

Royals flush Cards in seventh game, 11-0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Royals, rallying behind the five-hit pitching of Bret Saberhagen, completed one of baseball's most shocking comebacks Sunday night and won their first World Series championship, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals 11-0 in the decisive seventh game.

The Cardinals, who had seen their 3-1 lead in games vanish along with their hitting, simply collapsed in the final game.

What had been billed as the greatest seventh-game pitching matchup in more than two decades went up in smoke created by the Royals bats. The Cardinals' ace, 21-game winner John Tudor, couldn't even make it through the third inning and wound up in a Kansas City hospital for stitches after cutting his index finger on an electric fan in the clubhouse.

The destruction occurred at the hands of platoon outfielder Darryl Motley, who hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs; Steve Balboni, who drove in two of Kansas City's three runs in the third inning; and the suddenly rejuvenated George Brett, who had four hits.

The Royals put the game away with six runs in the fifth inning, during which both pitcher Joaquin Andujar and

Manager Whitey Herzog were ejected by home plate umpire Don Denkinger. Herzog had argued a critical Denkinger call at first base that fueled the Royals' winning, ninth-inning rally in Game 6, and consecutive ball calls on inside pitches to Royals catcher Jim Sundberg brought all the frustration erupted to the surface.

While the Royals completed a comeback unprecedented in the game—recovering not only from a 1-3 deficit in the American League playoffs but from 0-2 and 1-3 disadvantages in the Series—the Cardinals faded into offensive oblivion.

After leading the National League with a .264 team average during the season, the Cardinals hit just .185 in the World Series and scored a total of 13 runs.

Part of the Cardinals' offensive woes probably could be traced to the absence of injured leadoff hitter Vince Coleman, but the lack of St. Louis hitting also had to be a tribute to the young, well-schooled pitching staff of the Royals.

The Royals pitchers not only quieted the St. Louis bats but frustrated and eventually halted altogether the vaunted running game of the Cardinals. The Cards had stolen 314 bases dur-

ing the season, for an average of nearly two a game, but managed just two swipes in the Series against the predominantly left-handed Royals staff.

This night, however, belonged to a 21-year-old right-hander by the name of Saberhagen, whose wife, Janeane, had given birth to their first child, son Drew, the day before.

Saberhagen, who had won Game 3 to give the Royals hope, struck out two and walked none.

Saberhagen, selected most valuable player, allowed a second-inning single to Jack Clark, then retired 11 in a row before giving up another single to Tito Landrum with two out in the fifth inning. He also allowed singles to Ozzie Smith, Andy Van Slyke and Terry Pendleton.

Saberhagen pitched the Royals' first victory of this Series, a six-hitter in Game 3.

The Royals' hitters, meanwhile, asked for no quarter, and gave none. After dispensing with Tudor, they slugged their way through another six St. Louis pitchers, winding up with 14 hits and the greatest margin of victory ever in the seventh game of a World Series. The Cardinals used five pitchers in the fifth inning, tying a World Series record set by Baltimore in 1979.

In their big inning, the Royals sent 11 men to the plate against Bill Campbell, Jeff Lahti, Rickey Horton, Andujar and, finally, Bob Forsch, in the process building their biggest winning margin of the season. They had won two earlier games 10-1.

Without the services of a designated hitter, the Royals had routed the Cardinals, who were in their 14th World Series. The Royals, born of 1969 expansion, had been in the Series only once before, losing in six games to Philadelphia in 1980.

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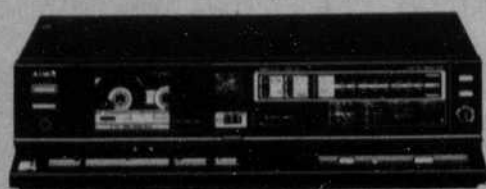
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