

# AL, NL teams set to begin playoffs

## Major Leagues start new series format

Associated Press

The Kansas City Royals, the last team to break the American League West jinx, will try to do it again while the Los Angeles Dodgers, the last team to stop John Tudor, face the same task when baseball's playoffs begin with a new best-of-seven format.

On Tuesday night, the AL playoffs begin in Toronto, where the Blue Jays will try to bring the first World Series to Canada. The National League playoffs begin Wednesday night in Los Angeles when the Dodgers play host to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Pitching often dominates the post-season, and all four teams are well-equipped.

The Dodgers lead the majors in team earned run average and St. Louis ranks second in the NL. Toronto's staff ranks No. 1 in the AL, followed by Kansas City.

"Both teams are built around their pitching," says left-hander Jimmy Key of Toronto, who will pitch Game 2 on Wednesday. "The

best pitching depth should make a big difference."

The Royals are the last AL West team to win the AL pennant, having beaten the New York Yankees in 1972-73-74, no West team has won the league crown since divisional play began in 1969.

Blue Jays Manager Bobby Cox starts Dave Stieb (14-13) for Toronto against Kansas City's Charlie Leibrandt (17-9) in Game 1.

Bud Black (10-15) will go against Key (14-6) in the second game, and Bret Saberhagen (20-6) will face Toronto's Doyle Alexander (17-10) in Kansas City in Game 3.

The series will also give Royals Manager Dick Howser a chance to get a playoff monkey off his back.

Howser is 0-9 in postseason games. His Yankees got swept in three games by Kansas City in 1980, his Royals lost three straight to Oakland in the 1981 intradivision playoffs, and Kansas City got swept last year by Detroit in the AL playoffs.

"I guess I'm going to be hearing about it," Howser said with a shrug of the shoulders. "I heard about it at nine this morning when I got to the ballpark."

Kansas City won the season series from Toronto seven games to five. Their meeting should provide some other interest as Garth Iorg platoons at third base for Toronto and his brother, Dane, is a utility player for the Royals.

"It will keep the family sharing in the profits," Dane Iorg said.

The NL series also features some pretty hot pitchers. And no one in baseball is as hot as Tudor, who has won 20 of his last 21 decisions for the Cardinals.

Tudor (21-8), leading the majors with 10 shutouts, will pitch Game 1 against Fernando Valenzuela (17-10). The game will start at twilight, which should give the two left-handers even more of an advantage.

Valenzuela and the Dodgers are the only team to have beaten Tudor since May 29. Valenzuela shut out

Daany Cox (18-9).

Lasorda said he will use Jerry Reuss (14-10) in the fourth game. Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog is undecided and will probably choose between Tudor and Bob Forsch (9-6).

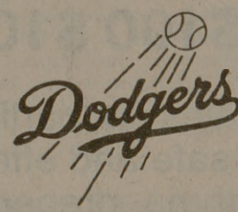
Along with pitching supremacy, the Dodgers and Cardinals share something else. They both defied the odds, overcame sluggish starts and went on to win their divisions.

"They're pretty much like ourselves," said St. Louis cleanup hitter Jack Clark. "They are a team that wasn't supposed to be here."

### AL Pennant Series Teams



### NL Pennant Series Teams



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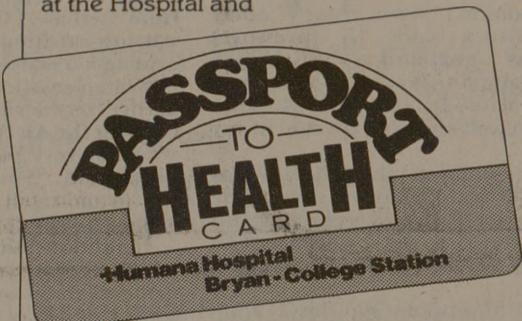
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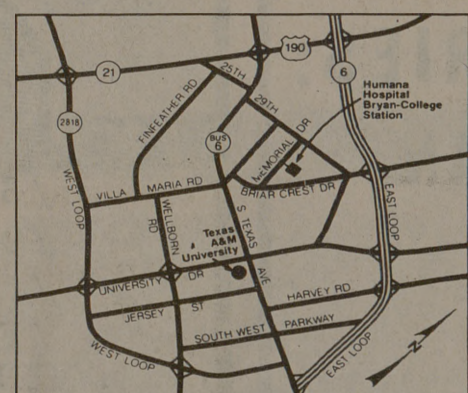
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