



World Series Panel Has Giant Surprise

By George Castle, CBM Special Correspondent

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The selections in the Chicago Baseball Museum's annual World Series poll:

Sandy Alomar, Jr., former White Sox catcher

Outcome: Detroit Tigers in seven games.

Most Valuable Player: Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander.

Comment: “(The San Francisco Giants) will probably have to face Verlander two times. It’s tough.”

Darwin Barney, Cubs second baseman.

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval.

Comment: “I prefer to pick the team that is hot, not the team that is rested.”

Art Berke, former Yogi Berra Museum director.

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Giants outfielder Hunter Pence.

Jordan Bernfield, WGN Radio baseball reporter.

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Giants catcher Buster Posey.

Comment: “The Tigers had a lot of time off before this series, but the Giants proved they have an incredible will to win.”

Brian Bogusevic, Houston Astros outfielder and Oak Lawn native

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: “The week off can hurt in momentum, but it helps much better to line up Verlander.”

Pat Brickhouse, Public relations executive

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Sandoval or Giants pitcher Barry Zito.

Peter Caliendo, Caliendo Sports International president

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Tigers first baseman Prince Fielder.

George Castle, Northwest Indiana Times baseball writer

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Fielder.

Comment: "The Tigers are able to rest Verlander and Max Scherzer for a week. Fielder will be heard from loudly."

Eric Collins, former WMAQ-TV sports anchor

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "Verlander pitching two, possibly three games will be too much for the Giants."

Susannah Collins, Comcast SportsNet sports anchor-reporter

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera or Fielder.

Comment: "There's the chance the Tigers will be sluggish out of the gates, but I can't get past that starting rotation."

Chet Coppock, former WMAQ-TV sports anchor.

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Fielder.

Comment: "It begins with Verlander and ends with Verlander."

Steve Dahl, Chicago radio personality.

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Dave Eanet, WGN Radio sports anchor

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "This is an opportunity to get the most out of Verlander, but the Giants have been pretty resilient."

John Ely, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher and Chicago resident.

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Giants outfielders Angel Pagan or catcher Hector Sanchez.

Comment: "Home-field advantage (for the Giants) is huge. It's tough to win in that ballpark. They execute well."

Nancy Faust, former White Sox organist.

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: Sandoval.

Dr. David Fletcher, Chicago Baseball Museum president.

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Tigers outfielder Austin Jackson.

"This will be a great World Series with clutch pitching and hitting with great fan bases in new 21st Century ballparks."

Tyler Flowers, White Sox catcher

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Posey.

Comment: "The Giants were down in both (playoff) series, but you didn't see panic. (Manager) Bruce Bochy kept his cool."

Sam Fuld, Tampa Bay Rays and former Cubs outfielder

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: pitcher Matt Cain.

Comment: "My gut I says the Giants because of momentum. The layoff will hurt the Tigers."

Mark Giangreco, WLS-TV sports anchor

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Tigers shortstop Jhonny Peralta.

Comment: "I just can't pick the Giants. That's the sexy pick. Jim Leyland is old-school and will have them ready."

Mark Gonzales, Chicago Tribune White Sox beat writer

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander for MVP

Comment: "San Francisco is a fundamentally better team, but Detroit's starting pitching will make the difference."

Rich (Goose) Gossage, former White Sox and Cubs pitcher

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Sandoval.

Comment: "Sandoval sets the tone for that offense and is going to have a great series. The Giants have a deeper bullpen."

Scot Gregor, Daily Herald beat writer

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Fielder.

Comment: "The way the starting rotation is rolling, the Tigers remind me a lot of the 2005 White Sox."

Elliott Harris, ElliottHarris.com columnist

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "Two routine (for him) pitching performances for Verlander should merit the honors."

Roland Hemond, Arizona Diamondbacks special assistant and former White Sox general manager

Outcome: Tigers in six.
MVP: Verlander for MVP

David Kaplan, Comcast SportsNets and WGN Radio sports host

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander for MVP

Comment: "It's the Tigers' time. They were built for this moment. Verlander will win two games."

Rich King, WGN-TV sports anchor-reporter

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "Three pitchers doing well, great middle of the lineup hitting and their defense will do better in the playoffs."

Sarah Kustok, YES Network reporter and former Comcast SportsNet sports anchor-reporter

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera for MVP

Paul Ladewski, Chicago Baseball Museum executive director

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: Posey (with special mention to Melky Cabrera, Giants outfielder).

Comment: "Like the Giants at home in Game 1, which will determine whether it's a long or short series. The N.L. rules again."

Bruce Levine, ESPN Radio baseball reporter

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "The Tigers have stronger starting pitching."

Megan Mawicke, WBBM-TV sports anchor-reporter

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: no preference.

Bill Melton, Comcast SportsNet baseball analyst and former White Sox third baseman

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "You can't get that (Cabrera) out. If Detroit catches the ball, they'll win."

Scott Merkin, MLB.com White Sox beat writer

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera

Comment: "I'm still not sold on the Tigers' defense, but their starting pitching makes the ultimate difference."

Travis Miller, Associated Press baseball writer

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Cain.

Comment: "Detroit has been idle and will be out of sync, as opposed to the team that charged back in the NLCS."

Fred Mitchell, Chicago Tribune columnist

Outcome: Tigers in seven.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "Their offense will be able to trump the Giants' great pitching. The Tigers' defense will tighten up."

Meghan Montemurro, Northwest Herald Cubs-White Sox beat writer

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "The Tigers' starting rotation has been unhittable. Expect that domination to continue."

Keith Moreland, WGN Radio Cubs analyst.

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: Giants pitcher Sergio Romo.

Comment: "The Giants are hard to beat in any ballpark but especially A T & T Park. Tigers may be antsy with all that time off."

Rick Morrissey, Sun-Times sports columnist

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander.

Tom Musick, Northwest Herald sportswriter

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "The Tigers' starting pitching will rise to the occasion. The Tigers have more legitimate weapons in the lineup."

Mark Parent, White Sox bench coach

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Fielder.

Comment: "The Tigers' pitching finished strong, and they've got the two best offensive threats in the series."

Billy Pierce, former White Sox and Giants pitcher.

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Verlander.

Comment: "As hot as San Francisco is, the pitching of Detroit will win it. It's good they had some extra days off."

Ron Rapoport, former Sun-Times columnist

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Posey.

Cheryl Raye-Stout, WBEZ Radio reporter

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: Posey.

Comment: "Everyone thinks because the Tigers swept the Yankees, they're the hot team. The layoff will cool them down a bit."

Addison Reed, White Sox pitcher

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "I can see the Giants competing with them but not beating them."

John Reyes, Chicago radio sports host-reporter

Outcome: Tigers in five.

MVP: Fielder.

Comment: "He is due to come around, and I pick Jim Leyland to walk away from the game."

Dan Roan, WGN-TV sports anchor

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: Posey.

Comment: "The Giants are going to ride the momentum. They really have home-field advantage in their ballpark."

David Schuster, WSCR Radio baseball reporter

Outcome: Giants in seven.

MVP: Posey.

Comment: "I always go with pitching. The Giants are four deep compared to the Tigers' 2 1/2 deep."

Ed Sherman, ShermanReport.com columnist

Outcome: Giants in six.

MVP: no preference.

Eric Soderholm, StubHub president and former White Sox third baseman.

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "I wouldn't bet on my pick, but it seems to be Detroit's year. Cabrera is just too good."

Luke Stuckmeyer, Comcast SportsNet anchor-reporter.

Outcome: Tigers in six.

MVP: Cabrera.

Comment: "Once they got past the White Sox, I was confident they would be the team to beat."

Rick Telander, Sun-Times sports columnist
Outcome: Tigers in seven.
MVP: Verlander.

Daryl Van Schouwen, Sun-Times White Sox beat writer
Outcome: Tigers in six.
MVP: Verlander.
Comment: "The Giants are playing well, but Verlander looks good for two wins and Scherzer can be as good or better."

Rafer Weigel, WLS-TV sports anchor.
Outcome: Giants in six.
MVP: Scutaro.
Comment: "If Barry Zito suddenly learns how to pitch again, it will come down to him."

Billy Williams, Cubs ambassador and former outfielder
Outcome: Giants in six.
MVP: Posey.
Comment: "The Giants are on a roll. Being off for a week like the Tigers have been can hurt a team."