



90th Annual World Series OFFICIAL SCORER'S REPORT Aug. 4, 2024

A salute to the new champions

Hays finally broke through in the 2024 NBC World Series (NBCWS), winning its first title after six previous runner-up finishes. That leaves five teams (Cheney (Kan.) Diamond Dawgs, Nevada (Mo.), Waco (Texas) Dons, Mt. Pleasant (Texas) Cubs and Golden (Colo.) Coors) all at 0-2 in championship games.

Pool play, meet Baseball Round the Clock

This year's tournament marked the return of Baseball Round the Clock for the first time in the pool play format. The main challenges were (1) scheduling games in the early morning hours (3 and 6 a.m. aren't really player-friendly), and (2) making pairings so that no 0-2 teams were matched together in the prime-time slots.

Offense: Accomplishing a bit less with a bit more

For averaging almost a whole hit more (17.60/game this year compared to 16.63 last year), it didn't translate into more offense, as batting averages went up just 2 points, runs declined by over half a run, and home runs continued to fall (the average per game fell from 1.50/game in 2021 to 0.51 in 2024):

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

Winning teams scored 10 or more runs eight times, while defeated teams did not score more than nine runs in any game. Losing team scored two or fewer runs 15 times, including six shutouts.

Just two teams had batting averages over .300: Liberal at .319, followed by champion Hays at .308. Only one team batted under .200, the Air Capital Flyers at .130 (the Flyers also scored a run, something that the SC Blues didn't do in 2023).

Of the 18 home runs hit, no player had more than one, severely complicating the trophy race. Santa Barbara led the team race with three; five others had two each.

Isaiah Afework (Seattle Studs) led the tournament with a .600 average and a 1.133 slugging percentage (he was heading into over .700 territory, but went 0-for-3 in his final game). Chase Diggins (Kansas Cannons) who was second in batting (.563) and slugging (1.000), had seven doubles for the most extra-base hits.

Stolen bases tumbled from 3.4 per game to 2.9, with Hutchinson (Kan.) stealing 14 bases without getting caught. Hays was also perfect at 12-for-12. Lonestar was second with 13 thefts, but was caught eight times.

Winning teams batted .310, hit 12 home runs and stole 55 bases, while defeated teams had .222, 6 and 12 respectively. Average margin of victory was 4.23/game, down 1.68 from last year and the lowest since 4.19 in 2017.

Pitching was slightly better

The call to arms in the 90th NBCWS saw an ERA of 5.10, down from 5.48 in 2023. Only two teams had ERA under 3.00: Team champion Santa Barbara at 1.95 and tournament champion Hays

at 2.42 (runner-up Hutchinson finished at 5.95, a good portion of that being due to the 17-6 thrashing at the bats of the Cheney Studs (7/29).

Air Capital had the highest ERA at 10.23 after three games, followed by Boulder at 9.72. Liberal was the worst of the teams that reached bracket play at 8.74 after a 15-4 loss to the Monarchs.

Strikeouts per game was over 15 K's per contest (15.77 against 14.51 in 2023). Most other categories saw slight decreases over last year, but the 15 saves in 35 games were the most since 2019, which saw 20 in 53 games.

Reliever Garrett Hicks of Hays captured leading pitcher honors after posting four saves, allowing three hits and one walk with nine strikeouts in 6.2 innings. Teammate Luke Spencer also allowed no runs in six innings, while Davis Luikart (Lonestar (Texas)) allowed no runs in 6.1 innings. David Dean (Tulsa) had won two games and struck out nine in 6.2 IP for a 1.35 ERA.

Among the starters, Jaden Bahl (Lonestar) had two wins, a 1.42 ERA and 12 strikeouts in 12.2 IP. Geoff Brown (Studs) was one of five starters to allow no earned runs in five or more innings. Nolan Wilson (Hays) struck out 17 in 11 innings.

Winning teams had a 3.00 ERA, walked 4.20 batters and struck out 8.80 per game. Defeated teams had a 7.32 ERA with 5.06 walks and 6.97 strikeouts.

Fielding improvements

In 2024, tournament fielding rose 12 points to .967, the highest since .969 in 2013. Errors dropped to 2.40 per game (an all-time MWE low) against 3.06 last year, while double plays increased to 1.63/game over 1.43.

The Seattle Studs became only the second team to finish with perfect fielding among teams that have played at least four games, handling 87 chances without error. (Santa Barbara was the first to do so, accepting 141 chances).

No team graded out below .900, despite runner-up Hutchinson being charged with 11 miscues.

Lonestar had the most errors with five (July 31); GPS contributed two more for a combined seven. Tulsa Sandlot (3) and Hutchinson (4) also had a combined seven errors on July 28.

Winning teams fielded .971, committed 1.06 errors per game, turned .69 DPs and caught nine of 56 base stealers. Defeated teams had averages of .962, 1.34, .94 respectively and caught 12 of 66 steal attempts. The six pickoffs were evenly divided among winners and losers.

Game times were quite longer

Four of the first six games in the 90th NBCWS lasted under two hours, with the quickest being 1:35 (Studs-Tulsa, #2, July 25). After that, only one game (2:09, Hutchinson-Santa Barbara, #31, Aug. 1) came close to two hours. With six games lasting three hours or more and another six between 2:45-2:59, the average time of games was 2:36, the longest in the MWE, edging out the 2:34 in 2020.

Two especially long games: Tulsa-San Diego (#28, July 31), which lasted 3:37 in game time but was suspended and completed Aug. 1; Haysville-GPS (#12, July 28), which lasted 3:50. Game #11 (Tulsa-Hutchinson, July 28), lasted 3:17, but a lightning delay after that game pushed the start of the Haysville-GPS game to start at 5:02 a.m.

Knowing that excessive heat warnings + high temperatures are a dangerous combo, the attempt to get players and umpires out of the midafternoon heat is a good thing. (Rain on the morning of the 30th pushed the start of play back to 11:45 a.m., almost the originally scheduled time.)

A lot more close games

Twelve games in the tournament were decided by one or two runs, leading to an average margin of 4.23, over a run and a half lower than the 5.91 average in 2023. Just four games were called on the run rules (one on the 10-run rule, Seattle-Hutchinson, July 29, #19). The other three were eight-run rules (Studs-Tulsa, July 25, #2 and was the quickest game of the series at 1:35; Hays-

Air Capital, July 26, #6; and Hutchinson-Liberal, July 31, #26. That game saw an 11-run inning by the Monarchs.)

Winning teams averaged 7.71 runs/game to 3.49 for defeated teams.

Another doppelganger: Will Rogers of Haysville, meet Will Rogers of Santa Barbara. Game #18 (July 29) saw the two face off against each other. Both Rogers went 2-for-4, but the Foresters model homered and stole a base in Santa Barbara's 12-6 win to clinch Pool B.

Shades of 2019: The Hays-Hutchinson championship game was the second time a two-loss team played an undefeated team for the title. Unlike 2019, where the Seattle Studs became the first two-loss champions, the Monarchs became the first club to finish as runner-up with three losses.

Multi State League

Kansas: 7, Texas: 3, California: 2, Washington: 2, Colorado: 1, Oklahoma: 1

KANSAS				TEXAS				CALIFORNIA						
W	L	PCT.	FIN	W	L	PCT.	FIN	W	L	PCT.	FIN			
Hays#	6	0	1.000	1st	Austin Lonestar	4	2	.667	3rd	Santa Barbara Foresters	5	1	.833	5th
Hutchinson*	4	3	.571	2nd	GPS Legends	1	3	.250	9th	San Diego Stars	2	2	.500	9th
Cannons	3	3	.500	5th	&Top Prospect Academy	0	3	.000	13th	Hotel California Desk	7	3	.700	5th
Derby*	2	2	.500	5th	Texas Tea Time Totals	5	8	.385	3rd					
Haysville*	2	2	.500	9th	WASHINGTON				EVERYBODY ELSE					
Liberal#	2	2	.500	9th	Seattle Studs	3	2	.600	3rd	&Sandlot Tulsa OK	3	2	.600	5th
Air Capital	0	3	.000	14th	Seattle Blackfins	1	3	.250	9th	Boulder (Colo.) Collegians	0	2	.000	13th
Kansas Corp.	19	15	.559	1st	Seattle PIL Intraurban	4	5	.444	3rd	Sum of remainders	5	4	.557	2nd
#-Rocky Mtn	8	2	.800	1st	*-Jayhawk	11	10	.524	2nd	&-AABC Musial	3	5	.375	5th

Preparing to pass the torch:

Wyatt Ebersole and Scott Nuss came on board to run the Pointstreak software and doing the associate scoring, along with Rachelle Miller, Cheryl Weber and Rick Potlock (from the remote office in Tallahassee, Fla.)

And, the writer also thanks Kevin Jenks, Katie Woods, Andrew Burgos and Beau Grant (who also had a doppelganger on the TPA club) helping this writer complete his 41st tournament.



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