

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.

Sandberg, Cubs overpower Expos, magic number dwindles to 10

CHICAGO, Sept. 12 – When a 22-year-old kid named Ryne Sandberg was acquired along with Larry Bowa in a deal that sent Ivan DeJesus to the Philadelphia Phillies two years ago, many outsiders had the same reaction.

Ryan who?

They may know Sandberg as the National League Most Valuable Player soon.

Sandberg furthered his bid for the award with a three-run home run on Wednesday afternoon, when the Cubs rallied for an 11-5 victory against the Montreal Expos in front of 20,976 fans at Wrigley Field.

Ron Cey, Jody Davis and Leon Durham highlighted a 13-hit attack with three hits apiece, as the Cubs reduced their magic number to 10 in the East Division race.

While New York Mets first baseman Keith Hernandez and San Diego Padres outfielder Tony Gwynn also merit MVP consideration, Sandberg appears to be the clear-cut favorite at this time. He leads the league in runs scored (105) and ranks second in hits (185) and slugging percentage (.528) and third in batting average (.317).

The Cubs trailed 2-1 in the sixth inning, when they erupted for five runs. Sandberg capped the comeback with his 19th homer of the season.

Tim Stoddard (10-5) pitched two scoreless innings in relief of starter Rich Bordi to earn the victory.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 88-58 --; 2. New York 81-65 7; 3. Philadelphia 77-69 11; 4. St. Louis 76-69 11.5; 5. Montreal 71-74 16.5; 6. Pittsburgh 63-83 25.

O's, no! White Sox are shut out in twin bill, lead cut to four games

BALTIMORE, Sept. 11 – After nearly six hours of frustration on Friday, the worn-out White Sox could take one positive out of their doubleheader loss at Memorial Stadium.

At least they would have to face the pesky Orioles only one more time this season.

As is a 3-0 setback in the opener wasn't enough futility, the White Sox were blanked for 16 innings in a 1-0 defeat in the nightcap. Brooks Robinson singled off reliever Gerry Staley with two outs to plate the game-winner, as the American League leaders lost for the third consecutive time and saw their advantage sliced to four games.

The second game was the latest in a series of endless marathons between the two teams this season. In 22 matchups, they played games that lasted 16, 17, 17 and 18 innings. In all, six games required extra innings.

Orioles starters Jack Fisher (1-4) and Jerry Walker (11-8) combined to allow only nine hits, none for extra bases. Fisher retired the first 19 batters before Nellie Fox singled with one out in the seventh inning. Walker pitched the entire 16 innings in the finale and retired 17 consecutive batters in one stretch.

Wasted were strong performance by Billy Pierce (13-14) and Barry Latman on the mound. Pierce allowed three runs in eight innings, and Latman did not allow a run in 9 1/3 innings. Staley (8-4) yielded one run in 6 1/3 innings of relief.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 87-55 --; 2. Cleveland 82-58 4; 3. New York 71-69 15; 4. Detroit 70-71 16.5; 5. Baltimore 69-71 17; 6. Boston 65-76 21.5; 7. Kansas City 60-79 25.5; 8. Washington 58-83 28.5.