

2002 NBC World Series Report

INTRODUCTION

Enclosed is the 2002 NBC World series Tournament Report, including results for each game, a complete bracket, statistical leaders, the All America Team and other trophy winners, a breakdown for tournament compensation and media summaries.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The Fairbanks (AK) Goldpanners became the first team to ever win six NBC World Series titles with an 8-3 victory over their Alaska Baseball League rivals, the Anchorage Glacier Pilots.

The Goldpanners had previously won titles in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1980 and have now been to the championship game 12 times, also a record. It was; however, the first time since 1983 Fairbanks had been in the finals. Anchorage was also gunning for a sixth straight title after making the championships for the 10th time. Last year, Anchorage became the first club to win five titles in five different decades. It marked the 16th title for the ABL and the 13th time the Alaska Baseball League has won back-to-back titles, all since 1969.

Anchorage was the last undefeated team in the tournament, pitting them up against the top-ranked Goldpanners in the quarterfinals. Fairbanks came back from a 6-1 deficit to win that game, 7-6. Anchorage knocked out the San Luis Obispo (CA) Blues 3-2 in the semifinals, while Fairbanks beat the Nevada (MO) Griffons, 5-2.

Blake Gill, Fairbanks' hard-hitting shortstop (.407), was named Most Valuable Player after going 4-4 in the final and having clutch hits in the final three games.

MORE POWER OR LIVELIER BALL?

Home run production increased dramatically from the previous season, with 76 compared to 28 in 2001. In fact, there were just six fewer home runs than in 1998, when right field was 20 feet shorter and aluminum bats were used! Speculation was that part of the increase was a new ball the NBC introduced for the World Series. While made by the same manufacturer as the balls sold by the NBC in the regular season, the new ball was made to higher standards and was very well received. Nearly thirty dozen fewer balls were used than the previous year, despite the increase in home runs. The NBC will market the new ball under its NBC Jet name in 2002, dropping the ball used this past regular season.

FAN SUPPORT OUTSTANDING

A total of 84,007 fans attended this year's NBC World Series, an average of 5,600 per day in the 6,111 seat Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. This represents a 13% increase in the average attendance per game over last season. The biggest night was Monday, July 29, the second day of the tournament, when 8,690 fans swelled the park for a four-game session. The second largest was Saturday, August 3, of Baseball 'Round the Clock Weekend, when 8,090 came for two sessions totaling seven games.

A total of 350 fans started Baseball 'Round the Clock and 273 survived 17 games in 56 hours, winning more than \$5,000 in prizes from The Coleman Company and other sponsors.

Just 13 fans tried the second year of Last Man Standing. Two stood for 35 games over seven days and 144 hours before calling it a tie and deciding to split the \$1,000 cash and \$1,000 in Coleman camping equipment evenly

TWO SITES – 70 AT L-D, 11 AT HUTCH

Just two sites were used this year, with 70 games played at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium, equivalent to a full minor league home season. Just 11 games were played off site, at Hutchinson's beautiful Hobart-Detter Field.

INTERNET

For the first time, a team (Fairbanks) did live internet broadcasts of all their games, on Pannervision, complete with cameras and live sound. The NBC web site, www.nbcbaseball.com, was up and running just in time for the World Series. After some initial problems, each game was posted live as it was played with a box score and/or webcast, allowing fans to follow the game inning by inning or even batter by batter.

NBC HALL OF FAMERS

Four men with strong NBC ties were inducted into the NBC Hall of Fame. Former Anchorage first base coach Jack O'Toole was represented by his son and granddaughter. Five-time NBC All Star and 15-year tournament participant Leonard Kelly accepted the award personally, as did former San Diego State-Fairbanks-Anchorage-Boulder Coach Jim Dietz. Dietz also accepted on behalf of Tony Gwynn, who played for him in Boulder and took over for him at San Diego State. Longtime Texas Commissioner Ray Dungan, who died this past year, was honored with the Hap Dumont Award for his contributions to the NBC.

THANK YOU

On behalf of NBC General Manager Steve Shaad, Assistant GM Josh Robertson, Tournament Director Jerry Taylor and the entire NBC staff, thanks to you all!

NBC World Series Scorer's Essay 2002

Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 13-19, 2002

Taking (back the) offense...

The 2002 National Baseball Congress World Series saw a return of something that had been disappearing in the past two tournaments: offense.

After showing declines in the past two years, the hitters began to reverse the trend by batting a collective .314 in three games July 28 (including one that was suspended and completed the following morning), and hit five home runs. While daily totals never again approached .300 (and the semifinals could be considered as "pitcher's revenge", with a corporate .192 average), batting averages showed a 17-point gain to .271, hits increased by 1.5 per game to 18.22, and runs per game rebounded by almost two runs per game (10.65 against 8.75)

They still hit home runs, don't they?

Home run totals rebounded from last year's 28 to 76 (a rather staggering 171% increase). The 12 games played on Aug. 3 (at L-D and Hutchinson) almost matched last year's totals alone, with 26 homers.

Six teams, led by tournament champion Fairbanks (.349), batted over .300 (an increase from last year's four). Only three teams failed to bat .200 (down from seven last year), with Beaumont batting .143. Edmond (OK) had the most trouble scoring runs, with two in two games.

Table 1. Tournament offensive totals

Batting	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Games	62	63	66	94	93	81
Average	.328	.282	.329	.262	.254	.271
Home Runs	149/2.4	84/1.3	133/2.0	54/0.57	28/0.30	76/0.94
Runs Scored	940/15.2	724/11.5	1,023/15.5	954/10.15	814/8.75	863/10.65
Hits	1,338/21.6	1,083/17.2	1,427/21.6	1,565/16.8	1,541/16.57	1,476/18.22

N.B.—Aluminum bats allowed until 1999; wood bats only since 2000

Pitchers' iron grip loosened

The earned run average on July 28 was a whopping 6.55, but like the batting, that total was not approached thereafter. However, the tournament ERA was 4.28, up almost .75 of a run from last year.

No team finished with an ERA under 2.00, although Anchorage carried a sub-2.00 mark into the championship game, but finished at 2.65. Ten teams finished with ERAs under 3.00, same as last year. Three teams had an ERA over 10, with Parkville (MO) the worst at 10.88

Table 2. Tournament ERA

Pitching	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Tourn. ERA	6.93	5.17	7.09	4.14	3.54	4.28
Under 3.00					15	10
3.00-3.99					12	9
4.00-5.00	4	7	2	9	10	7
10.00 and over	7	3	9	3	1	3

(Not) Outstanding in the field

Fielding declined from last year, with the fielding average down four points, average errors up by almost .4/game and double plays declining slightly. Seguin (TX) and Team Marine (CA) had the fewest errors with one and two respectively; but neither were around very long. Pueblo won the fielding title by a very slim (.0003) margin over Prairie Gravel. On the other hand (or is it off the other glove?), eight teams were charged with 10 or more errors, with Rock City (NC) the worst offender with 18. Both of the national finalists (Fairbanks with 15 errors and Anchorage with 13) had their problems. Four teams (up from two) had averages under .900, with Austin Gold Sox the worst at .859.

Errorless games were almost nonexistent, with Pueblo-San Luis Obispo (8/6, game 61, bracket #66) and Beatrice-Prairie Gravel (8/8, game 73, bracket 73) the only such games. At the other end of the spectrum, Clarinda IA (9)-Oklahoma Braves (4) (8/1) was one of two games with 10 or more errors. The A's were charged with nine errors in that game, while Fort Lauderdale (8/4) had eight.

Table 3. Tournament Fielding

Fielding	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Percentage	.951	.946	.943	.951	.955	.951
Errors	222/3.58	228/3.62	263/3.98	347/3.69	317/3.41	308/3.80
DPs made	121/1.95	90/1.43	131/1.98	136/1.45	158/1.70	134/1.65

Pitching gems

Only one pitcher (Jaime Rodrigue, Nevada) pitched 10 or more innings without allowing an earned run, while six others had an ERA under 1.00. Low-hit games were rare, too; with only three recorded: Tim Vallencourt and Eric Frodsham (Elkhart) combined to one-hit Beaumont; Steve Guerra (San Luis Obispo) hurled a five-inning two-hitter over the Dallas Phillies; Dennis Bigley (Anchorage) pitched a complete-game two-hitter against Liberal

Home run register

Of the 76 homers hit in the NBCWS, two were grand slams (Celigoy, Seattle and Patton, Liberal), 15 led off an inning....the sixth inning was the most likely to see a home run with 14 in that fram

Multi-homer games: Bobby Korneta, Sparta WI and Tim Montgomery, Fairbanks. Special mention here goes to Tony Piazza, Nevada, for hitting for the cycle...

Table 4a. Home runs by type

HR by type	Grand Slams	Two on	One on	Solo	Totals	Leadoff
Number	2	9	29	36	76	15
Percent	2.63	11.84	38.16	47.37	100.00	19.74

Table 4b. Home runs by inning

HR by inning	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
Total	6	11	11	4	10	14	7	5	6	1	1
Percent	7.89	14.47	14.47	5.26	13.16	18.42	9.21	6.58	7.89	1.32	1.32

Names...

There were 964 names listed on the various rosters (excluding Jeff Montgomery), 809 saw game action (84 percent) ... most frequent: Smith (nine players), Johnson (seven), Hill (six; one more and we could have built Rome), Jones (five), and Rogers (five). There were a couple of 'stunt doubles': Chris Hill (Clarinda, Wharton), and Scott Robertson (Fairbanks, Seattle)

Average times:

The average length of games was 2:13, a bit longer than last year's 2:11 (which did not include any of the games played at Hutchinson). No game lasted longer than three hours, with exactly one going that length. Approximately 56% of games lasted between 2:01-2:30...with nine games lasting under two hours.

Five games needed extra innings to reach resolution, with no game lasting longer than 11 innings. Oddly enough, one of the 10-inning games (Beaumont TX-Mississippi, 7/29) needed just 1:55 to complete.

With complete data from Hutchinson, average time of games at Hobart-Detter Field lasted 2:35, while games at Lawrence-Dumont (with the 20/90 clock) averaged 2:10

Table 5. Distribution of game length:

Time block	1998	Pct.	1999	Pct.	2000	Pct.	2001	Pct.	2002	Pct.
1:00-1:14	3	4.69	1	1.52	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
1:15-1:29	5	7.81	6	9.09	3	3.19	4	4.94	4	4.94
1:30-1:44	8	12.50	6	9.09	14	14.89	3	3.70	5	6.17
1:45-1:59	10	15.63	12	18.18	18	19.15	15	18.52	9	11.11
2:00-2:14	15	23.44	6	9.09	19	20.21	27	33.33	28	34.57
2:15-2:29	15	23.44	13	19.70	18	19.15	19	23.46	17	20.99
2:30-2:44	5	7.81	12	18.18	10	10.64	7	8.46	13	16.05
2:45-2:59	3	4.69	6	9.09	6	6.38	3	3.70	4	4.94
3:00-plus	0	0.00	4	6.06	6	6.38	3	3.70	1	1.23
	64		66		94		81*		81	

*Times for 13 games unavailable

Margins of victory

Averaged just under 4.5 runs per game (4.48, a .65 increase from 2001), with 22 games decided by one run. Twelve games were decided by 10 or more runs, with three games reaching that margin in the ninth inning (or 11th in Topeka's case). Games at Hutchinson had an average margin of 2.36 compared to 4.81 at Lawrence-Dumont.

Table 6. Distribution of margin of victory (see also Table 8, page 4)

Margin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	>10
No.	22	8	14	6	4	5	4	5	1	7	5
Pct.	27.16	9.88	17.28	7.41	4.94	6.17	4.94	6.17	1.23	8.64	6.17

The disappearing six-run rule

Sixteen games would have been called by the 6-run lead rule. Only once did the defeated team cut the margin under 6 runs; that was the Austin Gold Sox vs. Mississippi (trailed 15-8 after 7 innings; final score was 15-12); in all other cases the lead remained at 6 or more runs.

Table 7. Games affected by removal of 6-run lead rule

Game (Visitor-Home)	Old 6-RR score (inning)	Final	Change
Edmond-Clarinda	Clarinda 10-1 (7)	Clarinda 12-1 (8)	+2
Austin Gold Sox-Cp Girardeau	Cape Girardeau 7-1 (7)	Cape Girardeau 10-2	+2
Hays-Springfield	Hays 11-3 (7)	Hays 12-5	-1
Austin Gold Sox-Mississippi	Mississippi 15-8 (7)	Mississippi 15-12	-4
El Dorado-Clarinda	El Dorado 7-1 (8)	El Dorado 7-1	0
Okla. Braves-Clarinda	Okla. Braves 9-3 (8)	Okla. Braves 13-3	+4
Sparta WI-Aloha OR	Aloha OR 10-4 (8)	Aloha OR 10-4	0
Seattle-Gulf Coast	Seattle 16-7 (7)	Seattle 17-7	+1
Beaumont-Rock City	Rock City 11-5 (7)	Rock City 12-5	+1
Pueblo-Prairie Gravel	Prairie Gravel 6-0 (6½)	Prairie Gravel 8-0	+2
Dallas-Fairbanks	Fairbanks 9-0 (6½)	Fairbanks 10-0 (8)	+1
San Diego-Seguín	San Diego 10-4 (7)	San Diego 11-4	+1
Santa Barbara-Parkville	Santa Barbara 10-4 (7)	Santa Barbara 13-4	+3
Prairie Gravel-Fairbanks	Fairbanks 12-5 (8)	Fairbanks 12-5	0
Rock City-Hays	Hays 10-2 (7)	Hays 10-2	0
Anchorage-Wichita Braves	Anchorage 10-4 (7)	Anchorage 10-4	0

Table 8. Average winning margins

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Winning teams	10.14	8.52	10.59	7.30	6.19	7.57
Defeated teams	4.78	3.02	4.91	2.83	2.56	3.09
Margin	5.37	5.51	5.68	4.47	3.63	4.48

MULTI-STATE LEAGUE REPORT

Population shift

The Multi-State League did some shifting from last year, with Missouri moving up to the Enormous State Conference (joining Kansas, California and Texas with five or more teams). There were no teams that would have formed the Mid-Size Sedan Conference; the remainder were in the Binary Pair Conference (last year's Compact Car Conference, 2 teams) or the Loose Confederation of Federations (which lost 3 teams). There was also no city with two teams, disbanding the Intraurban Transit Division

ENORMOUS STATE CONFERENCE

(4 states, 5 or more teams)

<u>KANSAS (7 teams)</u>	<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Wichita Braves	4-2,	.667	5th
Liberal	4-2,	.667	7th
Hays	3-2,	.600	9th
El Dorado	2-2,	.500	9th
Elkhart	2-2,	.500	
Topeka	2-2,	.500	
Haysville	0-2,	.000	
Totals	17-14,	.538	4

CALIFORNIA (6 teams)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
San Luis Obispo	6-2, .750	3rd
Salinas	2-2, .500	
San Diego	2-2, .500	
North County	1-2, .333	
Santa Barbara	1-2, .333	
Team Marine	0-2, .000	
Totals	12-12, .500	1

TEXAS (6 teams)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Beaumont	1-2, .333	
Dallas Phils	1-2, .333	
Gulf Coast	1-2, .333	
Austin Gold Sox	0-2, .000	
Seguin	0-2, .000	
Wharton	0-2, .000	
Totals	3-12, .200	0

MISSOURI (5 tms)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Nevada	4-2, .667	3rd
Cape Girardeau	2-2, .500	9th
Springfield	2-2, .500	
Parkville	1-2, .333	
St. Joseph	1-2, .333	
Totals	10-10, .500	1

BINARY PAIR CONFERENCE

(4 states, 2 teams)

<u>ALASKA (2 teams)</u>	<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Fairbanks	6-1,	.857	2nd
Anchorage	6-2,	.750	1st
Totals	12-3,	.800	2

COLORADO (2 tms)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Pueblo	3-2, .600	
Denver	0-2, .000	
Totals	3-4, .429	0

ILLINOIS (2 tms)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Prairie Gravel	3-2, .600	7th
Crestwood	1-2, .333	
Totals	4-4, .500	1

OKLAHOMA (2 tms)

<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Oklahoma Braves	2-2, .500	
Okla City	0-2, .000	
Totals	2-4, .333	0

LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF FEDERATIONS (9 teams)

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W-L,</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Top 12?</u>
Beatrice NE	5-2, .714	5th	
Seattle WA	3-2, .600	9th	
Rock City NC	3-2, .600		
Greenwood MS	2-2, .500		
Portland OR	2-2, .500		
Southern AL	1-2, .333		
Ft Lauderdale FL	1-2, .333		
Clarinda IA	1-2, .333		
Sparta WI	0-2, .000		
Totals	18-18, .500	2	