

= 1948 American League tie @-@ breaker game =

The 1948 American League tie @-@ breaker game was a one @-@ game extension to Major League Baseball 's (MLB) 1948 regular season , played between the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox to determine the American League (AL) champion . The game was played on October 4 , 1948 , at Fenway Park in Boston , Massachusetts . It was necessary after both teams finished the season with identical win ? loss records of 96 ? 58 . This was the first @-@ ever one @-@ game playoff in the AL , and the only one prior to 1969 when the leagues were split into divisions .

The Indians defeated the Red Sox , 8 ? 3 , as the Indians scored four runs in the fourth inning and limited the Red Sox to five hits . The Indians advanced to the 1948 World Series , where they defeated the Boston Braves , four games to two , giving them their second and most recent World Series championship . In baseball statistics , the tie @-@ breaker counted as the 155th regular season game by both teams , with all events in the game added to regular season statistics .

= = Background = =

The 1948 Major League Baseball season was predicted to be a close race between the Yankees and Red Sox . In a United Press poll conducted just before the season started , the majority of sportswriters chose the Yankees , who had won last year 's World Series , to face the Braves or St. Louis Cardinals that year , while others chose the Red Sox ; only one sportswriter chose the Indians to reach the World Series . Most of the American League managers had the Yankees finishing first , followed by the Red Sox , Indians , and Detroit Tigers . Tension and confidence was evident between the teams , as two months into the season , after defeating the Red Sox 7 ? 0 , Yankees manager Bucky Harris declared that the Yankees would win the pennant , though they were currently at second place at the time .

The pennant race continued between the three teams throughout the entire season . On September 25 , after playing 147 games , with seven games left to play , all three teams had a record of 91 ? 56 . After each team played four more games , the Indians were up two games , meaning the Yankees and Red Sox had to win their games on September 30 to stay in the pennant race . They did , and the month of October opened up with both teams 1 @. @ 5 games behind the Indians . The Indians ' last series was a three @-@ game stand against the Tigers , while the Red Sox and Yankees had a two @-@ game series against each other .

The Indians lost their first game 5 ? 3 against the Tigers on October 1 , giving them a one @-@ game lead with two games left to play . As a result , speculation arose about the possibility of a three @-@ way tie . On October 2 , Cleveland beat Detroit to clinch at least a tie , and Boston beat New York 5 ? 1 , ending the Yankees ' pennant run and bringing the race down to two teams . On the last day of the season , October 3 , Boston won their game and Cleveland lost , giving them identical 96 ? 58 records and forcing a tiebreaker the following day at Boston . The Indians chose rookie Gene Bearden to start against Boston in the tie @-@ breaker , despite only having one day of rest , as he had beaten the Red Sox twice that season , and the Red Sox chose Denny Galehouse , passing on Mel Parnell , who had beaten the Indians on three separate occasions that season .

= = Game summary = =

Monday October 4 , 1948 ? 1 @. @ 15 p.m. (ET) at Fenway Park in Boston , Massachusetts

Galehouse started off the game by quickly getting outs from Dale Mitchell and Allie Clark . American League MVP Lou Boudreau then hit a solo home run off Galehouse to make the score 1 ? 0 . After another out , Bearden came on the mound in the bottom of the first . Johnny Pesky doubled , then scored on a hit by Vern Stephens to make the score 1 ? 1 at the end of the first inning . Both pitchers allowed one baserunner the following inning ; Ken Keltner reached base for Cleveland and Birdie Tebbetts reached base for the Red Sox . Both pitchers then got three quick outs in the third

inning .

In the fourth inning , the Indians opened up the game . Boudreau and Joe Gordon hit back @-@ to @-@ back singles , which brought Keltner to the plate . The Red Sox expected a bunt , but instead the third baseman hit his 31st home run of the season to put the Indians ahead , 4 ? 1 . Galehouse was then replaced with Ellis Kinder , who was met with a double by Larry Doby . Kinder responded by getting the next three batters out , which brought the score to 5 ? 1 as Doby also scored . After Bearden got three Red Sox out , the Indians started the fifth inning with the top of their lineup . Mitchell and Eddie Robinson , who came in for Clark , were out . Boudreau then stepped up to the plate and hit his second home run of the night to make the score 6 ? 1 .

The rest of the fifth inning saw no more hits , and after a Keltner double , three Indians were out in the top of the sixth inning . The Red Sox began to fight back in the bottom of the sixth inning . After getting Pesky out , Ted Williams reached first base on an error by Gordon . Stephens struck out , and with two outs in the inning , Bobby Doerr hit his 27th home run of the season to make the score 6 ? 3 . No runs were scored in the seventh inning , though Bearden and Mitchell both reached base . The Indians were able to score another run in the eighth inning after Jim Hegan was intentionally walked . Bearden then hit a fly ball to Williams , who dropped it , allowing Hegan to score and making it 7 ? 3 in the Indians ' favor . The Indians were able to score one more run in the ninth when Robinson scored after Keltner grounded into a bases @-@ loaded double play . Bearden got the final three Red Sox out in the bottom of the ninth , finishing the game with an 8 ? 3 Indians victory and giving Bearden a complete game .

= = Aftermath = =

With the victory , the Indians received their first playoff berth since the 1920 World Series . Indians ' Manager Lou Boudreau dedicated the victory to pitcher Don Black , who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage the previous month . The Indians went on to face the Boston Braves in the 1948 World Series , winning it four games to two . The Red Sox fans experienced disappointment when Boston mayor James M. Curley ordered the fire department sirens sounded when Boston won the pennant . The sirens did sound , but it was instead for a fire in the Boston navy yard .

The Red Sox 's defeat disappointed Boston fans , who had been rooting the entire season for an All @-@ Boston World Series . Prior to the October 4 game , the oddsmakers gave the Red Sox the advantage , meaning that an all @-@ Boston World Series was likely . The Red Sox did not make another playoff appearance until 1967 , when the St. Louis Cardinals defeated them in the 1967 World Series .

The game counted as a regular season game in baseball statistics . As a result , Dom DiMaggio and Vern Stephens led the league with 155 games played , which could not have been equaled by any team other than the Red Sox or Indians . DiMaggio 's four at @-@ bats in the game also gave him the league lead with 648 , four ahead of Bob Dillinger of the St. Louis Browns . Dale Mitchell 's one single also gave him the league lead in that statistics , beating out Dillinger by one . Gene Bearden 's nine inning , one earned run performance brought his earned run average (ERA) down to 2 @. @ 43 , which led the American League . Boudreau finished the season with a .355 batting average , 116 runs , 18 home runs , and 106 runs batted in , and won the Major League Baseball Most Valuable Player Award at the end of the season .