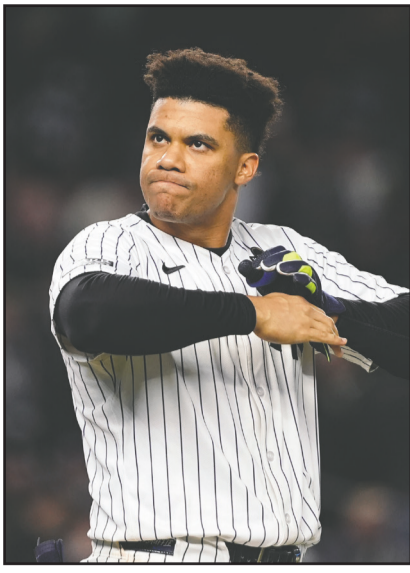


# Soto, Mets agree to record \$765M, 15-year contract

DALLAS (AP) — Star outfielder Juan Soto and the New York Mets agreed Sunday to a record \$765 million, 15-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press, a deal that could escalate to \$805 million and is believed to be the largest pact in team sports history.



AP

**Juan Soto will make and average of \$51 million per year under his new contract with the New York Mets.**

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement, first reported by the New York Post, was subject to a successful physical.

While there are no definitive records in sports beyond the United States, Soto's deal is thought to eclipse those in all other team sports. The deal, spurning the New York Yankees' attempt to reach the star who helped them reach the World Series, was reached on the eve of the first full day of baseball's annual winter meetings.

He would have the right to opt out of the contract after the 2029 season if the Mets don't at that time increase the average annual value by \$4 million annually. Soto will get a \$75 million signing bonus, payable

upon the deal's approval by the commissioner's office.

Soto's agreement is the largest and longest in Major League Baseball history, topping Shohei Ohtani's \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, a deal signed last December. That agreement included \$680 million in deferred payments and is valued at just under \$46.1 million annually for baseball's luxury tax.

Soto's agreement does not include deferred money, the person said, leaving its average annual value at \$51 million. Its length tops Fernando Tatis Jr.'s \$340 million, 14-year contract with San Diego that runs through 2034.

The Yankees' final offer to Soto was for \$760 million over 16 years, a second person familiar with the talks said, also on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced. That offer had a \$47.5 million average annual value. A four-time All-Star at age 26, Soto is the most accomplished free agent at that age since shortstop Alex Rodriguez agreed to a record \$252 million, 10-year contract with Texas in December 2000 at age 25. Soto was 19 when he made his

major league debut with Washington in 2018 and helped the Nationals win the World Series the following year, when he hit .282 with 34 homers and 110 RBIs.

He turned down Washington's \$440 million, 15-year offer in 2022 and was traded that August to San Diego. Following the death of Padres owner Peter Seidler, Soto was dealt to the Yankees in December 2023 and helped New York reach the World Series for the first time since 2009.

Soto batted .288 with 41 homers, 109 RBIs and 129 walks, hitting second in the batting order ahead of Aaron Judge to power an offense that led the major leagues with 237 homers. He hit a go-ahead homer in the AL Championship Series opener against Cleveland and a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the 10th inning that won the pennant against the Guardians in Game 5.

Soto has a .285 batting average with 201 homers, 592 RBIs and 769 walks over seven major league seasons.

# Steelers

Continued from Page B1

Not so much anymore. Pittsburgh has a 99% chance of reaching the postseason for the fourth time in five years.

## Injuries

Defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi — selected as the team's Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee last week — left in the second quarter with a groin injury. Defensive tackle Montravius Adams (knee) is trending toward playing for the first time since October and could be available in Philadelphia.

## Key number

Plus-28 — the Steelers' turnover margin since the start of the 2023 season, tops in the NFL.

## Next steps

Try to do something they haven't done in nearly 60 years: beat the Eagles on the road. Pittsburgh's most recent victory in Philadelphia was on Oct. 24, 1965.

# Dodgers expect Ohtani to be ready for Opening Day, but not on the mound

DALLAS (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers expect Shohei Ohtani to be ready to hit when the reigning World Series champions open their season in Japan against the Chicago Cubs on March 18 and 19.

"I don't think he'd have it any other way," manager Dave Roberts said Monday of the NL MVP who had left shoulder surgery last month. "That's our expectation."

Coming off his third MVP award, Ohtani is doubtful to pitch while recovering from right elbow surgery in September 2023. Roberts said a mound appearance for the two-way star in his home country is "very unlikely."

"I just don't see us starting the clock in March to then think that we would keep that continuously going through October," Roberts said during the winter meetings. "Then that would call for a break or reprieve in the middle of the season, so I don't know. I still think unlikely."

Ohtani had surgery Nov. 5 to repair a torn labrum in his non-throwing shoulder, an injury the 30-year-old sustained while sliding during a stolen base attempt in Game 2 of the World Series on Oct. 26. He didn't pitch at all during the first season of his \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Dodgers while recovering from surgery on the elbow, which also

previously underwent Tommy John surgery in October 2018.

A unanimous National League MVP after becoming the first player with at least 50 homers and 50 stolen bases in a season, Ohtani surely wants to be in the lineup in Japan.

"It's not cemented. If something doesn't look right, feel right, obviously we've got to pivot. Maybe a lot of disappointed fans," Roberts said. "We're going to do what's best for Shohei. But where we stand right now, I expect him to play."

Roberts doesn't believe the recent surgery on the left shoulder is going to have much of an impact on Ohtani pitching.

# Holmes staying with Yanks

DALLAS (AP) — Pitcher Clay Holmes and the New York Mets finalized a \$38 million, three-year contract on Monday.

Holmes can earn \$13 million for each of the first two seasons. He has a \$12 million player option for 2027 with no buyout.

Holmes developed into a dominant closer with the New York Yankees after he was acquired from Pittsburgh in July 2021, becoming a two-time All-Star. But he struggled this year with control and allowing hits on soft contact. Holmes lost his closer's job to Luke Weaver after allowing a game-ending grand slam to Texas rookie Wyatt Langford on Sept. 3.

He was 3-5 with a 3.14 ERA and a career-high 30 saves in 67 appearances, leading the major leagues with 13

blown saves. Rediscovering his sinker, he became an effective setup man for the Yankees in the postseason, going 3-1 with a 2.25 ERA in 13 games.

Holmes' sinker averaged 96.6 mph this season and he threw it 56% of the time, along with 23% sliders and 21% sweepers. His 65.0% ground-ball rate was second to Tim Hill (68.2%) last season among pitchers with 50 or more innings.

Holmes had 74 saves in 95 chances with the Yankees over the last three years. He is 24-22 with a 3.71 ERA in seven major league seasons.

After reaching the NL Championship Series and losing to the eventual World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers, the Mets added right-hander Frankie Montas with a \$34 million, two-year contract.

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS												
NFL Expanded Glimpse												
AMERICAN CONFERENCE												
East												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
y-Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	397	268	6-0-0	4-3-0	7-2-0	3-1-0	3-0-0	
Miami	6	7	0	.462	264	292	4-3-0	2-4-0	5-4-0	1-3-0	3-2-0	
e-N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	251	300	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-6-0	0-4-0	1-3-0	
e-New England	3	10	0	.231	221	307	1-5-0	2-5-0	2-7-0	1-3-0	1-3-0	
South												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Houston	8	5	0	.615	308	288	4-2-0	4-3-0	6-2-0	2-3-0	4-1-0	
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462	257	298	3-3-0	3-4-0	5-4-0	1-3-0	1-3-0	
e-Jacksonville	3	10	0	.231	238	345	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	2-2-0	
e-Tennessee	3	10	0	.231	227	342	1-5-0	2-5-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	1-2-0	
North												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	323	238	5-1-0	5-2-0	7-2-0	3-1-0	3-1-0	
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	383	318	4-2-0	4-3-0	5-4-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	362	360	1-5-0	4-3-0	2-6-0	3-2-0	1-3-0	
e-Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	232	335	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	2-2-0	
West												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
y-Kansas City	12	1	0	.923	308	252	7-0-0	5-1-0	7-1-0	5-0-0	5-0-0	
Denver	8	5	0	.615	305	234	4-2-0	4-3-0	4-4-0	4-1-0	2-2-0	
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.615	277	207	4-2-0	4-3-0	5-4-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	
e-Las Vegas	2	11	0	.154	236	361	1-4-0	1-7-0	2-8-0	0-3-0	0-5-0	
NATIONAL CONFERENCE												
East												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
x-Phila.	11	2	0	.846	342	234	5-1-0	6-1-0	4-0-0	7-2-0	3-0-0	
Washington	8	5	0	.615	376	296	5-2-0	3-3-0	3-2-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	
Dallas	5	8	0	.385	268	366	1-6-0	4-2-0	2-3-0	3-5-0	3-1-0	
e-N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	194	293	0-7-0	2-4-0	1-2-0	1-9-0	0-5-0	
South												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Tampa Bay	7	6	0	.538	363	309	3-4-0	4-2-0	1-3-0	6-3-0	2-2-0	
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	278	333	3-4-0	3-3-0	0-4-0	6-3-0	4-1-0	
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	290	292	3-4-0	2-4-0	1-3-0	4-5-0	2-3-0	
Carolina	3	10	0	.231	233	388	2-5-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	2-6-0	1-3-0	
North												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
x-Detroit	12	1	0	.923	417	234	6-1-0	6-0-0	4-0-0	8-1-0	4-0-0	
Minnesota	11	2	0	.846	339	240	6-1-0	5-1-0	5-0-0	6-2-0	2-1-0	
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	349	274	5-2-0	4-2-0	5-0-0	4-4-0	1-3-0	
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	254	278	4-3-0	6-0-0	2-3-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	
West												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	302	283	3-4-0	5-1-0	4-1-0	4-4-0	3-2-0	
L.A. Rams	7	6	0	.538	298	332	4-3-0	3-3-0	3-1-0	4-5-0	2-1-0	
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	284	289	4-3-0	2-4-0	3-1-0	3-6-0	2-2-0	
San Francisco	6	7	0	.462	308	308	4-3-0	2-4-0	2-2-0	4-5-0	1-3-0	

NHL STANDINGS												
EASTERN CONFERENCE												
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA						
Washington	27	19	6	2	40	109	74					
New Jersey	30	18	10	2	38	102	82					
Florida	28	17	9	2	36	106	91					
Carolina	27	17	9	1	35	101	81					
Toronto	27	16	9	2	34	80	71					
Boston	29	15	11	3	33	75	87					
Tampa Bay	25	14	9	2	30	98	76					
N.Y. Rangers	27	14	12	1	29	86	81					
N.Y. Islanders	29	11	11	7	29	77	87					
Philadelphia	28	12	12	4	28	83	98					
Pittsburgh	29	12	13	4	28	84	110					
Columbus	27	12	12	3	27	93	96					
Ottawa	27	12	13	2	26	82	86					
Detroit	28	11	13	4	26	73	88					
Buffalo	28	11	13	4	26	85	92					
Montreal	28	11	14	3	25	78	100					
WESTERN CONFERENCE												
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA						
Minnesota	27	18	5	4	40	86	65					
Winnipeg	29	20	9	0	40	103	75					
Vegas	28	18	7	3	39	99	82					
Los Angeles	27	17	8	3	35	83	71					
Dallas	27	17	10	0	34	92	69					
Vancouver	26	14	8	4	32	85	83					
Edmonton	27	15	10	2	32	82	79					
Colorado	29	16	13	0	32	95	103					
Calgary	28	13	10	5	31	74	84					
Seattle	29	14	14	1	29	89	88					
Utah	27	12	11	4	28	79	79					
St. Louis	28	13	13	2	28	73	87					
San Jose	30	10	15	5	25	82	108					
Anaheim	26	10	12	4	24	64	79					
Chicago	28	9	17	2	20	68	87					
Nashville	28	7	15	6	20	61	88					

VARSITY BASKETBALL												
VARSITY GIRLS												
OIL CITY (49)												
Boooks 1 0-0 2, Clark 0 3-4 3, Shevock 1 0-0 3, Fry 0 0-0 0, Vandeverter 1 0-0 2, Liederbach 12 0-0 24, Garmong 6 3-4 15. Totals: 21 6-8 49.												
FORT LEOEUF (51)												
Tobin 1 3-4 5, Will 2 1-2 5, Blood 0 0-0 0, Lemock 10 2-2 20, Johnson 0 0-0 0, Wehler 5 0-0 12, Rensick 4 1-2 9. Totals: 22 7-10 51.												
Score by Quarters												
Oil City 12 14 7 13 — 49												
Fort LeBoeuf 14 16 3 18 — 51												
3-point goals — Oil City (Shevock), Fort LeBoeuf (Wehler 2).												
COCHRANTON (43)												
Custead 0 0-0 0, Williams 1 0-0 2, Shorts 0 2-4 2, Pfeiffer 9 0-0 20, Lyons 1 0-0 2, Frayer 1 0-0 2, Reese 0 0-0 0, Rodax 6 2-2 15. Totals: 18 4-6 43.												
CONNEAUT AREA (48)												
Potts 2 0-3 4, Crabb 0 0-2 0, Detelich 0 0-0 0, Harrington 7 7-12 22, Poff 6 3-7 17, Eaton 0 0-0 0, Denig 1-4 5. Totals: 17 11-28 48.												
Score by Quarters												
Cochranton 12 14 7 10 — 43												
Conneaut Area 14 15 8 11 — 48												
3-point goals — Cochranton (Pfeiffer 2, Rodax), Conneaut Area (Poff 2, Harrington).												
JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL												
9TH GRADE BOYS												
TITUSVILLE (21)												
Hasbrouck 0 1-2 1, Schmidt 2 0-0 4, Orton 6 0-1 12, Jaco 1 2-4 4, Ongley 0 0-0 0. Totals: 9 3-7 21.												
OIL CITY (27)												
Taylor 2 0-4 4, Harton 0 2-4 2, Jones 3 0-0 6, Hummel 2 5-10 9, Woodhouse 1 2-4 2, Cyphert 1 0-0 2, Danzer 0 0-2 0. Totals: 9 9-22 27.												
Score by Quarters												
Titusville 5 5 5 6 — 21												
Oil City 8 8 5 6 — 27												
8TH GRADE BOYS												
TITUSVILLE (19)												
Names no reported.												
ROCKY GROVE (53)												
Griffin 6 0-0 12, Anderson 7 0-2 14, Mutzig 5 1-1 11, Malys 4 0-0 8, Baughman 3 0-0 6, Switzer 1 0-0 2. Totals: 26 1-3 53.												
Score by Quarters												
Titusville 6 5 2 6 — 19												
Rocky Grove 16 15 16 6 — 53												
7TH GRADE BOYS												
TITUSVILLE (26)												
Alberth 2 2-8 8, Thomas 1 0-0 2, Pasinski 4 0-3 8, Guntur 4 0-1 8, Rose 0 0-0 0. Totals: 11 4-12 26.												
ROCKY GROVE (31)												