
STAYING HOME: This is the 41st time that the Red Sox have opened the regular season at home, snapping a streak of 6 consecutive years opening on the road...Including this year, Boston has opened at home in only 4 of the last 22 seasons beginning in 1996 (also 2002, 09, 10).

The Red Sox are 23-17 in Opening Day games at home, having won each of their last 2 and 5 of their last 6.

NATIONAL AFFAIR: Tomorrow’s game will mark only the 2nd time the Red Sox have opened a season against an NL team, having also done so in 2015 (at PHI, W-0-0).

The Sox own MLB’s best interleague record since 2003 (638, 166-44), and have won 2 of the last 3 games in that time (NY-NY, 585, 152-108)...The Sox are 211-152 (581) all-time in interleague action, just a half game behind the Yanks (581, 211-152)...Since Boggs last reached the level, the Sox have won each of their last 5 interleague games at Fenway Park, as well as 14 of their last 16 (875) and 78 of their last 110 (.709) since 5/2/020.

SOX & BUCCS: The Sox are 5-7 all-time against the Pirates, including 1-5 since the start of 2011...Bos has hosted the Buccos in each of their last 6 season openers, going 2-1-5 in 2021.

The only postseason meeting between these franchises came in 1903, when the Boston Americans defeated the Pirates in the World Series, winning the Series in 5 games (1st modern World Series between the NL and AL).

OPENING ACT: Rick Porcello is making the 1st Opening Day start of his career...He has started his club’s 4th game of the season 6 times (2009-12, 14, 16), the 3rd game once (2013), and the 2nd game once (2015).

Porcello won the 2016 AL Cy Young Award after leading the majors in wins (22) and SO/BB ratio (5.91)....The Red Sox won 25-8 in his starts last season, including 17-3 in his final 20...BOS was 15-1 in his home starts.

Porcello has pitched 6.0 to 6.0 innings in each of his last 4 starts, the majors’ longest active streak of scored at least 12 runs in their last 5 games...The Sox went 25-8 in his starts last season, including 17-3 in his final 20...BOS was 15-1 in his home starts.

PEDEY AND YAZ: Dustin Pedroia is eyeing an 11th straight Opening Day start, all at 2B since 2007...The only Red Sox with an Opening Day streak that long at any single position is Carl Yastrzemski, who started 12 straight years in LF from 1961-72...Jason Varitek (C, 2000-09), Wade Boggs (38, 1983-93), and Dwight Evans (RF, 1978-87) had 10-year streaks at their respective positions.

Only Bobby Doerr (13) has made more Opening Day starts at 2B for the Red Sox than Pedroia has.

THE FIRST TIMERS: This is the 1st career appearance on an Opening Day roster for 7 Red Sox: Andrew Benintendi, Heath Hembree, Eduardo Rodriguez, Robby Scott, Steve Bensky, Ben Taylor, and John Tolis...Benintendi and Taylor were selected by the Red Sox less than 2 years ago in the 2015 June Draft (7th and 201st overall, respectively).

Taylor is the only player on the Sox’ active roster without any major league service time...He is the 1st Red Sox player to do so since Scott Atchison, Vicente Padilla, and Justin Thomas in 2012.

14 players on the Red Sox’ 25-man roster were also on the club’s 2016 Opening Day roster.

H ave you benintroduced?: Andrew Benintendi, who will be 22 years and 271 days old tomorrow, could become the Red Sox’ youngest Opening Day starter in left field since Carl Yastrzemski in 1962 (22 years, 231 days).

KEYSTONE CONSISTENCY: Dustin Pedroia and Xander Bogaerts have been the Red Sox’ Opening Day starters at 2B and SS, respectively, in each of the last 3 years (2014-16)....According to Elias, the only Red Sox to start in such 4 consecutive Opening Day games as Bogaerts/Taylor are 2B Bobby Doerr/SS Joe Cronin (1937-41) and 2B Hobe Ferriss/SS Freddy Parent (5 years, 1901-05).

Prior to Pedroia and Bogaerts, no Red Sox 2B/ SS tandem had started as many as 3 consecutive Opening Day games together since 2B Jerry Remey and SS Rick Burleson (1976-80).

SAFE BETS: Mookie Betts homered on Opening Day in 5 of the last 6 years (at PHI and WSH in 2016) (at PHI). He leads active players in go long in consecutive years on Opening Day, but no player has ever done so in 3 straight years...In fact, Betts has homered in all 4 “openings” in his career, also hitting a HR in the Sox’ home openers in 2016 and 2015.

BETTS & BOGEY: Mookie Betts and Xander Bogaerts each have 38 home runs in their last 2 seasons, a franchise record...Each has homered in all 4 “opening” games in his career, having gone deep in consecutive years on Opening Day, but no BOS player has ever done so in 3 straight years...In fact, Betts has homered in all 4 “openings” in his career, also hitting a HR in the Sox’ home openers in 2016 and 2015.

RED SOX HISTORY

OPENING DAY HR, RED SOX HISTORY

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The REMY REPORT: Jerry Remy enters his 30th season broadcasting Red Sox games for NESN (1988-2017)....Remy was inducted into the Red Sox Hall of Fame in 2006.

TEAM OF STARS: 11 of the 25 players on the Red Sox’ active Opening Day roster have made at least 1 All-Star Team (25 total selections). 4 of 13 position players have won Silver Slugger and 3 have won a Gold Glove...The Sox also feature 3 Rookie of the Year honorees, the 2008 AL MVP (Pe- moranz), and the 2016 AL Cy Young Award winner (Porcello).

In addition, David Price (10-day DL) won the 2012 AL Cy Young Award and is a 5-time All-Star...Drew Pomeranz (10-day DL) earned his 1st All-Star selection in 2016.

STREAKY BUSINESS: Mookie Betts did not strike out in his final 78 plate appearances of the 2016 regular season, becoming the final PA on 9/22 vs. BAL. It is the longest streak by a Red Sox since Wade Boggs went 107 PA without a strikeout in 1991 (source: Elias).

Robbie Ross, Jr. has not allowed a HR to his last 163 2/3 batted batters faced (last: Hosmer on 6/19/15 in KC).

The Sox have won each of their last 10 games in which Jackie Bradley Jr. hits at least 1 HR (began 7/29/16).

Mitch Moreland has not committed an error in his last 52 games at 1B (7/13/16 to 6/28/16). Joe Kelly begins the 2017 season with the majors’ longest active win streak (26 vs/‘15/16).

Craig Kimbrel has converted each of his last 39 save chances since 6/14/16, the majors’ longest active streak behind BIL’s Zack Greff (49). ...

Spring Review: The Red Sox finished their 2017 Grape- fruit League slate at 18-13-3, only their 6th time earning many spring training wins in the last 5 years (1973- 2017)...BOS led the GL in runs scored (1,210) to AVG (.285), while Sox pitchers paced the league with 306 SO.