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# For Mets' fans, team's road to the World Series simply 'amazin'

**BY ANDREW WYRICH**

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NEW YORK – “Magical.” “Unreal.” “A Miracle.”

Those were the words Mets fans described the team's unexpected push to baseball's biggest stage as they waited outside of Game 5 of the World Series on Sunday night.

Despite their team being on the brink of elimination, fans said they couldn't help but feel optimistic. With a season that has played out like this one, pessimism – even in the face of a 3 to 1 deficit in the World Series – was not an option, they said. Win or loss on Sunday, Mets fans said the 2015 season has been simply “amazin.”

“It's been like a movie,” John Scalia III, of Staten Island, said as he anxiously awaited entry into Citi Field. “Every player has exceeded expectations – there have been so many ups and downs. Regardless of the outcome of tonight's game I'm excited for this team moving forward.”

As hundreds of orange-and-blue clad fans lined up outside waiting to enter the Mets' last home game during what has been a storybook season, it was hard not to think back on the wild ride that got them there, they said.

A sizzling 11-game winning streak in April gave fans a glimmer of what was to come, but then a floundering mid-season tempered expectations – a typical Mets fan's early spring, they said.

As the trade deadline approached, drama upped the ante, they said, as the Wilmer Flores non-trade unfolded before their eyes and his dramatic game-winning home run just days later became a signature moment of the season.

But once the team traded for Yoenis Cespedes, Juan Uribe, Tyler Clippard and others – the expectations soared, fans said, and they could feel something was beginning to happen.

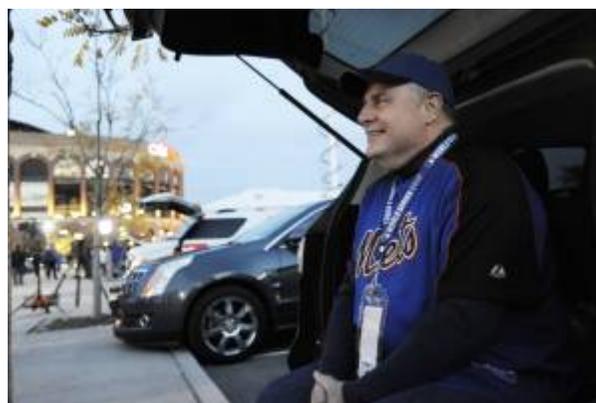
Heading into the end of the season with a September sweep of the Washington Nationals, a division rival, was icing on the cake, fans said, and the surge through the playoffs only raised the excitement around this team.

“This has just been awesome,” said David Peralta, of Queens. “Win or loss we still have the National League championship under our belt. No one thought that would happen in Spring Training – no one. It's just been unreal.”

Ted Arzonico, of Tenafly, has been a fan of the Mets since 1962 – so he's seen all of the franchise's triumphs and missteps. Arzonico said he was hopeful heading into Game 5, but will look back fondly on the 2015 season when all is said and done.

“It's a dream to be here,” Arzonico said. “The team accomplished so much and they have all of the pieces falling into place for the future.”

With a loss on Sunday night, the Mets capped off a season that fans said they will never forget. But there is always next year, fans said, because as this season has shown them, anything is possible.



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mets fan Ted Arzonico of Tenafly talks about how he feels about the Mets run this season on Nov. 1, 2015. Arzonico has been a fan since 1962.

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“I won't feel cheated if the Royals beat us, but of course I'll be disappointed,” Peralta said before the game. “But with this team, I know we'll be back. Next year we'll have the best five starters in the league and they'll all be tested from this postseason. We'll be back a couple of times, no doubt about it.”

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