

Subway Series: Mets northbound and the Yankees heading south

BY RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — The Subway Series turned into two teams passing in different directions.

After the Mets completed a four-game sweep with a 12-3 rout in the Bronx on Wednesday night, Yankees manager Aaron Boone sounded his most frustrated in two years.

“We’re getting our teeth kicked in,” he said during a question-and-answer session that included a pair of profanities and ended with him telling reporters: “Sorry for using the s word.”

“Nobody has higher expectations than us in that frickin’ room,” he said. “We’re pissed off. We got to play better. This has gone on long enough. It’s very frustrating to go through, but I also know we’re competing our asses off, and we just got to make sure we continue to walk in with the right level of edge and willingness to compete because no one’s going to pull us out of this but us.”

Francisco Lindor homered twice, and Pete Alonso, Tyrone Taylor and Mark Vientos once each. The Mets finished 4-0 against the Yankees this year for their second Subway Series sweep and first since 2013, outscoring their rival 36-14. The Mets (53-48) improved to 29-13 after a 24-35 start and are five games over .500 for the first time since April 2023.

“It’s great winning. I love winning,” Lindor said. “The vibes are completely different than when we were losing. Right now we understand that we have a good team and that we have great players and great people in this clubhouse, and we’re all playing for each other.”

The Yankees (60-44) are 10-22 following a 50-22 start and 1-8-2 in their last 11 series after opening 17-3-2. They have yielded 34 homers over 18 games in July and gave up five in a game for the first time in two years.

Asked whether the team’s confidence had been shaken, captain Aaron Judge took five seconds to think before responding:

“You can read body language sometimes, and there’s some certain times where we’re hanging our head a little bit and you just need a little kick in the butt to get it going again,” he said.

Boone, almost always upbeat and even-keeled, hadn’t sounded this displeased since a 5-2 loss to Toronto on Aug. 20, 2022, the Yankees’ 20th in 29 games after entering the All-Star break 64-28. He pounded the podium then, making a microphone shake and a water bottle jump.

“It’s no fun going through it. I know how hard this frickin’ game is,”



Pamela Smith/ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Yankees’ Aaron Judge stands in the dugout during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets on Wednesday in New York.

he said. “You take your lumps and it’s it sucks, especially when you know what you’re capable of and you’re taking your lumps for an extended period. It can be rough, but no one’s going to feel sorry for you, that’s for sure, especially when you wearing this uniform.”

“So it’s on us to just make sure we’re nose down, getting after it, walking through those doors every day with an edge and an expectation that today’s the day we can get it rolling,” he added. “And I look forward to going through that with these guys but, again, I’ve said we hold the pen, we’re in control of the story and that has not changed. But we got to play better or it doesn’t matter.”

Taylor, Alonso and Lindor homered off Gerrit Cole (3-2), who allowed six runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings as his ERA climbed to 5.40. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner has given up seven home runs with an 11.17 ERA in a pair of starts against the Mets and two homers with a 3.20 ERA in his other five outings.

When Taylor chased Cole with his third hit, a flare over second baseman Gleyber Torres, the pitcher flipped his glove in the air.

“I’m frustrated,” Cole said, “frustrated sitting in the emotions of this loss, but our job is to our job is to flush it and not let the play of the last six weeks affect the way we prepare for the next game. So it’s not like we’re not feeling it.”

In the other clubhouse, Lindor was glowing. After his first homer, a drive into the right field second deck, he stretched into the stands to give gum to 3-year-old daughter Kalina, sitting in the first row on the home plate side of the dugout with 1-year-old sister Amapola and their mom Katia.

“That was really, really

cool to be able to see my wife and my daughters and interact with them in the game and just show love to my daughters and my wife.” Lindor said. “She loved it. She was talking the whole entire time. At one point I was like: ‘Baby girl, you got to pay attention to the game. Daddy’s got to work.’”

Early in the year, the Mets were on track to be sellers ahead of the July 30 trade deadline. The Yankees had visions of coasting to the AL East title and bulking up for the postseason as they tried to win their first title since 2009.

With less than a week before the deadline, the Yankees trail Baltimore by 1 1/2 games in their division and the Mets are in position for a wild card berth.

“It feels like today is going to be very different than the last day going into the trade deadline with who actually is available, who is on the block,” Boone said before the defeat. “Does a team get super creative and change the landscape a little bit? You never know where it’s going to go or what domino starts to lead to another move. ... But right now it seems very cloudy with especially a lot of teams, I’m sure, honestly not knowing if they’re in or out.”

Miller eager to re-establish himself as top pass rusher

BY JOHN WAWROW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Von Miller says he feels like his old dominant self again.

And this time the NFL’s active leader in sacks means it.

After spending last season trying to convince himself he had the ability to fully overcome major knee surgery in less than a year, the Buffalo Bills edge rusher arrived at training camp this week determined, upbeat and motivated to show he hasn’t lost a step.

“I haven’t felt like this in two years,” Miller said Thursday, following Buffalo’s second day of training camp. “I’m feeling good. I’m ready to go. And I’m fired up that I didn’t have the type of production that I wanted last year.”

Zero sacks in 14 games, including playoffs, is not any easy number to digest for a 35-year-old who has spent his 13-year NFL career priding himself on winning, consistency and work ethic.

“I’m Von Miller. I’m kind of measured by sacks,” the two-time Super Bowl champion said, shaking his head and chuckling. “But I didn’t get any last year. I made three tackles.”

However much Miller second-guessed whether it might have been better to have taken all of last season off, he leans on the experience and lack of production as fuel.

Driving his confidence further is having spent the entire offseason focusing solely on training rather than rehabbing.

The brace Miller wore on his right knee last year is gone. So are the worries he played with, which led to Miller limiting or eliminating pass rush moves that might expose his right leg to being hit. It wasn’t until the final weeks of the season and playoffs when he said he started playing with more freedom.

“I learned you can’t force things. And I think as a football player in my whole entire life, you just try to make things happen,” Miller said.

“At times, it’s been great for me. But at times, like last year, it just wasn’t working for me,” he added. “I think just being able to separate rehab and football, and just be able to focus on football, will be able to pay off for me in the regular season.”

There’s plenty riding on Miller re-establishing himself in Buffalo, where in his first season in 2022 he had a team-leading eight sacks in 11 games before injuring his right knee during a win at Detroit on Thanksgiving.

Buffalo’s defense relies on its front four to generate pressure and free up its linebackers and secondary to drop back in



Adrian Kraus | Associated Press

Buffalo Bills linebacker Von Miller (40) signs autographs after an NFL football training camp practice in Pittsford, N.Y., on Wednesday.

coverage or send a blitz in passing situations. The pass rush could also use a boost to replace the free agency loss of Leonard Floyd, who led the team with 10 1/2 sacks last season.

In Miller’s case, his future in Buffalo — and perhaps the NFL — could depend on him rebounding. Though entering the third year of a six-year \$120 million contract, his salary cap number jumps by nearly \$9 million in 2025, which could make him unaffordable for the Bills.

Miller took that into account this offseason by restructuring his contract to help reduce the team’s salary cap total.

Coach Sean McDermott accepted Miller’s limitations last season by noting it takes most players two years to fully recover from knee surgery.

“That’s going to be the challenge. But that’s what Von’s here to do,” McDermott said. “I know he’s worked hard in the offseason, and that’ll be a big piece for us as we move forward up front.”

Miller has plenty to motivate him, ranging from personal pride to Hall of Fame aspirations and where he currently ranks on the NFL sacks list.

With 123 1/2 sacks, Miller ranks 19th overall, and is 15 away from moving into 10th, ahead of Richard Dent and John Randle. Miller was already looking at 15 sacks as a goal last season before finishing with none.

Buffalo’s opener against Arizona on Sept. 8 will mark 665 days since Miller had his most recent sack in a 33-30 overtime loss to Minnesota on Nov. 13, 2022.

Suddenly, a defensive play that helped establish Miller’s reputation has become elusive, leaving him eagerly looking forward to getting his next sack.

“I feel like each and every sack that I make from here on out will be so special,” Miller said. “Whether it’s one, whether it’s two, whether it’s 15, each one would mean the world to me.”

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The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.
The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance for Owensboro, Whitesville and Daviess County, Kentucky, regarding Articles 8-Schedule of Zoning, Article 13-Off-Street Parking, Loading & Unloading Areas & 14-Definitions, specifically regarding medical cannabis.
Copies of the proposed text amendments are available in the Planning Office, 2nd Floor, Owensboro Commerce Center, weekdays from 8:00am-4:30pm. Text amendments may also be viewed at www.iompc.org
MANUEL BALL SECRETARY SKYLER STEWART CHAIR