

= 1959 National League tie @-@ breaker series =

The 1959 National League tie @-@ breaker series was a best @-@ of @-@ three playoff series at the conclusion of Major League Baseball 's (MLB) 1959 regular season to decide the winner of the National League (NL) pennant . The games were played on September 28 and 29 , 1959 , between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Milwaukee Braves . The first game was played at Milwaukee County Stadium and the second took place at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum . The playoff series was necessary after both teams finished the season with identical win ? loss records of 86 ? 68 . The Dodgers won a coin flip late in the season that gave them home field advantage for the series , although the series did not reach a third game .

Following a rain @-@ delayed start , the Dodgers won Game 1 by a close 3 ? 2 score , with a home run by John Roseboro providing the margin of victory . The Dodgers then won the series and the pennant with another close victory in Game 2 ; they came back from a three @-@ run deficit to tie the game in the ninth and then ultimately defeated the Braves , 6 ? 5 , in extra innings . This victory advanced the Dodgers to the 1959 World Series , in which they defeated the Chicago White Sox , four games to two . In baseball statistics , the tie @-@ breaker series counted as the 155th and 156th regular @-@ season games for both teams , with all events in the series added to regular @-@ season statistics .

= = Background = =

The Dodgers had a poor 1958 season , posting a 71 ? 83 win @-@ loss record , finishing in seventh place (out of eight teams) in the NL , and never holding the league lead . By contrast the Braves won the NL that year with a 92 ? 62 record and advanced to the 1958 World Series where the New York Yankees defeated them in seven games . Despite their success the Braves made several changes leading into the 1959 season . First , they selected Jim Pisoni in the Rule 5 draft from the Yankees in December 1958 , although he returned to the Yankees by May 1959 . The Braves then traded with the Philadelphia Phillies for Ted Kazanski , Stan Lopata , and Johnny O 'Brien just prior to the season . Finally , the Braves traded for Mickey Vernon from the Cleveland Indians and selected Bobby Ávila , Ray Boone , and Enos Slaughter off of waivers during the 1959 season . The Dodgers traded for Rip Repulski and Wally Moon during the offseason and then acquired Chuck Churn , Solly Drake , and Chuck Essegian during the year .

The NL race was tight throughout the 1959 season between the Braves , Dodgers , and San Francisco Giants . Neither the Giants nor the Braves ever fell five or more games back of the league leader , and the Dodgers never faced a deficit of six or more . The Dodgers had the best record in games played amongst the three , posting a combined 26 ? 18 record against the other two before the tie @-@ breaker . However , the Dodgers spent just 21 days with at least a share of the lead while the Braves and Giants each led the league for 86 days .

The Giants led the National League by two games on September 17 , 1959 over the Dodgers and Braves who were tied . However , the Giants were swept by the Dodgers over their next three games , including a doubleheader which the Los Angeles Times described as a " breeze " for Los Angeles . Giants ' starting pitcher Sam Jones threw a no @-@ hitter on September 26 , 1959 which was cut short by rain in the eighth inning for his 21st win of the season . The Giants had considered pitching Jack Sanford in that game due to Jones ' recent heavy pitching workload . Because the game was shortened to less than nine innings it is no longer considered an official no @-@ hitter . The rain also forced the second game of the Giants ' scheduled doubleheader that day to be moved , leaving them with two games to play on the final day of the season . The Giants needed to win both games and have the Braves and Dodgers both lose to tie for the lead , but the Giants lost both . Jones ' no @-@ hitter was the Giants ' only win for the season after September 17 as the team went 1 ? 7 over that span , going from a two @-@ game lead to a three @-@ game deficit by season 's end . The Braves and Dodgers went 6 ? 4 over that period to maintain their tie . This included a five @-@ hit complete game by Warren Spahn to win the Braves ' final game of the season 3 ? 2 . This was Spahn 's 21st win of the season and 267th of his career , breaking Eppa

Rixey 's record for most wins by a left @-@ handed pitcher .

Both the Dodgers and Braves finished the regularly scheduled 154 @-@ game season tied with records of 86 ? 68 , forcing a tie @-@ breaker to decide the pennant winner . The two team 's managers flipped a coin to decide home field advantage and Dodgers ' manager Walt Alston won . The Dodgers opted to play the second and third (if necessary) games at home , choosing to play Game 1 in Milwaukee . The tie @-@ breaker was scheduled for the 28th , 29th , and the 30th if necessary , which required moving the start of the World Series from the 30th to October 1 . The Giants falling out of the pennant race avoided a potentially disruptive situation involving their home field . Candlestick Park was under construction during the 1959 season and the Giants would not begin play there until 1960 . However , Giants vice president Chub Feeney had said earlier in the season that if the Giants won the pennant they would play their World Series home games in Candlestick . Several potential problems were suggested with this move including a lack of seating , lack of toilet facilities , and insufficient access roads to the stadium .

The Dodgers were 12 ? 10 against the Braves overall for the season , though the Braves actually outscored them by a single run (96 to 95) in those games . The Braves were a 5 ? 8 betting favorite in Las Vegas on September 25 to win the pennant while the Dodgers had 6 ? 5 odds . The World Series odds were evenly split , with 11 ? 10 odds available at that time for either the Chicago White Sox (the American League champion) or the eventual NL pennant winner .

= = Series summary = =

= = = Game 1 = = =

Box score for Monday September 28 , 1959 ? 2 : 17 pm (CST) at Milwaukee County Stadium in Milwaukee

Chicago White Sox manager Al Lopez watched the game along with his pitching coach to scout their potential NL opponents for the World Series . The start of Game 1 was delayed 45 minutes due to rain , leaving only 18 @,@ 297 fans in the stadium once the game was underway . The Dodgers opened the game quickly as Charlie Neal singled with one out , advanced to second base on a ground out , and scored on a single by Norm Larker to give the Dodgers an early 1 ? 0 lead . Dodgers starter Danny McDevitt held the Braves scoreless in the first inning , but was driven from the game in the second . After a line out to open the inning Johnny Logan walked , Del Crandall singled , and Bill Bruton singled to bring home Logan and tie the game at 1 . Larry Sherry entered in relief of McDevitt , who pitched just 11 ? 3 innings . Carl Willey , the Braves ' pitcher , reached base on an error to load the bases . Crandall then scored on a ground out by Bobby Ávila to give the Braves a 2 ? 1 lead before Sherry finished out the second .

The Dodgers re @-@ tied the game the next inning , however . Neal singled with one out and Wally Moon grounded into a force out at second base . Moon then advanced to second on a Larker single and scored on a Gil Hodges single to make the score 2 ? 2 . Don Demeter hit a single , the third consecutive and fourth of the inning , to load the bases but John Roseboro flew out to end the inning without further scoring . Sherry held the Braves scoreless in the bottom of the third , opening the inning with a walk but then inducing a double play and a foul out to quickly close it . Sherry and Willey traded scoreless innings in the fourth and fifth although the Braves threatened against Sherry in both innings , allowing two base @-@ runners each time but escaping with no runs . Roseboro led off the top of the sixth inning with a home run to give the Dodgers a 3 ? 2 lead . Roseboro had also hit a home run the day before against the Chicago Cubs , a game the Dodgers won to force the tie @-@ breaker . Willey put out the next three batters to quickly end the inning , but the damage had been done .

Sherry pitched a perfect top of the sixth and Don McMahon relieved Willey in the bottom of the frame . The Dodgers could not add to their lead in facing McMahon , he held their run total at three . Sherry , however , was nearly perfect for the remainder of the game , allowing just one single to the Braves over the final three innings . The Los Angeles Times labeled Sherry and Roseboro the "

heroes " of the game . Sherry 's only " horrible moment " , according to the Times , was a long fly ball by Bill Bruton to the deepest part of center field which Demeter managed to haul in for the first out of the bottom of the ninth .

= = = Game 2 = = =

Box score for Tuesday September 29 , 1959 ? 2 : 00 pm (PST) at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles , California

The Dodgers had proposed playing Game 2 at night to allow a longer rest period following the travel from Milwaukee to Los Angeles . The Braves took issue with this prior to the start of the series , however , and NL president Warren Giles insisted the game be played during the day . The afternoon crowd was 36 @, @ 528 , short of the over @-@ 90 @, @ 000 seating capacity of the Coliseum .

The Braves opened the scoring in the top of the first inning . Eddie Mathews drew a one out walk and Hank Aaron followed that with a double . Aaron 's double drew some argument , however , as outfielder Duke Snider recovered Aaron 's ball quickly and threw to second . Dodgers ' second baseman Charlie Neal believed he had easily tagged out Aaron , but umpire Augie Donatelli said Neal had missed the tag entirely . Frank Torre then singled to score the two runners and give the Braves the early 2 ? 0 lead . The Dodgers responded in their half of the inning , however . Neal hit a deep fly ball to right center field with one out , reaching third base " easily " for a triple as outfielder Bill Bruton missed catching the ball on a difficult play . Wally Moon then singled to score Neal , but was caught stealing for the second out and Snider struck out to end the first inning . Johnny Logan led off the second for the Braves with a single . Then , after two outs , Logan scored on an odd error charged to Snider in center field . The Braves ' starting pitcher Lew Burdette hit a single up the middle and Logan had attempted to advance from first to third base on the play . Snider threw the ball in from center to third baseman Jim Gilliam , but Gilliam 's vision was " obstructed " and the throw " escaped " him , allowing Logan to score and Burdette to advance to third . Bruton grounded out to end the inning with the Braves in a 3 ? 1 lead .

The game went scoreless in the third inning , but Neal led off the bottom of the fourth with a home run to make the score 3 ? 2 . The Dodgers threatened further that inning , getting runners on first and second base , though did not score additional runs . Dodgers ' starter Don Drysdale recorded the first out of the top of the fifth but then gave up a solo home run to Mathews and walked Aaron before being relieved by Johnny Podres . Podres escaped without further scoring , putting out Torre and Andy Pafko who pinch hit for Lee Maye . The sixth inning was uneventful , though the Braves then threatened in the top of the seventh . After the first out Mathews singled to start the offense . Aaron followed that with a single , Mathews was put out trying to advance to third base on a " brilliant throw " by Moon , and Aaron moved to second on the throw . Then Podres threw a wild pitch as Torre batted , allowing Aaron to move to third . Finally , Podres walked Torre and was replaced by Chuck Churn . Enos Slaughter pinch hit for Pafko but hit a flyout to end the threat and the inning . John DeMerit then replaced Slaughter defensively in the bottom of the seventh and Norm Larker singled leading off . However , John Roseboro hit into a ground ball double play to end that threat . Roseboro crashed into Logan , the Braves ' shortstop , trying to break up the double play and Logan had to be carried from the field on a stretcher . Félix Mantilla , the second baseman , moved to play shortstop and Red Schoendienst entered to play second . Finally Churn struck out Burdette to end the seventh .

The Braves scored their fifth run in the eighth as Del Crandall hit a one @-@ out triple and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Mantilla . Don Demeter pinch hit for Churn , the pitcher , in the bottom half of the inning but the Dodgers were put out in order . Sandy Koufax pitched the top of the ninth for the Dodgers and though he loaded the bases with three successive walks to Aaron , Torre , and DeMerit he did not allow any runs . Moon and Snider led off the bottom of the frame with successive singles . Bob Lillis pinch ran for Snider and Gil Hodges hit another single to load the bases . Don McMahon relieved Burdette , but allowed a fourth consecutive single to Norm Larker which scored Moon , Lillis , and advanced Hodges to third leaving the score 5 ? 4 . Warren Spahn relieved

McMahon , Carl Furillo pinch hit for Roseboro , and Joe Pignatano pinch ran for Larker . Furillo tied the game , hitting a sacrifice fly which scored Hodges . Spahn allowed a single to Wills and was pulled in favor of Joey Jay . Ron Fairly grounded out as a pinch hitter and Gilliam flew out , leaving the game tied at five runs apiece and forcing extra innings .

Following the heavy substitutions in the bottom of the ninth the Dodgers made several defensive moves in the top of the tenth . Stan Williams entered as the pitcher , Pignatano came in as the catcher , Moon moved from right to left field , and Fairly and Furillo took over center and right field respectively . The tenth went by quickly with only a single baserunner , but both teams threatened in the eleventh . Mathews was walked with one out in the top half . Aaron grounded into a force out at second , then advanced to second on a passed ball to Torre . The Braves intentionally walked Torre and Al Spangler then drew a pinch hit walk to load the bases , but Joe Adcock ground out to end the half @-@ inning . Pignatano was hit by a pitch and Furillo walked to open the bottom half . After two flyball outs Joey Jay walked Gilliam , loading the bases , but Bob Rush relieved him and got Neal to ground out ending the inning . The Braves went quickly again in the twelfth , retired in order . Rush recorded the first two outs of the twelfth , but then walked Hodges . Hodges then advanced to second on a Pignatano single . Finally he scored on a single by Furillo followed by a throwing error by the shortstop Mantilla to give the Dodgers a 6 ? 5 walk @-@ off victory and the National League pennant .

The Chicago Tribune noted the impact of Johnny Logan 's seventh inning injury as it was his replacement , Mantilla , who made the costly final error . Mantilla was " close to tears " after the game , saying he made the error because the ball " took a crazy bounce ... before I got it . " However , Braves ' manager Fred Haney insisted Mantilla " didn 't make a bad play , " that he was " lucky to stop the ball at all , " and that the run would have scored even if Mantilla had delivered a perfect throw .

= = Aftermath = =

The Dodgers ' win earned the franchise its 10th playoff berth , the first since the team moved to Los Angeles the previous year . In the playoffs they faced the Chicago White Sox in the 1959 World Series which they won in six games . The Dodgers faced another tie @-@ breaker in 1962 , but lost to the Giants , who would lose to the New York Yankees in the 1962 World Series in seven games . The Dodgers have appeared in five of the eight NL tie @-@ breakers , more tie @-@ breaker appearances than any franchise in either league . The Dodgers ' most recent playoff appearance came in 2009 where they lost in the League Championship Series to the Philadelphia Phillies .

The Braves ' high @-@ water mark while in Milwaukee had been their World Series win in 1957 . They had also appeared in the 1958 Series , losing to the Yankees . After failing to win the pennant in 1959 , the Braves would not play for a championship again until they moved to Atlanta . They next returned to post @-@ season play in 1969 , their fourth season in Atlanta , where they were swept in the League Championship Series . The Braves returned to the World Series again in the 1990s , losing the 1991 , 1992 , 1996 , and 1999 World Series but winning in 1995 .

In baseball statistics tie @-@ breakers count as regular season games , with all events in them added to regular season statistics . For example , Eddie Mathews overtook Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs for the league lead in home runs , hitting his 46th of the season in Game 2 . Banks won the NL Most Valuable Player Award but Mathews , Hank Aaron , and Wally Moon finished 2nd , 3rd , and 4th respectively in the voting . Aaron , Del Crandall , Gil Hodges , and Charlie Neal all won Gold Gloves for their fielding ability . MLB played two All @-@ Star Games in 1959 . Five Braves and two Dodgers were named to the first while six Braves and four Dodgers played in the second . Five future Hall of Famers were on the Braves roster in 1959 (Aaron , Mathews , Schoendienst , Slaughter , Spahn) while the Dodgers had three (Drysdale , Koufax , Snider) . Dodgers ' manager Walt Alston was also inducted to the Hall as a manager in 1983 .