



SPORTS

BASEBALL GOES OUT WITH A BANG

W.G. Ramirez

Joe Carter's three-run home run last Saturday, resulting in the Toronto Blue Jays capturing their second consecutive World Series title, capped off a 1993 season which had been originally filled with animosity towards the sport's current appeal.

News reports, commentaries and viewpoints from across the country asked if baseball had lost its touch as America's National Pastime. With the up-and-coming status of the National Basketball Association, could the attraction to Major League Baseball begin to diminish?

If the last month-and-a-half was any sort of response, Major League Baseball just may have saved some face.

The league saw three great races out of the four divisions, and even saw late steam in the fourth. The Blue Jays fought off a tough New York Yankees team in the American League East while the Chicago White Sox were able to hold off any intruders and eventually capture the A.L. West.

In the National League, the Philadelphia Phillies were threatened late by the Montreal Expos, but ultimately took the division with ease. It was the N.L. West that was stirring up the excitement as the Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants battled down to the final day of the regular season.

Heading into the final weekend, both teams were deadlocked for first, and appeared to be on their way to a one-game showdown to see who would represent the wild, wild West.

The Braves played host to the Colorado Rockies while the Giants traveled to arch-rival Los Angeles for a three-game series with the Dodgers.

Steve Avery and the Braves got by the Rockies 7-4 on Friday, October 2, but the Giants struggled with the Dodgers,

squeaking out an 8-7 win.

On Saturday, it was another close one in L.A., but Brian Hickerson's pitching helped the Giants prevail 5-3. Behind the solid pitching of 1992 Cy Young winner Greg Maddux, Atlanta throttled Colorado 10-1.

Now with the final day of the regular season at hand, it looked more like the Braves would struggle before the Giants would. Atlanta was going to have to face David Nied, who they had released the rights to in the expansion draft, where the Rockies claimed him.

Vengeance looked like a perfect motive for Nied to play the spoiler on this crucial day.

Unfortunately for the Giants, Nied couldn't produce the win and the Braves hit the jackpot 5-3. In the meantime, at Dodger Stadium, there was a turn of events in the same old scenario in a Giants-Dodgers clash.

In the past though, it has been the Giants that ruined L.A.'s hopes of advancing to the N.L. Championship Series, but on this day, it would be the Dodgers who crush San Francisco's dream of a National League Championship. L.A. dismantled

a solid ball club that had dominated the N.L. West all season, 12-1.

And now the stage was set: In the American League, it would be the defending world champions against a scrappy ball club, that had the potential to put together enough momentum and topple the 'Jays.

And in the National League, baseball's finest on the mound would meet arguably the most powerful lineup in the majors.

While the young arms of Wilson Alvarez and Alex Fernandez got the job done for the Sox, supposed ace Jack McDowell fell prey to a "true-clutch" performer in Toronto's Dave Stewart. Stewart was named A.L. MVP as the Blue Jays would return to defend their title.

It would be the gritty club from Philly that would stun everyone, riding the highwire act of reliever Mitch Williams, and capture the N.L. crown against one of the most solid baseball teams in recent history - the Braves.

Touting John Smoltz, Tom Glavine, Avery and Maddux didn't stop the surging Phils to

set a date with Toronto in 1993's Fall Classic.

Well, we all know how it ended, with Carter and his miraculous blast. The Phillies' roller coaster ride hit a dead end with "Wild Thing" Williams. There was also Paul Molitor finally getting his World Series ring and picking up an MVP trophy on the way.

There were thrills throughout the latter part of the season, and it shed new light and brought back the interest to the sport. Now with the next season five months away, it will be interesting to see how the fans of the NBA react to the loss of the game's greatest attraction - Michael Jordan. The Chicago Bulls have been able to maintain its status as the biggest attraction on the road, but could run into problems this year, especially with rising stars such as: Larry Johnson, Alonzo Mourning, Shaquille O' Neal and Harold Miner.

The bottom line is this though, when backed into the corner, and threatened as it was, Major League Baseball showed off its appeal, and struck fiercely with a world of excitement.

Las Vegas Bowl II Watch SPARTANS TAKE OVER IN BIG WEST CONFERENCE; BALL ST. AND BOWLING GREEN TIED IN MAC

After suffering five non-conference losses, the San Jose State Spartans have apparently recovered from the toughest non-league schedule in the country.

SJSU has bounced back to win consecutive Big West victories over New Mexico State 52-13 and Louisiana Tech 31-6. The Spartans now sit atop the Big West Conference with a 2-0 record in league play.

NMSU is in second place with a 3-1 league record and three teams - defending BWC-champion Nevada, pre-season favorite Utah State and SW Louisiana

Las Vegas Bowl II Watch

BIG WEST STANDINGS		MID-AMERICAN STANDINGS	
San Jose St.	2-0 2-5	Ball St.	3-0-1 4-2-1
N. Mexico St.	3-1 4-3	Bowling Green	3-0-1 4-2-1
SW Louisiana.	2-1 5-2	E. Michigan	3-1 4-3
Nevada	2-1 4-3	Akron	3-1 4-3
Utah St.	2-1 2-5	W. Michigan	4-1 4-3
N. Illinois	3-2 4-4	C. Michigan	3-3 3-5
La. Tech	1-1 1-5	Toledo	1-3 2-5
Pacific	0-2 1-6	Miami, Ohio	1-4 2-5
UNLV	0-2 1-6	Ohio, U.	2-4 2-6
Arkansas St.	0-4 1-6	Kent	0-5 0-7

-are tied for third with 2-1 marks. In the Mid-American Conference, league leaders Ball State (See LV Bowl, Page 20)

DUSTY BAKER NAMED NL MANAGER OF THE YEAR



Dusty Baker, who managed the San Francisco Giants to 103 wins, and had nothing to show for it after his team fell one game short of the playoffs, was named N.L. Manager of the Year.

These activities are sponsored by The City of Las Vegas

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVER-35 BASKETBALL LEAGUE
The City of Las Vegas Municipal Sports Unit is now organizing an Over 35 basketball league.

Registration takes place October 18-November 15, at a cost of \$350 per team. Teams will qualify for a rebate if no games are forfeited. The league is limited to the first eight teams of eight players.

Play will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays, at the Las Vegas Academy (formerly Las Vegas High School), 315 S. 7th Street. Call 229-2256.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE
Open play basketball for women only, is now offered at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd. Play takes place 12:30-3:30 p.m., Saturdays, through November 13. There is no charge.

Increased interest and participation will lead to the establishment of a league. Call 229-6563.

PERSONALIZED WEIGHT TRAINING

Personalized weight training programs are available through the Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Ave., for \$2 per day, or \$10 per month. Qualified City personnel will work with you to develop a program catered to your individual needs.

Call 229-6359 for an appointment.

RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT
The Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd., is preparing for a blind draw

mixed doubles racquetball tournament. Competition begins at 6 p.m., Friday, November 12. Partners will be determined on the night of play.

Registration continues through November 11, at a cost of \$5 per program member, \$15 for non-members. Players can be male or female, but must be at least 13 years old.

Call 229-6563 for more information.

AFTER-SCHOOL 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE
An after-school, three-on-three basketball program is now being organized at the Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Ave. Play begins Wednesday, November 3, and continues each Monday and Wednesday thereafter, at 3:30 p.m., through December 15.

The program is designed for ages 7-17, and uses strategies for half-court, outdoor competition. Trophies will be awarded for first and second place winners. Registration is \$2.

Call 229-6359 for more information.

HOT SHOT BASKETBALL PROGRAM
A hot shot basketball program begins Friday, November 12 at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd. Play begins at 3 p.m., each Friday thereafter.

The program is designed for ages 8-15, and will concentrate on networking local youth in hopes of developing future leagues. The cost is \$1.

Call 229-6563 for more information.

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