

*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.*

### **Stunned Cubs let big one get away, World Series bid falls short again**

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 7 – If the National League pennant had to be decided in one game, the Cubs couldn't have hoped for a better scenario at Jack Murphy Stadium late Sunday afternoon.

Through five innings, the Cubs had a 3-0 lead and control of the game. In Rick Sutcliffe, they had perhaps the best pitcher in baseball on the mound. The big right-hander had not lost a game since June 29, a span of more than three months.

In a matter of minutes, any thought of a World Series on the North Side evaporated in the warm California sun.

On four days' rest, Sutcliffe hit the wall suddenly. The San Diego Padres broke through for a pair of runs. Then would-be hero Leon Durham committed errors on consecutive plays to open the floodgates.

The result was a 6-3 heartbreaker in Game 5 of the NLCS, one that the Cubs and their fans wouldn't forget soon.

His team only nine outs away from its first World Series appearance in 39 years, Sutcliffe walked Carmelo Martinez on four pitches to lead off the seventh inning. Martinez moved up 90 feet on a sacrifice bunt and continued home when Durham made an errant throw to third base.

Pinch hitter Tim Flannery followed with a ground ball that scooted under Durham's glove for another miscue. After Alan Wiggins singled, second baseman Ryne Sandberg couldn't handle a Tony Gwynn smash that went for a two-run double, and the Padres had their first lead of the game.

Steve Garvey capped the four-run rally with an RBI single. Sutcliffe was done finally, and for all intents and purposes, the visitors were, too.

When the Cubs jumped on Padres starter Eric Show for three runs, it appeared that the pennant could be theirs at last.

After Gary Mathews coaxed a two-out walk and stole second base in the first inning, Durham slammed a home run for an early lead. One inning later, Jody Davis led off with another homer.

Sutcliffe breezed through the first five innings before the Padres began to chip away.

The first three batters reached base in the sixth inning, as Wiggins and Gwynn singled and Garvey walked to load the bases. Graig Nettles and Terry Kennedy followed with sacrifice flies to make it a one-run affair.

When reliever Rich Gossage retired Davis for the final out, the Padres were headed to their first World Series in franchise history. And the Cubs were headed home after a season that had ended much too soon.

### **Go-Go White Sox are long gone, Dodgers claim World Series title**

CHICAGO, Oct. 8 – It was a season that the White Sox and their fans hoped would never end, but on a gloomy Thursday afternoon, the curtain came down finally.

The Los Angeles Dodgers made sure of it in Game 6 of the World Series, 9-3, a victory that was as thorough as the score indicated much to the disappointment of the 47,653 fans on hand.

In the final analysis, the White Sox were beaten at the own game. They were supposed to be the team that pitched better, played the field better and ran the bases better, but with the exception of the series opener, it was the Dodgers who had the edge in each department.

The Dodgers also proved to be the deeper team. That was apparent once more in the ninth inning, when an ex-Stanford football player named Chuck Essegian hit a home run off reliever Ray Moore for the final run of the season. The blast was his second as a pinch-hitter and set a World Series record.

White Sox manager Al Lopez had hoped that staff ace Early Wynn could keep his team in the game on two days' rest, but it was too much to ask of the 39-year-old veteran.

Wynn didn't have it from the start, but he managed to strand three baserunners in the first two innings. He wasn't as fortunate in the third. Wally Moon drew a two-out walk after which Duke Snider unloaded a two-run homer to take the large crowd out of the game.

In the fourth inning, Norm Larker was issued a base on balls and moved to second base on a sacrifice bunt. Maury Wills singled to score pinch runner Don Demeter, then pitcher Johnny Podres plated Wills on a double that sent Wynn to the showers.

Reliever Dick Donovan wasn't treated much better, as the first three batters reached based against him. Jim Gilliam walked, Charlie Neal doubled and Moon homered to stake Podres to an 8-0 lead.

Podres didn't make it out of the fourth inning, but Larry Sherry bailed him out with 5 2/3 innings of scoreless relief to earn his second victory of the series.

Ted Kluszewski was the best White Sox player in the series – his .375 batting average and 10 RBI lead all players -- and the big first baseman was a hero to the finish. In the third inning, he slugged a three-run homer, his third of the series.

It would be the last hurrah for the American League champions, who won more games than any White Sox team in 40 years.