

Red Sox name Tracy the franchise’s 49th manager

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The Red Sox are heading to the postseason following a remarkable run over the second half of the season and on Tuesday they rewarded the two chief architects of that turnaround.

Boston removed the interim tag and named Chad Tracy the 49th manager in team history, signing him to a three-year contract that will run through the 2029 season, with a club option for 2030. The Red Sox also announced that it has exercised the 2029 and 2030 options on chief baseball officer Craig Breslow.

The elevation of the 41-year-old Tracy comes after the Red Sox secured a wild-card spot in the playoffs on Sunday. Tracy took over in April after former manager Alex Cora was fired following a 10-17 start to the season.

“I think there was pretty much an understanding when I first got here that we’ve a lot of work to do, let’s focus on that. Let’s worry about the rest of the stuff later as it goes along,” said Tracy, seated with Breslow and Red Sox president Sam Kennedy during a 30-minute news conference at Fenway Park before the club opened a three-game series against Cleveland.

“I am very happy, though, that it is done and in the course of three days we’ve clinched a play-off spot and now all the focus can be on what we can try to do in October,” Tracy said.

Tracy has guided the Red Sox to a 74-55 record, which included a 15-game win streak that tied the franchise record set in 1946. Boston’s 27-3 (.900) record from July 3 through Aug. 7 was the best 30-game span in franchise history.

It’s a remarkable turnaround for a team that was 32-46 and 15 1/2 games back in the AL East race on June 24.



Boston Red Sox manager Chad Tracy walks on the field during batting practice prior to a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians on Tuesday in Boston.

“Chad, you came into an incredibly difficult situation in April and provided stability and leadership when this organization needed it most,” said Kennedy, who was seated next to Breslow. “We had conversations with Craig over the summer and got that extension done.”

Breslow said he announced Tracy’s new deal during a team meeting in the clubhouse about 15 minutes before the news conference.

“That was cool. I choked up a little bit,” Tracy said, smiling.

Breslow, 46, was hired in October 2023. A 2013 World Series champion with Boston, he is only the fourth former Red Sox player to lead the club’s baseball operations efforts.

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In his three seasons in the role, the Red Sox have gone 254-226 (.529), the third-best record in the AL.

Tracy served as the manager of the Red Sox’s Triple-A team in Worcester since 2022, leading the WooSox to a winning record in each of his four full seasons as manager. That came after seven previous years managing in the Los Angeles Angels minor

league system.

He’s the son of former big-league manager Jim Tracy, who managed the Los Angeles Dodgers (2001-05), Pittsburgh (2006-07) and Colorado (2009-12).

“I was along for the ride on my dad’s journey,” Chad Tracy said, dressed in a light blue sport jacket that he joked he couldn’t wait to “ditch” when the news conference was over.

“I stayed up late to talk to him to learn the game,” he said. “I was fascinated by it. I really was.”

Jim Tracy was named interim manager of the Rockies in May 2009, led them to a 74-42 turnaround and won NL manager of the year. It’s a similar run to his son’s.

A third-round pick by the Texas Rangers in the third round of the 2006 draft out of Pepperdine University, Chad Tracy also played eight professional seasons (2006-13) in the Rangers, Rockies and Kansas City Royals organizations.

“Twenty-two years to be exact, playing and coaching,” Chad Tracy said of his journey. “That’s a long time.”

Judge has injection in sore right calf, unlikely to play in Wild Card Series

BY LARRY FLEISHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Yankees slugger Aaron Judge is unlikely to play in the Wild Card Series after having an injection in his sore right calf, manager Aaron Boone said Tuesday.

Before the Yankees faced the Rays in a day-night doubleheader, Boone said Judge had a platelet poor plasma injection during the team’s off-day on Monday following its return from Arizona.

“We’re planning on him not being a part of that (Wild Card Series) but we’re also at time of the year, you hear all the time with injuries, you give ranges two to four weeks, four to six weeks,” Boone said. “The range is for a reason and we’re at a point of the year where obviously we push it a little bit if that was in play but that’s a week away. I’m not expecting it, but I’m not ruling it out either.”

The Yankees will most likely play the Boston Red Sox in the first round of the postseason.

Judge was put on the 10-day injured list Saturday with a strained soleus muscle, which is in the lower part of his calf. Boone did not say what grade the strain is but described it as “moderate.”

Judge is eligible to be activated for the regular-season finale on Sunday against Baltimore but will not do much activity in the next few days.

Judge injured his calf during last Wednesday’s game at Minnesota. The eight-time All-Star was lifted in the sixth inning for a pinch hitter because of discomfort in his leg and said at the time it was a precautionary move.

Boone said symptoms persisted and an MRI revealed the strain.

Judge was 4 for 23 with 13 strikeouts and one extra-



New York Yankees’ Aaron Judge reacts after striking out during the third inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday in Minneapolis.

base hit in seven games after returning Sept. 8 from a broken rib, which kept him out of the lineup for more than three months.

Judge is hitting .241 with 18 homers and 41 RBIs in just 66 games this year. He hit a long homer on Sept. 14 in Minnesota and had the next game off before straining his calf.

The Yankees entered Tuesday with a 48-41 record in the games Judge has missed and a 41-25 mark in games he has played. New York also began Tuesday a loss away from being eliminated from the AL East race, setting up a second straight

wild-card series against the Red Sox next week.

“We’ve played much of the year without him and for the most part, we’ve done a pretty good job,” Boone said. “So guys are used to it. Obviously you always want your best player in the mix, but we understand we’ve got a job to do and an expectation to win. I think that expectation doesn’t change with or without him. We’re expecting to go into the series and know we can beat

anyone when we play our game.”

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