

Indians: Ramirez was Cleveland's offensive star

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1995. New York lost to Seattle that year.

Cleveland's offensive star was Manny Ramirez, who ended slides of 0-for-13 and 2-for-18 in the series with a two-run, ground-rule double off Pettitte in the third.

Wright, who beat Pettitte and New York at Yankee Stadium in Game 2, struck out five in 5 1-3 innings with the whole place standing on every two-strike count. He allowed eight hits — seven singles — and walked three.

Pettitte, a road warrior in the playoffs, ran into trouble in the third. Ramirez's double and a single by Matt Williams made it 3-0.

Sandy Alomar, who tied Game 4 with an eighth-inning homer, led off the fifth with a double to left-center and scored on a sac fly by Tony Fernandez.

Pettitte retired eight straight after that, but the Indians had done enough damage.

By eliminating the Yankees, the Indians perhaps lifted a 40-year curse in which New York held them spellbound.

Cleveland finished second five times in the 1950s to New York, and the Yankees were 15-5 at Jacobs Field before dropping two of three in the series this weekend.

In 1954, the Indians won a record 111 games, but got swept

in the World Series by another New York team, the Giants.

The defending World Series champions would not go quietly, and that was fitting in this series that saw only one two-game winning streak — the one that clinched it.

Wright appeared to be losing velocity in the sixth and didn't make it through the inning. Mike Stanley, replacing Cecil Fielder at DH, led off with a wicked double to the gap in right-center. Wade Boggs, left out of the starting lineup again in favor of Charlie Hayes, lined a single up the middle to make it 4-3 and chase Wright.

Vizquel was right in the middle of the Indians' big inning, stealing second uncontested and scoring on Ramirez's double.

And Jim Thome, moved from third to first this season, made perhaps the defensive play of the series to snuff out a New York rally in the seventh.

"If he doesn't make that play, we might still be out there playing, or might be out of it," Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove said.

Derek Jeter beat out an infield single — although the replays seemed to show he was out. Indian-killer O'Neill hit a hot smash to Thome, who dove to his right and threw out Jeter from his belly.

Orioles take Seattle with teamwork

Baltimore capitalizes on its team strength to advance to the ALCS

By David Ginsburg
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles dispatched the Seattle Mariners in their AL division series by incorporating a concept not often associated with baseball these days — teamwork.

In a sport known for individual greatness, the Orioles this season have thrived with an all-for-one, one-for-all mentality. Baltimore has no viable candidate to win the league's most valuable player award; why, it's tough enough just trying to determine the team MVP.

Cal Ripken? Why not? He played every game in the regular season, hit .270 and drove in 84 runs. B.J. Surhoff hit .284; short-stop Mike Bordick was sensational in the field; Rafael Palmeiro had 38 homers and 110 RBIs; and Brady Anderson hit .288 despite playing hurt for much of the season.

"Everybody's contributed. You can make a case for Cal, you can make a case for B.J., Bordick, Raffy, Brady. This is the kind of year that maybe it should be shared," manager Davey Johnson said.

Randy Myers had 45 saves in the regular season and added another in the clincher Sunday, capping a 3-1 victory with a perfect inning of relief. Yet he's

merely one of several relievers who has enjoyed a stellar season.

"You could give it to the pitchers. We didn't get a career year from two or three guys. It's been more of a joint effort," Johnson said.

And so it was against Seattle. Mike Mussina was the obvious hero, beating Mariners' ace Randy Johnson twice to give Baltimore the best-of-5 playoff, 3-1.

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We didn't get a career year from two or three guys. It's been more of a joint effort."

Davey Johnson
Orioles Manager

But there were plenty of other stars, including several players who weren't on the roster a year ago when the New York Yankees unceremoniously ousted the Orioles from the AL championship series.

After that humbling defeat, the Orioles gutted the team that set a major-league record for home runs. General manager Pat Gillick shored up the starting rotation with Jimmy Key and added Bordick and Eric Davis. Gillick also signed reserve catcher Lenny Webster and utility in-

fielder Jeff Reboulet.

Not quite content with what he had wrought, Gillick worked a trade with Oakland in June to get Geronimo Berroa, then added Harold Baines to the mix via a trade with the Chicago White Sox.

All seven of the those players had a significant role in getting Baltimore to the AL championship series for the second straight year. Reboulet, part of a mostly right-handed lineup designed specifically to beat Randy Johnson, started the offense Sunday by driving a 3-2 pitch into the left-field seats for a 1-0 lead.

Despite starting the game with Palmeiro, Surhoff and Roberto Alomar in the dugout, the Orioles won anyway.

"You win by receiving contributions from everybody on your 25-man roster," Ripken said. "Reboulet did that early in the year. It's not totally surprising."

The Orioles are now in position to see if this year's blend of players is better than last season's group.

In 1996, Baltimore ended a 12-year playoff drought, and now the franchise would like to take the next step — returning to the World Series.

"Last year, when we got beat by the Yankees, it didn't sit well with a lot of people from ownership on down," Johnson said. "It didn't sit well with me or any of the players. From Day One the players have looked at this year to make amends."

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RICK REECE

DEGREE: Graduate Student, Asian Studies, the University of Oregon.

COUNTRY OF SERVICE: Philippines, 1992-95

ASSIGNMENT: Water and sanitation - I helped initiate an agricultural development/irrigation project designed to make the small island self-reliant in rice production.

HOUSING: Two-room limestone house with a typhoon-proof thatched roof - complete with an open-fire kitchen used to cure garlic, onions, tobacco and to keep the pig warm!

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: Itbayaten, Ivatan and Tagalog

MEMORABLE MOMENT: Holding the newborn daughter (my god daughter) of my host family in my arms for the first time.

LESSONS LEARNED: Extreme flexibility, tolerance and persistence, persistence, persistence!



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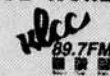


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