

1972 Season Had Its Share of Golden Moments

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Posted on Tuesday, April 3, 2012

From start to finish, the 10 most memorable games in the 1972 White Sox season:

- Saturday, April 15: On Opening Day, the visitors were locked in a scoreless duel in Kansas City when Dick Allen hit a solo home run in the ninth inning. Bob Oliver followed suit with two outs in the bottom half and the Royals went on to win the game, 2-1, but not before Allen gave an early hint of what would come later.
- Sunday, May 21: Carlos May cracked a two-out, three-run homer off California Angels reliever Alan Foster to overturn an 8-6 deficit in the ninth inning. The team completed a 9-2 homestand and moved into first place, the latest it had been there in five years. Earlier in the contest, Allen slammed an estimated 500-foot homer off Rudy May that struck the back wall in center field.
- Sunday, June 4: After Tom Bradley outpitched Yankees ace Mel Stottlemyre in the opener of a doubleheader, 6-1, Allen was summoned from the clubhouse to hit a three-run, walk-off homer off closer Sparky Lyle that gave his team a 5-4 victory in the nightcap.
- Friday, June 22: The visitors dropped a 5-3 decision to the Rangers in Arlington, Tex., but they lost far more than a game. When his back pain became too much to bear, Bill Melton was limited to pinch-hit duty. The at-bat would be his last of the season.
- Monday, July 31: In the first inning, Allen clubbed a three-run, inside-the-park home run off Minnesota Twins starter Bert Blyleven at Metropolitan Stadium. Four innings later, he circled the bases again with one runner on base, the first American Leaguer to accomplish the feat in in 40 years.
- Friday, Aug. 11: The Athletics wanted no part of Allen at the start of the four-game showdown. In the first inning, they walked him on purpose. He received four more free passes in as many at-bats in extra innings. The contest was halted with the score tied at 3-all after 17 innings.
- Saturday, Aug. 12: Joe Rudi homered in the 19th inning to decide the suspended game, only to have White Sox bounce back in the regularly scheduled contest and move within one game of the division lead again. Dave Lemonds outdueled Jim (Catfish) Hunter in 1-0 victory. Both had pitched in relief the previous night.
- Sunday, Aug. 13: , Wood painted a two-hit masterpiece against the Athletics to become a 20-game winner, as the White Sox moved into first place by percentage points. In the 11th inning, Ed Spiezio hit a two-run homer off reliever Rollie Fingers to snap a 1-1 deadlock.
- Friday, Sept. 22: Stan Bahnsen joined Wood in the 20-win circle in an 8-4 triumph against the Rangers, his fourth in a span of 15 days. Reliever Terry Forster pitched two scoreless innings to secure his 26th save.
- Wednesday, Sept. 27: In a loss against the Royals in the home finale, 4-2, Allen went down swinging in the ninth inning. The sparse crowd gave him a rousing ovation on his way back to the dugout, a fitting tribute to a Most Valuable Player performance.