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Red Sox young manager
takes a different path

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A different approach

Contrary to Belichick and Pats, Sox manager embracing the past

Chris Mason



There are different ways to win a championship — emphasizing offense versus defense, maybe, or setting rigid team rules compared to having that “loose” clubhouse where everybody has a good time.

But repeat winners, at least in modern sports, have a few common characteristics. There’s a military-style leader and coach, a top-down team structure that promotes discipline, and maybe a superstar or two who are in the mix, willing to do anything to win.

New Englanders are used to seeing that model at work in Foxborough. Think Bill Belichick, the New England Patriots, six Super Bowl championships.

Then there’s Alex Cora.

Unlike Belichick, who is entering his 44th year as a coach, Cora, who turned 43 in October, has spent two seasons as a coach and manager. Both of those ended in World Series championships — with the Houston Astros in 2017, and of course the Red Sox last year.

The question is, can the coaching neophyte do it again, and with a style that’s about as different from Belichick’s as the game of football is from baseball?

Cora is nothing if not easy going. He doesn’t yell much. Players get some say in when and where they play. He’s got a positive relationship with most of the Boston media.

And he literally sees the world, time and space differently.

New chapter

Belichick’s most trusted strategy as coach is to compartmentalize. Once the upcoming ring ceremony to commemorate February’s Super Bowl win over the L.A. Rams is finished, last year’s Patriots season will be locked away in



Belichick’s past.

Should someone ask about those 2018 Patriots, and maybe how they held one of the best offenses in the NFL to just three points in the Super Bowl, he’ll mutter something about “different team ... we’re on to 2019.”

End of discussion.

Cora, on the other hand, hasn’t stopped managing the team that beat the L.A. Dodgers in five games last October. What happens for the Red Sox now is an extension of what happened then.

“Loved it, we’re going to build on it,” Cora says of last year. “2019 is a different chapter to the same

See **CORA**, Page S6



Sox manager Alex Cora says the Red Sox are out to write a “new chapter” to the same winning story, in stark contrast to New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, who doesn’t like to analyze the past.

AP photos

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CORA

■ Continued from Page S4

story.”

He doesn’t shy from questions about last season.

“You turn the page,” he says, “but do we really want to turn the page? It’s a book, and we wrote a chapter last year, and let’s write a new chapter this year. But we can always go back and see what happened and learn from that.

“Sometimes turning the page is so negative,” he adds. “I’m like, ‘No, in this case, it was very positive last year, and we can learn a lot from what we did.’

“Is it going to be the same way? Hopefully. I don’t mind that. We know it’s going to be a little different, but we can learn a lot from what we did last year and put it into play this year.”

Same Sox

Personality and style have a lot to do with the differences between Cora and Belichick. The different methods also make sense because of the way their teams are put together.

Between the NFL draft and free agency, the Patriots have turn-over in the double-digits every year, on a far larger roster.

The Red Sox, on the other hand, will bring back virtually the same team that won last October’s World Series.

Craig Kimbrel and Joe Kelly are gone, but there’s a good chance they’ll still have 23 of 25 guys. All of them know what it takes to win, all having heeded Cora’s message last year.

The young core has been together for a few years now.

It may not match the Patriots’ run of nine straight AFC Championship appearances, but Cora believes there’s something to be said for the continuity of three straight AL East titles.

“I do think the organization does an outstanding job as far as like keeping us in check and humble and what we want to do,” he said. “I wasn’t part of the first two division titles but there’s something good happening here.

“This team has put themselves and this organization in a spot to win the World Series the last three years. That’s what it’s all about — give yourselves a chance throughout the season to make the playoffs,” he said. “You make



Alex Cora gives credit to the Red Sox organization for consistently putting together playoff contending teams.

AP photo

it, and you win 11 or 12, and you win the World Series.

“But if we can put ourselves in successful situations and give ourselves a chance to compete in October, that’s what it’s all about.”

Sounds straightforward enough, but the task is a tall one.

The last time a baseball team won back-to-back titles — the Yankees won three from 1998 through 2000 — Belichick was scuffling through a 5-11 first season in Foxborough, and Tom Brady was a scrawny rookie riding the bench.

If Cora wants to repeat, he’ll do it on his terms, his way.

It’s gotten him this far — and there’s more than one way to build a winner.

Chris Mason is a Red Sox beat writer for the Eagle-Tribune and CNHI Sports Boston. Email him at cmason@northofboston.com, and follow him on Twitter at @ByChrisMason



Patriots head coach Bill Belichick waves to fans during the victory parade in February. By now, his attention has turned to next season.

AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo



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No. 6: Pitcher Nathan Eovaldi won't pitch 200 innings this season, but he will stay healthy.

Chris Mason

ONCE AGAIN, it's time for this storyteller to turn fortune teller.

Though Red Sox fans will be sad to leave 2018 in the rearview mirror, the new season is upon us. Somehow, Opening Day is already here.

So what might 2019 bring? Here are seven predictions for the Sox this year:

1 THE EARLY HANGOVER IS REAL

Don't be surprised if the Red Sox start slow.

For whatever reason, championship hangovers seem to be universal across the sporting landscape. (Did you see how the Philadelphia Eagles began their title defense?)

On top of that, the Sox open the season on an 11-game West Coast trip — that's really more like 13 because they finish spring training with two games against the Cubs in Arizona — and Alex Cora has made it clear that after an all-in postseason, he's not pushing the envelope early.

The championship hangover isn't just mental.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are the only other team in baseball that had an October as taxing as Boston's, so

LUCKY 7

Predictions for the Sox season

Cora has taken it slow with his horses. Very slow.

He gave his top four starters a light spring and hopes to have Chris Sale, David Price, Rick Porcello and Nate Eovaldi ready for six innings or 90 pitches on the first trip of the season. That means a lot of stress will be put on a shaky bullpen, and the two best arms back there, Matt Barnes and Ryan Brasier, also won't be asked to overexert themselves.

Add it all up, and it's a recipe for .500 out the chute.

2 SOX STILL WIN 100 GAMES AND THE AL EAST

As the season wears on, they'll catch themselves.

Their roster is loaded with talent, the American League has only gotten worse (see: Mariners, Seattle), and the Sox have proven they know how to elevate their game when the time comes.

They'll make the playoffs with ease, and win the division in September.

Boston's strength lies in its rotation, which is light years ahead of New York's. To complicate that, the one ace in the Yankees' deck, Luis Severino, has some wonky rotator cuff issues.

New York has a superior 'pen, but Boston can bolster its, and ultimately relievers won't matter given the disparity in starters.

3 DEVERS GOES DEEP 30 TIMES

Perhaps the boldest prediction on the list, and Rafael Devers has the swing to do it.

As a 21-year-old adjusting to life in the majors, Devers hit 21 in 121 games last season. With an offseason devoted to getting in better shape and another year learning from J.D.

Martinez, the third baseman is primed to take a leap forward. Devers hit everything this spring, too, batting .390 in his first 15 Grapefruit League games.

4 BOGAERTS BECOMES AN ALL-STAR AGAIN

A compelling All-Star case could have been made last season, but with a major payday looming at next season's end, Xander Bogaerts will be even better in 2019.

Couple his contract year with a thinning herd of elite American League shortstops and Bogaerts should be a shoo-in for the Mid-summer Classic.

Didi Gregorius will begin the year on the disabled list, Carlos Correa has regressed, Jean Segura was dealt to the National League, and Manny Machado signed out there, too.

If you're planning a road trip to the festivities at Progressive Field this July, expect to see Bogaerts at short.

5 BARNES GROWS INTO THE BEST RELIEVER ROLE

It'd be a surprise if Dave Dombrowski doesn't add another arm via trade, but by season's end,



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

No. 4: Shortstop Xander Bogaerts will suit up for the American League at this year's Mid-summer Classic.

look for Matt Barnes to be Boston's best reliever regardless. The former first-round pick has shown steady improvement every year,

and that ascent will continue.

Most prospects don't improve at a linear 45-degree angle. Barnes has. He was as good as (if not better than) Craig Kimbrel last season.

Now a favorite for the closer's role, Barnes finds another level with ninth-inning adrenaline.

6 IT'S ALL GOOD WITH NATE

For all of the concern about Eovaldi's arm — surely you've heard he's never thrown 200 innings! — the flamethrower will stay off the disabled list in 2019.

He still won't throw 200 innings. Nobody on the Sox staff will. A New Age manager cognizant of third-time-through-the-order numbers (as well as wear and tear), Cora will continue taking guys out relatively early.

But the Texan who opened the season pumping 100 mph in Grapefruit League play will still be lighting up the radar gun come September.

7 MOOKIE DOESN'T SIGN AN EXTENSION

After the 2020 season, Mookie Betts will become the second-highest paid player in baseball history, be it in Boston or elsewhere.



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

No. 3: Third-baseman Rafael Devers will take a leap forward at the plate and hit 30 homers this season.

The reigning AL MVP will still fall millions short of Mike Trout's epic deal, 12 years and \$430 million, but Betts will eclipse Bryce Harper's \$330 million with ease.

By passing again on an

extension this season, he'll move another year closer to that post-2020 free agency.

Disclaimer: *If six or more of these come true, I'm heading to Vegas to cash in on my clairvoyance.*

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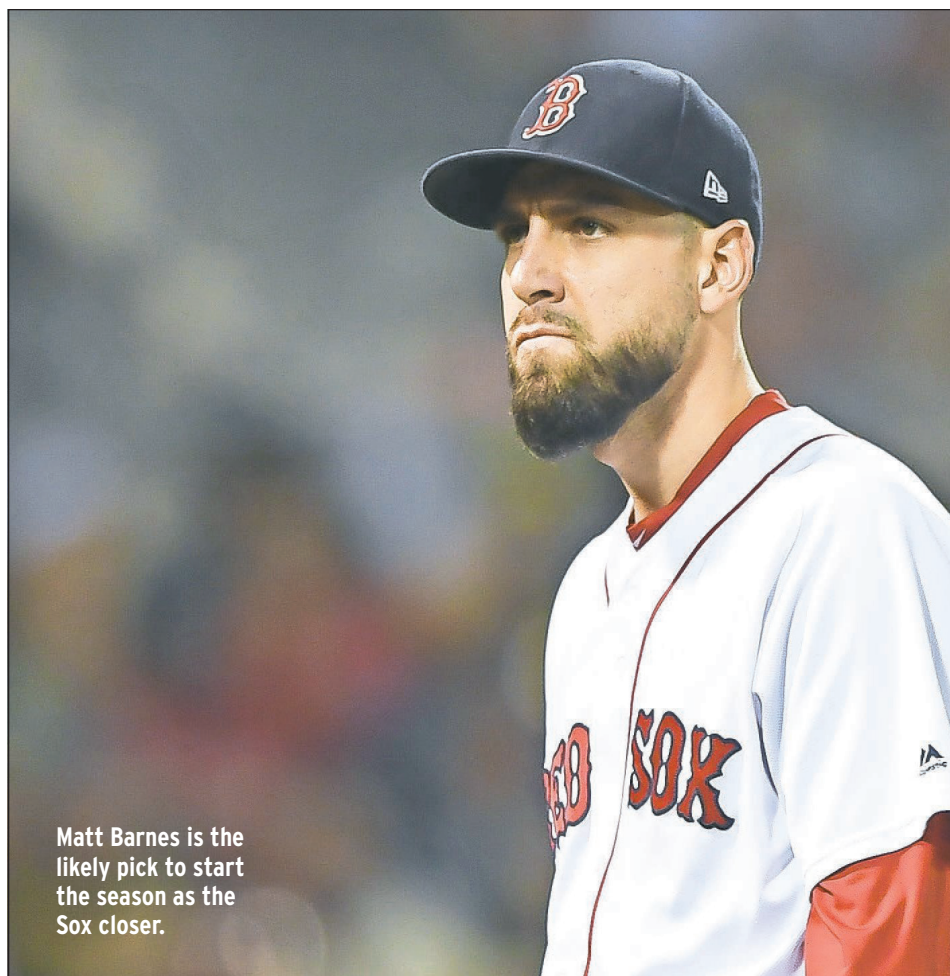
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Matt Barnes is the likely pick to start the season as the Sox closer.

Bullpen blues

Not replacing Kimbrel or Kelly a huge gamble

Chris Mason

An All-Star closer, the best reliever in the postseason, and 128 regular season innings. That's what the Red Sox lost in Craig Kimbrel and Joe Kelly, and have been very laissez faire about replacing.

Throughout the offseason, Dave Dombrowski asserted that he was comfortable filling the holes with internal options. The plan was to promote late-inning relievers from within.

So as David Robertson, Andrew Miller and Kelvin Herrera signed relatively modest multi-year deals, Boston watched idly.

While the Yankees landed Zack Britton and Adam Ottavino, the Red Sox went diving into the bargain bin. They dealt for Colten Brewer, an intriguing project that was going to be an odd-man out on San Diego's 40-man roster, and signed Jenry Mejia, a thrice-busted PED user who hasn't pitched in the big leagues since 2015.

"As far as signings are concerned I would say we're through at this point," Dombrowski said at the end of February.

They're crossing their fingers and hoping for the best in the bullpen. It's a bold



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photos

Brandon Workman will see some innings in middle relief, but his velocity has been down this spring.

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Matt Barnes will likely be asked to close, something he's never done before. Ryan Brasier will be asked to replicate his where'd-this-guy-come-from success of a year ago. Tyler Thornburg will be asked to be an elite late-inning arm, something he was in 2016 but hasn't been since.

Beyond that?

They've got Brandon Workman, whose velocity has been down this spring, Heath Hembree, who had an incredibly uneven 2018, and Brian Johnson and Hector Velazquez, admirable long relievers but neither blessed with high-octane stuff.

Prospects Travis Lakins, Durbin Feltman and Darwin Hernandez have potential, but as prospects, that's all it is at this point. None has tossed a big league inning, and all three are expected to start the season in the minors.

Now, consider last October for a moment.

With Barnes, Brasier and Kelly on the absolute top of their game, and Kimbrel navigating shaky-but-successful ninth innings, the bullpen still needed help from the rotation throughout the World Series run. And that was with everything going right.

It wasn't just out of ingenuity, it was out of necessity.

"We talked about our bullpen and maybe there was a gap there. One inning," bench coach Ron Roenicke told me after Game 5 in Los Angeles. "Who do we fill it with?"

Fortunately, the starters were able to do their best Spartacus impression to fill the void, but that's of little help for this coming 162-game season.

With Kelly and Kimbrel on the roster, the eighth inning was still a major hole. Rather than adding arms that would be up for the task, the Sox have merely subtracted two more.

New York will likely feature the best bullpen in

baseball, with Aroldis Chapman, Dellin Betances, Chad Green, Jonathan Holder, Britton and Ottavino. Those are four guys with the stuff to close and two more pretty legit arms -- a far cry from hoping for the best at Fenway.

It's obvious the two rivals are built differently. Boston's strength lies in its rotation and starting lineup, but that doesn't mean the bullpen should be an afterthought.

What's the philosophy here? Hope you're leading 5-2 in the seventh and cross your fingers that the bullpen holds?

For a team with dreams of repeating as World Series champions, that's an awfully big gamble. A little more spending this offseason could have had the bullpen feeling far less leaky.

Chris Mason is a Red Sox beat writer for The Eagle-Tribune and CNHI Sports Boston. Email him at cmason@northofboston.com, and follow him on Twitter at @ByChrisMason



With Craig Kimbrel and Joe Kelly gone, Ryan Brasier will be asked to pick up where he left off last season.



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Can Dustin really reel it in?



Dustin Pedroia, well known for his breakneck style of play, acknowledges he's going to have to tone it down to protect his surgically repaired knee.

AP photo

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PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Second baseman Ian Kinsler, left, talks with injured second baseman Dustin Pedroia during batting practice before Game 3 of World Series at Dodgers Stadium in October.

Chris Mason

They say leopards can't change their spots, nor can tigers change their stripes.

But can a muddy chicken keep its feathers clean?

We're talking about Dustin Pedroia — who was given that hilariously apt nickname by Josh Beckett back in the day — and that question will have a major impact on the 2019 Red Sox season.

Can Pedroia tone it down on a surgically-repaired knee to keep his career alive?

Going a million miles a minute is hardwired into his DNA. The mentality endeared him to Sox fans, won him an MVP award, and cost him a knee. Literally. He's got a cadaver in there now.

But now the 35-year-old veteran knows he's going to need to play differently if he wants to play at all.

"If we're up by 10 runs and a guy hits a ball that I don't know if I can make the play, I'm sure our pitcher will understand if I don't dive for it and it goes through," Pedroia said. "I've never done that before. I don't look at the scoreboard until like the eighth inning, but you know, I just have to get

used to it.

"Because, I mean, if I dive and bang my knee in a certain way and can't walk," Pedroia paused, "probably don't want to do that."

It was somewhat jarring to hear Pedroia say it, but that acknowledgement was a good sign for the Red Sox.

Predicting what he's preaching will be the difficult part.

It's been 20 months since Pedroia opted to pioneer a cartilage restoration surgery, in hopes of reviving a torn-up knee. He and Steven Wright were the first two baseball players to undergo the procedure.

The uncharted waters Pedroia entered were littered with icebergs, and in hindsight, he'd have stayed off the operating table.

"I wouldn't have done it," Pedroia said. "I don't regret doing it, but looking back and knowing what I know now, I wouldn't have done it. You know what I mean?"

But this is the reality of Pedroia's situation now. After being sidelined for all but three games last season, he knows how many view his return.

"He's in the Tom Brady mode: Me against the world," Alex Cora said.

From a playing-time perspective, the Sox aren't going to push him. An

optimistic outlook from Dave Dombrowski still has Pedroia sitting out and resting for almost 40 games.

"We're still not looking at a 150-game player," Dombrowski said. "We're hopeful that he's a 125-game player at this point. We do feel we have some people who are solid and can fill in. To fill in if (Pedroia) plays 120, guys like (Brock) Holt, a guy like (Eduardo) Nuñez coming over there. Even some depth with Tzu-Wei Lin in our organization we like a great deal. They are also capable of playing more games, that combination. But we're hopeful that Pedey will be the guy. The main guy."

To be that guy, Pedroia is going to need to play it safe. If he's able to — a big if, to be sure — his teammates believe the sky is the limit.

"He's one of those guys you can never rule out," Chris Sale said. "I dare you to rule him out, actually, because he's out to prove a point this year. That's a scary thought. You take a perennial All-Star, three-time world champion, former MVP. If he wants more now, I think we're in for some pretty awesome stuff with him this year."



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Three kids on the rise

Chavis, Hernandez and Lakins could crack major leagues in 2019

Chris Mason

In 2016, there was Andrew Benintendi. In 2017, there was Rafael Devers. In 2018, there was ... nobody, really.

Somewhat remarkably, the Red Sox won it all without any reinforcements from their own system. Of course, Dave Dombrowski dealt for World Series MVP Steve Pearce and Game 3 folk hero Nathan Eovaldi in July, but as far as their own farm goes, the Sox didn't get anything.

That's the cost of trading for a Chris Sale — flame-throwing prospect Michael Kopech made his debut in a White Sox uniform — but it shouldn't be the case this

season.

There are three top prospects that could make big league debuts this season, albeit none touted as highly as Benintendi or Devers.

Michael Chavis flashed his power in Grapefruit League play, homering four times in just 22 at-bats.

The 23-year-old corner infielder homered 31 times as a minor-leaguer in 2017, but was popped with an 80-game PED suspension last spring. Chavis kept raking when he returned and finished the season in Triple-A Pawtucket.

"He can hit. I think everybody knew that except for me," Alex Cora said. "I didn't see him last year, he was hurt (in spring training), so you see the

numbers and videos, whatever. But you see a game, and yeah he can swing the bat."

With first and third base pretty solidified in 2019, Chavis is going to work out in the middle of the infield as well, in an attempt to expedite his arrival.

"He didn't play too much second, but (in one game) he made two routine plays and he looked very relaxed, turned a double play," Cora said. "That's something he'll do wherever he goes. We'll move him around and make sure he gets his reps at second base, too."

The manager tabbed 22-year-old lefty Darwinzon Hernandez as a player that will be in Boston at some point this summer.



AP photo/Gerald Herbert

Third basement Bobby Dalbec is a top prospect in Boston's farm system, but his arrival to the big leagues will most likely be in 2020.



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Sox manager Alex Cora says relief pitcher Darwinzon Hernandez, 22, will get called up to the big leagues at some point this season.

The 6-foot-2, 245-pound Venezuelan has a mid-90s fastball and a nasty curveball. Hernandez took the Arizona Fall League by storm, striking out almost half the batters he faced and registering a spin rate that was off the charts.

“Stuff-wise you can see it,” Cora said. “The fastball, the breaking ball, his body, it looks like he belongs. He’s a guy that is going to contribute. I’m not saying March 28 or in September. It’s in between that, he’s going to be part of this and make an impact.”

To give Hernandez a taste of the big league life, Cora gave him a cool assignment early in camp: Spend a day following Chris Sale and David Price around JetBlue Park.

“It was something that honestly excited me, because I look up to, I actually follow those guys,” Hernandez said, via translator Daveson Perez. “To see how they prepare to throw their side (sessions), how they went about their sides, and

everything about their work was something that’s very exciting to me.”

Travis Lakins is another arm coming soon to a Red Sox bullpen near you.

After an injury-plagued beginning as a starter, Lakins, now 24, was tossed into a relief role in 2018 and impressed. In 36 appearances between Portland and Pawtucket, Lakins amassed a 2.32 ERA and was in the conversation as a late season call-up.

“It takes more than 25 guys to win a World Series,” Cora said. “It takes a whole organizational effort and at one point in the season, I’m not saying Opening Day or the last day of the season, at one point (Lakins and Hernandez) will contribute.”

Durbin Feltman is another reliever to watch, but he may need a bit more seasoning before entering the big-league conversation. Third baseman Bobby Dalbec has the highest ceiling of any player in the Sox system, but his arrival date probably won’t come until 2020.



AP photo/Gerald Herbert

Corner infielder Michael Chavis will work out at second base to speed up his arrival to the majors. Chavis flashed some power in spring training, hitting four homers in just 22 at-bats.

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MASON'S PICKS

Sox should win AL East, but Astros will rebound to title in 2019

Chris Mason

Before the first pitch of the season had been thrown, it was already clear who most (if not all) of the play-off teams in the American League would be. Sox, Yanks, Indians, and Astros for sure, and then either the Angels or the A's for the final Wild Card spot.

It's a damning testament to the lack of parity at the moment: You're either a have or a have not.

I like the Red Sox to retain their AL East crown for the fourth straight year on the strength of their

rotation. The bullpen is an issue, but it's one that can be remedied over the course of the season. Add Yankees ace Luis Severino's murky rotator cuff situation, and it's Boston's division to lose. They won't.

On paper the Indians roster is weaker than in past years, but the AL Central might be the worst division in baseball, so they shouldn't have a problem winning it again. The Astros are a juggernaut in the West, and given Oakland's horse Sean Manaea on the shelf, I'm going with the Angels for the final Wild Card spot.

AL EAST

Red Sox
Yankees*
Rays
Blue Jays
Orioles

AL CENTRAL

Indians
Twins
White Sox
Tigers
Royals

AL WEST

Astros
Angels*
A's
Rangers
Mariners

* - Wild Card

The National League is where things get interesting. Specifically, the NL East.

The race will be an all-out sprint, with four teams that could conceivably win the division. Bryce Harper has generated all of the headlines, but it's Aaron Nola's arm that will lift the Phillies back into the play-offs. The Mets have done enough to steal a Wild Card spot, too. With an American League that is either tanking or trying, it'll be refreshing to see a division featuring four legitimate teams. (Sorry, Marlins.)

From potential dynasty to periodic disappointment, Joe Maddon's Cubs finally return to the top of the NL Central. The Cardinals struggle to live up to expectations, falling a game or two short of the Wild Card, and the Brewers' lack of an ace finally catches up to them.

Out West, the Dodgers win the division by double digits, but Nolan Arenado's Rockies still grab a Wild Card spot.

In the National League, the last day of the season matters again.

NL EAST

Phillies
Mets*
Braves
Nationals
Marlins

NL CENTRAL

Cubs
Cardinals
Brewers
Pirates
Reds

NL WEST

Dodgers
Rockies*
Diamondbacks
Giants
Padres

* - Wild Card

Playoffs

Wild Card

Yankees def. Angels
Rockies def. Mets

ALDS

Red Sox def. Indians
Astros def. Yankees

NLDS

Dodgers def. Rockies
Phillies def. Cubs

ALCS

Astros def. Red Sox

NLCS

Dodgers def. Phillies

World Series

Astros def. Dodgers
A.J. Hinch's Astros get back to the top, while the Dodgers become baseball's Buffalo Bills.



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The Hardware

AL MVP: Mike Trout, Angels
Phenom proves Los Angeles' mammoth extension money is well spent.

NL MVP: Nolan Arenado, Rockies

Arenado completes the hat trick this year with a Gold Glove, Silver Slugger and MVP.

AL Cy Young: Gerrit Cole, Astros

Chris Sale will win a Cy Young at some point, but finishes second again this year.

NL Cy Young: Jacob deGrom, Mets

The Mets finally score some runs for deGrom, and he goes back to back with ease.

AL Rookie of the Year: Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Blue Jays

Toronto keeps him in the minors for too long, but when he does arrive he looks like a chip off the old block.

NL Rookie of the Year: Peter Alonso, Mets

In a shocking turn of events, things turn out well for the Mets and their prized prospect exceeds the hype.

AL Comeback Player of the Year:

Miguel Cabrera, Tigers

After two injury-plagued years, Cabrera has a throwback season in the middle of the Tigers lineup.

NL Comeback Player of the Year: Sonny Gray, Reds

After a disastrous stint in the Bronx, Gray returns to form in a less-pressurized Cincinnati.

AL Manager of the Year: Alex Cora, Red Sox

With no Cinderella to steal it, Cora wins his hardware — and rightfully so.

NL Manager of the Year: Dave Roberts, Dodgers

Roberts makes it a clean sweep for big market managers.

World Series MVP: Alex Bregman

Brash third baseman's upward trajectory continues on baseball's biggest stage.

Red Sox All-Stars: Chris Sale, Xander Bogaerts, Mookie Betts, J.D. Martinez, Matt Barnes

After a sneaky good but unheralded 2018 season, Bogaerts returns to the All-Star Game in his walk year.



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2018 RED SOX POSTSEASON: GAME BY GAME

AMERICAN LEAGUE DIVISION SERIES (ALDS)

GM 1: vs Yankees W 5-4

Summary: In the first play-off matchup between the teams since 2004, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer off J.A. Happ in the first. The 108-win Red Sox made it 5-0 in the third and then white-knuckled it as New York slowly chipped away after Chris Sale left with two on and one out in the sixth.

Key moment: Sox closer Craig Kimbrel, after giving up a home run to lead off the ninth, struck out the next three batters to preserve the close win.

GM 2: vs Yankees L 6-2

Summary: David Price fell to 0-9 in the postseason as a starter and was booed off the field after failing to last two full innings, as Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez went deep.

Key moment: Aaron Judge's mammoth home run over The Green Monster in left center in the first inning set the tone for the game.

GM 3: @ Yankees W 16-1

Summary: The Red Sox hammered Yankees ace Luis Severino en route to a seven-run fourth inning and clobbered the Yankees from start to finish with 18 hits.

Key moment: All of Brock Holt's at bats, as he became the first player ever to hit for the cycle in a postseason game (also 5 RBI).

GM 4: @ Yankees W 4-3

Summary: J.D. Martinez, Ian Kinsler and Eduardo Nunez drove in runs in a big third inning off C.C. Sabathia as Yankees rookie manager Aaron Boone hesitated to remove his starting pitcher for the second straight game.

Key moment: Eduardo Nunez charged Gleyber Torres' four-hopper toward third base and whipped the ball across the diamond.



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Red Sox first baseman Steve Pearce pumps his fist, celebrating his two-run homer in the first inning during Game 5 of the World Series at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

Steve Pearce stretched, falling on his chest for a sprawling catch. The umpire signaled: "Out!"

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (ALCS)

GM 1: vs Astros L 7-2

Summary: The teams combined for just eight hits, but Red Sox pitchers walked 10 and hit three batters. Justin Verlander walked four, tying a career postseason high and more than he had in any outing in the regular season.

Key moment: After walking in one run and giving up the tying score on a wild pitch, Verlander struck out

Andrew Benintendi on a contested called third strike to end the rally and inning.

GM 2: vs Astros W 7-5

Summary: After the Game 1 loss, this was a huge game. And David Price, while not great, was good enough thanks to help from his relievers to even the series, 1-1.

Key moment: Jackie Bradley Jr.'s go-ahead, opposite-field double cleared the bases to give the Sox a 5-4 lead after the Astros jumped ahead 4-2.

GM 3: @ Astros W 8-2

Summary: Jackie Bradley

Jr.'s eighth-inning grand slam backed a solid start by Nathan Eovaldi.

Key moment: Steve Pearce's tie-breaking homer in the sixth gave the Sox a lead (3-2) they never relinquished.

GM 4: @ Astros W 8-6

Summary: Andrew Benintendi made a diving play in left field with the bases loaded for the final out, and Boston held off the Astros to take a 3-1 series lead.

Key moment: With the Sox leading 2-0 in first inning, Jose Altuve appeared to have tied the game on

a home run, but it was ruled an out due to fan interference.

GM 5: @ Astros W 4-1

Summary: David Price put his postseason woes behind him, pitching the Sox past the defending World Series champion Astros

Key moment: Rafael Devers' three-run home run to left off Justin Verlander in sixth inning gave the Sox a 4-0 advantage.

WORLD SERIES

GM 1 vs Dodgers W 8-4

Summary: Andrew Benintendi, J.D. Martinez and the Red Sox came out swinging

in the series opener, seizing every advantage in their quirky ballpark to beat the Dodgers on a chilly, windy night.

Key moment: Pinch-hitter Eduardo Nunez golfed a three-run homer over the Green Monster to seal it.

GM 2: vs Dodgers W 4-2

Summary: David Price pitched six innings of three-hit ball, and major league RBI leader J.D. Martinez broke a fifth-inning tie during another two-out rally to beat the Dodgers with Nathan Eovaldi pitching a perfect inning of relief.

Key moment: J.D. Martinez's two-run single, a flare to right field, broke open the tie game and Sox held on.

GM 3: @ Dodgers L 3-2

Summary: The Dodgers won the historic 7-hour, 20-minute game with Max Muncy's home run leading off the bottom of the 18th inning, but the talk afterward was Nathan Eovaldi's six-inning performance in relief after consecutive games in relief.

Key moment: Muncy's opposite field homer, on full count, got the Dodgers back into series.

GM 4: @ Dodgers W 9-6

Summary: Steve Pearce hit a tying homer in the eighth inning and a three-run double in the ninth, and the Red Sox emphatically rallied for the 9-6 victory.

Key moment: Down 4-0, Mitch Moreland's three-run homer in the seventh jump-started a comeback.

GM 5: @ Dodgers W 5-1

Summary: David Price proved his postseason mettle, Steve Pearce homered twice, and Boston beat the Dodgers to finish off a one-sided series.

Key moment: Pearce's first inning, two-run homer off Clayton Kershaw crushed the Dodgers.

The Red Sox celebrate after winning Game 5 and clinching the 2018 World Series against the Dodgers in Los Angeles. Associated Press



Pitcher Rick Porcello was instrumental in bringing a World Series to Boston. AMANDA SABGA/ Staff photo

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2019 RED SOX SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				SEA ²⁸ 7:10	SEA ²⁹ 10:10	SEA ³⁰ 9:10
SEA ³¹ 4:10	OAK ¹ 10:07	OAK ² 10:07	OAK ³ 10:07	OAK ⁴ 3:37	ARI ⁵ 7:10	ARI ⁶ 8:10
ARI ⁷ 4:10		TOR ⁹ 2:05		TOR ¹¹ 7:10	BAL ¹² 7:10	BAL ¹³ 1:05
BAL ¹⁴ 1:05	BAL ¹⁵ 11:05	NYN ¹⁶ 6:35	NYN ¹⁷ 6:35		TB ¹⁹ 7:10	TB ²⁰ 6:10
TB ²¹ 2:10	DET ²² 7:10	DET ²³ 7:10	DET ²⁴ 7:10	DET ²⁵ 7:10	TB ²⁶ 7:10	TB ²⁷ 4:05
TB ²⁸ 1:05	OAK ²⁹ 7:10	OAK ³⁰ 7:10				

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						NYN ¹ 7:15
NYN ² 7:05		KC ⁴ 8:15	KC ⁵ 8:15	KC ⁶ 1:15	TB ⁷ 7:10	TB ⁸ 1:05
TB ⁹ 1:05	TEX ¹⁰ 7:10	TEX ¹¹ 7:10	TEX ¹² 7:10	TEX ¹³ 7:10	BAL ¹⁴ 7:05	BAL ¹⁵ 4:05
BAL ¹⁶ 1:05	MIN ¹⁷ 8:10	MIN ¹⁸ 8:10	MIN ¹⁹ 8:10		TOR ²¹ 7:10	TOR ²² 4:05
TOR ²³ 1:05	CWS ²⁴ 7:10	CWS ²⁵ 7:10	CWS ²⁶ 1:05			NYN ²⁹ 1:10
NYN ³⁰ 10:10						

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				TB ¹ 7:10	NYN ² 7:05	NYN ³ 4:05
NYN ⁴ 7:05	KC ⁵ 7:10	KC ⁶ 7:10	KC ⁷ 7:10	LAA ⁸ 7:10	LAA ⁹ 7:10	LAA ¹⁰ 4:05
LAA ¹¹ 1:05	CLE ¹² 7:10	CLE ¹³ 7:10	CLE ¹⁴ 1:10		BAL ¹⁶ 7:10	BAL ¹⁷ 7:10
BAL ¹⁸ 1:05		PHI ²⁰ 7:10	PHI ²¹ 7:10		SD ²³ 10:10	SD ²⁴ 8:40
SD ²⁵ 4:10		COL ²⁷ 8:40	COL ²⁸ 8:40		LAA ³⁰ 10:07	LAA ³¹ 9:07

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			OAK ¹ 1:05	CWS ² 8:10	CWS ³ 8:10	CWS ⁴ 7:10
CWS ⁵ 2:10	BAL ⁶ 7:05	BAL ⁷ 7:05	BAL ⁸ 7:05		SEA ¹⁰ 7:10	SEA ¹¹ 1:05
SEA ¹² 1:05		COL ¹⁴ 7:10	COL ¹⁵ 7:10		HOU ¹⁷ 7:10	HOU ¹⁸ 7:15
HOU ¹⁹ 1:05	TOR ²⁰ 1:07	TOR ²¹ 7:07	TOR ²² 7:07	TOR ²³ 12:37	HOU ²⁴ 8:10	HOU ²⁵ 7:15
HOU ²⁶ 2:10	CLE ²⁷ 4:05	CLE ²⁸ 7:10	CLE ²⁹ 7:10	NYN ³⁰ 7:05	NYN ³¹ 7:05	

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		TOR ² 7:07	TOR ³ 7:07	TOR ⁴ 7:07	DET ⁵ 7:10	DET ⁶ 4:10
DET ⁷ 1:10	★ ALL-STAR BREAK ★				LAD ¹² 7:10	LAD ¹³ 7:15
LAD ¹⁴ 7:05	TOR ¹⁵ 7:10	TOR ¹⁶ 7:10	TOR ¹⁷ 7:10	TOR ¹⁸ 7:10	BAL ¹⁹ 7:05	BAL ²⁰ 7:05
BAL ²¹ 1:05	TB ²² 7:10	TB ²³ 7:10	TB ²⁴ 12:10	NYN ²⁵ 7:10	NYN ²⁶ 7:10	NYN ²⁷ 4:05
NYN ²⁸ 7:05		TB ³⁰ 7:10	TB ³¹ 7:10			

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
LAA ¹ 4:07		MIN ³ 7:10	MIN ⁴ 7:10	MIN ⁵ 7:10	NYN ⁶ 7:10	NYN ⁷ 4:05
NYN ⁸ 8:05	NYN ⁹ 7:10	TOR ¹⁰ 7:07	TOR ¹¹ 7:07	TOR ¹² 7:07		PHI ¹⁴ 7:05
PHI ¹⁵ 1:05		SF ¹⁷ 7:10	SF ¹⁸ 7:10	SF ¹⁹ 1:05	TB ²⁰ 7:10	TB ²¹ 6:10
TB ²² 1:10	TB ²³ 7:10	TEX ²⁴ 8:05	TEX ²⁵ 8:05	TEX ²⁶ 2:05	BAL ²⁷ 7:10	BAL ²⁸ 1:05
BAL ²⁹ 3:05						

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AWAY

LONDON SERIES



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