

The Boston Red Sox Monday, April 16, 2018

*** *The Boston Globe***

First opposing pitcher of road trip is Shohei Ohtani

Nick Cafardo

With Monday's scheduled game against the Orioles postponed by bad weather until Thursday May 17 at 7 p.m, the next game the Red Sox play will be Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif., against the Los Angeles Angels.

It also means the next pitcher they face will be Shohei Ohtani, the Japanese two-way phenom who will pitch against the Red Sox after having his scheduled start against the Kansas City Royals rained out Sunday.

The Red Sox had been scheduled to face Ohtani only in his role as a designated hitter, but now they will see both sides.

The Angels, like the Red Sox, are off to a hot start at 13-3. Ohtani hasn't faced a team as good as the Red Sox yet, so his start Tuesday will be a challenge for the tall righthanded flame thrower, who can bring it in the 98- to 100-m.p.h. range.

"Yeah, it's impressive," Chris Sale said of Ohtani's skill as both a pitcher and a hitter. "I know how hard it is to get out there every fifth day just pitching. He's got a laundry list of other things to do in terms of hitting.

"I don't know if I'd like to do it, but it's impressive. He throws 100 miles per hour and can take you deep at the same time. If you don't respect that, I don't know who you are or what you're doing."

Of Ohtani's impact, Sale said: "It just makes it more interesting. I think it brings in a broader crowd. Any time someone does something that's different than something that's normal, people are going to raise their eyebrows, and people are going to pay attention to it. You probably have baseball fans, or people that aren't fans of baseball, tuning in to see this. Like I said, if you don't respect it, or if you don't like or appreciate what's going on, you've got to find something else to do. You've got to tip your cap to that. It's fun to watch."

Kelly's appeal

Joe Kelly is appealing his six-game suspension for hitting Tyler Austin with a pitch in retaliation for Austin's spiking of Brock Holt in last Wednesday's game against the Yankees. While he may not be popular with the league over the incident, he's risen to almost cultlike status in Boston.

The Fenway crowd gave him a standing ovation on Friday upon his first appearance on the mound since the incident, then on Saturday night at the Bruins-Maple Leafs game, the TD Garden crowd treated him to a huge ovation as well.

"We were all looking at the Jumbotron, and all of sudden we heard [NESN announcer] Dave O'Brien's voice," Kelly said. "We're like, that sounds familiar. So I look up, and they're playing the fight on the Jumbotron. So they show it and everyone's getting loud with the video and all hyped up and then the video ends, there's a camera there, and I get up and wave, and the crowd is going nuts. But it was pretty cool. I was surprised at first and thought, 'Oh, my God, this is kind of embarrassing.' It went over well, so it was good."

He finally had a true sense of the intensity of the Red Sox-Yankee rivalry.

“It’s crazy.” Kelly said. “It is the biggest rivalry in all of sports, hands down. I never really realized that it was to that extent, but you go to a hockey game and everyone’s wearing a Bruins jersey and they show that and you know everyone is so excited. It shows you that I’ve never really grasped how much it really mattered to people. Now I know.”

Kelly is currently in the appeal process. He said he has not yet testified in the hearing, but the Players’ Association is talking to MLB about the incident.

Kelly thought the six games were excessive and thus the appeal.

Too cold for comfort
How cold was it?

“That was miserable,” Sale said. “Nothing short of miserable. But, like I’ve said before, I’m probably the most warm person out there. I was just honestly trying to get the ball and go get my guys in the dugout as quick as I could.

“I said it when I came out of the game. This was the most miserable I’ve ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close.”

Betts takes a seat
Mookie Betts was held out of the game, but manager Alex Cora said his right fielder made a bid to play.

“He came in and said he felt good enough to play, but we’ll keep him off his feet today and go from there, Cora said.

“I’m not saying he was getting the day off anyway, but it was getting close. Things happen for a reason. He’s going to be fine.

“He gets to stay off his feet, don’t take batting practice, and let the other guys do the job.”

Cora indicated Betts would definitely be back on the West Coast.

Leadoff man
Cora said he had no analytical reason for putting Jackie Bradley Jr. in the leadoff spot. “It’s good for him confidence-wise,” Cora said. “He’s getting on base. He’s had some good at-bats and is hitting the ball the other way. He has a history with [Orioles starter Dylan] Bundy. I know he was excited when I told him last night. I don’t know if he was excited about leading off or playing right field.” Cora said he wanted to give Eduardo Nunez the day off. With Betts out, Nunez might have been the leadoff hitter. Bradley had led off only once in his major league career, but he led off a number of times in spring training . . . The Sox players all wore No. 42 in honor of Jackie Robinson on Jackie Robinson Day.

Chris Sale felt miserable but was still effective

Alex Speier

If scouts still used radar guns in major league parks, those who were at Fenway Park on Sunday could have been forgiven if they’d spent the initial innings banging the devices to try to discern whether they were malfunctioning.

Chris Sale, for whom a fastball usually starts with a “9” followed by virtually any digit, came out of the chute in the first inning for the Red Sox with an 88-mile-per-hour fastball on the game’s first pitch and spent most of the day working at 86 to 89 m.p.h. Yet those low readings weren’t a case of tracking errors or injury.

Rather, given the raw, wet 34-degree conditions, Sale altered the approach to his craft. Instead of trying to blow away the Orioles with his typical mid-90s octane, he dared Baltimore's hitters to make contact on a day when the ball reacted to contact as if it was made of lead.

"This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close," said Sale, who sprinted to the tunnel behind the dugout every inning for applications of heat packs and Red Hot balm on his arm. "As unimpressive as it might have been, I'm just trying to throw strikes. I didn't care how hard it was going or what pitch it was. I wanted to get it over the plate, because I knew how hard to hit it was . . . You've just got to flip it in there. That's it."

Sale allowed a first-inning run on an infield hit and a Manny Machado double, but his approach proved effective over the duration of a five-inning, one-run outing in which he didn't yield a hit after the first frame. Though the lefthander took a no-decision, he gave the Sox time to break through in the middle innings against Dylan Bundy and the Orioles in a 3-1 win at Fenway.

Despite the fact that he got just nine swings and misses (tied for his third fewest with the Sox), Sale racked up eight strikeouts while walking just two, leaving the contest with a 1.23 ERA through four starts.

"Outstanding," Sox manager Alex Cora said of Sale's effort. "Going into the game, we knew the conditions were going to be like that, and for him to give us five and a chance to win the game, that's what we were asking for."

Cora considered removing Sale after four innings, as his pitch count had soared to 82, but the lefthander insisted he could deliver one more frame. He did so with notable efficiency, needing just 11 pitches to retire the Orioles in the fifth before entrusting the remainder of the game to a bullpen that delivered four dominant innings.

Sale's outing continued a pattern in which the Sox rotation has answered the call on a near-daily basis. Through 15 starts, the rotation has a 2.06 ERA that is its lowest through this point in the season since posting a 1.90 mark in 2001. The 11 starts of at least five innings and one or no runs is the most by any team since at least 1908.

Sox starters are filling up the strike zone with swing-and-miss stuff. The rotation has struck out an astounding 4.7 batters per walk, a mark that would blow past the pre-2018 record of 4.2 strikeouts-per-walk by the 2011 Phillies. The group has walked just 2.1 batters per nine innings, the lowest mark in the majors.

Sale, David Price, and Rick Porcello have delivered a number of dominant performances through the season's initial weeks, while Brian Johnson, Hector Velazquez, and Eduardo Rodriguez have supported that trio with solid efforts. Sox starters have allowed no more than one run in 11 of the team's first 14 games, allowing the team not only to win when scoring touchdowns but also, as on Sunday, when scrapping together no more than a field goal's worth of offense.

The degree of difficulty for that task will increase this week, starting Tuesday with a series against an Angels offense that leads the majors with 6.4 runs per game. (The Sox are second with 5.9 runs per contest.) But if the starters can maintain the same level of execution, the team seems optimistic about how it might fare.

"It just seems like every day, everyone comes in, we're staying locked in, obviously we have two great catchers behind the plate that can navigate anybody through any lineup at any given time," Sale said. "We're going to try to keep it rolling, honestly. I mean, that's all we can do, feeding off each other, kind of passing the hat if you will."

Red Sox keep up their winning ways

Nick Cafardo

Alex Cora has lived it for quite a while now. This thing called winning.

From being bench coach for the defending World Series champion Houston Astros, to leading Caguas to the Caribbean World Series title in 2016-17 as GM and manager, to finishing second in the World Baseball Classic as general manager of Puerto Rico, to his new job as manager of the Red Sox, who beat the Orioles, 3-1, in absolutely miserable conditions at Fenway on Sunday for their third straight win over Baltimore and their 13th win in 15 outings this season.

Winning seems to be easy for Cora, but the manager insists that's hardly the case.

"It's not easy, and I know that," Cora said. "Like I told you guys before, we have to make sure we celebrate our wins . . . and look back at what the Indians did, 22 in a row [last season]. I can't imagine. I think it's been over a month where we don't have that feeling that we're losing. Even in spring training. Game over, we win, shake hands. It's a great feeling. I go back to the Indians and 22 games in a row without losing? At this level? That's unreal. I think it was like 29 out of 30. That's easy right there.

"I wish I were Tito [Francona] and feel that way. It's been a year and half, two years in winter ball and the WBC and then Astros and now here. I'm blessed. I get home and I have my mom here and Angelica is here and the kids are here and the game is over and I Facetime with Camila [his older daughter] and that's the fun part. That's awesome, and they're enjoying it. They understand it can turn around quick. But I understand the whole thing.

"Teams are going through stretches. We're not going to be the only team to win [13 out of 15 now]. Or win nine in a row. I think there are two teams that have won nine in a row. Every team goes through that. It's what we do with the other games. There was a team last year, Seattle, they'd win five and lose five and win five and lose five. They were very consistent at that. You have to avoid those. If you win nine, avoid the five-game losing streak."

Sounds like a winning plan. And so far it has been.

Every game has been a little different for the Sox, with different ways to win.

Chris Sale spotted the Orioles a first-inning run, then he and three relievers shut them down the rest of the way. Fourteen Oriole batters struck out.

With 32,489 braving the elements, the Red Sox did just enough against a very tough Dylan Bundy, who allowed three runs but only one earned in his 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings of work.

Andrew Benintendi stroked three hits with a single, double, and RBI triple; Mitch Moreland had three hits, including a pair of doubles; and Tzu-Wei Lin added a pair of hits in the Sox' 10-hit attack.

Those "extra" Sox players are doing the job. There's real depth on this roster.

"I think we have the type of team where you can put anyone in there on any given day and they can do the job," Moreland said. "We've built a good team, a good roster here, and everyone wants to do their part and I think that's why we've been able to keep winning."

The Red Sox became the fourth team in the wild-card era (since 1994) to win 13 of their first 15 games, joining the 2013 Braves, the 2003 Giants, and the 1994 Braves. The 2013 Braves and 2003 Giants won their divisions. (There was no postseason in 1994.)

Red Sox starters continued their amazing start to the season. They are a combined 9-1 with a 2.06 ERA, the best in baseball.

Sale is now 5-0 with a 1.58 ERA in six starts against the Orioles since the start of 2015. Lefthanded batters are 4 for 13 (.307) against Sale this season, while righthanded batters are just 12 for 67 (.179).

Sale this season has not gone beyond six innings or 93 pitches, which is what he threw in his five innings on Sunday.

Cora said he thought about yanking Sale after four innings because the elements were so brutal.

The Orioles got to Sale in the first when Trey Mancini led off with a single to shortstop, then came home on Manny Machado's double to the left-field corner.

The Red Sox tied it up in the fifth. Lin singled to right with one out and scored on Benintendi's two-out triple to the right-field corner.

"It was cold, for sure, but you just tried your best to keep warm," Benintendi said. "You just tried not to think about it."

The Red Sox went ahead in the sixth. J.D. Martinez opened the inning by reaching on an error by third baseman Danny Valencia. Moreland doubled to left to move Martinez to third, and Martinez scored on a wild pitch by Bundy.

Lin gave the Red Sox some cushion with a two-out ground-rule double to right to score Moreland.

Heath Hembree got the win by tossing two scoreless innings, Matt Barnes pitched one, and Craig Kimbrel recorded his fifth save with a scoreless ninth, which included a pair of strikeouts.

Cora can't seem to lose. But it will happen, and when it does, "I think I'll be able to handle it," he said.

*** *The Boston Herald***

Red Sox stay red-hot in cold, windy win over Orioles

Michael Silverman

Don't let the balaclavas pulled up to their eyes and the heat packs strategically placed over body parts fool you.

The only numbness the Red Sox felt during yesterday's burst of ridiculously raw weather is that they're losing feeling of that losing feeling that's afflicting nearly every other team in baseball.

Yesterday's 3-1 victory over the Orioles was one more win — their 13th in 15 tries — and one more series win — they're 5-for-5 now — in this ridiculously hot start to their 2018.

Even though Chris Sale admitted afterward that his five-inning no-decision in the 34 degrees and steady 20-mph-plus wind gusts all afternoon long was worse than anything he ever experienced in the Windy City, his insistence on pitching bare-armed in short sleeves shows how oblivious and impervious this team is to their surroundings these days.

Not losing means not complaining.

Nice days, eh?

"I felt fine, it was just it's a tough pull on a day like (yesterday), but everyone has to deal with it — I'm not the only one out there playing," said Sale. "My guys are out there, their guys are out there, they've still got to pitch and hit. It sucks but at the end of the day, you have to do what you have to do. That's what we signed up for."

Today's traditional Patriots Day morning game was postponed due to incoming poor weather. The O's and Sox rescheduled for 7:10 p.m. on May 17, a mutual off day. Tickets for today's game are good on that date.

An RBI double from Adam Jones in the first inning was as bad as it got for Sale and the Red Sox, who simply got after it more efficiently and with better execution than the struggling 5-11 Orioles.

Sale and Orioles starter Dylan Bundy had the wind at their backs, which gave an even bigger edge against batters who were swinging more often than usual in an apparent effort to keep warm or get the game over with as quickly as possible.

Well-hit balls had no chance against the incoming breeze.

After tying the game in the fifth on Andrew Benintendi's RBI triple, the Sox went ahead in the sixth. J.D. Martinez reached on an error and went to third on Mitch Moreland's double. Martinez raced home when a Bundy wild pitch got past catcher Caleb Joseph for a 2-1 lead.

And after Brock Holt hustled out an infield hit, No. 9 hitter Tzu-Wei Lin went the other way for a ground-rule double to knock in Moreland for the third and final run of the day.

"There was no complaining — we knew the conditions were going to be awful, but I didn't hear too many guys, or any guys, 'What are we doing here?'" manager Alex Cora said. "They like to play. (Yesterday) was different guys — Lin, Mitch, Brock. That's a good thing about us. On a daily basis, our lineup is going to score runs regardless of the combination we have out there. For us to play that way — J.D. scoring on a wild pitch, Brock hustling to first base, J.D. getting on base on an error, Mitch going the other way, Lin, I could keep naming them, I love talking about them because they work hard, they enjoy the game, and they're in a good spot right now."

Similar to his second start of the season, Sale was not at his most efficient. Cora almost pulled him after the fourth inning, but kept him in there for a 1-2-3 fifth after which he was pulled at 93 pitches.

Not that Sale was complaining about leaving early.

But, he at least was honest about what his experience was like.

"(Yesterday) was the worst," said Sale. "I said it when I came out of the game. This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close."

He said he insists on wearing short sleeves mainly for "psychological" and "routine" reasons, that he's "just got to keep it rolling."

But in those five brisk walks off the mound after each frame, Sale headed for warmth.

"I just bee-lined it straight to the tunnel," said Sale. "Hats off to our training staff. They did everything they could to keep me in it, keep me loose. Rubbing red hot on my arm, putting heat packs on. Those guys were running up and down the stairs getting me stuff to make sure I was loose and doing stuff to my arm and making sure I was ready to go out there. That was a huge factor in it, too — those guys being in my corner."

Red Sox Notebook: Despite injuries, depth delivers again

Michael Silverman

With Mookie Betts missing all of yesterday's game with a left foot bruise, Xander Bogaerts on the DL with a left ankle injury and Hanley Ramirez laid up briefly after getting hit by a pitch in his wrist, the Red Sox have been getting beat up lately.

And it hasn't mattered.

Because the Red Sox' depth is shining through, and yesterday's 3-1 victory over the Orioles was a good example.

Tzu-Wei Lin knocked in the final run with a ground-rule double, Mitch Moreland, the backup first baseman, had two doubles, a single and he scored that final run.

"We all know what Mitch can do, not only offensively but defensively what he brings. I can hit him third, I can hit him fifth," said manager Alex Cora. "With Lin, for his defense but he's good. He's good defensively and offensively he's doing what he's supposed to. He'll show bunt, he swung the other way, 0-2 he gets up over the plate. We're very happy with the way he's playing. Not only about the results now but we were happy with him in spring training.

"We have a lot of moving parts. At the end, the good thing is that on a daily basis we have a good lineup and we feel like we can score runs."

Betts, who injured his foot in a collision at home plate Saturday, reported to Fenway Park yesterday saying he was good to go, but Cora didn't want to risk it.

Knowing there was also a good chance that today's game would be rained out — and it was — Cora wanted Betts to have two solid days off before being put back in for the Angels' series opener tomorrow night.

Cora replaced Betts in right field and in the leadoff spot with Jackie Bradley Jr., who went 0-for-4 but scored the tying run after reaching base on a fielder's choice in the fifth. He then swiped second base and scored on Andrew Benintendi's triple.

Bradley's average dipped to .191 but Cora is seeing good things at the plate.

"I think it's good for him, confidence-wise," said Cora. "We trust him, he's putting in good at-bats, he's getting on base lately, hitting the ball the other way."

Today's scheduled game will be rescheduled for the mutual off day on May 17 at 7:10 p.m. Tickets for today's game will be good for the May 17 date.

Moreland's two-double game was his first since last Aug. 3. Including the 2017 postseason, he has 38 doubles since the start of last season, which when yesterday's games began, ranked him fourth among AL lefties in that span. At Fenway this season, Moreland is 8-for-18 (.444).

Lin went 2-for-4, and has multiple hits in each of his last three games.

Phenom up next

Because the Angels' game against the Royals yesterday was postponed, their rookie two-way Japanese phenom Shohei Ohtani had his start pushed back to tomorrow night's series opener against the Red Sox.

Still perfect

Craig Kimbrel struck out two in the ninth inning for his fifth save in five attempts this season. . . .

The Red Sox have allowed three or fewer runs 12 out of 15 games, best in the majors to date.

Paying respect

On the annual Jackie Robinson Day, Cora also tied in the day with his own Puerto Rican heritage.

“No way I am a big league manager without Jackie Robinson, no way I am a big league manager without Hiram Bithorn, he’s the first Puerto Rican player in the big leagues (1942),” said Cora. “There’s a platform that everybody knows, he’s a big one. We know the history of the franchise and what it means to have a minority manager, in the big leagues, too. I hope there’s a platform that people can look at. Kids back home or everywhere else that, yeah, a kid from Caguas, Puerto Rico, growing up he loved playing baseball and all of a sudden he’s a manager of one of the best franchises in the world. It’s amazing. Without those two guys, we know (Roberto) Clemente, we know what it means. Everybody thinks Clemente was the first one. Clemente was the great one. Bithorn was the first one. Without those people, no way I am a big league manager.”

*** *The Providence Journal***

Red Sox 3, Orioles 1: Boston keeps rolling along

Brian MacPherson

BOSTON — The Red Sox signed J.D. Martinez for his bat, not for his legs.

On a raw April day at Fenway Park, however, it was with his legs that Martinez helped the Red Sox win their fourth straight game. The slugging left fielder alertly sprinted home on a Dylan Bundy slider in the dirt in the sixth inning, scoring the go-ahead run in a 3-1 victory for the Red Sox over the visiting Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

It was a fitting way for the Red Sox to score the decisive run on the coldest game day at Fenway Park since 2003. The ugly weather isn’t expected to abate; the team announced on Sunday evening that Monday’s 11 a.m. Patriots’ Day game would be postponed.

Martinez had reached on an error and moved to third base on a double by Mitch Moreland — the second double of the game by a hitter who hit a career-best 34 doubles a year ago. The first pitch Bundy threw to Rafael Devers was a slider that Baltimore catcher Caleb Joseph blocked only partially. It didn’t get all that far away from Joseph — Moreland didn’t move up from second to third on the play — but it got far enough away for Martinez to sprint home and score the go-ahead run.

“It didn’t seem like it kicked very far away,” Moreland said, “and it kicked toward him. That’s a tough read. The fact that he was able to get a good read on it and make the play, that was big.”

For a Red Sox team that ranked second in the major leagues in outs on the base paths entering play on Sunday — and then saw Andrew Benintendi thrown out at the plate later in the game — winning a game with a run scored on a wild pitch had significance.

“As bad as we looked (on the bases) early in the first few games, we’re making better decisions,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “Do we need to keep improving our baserunning? Yeah, of course. But the last few days have been better.”

It’s early yet, but the win pushed the 13-2 Red Sox a remarkable 8½ games ahead of Baltimore in the American League East standings — and 5½ games ahead of the New York Yankees, their primary competition in the division, who saw a doubleheader rained out in Detroit on Sunday.

The Red Sox have given themselves enough of a head start that they merely need to play at a 88-win pace the rest of the way (a .544 winning percentage) to match the 93 wins that won them American League East titles in 2016 and 2017.

The cold weather and snow flurries didn’t seem to affect Chris Sale, who pitched in short sleeves and compiled almost exactly the same line he did two weeks ago in balmy Miami. He needed 93 pitches to

navigate five innings, but he struck out eight and yielded just one run — which came on a Manny Machado double into the left-field corner in the first inning.

Still, that doesn't mean it was fun.

“This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far — not even close,” said Sale, which was saying something, considering he pitched in Chicago for seven seasons.

Sale ditched his changeup after the first inning, as the cold temperatures were preventing him from throwing his fastball hard enough to get separation from his changeup. From his perspective, especially after he saw Boston's Tzu-Wei Lin hammer a ball that died in center field in the second inning, the cold weather meant he didn't have to be fancy about the way he pitched.

“I didn't care what pitch it was or how hard I was throwing,” he said. “I just wanted it to be a strike. You could see today there were a couple of balls that were crushed, balls that have a chance of getting out on a normal day — and they died, they didn't go anywhere. After the second or third inning, we almost wanted these guys to hit the ball because it's not going to go anywhere.”

Sale hasn't yet thrown more than 93 pitches in a game this season, nor has he pitched into the seventh inning. That's consistent with the team's stated aim to keep him fresh deeper into the season than it did a year ago, when he wore down in August and September.

Red Sox Journal: Patriots' Day game rescheduled for May

Brian MacPherson

BOSTON — The first indication came when Brian Johnson began to throw in the Red Sox bullpen in the late innings on Sunday. Johnson was Boston's scheduled starter on Monday, the traditional 11 a.m. Patriots' Day game.

The second indication came when Red Sox players already were packing up duffle bags in the Fenway Park clubhouse after their 3-1 victory over the Orioles on Sunday evening.

The Red Sox made it official shortly thereafter: For the first time since 1984, inclement weather forced them to call off one of the showcase events of the year at Fenway Park. Rather than wait to see if the forecast improved on a day when Boston Marathon runners would be making their way into the city from Hopkinton, the team made the announcement around 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Officially, Monday's game will be made up on May 17, the day before the Orioles already were scheduled to begin a three-game series at Fenway Park.

It's expected that the Red Sox will skip over Johnson and give the ball to David Price when they take the field on Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. He'll face two-way star Shohei Ohtani, who saw his scheduled start on Sunday postponed by cold weather in Kansas City.

Before Sunday's postponement, the Red Sox would have missed Ohtani on the mound. They still would have — and still might — see Ohtani at the plate. In his first two weeks of his first season in the United States, Ohtani has a 2.08 ERA with 18 strikeouts and two walks in 13 innings pitched as well as three home runs and a .767 slugging percentage in 33 plate appearances.

“If you don't respect that, I don't know who you are or what you're doing,” Boston ace Chris Sale said.

Good day to rest

Alex Cora could find two silver linings in the foot injury that prompted him to leave Mookie Betts out of his lineup on Sunday at Fenway Park.

The first was the opportunity to rest Betts, an opportunity the Red Sox manager had sought since the season began. Betts was the only Red Sox player to appear in each of the first 14 games of the season — and for good reason, as he was getting on base at a team-best .452 clip to go along with a .608 slugging percentage. But he was out of the lineup on Sunday, a day after he slid feet-first into one of the shin guards of Baltimore catcher Chance Sisco while scoring on an Andrew Benintendi double on Saturday.

Cora said he expects Betts to be ready to return by the time the Red Sox get to Anaheim to face the Angels.

“I’m not saying he was going to get the day off, anyway,” Cora said, “but it was getting close. Things happen for a reason. We know he’s going to be fine. It’s a good day for him to stay off his feet.”

The other silver lining was the opportunity to get the marginalized Blake Swihart some rare playing time. Swihart entered the game in left field as part of a shuffled outfield when Betts left the game — and he went 2-for-3 with a double, his most productive day at the plate this season.

Swihart slugged an impressive .485 in what looked like a make-or-break spring training for him, winning a spot on the Opening Day roster. That roster spot, however, didn’t come with a clear path to playing time. He’s the third catcher, the fifth outfielder, and the seventh infielder.

“He takes grounders everywhere — second, third, first,” Cora said. “He keeps swinging. It’s not an easy one, but he’s doing OK.”

With Betts out, Cora installed Jackie Bradley Jr. as his leadoff hitter — which allowed him to keep Benintendi, Hanley Ramirez and J.D. Martinez in their usual No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 spots in the order. Before Sunday, Bradley had started a game as a leadoff hitter just once before in his career — the game in 2016 that saw him snap a 29-game hitting streak he’d put together while hitting exclusively in the bottom half of the order.

Bradley came into Sunday’s game hitting .209 with a .320 on-base percentage and a .279 slugging percentage. He then went 0-for-4, though he did steal a base and score a run.

Bradley also replaced Betts in right field, where he had made a spectacular diving catch to rob Baltimore’s Adam Jones in Saturday’s game. It was his first start in right field since 2015, when Betts was Boston’s regular center fielder.

Impressing the boss

Tzu-Wei Lin ripped a ground-rule double down the right-field line to score Moreland in the sixth inning on Sunday. It was the second double in five games for Lin since his recall from Triple-A Pawtucket. Lin also sparked the fifth-inning rally that led to Boston’s first run, smacking a single through the right side ahead of Benintendi’s run-scoring triple.

At a time when Brock Holt is hitting under .200, Lin is making a strong case to stick around ahead of Holt when Xander Bogaerts returns from the disabled list.

“He’s doing what he’s supposed to,” Cora said. “He’ll show bunt. He swung the other way. On 0-2, he gets up over the plate. We’re very happy with the way he’s playing.”

*** *MassLive.com***

Sale on Sunday's chilly conditions: 'This is the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field'

Conor Ryan

BOSTON -- He might hail from Florida, but Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale is accustomed to taking the mound in suboptimal weather.

After seven seasons in Chicago -- and 36 starts so far with Boston -- Sale knows what's to be expected from pitching in April and October, with chilly conditions posing yet another challenge along with the usual duties of shutting down a lineup.

But Sunday's matinee between the Red Sox and Orioles was an entirely new shock to the system for the southpaw.

"Tonight was the worst," Sale said. "I said it when I came out of the game. This is the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field, by far. Not even close."

When Sale delivered the first pitch of the contest, the temperature stood at 34 degrees -- with winds of over 20 miles per hour making for bone-chilling conditions.

It was the coldest game at Fenway since April 17, 2003 -- with no Red Sox home game starting at a colder temperature since at least 2000.

The weather forced Sale to race down the tunnel following each inning to receive heating pads and other treatment from the team's training staff, with the Red Sox offered free hot chocolate for those fans that braved the cold to make it to Fenway Park.

Donning short sleeves and no other layers to shield himself from the cold, Sale lasted five innings Sunday - - tossing 93 pitches and not factoring into the decision in what was a 3-1 Red Sox win.

Still, aside from a RBI double from Manny Machado in the first, Sale dominated on the mound -- tossing four no-hit innings to close out his start and finishing with just two hits allowed with eight strikeouts.

"Outstanding," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said of Sale's start. "Going into the game, we knew that the conditions were going to be like that. For him to give us five and a chance to win the game, that's what we were asking for. Today wasn't about the pitch count or going deep into the game, it was about going out there and just complete and give us a chance. And he did."

While Cora was tempted to take Sale out following the fourth inning, he kept his ace in for one more frame, with Sale ending his outing with an efficient 11-pitch stanza.

Not one to struggle with command, Sale made an added emphasis to attack the strike zone Sunday -- with the strong winds preventing even the hardest hit balls from leaving the ballpark.

"I was just throwing strikes," Sale said. "The one thing I was really trying to do was fill up the strike zone. I didn't care what pitch it was or how hard I was throwing it. I just wanted it to be a strike. You could see today, there were a couple balls that were crushed. ... Balls that have a chance of getting out on a normal day, and they died.

"They didn't go anywhere. I felt like, after the second or third inning, (I said), 'Hey you almost want these guys to hit the ball, because it's not going to go anywhere.'

Thankfully, pitching in near-freezing temperatures didn't cause any physical issues for Sale, who was quick to note that both Boston and Baltimore's batters took the brunt of the punishment while shivering in the batter's box.

"I felt fine, it was just -- it's a tough pull on a day like today," Sale said. "But everyone has to deal with it. I'm not the only one out there playing. My guys were out there, their guys were out there. They still have to pitch, they still have to hit. It sucks, but at the end of the day, you've got to do what you've got to do."

Andrew Benintendi stays hot at plate, Boston Red Sox rally past Orioles in chilly matinee game

Conor Ryan

BOSTON -- It seemed like a given that runs were going to come at a premium Sunday afternoon at Fenway Park.

Not even a scorching Red Sox offense averaging 8.9 runs over its last seven games stood much of a chance under chilling conditions, with the temperature clinging to just above freezing throughout the tilt.

Still, Boston had its chances against Orioles starter Dylan Bundy -- stranding three runners in scoring position over the first four innings of play.

Playing with fire once again, Bundy was not able to maneuver past Boston's lineup a third time through, as the Red Sox erased a one-run deficit with a combined three runs in the fifth and six innings to cap off a 3-1 win.

Andrew Benintendi continued to string together strong at-bats out of the No. 2 spot in the lineup, going 3-for-4 at the plate with a pair of extra-base hits.

The outfielder tied the contest up at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth, lacing an outside fastball from Bundy into right field and along the corner -- scoring Jackie Bradley Jr. for a RBI triple.

After opening the 2018 season with an 0-for-11 skid, Benintendi has started to settle in at the dish, batting .385 over his last six games with five extra-base hits and eight RBI.

Boston took the lead for good in the bottom of the sixth -- with a wild pitch from Bundy allowing J.D. Martinez to tag up and score from third to make it a 2-1 contest. Tzu-Wei Lin hit a ground-rule double into right field later in the frame, driving in Mitch Moreland to give Boston a two-run cushion.

With the win, the Red Sox improve to 13-2 on the season, improving on the team's best start in franchise history. Prior to 2018, the last team to start 12-2 or better was the Atlanta Braves in 2013 (13-2.)

Chris Sale earned the start for the Red Sox, holding Baltimore to just two hits and one run over five innings of work with fanning eight batters. Sale finished with 93 pitches -- standing as the fourth consecutive start in which the southpaw has not eclipsed triple digits in pitches.

The Red Sox ace's lone blemish came in the top of the first, with Manny Machado driving a changeup from Sale into left field for a RBI double. Despite tossing 21 pitches in the opening frame, Sale settled down -- tossing four no-hit innings to close out his appearance.

Benintendi's RBI triple put Boston on the board in the fifth, while an error from Baltimore third baseman Danny Valencia allowed J.D. Martinez to reach first to lead off the sixth -- setting the stage for Boston's go-ahead runs.

A double off the bat of Moreland put runners at second and third for the Red Sox, with Bundy's wild pitch allowing Martinez to cross home and give Boston the lead. With two outs in the inning, Lin jumped on a low slider from Bundy and flicked it into right, with the ball bouncing into the stands for the RBI double.

Once Sale exited the contest, Boston's bullpen corps of Heath Hembree, Matt Barnes and Craig Kimbrel shut the door with four shutout innings of work.

The Red Sox are expected to close out their homestand Monday against the Orioles, with Brian Johnson set to start in the team's annual Patriots' Day game -- with first pitch set for 11:05 a.m.

*** *RedSox.com***

Red-hot Sox top O's, own MLB's best mark

Ian Browne

BOSTON -- There is no cooling off the Red Sox these days, not even the frigid temperatures they played in on Sunday at Fenway Park.

With a 3-1 victory over the Orioles on Jackie Robinson Day, Boston remains red-hot, extending its franchise-best start to 13-2.

The last MLB team to open by winning 13 of the first 15 was the 2013 Braves. Boston's start is the best an American League team has had since the '87 Brewers, who opened 14-1.

"You can't beat it," said Red Sox ace Chris Sale, who struck out eight and allowed one run over five innings. "It's coming in, having fun, expecting to win every single day, coming into the clubhouse after the game and the music is playing. You can't beat that. That's what we're looking for. We're going to stay on it and keep doing what we've got to do to maintain that."

Sale took a no-decision. Heath Hembree earned the win with two shutout innings in relief.

The go-ahead run came in on a strong read by J.D. Martinez, who came roaring in from third in the bottom of the sixth when a wild pitch skipped away from catcher Caleb Joseph to the third-base side of the plate.

"It's anticipation," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora. "For how bad we looked early in the first few games [on the bases], it's getting better, we're making better decisions. They're more aware, the leads are better. Do we need to keep improving our baserunning? Yeah, of course. I think the last few days have been better."

Sale (1.23 ERA) came out after five innings and 93 pitches due to the weather.

"I was actually tempted to take him out after the fourth," said Cora.

The Red Sox tied the game at 1 in the fifth when Andrew Benintendi slammed an RBI triple into the corner in right to bring home Jackie Bradley Jr.

Craig Kimbrel came on for a 1-2-3 ninth and earned his fifth save in as many opportunities.

The game was played at a game-time temperature of 34 degrees, the coldest at Fenway since April 17, 2003, against the Rays.

"There was no complaining," said Cora. "We knew the conditions were going to be awful, but I didn't hear too many guys -- or any guys -- [saying] 'What are we doing here?' They like to play. Today was different guys -- Tzu-Wei Lin, Mitch Moreland, Brock Holt. That's a good thing about us."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Tzu-Wei with some insurance: The Red Sox are going with a committee approach at shortstop while Xander Bogaerts is on the disabled list, and Lin did his job on Sunday, belting an RBI double to right in the sixth that boosted Boston's lead to 3-1. Though he's more known for his glove, Lin is 6-for-12 with two doubles since being called up on Tuesday.

SOUND SMART

The Red Sox have won 13 of their last 14 games, marking the best 14-game stretch the club has had since June 16-July 2, 2006.

HE SAID IT

"That was miserable. Nothing short of miserable. But like I've said before, I'm probably the most warm person out there. I was just honestly trying to get the ball and go. Get my guys in the dugout as quick as I could. Today was the worst [cold I've played in]. I said it when I came out of the game. This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close."

-- Sale, on pitching in the severe Fenway chill

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

The Red Sox tried to extend their lead in the seventh on a single to left by Moreland. But Trey Mancini's throw to the plate nailed Benintendi on a close play. The Red Sox issued a challenge, but the call stood after a delay of one minute and 17 seconds.

UP NEXT

With the annual Patriots' Day rained out for Monday, the Red Sox will spend the day traveling to the West Coast in preparation for a three-game series against the Angels that starts on Tuesday at 10:07 p.m. ET. The pitching matchup is a beauty, with David Price (1-1, 2.40 ERA) going for the Red Sox and the Angels countering with rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani (2-0, 2.08 ERA).

Patriots' Day O's-Red Sox game postponed

Ian Browne

BOSTON -- Due to a rainy forecast with no signs of letup, there will be no baseball at Fenway Park this year on Patriots' Day.

Monday's game between the Red Sox and Orioles -- the finale of a four-game series -- has been postponed until May 17. The teams were already scheduled to start a three-game series at Fenway the next day.

This is the first time there will be no Patriots' Day game at Fenway Park since 1995, when a work stoppage delayed the start of the regular season. It is the first rainout on Patriots' Day since '94.

Fans who had tickets for Monday's game can use them on May 17. That game will start at 7:10 p.m. ET.

Patriots' Day, which coincides with the Boston Marathon, is typically one of the most festive games of the year at Fenway Park. Once the game ends, the tradition is for fans to line up in Kenmore Square and cheer on the marathon runners.

In recent years, the Red Sox have held emotional tributes in recognition of those impacted by the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013. The five-year anniversary was Sunday, and the city of Boston had a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. ET. The Red Sox observed that moment of silence during the seventh-inning stretch.

A holiday in Massachusetts and Maine, Patriots' Day celebrates the anniversary of Paul Revere's ride and the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775.

Though they don't play on Monday, the Red Sox have a long travel day to the West Coast in preparation for a Tuesday night matchup with the Angels.

The opener of that three-game series features a terrific pitching matchup of David Price against rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani. The opportunity for the Red Sox to face Ohtani was created when the Angels were rained out on Sunday in Kansas City.

Brian Johnson would have started on Sunday if the Red Sox had played, but he will likely move back to the bullpen for the upcoming trip out West.

The Orioles will open up a three-game series vs. the Tigers on Tuesday. Andrew Cashner, who was slated to start Monday, will take the ball in the series opener in Detroit.

Sale fans 8 in gutsy outing at frigid Fenway

Ian Browne

BOSTON -- Red Sox ace Chris Sale came out with no long sleeves under his jersey on Sunday afternoon while pitching in the coldest game-time temperature (34 degrees) at Fenway Park since April 17, 2003.

The lefty was in typically dominant form, if not as economic as he would have preferred, holding the Orioles to two hits and a run over five innings while walking two and striking out eight. He took a no-decision, but the scorching Red Sox (13-2) went on to a 3-1 victory.

Instead of pretending he tuned out the weather, Sale was candid in admitting how difficult the conditions were with the temperature just two degrees north of freezing and the wind whipping around at 23 mph.

"That was miserable," said Sale. "Nothing short of miserable. But like I've said before, I'm probably the warmest person out there. I was just honestly trying to get the ball and go, get my guys in the dugout as quick as I could."

Sale threw 93 pitches, 56 of them for strikes, and was replaced by Heath Hembree to open the sixth.

"Outstanding," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora. "Going into the game, we knew the conditions were going to be like that, and for him to give us five and a chance to win the game, that's what we were asking for. Today wasn't about the pitch count or going deep into the game. It was, 'Go out there and compete and give us a chance,' and he did."

The fact Sale pitched for the White Sox from 2010-16 means he is no stranger to pitching in cold temperatures -- both early and late in the season.

However, not even the Windy City at its most unpleasant could prepare Sale for the Fenway elements on Sunday.

"Today was the worst," said Sale. "I said it when I came out of the game. This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close."

In truth, facing Sale -- who has a 1.23 ERA -- wasn't very much fun for the Orioles.

"Chris Sale is tough," said Orioles slugger Chris Davis. "He's one of the best in the big leagues. He's tough when it's sunny and 75."

As a courtesy to the fans who braved the elements, the Red Sox posted on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth that free hot chocolate was available throughout the ballpark.

The Red Sox had to do other things to make the conditions bearable for their starting pitcher.

"I just beelined it straight to the tunnel [between innings]," said Sale. "Hats off to our training staff. They did everything they could to keep me in it, keep me loose. Rubbing red hot on my arm, putting heat packs on. Those guys were running up and down the stairs getting me stuff to make sure I was loose and doing stuff to my arm and making sure I was ready to go out there. That was a huge factor in it too, those guys being in my corner."

Red Sox, O's pay tribute to trailblazer Jackie

Ian Browne

BOSTON -- When David Price was a student, he didn't mind getting repetitive when it came to the subjects of his book reports. There were two trailblazers he couldn't stop thinking of, and he would always go out of his way to pay homage to them.

"That was all the book reports as a kid, Jackie Robinson and Roberto Clemente," said Price. "All those reports came easy as the years went on, because I feel like I did it every year in February on those two guys. They were fun to read about and fun to write about it. Hearing their stories kind of puts everything in perspective."

Price, along with his Red Sox teammates and every player in MLB, proudly wore No. 42 on Sunday in honor of Jackie Robinson Day. That tradition started in 2009.

There were additional on-field uniform elements this year, including a commemorative patch on all team caps and jersey sleeves, socks emblazoned with "42," and a brand new lightweight hooded fleece for batting practice and dugout wear, also featuring the "42" logo. MLB will donate all proceeds from the sale of such items to the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

Prior to the Red Sox-Orioles game at Fenway Park, Jackie Robinson Scholars were honored during pregame ceremonies.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Program provides four years of financial assistance and direct program services annually to 225 highly motivated students attending 100 colleges and universities across the country, and has developed a mentoring curriculum to reach a broad range of college students beyond its core "JRF Scholars."

As an African-American, Price is thankful every day for the joy and opportunities baseball has provided him, and he knows none of it would be possible without the man whose number is retired in every Major League Baseball stadium.

"It's very special, for what Jackie did and meant to the game of baseball and just everyday life," Price said. "The times that he went through, the adversity that he endured both on and off the field, that speaks volumes to the type of person that he was and everything that he did for everybody was very special."

Tim Beckham, who started Sunday's game at second base for the Orioles, has a subtle way of paying tribute to one of his heroes.

"The majority of the time, I do play with my pants up to honor Jackie Robinson and everything he went through and everything he had to endure as a human, on the field and off the field," said Beckham. "A lot of people don't recognize it like this, but he went through and had to endure as much as Martin Luther King did."

"And he was doing it by himself. He had his wife with him, his family with him, but it wasn't easy for someone to take on as much and still have success. It's impressive. The fact that he did what he did and broke the color barrier and made it possible for us minorities to play the game of baseball, speaks the world of him. He had everything he had to go through, he was in a professional sport where he was the minority. He paved the way for us and allowed us to be able to play the game we love."

For Alex Cora, Jackie Robinson Day served as another reminder of how grateful he is to be the first minority manager in Red Sox history.

"No way I am a big league manager without Jackie Robinson," said Cora. "No way I am a big league manager without Hiram Bithorn. He's the first Puerto Rican player in the big leagues. We know the history of the [Red Sox] franchise and what it means to have a minority manager, in the big leagues, too. I hope there's a platform that people can look at."

"Kids back home or everywhere else can know that, yeah, a kid from Caguas, Puerto Rico, growing up he loved playing baseball and all of a sudden he's a manager of one of the best franchises in the world. It's amazing. Without those two guys, no way I am a big league manager."

*** *WEET.com***

Marathon Monday Red Sox-Orioles game postponed

Ryan Hannable

Excluding the strike year in 1995, for the first time since 1984, baseball will not be played at Fenway Park on Marathon Monday.

The Red Sox announced early Sunday evening that Monday's Red Sox-Orioles game has been postponed, as the forecast calls for an extended period of sustained rain throughout the day and into the evening hours in the Fenway area.

It will be rescheduled for May 17, which is a mutual off-day between the clubs before a weekend series.

The Red Sox will still go with David Price on the mound Tuesday on the West Coast against the Angels.

Red Sox 3, Orioles 1: Why was this game even played?

Ryan Hannable

Even though it was April 15, it felt like December 15 at Fenway Park on Sunday afternoon, and the miserable conditions certainly impacted the action on the field.

At 34 degrees, it was the lowest game-time temperature at Fenway Park since April 17, 2003. It was so cold the Red Sox even offered free hot chocolate to all fans in attendance.

These fans were better off at home, not only because of the abysmal conditions, but the play on the field wasn't what these fans paid for.

The cold weather certainly impacted things for everyone.

Pitchers couldn't get the best grip on the ball, batters' hands couldn't even feel the bat, and in the field players had layers on every part of their body, including masks on their faces covering every part except for their eyes.

Baseball is not meant to be played in such conditions.

Sure, Monday's game is likely going to be rained out and having back-to-back rain outs isn't ideal for anyone, but the Orioles are in the American League East. Baltimore comes back two more times this year and the teams have a mutual off-day on May 17, the day before a weekend series begins. They also have other mutual off-days during the year and even if those didn't work, there's always the option for a doubleheader in either May or September.

Wouldn't both fans and players have preferred one of those options over the awful conditions they got Sunday?

As for the actual game itself, the Red Sox came away with a 3-1 win, improving to 13-2 on the year.

It's a shame that one of Chris Sale's 30-plus starts had to come on a day like Sunday, as there's no way he could have been at his best. Even though it felt like the middle of winter, Sale did not wear any sleeves on the mound and gutted through five innings of work.

It only was five innings because of his pitch count — 93 pitches, something the weather had some effect on.

The left-hander allowed one run over the five innings on just two hits, while walking two and striking out eight. He only got nine swings and misses, which tied for his third-fewest with the Red Sox, the weather likely a major reason why. Sale wasn't able to get as much velocity as he typically does, but still had command of all his pitches. Pitching in such brutal conditions certainly evens the playing field and takes away some of Sale's dominance.

"That was miserable," Sale said. "Nothing short of miserable. But, like I've said before, I'm probably the most warm person out there. I was just honestly trying to get the ball and go. Get my guys in the dugout as quick as I could."

Added Sale: "Tonight was the worst. I said it when I came out of the game. This was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field by far. Not even close."

With the game tied at one in the sixth, the Red Sox took the lead thanks to some sloppy Orioles play, with again the weather likely playing some factor.

J.D. Martinez reached on an error, advanced to third on a Mitch Moreland double and then scored on a wild pitch. Another run was scored on a ground-rule double by Tzu-Wei Lin. Both runs were unearned.

"There was no complaining," Alex Cora said afterwards. "We knew the conditions were going to be awful, but I didn't hear too many guys, or any guys, 'What are we doing here?' They like to play. Today was different guys -- Lin, Mitch, Brock [Holt]. That's a good thing about us. On a daily basis, our lineup is going to score runs regardless of the combination we have out there. For us to play that way -- J.D. scoring on a wild pitch, Brock hustling to first base, J.D. getting on base on an error, Mitch going the other way, Lin, I could keep naming them, I love talking about them because they work hard, they enjoy the game, and they're in a good spot right now."

While the fans who braved the elements went home happy with a win, they probably would have rather had the game be made up at a later date and enjoyed a true baseball experience.

With the win, the Red Sox are 13-1 in their last 14 games, something they haven't done over any 14-game stretch since 2006 (14-1 from 6/16-7/2).

Mookie Betts (foot) expected to be fine after injuring foot Saturday vs. Orioles

Ryan Hannable

The Red Sox received a bit of a scare on Saturday when Mookie Betts left the game with a foot contusion following a collision at home plate. X-rays came back negative, but the right fielder is out of the lineup Sunday against the Orioles.

Even though he's missing the game Sunday, manager Alex Cora expects him to be fine moving forward.

"The same, contusion," Cora said before the game. "He came in and he feels he's ready to play but we'll keep him off his feet today and go from there. Like I've been saying, I'm not saying [he] was going to get the day off anyway, but it was getting close. Things happen for a reason and we know he's going to be fine and it's a good day for him to stay off his feet. Don't take batting practice, hang out and let the other guys show up and do their job."

The Marathon Monday game doesn't appear likely to be played with miserable conditions expected, so it's likely Betts will make his return Tuesday on the West Coast against the Angels.

Betts is batting .353/.452/.608 to open the season and this will be the first game he's missed all season.

Taking his place in the lead-off spot will be Jackie Bradley Jr. -- the second time he's hit lead off in his career.

"I think it's good for him, confidence wise," Cora said. "We trust him, he's putting in good at-bats, he's getting on base lately, hitting the ball the other way. He has a history with Bundy. Throw him in there for the first pitch and put a good swing on it. I know he was excited when I told him last night, I don't know if he was more excited about leading off or playing right field."

*** NESN.com**

Red Sox Wrap: Boston Squeaks By Orioles 3-1 On Chilly Day At Fenway Park

Joshua Schrock

Another day, another win for the 2018 Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox continue to dominate the Baltimore Orioles, tallying a 3-1 win on a cold Sunday afternoon at Fenway Park.

Chris Sale fought through five innings and was in line for the loss before the Red Sox's offense broke through in the middle innings against Orioles starter Dylan Bundy.

Andrew Benintendi (3-for-4, RBI) tied the game at one in the fifth inning and Boston plated two runs in the sixth to take a 3-1 lead that the bullpen nailed down. With the win, the Red Sox improve to 13-2, while the Orioles fall to 5-11.

Here's how it all went down:

GAME IN A WORD

Chilly.

Temperatures at Fenway Park hovered around 20 degrees all afternoon, but the Sox's offense was able to heat up in time to earn the win.

ON THE BUMP

— Sale showcased electric stuff on a chilly day at Fenway Park, but the left-hander exited the game after five innings due to a high pitch count. The Red Sox ace allowed one run on two hits while striking out eight and walking two in five innings of work. The Orioles got to Sale early in the contest. Trey Mancini led off the game with an infield single and scored two batters later when Manny Machado smoked an RBI double down the left-field line. Sale got out of the first inning without allowing any further damage. The star lefty shut down the O's from that point on but was unable to go deep in the game after throwing 93 pitches through five innings.

— Hembree tossed a scoreless sixth inning. The right-hander also pitched a 1-2-3 seventh.

— Matt Barnes kept the O's off the scoreboard in the eighth inning.

— Craig Kimbrel slammed the door in the ninth to earn the save.

IN THE BATTER'S BOX

— Boston threatened in the second inning when Mitch Moreland (3-for-4, two doubles) smoked a one-out, ground-rule double to right field and Rafael Devers followed with a walk. But the Sox were unable to push across a run, as Bundy struck out Christian Vazquez and got Brock Holt to foul out to end the frame.

— Benintendi got Sale off the hook in the fifth inning when he ripped a two-out, RBI triple to right field to score Jackie Bradley Jr. and tie the game at one. Boston couldn't take the lead, though, as Hanley Ramirez flew out to center to end the inning.

— Boston broke the tie in the sixth inning. J.D. Martinez reached on an error to lead off the inning and Moreland followed with a double off the Green Monster. Bundy then bounced a breaking ball in the dirt that squirted away from catcher Caleb Joseph, allowing Martinez to race home and give the Sox a 2-1 edge. Boston extended its lead to 3-1 later in the inning when Tzu-Wei Lin (2-for-4, RBI) ripped a two-out, RBI ground-rule double down the right-field line to score Moreland.

— Bradley, Ramirez, Martinez and Vazquez all went hitless.

TWEET OF THE GAME

Spring has not arrived yet.

UP NEXT

With Monday's series finale against the Orioles postponed, the Red Sox will next take the field Tuesday night in Anaheim. David Price is set to get the ball for Boston opposite the Angels' versatile phenom Shohei Ohtani. First pitch from Angels Stadium is scheduled for 10:07 p.m. ET.

*** *The Boston Sports Journal***

Sleeveless Sale played mind game with self, not Orioles, in brutal chill

Sean McAdam

Growing up in Lakeland, Fla., Chris Sale never had to deal with the cold much. When he went off to college, he actually traveled further south — to Fort Myers, and Gulf Coast University — where, again, heat was far more of an issue.

When he reached the big leagues in Chicago, he got introduced to freezing temperatures and wind chill for the first time. Over nine years in the big leagues, he's been exposed to plenty of cold days and nights.

But Sunday at Fenway was a whole different category.

"I was miserable," acknowledged Sale after five innings of one-run ball in the Red Sox' 5-3 win over the Baltimore Orioles. "Nothing short of miserable...(Today) was the worst. I said it when I came out of the game: Today was the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field. By far. Not even close. Not even close."

Notice the key words here, the time-stamp, as it were, on the comments: "...when I came out of the game."

In the dugout, when he had finished and wrapped himself in a jacket, Sale could admit the obvious. Yes, it was nearly impossible to properly grip some pitches. No, he couldn't generate his usual velocity, with his fastball sometimes topping out at 87-88 mph. His strategy at times, he conceded, was to "flip it up there and let them hit it." After all, how far was it going to go?

Speaking with reporters in the relative warmth of the home clubhouse, he could admit how tough it was (he had difficulty gripping the ball, and his velocity) ... but not until then.

With temperatures in the low-to-mid 30s, Sale went out to the mound in bare arms. Some of this was related to routine; some pitchers, regardless of freezing conditions, feel constricted and unnatural with a sleeve covering their pitching arm.

But there was more to it than this. This was part of a mental game Sale was playing. And winning.

Years ago, Sale was counseled by a former White Sox teammate — he wouldn't reveal who it was — to never wear sleeves.

In football, sometimes linemen go bare-armed in sub-zero temperatures to send a signal to the opposition: I'm not cold. Are you?

It's psychological warfare, with players intent on establishing some sort of advantage over the guy lined up across the line of scrimmage. In refusing to recognize the conditions, the message is being sent: I won't be defeated — by you, or by the weather.

But for Sale, the game he's playing is different. He's not trying to prove anything to the hitters; rather, he's intent on winning the mental battle with himself. Keep playing those mind games, forever.

Sale said going out sleeveless was all about convincing himself that, evidence to the contrary, it was not ridiculously cold and windy. He had enough to worry about with the Orioles lineup.

So with virtually no body fat to protect him from the elements, Sale pretended otherwise. Between innings, he would dash into the runway and try to stay warm near some heaters.

But once it was time to compete, he waged a war of will with himself.

So you were trying to convince yourself you weren't miserable?

"Oh, I was plenty miserable," he confided to BostonSportsJournal.com. "But I wasn't going to allow myself to admit it until I was done."

Alex Cora, who is in the business of preserving his team's assets, wasn't playing along. He lifted Sale after five and admitted he came close to doing so after just four innings. This was an afternoon not fit for man or beast, or certainly, front-line starters capable of carrying on every five days the rest of the way.

So even when Sale needed just 11 pitches in the fifth and seemed to be winning the war of attrition — or himself — he was given the hook. The bullpen patched together the final 12 outs as Sale wrapped himself in a coat, warmed by the satisfaction that he had, for a while anyway, convinced himself that it wasn't that cold.

If he could silence the doubts in his head. If he could mentally defeat the elements, then surely, his magical left arm could defeat the Orioles.

A run in the fifth inning by his teammates got him a no-decision.

But something an unidentified teammate told him long ago, something that has stuck with him for years now, got him the win of a different sort.

Red Sox 3, Orioles 1

Sean McAdam

In bitterly cold temperatures, the Red Sox were able to grind out a 3-1 win over the Baltimore Orioles for their fourth victory in a row and 13th in their last 14 tries.

Shut out for the first four innings and trailing 1-0, the Sox tied the game in the fifth on a triple by Andrew Benintendi. An inning later, the Sox used an error, a double from Mitch Moreland and a wild pitch to take their first lead, then got a two-out double from Tzu-Wei Lin to tack on an insurance run.

Chris Sale lasted just five innings as his pitch count soared quickly. He limited the O's to a run on two hits while striking out eight. Heath Hembree, Matt Barnes and Craig Kimbrel combined to toss four shutout innings, allowing just two baserunners between them.

WHO: Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles

WHEN: 1:05 p.m.

WHERE: Fenway Park

WHAT'S UP: The Red Sox have own the best record in the American League, with three straight wins and 12 in their last 13 tries. Statistically, it's the best start in franchise history. The Sox have gone 5-1 on their first homestand with two games remaining. The Orioles are on the other end of the spectrum, with a 5-10 record and two straight defeats.

TV/RADIO: NESN/WEEI 93.7 FM

STARTING PITCHERS: LHP Chris Sale (1-0, 1.06) vs. RHP Dylan Bundy (0-1, 1.35)

IN-GAME OBSERVATIONS:

3:29 Another out on the bases, which I believe is No. 8 for the Sox. But this one is a bit easier to defend. With two outs, and a weak arm in left (Trey Mancini), probably a good "send," or chance to take on the part of third base coach Carlos Febles.

3:10 Strong offensive game from Tzu-Wei Lin today. In his first at-bat, Lin clubbed a ball to the triangle. In the fifth, he singled to right. And with two on and two out in the sixth, he laced a ground-rule double to right, scoring Mitch Moreland.

2:45 Impressive piece of hitting for Andrew Benintendi, who manages to turn on a fastball down and on the black and rocket it to right for a triple, scoring Bradley and tying the game at 1-1.

2:27: An 11-pitch inning from Sale helps a bit, but with 93 pitches thrown and Heath Hembree up in the bullpen, that could be it for the lefty today.

2:11: Sale is being made to work by the Orioles, who have driven up his pitch count to 82 after just four innings. Seven strikeouts and two walks contributing, too.

1:58: Orioles' game plan with Hanley was pretty obvious — down and away with just about everything. He got a fastball over the middle on a 2-and-2 pitch and fouled it off. Next one was a slider down-and-away that he swung through.

1:52: Tzu-Wei Lin got a fastball up in the zone to lead off the bottom of the third and hit it well, but with the wind and cold, ball seemed to hold up. Right fielder Anthony Santander had time to glide over to the triangle to make the catch.

1:24: Can't think of a worse experience for a major league player today than 1) dealing with this cold AND 2) facing Sale.

1:11: Maybe it's a psychological thing ("Cold? What cold?"), but Chris Sale is pitching in short-sleeves

LINEUPS

RED SOX

Bradley RF

Benintendi CF

Ramirez DH

Martinez LF

Moreland 1B

Devers 3B

Vazquez C
Holt 2B
Lin SS

ORIOLES

Mancini LF
Gentry CF
Machado SS
Jones DH
Valencia 3B
Davis 1B
Beckham 2B
Santander RF
Joseph C

NEWS AND NOTES:

OF Mookie Betts, who was removed from Saturday's game after suffering a contusion of his left foot, remained out of the lineup Sunday. But according to manager Alex Cora, Betts is improved and lobbied to play Sunday. "We'll keep him off his feet today and go from there," said Cora. "I'm not saying he was going to get the day off anyway (for rest), but it was getting close. Things happen for a reason. We know he's going to be fine. This is a good day to stay off his feet, don't take batting practice, hang out and let the other guys show up and do the job."

With Betts out, Cora had Jackie Bradley Jr. in the leadoff spot. "I think it's good for him, confidence-wise," Cora said. "We trust him. He's having good at-bats. He's been getting on base lately. I know he was excited when I told him (Saturday) night. He led off in spring training, so we're comfortable with him."

Given the cold weather, Cora kept Eduardo Nunez out of the lineup, with Tzu-Wei Lin at short and Brock Holt at second. "It's actually good for (Nunez) to get a few days off," Cora said.

Cora noted that getting Blake Swihart some playing time "is a work in progress." Swihart was inserted into the game in left when Betts was injured.

*** *The Athletic***

It was the 'most miserable' day at Fenway, but even the cold can't stop red-hot Red Sox

Jen McCaffrey

The Red Sox hadn't played in a game that cold at Fenway Park in 15 years.

They hadn't started a game at home or on the road at a colder temperature since at least 2000 when game temperatures were first officially recorded.

At first pitch on Sunday, it was a bitterly cold 34 degrees with 23 mph winds and a light rain-snow mix. (Boston played a game against Tampa Bay on April 17, 2003 when it was 34 with only 17 mph winds.)

"That was miserable. Nothing short of miserable," starter Chris Sale said. "I was just honestly trying to get the ball and go. Get my guys in the dugout as quick as I could."

Despite having pitched in Chicago for seven seasons before being traded to the Red Sox, Sale said Sunday's game was the worst he'd ever pitched in.

“This was the most miserable I’ve ever been on a baseball field by far,” he said. “Not even close.”

Nevertheless, the lefty still managed to throw five innings allowing just one run on two hits and two walks. He struck out eight in the 3-1 win over the Orioles that pushed Boston’s record to 13-2.

Rather than sit in the dugout in between innings like he normally does, Sale went into the trainer’s room to get work done on his arm in order to stay loose and warm.

“Hats off to our training staff,” he said. “They did everything they could to keep me in it, keep me loose. Rubbing Red Hot on my arm, putting heat packs on. Those guys were running up and down the stairs getting me stuff to make sure I was loose and doing stuff to my arm and making sure I was ready to go out there. That was a huge factor in it too, those guys being in my corner.”

Even with winds whipping and conditions raw, Sale still pitched in short sleeves, more out of habit than comfort.

“I’d say just more probably routine, psychological and had someone say something to me a few years ago about it,” he said.

Meanwhile, in the bullpen, reliever Craig Kimbrel brought a hunting sleeping bag that resembled a camouflage Ghillie suit.

“He brought [the sleeping bag] down there today and he was in it for like five or 10 minutes and asked if anybody else wanted to use it and I was like, ‘I’ll get in it,’” reliever Matt Barnes said.

Barnes, who grew up in Connecticut and pitched at UConn, was probably the most experienced pitcher on the club in terms of dealing with the uncomfortably cold conditions.

“I’ve pitched in this kind of stuff but that’s definitely up there with the snow and everything,” he added.

Players sat in front of heaters in the dugouts, wore ski masks under their hats and jumped up and down to keep warm.

“I think I’d have to think back to summer ball, when I was like 14 and it was March and it was 18 [degrees],” Andrew Benintendi said of the last time he played in a game this cold. “But with the wind chill [today], it was probably one of the coldest.”

Despite the near-freezing temps, the Red Sox have won their last six games — dating back to 2016 — with a game-time temperature at or below 40 degrees.

The park was less than half full despite the 32,489 tickets sold.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, an announcement flashed onto the video board in center field that the club was giving away free hot chocolate to fans who had braved the elements in the stands.

Though temperatures are expected to rise into the 40s on Monday, the Red Sox intend to take an unplanned day off on Patriots Day with torrential rain in the forecast. The club announced after Sunday’s win that the Monday game would be postponed, marking the first time since 1984 that the Red Sox had postponed the holiday contest.

Even though the Red Sox will be facing Angels phenom Shohei Ohtani on Tuesday night, the team is looking forward to a trip to Anaheim, where temperatures are forecast in the 70s.

How the Red Sox helped heal Boston in wake of the Marathon attack

Tim Britton

Five years ago today, Patriots Day in Boston dawned sunny with a chill still in the air. An institution in Maine and Massachusetts, the holiday honors the first battles of the Revolutionary War and hosts both the Boston Marathon and the traditional 11 a.m. Red Sox game. The ritual is to catch the Sox at Fenway, right around mile 25 of the marathon, before walking the short way downtown to catch the final part of the race.

The typically festive atmosphere of Patriots' Day was interrupted in 2013 by a pair of bombs, 12 seconds apart just shy of 3 p.m., near the marathon's finish line on Boylston Street. Planted by brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the bombs left three people dead and hundreds injured, many with missing limbs.

For the next five days, the city was on edge and even on lockdown. Not until Friday night, when Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was apprehended after he and his brother engaged law enforcement in an extensive manhunt, was the city able to breathe again.

During that week and the rest of that season, the Red Sox became a symbol of the city's resilience, their traditional serifed B incorporating itself in the Boston Strong logo. They visited hospitals, they honored victims and they won the World Series.

This is the story of that week, as told by those Red Sox.

For those who didn't grow up in New England or watching the Red Sox, it's hard to describe what Patriots Day means to the city.

Don Orsillo (NESN broadcaster): Even as a kid, it's just a special day — one of those days that's very Boston. It's unique from anywhere else. Nobody else plays that morning game. It was always very special.

Sam Kennedy (Red Sox team president): It's always been my favorite day of the year, literally. We were so excited to not have school first of all, and when we were old enough starting about age 11 or 12, we'd take the T down to Fenway and get in somehow and then we'd always just pour out to Beacon Street and run around. It was a really special day.

Torey Lovullo (Red Sox bench coach): The one thing that stands out to me is the energy of the day. That's what I'd heard of it, and then I was getting a chance to experience it, and it lived up to every expectation.

Andrew Bailey (Red Sox closer): Patriots Day takes Fenway to a whole different level.

Even members of the Red Sox front office got to relax a little bit more on Patriots Day.

Ben Cherington (Red Sox general manager): Being in the office, both Dan Duquette and Theo [Epstein] made a point of trying to get everyone to get out of work as soon as the game was over or early that day to go experience it. It was a day we all looked forward to.

Kennedy: Usually right after postgame, we typically would go downstairs to Game On [the bar connected to Fenway Park] and watch the postgame and then have pizza and beer and then make our way to the finish line. For about a decade, that was kind of the tradition for a lot of us in the front office.

After a woeful 2012 season, the Red Sox had changed managers and overhauled their personnel. Cherington emphasized the importance of a strong start, and Boston's walk-off win over the Rays on Patriots Day lifted the team's record to 8-4. Spirits were high as the team boarded its buses, waiting to head to the airport and a three-game series in Cleveland.

Will Middlebrooks (Red Sox third baseman): All of a sudden, our three police escorts on motorcycles turned on their sirens and sped away.

David Ross (Red Sox catcher): You look around and the cops are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Orsillo: We're so used to those guys. They're always there, and you recognize a lot of the guys. We had never seen them leave before. And we're sitting there wondering what's going on. You knew something not good was happening.

Jonny Gomes (Red Sox outfielder): Getaway day is uni off, shower, suit, food, grab your shit. You're not on your phone. It wasn't until we got on the bus with Twitter that we started to see some of the pictures.

Cherington: First you hear the word explosion, and you don't really know that that means. Maybe it's not a big deal.

Initially, many Red Sox figured the explosions were accidental — a gas leak or a construction accident, “something that happens in a city,” Gomes said. Traveling secretary Jack McCormick, a former cop himself, briefed the team on the bus about what had happened.

Middlebrooks: A walk-off win in the big leagues is one of the most exhilarating feelings, especially in Fenway Park. And then less than an hour after that being overcome with fear, confusion and sadness was overwhelming.

Lovullo: Once we got outside there was total chaos. I could see people running in different directions at full speed. I knew at that point that things didn't look good.

Dustin Pedroia (Red Sox second baseman): I remember confusion. Nobody knew what was going on. You couldn't get a hold of anyone.

In the immediate aftermath of the bombs, networks around the city were overwhelmed by demand. Cellphone calls struggled to get through. Players were unable to get in touch with their families, many of whom had left them at the ballpark with an idea of heading to Kenmore Square or Boylston Street.

Ross: My wife and kids had come to the game and saw me off on the walk back to our apartment, and I went into panic mode on what's going on and where are they. Your mind kind of races and goes to bad places with all that was going on.

Daniel Nava (Red Sox outfielder): You start to realize how dependent you are on your cell phone when you can't use it.

Bailey had blown the save in the top of the ninth inning — as celebrated a Red Sox blown save as Fenway has ever seen, in retrospect.

Bailey: When we came back, sitting in the bullpen, fans would come up to me and, 'Thanks for blowing that save. We were going down that way.' You never know what would have happened, and I really don't like thinking about it.

On the bus ride to Logan, Red Sox players were as exposed to rumors as anyone in Boston.

Gomes: The big thing was all the rumors. There was a rumor there was [a bomb] in the building where a lot of our families lived. And then of course we're the Red Sox. There's our plane. If they're going to do multiple explosives at the marathon finish line, anywhere's an option. Why wouldn't you believe all of these rumors?

Mike Napoli (Red Sox first baseman): There's a scared part to it. There's an 'Is this real?' part to it. You're pretty nervous because you don't know what's going on or what people planned.

Ross: You didn't know how widespread it really was.

It wasn't until the team got on its plane to Cleveland that players were able to contact their families. The flight was short but somber.

Orsillo: As quiet a plane as I can ever remember. Quieter than any loss or anything coming home from a playoff scenario. Guys were just wrapped up in it, watching it.

Gomes: Maybe it's time that baseball is not that important. If we were to cancel the season, I'm OK with that, because it was that big. Maybe it's just time to take our life-is-on-the-line mentality and give it back to the community. We obviously approached every single game after that the same, but I wasn't sure right away. What are we battling for versus what they're battling for? The people that got injured? To tell you the truth, there was a hangover there.

Nava: Baseball is a great game, baseball for Boston is something that has a lot of tradition and a lot of history. When you start to hear that people have lost their lives, people have lost limbs, that puts baseball — a game — in perspective.

After landing in Cleveland, the Red Sox gathered for a team dinner. For the next six months, manager John Farrell would cite this night as the moment he knew he had a special team.

Cherington: Early-season road trips are, even in a normal year, usually a good opportunity for team bonding and to really start to figure out and form the identity of a team.

Bailey: I don't think many wives were on that trip because it was three days, so it was just wanting to be around the guys — a sense of unity and a sense of family, because it was a very weird and unsettling situation. Let's just be together and share a meal. It was just organic.

Joel Hanrahan (Red Sox reliever): Usually team dinners, there's a couple guys that miss. Everybody was there. You could get a sense that nobody's fucking with us this year. This is our time.

Ross: You saw the true colors of guys really fast because of the emotion that was in the room. We started talking about how to help. What could we do?

Middlebrooks: It seemed to be the topic of every conversation: What could we do to help? We knew the platform we had in a city like Boston. We knew people would watch and listen.

Cherington: As a player in that situation, you don't have a choice as to whether to be the face of it. You don't have a choice of whether to opt in to being a part of the public story around this. Inevitably, you just will be. So you have to figure out how you want to do that collectively, individually.

These guys, they're not from here. They're not from Boston. And they're not given a choice as to whether to take on a public role with this or not; they just have to because of who they are. I remember being impressed with how they stepped up to handle that in an authentic way, in an appropriate and sensitive way.

Lovullo: We realized that we were part of the fabric of that town and now we were becoming a part of the fabric of that tragedy.

Ross: You never felt so a part of something so fast, me personally, of a new city coming in and trying to fit into a new team and trying to fit into the city and what it's all about. We were thrown right into that with the bombing.

With a road gray jersey sporting "BOSTON STRONG" around the city's 617 area code hanging in their dugout, the Red Sox swept the Indians. They flew home after the finale, arriving a bit after midnight on what was developing into one of the wildest nights in the history of Boston.

Ross: As you think things are starting to get better, you get off the airplane as we land back in Boston, they were chasing the guys at that moment.

Gomes: I didn't think whoever did the bomb was still fucking in town.

Identified by the police as the chief suspects in the bombing on Thursday afternoon, Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev had shot and killed MIT police officer Sean Collier, hijacked a car and engaged the police in a firefight in Watertown late that night. Anecdotally, half the city stayed up through the night, watching the non-stop special report on the local news.

Jack McCormick (Red Sox traveling secretary): We came back to Boston and made it to Fenway, the quickest trip we ever made from the airport because there was no traffic, no nothing. It was very eerie. Some guys didn't even leave because they were watching it on television.

Gomes: I remember driving home, and it was late, but no one was on the road. I mean, no one. It was an eerie feeling. It just felt like the streetlights were dimmer.

Nava: All you heard were sirens all throughout Boston. It was almost a scene from a Batman movie: No one on the streets, and good fighting evil.

Orsillo: Even in snow lockdowns, there are other cars out there. Literally, we were the only ones that were not law enforcement on the road. For me, heading out of there to go home to Rhode Island, seeing all the police and law enforcement coming in from the other towns heading back out on 95 was just so weird.

Lovullo: I sat and watched everything that was going on until four or five in the morning.

By Friday morning, Governor Deval Patrick had asked the entire city of Boston to shelter in place. The city was, essentially, on lockdown.

Kennedy: [Mayor Thomas] Menino desperately wanted us to play, but the shelter-in-place was still in place. The fans can't come to the game. Even players, we're supposed to be on lockdown in our homes. We understood and he recognized that operationally, it just wasn't going to be possible.

The game was postponed "to support the efforts of law enforcement officers." With the lockdown still in effect, players from both teams ran into a problem.

Nava: We were starving, but we had no place to go get food. We knew based off the reports that the wisest thing to do was let the cops and the FBI handle what was going on. But at some point, you've got to eat.

The Royals, too, had nearly eaten the Westin Copley, which had also been serving as a staging ground for journalists that week, out of food. Many of the Red Sox lived in an apartment complex down the block from Fenway Park.

Ross: There was a pizza place in the bottom. We couldn't get food. So we ended up just ordering the pizza that was down there, maybe five or six pizzas. We couldn't leave so we walked outside the apartment, opened the door next door and got the pizzas to go back... Most of us met up for a late lunch, early dinner on the rooftop, just to get out of the apartment for a little bit. We just sat up there and talked a little bit, let the kids run around.

Bailey: We had just gotten together on the roof with our families, and the entire city looked like a painting from up there. It was a standstill. It was really eerie.

Hanrahan: The day they canceled the game was awful. I had to take my dog out, and it was just a ghost town. I saw one person that day, who literally walked five feet from me and we didn't make eye contact. It was just eerie.

Ned Yost (Royals manager): The only people that were outside were policemen carrying their M15s or their assault rifles, everywhere. You didn't see people.

Eric Hosmer (Royals first baseman): You could see the bomb-squad guys on the roofs.

Right around sundown, after the shelter-in-place had been lifted, police cornered and apprehended Dzhokhar Tzarnaev after he had been hiding in a backyard boat in Watertown. Tamerlan had been killed the night before. The Red Sox could move forward with Saturday afternoon's game.

Lovullo: When I had heard that the criminals were captured, I actually went down to as close to the finish line as I could get and celebrated with the people. I considered myself a Bostonian and I was so proud to stand with them and unite with them.

Saturday morning, several Red Sox players toured Boston-area hospitals to meet with recovering victims and hospital staff. The team would continue to do that throughout the season.

Ross: You go into these rooms and their eyes just lit up and their mood lit up because they saw Boston Red Sox players. I felt such a responsibility from then on out — I think everybody did — that we were playing for more than just our organization. We were playing for those people in those beds, for those doctors and nurses and that city, trying to get them something positive to cling onto that year. I've never felt that kind of responsibility for something as I did that year.

By Saturday, Fenway Park had been swept for bombs three times in the last four days. It was actively patrolled by bomb-sniffing dogs all Saturday.

Cherington: I remember being a little nervous, honestly. We are in a public place. Fenway Park becomes a place where you have to start thinking about security. That was on the minds of some of our players.

Kennedy: Everyone was on edge. Even though they had caught him, you still are living with this sort of uncertainty of what's going on around your city.

The game was preceded by a 25-minute ceremony that included survivors, first responders, marathon volunteers and law enforcement.

Middlebrooks: Watching the video tribute, you really didn't know what to feel. I was sad because I hurt for the families, and then I would be overcome with anger because of the evil act of those kids.

Gomes: Anytime anything's on TV, it's hard to put the real deal behind it, the backing to it. Cartoons are on TV. And then seeing all that, you're talking CIA, you're talking FBI, you're talking SWAT, you're talking the governor. And then that's when it got real. And then seeing the people who were able to make it who had been injured, wow. I remember thinking this is a lifer. This is a lifetime moment. This is American history.

Nava: I was in tears. I had shades on, thank God.

Lovullo: Nobody could hold back their tears. It just came pouring out of everybody in different ways at different times. I know I was standing on the line for the national anthem in tears, and everybody else was, too.

Yost had been the third-base coach for the 2001 Atlanta Braves, the first visiting team to play in New York following Sept. 11.

Yost: Both of those games had the same sense and the same feeling of... of conquering a tough situation together. It was a celebration, and we felt it. You just felt the togetherness and strength of the city. I guess you can kind of call it one of the highlights of your career, being a part of that game.

The pregame ceremony culminated in a brief, improvised speech from David Ortiz. On the disabled list to start the season, Ortiz was in Boston instead of in Cleveland during that week — “staying in New England

[that week] changed me,” he wrote in his autobiography. “Those four days told me a lot about where I lived, and just how deep my connection was to the city that adopted me.”

Asked to say a few words, Ortiz did not prepare a script.

Nava: There was nothing planned about that from our perspective. It wasn't like, 'We're going to give David the mike.' He got it and spoke from the heart and shared what a lot of people were thinking. And dropped an F-bomb.

Ross: David's speech, I wanted to scream, 'Fuck yeah!' as loud as I possibly could.

Ortiz didn't register that he had cursed in front of a sellout crowd. He briefly worried if he'd get in trouble for that — until he got a hard high five from Mayor Menino. “What I said became a rallying cry.”

Mike Moustakas (Royals third baseman): I don't even know the words to describe how I felt. It was an unbelievable feeling to watch him talk and watch the city rally around the Red Sox.... All I remember is being there and feeling how sports could heal in times of need.

Ross: You could tell he knew Boston probably better than anybody. He spoke from the heart and meant it.

There was the small matter of a game still to be played.

Middlebrooks: It felt like the biggest game of our lives. We knew we had to win, no matter what.

Ross: We had to win that game, right? We had to win that game. We could not lose.

The Red Sox trailed 2-1 in the bottom of the eighth. Gomes led off with a pinch-hit double, and Napoli walked with two outs. There were two on for Nava against Kelvin Herrera.

Gomes: We all had faith in each other with the clichés — keep battling and all that stuff. Sometimes you've got to be a realist: Daniel Nava's probably not taking Herrera deep right here.

It was a 1-1 fastball that was supposed to hit the outside corner. It was middle-middle.

Nava: That's probably my favorite one, just because of the nature of what it encapsulated — everything it meant for the town. I don't ever want to be a part of that again as far as the tragedy that took place, but I'm grateful I was in that spot to help the team and the city.

Orsillo: When Daniel Nava hits the home run in the eighth, I remember really only being able to get out, 'Boston, this is for you!' After that, I couldn't really speak.

Hosmer: When Nava hit the home run, it was pretty cool to be there for it. Obviously we were on the wrong end of it, but at that point in time baseball was not important.

Moustakas: To that city, it felt like Game 7 of the World Series. It was unbelievable to watch that team play the game that way. Obviously we wanted to win the game, but in that time, it was OK. This is a little bit more than just baseball.

Gomes: I don't know what you want to believe in, but there was some extra help.

Middlebrooks: It was almost like we had a 10th player on the field with us that day.

Bailey: I've never felt a team so close to fans before. It was like the fans were part of our team all of a sudden.

Bailey allowed a home run to Lorenzo Cain in the ninth before striking out Alex Gordon with two runners on to earn the save.

Bailey: Running out of the bullpen, I've never felt that kind of total-body numbness.

Orsillo: I've done three no-hitters, two 500th home runs with Manny and David. To me, the most emotional game, the game that meant the most to me, was that Saturday game.

Pedroia: That win, it kind of felt like that the rest of the year. It was more than baseball. We were just trying to do everything we could for the people around here.

The Red Sox played that way the rest of the season. A year after finishing last in the American League East, they led nearly wire to wire, finishing with 97 wins. In October, after some more eighth-inning magic at Fenway in the ALCS, they won the World Series by defeating the Cardinals in six games. They clinched the championship at Fenway for the first time in 95 years.

Nava: It became an unsaid motivation for us to just keep going. We had a good team, but we had an attitude that it didn't matter how far we were down. Two runs? Three runs? We didn't care. We were going to come back and fight.

Bailey: That team recognized that we were an outlet at that point in time and just kept on winning. We just fed off that energy.

Napoli: It stuck with you all year — just the way the city came together, the way we came together to try to help people out as much as we possibly could.

Ross: I still to this day have not shaved my beard. It's thinner, but I don't know that I'll ever take away that part of me, that beard as a part of me. That team, that year, the bombing and that city, I feel a responsibility to keep that. That's a part of me.

The traditional duck boat parade route stopped by the Marathon finish line on Boylston Street. There, Gomes placed the World Series trophy and the original Boston Strong 617 jersey on the finish line. He told those who organized the parade that he wanted to turn a place of tragedy into one of triumph.

Gomes: For me to do that, in my head I was thinking of like world wars when they set that American flag, or the American flag on the fucking moon. It was so powerful, knowing that was going to be a forever moment.

Lovullo: As we're on the duck boats through Boston on the parade route, there were millions of people on the streets for the same reason: We were celebrating a world championship but we were also remembering how we united in a special way.

Five years later, the achievement of that season still stands out for that team.

Ross: Having that responsibility and actually coming through, I still feel a strong connection to the city because of that.

Nava: [Now], you start to realize that what we had was something that was really special. You don't want to forget that.

Cherington: Among any other team I've ever been around — and I was around the '04 and '07 teams, too — that team played with a collective purpose I haven't been around before or since.... It really felt like whatever the outcome was, they were going to do it themselves.

Ross returned to Boston this past week for the first time since his departure as a free agent in 2014.

Ross: I went down there to Boylston. I went out there and I could not get the images out of my head of the windows boarded up with wood and all the tennis shoes that were on the fence down there.

I could see it like it was yesterday.

*** *The Baltimore Sun***

Blaming cold Orioles offense on frigid temps? It's an easy excuse

Eduardo A. Encina

The Orioles typically play their fair share of games in cold weather in the season's first month, but this season many of their first 16 games have been played in especially frigid temperatures.

It's easy to blame team's early-season offensive struggles on the weather, especially after a game like Sunday's 3-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park, in which the Orioles were held to three hits while playing through 34-degree temperatures, 23-mph winds and constant precipitation.

In opening the season with a 5-11 record, the Orioles are averaging just 3.19 runs a game, which is down from last year's 4.59. Last year, the Orioles also played through several cold games over the first month, but averaged 4.39 runs in April.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the weather," Orioles first baseman Chris Davis said. "We've played very few games with the temperature above 55. And that's just kind of the way it goes. That's the old adage, the pitchers have the advantage the first month of the season and it takes the hitters a little bit to get their timing down.

"When you're battling the elements like this on a day-in, day-out basis, it makes it that much harder. But we can't make any excuses. We have to continue to work. I said it the other day, you've got to continue to trust the process and understand there's a long season and there's a lot of baseball to be played."

The Orioles have scored three runs or fewer in 11 of their 16 games. Sunday's game was the Orioles' seventh game in their first 16 that had a first-pitch temperature of below 50 degrees.

But the cold temperatures and offensive output don't necessarily coincide.

The Orioles have actually had success in cold temperatures. They won three of four games the previous weekend at Yankee Stadium; three of those games were played in temperatures of 43 degrees or below, and the Orioles won two of those, both in extra innings.

Before that series in New York, the Orioles were swept in three games in Houston, and the first-pitch temperature there wasn't lower than 68 degrees. The Orioles scored two runs or fewer in two of those games, and the ball was carrying extremely well.

It's easy to say the bats will get going when the weather starts to heat up, and we know that rising temperatures — and the summer humidity that accompanies it in Baltimore — will be welcomed at hitter-friendly Camden Yards by a power-oriented Orioles lineup.

However, the Orioles are off to their worst start since 2010, so they have less time to wait for warmer days to climb out of this early hole.

And this week's series in Detroit will offer little escape from the cold. The temperature isn't expected to get above 48 degrees at any point during their three-game set at Comerica Park that starts Tuesday night and concludes Thursday afternoon. Nightly lows are expected to be in the low 30s.

*** Associated Press**

Red Sox extend best start in 118-year history, beat O's 3-1

BOSTON -- Even playing in wild chills below freezing couldn't slow down the red-hot Boston Red Sox.

Andrew Benintendi got three hits and the Red Sox extended the best start in their 118-year history, beating the Baltimore Orioles 3-1 Sunday at frigid Fenway Park.

"I was miserable, nothing short of miserable," Boston ace Chris Sale said. "I said it when I came out of the game: `This is the most miserable I've ever been on a baseball field, by far, not even close."

Mitch Moreland also had three hits for the Red Sox, who improved to a major league-best 13-2 under new manager Alex Cora.

"There was no complaining. They knew the conditions were going to be awful," Cora said.

Boston completed an abbreviated three-game sweep and finished 8-1 on its first homestand of the season. The series was supposed to last four games, but the traditional Patriots' Day game scheduled for Monday morning at 11:05 a.m. was postponed late Sunday afternoon due to a forecast that calls for heavy rain throughout the day.

The game will be made up May 17, which had been an off day for both teams prior to their next series at Fenway.

It's the first time the Patriots' Day game in Boston has been postponed since 1984.

Manny Machado had an RBI double for Baltimore, which has lost five of six.

Players on both teams wore extra layers, many with neck wraps or head shells. Fenway Park, usually packed with fans, was less than half-full in conditions that made it feel more like a New England Patriots home game in mid-December. The Red Sox posted an announcement offering free hot chocolate to fans from the middle of the fifth inning on.

Heath Hembree (2-0) worked two innings of scoreless relief. Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his fifth save.

Sale gave up one run and two hits in five innings, striking out eight and walking two. Orioles starter Dylan Bundy (0-2) allowed three runs -- one earned -- on seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with six strikeouts, two walks and two wild pitches.

"It was tough," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "Obviously, Chris Sale is an outstanding pitcher and we think Dylan is, too."

Trailing 1-0 in the fifth, the Red Sox tied it on Benintendi's RBI triple. They went ahead the next inning when J.D. Martinez scored on a wild pitch after reaching on third baseman Danny Valencia's fielding error and advancing on Moreland's double. Tzu-Wei Lin's RBI double made it 3-1.

Pitching in short sleeves with a game-time temperature of 34 degrees and a wild chill in the mid-20s, the lanky Sale gave up hits to two of the first three batters in the game. Trey Mancini reached on an infield hit and scored on Machado's double.

Considering the forecast for Monday, neither team seemed surprised this one was played.

"I thought we would play today because I knew the weather for the next couple of days doesn't look very good," Orioles first baseman Chris Davis said. "I thought if there was a chance for us to play today, whether it was in the sleet and snow, I think we kind of expected to play."

Before the game, Boston designated hitter Hanley Ramirez was asked if he could remember playing in such cold conditions.

"In the Dominican," he joked.

Then the slugger explained he doesn't like wearing long sleeves because they feel "tight."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Orioles: 2B Jonathan Schoop missed his second straight game after he was placed on the 10-day disabled list Saturday with a strained right oblique.

Red Sox: Cora gave OF Mookie Betts the day off after he bruised his left foot sliding into the plate and colliding with Baltimore catcher Chance Sisco's shin guard.

SOMBER MEMORY

There was a moment of silence commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings. Two bombs went off near the finish line less than an hour after the Red Sox completed their annual Patriots' Day game on April 15, 2013.

NOT WORRIED

Cora said he never considered not pitching Sale in the rough conditions because the lefty had worked in the cold when he was with the White Sox.

"I think it's tough to play anybody in these conditions," Cora said. "Somebody that's capable of doing it is him -- he played in Chicago.

"I read an article -- I think it was (in) 2016, Robin (Ventura) was his manager and said: 'I know it's miserable, but it's a happy day when you have your ace going.'"

UP NEXT

Orioles: RHP Andrew Cashner (1-1, 2.50 ERA) starts the opener of a three-game series Tuesday in Detroit.

Red Sox: LHP David Price (1-1, 2.40) pitches the opener of a nine-game road trip Tuesday against the Los Angeles Angels. Price left his last start Wednesday after feeling a "sensation" in his throwing hand.