

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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MLB6

TEXAS WIN!

Hall of Fame

Kevin Reed, Dodgers



Ian Clark, Blue Jays



Kevin Gibson, Mets



Mike Sim, Rangers



Alan Molloy, Giants



Simon Greener, Yankees



Nigel Beck, Pirates



Season 12 World Series Review – Mike Sim

The series opened in Texas with fans of both teams optimistic but the ghosts of previous years weren't far from anyone's thoughts. Texas had a 0-4 record in World Series and whilst the Mets had won a WS in MLB6, the memories of season 11's WS loss was still fresh.

Game one was a wild one with the Rangers superstar pitcher Francisco Cordero given a rough time by the Mets powerful line-up and various relievers faired little better as the Mets opened a 10-5 lead, only for Texas to rally in the bottom of the 8th scoring 4. The Mets sent Braden Loooper to the mound in the 9th to try and save the game and he did just that, forcing 3 quick outs. The win went to John Franco who actually gave up 5 runs, but there you go. Game 1 MVP was the Mets Mike Piazza who hit a Grand Slam HR and drove in the winning runs.

Game two saw the Rangers stopper, Rosman Garcia pitch 6 strong innings and then admire as his offence backed him with 4 runs in the 6th and 5 more in the 8th to give the game the look of a rout which it most definitely wasn't. The MVP of Game 2 was Garcia and with the series level at a game a piece, the action moved to NY.

Game three saw Doug Bochtler come within 1 out of a complete game. He went 8 2/3rd, giving up just 5 hits and 3 runs before giving way to Loooper who again managed to get the save, his second in as many chances. The Mets offence was steady but Bochtler was definitely the MVP of this game.

Game four saw the Mets score early against Kenny Rogers but each time the Rangers answered to leave the game at 5-4 when the starters left. The Rangers got 3 shutout innings from Nick Masset, whilst the Rangers really got after David Weathers with Rangers lead-off hitter, the ageless (well 17 year vet) Pedro Swann doing most damage. Swann finished 5 of 6 with 4 RBI's and took MVP honours for game four.

Game five saw the Mets retake the series lead as they again got after Cordero, but this time they also hammered Joaquin Benoit, with Jose Reyes notching 4 RBI's and the bottom 3 in the Mets order going 9 of 12 combined. Scott Strickland pitched a perfect 9th and then got the win as Mike Cameron's clutch single scored Jason Phillips. Reyes was MVP for this game for his 4 RBI's.

Game six was back in Texas and with no room for error the Rangers asked Rosman Garcia to take the ball. He responded well, with 6 strong innings and the Rangers scored just enough runs to give Nick Masset the lead going into the 9th. Masset recorded the 3 outs necessary to even the series at 3 a piece and set up a grand finale that I have to say I fully expected. MVP honours went to Glen Davis who had RBI's in 3 separate innings.

Game seven saw Doug Bochtler back on the mound up against Rangers wunderkid Carlos Almanazar who looked visibly nervous, as did his skipper after Reyes scored on Soriano's error in the top of the 1st. His nerves were eased by Fernando Vina's 2 run HR in the bottom of the 1st. Ty Wigginton added a solo HR in the 4th and the game was tied. In the 5th the decisive runs were scored as Dave Berg singled in Swann to give the Rangers a lead they would not surrender. They added another in the 6th and one more in the 7th and with Almanazar tiring, the skipper asked young lefty Aaron Myette to try and close out the series. He got 2 outs in the 8th and then send down Matsui, Piazza and Wigginton in order in the 9th to save the win for Almanazar and the series for Texas. Almanazar was MVP for

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the game.

Post-game reaction - a truly fantastic series and the right result for me. Commiserations to Kevin - his Mets were almost inseparable from the Rangers in all categories and the series could easily have gone the other way. Personally I'm extremely relieved - losing 4 WS in the same league is very tough and a couple of times I felt we'd never get the job done. I'm delighted to have finally done it and with the best combination of players I've had in this league. The sad part is two of the cornerstones of my WS teams, Ryan Church and Fernando Vina are talking about retirement. If they do retire, what better way to go out than with a WS ring. The turn was very tense to read and by the time I'd got to the final game, I was in need of a stiff drink, win or lose!

I don't know how we'll fare this coming season, but I am going to enjoy defending the title

Continental Series

As I thought, the Continental Series went to the new kids on the block the Giants. They have looked good since Dave Pinder took over and are likely to emerge as one of the bright new team this year. Things started well for the Giants as they scored 3 runs off Mariners starter Garcia and held on well for the win. Game 2 saw the Seattle bats explode as they saw off Trliceck early to seal the win to split the opening series in Seattle. San Francisco was a totally different prospect for the Mariners as Rojado tossed a 1 hitter with a couple of walks in game 3 to move ahead again, game 4 featured a complete game from Gross for the Giants who was always in control despite giving up 3 runs and in game 5 it was all over as the Giants manages to out-last the Mariners to secure the series by 4 games to 1.

National Series

In the National Series the Padres faced the Twins and it was the Padres who shot out of the blocks in games 1 and 2 at home as they restricted the Twins to only 2 runs on nine hits. Back in Minnesota the Padres took game 3 leaving the Twins having to win the remaining 4 games for the title. They shut down the Padres offence totally in game 4 reducing the deficit but the Padres pounded the Twins starter Davis in game 5 to wrap up a comfortable looking series win.

Well that's it for another season, Mike and his Rangers thoroughly deserved to win the World Series and from my point of view, although disappointed, I'm well pleased with the effort my lot put into it. That was some of the guys last chance of winning the title as they are set to retire this week. Piazza and Matsui will be sorely missed by the fans at the Shea. The Mets will be very lucky to be competitive this year, rebuilding is the plan especially on the batting side of things. Don't worry though we'll be back stronger than ever...sometime!!

Any suggestions for the Hall of Fame?

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 28th January 2006