



2020 CHICAGO WHITE SOX POSTSEASON GUIDE

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WHITE SOX OVERVIEW

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WHITE SOX SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2020 TEAM NOTES

WESTBOUND AND DOWN

- The White Sox went 35-25 (.583) in 2020, tied with Cleveland for second-place in the American League Central, 1.0 game behind the division-champion Minnesota Twins.
- The Sox have qualified for the postseason for the 10th time in franchise history and first since 2008 ... they were the first team to clinch a postseason bid when they defeated Minnesota, 4-3, on 9/17 at Guaranteed Rate Field.
- After a 1-4 start to the season, the White Sox went 34-21 (.618) over their last 55 games ... they were 10-11 after being swept by St. Louis in a doubleheader on 8/15 at home, but went 25-14 (.614) over the final 39 games to secure the postseason bid ... the Sox were in first place for 24 days, were a season-high 16 games over .500 (three times) and led the division by as many as 3.0 games (four times).

PLAYOFF PAYOFF

- The White Sox earned the No. 7 seed in the American League playoffs and will play the AL West Division champion Oakland A's at the Oakland Coliseum in the best-of-three Wild Card Series.
- If the Sox advance to the ALDS, they will play either No. 1 seed Tampa Bay or No. 8 seed Toronto at Dodger Stadium.
- The White Sox are making their first postseason appearance since 2008 when they won the AL Central before losing to the AL East and eventual AL champion Tampa Bay Rays.
- Chicago defeated Minnesota, 1-0, in Game No. 163 ("Blackout Game) to win the AL Central and advance to the 2008 playoffs.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

- Rick Renteria, who guided the White Sox to their first post-season appearance since 2008, is attempting to become the seventh manager in franchise history to be named American League Manager of the Year.
- Renteria, in his fourth season at the helm, would join Chuck Tanner (1972), Tony La Russa (1983), Jeff Torborg (1990), Gene Lamont (1993), Jerry Manuel (2000) and Ozzie Guillén (2005) as previous Sox recipients of the honor.
- Chicago's +.136 increase in winning percentage from 2019 was the largest in the AL and the third-largest in baseball behind San Diego (+.185) and Miami (+.165)

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

- The White Sox have made the playoffs for the first time since 2008, but seven members of their active 28-man roster have postseason experience.
- Edwin Encarnación leads with 34 games, followed by Yasmani Grandal (33), Jarrod Dyson (19), Dallas Keuchel (12), Gio González (eight) and Reynaldo López (one).
- Encarnación and Grandal have played in each of the last five post-seasons, and Keuchel has appeared in four of the last five ... Dyson (Kansas City, 2015) and Keuchel (Houston, 2017) have been part of World Series championship clubs.

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

- The White Sox went 18-12 (.600) at home this season, their best winning percentage since 2008 (54-28, .659) ... the Sox won 16 of their last 21 home games by a combined 131-81 margin after starting 2-8 (outscored, 59-31).

ROAD WARRIORS

- The White Sox went 17-13 (.567) on the road, tied for the fifth-best record in the major leagues and their best mark since 2005 (18-10).
- The White Sox went 7-0 at Kansas City, marking the second time in franchise history they have gone 7-0 or better on the road against a team

CENTRAL COMMAND

- The White Sox went 25-15 (.625) vs. the American League Central in 2020, the second-best winning percentage in franchise history behind the 2005 club (52-22, .703).
- The Sox have recorded back-to-back winning seasons against the division for the first time since a 12-year streak from 1997-2008 ... their nine-game winning streak from 9/3-15 was their longest since a franchise-record tying 11-game run from 4/8-5/1/06.

AMAZING IN AUGUST

- José Abreu and Luis Robert were named American League Player and Rookie of the Month for July/August.
- Abreu hit .315/.359/.636 with 10 doubles, 12 home runs, 32 RBI and 24 runs scored for his third career Player monthly honor (also April and July 2014).
- Robert batted .298/.348/.612 with eight doubles, 10 home runs, 24 RBI and 22 runs scored to join Abreu (April 2014) as Sox players to win the award in their first full month in the majors.
- The White Sox went 19-9 (.679) in August, their most wins in the month since 1983 (22-9) and highest winning percentage in any month since April 2016 (17-8, .680).
- The Sox also hit a franchise-record 54 home runs in August, and led the major leagues in average (.278), slugging percentage (.498), OPS (.840) and runs per game (5.5).
- Abreu and Eloy Jiménez became the first teammates in Sox history to hit 10-plus homers in a single month (STATS).

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

- Twelve White Sox made their major-league debuts in 2020: OF Luis Robert (56 games), INF Nick Madrigal (33), RHP Matt Foster (23), RHP Codi Heuer (21), RHP Zack Burdi (8), RHP Dane Dunning (7), LHP Garrett Crochet (5), OF Luis González (3), LHP Bernardo Flores Jr. (2), RHP Jimmy Lambert (2), RHP Jonathan Stiever (2) and C Yermín Mercedes.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE

- The White Sox hosted Cleveland on ESPN's "Sunday Night Baseball" on 8/9, their first appearance on the network's premiere broadcast package since 5/12/13 vs. the Angels.
- ESPN's originally scheduled game of Cubs at Cardinals was postponed due to positive COVID-19 tests.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY EVENTUALLY WILL COME

- Major League Baseball postponed the first-ever "Field of Dreams" game between the White Sox and Cardinals scheduled for 8/13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic ... MLB hopes to make the event a part of its 2021 regular season schedule next August, featuring the White Sox as one of the participants.
- A temporary ballpark was built at the Dyersville, Iowa location, adjacent to the movie site and designed to host 8,000 fans
- The initial plan called for a matchup between the White Sox and Yankees, who were replaced by the Cardinals when MLB implemented a regionalized 60-game schedule.

SOXFEST 2021 UPDATE

- Given the ongoing public health crisis, SoxFest 2021 scheduled for 1/22-23/21 at McCormick Place, has been canceled ... updates about virtual programming will be announced in the coming months ... visit whitesox.com/soxfest for updates.

REMEMBERING FARMIO

- The White Sox are wearing a patch in 2020 in honor of Ed Farmer, who worked as the club's radio broadcaster for nearly 30 years before passing away on 4/1 at age 70.
- A native of Evergreen Park, Ill. and graduate of St. Rita High School in Chicago, Farmer concluded his 29th full season in the Sox radio booth in 2019, and 14th handling play-by-play.

WHITE SOX SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2020 BATTING NOTES

MVP? MVP? MVP?

● José Abreu is attempting to become the fourth player (fifth time) in White Sox history to be named American League MVP ... Abreu would join Minnesota's Zoilo Versalles (1965) and Oakland's Jose Canseco (1988) as the only Cuban natives named league MVP.

● Abreu ranked among the AL and MLB leaders in numerous categories ... was the only player to rank in the Top 5 of the following categories in the AL: hits (1st, 76), RBI (1st, 60), slugging percentage (1st, .617), extra-base hits (1st, 34), total bases (1st, 148), home runs (2nd, 19), average (4th, .317) and OPS (5th, .987).

● He became the second player (third time; also Dick Allen in 1972) in Sox history to lead the AL in RBI, the fourth (seventh time) to lead in hits, the fourth (fifth time) to lead in total bases and the sixth (eighth time) to lead in slugging percentage.

● Abreu also became the first player to lead the AL in RBI in back-to-back years since Boston's David Ortiz from 2005-06.

● He led the AL in hits and RBI, just the fourth player in history to accomplish the feat and the first since the Red Sox's Jim Rice in 1978 (213 hits; 139 RBI) ... source: STATS.

NOTHING AVERAGE ABOUT TA

● Tim Anderson attempted to become the 15th player (19th time) in history to lead the American League in average in back-to-back seasons, the first since Houston's José Altuve in 2016-17 and the first in White Sox history to accomplish the feat.

● Anderson finished second in the American League behind the Yankees' DJ LeMahieu (.364) with a .322 average after leading the majors in 2019 with a .335 mark.

● Ty Cobb (1907-15, '17-19), Ted Williams (1941-42, '47-48) and Rod Carew (1972-75, '77-78) are the only players in history to lead the AL in average over two separate stints.

PANTERA POWER

● Luis Robert is attempting to become the seventh player in Sox history to be named American League Rookie of the Year, and the first since José Abreu was a unanimous choice in 2014.

● Robert led AL rookies in RBI (31), tied for the lead in home runs (11) and ranked among the leaders in runs scored (2nd, 33), extra-base hits (2nd, 19) and slugging (3rd, .436)

● Robert (33 games) became the fourth-fastest rookie in Sox history to hit 10 homers, trailing Zeke Bonura (25 in 1934), Carlos May (25 in 1969) and José Abreu (26 in 2014) ... source: Elias.

LONG BALL LOGISTICS

● The White Sox led the American League lead with 96 home runs, a franchise record through 60 games ... they were on a 162-game pace to hit 259 homers, which would have broken the franchise record of 242 set in 2004.

● The Sox, Atlanta, Dodgers and Philadelphia were the only teams in baseball to feature five players with 10-plus homers.

● The White Sox hit five-plus homers in a game five times in 2020, tying the club record set in 2003 and the most in the majors in 2020 (the Dodgers ranked second with four such games).

● The Sox hit a MLB-record 27 home runs over a seven-game stretch from 8/16-22 ... they have homered six times in a game twice this season, tying the club mark set in 2003 and 2018.

SOUTH SIDE HITMEN

● The White Sox led the American League in home runs, slugging percentage (.453) and run differential (+60) and ranked second in average (.261), runs scored (306) and OPS (.779).

● The Sox led the AL in home runs for the first time since 2008 (235), slugging for the first time since 2006 (.464) (235) and run differential for the first time since 2000 (+139).

SOUTHPAW SUCCESS

● The White Sox went 14-0 vs. left-handed starters in 2020, becoming the first team in MLB history to go undefeated during an entire season against either handed starters (STATS).

● Baltimore opened the 1963 season with a 16-0 record against lefty starters before its first loss.

● The Sox batted .285/.364/.523 (126-442) with 27 homers vs. left-handers this season ... they ranked among the MLB leaders vs. lefties in slugging percentage (1st, .523), average (2nd), OPS (2nd, .887), on-base percentage (2nd) and homers (T4th, 27).

● The Sox .887 OPS vs. lefties is the second-highest by any team in a season since at least 1974 (STATS), trailing only the 2020 Detroit Tigers (.891).

DISTINCT CUBAN FLAVOR

● On 8/1 at Kansas City, the White Sox 1-4 hitters were CF Luis Robert (Ciego de Ávila), 3B Yoán Moncada (Cienfuegos), 1B José Abreu (Cienfuegos) and C Yasmani Grandal (Havana).

● It marked the first time in MLB history the top four hitters in a starting lineup were Cuban-born players (Elias).

● The foursome combined to go 11-22 (.500) with four RBI and seven runs scored in the win over the Royals.

FOUR-HIT WONDERS

● Luis Robert, Eloy Jiménez and Leury García each recorded four-hit efforts on 8/1 at Kansas City, the first time the Sox have accomplished that feat since 9/14/17 at Detroit (Moncada, Jose Abreu and Avisail García).

● Robert (22) and Jiménez (23) became the third teammates in White Sox history, age 23 or younger, to each record four hits in one game, joining Avisail García (22) and Marcus Semien (23) on 4/8/14 at Colorado and Harold Baines (21) and Harry Chappas (22) on 4/20/80 at Baltimore (Elias).

LEADOFF LONG BALLS

● Tim Anderson led off the game on 8/18 vs. Detroit with a home run for the second straight game, third time in his last six and third game in a row against the Tigers.

● Anderson is the fifth player in MLB history to hit a leadoff homer in three straight games vs. a single opponent (last Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr., four straight vs. Miami from 7/31-8/14/18).

● Anderson is the first player in franchise history to hit three leadoff homers in a six-game span, and the first in MLB since Acuña hit four homers in a five-game span from 8/11-14/18.

● Some White Sox leadoff home run notes from 2020:

◆ Anderson and Yoán Moncada led off on 8/17 vs. Detroit with back-to-back homers, marking the sixth time in franchise history the Sox have accomplished that feat and the second time in five days (8/12 at Detroit).

◆ Per Elias, the Sox became the first team in the modern era to hit two straight homers to start a game twice within a five-game span.

◆ Anderson and Eloy Jiménez (8/12 at Detroit), Moncada and Yolmer Sánchez (6/12/18 vs. Cleveland), Alen Hanson and Sánchez (9/2/17 vs. Tampa Bay), Ray Durham and José Valentín (7/4/00 at Kansas City), and Boze Berger and Mike Kreevich (9/2/37 vs. Boston) also opened Sox games with consecutive homers (STATS LLC).

BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK

● Yoán Moncada, Yasmani Grandal, José Abreu and Eloy Jiménez hit four consecutive home runs in the fifth inning on 8/16 vs. St. Louis ... RHP Roel Ramirez allowed all four homers.

● It marked the second time in franchise history, and 10th time in MLB history, a team hit four consecutive home runs.

● The first time the White Sox accomplished the feat was in the sixth on 8/14/08 vs. Kansas City (Jim Thome, Paul Konerko, Alexei Ramirez and Juan Uribe).

WHITE SOX SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2020 PITCHING NOTES

PITCHING PROWESS

● The White Sox ranked sixth in the major leagues with a 3.81 ERA, which was be their lowest mark since 2005 (3.61) ... the starting rotation ranked eighth in the majors with a 3.85 ERA, which was its lowest mark since 2005 (3.75).

GRAB SOME BENCH

● The White Sox set a franchise record by averaging 8.93 strikeouts per 9.0 IP (523 SO/527.0 IP) in 2020, breaking the mark of 8.42 set by the 2015 club.

● Lucas Giolito ranked second in the American League with behind Cleveland's Shane Bieber with a franchise-record 12.07 strikeouts per 9.0 IP (97 SO/72.1 IP), eclipsing the previous standard of 11.82 set by Chris Sale in 2015 ... Giolito also owns the third-best single-season mark of 11.62 in 2017.

● Giolito has struck out 10-plus batters in a game nine times since 2019, including three times this season.

GIOLITO'S GEM

● Lucas Giolito was named American League Player of the Week (second career weekly honor) after throwing the 19th no-hitter in White Sox history on 8/25 vs. Pittsburgh.

● Giolito walked one, matched his career high with 13 strikeouts and threw 101 pitches (74 strikes).

● Some notables from his no-hitter and 2020 season to date:

- ◆ 305th no-hitter in MLB history (regular and postseason combined) ... Sox 19 no-hitters are second-most in history behind the Dodgers (26).
- ◆ First by Sox since Philip Humber perfect game on 4/21/12 at Seattle, first at home since Mark Buehrle perfect game on 7/23/09 vs. Tampa Bay, first overall at GRF since Minnesota's Francisco Liriano on 5/3/11 and first ever by Sox pitcher during interleague play.
- ◆ Joins Sandy Koufax (9/9/65 vs. Cubs) as only pitchers in MLB history to fan 13-plus with less than 105 pitchers in a no-hitter ... most strikeouts by a Sox pitcher in a no-hitter (previously nine by Humber).
- ◆ Youngest Sox pitcher to accomplish the feat since Wilson Álvarez (21) on 8/11/91 at Baltimore.
- ◆ Recorded the most swings and misses (30) in a no hitter since Nolan Ryan (31) in 1990.

ROOKIE GEMS

● Rookie RHPs Matt Foster and Codi Heuer combined to go 9-1 with a 1.89 ERA (11 ER/52.1 IP), eight holds 56 strikeouts over 44 combined appearances (two starts) in 2020.

● Foster went 6-1 with a 2.20 ERA (7 ER/28.2 IP) and 31 strikeouts over 23 games (two starts), while Heuer was 3-0 with a 1.52 ERA (4 ER/23.2 IP) and 25 strikeouts over 21 outings.

● Another rookie, LHP Garrett Crochet, also made his major-league debut after being selected No. 11 overall in the 2020 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Tennessee.

● Crochet became the first player from the 2020 draft class to make his MLB debut ... he threw 6.0 scoreless IP over five appearances with the Sox, allowing three hits with no walks and eight strikeouts.

● Crochet threw 45 of his 85 pitches (52.9 percent) at 100-plus MPH, the second-highest total in the majors behind the Dodgers Brusdar Graterol (47-277) ... his 52.9 percent rate of 100-plus MPH led the majors.

THE NOT SO DREADED LEADOFF WALK

● White Sox pitchers issued 10 walks in a 3-1 victory vs. Minnesota on 9/14 ... it marked the fourth time in franchise history that the Sox have won a nine-inning game where they walked 10-plus batters while allowing one or no runs.

● The previous occurrences were on 6/15/50 vs. Washington (7-1 win), 7/14/74 vs. Baltimore (3-1 win) and 7/28/76 at Oakland (2-1 win on combined no-hitter by John "Blue Moon" Odom and Francisco Barrios).

