

And the rest is Homer Hiller Henry Hillebrand history . . .

*Posted by Paul Ladewski
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This might be, this could be the week that Chicago waited 102 years to arrive. If the White Sox follow the Cubs' lead and clinch the Central Division title, then it will mark the first time since 1906 that both local teams finished in first place in the same season.

And who would have thought that the last time it happened, a Freeport, Ill., native named Homer Hiller Henry Hillebrand would be in the thick of it?

In an era of unbalanced schedules, the result of rainouts and tie games that were not rescheduled, clinchers are somewhat difficult to pinpoint, but it appears that the Cubs did the deed on Sunday, Sept. 16, at West Side Park. On that afternoon, starter **Jack Pfiester** bested Hillebrand and the Pittsburgh Pirates, 5-1, as the North Siders extended their lead to a full 17 1/2 games over the New York Giants, who did not play because of local blue laws.

Acquired from Omaha (Western League) in what is believed to be August of the previous year, Pfiester would become one of the better pick-ups in Cubs history. He went on to win 20 games in the '06 season as a left-handed complement to **Mordecai (Three Finger) Brown**, the staff ace. As for the 5-foot-8 Hillebrand, a converted outfielder-first baseman, the decision would be his last in a three-year career that was remarkable in name only.

Whereas the Cubs had little if any competition in the regular season, the Cleveland Naps and New York Highlanders pushed the White Sox to its final days. (Sound familiar?) On Tuesday, Oct. 2, behind starter **Frank (Yip) Owen**, the South Siders claimed a share of the American League pennant by virtue of a 4-0 victory against the Browns at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis.

The White Sox nailed down a World Series berth while they were idle the next day, as the second-place Highlanders dropped a 3-0 decision versus the Athletics in the second game of a doubleheader at Columbia Field in Philadelphia. Manager Clark Griffith's team remained four games out of first place but with only two games left on its schedule.

And the scene was set for the first and most recent Cubs-White Sox showdown in World Series history.

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