

Smith's homer shocks Dodgers

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Ozzie Smith, called the Wizard of Oz for his glove, now has another prop in his magic act — a bat.

In perhaps his most surprising trick — certainly the most crowd-pleasing — Smith hit a one-out, ninth-inning home run Monday to give the Cardinals a 3-2 victory over Los Angeles in Game 5 of the National League playoffs and a 3-2 lead in games as the best-of-seven series heads back to Dodger Stadium.

It was the first left-handed home run in his eight years in the major leagues, a career noted primarily for his superb glove work at shortstop.

"All I was trying to do was get the ball down the line, into the corner," Smith said. "Fortunately, I got enough to put it out. It was exciting. This is a peak time for us."

With the victory, the Cardinals swept the three games in their home park after losing the first two at Los Angeles.

Wednesday's sixth game will match Game 2 starters Orel Hershiser of Los Angeles and Joaquin Andujar of St. Louis.

The homer, on a 1-2 pitch from Tom Niedenfuer, was the first for the switch-hitting Smith as a left-handed batter in 3,002 regular-season and postseason at-bats. He had only 13 previous homers, including six this season.

Smith called the homer the highlight of his career, saying, "We were down two games in Los Angeles, and we come back and accomplished what we had to accomplish here."

Before Smith's dramatic homer Monday, the two teams had played a 2-2 tie created by Bill Madlock's two-run home run for the Dodgers in the fourth inning.

In and out of trouble, Dodger left-hander Fernando Valenzuela finally left after throwing 132 pitches through eight innings, and Niedenfuer, who saved Game 1 for Valenzuela, came in to pitch.

"It was a tough one to lose," Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda said. "Fernando did a super job, but we couldn't get the runs. And to get beat on a home run by Ozzie Smith? It's unbelievable."

Niedenfuer got Willie McGee to foul out to third and ran the count to a ball and two strikes on Smith before the slightly built shortstop launched one into the second deck in right field, bringing his team-

LOS ANGELES	ST. LOUIS	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Duncan ss	3 0 0 0	McGee cf	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Landroff cf	4 1 2 0	O'Smith ss	3	2	1	0	0	0	
Guerrero lf	4 0 0 0	Herr 2b	4	0	1	2	0	0	
Madlock 3b	4 1 1 2	JClark 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Marshall rf	3 0 0 0	Cedeno rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Sciocia c	2 0 1 0	Landrum lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Brack lb	1 0 0 0	Pendleton 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	
Cabell lb	3 0 1 0	Porter c	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Niedenfuer p	0 0 0 0	Forsch p	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sax 2b	3 0 0 0	Dayley p	2	0	1	0	0	0	
Valenzuela p	3 0 0 0	Worrell p	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Malszak 1b	0 0 0 0	Bharpp ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	30 2 5 2	Totals	28 3 5 3						

Sciocia safe on catcher's interference.
 Los Angeles 000 200 000—2
 St. Louis 200 000 001—3
 One out when winning run scored.
 Game Winning RBI — O'Smith (1).
 E—Valenzuela, Porter. DP—St. Louis 2.
 LOB—Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 10. 2B—Herr.
 Pendleton. HR—Madlock (2), O'Smith (1).
 SB—Landrum (1). S—Forsch, O'Smith.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valenzuela	8	4	2	2	8	7
Niedenfuer L.O.-1	1/3	1	1	1	0	0
St. Louis						
Forsch	3 2/3	3	2	2	2	0
Dayley	2 2/3	2	0	0	1	1
Worrell	2	0	0	0	0	1
Lahti W.-1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0

mates rushing onto the field and eliciting a huge ovation from the 53,708 at Busch Memorial Stadium.

Niedenfuer said he was as surprised as everyone else by the turn of events.

"He's not a powerful left-handed hitter, but he did it today," Niedenfuer said. "We have to regroup on the flight back and get them the next day."

Tommy Herr gave the Cardinals their only two other runs in the game with a two-run double in the first inning, and Madlock evened it up in the fourth.

It was the most closely contested game of the series. In fact, it was the only game decided after the sixth inning and only the second game of the playoffs decided after the third.

"After being down 2-0, I feel pretty good about coming home here and winning three," Cards manager Whitey Herzog said. "But they'll be tough out there in L.A., and they've got Hershiser going. ... This was the best ballgame of the series so far, though."

The winning pitcher was Cardinal bullpen ace Jeff Lahti, the fourth St. Louis pitcher of the day, who retired the Dodgers in order in the ninth. The three Cardinals relievers worked a total of 5 1/2 innings without giving up a run.

"The key to our game today again was our bullpen," Herzog said. "Ken Dayley comes in, then Todd Worrell gets that big strikeout, and Lahti finishes up. It was a super job."



Ozzie Smith is mobbed by teammates Monday after his dramatic ninth-inning home run.

Valenzuela pitched eight innings, giving up four hits and two runs with seven strikeouts and eight walks. The walks set an NL playoff record, surpassing the six allowed in 1974 by Pittsburgh's Bruce Kison and in Game 3 of this series by the Dodgers' Bob Welch.

The Cardinals played their second straight game of the series without left fielder Vince Coleman, whose left leg was injured Sunday when he was partially trapped under the machine that rolls the tarp onto the field.

Forsch, a spot starter this year, lasted only 3 1/2 innings before he was relieved by the left-hander Dayley after yielding the tying runs in the fourth inning. The 35-year-old Forsch is the senior member of the

Cardinals right-hander Bob

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Pendleton: Fate may be in Cards' corner

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Terry Pendleton, after watching teammate Ozzie Smith deliver an unlikely home run, suggested fate may have finally found the St. Louis Cardinals' corner.

"Whatever it is, I hope it continues for one more game," Pendleton said after St. Louis' 3-2 National League playoff victory Monday over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Smith, a switch-hitter whose home run was his first ever batting left-handed, said his teammates greeted the homer in an unusually boisterous manner.

"We're usually the kind of team that doesn't react too much whether we win or lose," the Cards' shortstop said. "But we needed this win. It was very important. I think this time we were entitled to show a little emotion."

"We let it all out," Pendleton said. "We said, 'Go, go, go, get out of here!'"

Despite the moment's exultation, neither Smith nor his St. Louis teammates were willing to count Los Angeles out.

"We'd like to win Game 6 rather than Game 7, because if they win Game 6 they'll feel like they have something going," second baseman Tommy Herr said. "We're not looking forward to two games. And yet the way we played out there in the first two games, I'm sure they feel pretty confident."

As happiness reigned in the Cards' clubhouse, startled disbelief reigned in the Dodgers' dressing room.

"It was a shock, a non-power hitter getting a home run," said Orel Hershiser, who will pitch Game 6 on Wednesday for Los Angeles. "I'm sure the team will pull together."

Mike Scioscia, who called the 1-2 delivery on which Smith homered, also acknowledged that the game-

NL playoff schedule

By The Associated Press
 All Times CDT
 Wednesday, Oct. 9
 Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 1
 Thursday, Oct. 10
 Los Angeles 8, St. Louis 2
 Saturday, Oct. 12
 St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 2
 Sunday, Oct. 13
 St. Louis 12, Los Angeles 2
 Monday, Oct. 14
 St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 2, St. Louis leads series 3-2
 Wednesday, Oct. 16
 St. Louis at Los Angeles, 2:05 p.m.
 Thursday, Oct. 17
 St. Louis at Los Angeles, 7:35 p.m., if necessary

ending blow was like a bolt out of the blue.

"I guess there's a first time for everything. It was not that bad a pitch," Sciocia said. "Give Ozzie some credit."

Tito Landrum, a St. Louis hitting hero on Sunday night, said he was glad the Cards had won in behalf of their fans.

"When we left Los Angeles, the plane ride home was upbeat. We knew we were coming back home to a ballpark made for us," Landrum said. "The fans made us feel better. They stuck with us, and I was happy we were able to reward them with this."

St. Louis center fielder Willie McGee said he would not have been any happier if he, rather than Smith, had hit the home run.

"If one does it, we all feel good about it. You want to do it, but it all points the same way," McGee said. "The best thing is that it won the game. That's what it's all about."

Smith said his thoughts while rounding the bases were of his teammates.

"I was real happy for the guys, because it was a game that we needed to win. Ever since spring

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Royals need win tonight to square series with Jays

TORONTO (AP) — George Brett does not like the situation his Kansas City Royals are in. But, he's seen it so many times that he thinks it might work to their advantage.

"Maybe it's the experience of losing so many playoff games and the only World Series we were in. It could help," Brett said. "No one's uptight about it."

Once again, the Royals will be facing elimination in the American League playoffs when they go into Game 6 tonight against the Toronto Blue Jays. The game will be televised by NBC at 7:15.

Toronto could have wrapped up the best-of-seven series Sunday in Kansas City, but lost, 2-0. The Blue Jays now return to familiar Exhibition Stadium and can bring the first World Series to Canada by winning either Tuesday night or in Game 7 Wednesday night.

"If we can't win one out of two, we don't deserve to be there," said Toronto's Jesse Barfield, who has six hits and four runs batted in through five games.

"I'm looking forward to practice tomorrow (Monday) to work on some things," he said. "To get some rest Monday night and come back strong Tuesday."

The Blue Jays got eight hits off Danny Jackson in the fifth game, the same number of hits by Kansas City. But Toronto, which hit just under .300 with runners in scoring position during the regu-

AL playoff schedule

All Times CDT
 Tuesday, Oct. 8
 Toronto 6, Kansas City 1
 Wednesday, Oct. 9
 Toronto 6, Kansas City 5, 10 Innings
 Friday, Oct. 11
 Kansas City 6, Toronto 5
 Saturday, Oct. 12
 Toronto 3, Kansas City 1
 Sunday, Oct. 13
 Kansas City 2, Toronto 0, Toronto leads series 3-2
 Tuesday, Oct. 15
 Kansas City at Toronto, 7:15 p.m.
 Wednesday, Oct. 16
 Kansas City at Toronto, 7:15 p.m., if necessary

lar season and was 11-for-38 in those situations during the playoffs, did not get any timely hits.

"I just want to leave this game in Kansas City and get home. We didn't get the job done," Toronto's Lloyd Moseby said.

So Moseby and his teammates packed up their equipment — and their still-corked champagne — and headed back to Toronto, where they will face surprise starter Mark Gubicza in Game 6.

Gubicza, a starting pitcher the entire season, began the playoffs in the bullpen. He was odd-man-out when Kansas City manager Dick Howser set up a rotation of left-handers Charlie Leibrandt, Bud Black and Danny Jackson, along with righty Bret Saberhagen.

But Howser's plans changed Sunday when Jackson started while Black, who was scheduled to pitch Game 6, got ready in the bullpen.

"We had decided before the game that if we needed a left-hander, Black would be it," Howser said. "Buddy Black was up

twice and threw a lot of pitches out there."

"Everybody was in the bullpen, Bret and everybody," Howser said. "We had to win. It'll probably be the same situation Tuesday night."

So, Howser won the game, but lost a starting pitcher. It was a trade he did not mind making.

"Gubicza pitched well for us this season, and I don't hesitate going to him," Howser said. "He's one of the reasons we're here."

Gubicza was 14-10, including an August loss to Toronto when he got shelled in his only outing against the Blue Jays.

Gubicza made his last start on Oct. 4 and his last appearance came Tuesday in the playoff opener with three scoreless innings of relief.

Howser said he had not made a final decision on who would pitch if there is seventh game.

Opposing Gubicza will be Doyle Alexander, who was unable to hold a 5-2 lead midway through Game 3. Alexander wound up with a no-decision as Kansas City rallied to win behind Brett's 4-for-4, two home-run performance.

Alexander's last outing in Toronto was also a memorable one. He pitched a five-hitter for a victory over New York that gave Toronto its first-ever AL East title.

The Blue Jays are now hoping Alexander can do it again and give them another champagne toast.

"Maybe if we can do it at home, it'll be a little sweeter," Rance Mulliniks said.



District system leaves some good teams out in cold

I'm guessing the high school football state playoff teams is being cursed at Northern Valley High School.

Northern Valley went into this season with high hopes. The Huskies were ranked No. 1 in Eight-Man I preseason poll and had no problem winning their first four games with an average of 63 points a game.

But then came Mankato — ranked third in Eight-Man I with a 4-0 record. It was a dream matchup. One people would like to see in the state playoffs, only this game was a District 3 game with the loser likely to miss the playoffs.

In this case, it was Northern Valley. The Huskies saw a 38-27 lead and their state title hopes vanished in the fourth quarter by a strong Mankato team.

The cry against the district format has only begun, though. It happens every year in every class. Each week, a good team — one probably better than several other playoff teams — will fall in a district game.

From an objective position, I feel the current system is the best yet, and most coaches agree. I do feel for Chuck Fessenden at NVHS, however. Many eight-man coaches felt the Huskies (along with Coldwater) were the favorites to win the state title.

The current system (in its fifth season) is the fairest of those that have been used so far. Teams can now play schools in larger classifications and not be penalized by losing the game. That wasn't the case in the previous system.

The system employed prior to district play went on won-lost records. That seems ridiculous now because many good teams which played tougher and larger schools often missed the playoffs.

Take Salina Central for instance. The Mustangs are 3-2 against 6A competition this season. Yet, under the previous system, they would be in danger of missing the playoffs. A third loss would be devastating under the old law.

With district play, however, Central should be well-prepared to take on 5A district foes Hays, Great Bend and Salina South.

There are more examples. Another would be Atwood of 1984. The Buffaloes — playing in the predominantly 3A and 4A Northwest Kansas League — lost three regular-season games last season but won their district and missed the Class 2A title game by a two-point conversion.

Another reason why the current format is the best is that it shows coaches and players before the season just who they have to beat to make the playoffs.

Northern Valley and Mankato both knew the loser of last Friday's game would miss the playoffs because each are much stronger than Logan, Pike Valley and Palco — the other District 3 teams.

Northern Valley will be one of the teams this season which would have been better off under the previous format. But, again, those few will be out-numbered by the greater number of beneficiaries of the district system.

Norton left little doubt last Friday which team is the class of the Mid-Continent League this season. The Blue Jays turned what many thought would be a close game into a 38-0 romp. Norton had 358 total yards to Smith Center's 102.

Marysville's 13-6 win over Abilene last Friday left the Bulldogs unbeaten and set up this Friday's North Central Kansas League showdown between Clay Center and Marysville. The game will be for the NCKL title. It will also match 1985 Shrine Bowl coaches — Larry Wierners of Clay Center and Tom Michael of Marysville — against each other. Michael's East team defeated Wierners' West squad last August.

The most notable performance of last week came from Hillcrest senior running back Brad Hammond against Pike Valley. Hammond scored eight touchdowns on runs of 57, 4, 9, 6, 5, 18 and 27 yards and another on a 79-yard fumble return. Hillcrest won, 64-6.