a strength . While the Mets hitters performed better against left @-@ handed pitchers than right @-@ handed pitchers , the Royals four starting pitchers , Johnny Cueto , Edinson Vólquez , Yordano Ventura , and Chris Young , and primary relievers , Davis , Herrera , Ryan Madson , and Luke Hochevar , are right @-@ handed .

= = Summary = =

Kansas City won the series , 4 ? 1 .

= = Game summaries = =

= = = Game 1 = = =

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by George Brett . Matt Harvey started Game 1 for the Mets , while Edinson Vólquez started for the Royals . Vólquez 's father had died earlier in the day . He was not aware of his father 's death until after he left the game .

On the first pitch thrown by Harvey , Alcides Escobar hit an inside @-@ the @-@ park home run , the first in a World Series game since Mule Haas in the 1929 World Series , and the first hit by a leadoff batter since Patsy Dougherty did it for the Boston Americans in the 1903 World Series . In the fourth inning , Murphy recorded the Mets ' first hit , and later scored their first run on a hit by Travis d 'Arnaud . Curtis Granderson hit a home run in the fifth inning to give the Mets a 2 ? 1 lead . The Mets took a 3 ? 1 lead in the top of the sixth when Michael Conforto drove in Yoenis Céspedes with a sacrifice fly . Mike Moustakas then saved a run with a diving stop and throw out to first to end the top of the sixth . Eric Hosmer reduced the lead to 3 ? 2 with a sacrifice fly , and set a new Royals ' postseason run batted in (RBI) record in the process . A single by Moustakas tied the game at three , but in the top of the eighth , Wilmer Flores reached on an fielding error by Hosmer , allowing Juan Lagares to score the go @-@ ahead run and give the Mets a 4 ? 3 lead . In the bottom of the ninth with the Mets 2 outs away from taking Game 1 , Alex Gordon tied the game for the Royals with a home run to deep center field , as Jeurys Familia blew his first save in six postseason opportunities and his first since July 30 . With the home run , Gordon became the first player since Scott Brosius in the 2001 World Series , and just the fifth player in history , to tie a World Series game on a home run in the ninth inning .

In the bottom of the 11th inning , Granderson robbed the speedy Jarrod Dyson of a multi @-@ base hit with a running , leaping catch that prevented what probably would have been a lead @-@ off triple . The Mets went on to get out of the inning . In the bottom of the 14th , Escobar reached first on a throwing error by David Wright , and Bartolo Colón gave up a base hit to Ben Zobrist , allowing Escobar to reach third . Hosmer hit a sacrifice fly to Granderson in right field to drive in the winning run . This was the first time in World Series history that the same player scored both the first run of the game on the first pitch , and the last run of the game on the final pitch . The game ended at 1 :

18 AM EDT , lasting five hours and nine minutes . The game tied the record for the longest game by innings in World Series history , shared with Game 2 in the 1916 World Series and Game 3 in the 2005 World Series . The loss made Colón the oldest player ever to lose a World Series game .

=== Game 2 ===

In Game 2 , Jacob deGrom started for the Mets , and Johnny Cueto started for the Royals . Cueto walked Curtis Granderson to lead off the fourth and Daniel Murphy one out later . Yoenis Cespedes 's hit into a forecourt at second before Lucas Duda 's RBI single put the Mets up 1 @-@ 0 . Duda hit the Mets ' only other hit in the game in the second and Cueto retired them in order through the ninth .

In the fifth inning , Degrom allowed a leadoff walk to Alex Gordon and subsequent single to Alex Rios before Alcides Escobar 's RBI single tied the game . Ben Zobrist 's groundout moved the runners up and after Lorenzo Cain lined out to center , Eric Hosmer 's two @-@ run single put the Royals up 3 @-@ 1 . Kendrys Morales 's single moved Hosmer to third and Mike Moustakas 's single made it 4 @-@ 1 Royals .

The Royals blew the game open in the eighth off of Jon Niese , who allowed a leadoff single to Moustakas , subsequent single to Salvador Perez , and RBI double to Gordon . Addison Reed relieved Niese and allowed a sacrifice fly to Paulo Orlando and RBI triple to Escobar to make it 7 @-@ 1 Kansas City .

Cueto walked Murphy with two outs in the ninth before getting Cespedes to fly out to right to finish the complete game , becoming the first AL pitcher to accomplish this feat in the World Series since Jack Morris in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series , as the Royals defeated the Mets and took a two games to zero lead in the series . Cueto became the first AL pitcher since Jim Lonborg in the 1967 World Series to throw a World Series complete game while allowing two hits or fewer .

=== Game 3 ===

The series shifted to Citi Field , the home stadium of the Mets , for Game 3 . Yordano Ventura started for the Royals and Noah Syndergaard started for the Mets . The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by Mike Piazza to catcher Kevin Plawecki . With no designated hitter (DH) in NL parks , the Mets started Michael Conforto , their DH for Game 2 , in the outfield instead of Juan Lagares , and the Royals did not start Kendrys Morales , their regular DH .

Zobrist scored the Royals ' first run in the first inning on a force play . In the bottom of the first inning , Wright hit a two @-@ run home run that also scored Granderson . For the Royals , Alex Ríos drove Salvador Pérez home in the second inning , and scored on a passed ball by d 'Arnaud , giving the Royals a 3 ? 2 lead . Granderson hit a two @-@ run home run in the third inning , and the Mets took a 4 ? 3 lead . The Mets added a run in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Conforto , and four more in the sixth inning . The Royals made a few uncharacteristic mistakes in this game , the first coming in the fourth inning when pitcher Yordano Ventura forgot to cover the base on a ground ball to the first baseman , and the second in the sixth inning when Royals pitcher Franklin Morales triple @-@ clutched Granderson 's ground ball , allowing all runners to be safe , which led to a 2 @-@ run single by Wright .

In the fifth inning , Royals player Raúl A. Mondesí made his Major League Baseball debut , pinch hitting for Danny Duffy . Mondesí became the first player ever to make his MLB debut in the World Series .

=== Game 4 ===

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by country singer Tim McGraw , son of the late Mets relief pitcher Tug McGraw . The starting pitchers for Game 4 were Chris Young of the Royals and Steven Matz of the Mets . Conforto scored the game 's first run with a home run in the third inning , and Flores scored later in the inning on a Granderson sacrifice fly , where right @-@ fielder Ríos didn 't

make an immediate throw home thinking that was the third out , even though it was just the second out of the inning . The Royals cut the deficit to 2 ? 1 in the top of the fifth when Pérez doubled and was then driven in by Gordon . However , in the bottom of the fifth , Conforto hit another home run , becoming the first rookie to hit two home runs in a World Series game since Andruw Jones in the 1996 World Series . In the sixth inning , Zobrist hit his eighth double of the postseason , tying a postseason record previously set by Albert Pujols and David Freese of the 2011 St. Louis Cardinals . Lorenzo Cain drove in Zobrist in to make it a 3 ? 2 game .

In the eighth inning , after recording the first out , Tyler Clippard walked two consecutive batters to force Terry Collins to bring in Familia . A key fielding error by Daniel Murphy allowed the tying run to score . The Royals took the lead on an RBI single from Moustakas , and then Pérez added an insurance run with another RBI base hit to give Kansas City the 5 ? 3 lead . For Familia , it was his second blown save of the series , and second out of seven opportunities this postseason , though this one could be partly attributed to Murphy 's error . Wade Davis converted a two @-@ inning save for the Royals , his fourth overall this postseason . Davis pitched a perfect eighth , but got into some trouble with one out in the ninth when Murphy hit a hard grounder that Moustakas couldn 't field cleanly , and then Céspedes got a base hit to bring the winning run to the plate in Duda . However , Duda hit a soft line drive that was caught by Moustakas , who then doubled off Céspedes at first base to end the game . Céspedes had started running thinking that the ball would hit the ground .

= = = Game 5 = = =

Vólquez returned to the Dominican Republic for his father 's funeral the day after Game 1 , but returned to the Royals in time to start Game 5 . Harvey started for the Mets . Tony Bennett performed " America the Beautiful " , and the first pitch was thrown by Cleon Jones , Mookie Wilson , and Darryl Strawberry .

Granderson led off the first inning with a home run for the Mets , and scored the Mets ' second run in the sixth inning . The Mets had a chance to break the game open in that sixth inning as they loaded the bases with no outs , but had to settle for one run after Céspedes lined a foul ball off his leg and was injured , leaving the game after popping up for the first out of the inning . Duda hit a sacrifice fly before d 'Arnaud grounded out to end the inning . Harvey pitched eight shutout innings for the Mets , and convinced Collins to keep him in the game for the ninth . He then gave up a leadoff walk to Cain in the ninth inning , and the Royals got a run when Hosmer drove Cain in with a double , prompting Collins to call upon Familia to relieve Harvey . After a groundout by Moustakas advanced Hosmer to third base with one out , Pérez hit a ground ball to third baseman Wright , who after checking Hosmer at third , threw to first base for the second out ; however , Hosmer broke for home as soon as the ball was thrown , and Duda , who fielded the out at first , threw wide at home attempting to throw Hosmer out , and the latter scored the tying run , resulting in Familia blowing his third save of the postseason and the series ; his eight save opportunities tied the postseason record set in 2002 by Robb Nen .

In the top of the 12th inning , with Addison Reed pitching for the Mets , Pérez hit a single for the Royals . Pinch running for Pérez , Dyson stole a base and scored on a single by pinch hitter Christian Colón . Colón scored on a hit by Escobar . The Royals loaded the bases , and Cain drove home three more runs with a double off of Bartolo Colón . Davis pitched a shutout inning for the Royals to complete the series and win the championship . He struck out Flores looking to end the game , series , and baseball season .

Pérez , who batted 8 @-@ for @-@ 22 (.364) in the series , and caught every inning for the Royals with the exception of the final inning of the series , won the World Series Most Valuable Player Award . He became the first catcher to win the award since Pat Borders won it in the 1992 World Series , and the second Venezuelan player , following Pablo Sandoval , who won it in the 2012 World Series .

= = = Composite line score = = =

2015 World Series (4 ? 1) : Kansas City Royals beat New York Mets .

= = Broadcasting = =

= = = Television = = =

Fox broadcast the series in the United States , with play @-@ by @-@ play announcer Joe Buck calling the action along with color analysts Harold Reynolds and Tom Verducci and field reporters Ken Rosenthal and Erin Andrews . The pregame and postgame show featured host Kevin Burkhardt with analysts Frank Thomas , Raul Ibanez , Pete Rose , and Alex Rodriguez . Fox Deportes offered a Spanish telecast of the series in the United States . The MLB International feed featured Matt Vasgersian and John Smoltz with play @-@ by @-@ play and analysis , respectively .

Fox suffered an outage during their broadcast of Game 1 , resulting in a loss of coverage for 15 minutes , followed a 5 @-@ minute delay in @-@ game while officials addressed the availability of video review due to the loss of Fox 's feed . The teams agreed to allow the use of footage from MLB International 's world feed of the game for video review , while Fox also temporarily switched to the MLB International feed with Vasgersian and Smoltz , later replaced by Buck , Reynolds , and Verducci before the main Fox Sports production was restored .

The World Series started on a Tuesday for the second straight year , instead of a Wednesday as in the past . The practice was to avoid games on Thursday and Monday nights , generally big days of television viewing , where Fox 's telecast would face stiff competition from Thursday Night Football , ESPN College Football Thursday Primetime , various popular primetime entertainment shows , and Monday Night Football .

= = = Ratings = = =

Game 1 of the World Series averaged a 4 @.@ 6 rating on Fox , making it the most watched Game 1 since the 2010 World Series . Game 2 then had a 3 @.@ 9 rating , up 24 percent from last season 's Game 2 . The series also recorded the most watched Game 3 since 2009 .

Game 5 went head @-@ to @-@ head with an NBC Sunday Night Football game between the Green Bay Packers and Denver Broncos , both of which were previously unbeaten . Media sources like Sporting News predicted that this heavy competition would result in series @-@ low ratings . While the football game drew the larger audience , the Royals and Mets did average a 10 @.@ 0 rating , the highest for a World Series Game 5 since 2003 .

= = = Radio = = =

ESPN Radio aired the series , with Dan Shulman on play @-@ by @-@ play , Aaron Boone handling color commentary , and Buster Olney serving as field reporter . Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Chris Archer served as a guest commentator for selected innings in Games 1 , 2 and 5 . Marc Kestecher anchored pre @-@ game and post @-@ game coverage for the network along with Chris Singleton and Peter Pascarelli .

Locally , the series was broadcast on the teams ' flagship radio stations with their respective announcing crews . In New York , WOR aired the games in English , with Howie Rose and Josh Lewin announcing , while WEPN @-@ AM aired the games in Spanish , with Juan Alicea and Max Pérez Jiménez announcing . In Kansas City , KCSP broadcast the games , with Denny Matthews , Ryan Lefebvre , Steve Stewart , and Steve Physioc announcing . WEPN @-@ FM and WHB , the ESPN Radio affiliates in New York and Kansas City respectively , aired the network 's coverage of the series in those cities .

= = Historical notes = =

This was the first World Series in which both teams were expansion teams , which are teams that were formed after the 1960 season ; the Mets began play in 1962 , while the Royals began play in 1969 . Additionally , they have been the most successful expansion teams in the major leagues : the Mets and Royals were the first expansion teams in their respective leagues to not only win a league championship pennant (1969 for the Mets and 1980 for the Royals) but the World Series as well (the Mets in 1969 and the Royals in 1985) ; with five and four pennants respectively , they are the only expansion franchises with more than two league titles . Each team was also seeking to end a long championship drought ; the Royals ' previous championship was in 1985 , with the Mets ' last title coming one year later in 1986 . The Mets and Royals met on Opening Day of the 2016 season , on April 3 , 2016 , for a Sunday night game of the 2016 season in Kansas City .

= = = Popular culture = = =

In the 1989 film Back to the Future Part II , the Chicago Cubs are depicted as the 2015 World Series champions , defeating a fictional American League team from Miami , whose mascot is an alligator . Screenwriter Bob Gale , who co @-@ wrote the script of Back to the Future Part II , originally intended it as a joke , saying " Being a baseball fan , I thought , ' OK , let 's come up with one of the most unlikely scenarios we can think of ' " , referencing both the Cubs ' long championship drought , and the fact that Florida did not have a baseball team in 1989 . He also explained the October 21 prediction was based on the postseason structure at the time , and thus could have been accurate had MLB not added the Division Series in 1994 (but not played until 1995 due to the strike) and the Wild Card Game in 2012 .