



The Arizona Diamondbacks congratulate themselves on winning the Series.

Playoff Recap

CASSIDY COBBS

Division Series:

St. Louis Cardinals vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Great pitching for both teams made it exciting, but Curt Schilling edged Matt Morris and the D-Backs won in 5 games.

Atlanta Braves vs. Houston Astros

The Braves silenced critics by sweeping the best team in the NL in three games. Tom Glavine shut out the 'Stros in Game 2 by a score of 1-0.

Oakland Athletics vs. New York Yankees

The Yankees summoned their usual October magic to win the series after being down 2 games to none. Some of this may have had to do with the fact that Oakland cleanup hitter Jermaine Dye broke his tibia in Game 4, but the Yanks won in 5.

Cleveland Indians vs. Seattle Mariners

The underdog Indians gave Seattle a tougher series than was expected. The Tribe fought into Game 5, but ultimately the 116-game-winning Mariners won out 3-2.

Championship Series:

Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Atlanta Braves

Arizona outpitched Atlanta. In Game 4, the Braves committed four errors in one inning. One was by Maddux himself, an 11-time Gold Glove winner (His response? "It was embarrassing."). The Diamondbacks took the series in 5 games.

Seattle Mariners vs. New York Yankees

New York carried their momentum from the division series over, and held back the winningest team in baseball to dominate the series in 5 games. To Mariner fans: Don't worry. The 1906 Cubs didn't win a World Series. The 1907 Cubs did.

World Series:

New York Yankees vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Will go down as one of the best World Series ever played. Four games were decided by one run. NY tied two consecutive games with ninth-inning, two-out, two-run homers. After the two Yankee comebacks, Game 7 could not have been scripted better. Curt Schilling pitched 7 1/3 innings and gave up two runs. Johnson (yes, Randy, the Game 6 winner) pitched 1 1/3 shutout innings. Roger Clemens pitched 7 innings and gave up a sole run. The Diamondbacks entered the bottom of the ninth trailing 2-1 and facing Mariano Rivera, the best closer in baseball. But Arizona refused to die, and a key throwing error by Rivera punctuated by three hits from Mark Grace, Tony Womack (game-tying hit) and Luis Gonzalez (game-winning hit) gave the D-Backs the two runs they needed to bring home the state's first professional sports championship.

Lost in the Shuffle: the *Other* Records of October 5

CASSIDY COBBS

Everyone in the world of baseball will remember October 5. On that date, in 2001, Barry Bonds knocked numbers 71 and 72 out to break Mark McGwire's single season home run record. It is a fabulous record and will undoubtedly be tough to re-break. However, in the excitement of Barry's achievement, many other important happenings around the majors were woefully undercovered and overlooked.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about this day and night was the fact that all four playoff berths in the National League were clinched. The Arizona Diamondbacks pulled a win to clinch the National League West. Despite Bond's home runs, the Giants lost to the L.A. Dodgers, eliminating them from the running. With San Francisco out, the St. Louis Cardinals and Houston Astros were both assured a berth, and their final series would determine not who went to postseason, but who went as the National League Central Champions and who went as the National League

Wild Card team.

Most remarkable, however, was that the Atlanta Braves completed a 20-3 blowout of the Florida Marlins to clinch their tenth straight division title. That feat is unparalleled in any professional sport. On a more personal level, the title makes pitchers Tom Glavine and John Smoltz the only two players to ever win ten straight divisions for the same team.

Over in the American league, the four playoff teams (Seattle, New York, Cleveland, Oakland) had already clinched their spots, but that hadn't slowed them down. The Seattle Mariners won their 115th game to surpass the Yankees for the American League single season wins record, second only to the 1906 Chicago Cubs (they tied the Cubs the next day). Wild Card Oakland won their 100th game, becoming only the 9th team in Major League history to win that many games and be in second place in their division. The Cleveland Indians played in the shortest AL game of the season at 1 hour and 57 min-

utes.

Besides Barry, three other Major Leaguers distinguished themselves on the playing field the night of October 11th. Oriole great Cal Ripken, Jr. played in his 3000th career game. He is only the seventh player in baseball history to do so. Corey Koskie, of the Minnesota Twins, became the first third baseman in American League history to hit 25 home runs, steal 25 bases, and drive in 100 runs in a single season. And in a dramatic fashion, Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones hit a grand slam to bring his RBI total to 101 for the year and to become the first of his position to drive in 100 runs for six consecutive seasons.

Baseball is a fantastic sport, leaving much room for both individual and team honors. But in the real scheme of things, which should have gotten more coverage: an individual record-breaker whose team was eliminated from the "second season" or a team performing a great feat as a group of individuals? It's up to you to decide, but I'd have to go with the team.

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