

= 1995 American League West tie @-@ breaker game =

The 1995 American League West tie @-@ breaker game was a one @-@ game extension to Major League Baseball 's (MLB) 1995 regular season , played between the California Angels and Seattle Mariners to determine the winner of the American League 's (AL) West Division . The game was played on October 2 , 1995 , at the Kingdome in Seattle , Washington . The game was necessary after both teams finished the strike @-@ shortened 144 @-@ game season with identical win ? loss records of 78 ? 66 . Seattle won the game by a score of 9 ? 1 , securing its first postseason berth in franchise history .

The game matched two highly unlikely teams : the Angels had not been to the postseason since 1986 , and had not finished above third place in the AL West since . On the other hand , the Mariners had never been to the postseason , and before 1995 only had two seasons with a winning percentage above .500 . With less than two months left in the 1995 regular season , the Angels held a comfortable lead in the AL West standings , 11 games ahead of the second @-@ place Texas Rangers and 13 games ahead of the third @-@ place Mariners . However , the Mariners mounted a late @-@ season comeback , coupled with a late @-@ season collapse by the Angels , to force the tie @-@ breaker .

After winning the tie @-@ breaker , the Mariners advanced to play the New York Yankees in the AL Division Series . They won the series in five games on an 11th @-@ inning double by Edgar Martínez in Game 5 . After advancing to the AL League Championship Series , they lost to the Cleveland Indians in six games . The Angels , meanwhile , did not earn a trip to the postseason until 2002 .

= = Line score and summary = =

As per normal MLB practice at the time , the home team for this game was determined by a series of coin tosses held on September 18 to determine home teams for all potential one @-@ game tiebreakers . All statistics compiled during the game were added to each player 's and / or team 's regular season statistics . The game was nationally televised on ESPN with Jon Miller and Joe Morgan making the call .

The first six innings of the game were largely a pitchers ' duel between Seattle staff ace Randy Johnson and California 's Mark Langston , the Mariners ' former staff ace who was traded to Montreal for Johnson in 1989 . Seattle put runners in scoring position in the first and fifth innings , but only scored one run in the fifth when Dan Wilson scored on a single by Vince Coleman . Johnson was perfect ? that is , he allowed no runners to reach base ? until the 6th inning when Rex Hudler singled but was stranded at second base .

In the seventh inning , Langston allowed a single to Mike Blowers , then allowed Tino Martinez on base via fielder 's choice , then hit Joey Cora to load the bases with two outs . Luis Sojo followed with a double to right field that glanced off of first baseman J. T. Snow 's glove and rolled under the Angels ' bullpen bench , scoring Blowers , Martinez , and Cora . Sojo himself scored on the play as a result of Langston 's throwing error , and Langston was replaced by relief pitcher Bob Patterson .

Now trailing by five runs , the Angels threatened again in the 8th inning with runners on second and third , but Hudler grounded out to end the threat . In the bottom of the 8th , the Mariners again had the bases loaded when Tino Martinez singled to score Edgar Martínez , followed by a Dan Wilson double that scored Jay Buhner and Blowers , and finally a sacrifice fly double play hit by Cora that scored Tino Martinez but got Wilson thrown out at third . Tony Phillips led off the 9th for the Angels with a home run to avoid a shutout , but Johnson retired the next three Angels hitters to record his sixth complete game and 18th win of the season .

= = Background = =

= = = Before 1995 = = =

Both teams entered the tiebreaker with long histories of frustration and disappointment . California had won the AL West division title on 3 occasions (1979 , 1982 , and 1986) , but failed to advance to the World Series each time . In particular , the Angels blew a 2 ? 0 series lead in the best @-@ of @-@ five 1982 ALCS to the Milwaukee Brewers , and were one strike away from defeating the Boston Red Sox in Game 5 of the 1986 ALCS but ended up losing that game and the next two to lose the best @-@ of @-@ seven series that they had led 3 ? 1 . They had not returned to the postseason since the 1986 loss .

Seattle , on the other hand , had only had two winning seasons since the franchise began play in 1977 (1991 and 1993) , and had never been to the postseason . The team had gone through three ownership changes in its first 15 years , its most recent coming in 1992 when a consortium led by Hiroshi Yamauchi , which owns the Mariners to the present day , bought the team from Jeff Smulyan , who had threatened to relocate the team as a consequence of its losing ways .

= = = 1995 season = = =

As a consequence of the 1994 ? 95 Major League Baseball strike , the 1995 season started on April 25 , and was shortened to 144 games instead of the normal 162 . California took an early lead in the AL West standings and traded first place with Texas through May and June . They took the lead on July 2 , and held on to that lead throughout the rest of July and all of August . Seattle , meanwhile , spent most of June through August in third or fourth place . They would bottom out on August 2 , 13 games out of first place .

The Angels ' fortunes began to change when they were swept by Boston from August 21 ? 23 , then after winning one game over Baltimore , went into a 9 @-@ game losing streak beginning August 25 . Seattle had an August record of 16 ? 13 (.552) , while California had an August record of 13 ? 17 (.433) . Seattle took second place on September 2 , with Texas in a losing streak it would never recover from .

Then in September , California went into a second 9 @-@ game skid from September 13 ? 23 , allowing Seattle to take first place on September 22 in the middle of their own 7 @-@ game winning streak . California sank to 3 games out of first place with 5 games left in the season , but won those last 5 games ? including a 4 @-@ game sweep of the Oakland Athletics ? while Seattle lost 3 of their last 5 games , forcing the tiebreaker .

= = Impact = =

The Angels ' defeat in the tiebreaker marked a continuation of the team 's struggles at the time . It was the closest the Angels would come to reaching the postseason during their playoff drought that lasted from 1986 to 2002 , when they won the AL Wild Card and ultimately the World Series .

The game was a stepping stone in what is widely regarded in Seattle as the most memorable season in Mariners franchise history . Having secured their first ever postseason berth , the Mariners went on to play the New York Yankees in the first American League Division Series played under the present @-@ day format . They would defeat the Yankees in Game 5 of the ALDS , on the heels of Edgar Martínez ' game @-@ winning double , but ultimately were defeated by the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series .

The game marked the beginning of the most successful era in Seattle franchise history , as they would go on to win AL West division championships again in 1997 and 2001 , and an AL Wild Card berth in 2000 . However , they failed to reach the World Series each time and remain one of two MLB franchises to never reach the Fall Classic , along with the Washington Nationals .

Off the field , the Mariners ' AL West championship as well as its memorable run in the postseason served as a catalyst for public funding for a new ballpark . Less than two weeks before the tiebreaker , the residents of King County , Washington (whose county seat is Seattle) voted against a sales tax increase to fund a new stadium , but shortly after their ALDS victory , the Washington State Legislature reconvened and approved a separate funding package for a new stadium . The

new stadium , now called Safeco Field , opened in July 1999 .

The two franchises ' fortunes were reversed beginning in 2002 and continuing to the present day , as the Angels rose to the most successful era in their history by winning the aforementioned World Series and five division titles while the Mariners returned to the bottom of the division standings for most of those years (the only exceptions being in 2002 and 2009 , when they finished a close third and 2003 and 2007 , when they finished second) .

This game is also notable in that the storming of the field by Mariners fans following the recording of the last out represents the most recent major field invasion by team fans reacting to a victory .

= Æthelstan A =

" Æthelstan A " (/ ʔæʔʔlstænʔeʔ /) is the name given by historians to an unknown scribe who drafted charters (or diplomas) , by which the king made grants of land , for King Æthelstan of England between 928 and 935 . They are an important source for historians as they provide far more information than other charters of the period , showing the date and place of the grant , and having an unusually long list of witnesses , including Welsh kings and occasionally kings of Scotland and Strathclyde .

The " Æthelstan A " charters commence shortly after King Æthelstan conquered Northumbria in 927 , making him the first king to rule the whole of England . The diplomas give the king titles such as " King of the English " and " King of the Whole of Britain " , and this is seen by historians as part of a rhetoric which reflected his master 's claim for a new status , higher than previous West Saxon kings .

The diplomas are written in elaborate Latin known as the hermeneutic style , which became dominant in Anglo @-@ Latin literature from the mid @-@ tenth century and a hallmark of the English Benedictine Reform . Scholars vary widely in their views of his style , which has been described as " pretentious " and " almost impenetrable " , but also as " poetic " and " as enduringly fascinating as it is complex " .

" Æthelstan A " ceased to draft charters after 935 , and his successors returned to a simpler style , suggesting that he was working on his own rather than being a member of a royal scriptorium .

= = Background = =

After the death of Bede in 735 , Latin prose in England declined . It reached its lowest level in the ninth century , when few books and charters were produced , and they were of poor quality . King Æthelstan 's grandfather , Alfred the Great (871 ? 899) embarked on an extensive programme to improve learning , and by the 890s the standard of Latin in charters was improving . Few charters survive from the reigns of Alfred and his son , Edward the Elder (899 ? 924) , and none from 909 to 925 . Up to then charters had generally been plain legal documents , and King Æthelstan 's early diplomas were similar .

Until about 900 diplomas appear to have been drawn up in varying traditions and circumstances , but in later Anglo @-@ Saxon times (c . 900 ? 1066) charters can be more clearly defined . According to Simon Keynes :

In this period , a diploma can be characterised as a formal and symbolic record , in Latin , of an occasion when the king , acting in a royal assembly , and with the consent of the ecclesiastical and secular orders , created an estate of " bookland " at a specified place , and conveyed it on the privileged terms defined by the " book " , or diploma , to a named beneficiary . This act of establishing a particular estate as bookland , so that it could be held henceforth on these privileged terms , could be performed only by the king , in a royal assembly ; but the diploma itself served hereafter as the title @-@ deed for the land in question . It established that the land was to be held , with its appurtenances , free from the imposition of worldly burdens , with the exception of military service , bridge @-@ work and fortress @-@ work , and with the power to give it to anyone of its owner 's choosing .

= = Identity of " Æthelstan A " = =

In the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries there was a debate among historians as to whether late Anglo @-@ Saxon charters were produced by a royal chancery or by monasteries on behalf of beneficiaries . In the 1910s , W. H. Stevenson argued that charters in different areas of England were drawn up by the same hand , which would be unlikely if they were drawn up locally , supporting the case that the writers were royal clerks . The German scholar Richard Drögereit followed this up in 1935 by examining original charters between 931 and 963 , and identified three scribes from their handwriting , who he called " Æthelstan A " , " Æthelstan C " and " Edmund C " . Other charters which only existed in copies he allocated to these and other scribes on the basis of their style . In 2002 Keynes listed twenty " Æthelstan A " charters , of which two are original and the rest copies .

The boundary clauses of the " Æthelstan A " charters were written in correct Old English , so it is unlikely that he was of foreign origin . The witness lists of the " Æthelstan A " charters consistently place Bishop Ælfwine of Lichfield in Mercia in a higher position than his rank warranted . King Æthelstan was probably brought up in Mercia , and in Sarah Foot 's view he was probably intimate with Ælfwine before King Edward 's death ; as Ælfwine disappeared from the witness lists at the same time as the " Æthelstan A " charters ended , she suggests that he may have been " Æthelstan A " . However , Keynes thinks it more likely " Æthelstan A " was a king 's priest from Mercia , who acquired his learning in a Mercian religious house and respected Ælfwine as a fellow Mercian ; that " Æthelstan A " entered Æthelstan 's service before he became king and was in permanent attendance on him . David Woodman also considers a Mercian origin likely , pointing out that some Mercian ninth @-@ century charters have borrowings from Aldhelm , an important source of " Æthelstan A " ' s style . Woodman also puts forward the alternative idea that " Æthelstan A " had a connection with Glastonbury Abbey in Wessex , which appears to have been a centre of learning at this time , and certainly housed many of the texts which informed " Æthelstan A " ' s idiosyncratic Latin style .

= = Significance of the charters = =

The first charter produced by " Æthelstan A " in 928 described the king as rex Anglorum , " king of the English " , the first time that title had been used . By 931 he had become " king of the English , elevated by the right hand of the Almighty to the throne of the whole kingdom of Britain " . Some charters were witnessed by Welsh kings , and occasionally by the kings of Scotland and Strathclyde , signifying acceptance of Æthelstan 's lordship . In Keynes 's view , it cannot be a coincidence that the charters commenced immediately after the conquest of Northumbria , and " Æthelstan A " ' s primary aim was to display the " grandeur of Æthelstan 's kingship " . Foot argues that the king 's inner circle quickly seized on the potential of the conquest for " ideological aggrandizement of the king 's public standing " . To Keynes , the diplomas " are symbolic of a monarchy invigorated by success , developing the pretensions commensurate with its actual achievements and clothing itself in the trappings of a new political order . " He sees the fifty years from 925 to 975 as " the golden age of the Anglo @-@ Saxon royal diploma " .

Before 928 charters had been produced in various ways , sometimes by royal priests , sometimes by other priests on behalf of the beneficiaries . " Æthelstan A " was solely responsible for the production of charters between 928 and 934 . King Æthelstan thus took unprecedented control over an important part of his functions . In 935 " Æthelstan A " shared the work with other scribes , and he then apparently retired . His charters have exceptionally long witness lists , with 101 names for a grant by the king to his thegn Wulfgar at Lifton in Devon in 931 , and 92 for a grant to Ælfgar at Winchester in 934 . The witness lists of King Æthelstan 's father and grandfather were much shorter , with the longest in Alfred the Great 's reign having only 19 names . In John Maddicott 's view the long lists in Æthelstan 's reign reflect a change of direction to larger assemblies . The king established a novel system , with his scribe travelling with him from meeting to meeting , and a uniform format of charters . The dating clause showed the regnal year , the indiction , the epact ,

and the age of the moon . In Keynes 's view : " Nothing quite like them had been seen before ; and they must have seemed magnificent , even intimidating , in their formality and their grandeur . " A unique feature is that three charters in favour of a religious community require it to sing a specified number of psalms for the king , indicating a particular interest in psalmody by the king or scribe .

Frankish annalists usually recorded a king 's location at Easter and Christmas , but this was not a practice of English chroniclers , and the only period in the tenth and eleventh centuries for which historians can construct a partial itinerary of the king 's movements is provided by the location of assemblies recorded in " Æthelstan A " ' s charters of 928 to 935 . Other charters rarely named the place of assembly , apart from a group in the 940s and early 950s known as the " alliterative " charters .

In 935 a new simplified format was introduced by other scribes , apparently while " Æthelstan A " was still active , and became the standard until the late 950s . This coincided with the disappearance of Wulfstan I , Archbishop of York from the witness lists , and greater prominence of the Bishops of London and Bishop of Winchester , and the new format may have reflected a change of outlook at court . As charters were no longer written in his distinctive style when he ceased producing them , it is likely he was working on his own rather than heading a royal scriptorium .

= = Style of the charters = =

The standard of Latin prose improved in the tenth century , especially after about 960 , when the leaders of the Benedictine reform movement adopted the elaborate and ornate style of Latin now called by historians the hermeneutic style . However , use of this style , influenced especially by Aldhelm 's *De virginitate* , dates back to King Æthelstan 's reign . " Æthelstan A " borrowed heavily from Aldhelm , although he would not copy whole sentences , only a word or a few words , incorporating them in a structure reminiscent of Aldhelm 's works . In Woodman 's view , " Æthelstan A " varied the language in each charter out of a delight in experimentation and to demonstrate his literary ability .

The florid style of seventh century Irish texts known as Hiberno @-@ Latin was influential on the Continent due to the work of Irish missionaries in Europe . Some works were known to English writers such as Aldhelm in the same century , but it is likely that " Æthelstan A " learnt of them from continental scholars such as Israel the Grammarian , who brought texts influenced by Hiberno @-@ Latin to King Æthelstan 's court .

Woodman states that : " whilst it is true that the main impetus for the literary revival of Latin prose occurred from the mid @-@ tenth century , the beginnings of this style of Latin can actually be found rather earlier and in the most unlikely of places . In fact it is diplomas of the 920s and 930s that are the first to display this distinctive Latin in its most exuberant form . " According to Scott Thompson Smith " Æthelstan A " ' s diplomas " are generally characterised by a rich pleonastic style with aggressively literary proems and anathemas , ostentatious language and imagery throughout , decorative rhetorical figures , elaborate dating clauses , and extensive witness lists . These are clearly documents with stylistic ambitions . " Few listeners would have understood them when they were read out at royal assemblies . In Charter S 425 of 934 , the second of the two originals to survive , " Æthelstan A " wrote (in Smith 's translation) :

The wanton fortune of the deceiving world , not lovely with the milky @-@ white radiance of unfading lilies but odious with the galling bitterness of woeful corruption , raging with venomous jaws tears with its teeth the sons of fetid flesh in the vale of tears ; although with its smiles it may be alluring to the unfortunate , it brazenly leads down to the lowest depths of Acherontic Cocytus unless the offspring of the High @-@ Thunderer should intervene . And so because that ruinous [fortune] mortally fades away in its failing , one must especially hasten to pleasant fields of ineffable joy where the angelic music of hymnal jubilation and the mellifluous scent of blooming roses are sensed as sweet beyond measure by good and blessed noses and heard by ears as the delights of musical instrument without end .

In S 416 of 931 , the first original to survive , after the boundary clause in Old English , he reverted to Latin for the anathema against anyone who set aside the charter :

If , however , God forbid , anyone swollen with diabolic spirit should be tempted to diminish or annul this brief document of my arrangement and confirmation , let him know that on the final and great day of judgment , when the archangel 's shrill trumpet rings out , when graves burst open by themselves and give up the bodies now revived , when every element trembles , with the traitor Judas , who is called " son of perdition " by the Sower 's merciful Offspring , he is to perish in eternal confusion within the hungry flames of unspeakable torments .

Some scholars are not impressed . Michael Lapidge describes " Æthelstan A " ' s style as " pretentious " , and according to Mechtild Gretsch the diplomas

are composed in almost impenetrable Latin . Their poems consist of long convoluted sentences , parading an ostentatious display of Greek and glossary @-@ based vocabulary and containing numerous unmistakable verbal reminiscences of Aldhelm 's writings . Nothing similar had previously been attempted in Anglo @-@ Saxon diplomatic and although , later in the tenth century , other charters affecting the hermeneutic style were composed , the ferocious lexical and syntactical difficulties of these Æthelstan charters were never to be surpassed .

On the other hand , Drögereit describes " Æthelstan A " ' s style as having a " poetic quality " , and Woodman describes him as an " author of no little genius , a man who not only overhauled the legal form of the diploma but also had the ability to write Latin that is as enduringly fascinating as it is complex . " In Woodman 's view : " Never before had the royal diploma 's rhetorical properties been exploited to such a degree and it seems no coincidence that these documents appeared following King Æthelstan 's momentous political conquest of the north in 927 . "

= = List of charters = =

Keynes listed the " Æthelstan A " charters in Table XXVII of his Atlas of Attestations . The charters are in the script called " Square minuscule (' Phase II ') " , with a Latin text and the boundary clause in the vernacular .

= = = Charters = = =