

*This season marks the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### **Bring on Mets! Cubs reduce magic number to 6 with comeback victory**

MONTREAL, Sept. 6 – The Cubs open a three-game series against the second-place Mets in New York on Friday night, and only a collapse of historic proportions can beat them.

The Cubs moved another step closer to their first division title in the post-expansion era with a come-from-behind, 4-1 victory against the Montreal Expos at Olympic Stadium on Thursday night. Their magic number dwindled to six with 22 games left to play.

In the eighth inning, Bob Dernier tripled and scored on a Ryne Sandberg sacrifice fly to give his team a 2-1 lead, as the Cubs moved 30 games over the .500 mark (85-55) for the first time this season. The victory was their 10<sup>th</sup> in the last 12 games.

After the Cubs tacked on two unearned runs in the ninth inning, closer Lee Smith retired the side in order for his 30<sup>th</sup> save of the season. George Frazier (5-2) pitched two scoreless innings in relief of Dennis Eckersley to earn the victory.

Expos starter Charlie Lea (15-10) took a 1-0 lead into the seventh inning, when the Cubs strung together three consecutive hits to tie the score.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 85-55 --; 2. New York 78-62 7; 3. Philadelphia 73-66 11.5; 4. St. Louis 72-66 12; 5. Montreal 68-71 16.5; 6. Pittsburgh 61-79 24.

### **White Sox experience Power outage, late fade cuts A.L. lead to 4½ games**

CHICAGO, Sept. 6 – If the White Sox fall short in their bid for the American League pennant, then they'll wish they could have their 2-1 defeat on Sunday afternoon back again.

Three outs away from a series victory at Comiskey Park, the White Sox watched the Cleveland Indians rally for a pair of runs in the ninth inning. By virtue of their second one-run victory in as many days, the Indians moved within 4 ½ games of the league leaders.

Starter Dick Donovan (9-7) took a six-hit shutout into the ninth inning before disaster struck in front of 34,269 stunned fans.

Tito Francona singled to open the inning, and one out later, Woodie Held did the same. Vic Power followed with a double to center field that plated both runners.

Indians starter Jim Grant pitched a scoreless ninth inning to earn his ninth victory in 15 decisions this season.

The White Sox plated their only run in the fifth inning. Luis Aparicio led off with a single then stole second base. He moved to third on a Nellie Fox single and scored when Jim Landis beat out an infield hit.

The news wasn't all bad for the White Sox, as Billy Pierce was scheduled to return to the rotation in the first game of a doubleheader against the Kansas City Athletics on Monday afternoon. The left-hander has not pitched since Aug. 15 because of a hip problem.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 83-52 --; 2. Cleveland 78-56 4.5; 3. Detroit 69-67 14.5; 4. New York 68-68 15; 5. Baltimore 65-68 17; 6. Boston 63-74 21; 7. Kansas City 59-74 23; 8. Washington 55-81 28.5.