



Marlins earn their first-ever trip to World Series

Marlins reach the fall classic in just their fifth season, three years faster than the 'Miracle Mets' of 1969

By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — It was money well-spent.

The Florida Marlins, who shelled out nearly \$100 million last winter with the expressed goal of shucking their label as expansion losers and buying a team to beat the Atlanta Braves, earned their way into the World Series on Tuesday night.

The wild-card Marlins, not even in existence when the Braves began their record run of playoff appearances in 1991, defeated Atlanta 7-4 behind Kevin Brown's complete game and Bobby Bonilla's three RBIs to win the NL championship series, 4-2.

"They talk about the money we spent, that we bought a championship," Brown said. "The money is not what won this series. The heart, the determination, the pursuit of the right goal got us there."

The victory over the two-time NL champions

made the 5-year-old Marlins the fastest expansion team to reach the World Series, surpassing the eight years the New York Mets needed to get there in 1969, and made them baseball's first wild-card club to make it.

Game 1 will be Saturday night in Miami against either Cleveland or Baltimore. It will mean the first trip to the World Series in 34 pro seasons for Jim Leyland, whose emotional ride in his first year as the Marlins manager may make him this October's version of Joe Torre.

Leyland's teams in Pittsburgh lost Game 7 of the NLCS to the Braves in 1991 and 1992, but there was no need to worry this time because of Bonilla's hitting and Brown's second win of the series.

"I felt all along we were going to win this series," Leyland said. "This isn't about me. I'm just glad I got the opportunity to come here."

The Marlins' win came five years ago to the day that the Braves rallied with three runs in the ninth inning to stun Leyland and his Pirates on Francisco Cabrera's single in Game 7.

Marlins rookie Livan Hernandez, who struck out an NLCS record 15 in a 2-1 win in Game 5, was named MVP. He also won Game 3 in relief.

Atlanta, which had advanced to four of the last five World Series, led the majors with 101 victories, winning the NL East by nine games over Florida.

"We've had a great year," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "These things are crapshoots. You hope you get hot."

The Braves did not, putting a disappointing end on their sixth straight trip to the NLCS.

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OREGON OUTDOORS



UO OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Students' imaginations are the limit with the UO Outdoor Program

By Tim Pyle
Freelance Sports Reporter

Bicycling across Tibet, climbing Mount McKinley, backpacking in the Himalayas, sea kayaking in Canada and sailing in the Caribbean.

No, this is not a list of articles in the most recent issue of Outside magazine, but a description of a few trips made by University students through the University's Outdoor Program in recent years.

"I think of us as a sort of wilderness

Exploring the Outdoors

travel agent," coordinator Bruce Mason said.

Trips such as those usually have enormous dollar signs attached, but with the Outdoor Program, excessive spending is

practically illegal.

The Outdoor Program is supported entirely by student incidental fees. It makes no profit and only charges students exactly what it costs to rent equipment necessary for a trip.

There are also no guides (paid or otherwise) on Outdoor Program trips, as students get the opportunity to lead themselves, a chance Mason said students relish.

"For a lot of students, it marks the first time they have full responsibilities [on a trip]," Mason said. "That's real addictive."

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Royals have first choice to join NL

If Kansas City denies the move, then Milwaukee said it will switch to the other league

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Kansas City will have first choice to join the National League next season, and the Milwaukee Brewers will switch leagues if the Royals decline, baseball owners and officials said Tuesday.

Detroit will move from the American League East to the AL Central and the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays will take the Tigers' place in the East under the plan, scheduled for a vote Wednesday during a telephone conference call. This will create a 16-team NL and a 14-team AL next season.

The Royals, who have been in the AL since they joined the major leagues in 1969, will have until about the end of the month to decide if they want to move to the NL Central. The Brewers have said they would move to the NL Central if the Royals decline, several owners and officials said, all on the condition they not be identified.

"There has been some sentiment on the board to move to the National League, but it's not clear cut," said Joe McGuff, one of the Royals' seven directors.

Kansas City has always been an AL city, with the Athletics moving there from Philadelphia before the 1955 season and staying until their move to Oakland following the 1967 season.

Milwaukee was an NL town from 1953, the first season after the Braves moved there from Boston, until 1965, the last year before the franchise moved on to Atlanta.

The Brewers moved to Milwaukee before the 1970 season, having started their existence the previous year as the Seattle Pilots. Bud Selig, baseball's acting commissioner, led a group that purchased the Pilots in bankruptcy court and is still the Brewers' president.

"We said all along that we'll do what's in the best interests of baseball," Selig said of the Brewers.

Owners say these moves are only the first step, and that additional realignment may occur in 1999 and beyond. However, difficult issues in baseball have a tendency of dragging on for years, so this set of moves may determine baseball's setup for the foreseeable future.

Under the plan set to be approved, the AL will maintain a balanced schedule next season, with teams playing each opponent in their division 12 times and teams in other divisions of its league 11 times.

In the NL, teams will play 12 games against divisional opponents and nine games against teams in the other divisions.

'We're 3-3. That's average,' Switzer says

With a 1-3 mark against NFC East teams, the Cowboys are a longshot to win their fourth Super Bowl of the 1990s

By Jaime Aron
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Maybe there's no mystery behind why the Dallas Cowboys are struggling. Maybe they're just not very good any more.

Dallas players and coaches seemingly have come to that conclusion following Monday night's 21-16 loss to the Washington Redskins. The reality apparently has sunk in that they're no longer the same

group that won three of the last five Super Bowls.

"We're an average football team in the NFL right now," coach Barry Switzer said. "We're 3-3. That's average."

Making things even worse is that Dallas is 1-3 against NFC East rivals, making a sixth consecutive division title a longshot.

"That's hard to swallow, especially because we've been the dominant team in the division the last four, five years," offensive lineman Nate Newton said. "We've just got to pick it up and try to salvage something."

The schedule makes that quite a challenge. The Cowboys' next six opponents are division leaders Jacksonville and San

Francisco, two of the division rivals they've lost to (Arizona and Washington), a team they barely beat (Philadelphia) and Green Bay, which has been dying to get Dallas to Wisconsin and finally will.

No wonder players who were talking about taking aim at homefield advantage throughout the playoffs were saying Tuesday their goal now is just making the postseason.

"Until we're totally out of it, we've got a shot," Newton said.

Such resignation doesn't usually come from the Cowboys. They're supposed to be America's Team, the one with all the swagger, the one that plays in a stadium with a hole in the roof so God can watch his team.