

THE OCTOBER WIRE

Two cities, one box score — the Tigers' postseason run, covered from both benches

Tigers Sweep Yankees, Advance to ALCS

NEW YORK, NY — Tuesday, October 7, 2031 · Yankee Stadium · ALDS Game 3 · Tigers win series, 3–0

It didn't need a tenth inning this time. The Detroit Tigers closed out a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees on the road Tuesday night, holding on for a 5–3 win at Yankee Stadium to punch their ticket to the American League Championship Series — the first pennant-round appearance for this franchise since before the title drought began.

New York starter Evan Blanco was every bit as good as Bailey Ober had been in Game 1 — seven strong innings, named Player of the Game despite the loss — but Detroit chipped away just enough, an RBI double from Michael Arroyo in the third and another run in the seventh giving the Tigers a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Garret Moreno's solo homer off Jackson Jobe pulled New York within two in the bottom of the seventh, but Detroit answered immediately, breaking it open with a three-run eighth capped by Max Clark's RBI single. Closer Bradgley Rodriguez made it interesting in the ninth — two runs allowed on a walk, a single, and some traffic — but got the final outs to finish off the sweep.

Juan Soto was named series MVP, hitting .286 with three home runs, three RBI, and four runs scored across the three games — a fitting cap to a series that began with his walk-off in Game 1.

“This wasn't really the effort we hoped for.”

— Yankees manager Aaron Boone, on the sweep

GAME 3 — FINAL				
	R	H	E	Decision
Detroit Tigers	5	4	0	Fluharty W (1–0)
New York Yankees	3	5	2	Uribe L (1–1)
Key plays: Top 3rd — Arroyo RBI double vs. Blanco. Bottom 7th — Moreno solo HR vs. Jobe. Top 8th — Clark RBI single vs. Uribe caps a 3-run frame. Rodriguez survives a shaky 9th for the save (Final: DET 5, NYY 3).				

THE DETROIT TAKE

Marcus Delaney · Tigers beat, Motor City edition

Three games, three wins, and the four-year run of White Sox heartbreak is officially somebody else's problem now. A 107-win team is supposed to handle business like this, but there's a difference between supposed to and actually doing it on the road in the Bronx, and this group did it without needing the last of their nine lives.

Arroyo's third-inning double set the tone, and even when Moreno's homer briefly cut the margin to two in the seventh, Detroit had an answer ready in the very next half-inning — Clark's single was the exclamation point on a three-run eighth that took the drama out of it before Rodriguez put it back in for one shaky ninth.

The only real hiccup was Rodriguez laboring through the ninth with the door already mostly closed — worth watching given how short this turnaround to the ALCS is — but nobody in this clubhouse is dwelling on it tonight. Soto's series MVP honors are the headline, but this was a total team effort: a starter who kept them in it, a lineup that scratched across just enough against a very good opposing arm, and a bullpen that got the last nine outs even when it wasn't pretty. Four wins from a title, and for the first time in years, that sentence doesn't feel like a stretch in Detroit.

THE NEW YORK TAKE

Danny Rourke · Yankees beat, Bronx edition

Same story, different name on the back of the jersey. Evan Blanco matched Bailey Ober's Game 1 gem pitch for pitch — seven innings, one bad swing away from a shutout of his own — and once again it wasn't enough, because this lineup simply couldn't find the extra run or two that would have flipped this series. Aaron Boone said it plainly afterward: this wasn't the effort this group hoped for, and it's hard to argue with a sweep on the ledger no matter how competitive two of the three games actually were.

The bigger-picture read is more complicated than three losses suggests. This was a team that won a road Wild Card series and then ran into the best team in the league at the worst possible time — Detroit didn't just have home-field advantage, it had a deeper lineup and a deeper bullpen, and both of those gaps showed up in the moments that mattered. Moreno's homer and a genuinely dominant start from Blanco prove there's a core here worth building around. The offseason questions start now: this roster got outslugged and outpitched by a juggernaut, and closing that gap is the whole assignment before next October.

UP NEXT · ALCS PREVIEW

Detroit's opponent is set: the **Boston Red Sox (91-71)**, who won the round's other five-game thriller, eliminating the #2-seed Las Vegas Athletics (96-66) 3–2 after sweeping past Toronto in the Wild Card round. It's the second straight series where Detroit will be favored on paper against a team that has already proven it can win on the road when it matters. The ALCS is a best-of-7 and is scheduled to begin **October 11, 2031**, with home-field advantage belonging to Detroit as the higher seed.

Team	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	R	SB	ERA	WHIP	K/9
Detroit Tigers	.265	.344	.452	.796	234	887	280	3.55	1.16	9.16
Boston Red Sox	.260	.334	.438	.771	211	820	94	4.43	1.35	8.46

The regular-season numbers favor Detroit across the board — a 25-point edge in team OPS, nearly a full run of ERA, and a staggering speed gap (280 stolen bases to 94). But the Red Sox just took down a 96-win team in five games, and this Tigers roster has now needed extra innings and a shaky ninth to get through its own series. Four wins from the World Series, with the Wednesday travel day the only thing standing between now and

Game 1.

The October Wire · Detroit Tigers postseason coverage, 2031 · compiled from the Game 3 box score, game log, and the ALCS-round bracket data