

Sports Outlook

Who will be 'Mr. October' in the World Series

Reggie Jackson once said, "I don't want to be a hero. I don't want to be a star. It just works out that way."

With the World Series just around the corner, it will soon be time to choose a "Mr. October" of 1987. There is always plenty of attention heaped on the Most Valuable Player in the

Fall Classic

Since the World Series MVP was first chosen back in 1955, 34 players have been named by the media as winners of this prestigious award (three Dodgers tied for the honor in 1981).

Jackson, an outfielder, is the only player to have garnered the World Series MVP award as a member of two different teams. He won with the Oakland Athletics in 1973 and with the New York Yankees in 1977 when he hit three home runs to win final game.

The only other two-time winners were pitchers Sandy Koufax (1963, 1965) of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Bob Gibson (1964, 1967) of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Leadership and other intangibles aside, what kind of numbers has the "average" Most Valuable Player put on the board in the World Series?

When non-pitchers are considered, the mean figures show a batting average of .376, with just under two home runs and six RBIs per World Series -- which, of course, can last from four to seven games.

Pitching MVPs in the Series have averaged two victories each, with an earned run average of 1.28 -- and 15.5 strikeouts in nearly 20 innings of work.

If those hitting and pitching figures are projected to a full season, an even better idea of the measure of a World Series MVP can be obtained.

And remember, these performances reflect peak efforts in high-pressure October situations.

Taken over a full 600-at bat season, the Series MVP would show a .376 batting mark, with 117 runs scored, 226 hits, 41 doubles, 11 triples, 51 homers and 160 runs batted in.

Oddly, the World Series MVP figures project to only one stolen base per season. Alan Trammell is the only MVP award winner since 1955 to pilfer a sack in the Series. He did so in a 1984 game against San Diego.

For pitchers, the Series MVP totals can be projected to 274 innings, for a good approximation of a full season. The Series figures show a 29-4 won-loss mark (.879 win percentage), 217

strikeouts, 54 walks and an earned run average of 1.28. They also account for 5 saves.

• Last year's World Series MVP, third baseman Ray Knight of the New York Mets, hit .391 (9-for-23) with five RBIs. But he won mostly for heroics in Games 6 and 7. He scored the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning in Game 6, and he hit a seventh-inning homer to break a 3-3 tie in Game 7.

• Dating from 1955, a dozen of the first 14 World Series MVPs were pitchers. But in the last 18 years, only two additional hurlers have won. The latest -- Bret Saberhagen of Kansas City in 1985 -- is the youngest player to win the Series MVP award, doing so at the age of 21 years, 6 months and 16 days.

• Don Larsen of the Yankees won the 1956 World Series MVP award because of one feat -- his legendary perfect game against the Brooklyn Dodgers. That happened in Game 5. But Larsen had been knocked out of Game 2 after being staked to an early 6-0 lead. He did not allow an earned run, but he was touched for one hit and four walks in less than two innings of work.

• Second baseman Bobby Richardson was the only World Series MVP ever to come from the losing team. His 1960 New York Yankees were defeated by the Pittsburgh Pirates in seven games. But Richardson's two triples in one Series and 12 RBIs are both MVP records.

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PENNANT FEVER: Baseball's playoffs of the 1980s

AMERICAN LEAGUE		NATIONAL LEAGUE		
AL Champion (wins)	Opponent (wins)	Year	NL Champion (wins)	Opponent (wins)
Red Sox (4)	over Angels (3)	1986	METS (4)	over Athletics (3)
ROYALS (4)	over Blue Jays (3)	1985	GIANTS (4)	over Dodgers (3)
TIGERS (4)	over Royals (3)	1984	PEDREROS (4)	over Cubs (3)
ORIOLES (4)	over White Sox (3)	1983	PEDREROS (4)	over Astros (3)
Brewers (4)	over Angels (3)	1982	ASTROS (4)	over Cardinals (3)
Yankees (4)	over Astros (3)	1981	DODGERS (4)	over Padres (3)
Royals (4)	over Yankees (3)	1980	PHILIES (4)	over Astros (3)

There has yet to be a repeat winner during the 1980s in a World Series or League Championship Series. The playoffs have featured 10 different American League franchises and nine different National League franchises.

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Central loop shapes up

It's a little early to look at the standings in the Central Junior B Hockey League and expect to be able to tell what the remainder of the season will hold, but at this stage there are a few interesting points to consider.

The following statistics are based on the standings as of Wednesday. In the Western Division, the Burlington Cougars, third in the Central loop last season, were tied with the Etobicoke Capitals for first, each with four wins in four starts.

Oakville and Streetsville were tied for third in the West, with five points each, followed by the Mimico Monarchs and the Georgetown Gemini with three apiece.

The Gems dropped a 4-2 decision to the Vaughan Raiders Tuesday night, leaving their record at a win, four losses, and a tie.

At the bottom of the division is Milton, winless in four starts. In the Eastern Division, the Barrie Colts, last season's regular season champions, are taking up where they left off.

The Colts had a perfect 3-0 record to start the season, and sported the best defensive stats, allowing just three goals in those games, while scoring a total of 25.

The Vaughan Raiders were tied in the standings with the Colts, having lost only once in four starts to give them six points.

Third in the East is was Aurora with five points, followed by Richmond Hill with four, Orillia and

Markham Waxers with two each, and Newmarket with one.

The highest scoring team in the entire league, up to Wednesday, was the Etobicoke Capitals with 29 goals for, and 12 against. Markham had given up the most goals at 38, in their first four starts.

The Georgetown Gemini were slated to entertain the Richmond Hill Dynes in a divisional interlocking game last night (Friday). Tonight, the Gems travel to Mimico for a 7:30 p.m. contest with the Monarchs, who were the victims of Georgetown's first and only win up to Wednesday.

Next Friday, local hockey fans will get their only regular season look at the high-flying Barrie Colts when they visit Gordon Alcott Arena for an 8 p.m. start.

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