

= 2013 American League Wild Card tie @-@ breaker game =

The 2013 American League Wild Card tie @-@ breaker game was a one @-@ game extension to Major League Baseball 's ( MLB ) 2013 regular season , played between the Texas Rangers and Tampa Bay Rays to determine the second participant in the 2013 American League ( AL ) Wild Card Game . It was played at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington on September 30 , 2013 . The Rays defeated the Rangers , 5 ? 2 , and advanced to the AL Wild Card Game against the Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field , which they won 4 ? 0 ; the Rangers failed to qualify for the postseason .

The tie @-@ breaker game was necessary after both teams finished the season with win ? loss records of 91 ? 71 and thus tied for the second Wild Card position in the AL . The Rangers were awarded home field for the game , as they won the regular season series against the Rays , four @-@ games @-@ to @-@ three . The game was televised on TBS . It was the fourth tie @-@ breaker in MLB history for a Wild Card spot , although it was the first since MLB adopted its current format of two Wild Card teams playing in a Wild Card Game in 2012 . In baseball statistics , the tie @-@ breaker counted as the 163rd regular season game for both teams , with all events in the game added to regular season statistics .

= = Background = =

In Major League Baseball the two teams with the best record in each league who do not win a division play in the Wild Card Game . A number of teams were in competition for these Wild Card spots , along with their divisional competition . The Rangers spent over 80 days leading the American League West and shared the lead as late as September 4 . The Rays spent only a few days leading the American League East , but held a share of the lead as late as August 24 . The Cleveland Indians did not lead the American League Central after July 2 but remained close throughout the season and ultimately finished just a single game back of the Central champion Detroit Tigers .

Although other teams including the Kansas City Royals , Baltimore Orioles , and New York Yankees had vied for a Wild Card spot , the Indians , Rangers , and Rays all remained in contention until the end of the season . Entering the final day of the scheduled regular season , on which all three teams played , the Indians had a 91 ? 70 record while both the Rangers and Rays had 90 ? 71 records . These were the best non @-@ division @-@ leading records in the American League . Thus , the possibility existed ( had the Indians lost and the Rays and Rangers won ) for a three @-@ way tie for the two Wild Card spots , which would have required several tie @-@ breaker games to settle . However , all three teams won , leaving the Indians definitively in the Wild Card Game at 92 ? 70 and the Rays and Rangers tied at 91 ? 71 for the second spot .

The Indians finished the season strong , winning their last 10 games to clinch their Wild Card berth . The Rays were 16 ? 12 in September , winning 8 of their last 10 . The Rangers were just 12 ? 15 in September , although they also won eight of their final 10 games . Home field advantage for the tie @-@ breaker game was awarded to the Rangers , as they had won the season series against the Rays 4 games to 3 .

= = Game summary = =

Desmond Jennings opened the first inning with a single , but was thrown out at second base trying to stretch the hit into a double . Wil Myers then walked , advanced to third base on singles by Ben Zobrist and Evan Longoria , and finally scored on a sacrifice fly by Delmon Young . Rays starter David Price struck out leadoff batter Ian Kinsler , then allowed a walk to Elvis Andrus but picked him off and finished the inning by retiring Alex Ríos . The score remained 1 ? 0 until the top of the third inning , when Jennings drew a walk and scored on a home run by Longoria to give the Rays a 3 ? 0 lead . The Rangers struck right back in the bottom half , as Craig Gentry led off the inning with a single . After advancing to second on a Leonys Martín groundout , he scored on a single to right

field by Kinsler . The Rays scored again in the sixth , as Longoria doubled to lead off the inning , and advanced to third base on a groundout by Young . The next batter , David DeJesus , hit a double to right field that scored Longoria and put the Rays ahead , 4 ? 1 . Rangers reliever Alexi Ogando entered the game with one out and recorded the final two outs to end the inning .

After a single and a stolen base from Andrus , Ríos doubled in the bottom half of the sixth to cut the score to 4 ? 2 . A small controversy arose in the top of the seventh inning . Longoria and Myers were on first and second base respectively with two outs when Young hit a line drive to center field . Replays showed that the ball bounced into Leonys Martín 's ( the Rangers ' center fielder ) glove after hitting the ground , making it a trap and therefore should have been a hit . However , the umpires ruled the play an out , ending the inning without a run scoring . Ultimately , the issue did not affect the outcome . The Rays added onto their lead in the ninth inning when Sam Fuld stole third and a scored on a throwing error from Rangers reliever Tanner Scheppers , extending their lead to 5 ? 2 . Price closed the game in the ninth , recording three straight outs and finishing off a complete game .

= = Aftermath = =

David Price recorded the first complete game in a tie @-@ breaker game since Al Leiter in 1999 . The game counted as a regular season game in baseball statistics . For example , Evan Longoria 's third @-@ inning home run broke Stan Musial 's record for the most home runs in the last game of the season , setting the mark at seven . He went 3 @-@ for @-@ 4 with a double , a home run , and two RBI in the game overall . This left him 11 @-@ for @-@ 19 with seven home runs and ten RBIs in season finales from 2009 ? 2013 . Tampa Bay 's win clinched the team 's fourth post @-@ season berth in franchise history . The Rays played the Cleveland Indians in the American League Wild Card Game and advanced to the American League Division Series ( ALDS ) with a 4 @-@ 0 win . However , the Rays lost to the Boston Red Sox in the ALDS , 3 games to 1 .