



SHOHEI OHTANI acknowledges the fans in Miami on Thursday after becoming the first player with 50 homers and 50 steals in a season.

KOKI KATAOKA Associated Press

50-50? Nothing halfway about Ohtani as a unanimous MVP

DH or not, reaching those magic milestones puts Dodgers star in a class by himself

BILL PLASCHKE

He became the charter member of what will be the most exclusive club in major league baseball Thursday, yet the name is all wrong.

Nothing about Shohei Ohtani is 50-50. Everything about him is unanimous.

He's the best player in baseball history. He just had the best offensive day in baseball history. He's having the best offensive season in Dodgers history.

And when it comes to the National League's highest honor, there no longer should be a debate.

Shohei Ohtani should be the unanimous most valuable player. Unquestionably. Unde-



niably. And any voter who thinks otherwise should have their credentials examined.

Ohtani created his crowning moment Thursday afternoon in Miami when he became the first player in major league history to reach 50 homers and 50 steals in a season. But it wasn't just that he did it, but how he did it, transforming crunch time into exclamation points.

He reached 50-50 with three home runs and two stolen bases and 10 RBIs in a pennant-race game with the entire baseball world focused on his every swing! And, oh yeah, he went six for six on those swings! And, incidentally, it was a win that clinched the Dodgers' 12th consecutive playoff berth!

If that's not an MVP-crowning moment, what is?

There has been talk that Ohtani shouldn't win it because a designated hitter never has

won it. Critics have charged that a player who is required only to use half of the skills required of an everyday player simply cannot be considered most valuable.

David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox had 47 homers and 148 RBIs in 2005 and didn't win it. The next season he hit 54 homers and 137 RBIs and still didn't win it.

His one flaw? He was a DH.

That first season, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez won it with 48 homers and 130 RBIs. The next season Minnesota first baseman Justin Morneau won it with 34 homers and 130 [See Plaschke, A8]

Teammates left speechless

Pursuit of 50-50 greatness called "insane" and "unexplainable." **SPORTS, B12**

City seeks program to provide lawyers to low-income renters

Tenant advocates say landlords often have upper hand in court.

BY PALOMA ESQUIVEL

In a bustling hallway on the sixth floor of a downtown courthouse, Alcira Ayala sat on a bench with her husband and daughter, anx-

iously waiting for her eviction case to be called. She held a black cloth bag filled with neatly organized records that she hoped would help her win her case and stay in the apartment that she and her family have lived in for nearly two decades.

Since learning this summer that her landlord wanted to evict them, Ayala had spent days calling and

showing up at the offices of local nonprofits to ask for help.

She had hoped to get a free lawyer, but quickly learned that there aren't enough to represent everyone who needs help.

To try to defend herself, she went to the L.A. Law Library to ask for guidance filing the legally required response to the notice. Then,

she attended hours of online training hosted by the nonprofit Eviction Defense Network, which teaches tenants without lawyers how to prepare for court.

Still, she was worried she would misunderstand something or say the wrong thing. And she tried to steel herself for the hearing.

"I can't let myself be intimidated," she said. "I'm

fighting for my family."

Each year, thousands of tenants across the city show up in court and face eviction proceedings without the help of a lawyer. For years, advocates have urged the city to change that, arguing that ensuring lawyers for low-income renters would correct a power imbalance that occurs in eviction court, [See Renters, A12]



ROBERTO SCHMIDT AFP/Getty Images

PEOPLE observe as police officers investigate Springfield City Hall after bomb threats at buildings were made earlier in the day on Sept. 12 in the Ohio town.

How hate, misery came to Springfield

Trump's lies about Haitians eating pets in Ohio city instill fear and dread in residents.

BY DAVID WHARTON AND BEN POSTON

A disturbing scenario has played out at public schools across Springfield, Ohio, in recent days, with children turned away as they arrive or, worse, rushed out of classrooms, all because of bomb threats.

Parents have struggled to explain to 6- and 7-year-olds what is happening.

Some aren't quite sure about sending their kids back.

"You don't want to give in to the fear," said a mother who asked not to be identified to protect her family. "But it's your children."

Haitians in this blue-collar city are not the only ones feeling threatened in the wake of false accusations that they are eating their neighbors' cats and dogs — a claim parroted by former President Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. With Springfield thrust into an angry national debate over immigration, dread has permeated [See Springfield, A10]

Sales of EVs seen as factor in drop in emissions

State says data from 2022 compared with 2021 show climate efforts are on track.

BY TONY BRISCOE

California greenhouse gas emissions dropped about 2.4% in 2022 — an encouraging sign that the state's carbon footprint is decreasing once again, even as the economy rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to state officials.

The California Air Resources Board announced Friday that emissions of planet-warming carbon dioxide shrank by about 9.3 million metric tons in 2022 compared with 2021 — the equivalent of removing 2.2 million gasoline-powered vehicles from the road for a year.

More than half of those reductions came from the transportation sector as California drivers bought more electric vehicles and less gasoline. Also, cargo trucks that ferry goods from ports and rail yards are increasingly running on crop-based biofuels instead of conventional diesel fuel.

"The numbers are clear: our world-leading regulations are reducing emissions, spurring innovation, and bringing us closer to achieving our climate goals," Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph said in a statement. "A future with clean air and a vibrant economy is possible and California is leading the way."

The level of greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 was the lowest since 2020, a year marred by the pandemic, economic shutdowns and supply chain disruptions. In 2021, California's emissions rose by about 3.4% due to a surge in consumption and the reawakening of the economy after the development of a vaccine.

The decline in greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 demonstrates that the state is continuing to lower carbon emissions while growing the economy, officials said. From 2000 to 2022, [See Emissions, A8]

Israeli airstrike kills 14 in Beirut

Attack leaves dozens more wounded in a suburban area where Hezbollah is headquartered. **WORLD, A3**

Unemployment up as hiring falls

State joblessness rate rose to 5.3% amid cuts in manufacturing, tech and the motion picture industry. **BUSINESS, A9**

Six firefighters still hospitalized

Members of an Orange County crew were hurt in a vehicle crash after battling the Airport blaze. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Turning sunny. L.A. Basin: 77/61. **B8**

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