

Angels win first World Series

By Ben Walker

AP Baseball Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Tim Salmon hoisted the World Series trophy and took a victory lap around Edison Field. He'd always imagined what the trip would be like, and it was harder than he thought.

"It was pretty heavy," he said. And well worth it, for the Anaheim Angels and all their fans who wondered whether this day would ever come.

Behind rookie starter John Lackey and a big hit by Garret Anderson, the Angels became one of the more improbable champions in baseball history, beating Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants 4-1 Sunday night in Game 7.

"These fans have been waiting a long, long time for this," MVP Troy Glaus said. "And I know we're all happy to be part of the team to bring it to them."

The Angels took 42 years to win their first title, and didn't even need their Rally Monkey to clinch it.

Bonds, meanwhile, is still hoping. As Anaheim players celebrated all over the field, the best hitter in the world watched from a dark corner of the Giants' dugout. Bonds knew this moment could have been his — a day earlier, it almost was.

"You want the results to be different," Bonds said. "They outplayed us, they deserve it. They beat us. They're world champions."

In Game 6, the Giants blew a 5-0 lead in the seventh inning. In Game 7, San Francisco never got close to winning its first title.

"The turning point was basically they came back last night," Giants manager Dusty Baker said.

His 3-year-old bat boy son, Darren, took it hard. He wailed as his dad carried him from the dugout.

Bonds closed out one of the most dominant overall Series performances ever, yet it wasn't enough. He went 8-for-17 (.471) with four homers and a .700 on-base percentage.

After watching the Angels party, Bonds walked down the dugout and picked up his glove. He walked back, tapped his son on the back and walked down the runway.

"I went 1-for-3 with a walk, that's a good day. Am I supposed to go 3-for-3 with three home runs?" Bonds said. "What do you want from me?"

The highest-scoring Series in history came down to pitching, as it always

seems to do in October. And Lackey and the bullpen gave Anaheim enough to win baseball's first all wild-card matchup.

The Angels became the eighth straight home team to win Game 7 of the World Series. History was on their side from the start and so was an omen — a skywriting plane put a gigantic halo over Edison Field before the first pitch.

The Rally Monkey was ready, but the mascot only showed up a couple of times on the video scoreboard.

"We love the monkey because of what it does for us. It's a good-luck charm," Lackey said. "But it's good not to see him because that means we're winning."

Lackey, pitching on three days' rest, became only the second rookie to win Game 7 of the Series. He joined Babe Adams, who pitched Pittsburgh past Ty Cobb and Detroit in 1909.

Lackey wasn't even with the Angels, stuck in Triple-A, when they went 6-14 for the worst start in team history. But with both staffs worn down, the 24-year-old righty gave Anaheim exactly what it needed with five innings of one-run ball.

"It's not bad. This is where you want to be," Lackey said. "It's a long way from Salt Lake."

Anderson, now due to get the recognition he's always deserved, hit a three-run double off Livan Hernandez in the third for a 4-1 lead.

"Well, I just wanted to get into a situation where I'd be able to hit my pitch, not do too much," Anderson said.

Brendan Donnelly, Francisco Rodriguez and Troy Percival closed it for manager Mike Scioscia's bunch. Percival escaped a two-on, one-out jam for his third save of the Series.

"Unbelievable for us, for our fans," Percival said. "This team has worked as hard as any team ever. We deserve it."

And when it was over, Southern California, the land of celluloid stars, had just added a whole teamful of them while Hollywood luminaries Pierce Brosnan and John Travolta watched from the stands.

It was particularly sweet for Scioscia, who won a title with Baker as players in 1981 for the Los Angeles Dodgers, the team that long overshadowed its neighbors to the south.

"I'm enjoying it, but what these guys have done — they're going to enjoy it for a long time," Scioscia said.

After the game, Scioscia and Baker spoke on the phone.

"We had everything fall into place," Scioscia said. "If we didn't win it, you know I wanted you to. You guys are champions, hold your heads high. You're awesome."

The game might have been the last for Baker with the Giants. There are growing indications he'll soon leave, possibly to take over the Chicago Cubs or Seattle.

Before this year, the Angels were known mostly for heartbreak, epitomized by the blown save by Donnie Moore that cost them a chance to reach the 1986 Series.

Beloved owner Gene Autry never saw his team get this far before passing away, and it didn't look like these guys would do it, either, especially after finishing 41 games out of first place in 2001.

Somehow, the Angels pulled it together. They led the majors in hitting, overwhelmed the New York Yankees and Minnesota in the AL playoffs and then knocked out Bonds and Co.

"Wherever he is, my husband is smiling down at these ballplayers and he's having a wonderful time watching me get drowned in champagne," Jackie Autry said.

Owned by The Walt Disney Co., the Angels are still for sale. Before then, though, they can certainly travel the 3 miles or so to Disneyland to enjoy this most improbable championship. That's where the victory parade will be Tuesday.

"This has taken over as the happiest place on earth tonight," Disney chairman Michael Eisner said.

Anaheim and the Giants combined for a record 85 runs and 21 homers. Hernandez had been 6-0 lifetime in the postseason before losing twice to the Angels.

Hernandez walked Scott Spiezio with two outs in the second and Bengie Molina followed with a double that tied it at 1.

Molina added another double, and the hits were his way of honoring his father who was faraway. Earlier Sunday, former amateur outfielder Benjamin Molina Santana was in Puerto Rico, where he was inducted into the island's hall of fame.

The Giants took a 1-0 lead in the second on singles by Benito Santiago and J.T. Snow and a sacrifice fly by Reggie Sanders.

Notes: Glaus hit .385 with three homers and eight RBIs. ... Scioscia became the 28th person to play on and manage a championship team.



Wildcats' kicking game improves

WACO, Texas (AP) — Finally, a Kansas State kicker is making extra points.

Joe Rheem was 5-of-5 on extra points and made field goals of 36, 38, and 39 yards in the Wildcats' 44-10 win over Baylor on Saturday.

Rheem, who going into the game had missed two of his previous three field goals attempts, proved himself early with a season-long 39-yarder to open the scoring with 8:20 left in the first quarter.

"It was a real big relief because we're all capable of going out and doing that," Rheem said. "Now, I just need to go out and finish out the year this way."

Rheem, a sophomore, and junior Jared Brite have battled for the starting kicking job all season. After Brite missed an extra point and had the potential game-tying field goal blocked in the Wildcats' 17-14 loss to Texas on Oct. 19, Rheem got the call.

"If I didn't think he could do it, I wouldn't put him on the field," coach Bill Snyder said. "That doesn't mean all of them (Rheem's kicks) were picture perfect, but it's a step forward and probably a confidence boost for Joe and certainly for our football team."

Even with sensational quarterback Ell Roberson struggling, No. 14 Kan-

sas State had no problem with the Bears.

Darren Sproles ran for 124 yards and a touchdown, making up for his two fumbles, and the Wildcats returned an interception and a blocked field goal for touchdowns.

The game was tied 3-3 late in the second quarter when redshirt freshman defensive back Jesse Tetuan returned a 34-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Tetuan's TD with just over four minutes left in the half started a streak of 27 straight points for Kansas State (6-2, 2-2 Big 12), including Randy Jordan's 93-yard blocked field goal return.

"The interception return may have been the major play; it gave us a little breather," Snyder said. "Sproles gave a tremendous effort, but put the ball on the ground. And Ell was out of rhythm in the passing game. He just didn't do it today."

Roberson ran for 90 yards on 11 carries, but he was just 7-of-17 passing for 54 yards with an interception. He didn't play in the fourth quarter.

Baylor quarterback Josh Zachry's only interception went through the arms of safety Rashad Washington, then bounced off his leg and straight to Tetuan.

Sproles had a career-high 26 carries and his fifth 100-yard game of the season. The sophomore is averaging 6.3 yards per carry — a full yard better than the school record for a season.

"You give me the ball, I'm gonna run it," said Sproles, who had a fumble in the fourth quarter right before coming out of the game.

The one fumble by Sproles that Baylor (3-5, 1-3) recovered came in the first quarter. After running through the middle for a 10-yard gain to the Bears' 10, Sproles was stripped by Matt Johnson as he fought for more yardage.

Baylor then drove for Daniel Andino's 34-yard field goal that tied the game at 3 and broke the Bears' streak of almost 139 minutes over nine-plus quarters without a point.

bowling results

Happy Our Bowling Oct. 24

Rasures over Collinwood 4 to 0; Pocket Rockets over KMA 3 to 1; Nelson Splicing Split with B&B Electric 2 to 2.

High Game team Pocket Rockets 841; High Game Ind. Charlie Babcock 253; High Sereis Team Pocket Rockets 2376; High Series Ind. Charlie Babcock 723.

Standings

KMA	25	7
Rasure Do It Center	23	9
Collinwood	15	17

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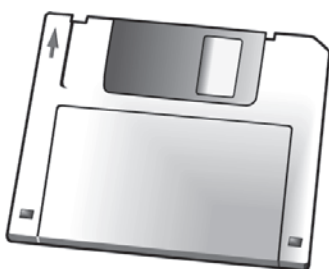
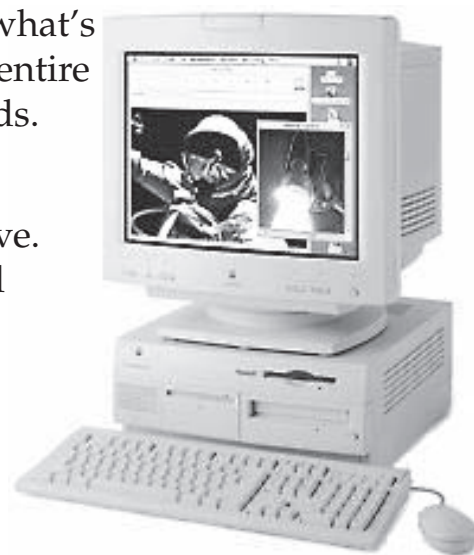
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