

Seven Game World Series: 1921-1991

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A seven game World Series is usually an exciting event, and this year's event between the Braves and Twins was one of the better ones. The 1987 and 1991 Series are the only ones in history where the home team won every game. One might figure in general that the home team in general should have an advantage in the Series because of their great familiarity with their own park. On the other hand, the visiting team has not played there in the regular season, and has very little time to adjust to unfamiliar circumstances. This would appear at first glance to be much more of a disadvantage than a road team in the regular season would experience. In league play, the road team visits the home team 2 or 3 times a year over several years, so that they could potentially adjust more easily than the road team in the Series.

With this in mind, I examined and analyzed the history of seventh games, from the point of view of how often did the home team win that decisive encounter. Using varying techniques of statistics, I looked at breakdowns involving home team vs. road team victories in seventh games. This information is readily available from the baseball encyclopedia but has not been analyzed. The results might surprise people, because there was a stretch in the 1950's and 1960's where the road team won the final game 7 much more often than the home team did. We can see the situations which led up to this by viewing the sequences of wins and losses which led up to the finale. I presented tables, charts and statistics in order to back up my conclusions. I examined all 7 game Series since 1921, which is the dawn of the modern era. It was interesting to examine what happened to each of the participants in a 7 game Series the following season, in order to see if teams could repeat their success after a strenuous Series.

This is a timely topic which should be of interest not only to baseball fans and researchers, but also to sports historians in general.