

# 2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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## MLB6

## RANGERS REPEAT

### 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



Alistair Brearley, Reds



Texas accounted for the Mets in an exact replica of last years World Series and as it stands these 2 teams now account for over half the losses in World Series history (thanks for that Mike). This is how it unfolded:-

Game 1 - New York were quickly out of the blocks with Wiggington (2) and Burnitz knocking in runs. Davis pulled one back for Texas in the bottom of the frame but back to back homers from Reyes and Wiggington in the 3rd and a 2 run double by Reyes in the 4th looked to have done the job. Wilson singled home Burnitz in the 5th for an 8-1 Mets lead before a Pearce single in the bottom of the frame scored 2. Wiggington scored Cameron in the 6th with a double to RF and lead-off homers by Young and Everett in the 6th and 7th respectively saw the end of the scoring with the Mets taking a vital win on the road. Wiggington was MVP in this game with 3 hits and 4 RBI's. Texas ace Cordero was tagged for 8 earned runs in 5 innings for the loss and Glavine pitched 5 innings for the concession of 4 earned runs for the win.

Game 2 - Texas with the lumber this time. RBI's for Everett and Pearce in the 1st, and Davis (2) in the 3rd saw Texas cruise into the lead. A Reyes double scored Cameron in the top of the 4th but the Rangers answered back with homers from Teixeira and Berg in the bottom of the inning. New York rallied in the 5th with a Blake RBI and in the 6th the Mets pulled to within 2 as Burnitz batted in Phillips and Garcia smashed a 2 run shot to right. Texas gave themselves breathing space in the 7th with RBI's from Teixeira and Meyer but the Mets struck back again in the top of the 8th with RBI's from Wiggington Burnitz and Beltran. Texas again asserted in the bottom of the frame with a Davis double and a Pearce 2 run homer but the Mets made it squeaky bum time in the 9th as a Reyes triple scored 2 and it was left to Millwood to come in and get the final 2 outs for the save to knot the series. Franco took the loss for New York with 5 earned runs in 2 2/3 innings in relief of Bochtler who gave up 7 runs (6 earned in 4 2/3 innings). Garcia took the win for the Rangers with 5 earned runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Game 3 - Back to New York for game 3 and following a 1-2-3 innings from Trachsel to open up the game for the Mets a Reyes homer established an early lead. Texas drew level atop the 3rd with a Meyer double which saw Young score and a Berg single allowed Meyer to give Texas the lead. Burnitz tripled to open the bottom of the 4th and scored on a Karim Garcia single, Blake singled home Garcia and then scored when a Reyes grounder was fumbled by Teixeira to give the Mets a 4-2 lead. Unusually there was no more scoring until the top of the 8th when an Everett single saw home Meyer and with Mets closer Wheeler opening up the 9th the game was safe for the Mets. No it wasn't, Meyer singled home Young to knot the scores and with Williams replacing Wheeler a sacrifice by Berg gave the Rangers

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the lead. Wiggington walked to open up the bottom of the 9th and Burnitz took Masset deep next batter up for a walk off game winning homer and the Mets led again. Masset took the loss for Texas and Williams the win but Trachsel starting for New York was the star going 7 innings for only 3 runs.

Game 4 - New York as they have regularly all season started brightly with a Phillips triple scoring Cameron, a Reyes RBI double and a Garcia RBI double giving the Mets a 3-0 lead. A Pearce homer reduced the deficit in the 2nd but Reyes added another RBI to re-establish the 3 run lead. Berg singled home Meyer in the 3rd and in the 4th he doubled home Teixeira and Meyer to knot the scores. They weren't finished there though and a double by Everett scored both Mansfield and Berg for the first Texas lead of the day. Everett added a solo shot in the 6th and in the bottom of the frame Phillips knocked in Wilson to cut the Rangers lead to 2. A Wilson sacrifice in the 7th halved the deficit and a solo shot by Reyes in the 8th took the game to extra innings. In the 11th a Pearce double scored Davis who was in turn knocked in by Delluci and a 2 run shot by Young looked to have put the game out of reach. Wiggington scored on a single to left by Redman and a double by Wilson saw Redman score but Texas held out for the win. Weathers took the loss for new York, Mabeus took the win and Fultz the save in relief of Benoit who lasted over 5 innings conceding 3 earned runs for Texas.

Game 5 - This game amongst all the lumber being thrown will probably go down as one of the best ever pitched in the World Series. Tom Glavine an 11 year veteran tossed a 4 hitter against the toughest batting lineup in the league allowing just 1 hit and a walk after the 2nd inning. He overshadowed Reyes for New York who went 4 for 5 with 2 doubles, a homer and 6 RBI. Every position player had a hit for the Mets as they regained the advantage taking the series back to Texas. Rangers ace Cordero took another pounding in the loss giving up 7 earned runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Game 6 - New York scored in the 1st again courtesy of a 2 run Reyes homer but in the bottom of the frame Everett returned the compliment to tie the scores. A Pearce solo shot in the 2nd gave the Rangers the lead which was doubled in the 4th as Delluci blasted another solo shot to left. The same player added another solo shot in the 8th and the Rangers had cruised back level and an awful feeling of deja-vu was starting to sweep over the Mets. Bochtler took the loss for New York giving up 4 earned runs in 6 innings, Rosman Garcia took the win and Myette the save to take the series into a decider.

Game 7 - Same pattern for the Mets in the 1st with a Reyes double scoring Cameron and unusually the Rangers bats didn't seem to be firing. A Teixeira single in the 5th scored Young and the Rangers led overall for the first time in the whole series in the 7th when Mansfield singled in Young. New York fought back in the 8th when a Burnitz sacrifice scored Phillips but in the bottom of the frame an Everett walk was turned into a run when Davis doubled and a Pearce double next bat up gave the Rangers a 2 run lead going into the 9th. The Mets didn't look like scoring in the 9th and Everett rounded things off as he took a routine fly ball in shallow centre field to spark delirious scenes from the Arlington faithful. Williams took the loss for New York and Nick Masset the win in relief of Almanzar who pitched a dream conceding 1 run in 6 2/3 innings.

Another cracking series, another heartbreaking loss for the Mets but Texas have been the best side all year and to run them so close is heartening. 7 out of the 13 World Series have been lost by Mike or myself and the only consolation is he's lost more than me. He's won more than me but I won't tell him if you don't. Congratulations Mike from New York and the rest of the league, a very, very worthy champion.

Over in the Continental Series Colorado travelled to Milwaukee and were just edged by the odd run in 5 in the opening game. Speier pitched an outstanding game for the Rockies in game 2 with a 3 hit shutout and the bats pounded out 14 hits and 12 runs to knot the series. Milwaukee regained the advantage in game 3 as their batters came up with clutch hits when it mattered. Game 4 was another blowout by the Rockies who took Milwaukee starter Santos for 6 runs in just over 4 innings to tie the scores

again. Game 5 was a slugfest but this time it wasn't Colorado leading the way. Milwaukee pounded out 19 hits and scored 10 runs on the Colorado bullpen in a game where both bullpens took some stick. Back to Milwaukee and Colorado behind another sterling performance by Speier knotted the series again this time pounding the Brewers starter Fraser. The deciding game saw Ford for the Brewers go 5 2/3 innings for just 1 run and this was the difference in the end as the Colorado starter Sanchez gave up 5 runs and with it the title to Milwaukee.

Minnesota travelled to Houston for the opening game of the National Series and they took the first game by the odd run in 5 thanks to their bullpen holding Houston run-less, eventually taking the win in the 10th. They doubled their lead in game 2 on the back of a good pitching performance by Davis who went almost 8 innings conceding just 2 runs and with a 2-0 lead the Astros were up against it. Their job became even harder following game 3 where the Twins coasted to an 8-2 win again courtesy of a solid pitching performance by starter Anderson. Game 4 saw Houston spark into life and they knocked out the Twins starter early and allowed their own, Wagner to settle and underpin the win. Game 5 was a cracker with both sides combining for 27 hits in 11 innings. Houston had enough for the win and with another the series would become very interesting. It wasn't to be though as Davis saved the best until last with a virtuoso display of pitching. He tossed a 2 hit, 2 walk shutout which was enough for the win and a clean sweep for the American League, the first time this has ever happened by any league in the history of MLB.

## Around the League

### Troy - Seattle Mariners

As a whole, I'm pretty happy with the end of season changes for my Mariners. Garcia and Rhodes have now become 9\* pitchers and both of them still have double figure potential remaining. So that's encouraging for the future. The pitching looks in decent enough shape. We are possibly only a couple of pitchers away from not having to worry about the pitching for quite a long time to come. So you can guess where the main focus of my free agency will be! That's right, the batting! The batting is a bit of a shambles for the moment but I have a feeling that even here we will perform better in the coming season. It's not beyond the realms of possibility that we might even return to post-season play at the end of this coming season. So not at all doom and gloom, far from it in fact!

### Marc - Anaheim Angels

To be succinct - crap!

5 levels gained and 5 levels lost.

None of the gains any real use, two of the losses were to 10\* players. 6 classes gained and 9 lost. Only one, possibly two, of the gains was any use. The changes seem very sparse. Maybe an effect of all the coaching that has been done to the team? I might have expected this, but the batters in particular had quite a lot of form for a team with a bad season (5 were 20+). And the team is \*very\* young as well, which should help, right? Even the rookies did very little - the two good ones lost a class and gained nothing between them. Having said that, the team still looks fairly useful, if I can sort out the wages (up to 113).

### Guy - Minnesota Twins

Well all in all I'm happy, not because the changes to the Twins were good; they were just not as bad as they could have been. To give you some idea my "1st team" wage increased by 2LP's so I was not expecting much. 4 class losses 4 class gains 8 Skill losses 7 gains. It could have been so much worse, given the amount of Negative form we had. 3 class losses were to players with 0 potential before the change and they accounted 4 skill losses between them. My rookies accounted for the 4 class gains and 5 skill gains. You can see my "1st team" has changed little so it does not bode well for the next season. But as I said it could be so much worse, and I did get 3 draft picks who will all contribute to the team at

some stage.

### **Rob - White Sox**

8 class gains, 1 class loss 21 skill gains, 6 skill losses

The 1 class loss and 3 of the skill losses were all on Steve Finley, who therefore will be getting released. I was hoping he wouldn't lose skills as he had 34 form and fitted in quite well at number 5 in the lineup, but never mind. Beltre improved to Ex POW so will be moving up to that slot. Also disappointed that season twelve's first round pick, SS Escobar, and season thirteen's first round pick, 1B Thompson, didn't go up a class, they remain 8\* and 7\* respectively. But second and third round picks from season 12 and second round pick from season 13 all went up a class to 8\*, 8\* and 7\* respectively so, overall, I can't complain too much. As you can probably guess from the above, most of the improving batters were the younger players not expected to be starting every day next season. Our starting lineup fluctuated in skill somewhat but didn't change significantly overall. On the other hand, five of our six starting pitchers gained a skill, and only one lost (and that in STA). The top four in the bullpen also had a skill gain each, Wunsch also lost a skill but went up a class to 9\*. Overall, on paper we got a lot better at pitching and not much better at batting. We'll see how this translates into on field performance...

### **Paul - Blue Jays**

5 class gains, 1 class loss 9 skill gains, 4 skill losses

The pitching faired better than the batting, but that was to be expected with more players with more potential there. Wages are currently 138 LPs so 'a bit' of trimming to be done there! I had hoped for improvements on my C, SS, and 3B even though their form wasn't great but got none :- ( We didn't really get many improvements elsewhere either. We'll be releasing some bats (we signed an OF late last season with this in mind) to balance the books so the starting line-up will look weaker this season. However, we underperformed with the bats last season so an improvement in performance will hopefully make up for this. A couple of players in platoons improved, but the platoons will stay this season. We lack leftie bats so got one in Round 1 of the draft but I'm not sure how much playing time he'll get?

### **Nigel - Pirates**

I would not be as sure that Pittsburgh will win the division again. Cincinnati are a good side and Pittsburgh are going to have to cope with the huge loss of C Steinbach who is now a 7 rated C costing 116LPs. He has also lost a skill point on all his skills except FLD. Also leaving will be 3B Vina who also has suffered huge losses. With 2 starters leaving this will greatly reduce the firepower of the Pirates. To contend this year the pitching will have to improve but that is not certain as the staff does not really have an ace.

Well that's another season over and another loss for the Mets, but what the hell. I'd just like to take a little time to thank everybody who has contributed to the newsletter over the past season. It doesn't matter who much or little you sent I appreciate it. If anybody has any ideas of anything they want included just let me know and I'll do my best to get it sorted. Anybody who wants an emailed version of the newsletter just let me know and I'll get you on the mailing list.

A am due to be moving house very shortly, hopefully it will be after Christmas but I can't say for certain yet. When I move I will be without a computer for a little while as I need to sort a new ISP as my current cable company doesn't do my new estate. Consequently the newsletter may be missing for a couple of turns unless anybody fancies a guest editing spot.

Paul Beaumont will be inducted into the Hall of Fame next time unless there are any objections.

Good luck for the new season.

**Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 2nd December 2006**