

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.

Such a deal: Sutcliffe wins again, Cubs hold 4 ½-game advantage

MONTREAL, Aug. 12 – The Cubs completed many a trade in their history, but none had a more immediate impact than one that sent pitcher Rick Sutcliffe to Chicago two months ago.

Sutcliffe was front and center in a 7-3 triumph against the Montreal Expos at Olympic Stadium on Sunday afternoon, as he went the distance on an eight-hitter for his 10th victory in 11 decisions with his new team. The veteran aided his cause with a single and RBI double.

On June 13, when the Cubs sent outfielders Joe Carter and Mel Hall and pitchers Darryl Banks and Don Schulze to the Cleveland Indians in return for Sutcliffe, pitcher George Frazier and catcher Ron Hassey, they owned a 1 ½-game advantage in the East Division race. Since then, they have won at a 62 percent clip (36-22) to expand their lead to 4 ½ games.

Ron Cey broke the 3-3 deadlock with a two-run homer (18th) in the sixth inning.

The Expos scored their runs in the third inning, when Mike Stenhouse hit a two-run homer and Dan Driessen went deep to tie the score. Sutcliffe retired the next 10 batters in order.

The Cubs jumped on Expos starter Steve Rogers (3-12) for three runs on only one hit in the first inning. The rally included three errors, two stolen bases and one wild pitch.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 70-47 --; 2. New York 64-50 4.5; 3. Philadelphia 62-53 7; 4. St. Louis 57-59 12.5; 5. Montreal 56-60 13.5; 6. Pittsburgh 51-67 19.5.

Tigers swing from heels early, make short work of Pierce, White Sox

DETROIT, Aug. 11 – The White Sox lost a baseball game at packed Tiger Stadium on Tuesday evening. They can only hope that's the extent of the damage.

Starter Billy Pierce was pounded early and often in an 8-1 rout at the hands of the Detroit Tigers in front of 34,417 fans, a subpar performance that raised

questions about his status for the immediate future if not the remainder of the season.

In his last previous start five days earlier, Pierce faced 61 batters in 16 innings versus the Orioles in Baltimore. At that point, he had pitched 42 innings in a span of 14 days.

The heavy workload appeared to have an adverse effect on Pierce (12-12), who labored through four innings. The left-hander allowed five runs on four hits and two walks and did not strike out a batter. He failed to get past the fourth inning in three of his last nine starts.

It was obvious that Pierce wasn't himself in the first inning, as the first four batters scored against the Detroit native.

After Eddie Yost led off with a double, Frank Bolling coaxed a walk. Harvey Kuenn followed with an RBI single before Al Kaline struck the big blow, a three-run home run.

Even reserve infielder Coot Veal got in the act in the fourth inning, when the .205 hitter reached Pierce for his first major league homer.

Tigers starter Jim Bunning (10-10) scattered eight hits to earn the victory.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 66-43 --; 2. Cleveland 65-47 2.5; 3. New York Yankees 57-54 10; 4. Baltimore 56-55 11; 5. Detroit 55-58 13; 6. Kansas City 53-59 14.5; 7. Boston 50-62 17.5; 8. Washington 44-68 23.5.