

*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.*

### **Listless Cubs swept off their feet in latest Astrodome horror show**

HOUSTON, Aug. 15 –If there was a positive to come out of their 6-2 setback at as the Astrodome on Wednesday night, it's that the Cubs wouldn't have to visit the house of horrors in the regular season again.

Denny Walling snapped a 2-all tie with sacrifice fly in the seventh inning, and the Astros went on to complete a sweep of the three-game series.

The Cubs saw their East Division advantage sliced to 2 ½ games, as the New York Mets completed a 3-2 victory against the Dodgers in Los Angeles a few minutes later.

The outcome underscored the value of second baseman Ryne Sandberg, who sustained an injury in the first inning of the opener and sat out the rest of the way. The Cubs could muster only six singles against starter Bob Knepper (12-8) and a pair of relievers.

Sandberg could return to the line-up for the start of a weekend series against the Reds in Cincinnati on Friday evening.

Starter Dennis Eckersley (6-7) kept his team in the game for six innings, but it was his error that allowed the home team to break it open a short time later. In the eighth inning, his errant throw on a sacrifice bunt attempt paved the way for three runs, one of which was earned.

National League East standings: 1. Cubs 70-50 --; 2. New York 66-51 2.5; 3. Philadelphia 62-55 6.5; 4. St. Louis 59-60 10.5; 5. Montreal 58-60 11; 6. Pittsburgh 51-69 19.

### **Another premature departure leaves futures of Pierce, White Sox in doubt**

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 15 – The White Sox had hoped for the best after Billy Pierce had to be lifted early in his last previous start. What Manager Al Lopez and his team got was worse news on Saturday night instead.

The White Sox dropped a 2-1 decision at the hands of the Kansas City Athletics at Municipal Stadium, but the setback paled in comparison to the possible absence of Pierce from the rotation for an extended period.

After Jerry Lumpe was called out on strikes to open the third inning, Pierce complained of a back problem and was forced to make another early exit. Preliminary indications were the 32-year-old had a strained muscle in his back and ligaments in his right hip and would miss at least one turn on the mound.

The performance marked the fourth time in his last 10 starts that Pierce failed to pitch into the fifth inning. Four days earlier, he labored through four innings of an 8-1 loss against the Detroit Tigers on the road.

The first four Athletics reached base against Pierce (12-13) in the first inning. Bob Cerv coaxed a bases-loaded walk before the veteran settled down to retire the next seven batters in order.

Dick Williams and Cerv greeted emergency reliever Barry Latman with singles. Ray Boone walked to load the bases, after which pinch-hitter Roger Maris grounded into a force-out to score what proved to be the decisive run.

The White Sox threatened in the ninth inning, but Athletics ace Bud Daley (14-7) struck pinch-hitter Earl Battey with the bases loaded to end the game.

Al Smith ruined the shutout bid with a home run (11<sup>th</sup>) in the eighth inning.

American League standings: 1. White Sox 69-44 --; 2. Cleveland 67-49 3.5; 3. Baltimore 57-57 12.5; 4. New York 57-58 13; 5. Detroit 57-60 14; 6. Kansas City 54-62 16.5; 7. Boston 53-62 17; 8. Washington 47-69 23.5.