

## **White Sox bid farewell to Metrodome -- and not moment too soon, either**

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When the White Sox scored a dramatic 4-2 victory in their final game at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome last Wednesday afternoon, it marked the conclusion to three decades worth of crazy bounces, bizarre plays and utter frustration the likes of which they hadn't experienced anywhere else in their history.

Incredibly, the come-from-behind victory marked only the second time in 203 games that the White Sox had won a game that they had trailed in their final at-bat at the dreaded dome. The other such occurrence took place on June 22, 1984, when Harold Baines triggered a three-run rally with a two-run home run off Twins reliever Ron Davis in the ninth inning of an 8-6 victory.

Then again, maybe the White Sox should have known what was to come on June 28, 1982, when they made their Metrodome debut in front of a sparse crowd of 8,428 fans.

The White Sox outlasted the Twins that Monday night, 8-7, but not before they nearly blew a 7-0 lead. Only after reliever pitcher Salome Barojas retired the final two batters with the tying and winning runs on base could they exhale again.

A review of the Metrodome:

+ In 28 seasons, the White Sox posted an 89-114 record and were outscored by a 994-905 margin, or 0.4 runs per game. They won nine season series, lost 14 and split five others. They failed to win the series in more than two consecutive seasons.

+ The White Sox were winless in the lockout-shortened 1994 campaign, as they lost each of the four games.

+ One year later, the White Sox won five games in a row, which would mark their best stretch in one season. A three-game sweep (June 26-28) was part of the streak.

+ The Metrodome horrors became more acute after the 2000 campaign, a trend that coincided with a schedule change that called for a third series against division opponents at home. Since then, the Twins dominated at a 63 percent rate (53-31) that included six three-game sweeps and another of two games.

+ In the 2001-2004 seasons, the White Sox were swept in at least one three-game series. The low point took place on Sept. 14-16, 2004, when the Twins won by 10-2, 6-1 and 10-1 scores.

+ In the 2008 season, the White Sox lost 7-of-8 games and were swept in two- and three-game series.

+ On July 28 of this year, White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle extended his streak of consecutive batters retired to 45 in a row, a major league record. The Twins rallied for four runs in the seventh inning, and Buehrle took the loss in the 5-3 decision.