

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.

Cubs finish what they start, give Reds double dose of reality

CHICAGO, Aug. 27 – Start fast and finish strong, coaches and managers have preached for years.

Has any Cubs team in recent memory executed the game plan better than current one?

On Tuesday afternoon, the Cubs swept the Cincinnati Reds by identical 5-2 scores in front of 32,827 customers at Wrigley Field, and they used a season-long formula to do it each game.

In the opener, Keith Moreland started a big day with a three-run home run (15th) in the first inning, and the Cubs never trailed the rest of the way. He totaled five hits and six RBI in the two games.

George Frazier closed the deal with 2 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Dennis Eckersley, who won for the eighth time in 15 decisions.

It was more of same in the nightcap, as Ryne Sandberg triggered a three-run outburst with a solo homer (17th) in the first inning.

Dick Ruthven (4-9) pitched five innings to earn the victory, his first in the last four starts. Rich Bordi protected the lead with four innings of no-run, one-hit relief for his fourth save of the season.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 78-53 --; 2. New York 72-58 5.5; 3. Philadelphia 71-58 6; 4. St. Louis 65-65 12.5; 5. Montreal 64-66 13.5; 6. Pittsburgh 56-75 22.

Shaw, White Sox turn back Indians, extend lead to 2½ games in A.L. race

CLEVELAND, Aug. 28 – At the start of the season, the White Sox had reason to believe that theirs would be one the deepest, most experienced rotations in the major leagues.

What the South Siders couldn't have known was that an untested 26-year-old pitcher named Bob Shaw would emerge as a staff leader only months later.

In the opener of a crucial three-game showdown at Municipal Stadium on Friday night, Shaw went the distance in a 7-3 victory against the Cleveland Indians

for his 14th victory of the season. The White Sox moved 2 1/2 games ahead of the second-place Indians in the American League race.

Shaw was unfazed by the partisan crowd of 70,398 fans and allowed only seven hits en route to his eighth victory in the last nine decisions. The right-hander mowed down nine of the last 10 batters.

The teams were locked in a 3-all deadlock in the seventh inning, when the White Sox scored four times against Indians reliever Jim Grant to break open the game.

Nellie Fox and Jim Landis led off with singles before Sherm Lollar struck a three-run homer, his 20th of the season. Newcomer Ted Kluszewski followed with a single, and pinch runner Earl Torgeson eventually scored on a Bubba Phillips groundout.

Indians starter Jack Harshman was plagued by wildness and unable to get out the fifth inning.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 77-49 --; 2. Cleveland 75-52 2.5; 3. Detroit 63-65 15; 4. New York 63-65 15; 5. Baltimore 61-64 15.5; 6. Kansas City 59-68 18.5; 7. Boston 59-69 19; 8. Washington 51-76 26.5.