



Eleventh-inning homer sends Tribe to World Series

Cleveland captures the AL pennant on a homer hit by Tony Fernandez

By David Ginsburg
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Cleveland Indians concluded a magical week with their best trick yet — surviving another brilliant effort by Mike Mussina and making the Baltimore Orioles disappear from the playoffs.

The Indians claimed their second pennant in three years Wednesday, defeating the Orioles 1-0 on an 11th-inning homer by last-minute starter Tony Fernandez to win the AL championship series 4-2.

It was only the third hit of the game for Cleveland, which will open the World Series

on the road Saturday night against the Florida Marlins.

The Indians managed only one hit in eight innings off Mussina, who turned in his second straight sensational performance in a losing cause. Mussina left after having thrown 108 pitches in his second successive start with three days' rest.

Armando Benitez, the third Baltimore pitcher, got two easy outs in the 11th before Fernandez slammed a 2-0 pitch over the 25-foot scoreboard in right. It was the first post-season home run in 133 at-bats for Fernandez, a late replacement for second baseman

Bip Roberts, who was scratched with a bruised left thumb.

Brian Anderson got the win, pitching a scoreless 10th inning, and Jose Mesa got three outs for the save, wrapping up the Indians' fourth one-run win of the series.

The Orioles won a league-best 98 games during the regular season, but the Indians used some splendid pitching and a liberal dose of luck to avenge last year's division series loss to Baltimore.

Cleveland won Game 2 last Thursday when No. 9 hitter Marquis Grissom hit a

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On tap

■ **WHO:**
Florida vs.
Baltimore

■ **WHAT:**
Game 1 of the
1997 World
Series

Believe it or not: Beavers could finish at .500

No, this is not an ill-timed April Fool's article. This is not a joke. You are not misreading or misinterpreting this.

The Oregon State Beavers have a legitimate chance to have a winning football season in 1997.

Yes, those same Beavers that reside in Corvallis, the Beavers that won just three games the previous two seasons. The Beavers that provide an end of the season party for the Ducks every year. The ones that have not had a winning season in more than a quarter of a century — 26 long, miserable, agonizing years for the Beavers and their fans, to be exact.

OPINION



Alex Pond

Those Oregon State Beavers.

OK, let's wait a minute while you pick yourself up off the floor and regain your composure. Now, continue reading with a straight face.

The Beavers have continually teased their faithful followers with glimmers of hope here and there, mixing in a four-win season every now and then to give their fans a sense of hope. A false sense, it would always turn out, though, as Oregon State would always return to its one- or two-win ways soon after.

But this season seems different. First-year head coach Mike Riley has pumped new life and a new attitude into the program. Of course, that is exactly what has been said each and every time a new head coach has strolled into Corvallis.

Riley, though, seems to have a realistic plan to turn that program around.

While other coaches also had their own plan, it looks as if Riley's plan might actually work.

He inherited a pretty good defensive unit, tinkered with it a little, and so far this season it has been one of the best defenses in the Pacific-10 Conference.

More importantly, he installed an offense that looks like it belongs in the Pac-10, one with a balanced pass-run attack. While the execution of the offense has been inconsistent, the foundation is there for it to be successful once the players become more familiar with it. That can't necessarily be said about former head coach Jerry Pettibone's wishbone offense.

Now, back to the Beavers' chances of a winning season.

The general consensus has been that Riley is the right man for the job, and that he

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CROSS COUNTRY



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Junior Rob Aubrey practices the same way he competes. His hard work and focus have kept the Ducks on track for a national title.

Realizing the Dream

Runner Rob Aubrey has helped keep Oregon in contention for the national cross country title

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

In running, there are two absolute truths.

If you run to compete, be sure to set goals. If you run to win, be sure to race for Oregon.

So says Pat Tyson, a former roommate and teammate of Steve Prefontaine and now head coach of one of the nation's top high school cross country programs. Over the last 10 years, few coaches in cross country — or any sport for that matter — have had the success that Tyson has at Mead High School in Spokane, Wash.

Tyson has directed the Mead Panthers to nine straight state cross country titles, but what he has done for the Oregon men's cross country team is equally as impressive.

Currently, three of Oregon's varsity runners are Mead alumni.

Rob Aubrey is one of the three who has carried with him Mead's tradition of hard work and the winning attitude needed to run at Oregon.

"From the time I started at Mead, Tyson was pumping Oregon," Aubrey says. "That was the dream of everyone who ran there — to run for Oregon."

Four years ago, Aubrey was one of three runners who left Mead High School to pursue a dream of running for Oregon. Today he is one of the many who have helped return Oregon to the national cross country spotlight.

"The older runners would tell us not to lose heart because running here would only be a dream," Aubrey says, "but we [Matthew Davis, Greg James and Aubrey] told them that it wouldn't only be a dream. We had to believe in ourselves to make it."

This season, Aubrey has been the most consistent finisher for the No. 6 Ducks. In Oregon's first race, he returned to his home state and ran what some say was his best race ever for Oregon. He crossed the finish line second for the Ducks and fifth overall with a time of 25 minutes, 2.56 seconds,

over 40 seconds faster than he ran a season ago on the same 8K course and 17 places higher.

A week later, in Missoula, Mont., the redshirt junior finished nearly 50 seconds faster than he did a year ago at the Mountain West Invitational. His time of 25:27 was 20th overall, but second on the team for the second straight race.

This from a runner who placed no better than sixth on the team in any race last season.

"You have to be self-driven and self-motivated if you want to improve," Aubrey says. "I've learned that it's not what you do in front of the coach, it's what you do in the off-season to prepare for competition that makes you a better runner."

"This summer and throughout the season I've worked harder than I ever have before. It has showed in my workouts and my results. This is the first time since high school when I don't question my ability when I go out to race."

His teammates are starting to take notice.

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