

to lock up the

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A look at what's happening around the majors today:WE MEET AGAINNL Cy Young Award candidates Max Scherzer and Aaron Nola share the mound for the second time in five days [Trevor Story Jersey](#) , this time at Nola's home park in Philadelphia. Nola (15-3, 2.13) got the better of Scherzer (16-6, 2.13) and the Nationals last Thursday in Washington, pitching eight innings with nine strikeouts in a 2-0 victory. Scherzer held the Phillies to two runs over seven innings, taking his first loss since July 2.REELING RED SOXBoston tries to end a three-game skid against Miami right-hander Jose Urena, who is returning from a suspension for hitting breakout Braves rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. with a pitch. The Red Sox were swept by the Rays over the weekend — Boston's first sweep of the season — and have lost six of eight to drop to 90-42. They'll turn to lefty Brian Johnson (4-3, 4.12) to end that skid.Urena (4-12, 4.50) was suspended six games by Major League Baseball after plunking Acuna on Aug. 15, though he pitched a complete game in a 12-1 win over Washington on Aug. 19 while he planned to appeal the ban. He dropped the appeal later that week.WRIGLEY SHOWDOWNMets right-hander Jacob deGrom and Cubs left-hander Cole Hamels take the mound at Wrigley Field for a matchup of two of baseball's hottest pitchers. DeGrom, one of the leading contenders for the NL Cy Young Award, has a 1.26 ERA and 50 strikeouts in 35 2/3 innings over five August starts. Hamels is 4-0 with a sparkling 0.79 ERA in five starts since he was acquired in a July 27 trade with Texas. Weather could be a factor, with thunderstorms in the forecast for the Chicago area.VETS OUT WESTThe Athletics and Astros continue a pivotal series in Houston with 34-year-old hurlers Edwin Jackson and Charlie Morton on the mound. Oakland is Jackson's 13th team

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, and he's made a big impression since signing a minor league deal on June 6. Over 11 starts, he's 4-3 with a 2.97 ERA, though he's given up four homers over 9 1/3 innings over his past two starts. Morton (13-3, 3.05) enjoyed a resurgence in 2017 that has continued this season, though he's also struggled lately, allowing six runs over five innings in a 10-7 win against Seattle last time out.ROLLING RAYSTampa Bay takes an eight-game winning streak into an interleague series at Atlanta. Relief pitcher Ryne Stanek will be the Rays' opener in the first game of the series, opposing Braves right-hander Julio Teheran. Tampa Bay is coming off a three-game sweep of the Red Sox, the first time Boston has been swept this season, and is a season-best nine games over .500 at 70-61. Despite this roll, the Rays are still nine games behind Oakland for the second AL wild card and 19 1/2 games behind the first-place Red Sox. The Kansas City Royals will go for a three-game sweep when they host the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday night in the series finale at Kauffman Stadium.Kansas City (49-95) has played much better as of late despite having the second-worst record in baseball behind only the Baltimore Orioles (41-103). The Royals won the series opener 4-3 in 10 innings, and they posted a more comfortable 6-3 victory Tuesday.The Royals have won seven home games in a row, including a three-game sweep over Baltimore over Labor Day weekend. Kansas City is 27-45 at home on the season.Article continues below ...“Especially about the last three weeks

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, the feeling of us never being out of a game has returned,” Royals manager Ned Yost said to MLB.com. “Finding ways to score, I'm a lot more confident in that.”Chicago (56-89) is headed in the opposite direction, at least in the short term. The White Sox have lost seven games in a row, and a loss in the series finale would match their longest losing streak of an already forgettable season.Five of those losses have come since the White Sox learned that prized pitcher Michael Kopech would miss the rest of this season and all of next season because of Tommy John surgery. Kopech's arrival had electrified teammates and fans alike as he limited opponents to one run in his first 11 innings before his ill-fated most recent start.White Sox left-hander Carlos Rodon (6-5, 3.11 ERA) will try to snap the skid when he makes his 17th start of the season. He has stumbled in his past two outings, allowing eight earned runs in 11 innings, after a remarkable run from June to August.Rodon criticized his most recent outing, which he described as “horse (expletive),” and vowed to bounce back.“Just no command,” Rodon told

reporters after losing to the Los Angeles Angels. “Down in the bullpen, didn’t feel good. Usually [David Dahl Jersey](#), you try to clear that. The first inning went well, and I tried to build off of that. Just didn’t happen.”In five career outings against Kansas City, Rodon is 2-2 with a 3.90 ERA. He has walked nine and fanned 27 in 27 2/3 innings.The Royals also will go with a left-hander as they attempt to lock up the sweep. Eric Skoglund (1-5, 6.45 ERA), a 25-year-old out of the University of Central Florida, will make his 10th start of the season and the 15th of his career.An elbow injury sidelined Skoglund for much of the season, but he returned Friday against the Minnesota Twins. He threw two scoreless innings of relief on 27 pitches as he built arm strength for his return to the starting rotation.In two career starts against the White Sox, Skoglund is 1-0 with a 2.70 ERA. He has given up seven hits, walked three and struck out 11 in 10 innings. His only other career win came against the Detroit Tigers.This marks the 19th and final meeting of the season between the two. The White Sox hold a 10-8 season series edge. They have scored 100 runs against the Royals while giving up 79.

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