

SPORTS



NEW YORK YANKEES GREAT BABE RUTH

YANKEES HAVE WON WORLD SERIES 27 TIMES

Astros dash hopes of Bahamian dream
World Series pitting Yanks VS Dodgers

On Saturday night, when the Houston Astros defeated the New York Yankees 4-0, at the Minute Maid Park home field, the hopes of many Bahamian baseball followers were dashed. There would not be another meeting of the Yankees and the Dodgers in the World Series. The Los Angeles Dodgers earned their way into the October classic by taking out the Chicago Cubs in the National League Champions Series four games to one.

The Yankees/Dodgers encounters in The Bahamas are legendary. Fans in this country of both teams are bonded by the unique rivalry. In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first Black player to perform in the Major Leagues. He started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15. It was at a time when the Farm Project contract between the United States and The Bahamas was significantly active. Many Bahamian young men (some at 16, put up their age to qualify) were grouped and traveled to work on farms in the U.S. under the special agreement.

This arrangement had much to do with the subsequent strong American flavor in The Bahamas. The men of the project came back home, heavily influenced by the American culture, clothing, entertainment and sports, in particular. Therefore, when Robinson became a face in the Major Leagues of Baseball, the Bahamian contract workers, the vast majority of them being of the black race, simply adopted the Brooklyn Dodgers. The bulk of the Bahamian sports fraternity men who did not become a part of the farming project, also leaned heavily in favor of the Dodgers. Thus, the initial, Dodgers fan base in the country evolved.

The team most Bahamian baseball fans loved to hate during that period was the New York Yankees, who during the early meetings with the Dodgers in the World Series, were successful most of the times. The Dodgers defeated the Yankees and won their first World Series in 1955. But in 1956, they were at it again for the baseball crown. The Yankees won 4-3, highlighted by Don Larsen's perfect game. Old time Dodgers fans still have nightmares about that historic achievement by the Yankees.

So indeed, there was great anticipation, as the 2017 MLB play-offs went deep and the Yankees made it to the ACLS and the Dodgers, the NLCS. The Dodgers did their part and the Yankees made a stunning

comeback, taking three consecutive games to go up 3-2 against the Astros. Alas, there was to be no joy for Yankees fans like this columnist. At home with a beloved fan base, the Astros prevailed in the final two games of the series and now get to take on the Dodgers.

Although the Dodgers always had the great majority of fans in The Bahamas, the Yankees boasted devoted supporters as well. Some of us just were intent in being different, so while we fully respected the barrier breaking milestone of Robinson, his playing ability, and that of Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, Junior Gilliam, Charley Neal, Sandy Koufax, Pee Wee Reese, Gil Hodges and Duke Snider, our baseball favorites were Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Bobby Richardson, Clete Boyer, Moose Skowron, Elston Howard, Yogi Berra, Gil McDougald, Tony Kubek, and Roger Maris.

Those champions of the middle portion of the Yankees Dynasty, linked the eras of the first "Murderers' Row" catalysts, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Joe DiMaggio, to the Reggie Jackson teams of the 1970s, on to the last Yankees World Series winning squad of 2009 with Derek Jeter, Andy Pettite, Robinson Cano and others.

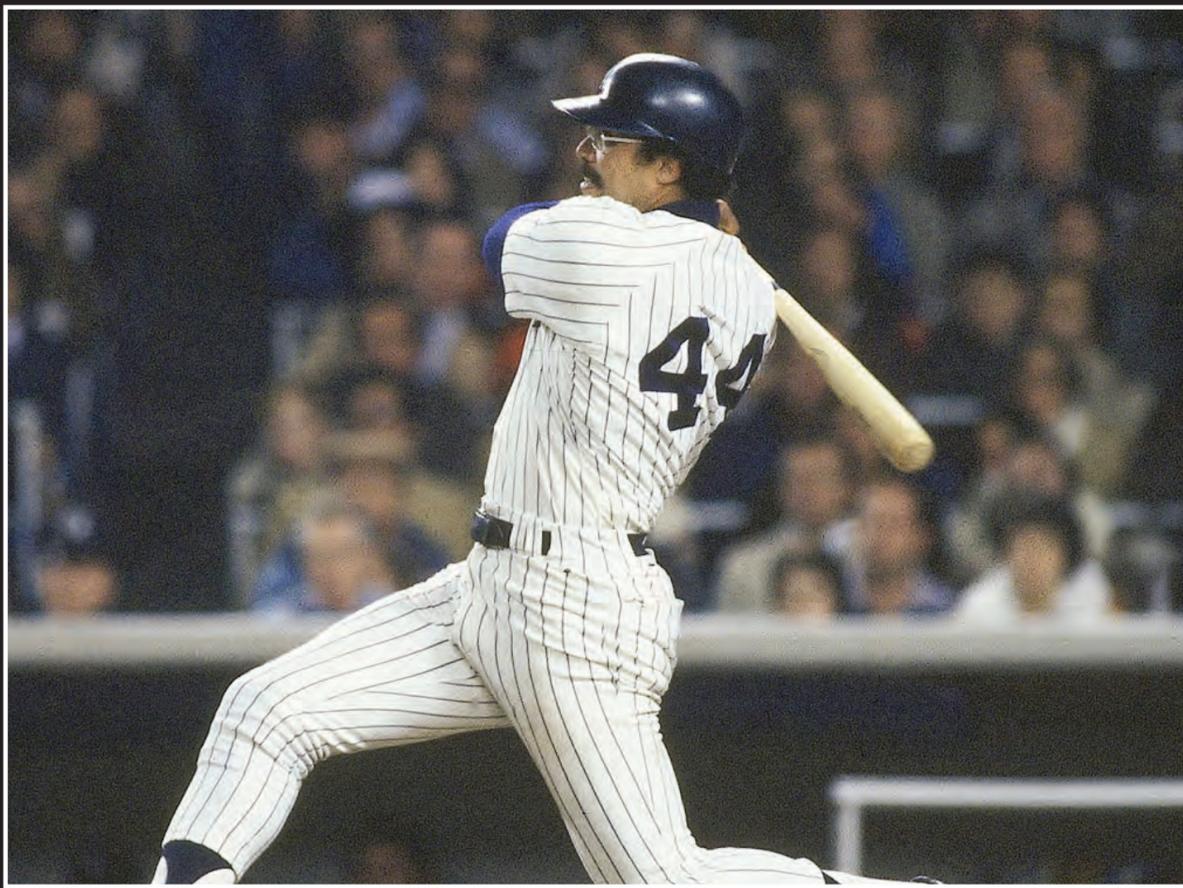
So, here we are, we Yankees, able only to watch the World Series and think of a few strange calls that might have made a difference, but secured in the fact that we pull for the greatest sports franchise in the history of mankind. Yes indeed, the Yankees have won 27 World Series titles.

Check this. The closest team to us is the St. Louis Cardinals with 11. The Athletics (Philadelphia/Kansas City/Oakland) have nine; the Boston Red Sox have eight, as do the Giants (New York and San Francisco); and the Dodgers have six (Brooklyn and Los Angeles). The Cincinnati Reds have won the World Series five times while the Detroit Tigers have four titles to be included in the group of the more prominent teams from 1903 to now.

Thus, while not able to go all the way this time, no other baseball teams legitimately compares with the Yankees legacy.

Now, this proud Yankee will brace for the calls and the social media messages.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at sturupp1504@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at 727-6363).



REGGIE JACKSON



DEREK JETER

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SCOPE

By Fred Sturupp

