

= 2007 Major League Baseball All @-@ Star Game =

The 2007 Major League Baseball All @-@ Star Game was the 78th midseason exhibition between the all @-@ stars of the American League ( AL ) and the National League ( NL ) , the two leagues comprising Major League Baseball . The game was held on July 10 , 2007 , at AT & T Park , the home of the NL 's San Francisco Giants . It marked the third time that the Giants hosted the All Star Game since moving to San Francisco for the 1958 season . The 1961 and 1984 All Star Games were played at the Giants former home Candlestick Park , and the fourth overall in the Bay Area , with the Giants bay area rivals the Oakland Athletics hosting once back in 1987 , and the second straight held in an NL ballpark .

The American League defeated the National League by a score of 5 ? 4 . Ichiro Suzuki won the MVP award for the game for hitting the first inside @-@ the @-@ park home run in All @-@ Star history . As per the 2006 Collective Bargaining Agreement , the American League champion ( which eventually came to be the Boston Red Sox ) received home field advantage in the 2007 World Series . The victory was the 10th consecutive ( excluding the 2002 tie ) for the AL , and their 11 @-@ game unbeaten streak is only beaten by the NL 's 11 @-@ game winning streak from 1972 to 1982 in All @-@ Star history .

= = Background = =

As with each All @-@ Star Game since 1970 , the eight starting position players ( with no designated hitter due to playing in an NL stadium ) of each league were elected by fan balloting . The remaining players were selected by a players ' vote , each league 's team manager , and a second fan balloting to add one more player to each roster . In all , 32 players were selected to each league 's team , not including players who decline to play due to injuries or personal reasons .

The Giants were awarded the game on February 9 , 2005 . The game marked the first time since 1962 that one league hosted consecutive All @-@ Star Games , after Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , hosted the game in 2006 .

The game was the fifth straight All @-@ Star Game to decide home @-@ field advantage in the World Series . The AL entered the game on a ten @-@ game unbeaten streak ( nine wins , with one tie in 2002 ) . The NL was looking for their first win since the 1996 game in Philadelphia .

= = Fan balloting = =

= = = Starters = = =

Balloting for the 2007 All @-@ Star Game starters ( excluding pitchers ) began on April 27 and continued through June 28 . The top vote @-@ getters at each position and the top three among outfielders , are named the starters for their respective leagues . The results were announced on July 1 . About 18 @. @ 5 million votes were cast by close to twelve million fans . Alex Rodriguez was the leading vote @-@ getter with 3 @, @ 890 @, @ 515 votes , easily outpacing his Yankees teammate Derek Jeter by over 700 @, @ 000 votes . Ken Griffey , Jr. was the top vote @-@ getter in the National League , with 2 @, @ 986 @, @ 818 votes .

= = = Final roster spot = = =

After the rosters were announced , a second round of fan voting , the Monster All @-@ Star Final Vote , was commenced to determine the occupant of the final roster spot for each team . This round lasted until July 5 . Chris Young and Hideki Okajima were elected to represent the National League and American League , respectively , in the All @-@ Star Game as first time All @-@ Stars . All ten players included in the balloting were pitchers , a first for the event .

= = Rosters = =

Players in italics have since been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame .

^ a These players did not see action in the game . ^ b Voted onto the roster through the All @-@ Star Final Vote . ^ c Unable to play due to injury . Brandon Webb took his roster spot . ^ d Unable to play due to injury . Roy Oswalt took his roster spot .

= = Managers = =

National League : Tony La Russa American League : Jim Leyland

= = Game = =

O Canada was played by members of the San Francisco Symphony . The Star @-@ Spangled Banner was sung by Chris Isaak . Before the game , there was a tribute to former San Francisco Giants slugger Willie Mays . Mays threw the ceremonial first pitch to New York Mets shortstop José Reyes . Paula Cole sang God Bless America during the seventh @-@ inning stretch . The first pitch was thrown by the National League 's starter , Jake Peavy at 8 : 54 EDT The game was completed in 3 hours , 6 minutes under an overcast sky and a gametime temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit .

= = = Umpires = = =

Umpires for the game were announced on June 14 . Bruce Froemming , the most tenured current umpire in Major League Baseball , was named crew chief for the game . It was also revealed that day that Froemming would retire following the 2007 season .

= = = Starting lineups = = =

= = = Game summary = = =

The National League got things started in the bottom of the first when José Reyes led off with a base hit off American League starter Dan Haren and proceeded to steal second . He scored on an RBI single by Ken Griffey , Jr. to give the NL a 1 ? 0 lead . Barry Bonds nearly gave his hometown fans something to cheer for in the bottom of the third when , with Reyes on second , he lofted a high fly ball to left field , but it was snared at the warning track by Magglio Ordóñez . The AL nearly tied the game in the fourth when Alex Rodriguez attempted to score on a two @-@ out single by Iván Rodríguez . However , the throw to home plate by Griffey allowed Russell Martin to tag Rodriguez out at the plate to end the inning . The AL would score one inning later when , after Chris Young issued a leadoff walk to Brian Roberts , Ichiro Suzuki hit a long fly ball off the right field wall . Instead of caroming straight to Griffey , the ball took an unusual bounce off a sign and ricocheted to Griffey 's right . This allowed Ichiro to score on what became the first and only inside @-@ the @-@ park home run in All @-@ Star Game history . The homer gave the AL a 2 ? 1 lead and resulted in Ichiro 's MVP win .

The lead would be augmented in the sixth when Carl Crawford hit a line drive that just cleared the right field wall for a home run . Though it appeared a fan may have reached over the wall to catch it , NL manager Tony La Russa did not challenge the umpires ' call . The NL got a run back in the bottom of the inning when Carlos Beltrán led off with a triple and scored on a sacrifice fly by Griffey . The AL added some insurance runs in the eighth when Víctor Martínez hit a two @-@ run home run just inside the left field foul pole to give the AL a 5 ? 2 lead .

The American League 's closers then entered the game , with Jonathan Papelbon pitching a scoreless bottom of the eighth . In the ninth , J. J. Putz tried to earn the save and began by inducing

a weak pop @-@ up and striking out Brian McCann . Pinch @-@ hitter Dmitri Young rolled a ground ball deep in the hole to Brian Roberts , but he could not come up with it . Alfonso Soriano followed with a two @-@ run home run to right field to cut the NL 's deficit to one . After Putz walked J. J. Hardy , AL manager Jim Leyland replaced him with Francisco Rodríguez . However , Rodríguez had trouble consistently locating his pitches and walked Derrek Lee on a check @-@ swing 3 ? 2 pitch and then Orlando Hudson to load the bases . In a move that drew criticism , La Russa elected not to pinch @-@ hit his last player on the bench , Albert Pujols , and instead let Aaron Rowand hit . Rowand lofted a fly ball to right field that was caught by Alex Ríos to close the game , earning the American League their tenth consecutive victory .

= = Home Run Derby = =

The State Farm Home Run Derby was held the night before the All @-@ Star Game , July 9 , and broadcast on ESPN . Four players from each league competed to hit as many home runs as they could in each round to advance and eventually win the contest . This year , a five @-@ swing swing @-@ off would be used to break ties occurring in any round . This became necessary when Albert Pujols and Justin Morneau tied for fourth in the first round . The champion of last year 's Derby , Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies , competed even though he was not named to the NL All @-@ Star roster .

In the finals , Vladimir Guerrero of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim defeated Alex Ríos of the Toronto Blue Jays by a score of 3 ? 2 . Guerrero hit 17 home runs in all , second only to Ríos ' 19 . Guerrero also hit the longest blast of the competition , a 503 @-@ foot ( 153 m ) drive to left field that just missed hitting a giant replica glove and baseball set up on the concourse beyond the left field bleachers .

AT & T Park is distinguished by having the San Francisco Bay beyond its right field bleachers . The body of water located adjacent to the ballpark is known as McCovey Cove , named for legendary Giants slugger Willie McCovey . McCovey Cove is known for having many fans sitting in the water in kayaks and boats hoping to retrieve a long home run ball hit there . Though dozens of fans waited in the cove during the Derby , no home runs were actually hit into the water , either on the fly or off the promenade next to the right field seats , though , one foul ball hit by Prince Fielder did reach the water . This was largely due to the three left @-@ handed competitors all exiting in the first round , as well as wind currents blowing toward left field . Prior to the All @-@ Star break , a total of 58 home runs were hit into the cove on the fly during the park 's history .

Gold balls were utilized whenever any player had one out remaining during his round . Any home runs hit with the balls meant Major League Baseball and State Farm would pledge to donate money to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America . Due to the change in sponsors from Century 21 to State Farm , each ball 's value was reduced to US \$ 17 @,@ 000 to reflect the 17 @,@ 000 State Farm agents in the United States and Canada . In all , twelve gold ball home runs were hit , which , along with a \$ 50 @,@ 000 " bonus " constituted \$ 254 @,@ 000 raised for charity .

^ a Recorded only seven of ten outs before hitting winning home run . ^ b Advanced after defeating Morneau 2 ? 1 in a swing @-@ off .

= = Futures Game = =

The 2007 XM All @-@ Star Futures Game took place on July 8 , showcasing the top minor league prospects from all thirty teams ' farm systems . The contest is seven innings regardless of the score with pitchers limited to no more than one inning of work . The World team defeated the United States by a score of 7 ? 2 . Chin @-@ Lung Hu of the Los Angeles Dodgers organization won the Larry Doby MVP award after driving in two runs on a single and double , plus a stolen base and a run .