

## 2023 OAPBA World Series

[Whatevers win franchise's sixth OAPBA title; fifth overall championship for manager Walt Taylor](#)  
[Jordan Alvarez, strong pitching lead Whats to 4-2 World Series win over Asian Tsunamis](#)

Walt Taylor's Whatevers won the franchise's sixth championship in the 2023 OAPBA World Series, downing the Asian Tsunamis 4-2. The Whatevers strong pitching and timely hitting were key factors in their 2023 championship series win.

For manager Walt Taylor, it was his fifth World Series ring. Walt had previously won OAPBA titles in 2005, managing the Travelers and four previous times heading up the Whatevers franchise (previously the Metros) in 2006, 2007, 2016.

The Whatevers scored first in five of the six games to put continuous pressure on the Tsunami pitching staff. The Asians, meanwhile, were not able to get their offense rolling, leaving 25 batters stranded in the six games and simply could not generate timely hits when they were most needed.

The Whatevers outscored the Tsunamis 23-17 in the six games and relied on outstanding pitching for the Series win. The Whats' Series ERA of 2.41 was the key factor in enabling them to tamp down the powerful Tsunami offense.

Whatever slugger **Yordan Alvarez** was **named the MVP of the Series**. Alvarez hit two home runs and drove in seven runs. Alvarez's first homer in Game One contributed to a 6-3 win and his second HR, a grand slam, was the deciding factor in the Whatevers 6-2 win in Game five. Also standing out for the Whatevers was C **Will Smith**, who homered in Game One and drove in all three Whatevers runs in Game Two, hitting .500 (4-8) and driving in five runs total in the six games.

Shohei Ohtani was also outstanding in the Series, winning Game Two and providing ample offense including a Game One homer.

### [Game 1 Whatevers 6, Tsunamis 3](#) *Whats take opener behind Alek Manoah, HRs by Alvarez, Lindor, Shohei Ohtani*

Whatevers starter **Alek Manoah**, backed up by three home runs, got the Whats off to a fine start in the Series with a convincing 6-3 win in the opener.

The Asians drew first blood in the Series on a **Michael Harris II** RBI single in the first. The Whatevers wasted little time in countering, pushing over three runs in the second the second off Asians starter **Corbin Burnes**, highlighted by a two-run HR by **Francisco Lindor**, putting the Whats ahead 3-1.

In the fifth, Whats slugger **Yordan Alvarez** slammed a two-run homer off Burnes and, an inning later, **Shohei Ohtani** added a solo shot to increase the Whats lead to 6-1, chasing Burnes, who surrendered six runs his start.

The Tsunamis tried to rally in the ninth with a two-run HR by **Byron Buxton**, but it was too little, too late as the Whats took a 1-0 lead in the Series..

Tsunamis 3-6-1 L- Corbin Burnes 0-1. HR Byron Buxton #1.

**Whatevers 6-7-1** W- Alek Manoah 1-0. HR Francisco Lindor, #1 Yordan Alvarez #1, Shohei Ohtani #1.



Alek Manoah, Whatevers

### [Game 2 Whatevers 3, Tsunamis 1](#). *Will Smith drives in all three What runs in 3-1 win; Whats take 2-0 lead in Series.*



What C **Will Smith** provided the offense and starter Shohei Ohtani complemented Smith's bat with a fine pitching performance to give the **Whatevers** a 3-1 win in Game Two and a two-game edge in the Series.

Smith put the **Whats** ahead 1-0 in the first with a HR off **Tsunamis** starter **Max Fried**. **Tsu C Salvador Perez** tied the game at one apiece with a H R off Ohtani in the third, but that turned out to be all the **Tsunamis** could muster in the game. In the bottom of the third, after a single by **Tommy Edman** and a double by **Brendan Donovan**, Smith drove in both runners with a double to put the **Whats** in front 3-1.

Ohtani, meanwhile, kept the **Tsunami** offense at bay, going seven innings, striking out nine batters while allowing only four hits. **Whats** ace closer **Emmanuel Clase** shut the door in the end for a save and a **Whatevers** 2-0 lead in the Series..

**Tsunamis** 1-5-0 L- Max Fried 0-1. HR Salvador Perez #1.

**Whatevers** 3-5-0 W- Shohei Ohtani 1-0. Sv. Emmanuel Clase #1. HR Will Smith #1.

Whatevers

### Game 3 Tsunamis 7, Whatever's 5 *Tsunamis offense comes to life as Asians roll over Whats with 10-hit attack*

The Asians offense finally woke up in Game Three, pounding out 10 hits, including homers by **Juan Soto** and **Adolis Garcia**, for a 7-4 triumph, their first win in the Series.

The Whats scored first when 3b **Alex Bregman** hit a two-run HR off Tsu starter **Cal Quantrill**, but Soto hit a 2R HR off What starter **Sandy Alcantara** in the bottom of the frame to tie the game at 2-2. In the second, **Adolis Garcia** got to Alcantara with a 2R HR to put the Tsunamis in front 4-2. In the sixth, the Tsunamis put the game away with three more runs on doubles by **Michael Harris II**, **Nolan Arenado**, and Soto, increasing the Tsu lead to 7-2.



Juan Soto, Asian Tsunamis

Whatever C **Will Smith** homered for the second straight game in the ninth for the Whatever's, but the game was out of hand by that time and the Tsunamis pulled to within a game of the Whats, who now led the Series by a 2-1 margin.

Whatever's 1-8-1 L- Sandy Alcantara 0-1. HR Alex Bregman #1, Will Smith #2.  
**Tsunamis 6-11-2** W-Caleb Ferguson 1-0. HR Juan Soto #1, Adolis Garcia #1.

### Game 4 Whatever's 6, Tsunamis 2. *Yordan Alvarez hits grand slam to lead Whats to 3-1 lead in Series*



What slugger **Yordan Alvarez** (left) hit a grand slam in a six-run third inning to lift the Whatever's to a 6-2 lead in Game Four and a 3-1 lead in the Series.

In the third, with **Miles Mikolas** on the hill for the Tsunamis, Francisco Lindor singled to lead off the inning. Mikolas then hit Mike Trout and walked Alex Bregman to load the bases. **Alvarez then made Mikolas pay, slamming a grand slam HR to put the Whats in front 4-0.** The Whats continued to score in the inning, adding two more runs on RBI doubles by **Vlad Guerrero, Jr.** and **Keibert Ruiz** to go ahead 6-0.

Whatever pitching continued to confound the Tsunami offense. What starter **Kyle Wright** got out of a few early inning jams and pitched shutout ball in into the seventh, **striking out 10 batters**, until Tsu 3b **Nolan Arenado** hit a two-run home run. Relievers **Alex Vesia** and **Scott Barlow** recorded the final seven outs to preserve the lead and give the Whats a 3-1 lead in the Series.

**Whatever's 6-9-2** W- Kyle Wright 1-0. HR Yordan Alvarez #2 (*grand slam*)

**Tsunamis 2-4-0** L- Miles Mikolas 0-1. HR Nolan Arenado #1.

### Game 5 Tsunamis 3, Whatever's 1. *Corbin Burnes prevails in rematch v. Manoah; Whats still lead Series 3-2*

With their backs to the wall and their offense confounded by Whatever pitching to date in the Series, Asians starter **Corbin Burnes** (right) and the **Tsunamis bullpen took charge in Game Five** to keep the Whats off the board and emerge with a 3-1 win.

Both team swapped runs in the third inning, with the visiting Whats tallying first on an RBI single by **Yordan Alvarez** and **Michael Harris II** driving in a run for the Asians. In the fifth, Tsu DH Tim Anderson homered off What starter **Alek Manoah** to put the Asians in front by a 2-1 score. The Tsunamis added an insurance run in the eighth on an RBI double by **Austin Riley** to make it 3-1.



Burnes was outstanding for the Tsunamis, going six innings, giving up only one run. Relievers **Caleb Ferguson** and **Collin McHugh** combined to shut down the Whats over the final three innings to nail down the Tsunami win.

Whatever's 1-4-0 L- Alek Manoah 1-1.

**Tsunamis 3-7-0** W- Corbin Burnes 1-1. Sv Collin McHugh #1. HR Tim Anderson #1.



**Game 6** **Whatevers 2, Tsunamis 1.** *Bregman's RBI in ninth give Whats win, 2023 OAPBA championship*



In a tense game that remained in doubt until the ninth inning, What 3b **Alex Bregman** (left) singled home **Mike Trout** with two out in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Whatevers to a 2-1 win in Game Six and the Whatevers sixth OAPBA championship.

The Whats scored in the first off Tsunami lefty **Max Fried** in the fourth on a RBI single by **Gio Urshela**. Down 1-0, the Tsunamis fought back in the seventh to tie the game when **Sal Perez** singled home **Jake McCarthy**, who had stolen second and third, tying the game 1-1.

In the ninth, against Tsunami reliever **John Brebbia**, Trout led off for the Whats with a double and moved to third on a sac bunt by **Keibert Ruiz**. Brebbia then

intentionally walked **Yordan Alvarez**, opting instead to pitch to Alex Bregman, the next batters. *Bregman responded with a walk-off RBI single that won the game...and the Series...for the Whatevers.*

Tsunamis 1-5-3 L- John Brebbia 0-1.

**Whatevers 2-6-1** W- Emmaneul Clase 1-0.