Bat's all, folks

Posted by Paul Ladewski
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One of the greatest seasons in modern Cubs history has come to an abrupt close, and for the second time in as many years, a bunch of quiet bats were the primary reason for it.

Maybe there's only way to explain how an offense so good for so long could turn this bad, this soon. Not enough good **Wood**.

The Cubs haven't scored more than two runs in an inning in the postseason since Game 7 of the 2003 NLCS versus the Florida Marlins, a span of 57 innings or more than five games. The last time it happened, pitcher **Kerry Wood** hit a three-run home run.

The 2008 Cubs aren't the first Chicago team to suffer a massive slump at the most inopportune time. The 1983 and 2000 White Sox also feel their pain.

In 1983, the White Sox posted a 99-63 record en route to the West Divison championship. Then the Winnin' Uglies hit .211 without a homer versus the Baltimore Orioles in the ALCS and were eliminated in four games. If not for a 2-1 victory behind pitcher **LaMarr Hoyt** in the opener, they would have been swept.

Harold Baines, **Carlton Fisk** and **Greg Luzinski** were a combined 7-of-48 and didn't have an RBI in the series. Only table-setters **Rudy Law** (.389) and **Julio Cruz** (.333) had better-than-.300 batting averages.

In the ALDS versus the Seattle Mariners seven years later, the White Sox were in and out in three games. In 40 at-bats, **Paul Konerko**, **Carlos Lee**, **Magglio Ordonez** and **Frank Thomas** had three hits and no homers between them. The most effective White Sox hitter? Reserve third baseman **Herbert Perry** (four hits, two walks).

Last year it was the Cubs offense that went belly up at the worst possible time. Against an Arizona Diamondbacks, the North Siders hit .194 and were outscored 16-6 in three games. The foursome of **Cliff Floyd**, **Jacque Jones**, **Aramis Ramirez** and **Alfonso Soriano** had four hits in 40 at-bats and failed to drive in a run.

There has to be a way to get **Wood** in the line-up somehow, doesn't there?

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