

This season marks the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the memorable 1984 Cubs and 1959 White Sox teams, respectively. Each week the Chicago Baseball Museum chronicles the significant events that took place at a similar time in their dramatic seasons.

Bucs rally to scuttle Cubs, 7-6, magic number is stuck at 3

CHICAGO, Sept. 20 – The pennant celebration will have to wait another day.

The Cubs saw their magic number remain at three on Thursday afternoon, when their normally reliable bullpen broke down in a 7-6 loss against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Wrigley Field.

The last-place Pirates overcame a 6-2 deficit to complete a sweep of the three game series in front of 33,651 disappointed spectators. The Cubs lost their fourth game in a row, which matched their worst skid of the season.

The Cubs took a 5-4 lead into the eighth inning, but reliever Lee Smith (9-7) allowed a pair of runs that turned out to be the difference. Johnny Ray stroked a sacrifice fly to break a 5-all deadlock.

When the Cubs scored four times in the fifth inning, it appeared that they had snapped out of their funk. Consecutive two-out hits by Keith Moreland, Ron Cey and Jody Davis plated the last three runs.

But the Pirates responded with a pair of runs in the sixth inning and another in the seventh to chase starter Dick Ruthven from the mound.

Kent Tekulve (3-9) received credit for the victory, while John Candelaria earned his first save of the season in a rare bullpen stint.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 90-62 --; 2. New York 83-70 7.5; 3. Philadelphia 81-72 9.5; 4. St. Louis 80-72 10; 5. Montreal 74-77 15.5; 6. Pittsburgh 68-85 22.5.

Shaw, White Sox tame Tigers, South Side braces for clincher

CHICAGO, Sept. 18 – After 40 years of frustration, the White Sox and their fans can taste victory now.

And they can thank their ever-ready battery of pitcher Bob Shaw and catcher Sherm Lollar for that on Friday night.

Shaw outpitched Jim Bunning in a brilliant duel and Lollar slammed a home run for the only run of the game, as White Sox cut their magic number to two in a 1-0 thriller in front of a frenzied sellout crowd at Comiskey Park.

If the White Sox beat the Tigers on Saturday afternoon and the Athletics knock off the second-place Cleveland Indians later that evening, they will clinch the American League pennant and give the South Side a reason to party.

Until Lollar went deep to lead off the fifth inning, Bunning (16-13) looked to be unbeatable. The right-hander had allowed one hit to that point, and in one stretch, he struck out 5-of-6 batters.

But Shaw (17-6) was every bit as dominant as his counterpart on this night.

Shaw yielded only five singles and didn't allow a baserunner to advance as far as second base until the ninth inning. Harvey Kuenn coaxed a one-out walk, and after Al Kaline flied out, he advanced to second base on a Charlie Maxwell single. The right-hander induced Frank Bolling to ground out while the 37,352 fans roared their approval.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 91-57 --; 2. Cleveland 85-62 5.5; 3. New York 74-73 16.5; 4. Detroit 72-75 18.5; 5. Baltimore 71-76 19.5; 6. Boston 70-77 20.5; 7. Kansas City 63-83 27; 8. Washington 62-85 28.5.