

91st Annual World Series

OFFICIAL SCORER'S REPORT

Aug. 3, 2025

Some new stuff ... and old

The 2025 NBC World Series (NBCWS) saw the GameChanger software replacing Pointstreak, as well as the return to Equity Bank Park, on the site of Lawrence-Dumont Stadium, for the 2025 championship game. That was the first time since the 2021 tournament that NBCWS games were played there.

Baseball Round the Clock's tweak in pool play

This year's version of Baseball Round the Clock in the pool play format saw the removal of the 6 and 9 a.m. game slots, which was a little easier to handle (but the latter was replaced by a Miracle League of Wichita game, continuing the challenge of participants to make it through 11 games in 33 hours). Making pairings so that no 0-2 teams were matched together in the prime-time slots was successful, although it tends to be a crap shoot with predetermined matchups.

Offense: Accomplishing a bit more with a bit less

Scoring was up in 2025, despite slight decreases in at bats and hits that were offset by increases in walks and hit batters, resulting in a six-point increase in batting average (.273 compared to .267), and runs per game increasing by more than a run:

Table 1: Per-game averages: Offense

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	SF	SH	SB	ATT
2023	35	62.80	11.74	16.63	3.43	0.49	0.63	10.46	22.91	9.69	2.23	14.51	1.03	0.66	0.49	3.40	4.09
2024	35	65.97	11.20	17.60	3.60	0.54	0.51	9.83	23.83	9.26	1.89	15.77	1.26	0.74	0.89	2.89	3.49
2025	35	62.66	12.51	17.11	3.66	0.29	0.74	10.71	23.57	9.63	2.94	13.91	1.23	0.91	0.43	3.49	4.51

Winning teams scored 10 or more runs 16 times, while defeated teams scored more than nine runs just once. Losing teams scored two or fewer runs 13 times, including eight shutouts.

Four teams had batting averages over .300: champion Hutchinson at .342, Santa Barbara at .336, TPA Texas .323 and Lonestar Baseball Club at .309. No team batted under .200, as the Seattle Blackfins qualifying for bracket play at .205. GPX Legends, at .295 in three games, had a higher average than eight qualifying teams.

Of the 26 home runs hit (up from 18 in 2024), three players tied with two each: Josh Livingston of the Kraken and TPA teammates Roman Cariga and Josh Livingston. Fittingly, those clubs led the tournament with four each, while Santa Barbara and Alaska had three each.

Livingston and Drew Bugner (Hutchinson) led the NBCWS with 11 RBIs each, while Preston Curtis (Kraken) and Jake Gutierrez (Hutchinson) had 10 apiece.

The Seattle Studs' Jackson Copeland led the NBCWS with a .647 average. Cariga finished with 1.000 slugging percentage. Jaden Gustafson (Hutchinson) had the most extra-base hits with five.

Stolen bases increased to 2023 levels at 3.49 from 2.89, with Hays (Kan.) stealing 27 bases in 30 attempts. Junction City (Kan.) and Santa Barbara had 15 each.

Hit batters were up substantially, with 103 the most since 2019 (124), and the average of 2.94 per game eclipsed the 2.56 in 2018. Baley Viscardi (San Diego Stars) set a Modern Wood Era record with six (breaking the previous record of five done five times previously), but finished with seven, two shy of the record of nine (Pat Allen, Park City (Kan.) Cowboys, 2005)

Winning teams batted .323, hit 17 home runs and stole 80 bases, while defeated teams had .219, 9 and 42 respectively. Average margin of victory was 5.26/game, up 1.03 from last year.

The arms were hammered

The call to arms in the 91st NBCWS saw an ERA of 6.35, up more than a run from last year. Only two teams had ERA under 3.00: Team champion Santa Barbara at 2.10 and tournament champion Hutchinson at 2.81 (runner-up Lonestar Kraken finished at 5.34, two full runs higher than the mark (3.24) before the championship game.

Two of the three teams that had ERAs over 10.00 did not make it out of bracket play: BTL Hornets at 11.57 and GPX Legends at 11.77. The other club was Top Prospect Academy with a 10.45 grade after the first round of bracket play.

Strikeouts per game were down more than 1.50 (13.91 against 15.77 in 2024). Most other categories saw slight decreases over last year, but the 11 saves in 35 games were a little less than last year's 15.

Pitching bright spots: The Studs' 1-0 win over Derby in the quarterfinals (game 31) was the first 1-0 game since 2019. There were three 1-hitters (Lonestar Kraken, July 25, #3 in 8 innings; Lonestar Baseball Club, #4 in 5 innings; and Hutchinson, July 27, #14 in six innings) and one 2-hitter (Hays, July 31, #32). The Monarchs' Braydn McClure won Leading Pitcher honors with a 2-0 record, one run allowed in 12.2 innings and led in strikeouts with 16.

Winning teams had a 3.41 ERA, walked 4.17 batters and struck out 7.49 per game. Defeated teams had a 9.01 ERA with 5.46 walks and 6.43 strikeouts.

Fielding slides

In 2025, tournament fielding fell 6 points to .961, compared to .967 last year. Errors increased to 2.66 per game against 2.40 in 2024, while double plays increased slightly to 1.66/game over 1.63.

The Seattle Studs (.9831) edged out Santa Barbara (.9826) for the fielding title by .0005.

Only one team Top Prospect Academy at .895, graded out below .900.

Lonestar had the most errors with seven (July 26). The championship game also had seven errors, with the Kraken charged with four and the Monarchs three.

There were two errorless games: Santa Barbara-BTL (#11, July 27) and Dodge City-Hutchinson (#11, July 27).

Winning teams fielded .977, committed 0.80 errors per game, turned .91 DPs and caught 15 of 55 base stealers. Defeated teams had averages of .944, 1.66, .74 respectively and caught 21 of 103 steal attempts. Winning teams had seven pickoffs while losing teams had four..

Game times were about as long as last year

With nine games lasting three hours or more and another seven between 2:45-2:59, the average time of games was 2:33, a bit shy of last year's 2:36

The last semifinal game between Hays and the Kraken (#34, Aug. 1) – the only extra-inning tournament game – went 11 innings and 3:52. The Hutchinson-Blackfins game (#26, July 30), was the quickest at 1:34.

Thankfully, there were just two rain/lightning delays in the tournament. The first one, July 25, lasted 2:39, which was longer than any of the game times on that date. The second one, on July 30, lasted 3:49 and caused the Derby-Junction City game to be suspended and completed on July 31, after the San Diego-Lonestar Baseball contest which was rescheduled for 9 a.m. on the 31st. That made for a long day, as the quarterfinal games had to wait for those two to be finished, and the winners of the suspended/rescheduled games (the Twins and the Stars) had to play later that night. That does not include moving the Opening Day games to noon and 3 to avoid rain that day.

Close games and routs

While 13 games in the tournament were decided by one or two runs, that was more than offset by 11 games being called on the run rules, leading to an average margin of 5.95, over 1.75 runs higher than the 4.23 in 2024. Three games were called on the 10-run rule, while eight others on the 8-run rule.

Winning teams averaged 8.89 runs/game to 3.60 for defeated teams, an average margin of 5.26 runs per game.

Miscellany:

Opening day saw the two clubs from the Rocky Mountain league beat the two from the Pacific International (Dodge City 8, Studs 0 and Hays 6, Blackfins 5).

July 25 was good to be a Lonestar: the Kraken defeated MVP Oklahoma 10-1 (8 inn.) and the LBC routed the BTL Hornets 11-0 (5 inn.).

Reversal of fortune, part 1: The Hornets, despite getting shut out in their first two games by 21 runs, scored 10 in a 10-3 win over Derby. But the 14-run net deficit left them the odd team out in Pool C, which had three teams finish 1-2.

Perfect fielding: The Hornets finished with perfect fielding, the fourth non-qualifier to do so. Six teams total had 1.000 fielding grades, including 2020 champion Santa Barbara.

Reversal of fortune, part 2: Santa Barbara, which rolled through Pool C with a 26-1 margin, was eliminated for the second straight year in the quarterfinal round 6-4 to the Kraken.

Reversal of fortune, part 3: The two teams that reached the quarterfinals (Hays and the Seattle Studs) were both edged in the semifinals by the teams they defeated: Hutchinson 3, Studs 2 and Kraken 9, Larks 8 in 11 innings.

Minimum-run game: The Studs' 1-0 win over Derby was the first 1-0 game since 2019 when Santa Barbara shaded the Haysville (Kan.) Aviators on Aug. 2, 2019.

Streak broken: Hays had a 10-game winning streak snapped with the 9-8 loss to the Kraken.

Milestone win: The Seattle Studs' 9-5 win over Hutchinson was the 100th win for Barry Aden

Hutchinson made its third consecutive finals showing, having defeated Santa Barbara in 2023 and losing to Hays last year. Other clubs with three or more consecutive finals appearances:

City	No. (Years)	City	No. (Years)	City	No. (Years)
Fairbanks	7 (1971-77)	Buford (Ga.)	3 (1936-38)	Liberal	3 (1979-81)
Anchorage	4 (1969-72)	Enid (Okla.)	3 (1943-45)	a-Fort Wayne	4 (1947-50)
Santa Barbara	4 (2020-23)	Wichita Boeing	3 (1953-55)	b-Wichita	4 (1962-65)

a-G-E Club (1947-49); Capehearts (1950); b-Dreamliners (1962-63, 65); Glassmen (1964)

Multi State League

Kansas 6, Texas 4, Washington 2, California 2, Alaska 1, Oklahoma 1.

KANSAS	W	L	PCT.	FIN	TEXAS	W	L	PCT.	FIN	CALIFORNIA	W	L	PCT.	FIN
Hutchinson*	6	1	.857	1st	Austin Lonestar Kraken	5	2	.714	2nd	Santa Barbara Foresters	3	1	.750	5th
Hays#	4	1	.800	3rd	Top Prospect Academy&	1	3	.250	11th	San Diego Stars	2	3	.400	7th
Derby*	2	3	.400	7th	Lonestar Baseball Club%	1	3	.250	11th	Hotel California Desk	5	4	.556	5th
Junction City*	2	2	.500	9th	GPS Legends%	0	3	.250	15th					
Dodge City#	1	2	.333	13th	Texas Tea Time Totals	7	11	.389	2nd	EVERYBODY ELSE	W	L	PCT.	FIN
BTL Hornets	1	2	.333	13th						Alaska Goldpanners	3	1	.750	5th
Kansas Corp.	16	11	.593	1st	WASHINGTON	W	L	PCT.	FIN	MVP Oklahoma&	0	3	.000	15th
					Seattle Studs	3	2	.600	4th	Sum of remainders	3	4	.429	5th
					Seattle Blackfins	1	3	.250	10th					
*-Jayhawk	10	5	.667	1st	Seattle PIL Intraurban	4	5	.444	3rd	%-Centex	1	6	.167	11th
#-Rocky Mtn	5	3	.625	3rd						&-AABC Musial	3	5	.375	5th

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