

AN SDMA SIGNING AND NEW YORK METS WINS PROVIDE INSPIRATION FOR SDMNY FACILITATION

Last week Decision-Maker Matt celebrated his SDMA signing with his family at their home in Staten Island. His parents learned about SDM and steered Matt to SDMNY where he “had a great time with the process learning to make decisions faster, and the cons and pros. Just becoming a better decision maker”. Matt chose his parents as his supporters, and both remarked on how valuable the SDMNY facilitation process had been.

Matt’s dad expressed how Matt has become more vocal through this decision-making process, and how impressed he is to see Matt use the mapping tools he has learned. Dad told Matt that he has grown into a “compassionate young adult” that he is very proud of.

Matt’s mom expressed how proud she is of Matt and that “it means the world to us that he chose us as supporters as that takes a lot of trust”. She thanked Matt for choosing them. She continued with how proud [she is] of him on his way to becoming an “independent Decision-Maker and hopefully becoming an independent adult”.

Matt wasn’t comfortable sharing pictures of the signing ceremony, but he was more than enthusiastic about his love of baseball, and especially of the New York Mets. That enthusiasm got us thinking, both about our mapping tools, which Matt used so successfully, and our belief in building on Decision-Makers’ strengths (Good News 8/23/2024). And, for sure, it made this last week of play-off baseball even more compelling!



Mets celebrate after winning the wild card series against Milwaukee on Thursday night

For those of you who may not have followed so closely, the Mets barely made it into the National League wild card series after a thrilling, last minute win against the Atlanta Braves. That propelled them into a three game “do or die” series against the Milwaukee Brewers that concluded with a truly “amazing” 9th inning win in the third and last game last night. So what, you may ask, does this have to do with SDM and SDMNY facilitation, and how may Matt’s enthusiasm affect our practice?

Watching the games and listening to the commentary, it became stunningly clear how important the decision-making process was, especially for the manager, and how it so graphically displayed the seven steps that go into everyone’s decision-making process for the simplest, and in the case of Mets manager Carlos Mendoza, most complex and consequential decisions. It made us think creatively about what an engaging and useful tool examples from the sports that Decision-Makers care about (this would work equally well for virtually every other sport) could be to engage, educate and inspire them.



Manager Carlos Mendoza deciding whether to keep Edwin Diaz in for the 9th inning against Atlanta, Sunday night (photo credit: Charles Wenzelberg)



Diaz celebrating after the win that propelled the Mets into the wild card playoffs (photo credit: Charles Wenzelberg)



Carlos Mendoza (photo credit: Gordon Donovan/NurPhoto/AP)

In both of the deciding games, the decision to leave a pitcher in (Edwin Diaz, after blowing the Met's lead in the 8th inning against the Braves) or bringing closer Diaz in (for an unusual role in the 7th and 8th innings) against the Brewers last night could be “unpacked” to demonstrate :

- 1. Gathering information (who else was available; their records against the opposing batters, the amount of rest they had, etc.)
- 2. Understanding the information (using “analytics”, the views of the batting coach and others, etc.)
- 3. Thinking about options (in the final game, bringing in a starter to close out the 9th inning, a role he had never performed this season)
- 4. Considering consequences (what if Diaz had really lost it or if it meant that he would not be available if the Mets miraculously moved on?)
- 5. Weighing the choices (and in both cases considering the importance of Diaz to the team and his own incredible pride and determination)
- 6. Communicating the decision to others (to the players, and, in the first game, the pitching coach who had removed Diaz) and
- 7. Implementing the decisions (in the first case keeping Diaz in for a brilliant comeback; in the second, getting 2 scoreless innings so the Mets could win the game with 4 runs in the 9th)

We're always thinking about how to make SDM facilitation better, how to give facilitators more effective tools, and how to foster Decision-Makers' intrinsic motivation (and excitement) to continue the process. Now, thanks to Matt, we have a whole new set of ideas, as well as an “amazing” Mets team that shows us how anything is possible if you try hard enough and care deeply enough– including, for us in the SDMNY community, about the right of everyone to make their own decisions, regardless of disability.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATT AND HIS SUPPORTERS, THANKS FOR THE GREAT IDEA, AND THANKS TO FACILITATOR MARIE!