

NBC World Series 2000 Report

Inside the World Series

Throughout the tournament fans saw some spectacular baseball. Wood bats returned to the World Series for the first time in a quarter century. Pitching dominated the 2000 World Series as fans saw statistics drop in all offensive categories. Seven games went into extra innings with the longest being the Valdosta Red Sox – Elkhart Dusters game that required 16 innings and 4:09 to play. The Lake Havasu (AZ) Heat got the distinction of being the best defensive team of the tournament by having an overall fielding percentage of .979. Appearing in their first World Series, they committed a tournament low four errors which carried them to the Sweet 16.

Statistically, fans saw the most changes in batting averages (.262), with a 67-point decrease from the previous year (.329), and home runs (54 against 133), a 59.4 percent decline. Average runs per game and hits per game fell by about 5 per game as a testament to the great pitching across the country and the use of wood bats. For the first time in many years, no team batted over .400 in the tournament with Kenai's .373 leading seven teams over .300 (compared to 27).

NBC Attendance

The NBC World Series drew 88,945 fans to the 15-day tournament, 7,000 more than last year, averaging 5,930 per night. A contingent of scouts from Major League Baseball was again a highlight for all the aspiring players participating in the NBC World Series. Up to 40 scouts were in attendance, representing all but four Major League Baseball teams. They were easily recognizable as clip boards, radar guns and notepads dominated the seats behind home plate.

Media

The national media came out in force for the NBC World Series as more than 90 media passes were issued. Many members of the media traveled to Wichita covering their hometown teams and the NBC World Series received outstanding sports coverage. Coverage of the NBC World Series has appeared several times in Baseball America and the Wichita Eagle devoted most of its Sports Page to the tournament. All the box scores appeared in the Wichita Eagle and they wrote feature stories on several teams and players competing in the World Series. All the media attention moved Janine Ruiz to host a dinner for the Alabama Southern Paw Sox and the City of Lake Havasu to declare August 9, Havasu Heat Day.

Television and Radio

The National Baseball Congress World Series returned to the television airwaves in 2000, broadcasting the Championship finals on WB33 throughout Kansas. The \$25,000 network quality broadcast was seen live nationally on COMCAST cable outlets in more than 2 million homes. The championship game was also available on satellite anywhere in the country. In addition to the television finals, live radio broadcasts of the feature games were done each night on Wichita's Sports Animal KQAM 1480 AM and KFH 1330 AM. The radio broadcasts were heard throughout the Midwest and a number of teams provided radio coverage to their hometown.

WWW.NBCBASEBALL.COM

The most popular broadcasts of the World Series had to be the nightly webcasts on www.nbcbaseball.com. While all of this coverage was going on in the radio and television, it was also being posted on the Internet. Kansas.com at www.nbcbaseball.com, provided up-to-date information on games, scores, and statistics throughout the World Series. Thousands of people from all over the United States logged on to the NBC web site to participate in the chat room or read anxiously as Alice Sky, provided live “webcasts” on a nightly basis. From July 29 to August 12, the NBC web site received 79,266 hits as family and friends back home followed their favorite teams. Check out this year's improvements. We are working hard to get it in shape for this years World Series and appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Thank you

The National Baseball Congress would like to thank those who made the 66th Annual NBC World Series an extremely successful event. Special recognition should go to the many NBC League Commissioners and Regional/Tournament Directors whose participation is so vital. A special thank you to the ones who have supported the NBC for years and traveled to Wichita for fellowship and the World Series experience. Also, to the local supporters and advertisers who bought a program ad or gave a cash gift to the teams who compete in NBC Baseball all across the country. We are looking forward to a great new tournament this year.