

MLB

Major League Baseball pennant race

POSTSEASON BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE AS TEAMS TRY TO EARN THEIR SPOT IN THE FALL CLASSIC

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The 2009 Major League Baseball regular season is wrapping up and pennant races are coming to a close with three games left in the season.

The New York Yankees earned themselves the best record in the league with over 100 wins this season, and have a 57-23 home record in their new ballpark.

They won the AL East by over 10 games to the Boston Red Sox, who just clinched the wild card even after a failed comeback in a 8-7 loss to the Blue Jays.

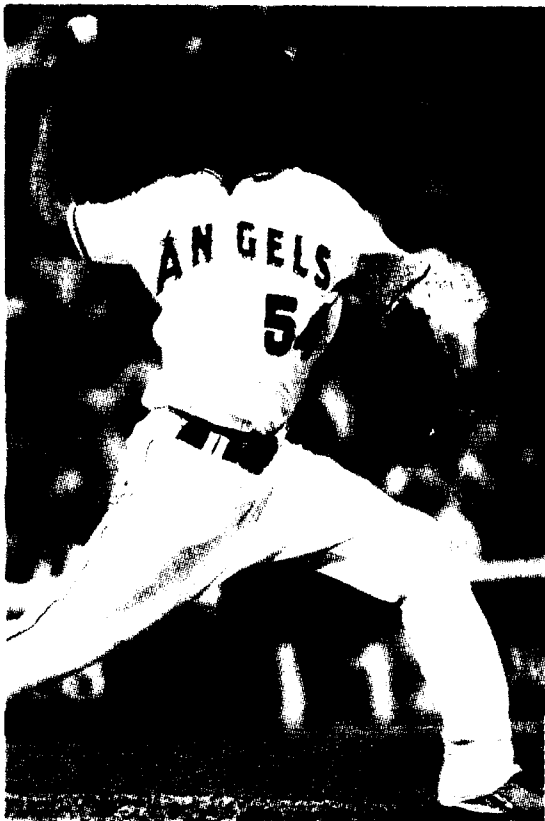
The AL Central race is heating up with the Minnesota Twins chasing the Detroit Tigers for the better half of the season.

Justin Verlander, Detroit's ace and potential Cy Young winner, is keeping their playoff hopes alive, pitching eight innings and striking out eight in the 6-5 victory over the Twins in a crucial two game double header last Tuesday, however; they split the games giving the Twins hope going into the last weekend of the season.

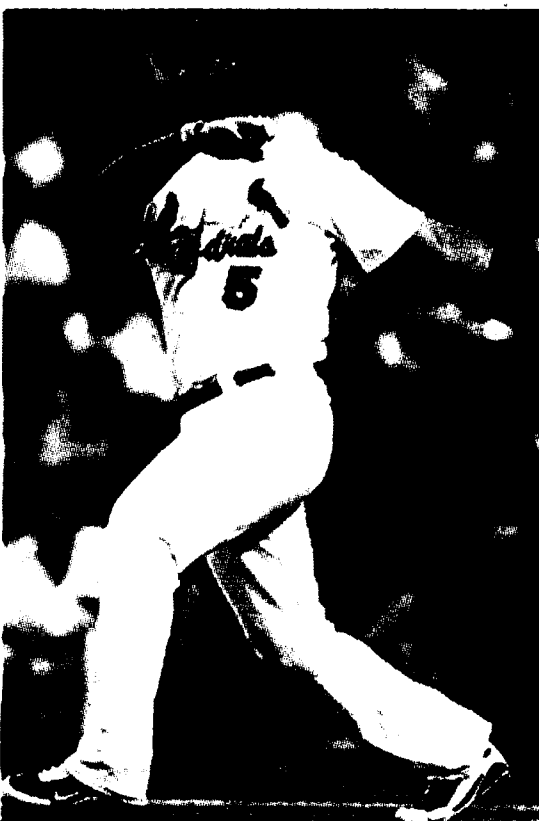
The Angels wrapped up their fifth AL West title in six years after cruising, to a 11-0 victory against the Texas Rangers.

After their 22-year old pitcher was killed in a car accident in April, the resiliant Angels held strong to make the playoffs.

Ervin Santana pitched a seven hit, complete game shutout for the win and recorded his fourth career shutout. Santana will be a player to watch in October.



Ervin Santana is pitching well down the stretch for the Angels.



Albert Pujols leads MLB with 47 home runs this season.

Moving to the National League, now, the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies are trying to get back into the playoff picture and after losing five of their last seven games.

It was not looking too great for the City of Brotherly Love, but the Phillies defeated the Houston Astros early in the week and moved their magic number to clinch a playoff spot to one.

The Phillies clinched the division on Oct. 1 after seeing an eight and a half point lead with thirteen games left whittle down to four after the Atlanta Braves surged in the last month. This Race may come

down to the last game of the season and will have fans filling stadiums.

In the NL Central, St. Louis took the division by eight games over the Chicago Cubs and are looking for their first World Series appearance for the first time in five seasons.

The Cardinals are fueled by Cy Young contenders Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter. Wainwright is currently the favorite for the coveted award, but his good friend and mentor Carpenter is the probable starter for their first divisional series game.

Manny Rameriz and his Los Angeles Dodgers clinched a

playoff berth but cannot seem to clinch the West division.

The Dodgers and the Colorado Rockies are battling it out with the Dodgers holding a one game lead, but have lost three straight.

Nonetheless, both teams should be able to make it into October as long as they hold off the Braves and their reconstructed rotation led by Javier Vazquez, but just lost an extremely close 5-4 game to the Florida Marlins which may have been their downfall heading down the stretch.

Water Polo

continued from front page

Senior captain Jacob Bernstein is typically a driver for the Behrend Lions, but this year he took on a new role as goalie.

"One day, [Bernstein] walked up to me and said, 'coach, we need a goalie,' and he said he'd do it." Tristan said. "Now, Jacob will play in the field for half of the game and, then, go into goal."

The water polo team has had to turn to the freshman class to help anchor the team. Six freshmen, three of which are the leading goal scorers with a combination of 27 goals throughout the season thus far, are being asked to do more than just score goals.

"What we're doing is having the freshman take more of a leadership role on the team with Jake and I," said senior captain Robert Westhelle. "We've already had many recruits [for next year], and the freshmen have stepped up by introducing the guys to the campus and students."

The reason for "rebuilding" is due to the fact that last year the

water polo team had a roster of 14 players, but only four players returned.

This year they have a roster of 10, with Bernstein and Robert Westhelle, and two sophomores, Chris Graves and Ricardo Ortiz, returning.

Former players left the team for various reasons. A couple left to transfer to Penn State University Main campus, a game plan to transfer after two years that had been premeditated. Some left because their hearts weren't in the game anymore, and others left due to academic ineligibility.

When asked if there are any harsh feelings towards those players that left for insufficient reasons Bernstein said, "There may be a few harsh feelings because they quit on us before giving us a chance, but I think this is a more enjoyable team to play with. It is really there loss for quitting."

This weekend the team will travel to California, PA to compete in the Claremont Invitational to play four games as the boys strive for their first victory of the season.

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Sport: Golf
Year: Senior
Date: Oct. 2, 2009

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