

MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason

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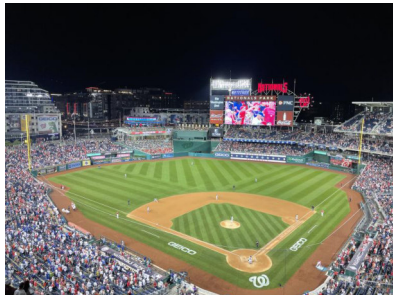
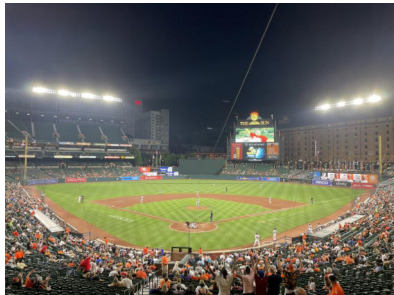
Major League Baseball Official Scorers



MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason

We work as official scorers for Major League Baseball (MLB), covering games played in Washington and Baltimore, the homes of the Washington Nationals and Baltimore Orioles.

We are part of a official scoring team that covers games in Washington and Baltimore. The five of us split up 162 games (81 games in Washington, 81 games in Baltimore). →



MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason

Dennis Hetrick (Bats: L • Throws: L)

- MLB Official Scorer since 2014
- 151 regular season games, four postseason games
- Game 4 of the 2019 World Series, Houston Astros vs. Washington Nationals, at Nationals Park
- 2018 MLB Futures Game at Nationals Park



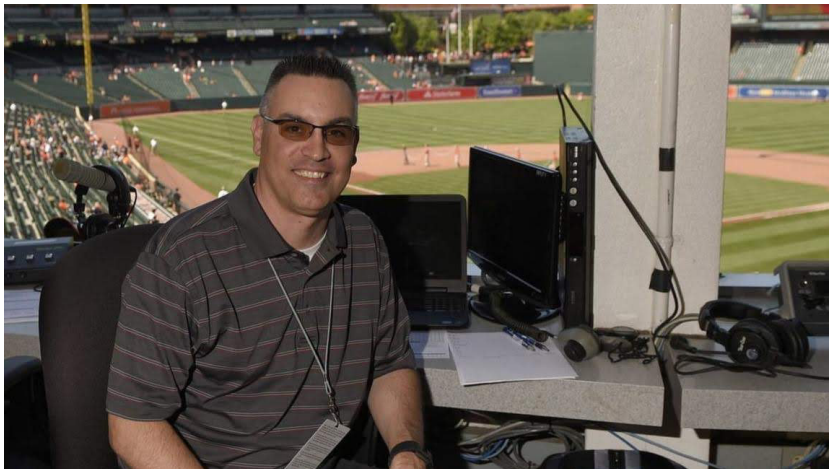
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Jason Lee (Bats: R • Throws: R)

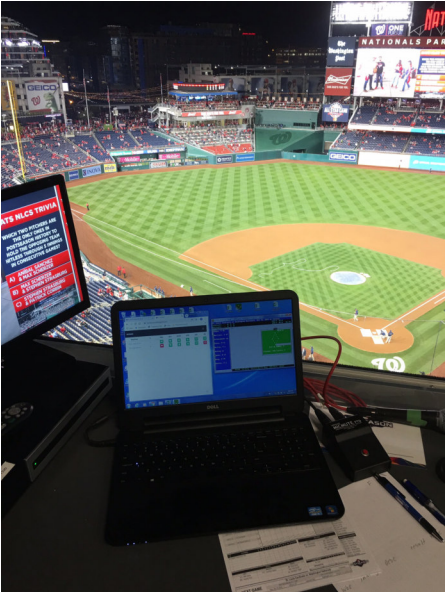
- MLB Official Scorer since 2020
- Official Scorer for 41 MLB games



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MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason



Dennis at the 2019 World Series



MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason



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Jason with Orioles Public Address Announcer Adrienne Roberson

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What is the working environment like in a MLB pressbox?

These descriptions are just about what it is like in Washington and Baltimore. Other cities have different layouts.

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What is the working environment like in a MLB pressbox?

These descriptions are just about what it is like in Washington and Baltimore. Other cities have different layouts.

- The pressboxes are on two levels. The lower level is for the print media (newspapers, websites). The upper level is for broadcast media (radio, television) and scoreboard operators.
- MLB Data Operations has four people working at every game: the Official Scorer, two Stringers, and the Field Timing Coordinator.
- The official scorer has a television and DVR at their seat to be able to view instant replays. We also have a microphone, to announce scoring decisions in the pressbox. The pressbox is very large, so the announcements are the most efficient way to get our rulings out to everybody who needs them.
- MLB provides us with a computer system to view up-to-date game statistics and several instant replay angles.



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Training for a MLB Official Scorer?

Dennis and Jason took similar routes to Major League Baseball.

- We both learned the craft in Minor League Baseball.
- Each MLB team has four minor league affiliates where young prospects and reserve players play. We both worked as an official scorer for Frederick Keys and Bowie Baysox games. Both are (or were) minor league affiliates (farm teams) of the Baltimore Orioles.
- Not all MLB official scorers have minor league scoring experience. Everybody came to the job with some baseball-related experience.
- There is less training at the minor league level. The major leagues provide more training and support.



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Software for support

MLB has an internal software system to help the scorers and stringers. Here are things we can see:

- Live play-by-play, pitch-by-pitch.
- Live box score.
- Replays from multiple camera angles, notably the television broadcast and the “high home.”
- Pitch speed, batted ball speed, launch angle.
- Other analytics, such as spin rate, running distance by fielders.



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← Games F - Final - NYM 3 @ WSH 4 - 2021-09-04 → jason.lee1@mlb.com ▾

Pre-Game Events Post-Game Boss OS Scoresheet Box Score Live Feed

Mets Starter

(#38) Megill Tylor P

Mets Lineup

- (#1) Villar Jonathan SS
- (#20) Alonso Pete 1B
- (#30) Conforto Michael RF
- (#28) Davis J.D. 3B
- (#11) Pillar Kevin CF
- (#6) McNeil Jeff LF
- (#33) McCann James C
- (#13) Guillorme Luis 2B
- (#38) Megill Tylor P

Game Info

Sep 4th, 2021, TBD
Nationals Park
76°, Partly Cloudy
1 MPH, Out To LF

Umpires

- (#3) Welke Bill Home Plate
- (#31) Hoberg Pat 1st Base
- (#63) Diaz Laz 2nd Base
- (#118) Wills Ryan 3rd Base
- No Umpire Entered -
- No Umpire Entered -

Nationals Starter

(#65) Rogers Josh P

Nationals Lineup

- (#28) Thomas Lane CF
- (#3) Escobar Alcides SS
- (#22) Soto Juan RF
- (#19) Bell Josh 1B
- (#8) Kieboom Carter 3B
- (#17) Stevenson Andrew LF
- (#25) Adams Riley C
- (#2) Garcia Luis 2B
- (#65) Rogers Josh P

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← Games F - Final - NYM 3 @ WSH 4 - 2021-09-04 GamePK → jason.lee1@mlb.com

Pre-Game **Events** Post-Game Boss OS Scoresheet Box Score Live Feed Select...

At Bat	Pitches	Play By Play
51		8 (#12) Francisco Lindor replaces (#13) Luis Guillorme at PH, batting 8th
51		5 (#9) Adrian Sanchez replaces (#8) Carter Kieboom at 3B, batting 5th 9 (#67) Kyle Finnegan replaces (#57) Andres Machado at P, batting 9th
51		Bat Side Adjust: Now Batting Left Handed
51 Lindor, F	CCFX Assigned	Francisco Lindor grounds out, second baseman Luis Garcia to first baseman Josh Bell.
52		9 (#23) Javier Baez replaces (#38) Tylor Megill at PH, batting 9th
52 Baez, J	SBSFW Assigned	Javier Baez strikes out swinging.
53		Bat Side Adjust: Now Batting Left Handed

Top 7 | AB 51 | Francisco Lindor grounds out, second baseman Luis Garcia to first baseman Josh Bell. X

P	C	Play By Play
		(#9) Adrian Sanchez replaces (#8) Carter Kieboom at 3B, batting 5th
		(#67) Kyle Finnegan replaces (#57) Andres Machado at P, batting 9th
		(#12) Francisco Lindor replaces (#13) Luis Guillorme at PH, batting 8th
		Bat Side Adjust: Now Batting Left Handed
1	C	Strike - Called
2	C	Strike - Called
3	F	Strike - Foul
4	X	Hit Into Play - Out(s)
		Francisco Lindor grounds out, second baseman Luis Garcia to first baseman Josh Bell.

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← Games F - Final - NYM 3 @ WSH 4 - 2021-09-04 GamePk → jason.lee1@mlb.com


Pre-Game **Events** Post-Game Boss OS Scoresheet Box Score [🔗](#) Live Feed [🔗](#)

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first baseman Josh Bell.

Video Pitch View Stats Diagram Simulator [🔗](#)

HOME AWAY CF PC **HH** L3 L1



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Appeals of scoring decisions

- MLB players can appeal scoring decisions.
- This right was negotiated, and is in the collective bargaining agreement between MLB and the MLB Players Association.
- Appeals go to a committee at MLB, who has the final ruling.
- The Official Scoring Appeals Committee usually gives a short description of why they made their ruling.



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2020 season

- During the 2020 season, all official scorers worked from home.
- We had to rely on game broadcasts, and the extra camera angles from our internal system.
- Game broadcasts made things a little difficult. In particular, when a batter hit a hard ground ball to third base or first base, the camera angle was often a split second too slow to see what happened.
- Jason worked his first season as a MLB official scorer by working from home. First game, first batter... sharp ground ball to third base!!! The camera was slow to switch to what happened. Thank goodness, the third baseman fielded the ball and threw out the batter.

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Scoresheets

- MLB lets us write our scoresheets any way we like.
- Dennis usually writes his scoresheet on the lineup sheets provided by the teams.
- Jason has his own scoresheets.

Visitor: New York Mets

Date: 4 September 2021 #1

Start: 106

Weather: 77° 50% cloudy 2 out → L

1	VILLAR, JONATHAN	3B	①				13	K	
9	NIMMO, BRANDON	CF			SB(H)	K	PL	FP5	
4	ALMORA, ALBERT	B2 CF							
2	LINDOR, FRANCISCO	SS		CS24(6)	SF	④ P1TC 51 DEF CH	F7	⑥ P1TC 33	
20	ALONSO, PETE	1B		SF			F9	F9	WP(6+)
30	CONFORTO, MICHAEL	RF		K	43		F9	K	PH28
50	CASTRO, MIGUEL	B6 P							
52	HAND, BRAD	B6 P							
67	LUGO, SETH	B7 P							
65	MAY, TREVOR	B8 P							
23	BAEZ, JAVY	2B	②		③		L7	K	
6	MCNEIL, JEFF	LF			63		K	F8	
76	MAZEIKA, PATRICK	C				53	L7		
0	STROMAN, MARCUS	P		SH		⑤	F7		
11	PILLAR, KEVIN	B6 RF							

#5 28 DAVIS, JD
53 HEMBREE, HEATH

T9 FH
B9 P

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	WP	HB	HR	BK	P/S
23 FEDDE, ERICK	3	9	7	4	1	2			1		80/51 ✓
51 SUERO, WANDER	2	2	2	2	1	2			1		36/23 ✓
33 HARPER, RYNE	1										12/9 ✓
62 BALDONADO, ALBERTO	2					2	1				29/18 ✓
67 FINNEGAN, KYLE	L	1	2	2	1	2	1				23/13 ✓

②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨

α - Davey Martinez ejected by HP ump

CF	I					
SS	II	I				
RF	III					
1B	III					
LF	III					
C	III	III	I	29	28	22
3B	I	I		8	3	2
2B	II	I				19
P	III					23
						20

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	L
NEW YORK METS	2	4	1	2					2	11	13	3	7
WASHINGTON NATIONALS				3	4	2				9	13	2	11

R arm sleeve

3B white shoes SS L black arm band 2B L black wrist band

Home: Washington Nationals

Date: 4 September 2021 #1

Attendance: 13,916

Time of Game: 4:05

1	28 THOMAS, LANE CF	①	IB	PG	SF F8	2 1B 3 4	K PITC 65 RTTS 4
2	3 ESCOBAR, ALCIDES SS			FP3	SF F8	2B 3 EST	P4
3	22 SOTO, JUAN RF		BB	4 BB	43	PITC 52 PB(4) 4 1B 3	4 1BB
4	19 BELL, JOSH 1B			FC E5 A6 φ41	43	1B	BB
5	29 HERNANDEZ, YADIEL 51 SUERO, WANDER 6 AVILA, ALEX 34 HARPER, RYNE 11 ZIMMERMAN, RYAN RF		T4 P 85 PH T6 P 86 PH	F8	13	F7	GDP 543 K
6	20 RUIZ, KEIBERT C	② DEFC 4		F9	7 1B 8 9	F8	K PITC 23 RTTS WIP (7)
7	8 KIEBOOM, CARTER 3B		8 1B	9 1B	6 PITC 50, DEFC 11 EGT	2B(A) 9	K
8	2 GARCIA, LUIS 2B		2B	9 1B 2	K	23	F7
9	23 FEDDE, ERICK 17 STEVENSON, ANDREW P		T4 LF	13	1 1B 2	1B	HR .. L8

#5 62 BALDONADO, ALBERTO
88 PARRA, GERARDO
67 FINNEGAN, KYLE

③ ④ ⑦
3B |
CF HTI
SS | |
1B HTI
RF |
2B II III
LF II
C HTI |
P | II

4 11
6 9 26

1 12 23 20
0
76

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	WP	HB	HR	BK	P/S
0 STROMAN, MARCUS	5	6	3	3	3	2					94/54 ✓
50 CASTRO, MIGUEL	1/3	3	4	3		1					21/13 ✓
52 HAND, BRAD	2/3	2									8/5 ✓
67 LUGO, SETH	1	2	2	2		2			1		20/16 ✓
65 MAY, TREVOR	W	1			2	1					16/8 ✓
53 HEMBREE, HEATH	S	1				1	1				15/12 ✓

Umpires: Ben May
Ryan Willis
Pat Hoberg
Laz Diaz

Stringer: Larry Mahnken
Boss: Colin Grant
FC: Jason Koehn

Official Scorer: J. Lee
27/35
1135 → ?

3B white tipped shoes SS yellow shoes 2B blue/gray shoes

LINEUP SHEET

Miami Marlins vs. Washington Nationals

Sun, July 8, 2018 1:00 p.m. ET Washington, DC MLB.com



Umpires: HP #17 - Ben Reynolds 1B #74 - John Tuzi 2B #75 - Mike Oltman 3B #14 - Mark Regier

Miami Marlins (38-55)

AVG-RR-BL	#	PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AD	R	H	BB	MLB
288-11-36	1	32 Derek Clewley (L)	LF														
284-6-44	2	15 Brian Anderson	RF														
305-12-41	1	11 J.T. Realmuto	C														
232-14-40	0	41 Justin Bour (L)	1B														
297-4-33	4	13 Martin Prado	2B														
190-1-7	0	14 Martin Prado	3B														
298-6-17	0	10 J.T. Riddle (L)	SS														
228-1-16	3	1 Cameron Maybin	CF														
133-0-2	0	63 Trevor Richards	INF														

#	PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	PITCHES
1	32 Trevor Richards (R, L, R)	3.2	4	2	2	2	5	1	INT
2	41 Justin Bour	1.1	1	1	1	0	0	0	
3	10 J.T. Riddle	1.1	1	1	1	0	0	0	

BENCH		START	
42	Yadier Alvarez	42	Brian Singer
11	Miguel Rojas	43	Adam Conley
40	Bryan Hoyle	44	Tommy Pham
30	Garrett Cooper	45	Clayton Kershaw

MILLER		RIGHT	
46	Tommy Pham	46	Brian Singer
47	Clayton Kershaw	47	Adam Conley
48	Clayton Kershaw	48	Tommy Pham
49	Clayton Kershaw	49	Clayton Kershaw

MILLER		RIGHT	
46	Tommy Pham	46	Brian Singer
47	Clayton Kershaw	47	Adam Conley
48	Clayton Kershaw	48	Tommy Pham
49	Clayton Kershaw	49	Clayton Kershaw

NATIONALS COACHES

1	Manager - Davey Johnson
2	1st Base Coach - Tom Blalock
3	2nd Base Coach - Mike Pagliarini
4	3rd Base Coach - Jason Thomas
5	Pitching Coach - Bruce Bochy
6	Bullpen Coach - Fred Gonzalez
7	Quality Control Coach - Ryan Flaherty
8	Assistant Manager - Frank Menechino
9	Scout - Scott Lescar

Washington Nationals (45-43)

AVG-RR-BL	#	PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AD	R	H	BB	MLB
304-12-1	1	2 Adam Eaton (R)	1B														
285-11-27	22	7 Trea Turner	SS														
308-9-26	1	22 Juan Soto (L)	LF														
219-21-06	0	34 Bryce Harper (L)	CF														
282-10-24	0	14 Mark Reynolds	2B														
289-13-26	0	16 Matt Adams (R)	3B														
188-1-4	0	20 Daniel Murphy (L)	RF														
217-0-4	0	84 Spencer Kieboom	C														
161-0-4	0	57 Tanner Roark	P														

#	PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	PITCHES
1	57 Tanner Roark	5.0	5	3	3	2	5	1	INT

MILLER		RIGHT	
46	Tommy Pham	46	Brian Singer
47	Clayton Kershaw	47	Adam Conley
48	Clayton Kershaw	48	Tommy Pham
49	Clayton Kershaw	49	Clayton Kershaw

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Ordinary Effort

As we all know, the most common scoring decisions are hit vs. error decisions, with the criteria of “ordinary effort” used to make decisions.

The Official Baseball Rules gives this definition:

ORDINARY EFFORT is the effort that a fielder of average skill at a position in that league or classification of leagues should exhibit on a play, with due consideration given to the condition of the field and weather conditions.

→

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Here are some things we have to consider when thinking about ordinary effort.

- Field conditions: sun, rain, bad hops, bad conditions causing a fielder to slip.
- The difference between a mental mistake and a physical mistake.
- Fielder's colliding.
- Our experience from watching a LOT of baseball and from talking to other official scorers guides us every day on the job.

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Some other questions:

- What do we think about advanced metrics such as WAR, FIP, Defensive Runs saved, wOBA, FIP, etc.?

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Some other questions:

- What do we think about advanced metrics such as WAR, FIP, Defensive Runs saved, wOBA, FIP, etc.?
- Do we score any differently in the regular season vs. the postseason?

MLB Official Scorers – Dennis and Jason

We would like to show some plays from the 2021 MLB season. While we can say our opinions about the best ruling, our goal is to focus on what important features of the play we are looking for. In other words, for our presentation, the answer is less important than the way we GET to the answer.

We will screenshare the videos, but the sharing may not be great quality. All of the links were emailed to the participants beforehand. In case you don't have it, we will put the weblink in the GoToMeeting chat. If you are able to, you could play the videos for yourself.

When we are done with the videos, we will take questions.

Links to Videos

Play 1:

Ground ball to third. Two part play?

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210413NYY-TOR-HD-4-LIVE_583084_586402.mp4

Play 2:

Outfielder on the run.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210525BAL-MIN-HD-4-LIVE_857720_861714.mp4

Play 3:

Outfielder on the run.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210606SEA-LAA-HD-4-LIVE_334916_337772.mp4

Play 4:

Ball gets by outfielder.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210625CLE-MIN-HD-4-LIVE_206036_209754.mp4

Play 5:

Line drive to third baseman.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210718SEA-LAA-HD-4-LIVE_810788_812854.mp4

Play 6:

Outfielder in position and slips.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210818OAK-CHW-HD-4-LIVE_660554_664912.mp4

Play 7:

Outfielder misses easy fly ball.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210811TBR-BOS-HD-4-LIVE_598314_602232.mp4

Play 8:

Grounder to second baseman, up the middle

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210909KCR-BAL-HD-4-LIVE_605562_609008.mp4

Play 9:

Second baseman drops popup.

https://diamond-mp4-cuts.mlb.com/20210929OAK-SEA-HD-4-LIVE_275979_277311.mp4

Play 10:

Outfielder drops line drive.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210415SDP-PIT-HD-4-LIVE_558476_561648.mp4

Play 11:

Grounder to second baseman.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210501MIA-WAS-HD-4-LIVE_377668_379828.mp4

Play 12:

Shortstop tries to barehand slow roller.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210615NYY-TOR-HD-4-LIVE_433240_436032.mp4

Play 13:

Outfield collision.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210912SFG-CHC-HD-4-LIVE_519658_523636.mp4

Play 14:

Fly ball right down left field line.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210915CIN-PIT-HD-4-LIVE_863084_866540.mp4

Play 15:

First baseman throws offline to pitcher covering.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210418SFG-MIA-HD-4-LIVE_443360_445902.mp4

Play 16:

Slow roller to third baseman.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210427PHI-STL-HD-4-LIVE_678192_680334.mp4

Play 17:

Grounder to second baseman playing in short right.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210430SFG-SDP-HD-4-LIVE_387536_390526.mp4

Play 18:

Comebacker deflects off pitcher.

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210520NYY-TEX-HD-4-LIVE_669232_673636.mp4

Play 19:

Wild pitch/passed ball

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210606SEA-LAA-HD-4-LIVE_143706_146540.mp4

Play 20:

Wild pitch/passed ball

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210529KCR-MIN-HD-4-LIVE_473660_476398.mp4

Play 21:

Foul pop:

https://diamond.majorleaguebaseball.com/hls_clips/20210903BAL-NYY-HD-4-LIVE_545362_545662.mp4

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Thank you for coming to our presentation,
we will finish by taking questions.

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