

MICRO LEAGUE

Baseball

1986 SEASON OVERVIEW

Although 1986 was a season without a close pennant race in any of baseball's four divisions, it was a season in which a great deal of fan interest was shown. In fact, for the first time ever, every franchise drew over one million visitors at home.

The battle for the two league's batting titles created some of the fervor with the greatest attention being on the Mattingly - Boggs duel for best average. Both men were waging their hit campaigns at the lofty heights of the .350's, with Boggs' .357 edging Mattingly's .352 effort. Mattingly had little to despair about however, because he set two All-Time Yankee records with 230 hits and 53 doubles in the process of becoming the first American Leaguer ever to collect 230 hits, 30 homers, and 100 RBI in the same season.

The National League title was fought at the lower "decibels" with Tim Lincecum's .334 beating Steve Sax (.332) and Tony Gwynn (.329) on the last day of the season. The other big National League news story was Vince Coleman's 107 steals, allowing him to become the first National Leaguer to steal 100 bases each in consecutive seasons. (Can you name the only American Leaguer to do this?)

Dave Righetti's 46th save set a new Major League record in the same year that Todd Warrell's 36th save posted the major league rookie record. Wouldn't they make a good late inning righty-lefty duo?

1986 did not have close races for the pennant, but it did feature these and other All-Star performances. With so many of us being in the stands, it was the fan who made the season as you can in Micro League Baseball!

1986 Standings

A.L. EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	95	66	.590	--
New York	90	72	.556	5.5
Detroit	87	75	.537	8.5
Toronto	86	76	.531	9.5
Cleveland	84	78	.519	11.5
Milwaukee	77	84	.478	18
Baltimore	73	89	.451	22.5

A.L. WEST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	92	70	.568	--
Texas	87	75	.537	5
Kansas City	76	86	.469	16
Oakland	76	86	.469	16
Chicago	72	90	.444	20
Minnesota	71	91	.438	21
Seattle	67	95	.414	25

N.L. EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	108	54	.667	--
Phila.	86	75	.534	21.5
St. Louis	79	82	.491	28.5
Montreal	78	83	.484	29.5
Chicago	70	90	.438	37
Pittsburgh	64	96	.395	44

N.L. WEST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	96	66	.593	--
Cincinnati	86	76	.531	10
San Francisco	83	79	.512	13
San Diego	74	88	.457	22
Los Angeles	73	89	.451	23
Atlanta	72	89	.447	23.5

PLAYERS NOTE

To Use ANY MLB Teams Disk: First completely load the MLB GAME DISK. When the screen asks you to choose a visiting or home team, replace the Game disk with the MLB TEAMS DISK and hit the RETURN key. You will then see the listing of all teams on that disk, then you can pick the team(s) you want. (See Manager's Rulebook for help).

New York Mets

108 - 54 (.667)

1st

Not since the days of the Big Red Machine of Cincinnati had there been a team as successful as the 1986 New York Mets. They equalled the 108-54 record of the Reds as they waltzed to a "cakewalk title".

The key was the pitching. The starting staff of Ojeda, Gooden, Darling, and Fernandez recorded a combined 66-23 record with each man being capable of an ace status on the many other teams which lacked "stoppers."

The bullpen was not to be outdone, as McDowell and Orsaco provided the best lefty-righty combo in the league. Together they finished 92 games, saving 43 as the Mets only lost once (all season) in a game in which they led going into the ninth inning.

The fellow claiming the credit for the pitching was brash, Gary Carter, the catcher. Contractually promised an extra \$300K for winning the MVP, the strongboy catcher made it clear to the world that he provided the best target for the Mets' fine staff. His .255 average and 24 homers also sounded the call for those who would vote on baseball's greatest personal award.

The Mets also went on to win the playoffs in 6 games. It took three come-from-behind victories, including two overtime jobs, but the pennant finally hung over the Big Apple again in 1986. Davey Johnson's Mets deserve all the high fives and hugs they gave each other in producing their franchise's greatest team.

Houston Astros

96 - 66 (.593)

1st

The famed writer Bill Conlin had picked them last in the N.L. West for 1986. (Perhaps the oil glut recession of Houston, Texas was on his mind that day). They were under the leadership of a first year manager, Hal Lanier, son of former pitcher Max Lanier. But the 1986 Astros stole the show in the N.L. West.

They did a little of everything well, and well enough to win. For speed, Doran, (42), Hatcher (38), and Bass (22), each stole over twenty bases. For power Davis (31), and Bass (26) each provided at least 20 dingers. Walling (.312) and Bass (.311) gave the 'Stros two hitters in the Charmed Circle as well. The point of all this is that Bass proved he could run, hit for power and average, and to top it off provide good defense. He was also consistent, and yet, he is to this day the best kept secret in baseball. When did a guy playing on a winner ever get less attention for accomplishing so much?

The Astros' hurlers had no less an exceptional star in Mike Scott, the fellow who merely clinched the division title by hurling a no-hitter, a first-ever feat. His 306 strikeouts in 275 innings proved the no-hitter was no fluke. With Knepper, Ryan, and Deshaies behind him, the Astros big four was the best in the West.

The Astros 1986 N.L.C.S. playoff performance equalled their 1980 debut in determination and excitement. Who knows, perhaps this team is the greatest Astros contingent ever? In Micro League you can find out!

MICRO LEAGUE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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1986 was the year of "Rocket Roger" Clemens. His 24-4 record equalled that of the 1985 phenom, Dwight Gooden, the man he is often compared to. In posting his 24 wins, Roger let the Red Sox ride his record to their first pennant since 1975. No Red Sox fan would deny that hitting had always been a Sox trait, but Clemens provided the stopper that lifted the 1986 team to a trip to the World Series.

The Bullpen was solidified by the late season promotion of Clemens' former college teammate Calvin Schiraldi. His 1.41 E.R.A. with 55 K's in 51 innings provided 9 key saves in the all important stretch drive against the Yankees and Blue Jays. Another key late season acquisition was veteran Tom Seaver, who came along in time to pick up the Sox when Boyd got suspended and Murst suffered arm injuries. Just having a man of Seaver's stature around to lead the younger players was enough for them to benefit from his presence. Tom also won several key pitching contests during the pennant run.

Finally the late season acquisitions of Spike Owen, at short stop, and Dave Henderson, at center field, provided the Sox further security during their season. Each was super in the A.L.C.S. playoff, as was Don Baylor, an early season acquisition. Now who was that you said was the General Manager of the Boston franchise? It was Haywood Sullivan, Mark's dad (Mark's the catcher!).

One pitch away from the World Series, the "Gene Jinx" struck as poor Donnie Moore grooved one to Red Sox slugger Dave Henderson. A Gene Mauch team blew another pennant, reminiscent of 1964 and 1982. In 26 years of managing Gene still has nothing to show for it, despite being a great leader of men.

The Angels weren't supposed to be in it in 1986. Veterans like Grich, DeCinces, Jackson, Boone, Burleson, Sutton, and Candelaria were considered over the hill. But these were great props, and since you can't teach an old dog new tricks, these "old dogs" kept on winning as they had learned to in their early careers.

Old age caught up with them in the 5th game of the playoffs, and as it does things went downhill very quickly. Unfortunately, ("Gene's luck"), young Wally Joyner caught a mysterious infection, and there was no Super Boy to take over.

The good news is that these guys are worth a trip to Wally World in 1987. With kids like Pettis, Joyner, Schofield, and Witt, Gene has the nucleus from which to rebuild. Meanwhile, in Minor League Baseball, you can see whether Henderson's homer was a fluke or not. You can relive this great team of veterans at the foot of a disk! After all -- your luck may be better than that of Gene Mauch's.

NOTE: A players stats are based on the whole season irrespective of the number of teams he has played for.



All stats are endorsed by the
Major League Baseball Players Association

Computer stats by John Foskey, Jeff Furman & Paul J. Kelly.
Writeups authored by Jeff E. Furman.

MICRO LEAGUE Baseball

The complete baseball system . . .

Team Disks

You can manage any team you want when you have MLB TEAM DISKS. Just "load" Micro League Baseball from the Game Disk, then you can pick from a wide range of other teams on MLB TEAM DISKS shown below.

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(includes all the 26 NL and AL teams on each disk)

_____ 1986 _____ 1985 _____ 1984 _____ 1983 _____ 1982

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Team _____

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_____ Team/Roster Security Disk (\$10.95)

A "backup" & protection disk; SafeGuard Memory Slots with add/delete/retrieve features for 32 rosters. Write-Protection, at user option. Don't lose your unique team jewels!

Computer:

_____ Apple II	_____ Atari	_____ Commodore	_____ IBM PC/PCjr. &
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Stadium Factors, stamina, ump arguments, injuries, "Speedo/Quik Game." These and other new MLB game features for Atari ST, Mac, Amiga!

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We accept Visa/Mastercard or check. Shipping and Handling charge \$2.00

Micro League Sports Association, 2201 Drummond Plaza, Newark, DE 19711-5711

(800) PLAYBAL (For customer service, 1-302-368-9990 Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm EST)