

1903 The First World Series

In the third year of the co-existence of the American and National League, the Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Pirates owners agreed to a best of nine world championship series. This handshake was the birth of one of the greatest sporting events – the World Series.

In the American league, Boston won easily over Philadelphia and Cleveland. Boston was the Junior Circuit's third different pennant winner in its three year history.

Cy Young led Boston and the American league with 28 wins and a .757 winning percentage. Tom Hughes and Bill Dinneen were also 20 game winners for Boston. Buck Freeman led Boston and the American league with 13 HRs and 104 RBIs. Boston's Patsy Dougherty led the league with 107 runs and 195 hits.

Philadelphia was led by 20 game winners Eddie Plank and Rube Waddell. Cleveland was lead by the league leader in batting average Nap Lajoie and stolen base leader Harry Bay. This was New York's first season in the American League.

Pittsburgh won its third consecutive National League pennant. Pittsburgh outpaced New York and Chicago. Pittsburgh took over the league lead on June 19th and never looked back.

Pittsburgh was led by the bats of Honus Wagner, and Ginger Beaumont. Sam Leaver and Deacon Phillippe won 25 and 24 games respectfully.

Even though New York's Joe McGinnity won 31 games and Christy Mathewson won 30 games, New York was unable to overtake the Pirates. McGinnity and Mathewson pitched 800 innings with 81 complete games.

Brooklyn's Jimmy Sheckard led the Senior Circuit with 9 HRs and 67 stolen bases. Chicago's Frank Chance tied Sheckard for the stolen base title.

For the first time ever, the two leagues' champions played in season ending series for the "World Championship". This was a best of nine affair with the upstart Junior Circuit Boston team beating Pittsburgh five games to three games. Boston's pitching of Dinneen and Young dominated the series. Dinneen was the big winner with three wins in four decisions.

A great tradition was born in 1903. Replay that season today. You can be at the first world series as a manager.