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## Mets fans catch the spirit

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As they waited to enter Citi Field on Saturday evening for Game 4 of the World Series, Mets fans were still basking in the glow of the night before — a game that will likely play on “Mets Classics” for years to come.

“After David Wright’s home run, something felt different,” said Brian Mastro of Brooklyn. “Even through the Royals came back, I just never felt that the Mets were truly out of it and other fans felt that way, too. I’ve never heard Citi Field that loud before. It felt like Shea Stadium.”

With one swing of the bat on Friday night David Wright produced a series of firsts: his first-ever homer in a World Series game, the first home run in history hit at Citi Field during a World Series, and the first time during this Series that Mets fans felt the same magic that has defined their storybook season.

And a day after their team’s 9-3 victory, fans were still riding high, expressing legitimate hope that the magic will continue and carry them through this homestand and beyond.

“Once the wheels started turning, the team started to roll,” said Jon Moyses, who flew from Arizona to watch the game. “We had to get some momentum. Once we have that, anything can happen.”

The optimism was palpable outside of Citi Field on Saturday night — and it seemed to transcend the outcome of any one game.

Just a day beforehand, when the Mets came back home trailing the series 2-0, fans were a mix of anxious nerves and cautious excitement.

But on Saturday, there was a feeling again that theirs was a team of destiny.

It wasn’t just Wright’s home run that fueled the imaginations of Mets fans Saturday. Noah Syndergaard’s statement pitch to open the game, Curtis Granderson’s home run, Juan Uribe’s RBI, and the various little things that played out in the Mets’ favor all had fans dreaming that more good fortune was to come during this World Series.

“Baseball is a fickle game,” said Judah Gaioni, who traveled from Colorado. “Any little thing can change the momentum. I remember thinking last night when Uribe hit that ball, we may have just won the Series right here.”

“Lets Go Mets!” shouts carried through the chilled Halloween night air around the Home Run Apple at Citi Field — where the Mets posted a 49-32 record during the regular season and where the Mets are working hard to create an atmosphere that’s too much for opponents to overcome.

“Yesterday was a catalyst for us to jump-start things,” said Rick Gordan of River Vale. “If they win three more, we could look back at Wright’s home run as a Ron Swoboda moment — the time the series changed.”

The Mets’ season has been characterized by unexpected magical moments — the Wilmer Flores home run after nearly being traded, sweeping the Washington Nationals to shut the door on the division title, the thrilling division series and championship series.

On Saturday, Mets fans said there was now another chapter to add to that improbable story — a night that perhaps, just maybe, would help produce the desired result: watching a “2015 World Series Champions” banner hoisted along Citi Field’s left field wall.



KEVIN R. WEXLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marilyn Ruggiero and Jackie Ren of Staten Island combining Halloween with their Mets fandom on Oct. 31, 2015.

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“If the Mets end up winning it all this year, we’ll look back at Syndergaard’s first pitch and say that was the moment they turned it around,” said Andrew Hollander of Roosevelt Island. “That was a moment, a defined moment. It has the potential to be where everything changed for us.”

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