

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 phind their phocus, phlatten Phillies

PHILADELPHIA, July 25 – The Cubs will have a showdown against the first-place New York Mets this weekend, but that proved to be no distraction in a 9-4 triumph against the Phillies at Veterans Stadium on Wednesday night.

The Cubs jumped on starter Charlie Hudson (8-8) for five early runs and never looked back the rest of the way, as they took the rubber game of the three-game series and kept pace with the Mets in the East Division race.

Keith Moreland and Ryne Sandberg contributed three hits piece to a 15-hit attack. Leon Durham had a pair of hits, which included a two-run home run in the first inning.

In his third consecutive solid start, Dennis Eckersley (4-6) allowed two runs in seven innings to earn the victory.

Eckersley also delivered a key hit in the sixth inning, which saw the visitors score four times against reliever Kevin Gross to take a 9-2 advantage. Bob Denier (single), Sandberg (two-run triple) and Moreland (sacrifice fly) plated the runs.

Afterward the Cubs headed to New York, where Dick Ruthven was scheduled to oppose Mets ace Dwight Gooden in the opener of a four-game series.

National League East standings: 1. New York 58-37 --; Cubs 56-42 3.5; Philadelphia 54-44 5.5; Montreal 47-50 12; St. Louis 47-53 13.5; Pittsburgh 44-56 16.5.

White Sox outlast Orioles in late, late show

CHICAGO, July 25 – The acquisitions of pitcher Turk Lown and outfielder Harry Simpson didn't seem to be much at the time, but they paid huge dividends for the White Sox at Comiskey Park on Saturday night, when they outlasted the Baltimore Orioles in a 3-2 victory that took 17 innings to complete.

Acquired from the Kansas City Athletics in return for first baseman Ray Boone two months earlier, Simpson delivered a one-out, bases-loaded single off reliever Billy Loes (4-3) to decide the four-hour, 35-minute marathon. The White Sox had at least one runner on base in all except one of the extra innings before he came through in a pinch-hit role.

Claimed off waivers in June, 1958, Lown pitched six scoreless innings in relief of starter Bob Shaw, who allowed two runs (one earned) in 11 innings. The stint was the longest for the veteran reliever in three years.

The White Sox trailed in the ninth inning, 2-1, when Sherm Lollar greeted Orioles starter Billy O'Dell with a home run, his 13th of the season.

The game marked the second time that the White Sox had beaten the Orioles in 17 innings at home this season.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 55-39 --; Cleveland 54-39 0.5; Baltimore 48-48 8; New York 48-48 8; Detroit 47-51 10; Kansas City 45-49 10; Washington 43-52 12.5; Boston 40-54 15.