

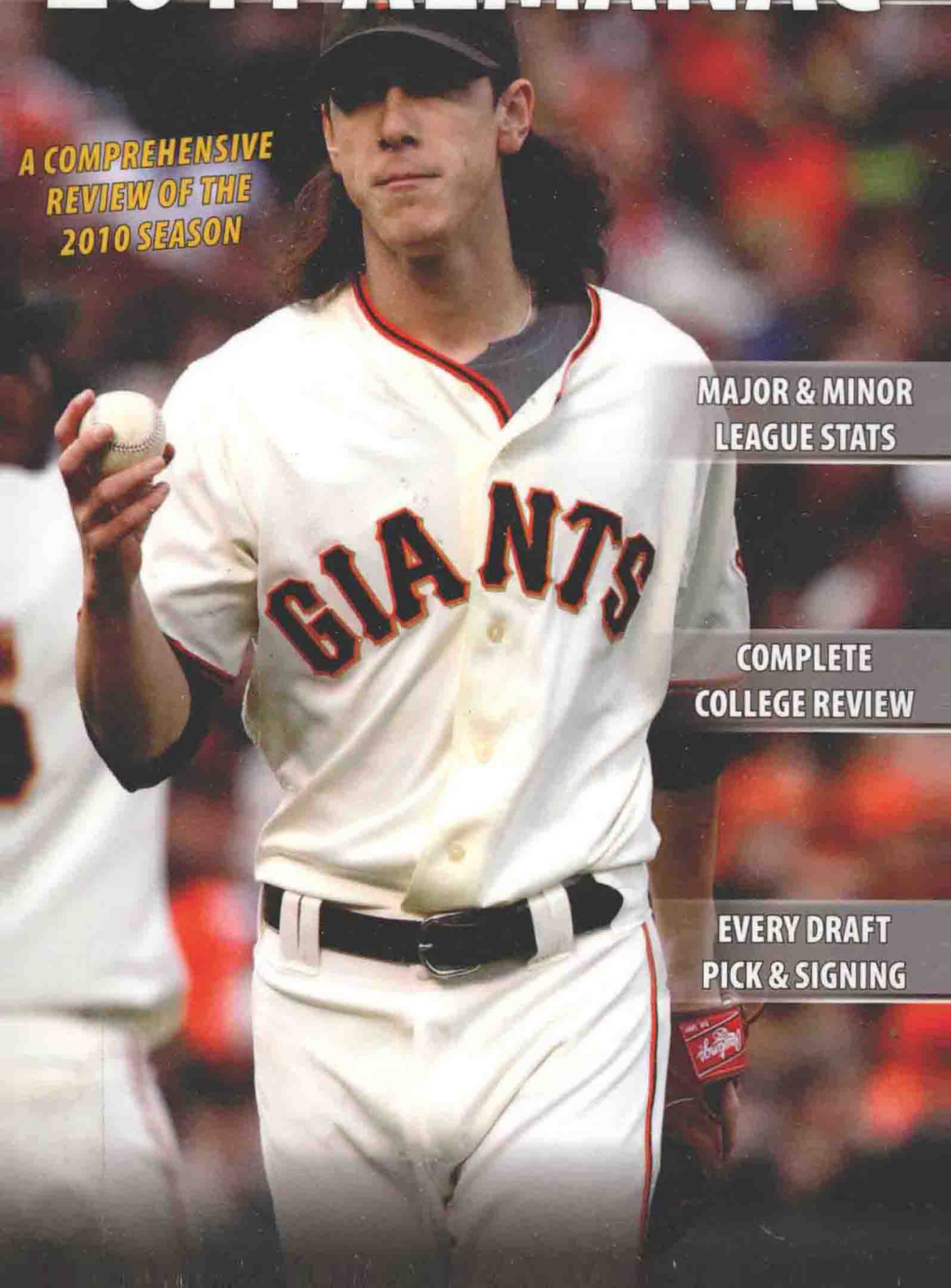
# Baseball America® 2011 ALMANAC

**A COMPREHENSIVE  
REVIEW OF THE  
2010 SEASON**

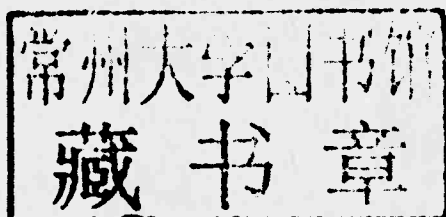
**MAJOR & MINOR  
LEAGUE STATS**

**COMPLETE  
COLLEGE REVIEW**

**EVERY DRAFT  
PICK & SIGNING**



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WILL LINGO

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TIM LINCUM BY BILL NICHOLS

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# ***MAJOR LEAGUES***

# No-hit games reign in 'pitcher perfect' season

BY TOM HAUDRICOURT

In The Year of the Pitcher, it was the perfect game with the imperfect call that dominated the headlines.

Tigers righthander Armando Galarraga, an otherwise obscure pitcher who did not make the club out of spring training, retired the first 26 Indians batters he faced on June 2, leaving him one out shy of the season's third perfect game. Replays showed that Galarraga recorded that out on a close play at first base, but veteran umpire Jim Joyce missed the call, costing the pitcher a spot in the record book.

Galarraga induced a soft groundball from Cleveland's Jason Donald and then raced to first base to take the feed from first baseman Miguel Cabrera. Galarraga barely beat the runner to the bag, but Joyce saw it differently and called Donald safe.

"I just cost that kid a perfect game," a teary-eyed Joyce said after watching the replay later. "It was the biggest call of my career and I blew it."

Beyond creating more cries for expanded replay, the incident became a lesson in humility, grace and class. The next day, with Joyce working the plate at Detroit's Comerica Park, Galarraga brought out the lineup card and the two shook hands and exchanged pats on the back in an emotional scene that drew cheers from the crowd.

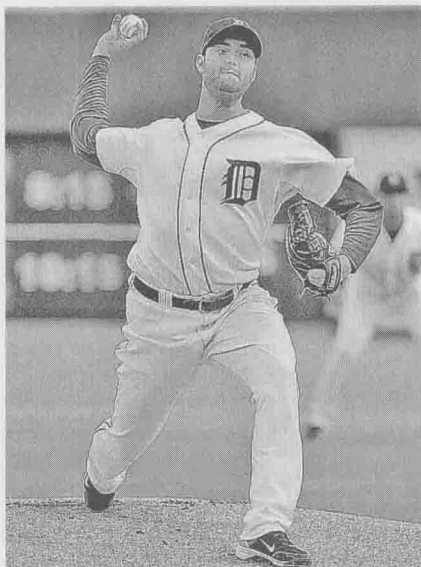
Asked after the game about his reaction to Joyce's blown call robbing him of baseball immortality, the remarkably calm Galarraga replied, "Nobody's perfect."

Perhaps not, but Galarraga would have been that night if not for one botched call.

The balance of power shifted back to the mound in 2010. As a collective, big league teams scored 5 percent fewer runs and hit 8.5 percent fewer homers than they had in 2009. Two pitchers even managed to throw perfect games.

On a Mother's Day for the ages in Oakland, lefthander Dallas Braden retired all 27 Tampa Bay batters he faced as the Athletics topped the Rays 4-0. The May 9 contest was an emotional day for Braden, whose mother Jodie died of cancer in 2001. His grandmother, Peggy Lindsey, was there to watch the historic event.

It was the second time in less than a year that the Rays had a perfect game pitched against them.



STEVE KING

Armando Galarraga came within one out of tossing the season's third perfect game

White Sox lefty Mark Buehrle victimized them the previous July. Tampa Bay's hitting foibles were especially unlikely in light of their high-powered offense—they finished third in the American League in runs scored in 2010 and fifth in '09.

The second perfect game of the season did not come from an unlikely source like Braden. Roy Halladay, the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner coveted so highly by Philadelphia that the Phillies jettisoned Cliff Lee to make room, tossed the 20th perfect game in major league history on May 29 in Miami. It marked the first time that two perfect games were authored in the same season, and the total would have been three if not for Joyce's unfortunate lapse in judgment.

Halladay, a 13-year veteran, was not done making history. Not only would he go on to win 21 games for the Phillies, but in the first playoff start of his career, "Doc" pitched a no-hitter in Game One of the National League Division Series against the Reds, the highest-scoring team in the league.

Rockies righthander Ubaldo Jimenez kicked The Year of the Pitcher into gear on April 18 by tossing

the first no-hitter in club history in Atlanta.

"It's every pitcher's dream to be out there for nine innings and throw a no-hitter," said Jimenez, who pitched exclusively from the stretch after walking his sixth hitter in the fifth inning. "After the seventh inning, I was like, 'Whoa, there's only two innings left. I have a chance to do this.'"

The same night that Jimenez throttled the Braves, the Cardinals and Mets played 18 scoreless innings in a game New York finally won 2-1 in 20 innings. St. Louis second baseman Felipe Lopez tossed a scoreless inning in that game, though fellow position player Joe Mather didn't fare as well, surrendering both New York runs.

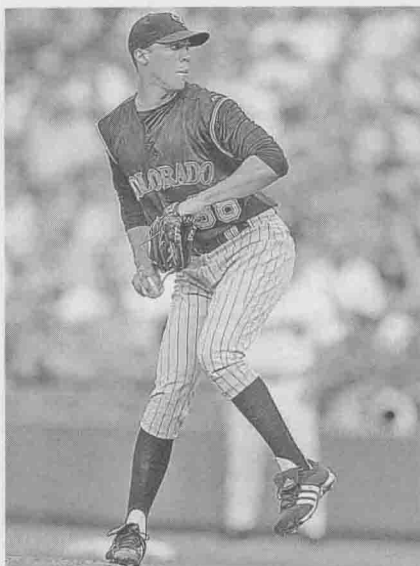
Who says you have to have pinpoint control to toss a no-hitter? Diamondbacks righthander Edwin Jackson walked eight batters, including seven in the first three innings, in his June 25 start against—guess who?—Tampa Bay. Jackson completed his flawed gem in 149 pitches, the highest total in the majors in five years.

After being no-hit for the third time in less than a year, the Rays finally turned the tables on July 26 when flame-throwing righthander Matt Garza held the Tigers hitless in a 5-0 Tampa Bay victory. He faced the minimum 27 batters while allowing only a second-inning walk to Brennan Boesch.

Garza's no-hit gem was the first in Rays history, leaving only the Mets and Padres without no-hitters among major league clubs. The five fine pitching performances by Jimenez, Braden, Halladay, Jackson and Garza represented the most no-hitters since seven were thrown in 1991.

As if three no-nos, two perfect games and one near miss weren't enough, five other pitchers carried no-hitters deep into games.

■ On June 13, Cubs lefthander Ted Lilly took a no-hit bid into the ninth inning of an interleague matchup against the rival White Sox. A leadoff single by Juan Pierre ended that bid in a game the



TOM DIPACE

Ubaldo Jimenez started no-hit season in style with his April 17 gem against Atlanta

Cubs hung on to win 1-0. Incidentally, White Sox starter Gavin Floyd completed six no-hit innings of his own in that game, marking the first time since 1997 that two pitchers had no-nos after six.

■ On July 10, Reds rookie lefty Travis Wood, making his third big league start, took a perfect game into the ninth inning in Philadelphia. Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz ended that bid with a leadoff double. For hit part, Wood struck out eight and completed nine, one-hit innings, but the Phillies went on to win in 11 innings, notching their third consecutive extra-inning, walk-off victory against the stunned Reds.

■ On Aug. 8, Blue Jays righthander Brandon Morrow turned in perhaps the season's most

## NO-NOS AND PERFECTOS

Five pitchers completed no-hitters—two of them perfect games—during the 2010 regular season, more than baseball had seen since 1991. They ranged in quality from Roy Halladay's 11-strikeout perfectos to Edwin Jackson's 149-pitch no-hitter in which eight batters reached via walks, one was hit by a pitch and another reached on an error. Halladay struck again in October, no-hitting the Reds in Game One of the National League Division Series and throwing the first postseason no-hitter since Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series.

PITCHER	Date	Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HBP	BF	Pit	Str
Ubaldo Jimenez, Rockies	April 17	@Braves	9	0	0	0	6	7	0	31	128	72
Dallas Braden, A's	May 9	Rays	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	27	109	77
Roy Halladay, Phillies	May 29	@Marlins	9	0	0	0	0	11	0	27	115	72
Edwin Jackson, D-backs	June 25	@Rays	9	0	0	0	8	6	1	36	149	79
Matt Garza, Rays	July 26	Tigers	9	0	0	0	1	6	0	27	120	80
Roy Halladay, Phillies	Oct. 6	Reds	9	0	0	0	1	8	0	28	104	79

dominating pitching performance: a 17-strikeout, complete-game one-hitter. The opponent? The Rays, of course. Morrow just missed recording the sixth no-hitter of the season when, with two outs in the ninth, the Rays' Evan Longoria stroked a single off second baseman Aaron Hill's glove. With the dominating start, Morrow recorded the first complete game of his career.

■ One week later, on Aug. 15, Twins right-hander Kevin Slowey no-hit the A's for seven innings, but he didn't get a chance to finish what he started. Serenaded by a chorus of boos, manager Ron Gardenhire removed Slowey after 106 pitches because he had missed his previous start with elbow tendinitis and was on a 100-pitch limit. Reliever John Rauch surrendered a double to the second batter he faced in what became a three-hitter for the Twins.

"I'd boo me, too," an unapologetic Gardenhire said afterward. "I took a pitcher out with a no-hitter. But I would do it a thousand times the same way."

■ The situation bordered on the ridiculous when Rangers righty Rich Harden came off the disabled list on Aug. 22 after an extended stay and threw 6½ no-hit innings against the Twins. Joe Mauer's one-out single in the ninth off closer Neftali Feliz averted a four-pitcher no-no by the Rangers.

Though no-hitters were not involved, two NL pitching staffs stymied their opponents for an extended stretch.

The Mets shut out the Phillies for three games at New York's Citi Field from May 25-28. Starters R.A. Dickey, Hisanori Takahashi and Mike Pelfrey logged 19 of the 27 innings, while ace Johan Santana extended the Mets' shutout streak to 35 innings the next day with eight scoreless frames against the

Brewers. New York lost the scoreless streak—and the game—in the ninth when Corey Hart smacked a two-run homer of reliever Ryota Igarashi.

The Dodgers won consecutive 1-0, extra-inning contests (of 10 and then 14 innings) at home against the Diamondbacks on June 1-2. As was the case with the Mets, Los Angeles rookie righties John Ely and Carlos Monasterios seemed like unlikely aces, but they contributed 12 of the 24 shutout innings. In all, the Dodgers aced Arizona for 31 straight frames in the three-game series.

## Can't Keep A Good Bat Down

While pitching ruled the roost, hitters occasionally had their say.

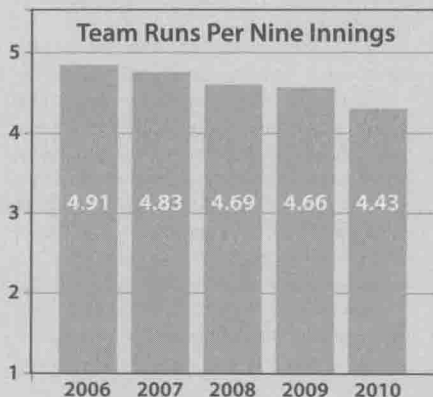
Red Sox outfielder Daniel Nava, signed out of the independent Golden League two years before, became an instant legend when he socked a grand slam against Philadelphia's Joe Blanton on the first pitch he saw in the big leagues. That same night, Rays first baseman Carlos Pena homered in his sixth consecutive game, the first player to do so since Oakland's Frank Thomas in September 2006.

Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki went on a record slugging spree in September, totaling 14 home runs over a 15-game span. No player had been so prolific with the long ball since Barry Bonds when he set the all-time record of 73 homers in 2001. Over that stretch, Tulowitzki knocked in an astonishing 33 runs.

Then, there was the Blue Jays' Jose Bautista. With home runs down across the board in both leagues, Bautista thumbed his nose at pitchers with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## NO OFFENSE: RUN-SCORING LEVELS CONTINUE TO PLUMMET



While run-scoring decreased markedly in 2010, it did not fall as far as it did in 1968, the real Year of the Pitcher, when major leaguers hit just .237 and teams scored an average of 3.42 per nine innings. Key components of offense—home runs, on-base percentage (OBP) and isolated power (ISO)—have been in free fall since 2006, when run-scoring peaked after the gradual comedown from the high-octane 1994-2004 period. Team rates for runs per nine innings (R/9) and home runs per nine innings (HR/9) in 2010 diminished by 9.8 percent and 14.3 percent, respectively, from 2006 levels.

Yr	R/9	HR/9	OBP	ISO
2006	4.91	1.12	.337	.157
2007	4.83	1.03	.336	.149
2008	4.69	1.01	.333	.147
2009	4.66	1.05	.333	.150
2010	4.43	0.96	.325	.140

# Halladay issues 'Doc's' orders

BY JAYSON STARK

Roy Halladay got our attention with a perfect game in May. He solidified his spot in the record books five months later with just the second no-hitter in postseason history.

But to simply say he made history on Oct. 6 doesn't do this justice. To say he pitched a game that people will talk about for the rest of his life doesn't truly capture the magnitude of it.

So let's look back on the masterpiece that propelled the Phillies to a three-game sweep of the Reds in the National League Division Series and cemented Halladay as the correct choice as the Baseball America Major League Player of the Year.

Halladay headed for the mound that Wednesday afternoon at Citizens Bank Park to do something he'd waited a lifetime for.

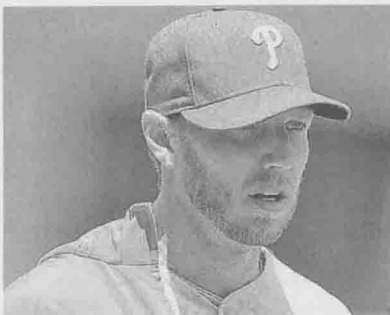
He had asked the only team he'd ever pitched for, the Blue Jays, to trade him last winter. He asked specifically to be traded to the Phillies, for a chance to live out this day.

Halladay left millions of dollars on the table to make it happen. He ground his way through 250<sup>+</sup> grueling innings, launched 3,568 max-effort pitches, all for this.

He did it all, just for a chance to walk to the pitcher's mound on an electrifying afternoon in October and push himself to rise to meet a moment that, for the first 12 seasons of his remarkable career, had seemed to be a part of the life of every pitcher in baseball except his.

Just two other times in postseason history

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR



ANDREW WOOLLEY

Roy Halladay dazzled in his playoff debut

had any pitcher even taken a no-hitter into the eighth inning: Jim Lonborg (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% hitless) in the 1967 World Series, and Bill Bevens (8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% hitless) in the 1947 World Series.

Of course, Halladay had already thrown one no-hitter himself this season—a May 29 perfect game in Florida. No pitcher had ever thrown a regular-season no-hitter and a postseason no-hitter in the same season.

On the day he made history, Doc Halladay was so untouchable, the identity of the hitters he steamrolled was almost irrelevant. And once his offense handed him four runs in the first two innings, he was going to win, going to dominate.

Halladay is a strike-throwing machine every day of every year. But this was different. He faced 28 hitters—and threw 25 first-pitch strikes. He went to 0-and-2 on 11 hitters—but went 2-and-0 on none. He never ran a 3-and-0 count or even a 3-and-1 count. It took him 47 pitches before he threw his 10th pitch out of the strike zone.

Halladay's road to this perfect game, and this award, was no ordinary journey. It was 13 years and 169 regular-season wins in the making. One other pitcher in the division-play era (Chuck Finley) won more games before he made his first postseason start. No other pitcher had pitched this many games and had this good a winning percentage (.663) without throwing a single postseason pitch.

So we'll never know now how Roy Halladay would have looked at his career if this day had never come. But we know now, because it did, exactly how we'll look at it for the rest of time.

### PREVIOUS 10 WINNERS

2000	Alex Rodriguez, ss, Mariners
2001	Barry Bonds, of, Giants
2002	Alex Rodriguez, ss, Rangers
2003	Barry Bonds, of, Giants
2004	Barry Bonds, of, Giants
2005	Albert Pujols, 1b, Cardinals
2006	Johan Santana, 1hp, Twins
2007	Alex Rodriguez, ss, Yankees
2008	C.C. Sabathia, 1hp, Indians/Brewers
2009	Joe Mauer, c, Twins

Full list: [BaseballAmerica.com/awards](http://BaseballAmerica.com/awards)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a stunning power display.

Bautista, who hit a mere 13 homers the previous year and who never had knocked more than 16 out of the park in one season, clouted his 50th home run on Sept. 23 to beat Mariners ace Felix Hernandez 1-0. In that same game, Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki became the first major leaguer with 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons.

Bautista would finish with 54 home runs, a stunning 15 more than AL runner-up Paul Konerko of the White Sox. In the NL, Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols (42) was the only player to reach 40 homers for the season.

Alex Rodriguez finished the season with a much more modest total of 30 home runs, but one of them proved historic. On Aug. 4, the Yankees third baseman socked the 600th home run of his career, becoming the seventh player to reach that plateau and the youngest at 35 years, 8 days.

Rodriguez, who admitted to using steroids during the three years he played for the Rangers from 2001-03, reached 600 in 2,267 games. Only Babe Ruth did it faster, getting there in 2,044 games at age 36 years, 196 days.

On July 6, the Tigers' Johnny Damon made the evening in which he collected the 2,500th hit of his career more memorable by later socking a walk-off, two-run homer to beat the Orioles 7-5.

## Triple Crown Proves Elusive

Carl Yazstremski won the AL triple crown in

1967 and while no one has done it since, three NL sluggers waged a spirited battle over the final weeks of the 2010 season.

With 42 homers and 118 RBIs, Pujols won two legs of the crown, while Rockies outfielder Carlos Gonzalez won the third, batting .336 to capture the batting title. Reds first baseman Joey Votto hit .324 (to rank second) with 37 homers (third) and 113 RBIs (third). Neither Gonzalez nor Pujols could boast of a top-three finish in all three categories.

Pujols also led the league with 115 runs scored, Gonzalez was tops with 197 hits, and Votto led the way with a .424 on-base percentage and .600 slugging.

Phillies righthander Roy Halladay went 21-10, 2.44 in 33 starts and led the NL with 250½ innings, 1.1 walks per nine innings and a 7.3 strikeout-to-walk ratio. His excellence over the course of the long season distinguished him from a strong field of NL pitchers, including the Rockies' Ubaldo Jimenez, the Cardinals' Adam Wainwright and the Marlins' Josh Johnson.

Over in the AL, Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera paced all batters with 126 RBIs while hitting .328 (to rank second) with 38 homers (third). Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton hit .359/.411/.633 to win the batting and slugging titles. His on-base percentage ranked second only to Cabrera.

As usual, Suzuki led the AL with 214 hits, while Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira led the league with 113 runs scored in an otherwise subpar year.

Yankees lefty C.C. Sabathia continued his successful run with the Yankees, going 21-7, 3.18 in

## AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
Tampa Bay Rays	96	66	.593	—	Joe Maddon	Andrew Friedman	1,864,999	23,025	2008
*New York Yankees	95	67	.586	1	Joe Girardi	Brian Cashman	3,765,807	46,491	2009
Boston Red Sox	89	73	.549	7	Terry Francona	Theo Epstein	3,046,445	37,610	2007
Toronto Blue Jays	85	77	.525	11	Cito Gaston	Alex Anthopoulos	1,625,555	20,069	1993
Baltimore Orioles	66	96	.407	30	D. Trembley/J. Samuel/B. Showalter	Andy MacPhail	1,733,019	21,663	1983
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
Minnesota Twins	94	68	.580	—	Ron Gardenhire	Bill Smith	3,223,640	39,798	1991
Chicago White Sox	88	74	.543	6	Ozzie Guillen	Ken Williams	2,194,378	27,091	2005
Detroit Tigers	81	81	.500	13	Jim Leyland	Dave Dombrowski	2,461,237	30,386	2006
Cleveland Indians	69	93	.426	25	Manny Acta	Mark Shapiro	1,391,644	17,396	1997
Kansas City Royals	67	95	.414	27	T. Hillman/N. Yost	Dayton Moore	1,615,327	20,192	1985
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
Texas Rangers	90	72	.556	—	Ron Washington	Jon Daniels	2,505,171	30,928	2010
Oakland Athletics	81	81	.500	9	Bob Geren	Billy Beane	1,418,391	17,511	1990
Los Angeles Angels	80	82	.494	10	Mike Scioscia	Tony Reagins	3,250,814	40,134	2002
Seattle Mariners	61	101	.377	29	D. Wakamatsu/D. Brown	Jack Zduriencik	2,085,630	25,749	Never

\*Wild card

**PLAYOFFS—Division Series:** Rangers defeated Rays 3-2 and Yankees defeated Twins 3-0 in best-of-five series.

**League Championship Series:** Rangers defeated Yankees 4-2 in best-of-seven series.



34 starts. Angels righty Jered Weaver struck out an AL-best 233 batters, one more than Mariners righthander Felix Hernandez, whose sensational year was obscured by a 13-12 record. Hernandez led the AL in innings (249 $\frac{1}{3}$ ), ERA (2.27) and opponent average (.212).

## Rookies To The Rescue

The 2010 season also will be remembered for the stunning array of rookies to crash the party, particularly in the NL. The dynamic debuts started on the very first day of the season when Braves right fielder Jason Heyward, who grew up 20 minutes from Atlanta's Turner Field, ripped a three-run homer in his first at-bat off the Cubs' Carlos Zambrano.

Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro had an equally remarkable major league debut a month later. As part of a 14-7 romp of the Reds, Castro—at 20 the youngest shortstop in franchise history—homered in his first at-bat off Homer Bailey and drove in six runs, a record for a debut.

Other rookies made immediate impacts. Right fielder Mike Stanton and first baseman Gaby Sanchez quickly became part of the fabric in Florida. Lefty Jaime Garcia recovered from Tommy John surgery in 2008 to settle in behind Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter in the St. Louis rotation. His 2.70 ERA ranked fourth in the NL.

Catcher Buster Posey arrived on the scene in San Francisco two months into the season and energized a previously dormant Giants offense. Pittsburgh seemed to add a contributing newcomer

every few weeks with the likes of second baseman Neil Walker, third baseman Pedro Alvarez, righthander Brad Lincoln and outfielder Jose Tabata.

Third baseman Chris Johnson provided power to a flagging Astros offense. John Axford took over for faltering closer Trevor Hoffman in Milwaukee and clicked off saves with regularity. Outfielder Tyler Colvin got better as an otherwise disappointing season progressed for the Cubs, and first baseman Ike Davis settled into the middle of the order for the equally underachieving Mets.

At the end of August, Cuban sensation Aroldis Chapman, a flame-throwing lefthander, arrived to a hero's welcome in Cincinnati. Regularly throwing his fastball at 100 mph and above, Chapman had Reds fans and opponents alike fixated on radar-gun readings.

Three AL rookies made their marks early, and two of them—center fielder Austin Jackson and right fielder Brennan Boesch—helped keep the Tigers in contention during the first half. Rangers closer Neftali Feliz saved 40 games to rank third in the league.

No rookie arrived with more fanfare and expectation than 21-year-old Nationals righthander Stephen Strasburg, the first player taken in the 2009 draft. He breezed through Double-A and Triple-A, going 7-2, 1.30 in 11 starts, and made his carefully-orchestrated big league debut against the Pirates on June 8, one day after Washington made their second consecutive first overall draft selection in outfielder Bryce Harper.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
Philadelphia Phillies	97	65	.599	—	Charlie Manuel	Ruben Amaro Jr.	3,647,249	45,028	2009
*Atlanta Braves	91	71	.562	6	Bobby Cox	Frank Wren	2,510,119	30,989	1999
Florida Marlins	80	82	.494	17	F. Gonzalez/E. Rodriguez	Larry Beinfest	1,524,894	18,826	2003
New York Mets	79	83	.488	18	Jerry Manuel	Omar Minaya	2,559,738	32,402	2000
Washington Nationals	69	93	.426	28	Jim Riggleman	Mike Rizzo	1,828,066	22,569	Never
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
Cincinnati Reds	91	71	.562	—	Dusty Baker	Walt Jocketty	2,060,551	25,439	1990
St. Louis Cardinals	86	76	.531	5	Tony La Russa	John Mozeliak	3,301,218	40,756	2006
Milwaukee Brewers	77	85	.475	14	Ken Macha	Doug Melvin	2,776,531	34,278	^1982
Houston Astros	76	86	.469	15	Brad Mills	Ed Wade	2,331,490	28,784	2005
Chicago Cubs	75	87	.463	16	Lou Piniella/Mike Quade	Jim Hendry	3,062,973	37,814	1945
Pittsburgh Pirates	57	105	.352	34	John Russell	Neal Huntington	1,613,399	19,919	1979
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	Manager	General Manager	Attendance	Average	Last Penn.
San Francisco Giants	92	70	.568	—	Bruce Bochy	Brian Sabean	3,037,443	37,499	2010
San Diego Padres	90	72	.556	2	Bud Black	Jed Hoyer	2,131,774	26,318	1998
Colorado Rockies	83	79	.512	9	Jim Tracy	Dan O'Dowd	2,875,245	35,941	2007
Los Angeles Dodgers	80	82	.494	12	Joe Torre	Ned Colletti	3,562,320	43,979	1988
Arizona Diamondbacks	65	97	.401	27	A.J. Hinch/Kirk Gibson	Josh Byrnes	2,056,697	25,391	2001

\*Wild card ^American League

**PLAYOFFS—Division Series:** Phillies defeated Reds 3-0 and Giants defeated Braves 3-1 in best-of-five series.

**League Championship Series:** Giants defeated Phillies 4-2 in best-of-seven series.