



Baseball in review

by Alan Small

Another baseball season is coming to a close, and the pennant races ended with a whimper.

Since there were no pennant races what were the highlights? Surprises? Disappointments?

First off, of the four pennant winners three teams were not given a chance at the beginning of the season. The Red Sox were considered "choke artists", the Angels were thought to be too old, again, and like usual no one had even heard of anyone on the Astros.

The World Series winners, the Kansas City Royals had major on and off-field problems. On the field they couldn't beat anybody and off the field their manager, Dick Howser, quit managing after the All-Star break as he was diagnosed to have a brain tumor. He hopes to be back next season. Their pitching staff was not even close to last year's and George Brett had an off year.

The Toronto Blue Jays got off to an awful start and never recovered. They ended up one bad Dave Stieb year away from repeating as AL East champs. Actually the whole pitching staff was inconsistent and led to their downfall. Jesse Barfield, George Bell, and Tony Fernandez all had spectacular seasons and will all get MVP votes.

Boston was a story in itself this year. Roger Clemens won 24 games and struck out 20 Seattle batters in one game, a major league record. Wade Boggs hit .350 again. Dennis (Oil Can) Boyd, hotdogged his way to two club suspensions, but rebounded to pitch the pennant clincher.

The Angels' Wally Joyner, who replaced Rod Carew at first base, had an excellent rookie year. The Ex-Edmonton Trapper hit .290 and will drive in 100 runs this year.

The Yankees had more Steinbrenner problems this year, with Lou Pinella being the puppet manager. Steinbrenner was critical of Dave Winfield (again?) to the point that Winfield was benched for a short time before the All-Star break.

Jose Canseco of the Oakland A's stormed onto the American League

scene, hitting 33 homers and leading the league in runs batted in.

Joe Cowley of the White Sox pitched a rarity, a non-shutout, no-hitter. He also walked 7 and gave up a run. Ron Hassey, also of the White Sox was shuffled between the Yankees and Chicago twice in one season.

The Minnesota Twins showed again that they have a lousy team and lousy ballpark.

The New York Mets won the National League East division in almost Oiler-like fashion by playing .660 ball. They were the complete ball team this year and lead the division by 20 games. All of the starting pitchers had outstanding years and even got some hits on some policemen at a Houston bar. Darryl Strawberry, Keith Hernandez, and Gary Carter all had great years.

Houston won their pennant on great pitching, as one would expect, but slugger Glenn David also became the first Astro to hit 30 home runs. Mike Scott lead the league in strikeouts and earned run average and threw a no-hitter to clinch the NL West crown. Nolan Ryan was back in his 10 K's per game form, and rookie Steve Deshaies struck out the first eight Dodger batters he faced in one game, a modern league record.

Mike Schmidt quietly hit his way to another probable MVP award by leading the league in home runs and RBIs. Hubie Brooks was on his way to winning the award until his season was shortened by a hand injury.

The Dodgers lost all hope of repeating this year during training camp when Pedro Guerrero went down with a knee injury. Besides that, Fernando Valenzuela came up with his best season ever by winning 20 games for the first time.

When you get right down to it, there were a lot of highlights in this season, even without the pennant races. Maybe the lack of pennant races will be a godsend: this way we will have that much more hype for the playoffs coming up next week.

WIFL Scoring Top 10

TD	C	FG	S	P	
MATICH, Brent, C	0	13	7	7	41
McFALL, George, M	0	3	6	5	26
KARBONIK, Tim, C	4	0	0	0	24
KASOWSKI, Steve, A	0	6	3	4	19
NORMAN, Mark, BC	3	0	0	0	18
PETROS, Mark, BC	3	0	0	0	18
GEREMIA, Mass, BC	3	0	0	0	18
BROWN, Dave, C	3	0	0	0	18
BRUS, Mark, A	3	0	0	0	18
URBANOVICH, G, M	3	0	0	0	18

Bears 4 'Horns 2

FIRST PERIOD

No scoring.

Penalties — Odland, Leth, 1:57, Mazutinec, Leth, 3:47, Craig, Alta, 6:18, Patrick, Alta, 8:04, Mumford, Leth, 11:35, Dollevoet, Leth, 13:35, Stokowski, Alta, 16:29, Cousins, Alta, 17:17, Otto, Alta, 17:30.

SECOND PERIOD

1. Lethbridge, Kabayama (1) (Skoye, Dollevoet) pp 1:57,
2. Lethbridge, G. Gervais (1) (Skoye, Gekowisz) 12:23,
3. Alberta, Dill (2) (S. Cranston, Draper) 18:45.

Penalties — Craig, Alta, 1:13, Cousins, Alta, 3:34, Mazutinec, Leth, 6:38, Dollevoet, Leth, 9:19, Gervais, Leth, Paradis, Alta, 14:51, Dollevoet, Leth, 15:28.

THIRD PERIOD

4. Alberta, Severyn (1) (Dill, S. Cranston) pp 4:56,
5. Alberta, Patrick (1) (Otto) 5:57,
6. Alberta, S. Cranston (1) (Cousins) 11:26.

Penalties — Orban, Leth, double minor, Dill, Alta, 0:06, Leclair, Alta, double minor, Mazutinec, Leth, 1:56, Dollevoet, Leth, 3:36, Gervais, Leth, Gouchie, Alta, 6:23, Skoye, Leth, 12:53, Cousins, Alta, 15:44.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Alta 8 11 9 26

Leth 12 10 13 35

Goaltenders — Harley, Alta; Osing, Leth.

Bears 4 Huskies 0

FIRST PERIOD

1. Alberta, Wakabayashi (1) (D. Cranston) 3:13.

Penalties — Draper, Alta, 2:00, Kendall, Sask, 4:10, Cousins, Alta, 6:10, Steward, Swyston, Sask, Paradis, Alta, 8:24, Severyn, Alta, 9:26, Brandolini, Alta, 12:10, Lloyd, Sask, 13:42, Cousins, Alta, 14:16.

SECOND PERIOD

2. Alberta, Dill (1) (Stokowski) 12:07,
3. Alberta, Stokowski (1) (Helland) 19:57.

Penalties — Beauschesne, Sask, Brandolini, Alta, 7:05, Patrick, Alta, 11:22, Clarke, Alta, 12:36, Severyn, Alta, 18:37.

THIRD PERIOD

4. Alberta, Welsby (1) (Craig, Glasgow) 1:14

Penalties — Butz, Sask, 3:50, Stewart, Sask, 5:55, D. Cranston, Alta, 11:59, Lovsin, Sask, 13:59, Spafford, Sask, 16:29, Karolet, Sask, Craig, Alta, 17:51, Vandal, Alta, major 18:13.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Alta 5 14 14 33

Sask 7 2 8 17

Goaltenders — Krill, Alta; McKay, Sask.

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