

Yankees of 1998 are the best from this vintage point

*Record-setting team's offence is murder
on 1975 Reds' pitchers in winning title*

Using Strat-O-Matic's CD-ROM Baseball, The Globe and Mail ran a tournament featuring 16 of baseball's greatest teams. This week's series, between the 1998 New York Yankees and 1975 Cincinnati Reds, is the final of the Best Ever tournament.

BRAD WHEELER
The Globe and Mail

The 1998 New York Yankees, employing a potent, balanced offensive attack, secured the mythical title of baseball's greatest team by dismissing the 1975 Cincinnati Reds 4-1 in the final series in The Globe and Mail's Best Ever tournament. It was the Yankees' record-breaking 125-win season in 1998 that instigated the best-ever debate and prompted our computer-simulated playoff.

It should come as no surprise that the Yankees were able to exploit the Reds' relatively weak starting pitching staff. It was the extent to which they did so that may raise a few eyebrows.

The Reds' beleaguered pitchers wilted under an offensive attack that produced 63 hits and 40 runs, ringing up a .337 batting average over the course of the series. New York hit hard and early. The Reds' starters failed to make it past the fourth inning in three of the five

YANKEES 4, REDS 1

Game 1: New York 11, Cincinnati 2

Game 2: Cincinnati 5, New York 4

Game 3: New York 6, Cincinnati 3

Game 4: New York 10, Cincinnati 3

Game 5: New York 9, Cincinnati 3

HEAD TO HEAD

1998 New York Yankees
(114-48, .704) — Defeated San Diego Padres 4-0 in World Series. Managed by Joe Torre. **Road to the final:** Defeated '95 Atlanta Braves 4-2, '86 New York Mets 4-2, '54 Cleveland Indians 4-1.

1975 Cincinnati Reds
(108-54, .667) — Defeated Boston Red Sox 4-3 in World Series. Managed by Sparky Anderson. **Road to the final:** Defeated '86 Detroit Tigers 4-1, '70 Baltimore Orioles 4-3, '27 New York Yankees 4-2.

BASEBALL'S GREATEST

The Globe and Mail has chosen 16 teams from a popular computer game to be entered into a single-elimination tournament. These are the results after the first semi final:



Source: Strat-O-Matic CD-ROM Baseball / Strat-O-Matic Game Co., Inc

The Globe and Mail

1998 YANKEES TEAM BATTING

Name	BAVG	GM	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO
R.Ledee,lf-pr	1.000	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Martinez,1b	.565	5	23	6	13	2	0	3	10	1	1
T.Raines,ph	.500	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
S.Brosius,3b	.438	5	16	4	7	1	0	0	0	4	2
P.O'Neill,rf	.435	5	23	8	10	2	0	2	7	1	1
D.Strawberry,dh	.400	3	5	2	2	0	0	2	6	0	1
J.Posada,c	.385	3	13	0	5	1	0	0	3	0	4
B.Williams,cf	.286	5	21	5	6	1	0	1	3	2	1
D.Jeter,ss	.273	5	22	5	6	0	1	1	5	1	3
J.Girardi,c	.250	2	8	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	1
C.Curtis,lf	.222	5	18	2	4	0	0	0	2	1	2
C.Davis,dh	.200	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
C.Knoblach,2b	.190	5	21	3	4	1	0	0	1	5	1
H.Bush,ph	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
L.Sojo,1b	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team totals	.337	5	187	40	63	8	1	10	38	16	22

Stolen base: Williams, Curtis, Knoblauch

Error: Williams(2), Knoblauch(2), O'Neill

1975 REDS TEAM BATTING

New York first basemen Tino Martinez was the hero of the first game. His grand slam against Don Gullett gave the Yankees a 5-0 lead after three innings. Martinez had four hits on the day, including another home run in the eighth, and a total of six runs batted in. New York starter David Wells went seven strong innings in the 11-2 win.

A come-from-behind win by the Reds in the second game evened the series. Trailing by two runs heading into the eighth inning, a Pete Rose double sparked a two-out rally that left the score tied 4-4. After Rose scored on a Ken Griffey single, the Yankees elected to intentionally walk Johnny Bench to load the bases. The move backfired when Mariano Rivera walked in Tony Perez for the tying run. Cincinnati completed the rally when Dan Driessen led off the ninth with a walk and scored on a Griffey single. New York starter David Cone outpitched Gary Nolan in the 5-4 loss, striking out 11.

Both teams' bullpens got a workout after the series moved to Riverfront Stadium for the third game. Eleven pitchers were employed in New York's 6-3 win. Yankee Paul O'Neill followed his first-inning home run with a grand slam in the second against starter Fred Norman to give New York a 6-0 lead. The Reds cut the lead in half after three innings but managed to get no closer as five New York pitchers closed out the game in relief of starter Andy Pettitte.

A Derek Jeter three-run homer against Cincinnati starter Gullett highlighted a six-run third inning in the fourth game. Jack Billingham

the Yankees tacked on four more runs to make the score 10-0. New York starter Wells earned his second victory of the series in the 10-3 win.

The Yankees closed out the series with a 9-3 victory in the fifth game. Much like the third game, the teams' relievers were put to the test, with 10 pitchers getting work (including starters Cone and Nolan). Although the Reds could match up with any team in history in terms of bullpen depth, they had no answer to the Yankees' offensive reserves. It was one of the New York irregulars who put the finishing touches on the Yankees' series victory. New York was able to add to its 5-3 lead in the top of the ninth when a Darryl Strawberry pinch-hit grand slam against Will McEnaney broke the game wide open.

Cross-generational comparisons between teams of different eras are part of baseball's appeal. Not only is it possible to compare the 1930 Athletics with the 1954 Indians, it's fun. Times change and the teams change, but baseball in the 1920s was remarkably similar to baseball in the 1980s, all things considered. But the postexpansion dilution of talent and the wide disparity in team payrolls threaten, among other things, the validity of statistical comparisons.

It may be self-defeating to suggest it, but it is doubtful that the 1998 Yankees are as historically dominant as this tournament's results suggest. However, in this tournament and on the field over the course of the 1998 regular season and playoffs, they beat every team

Name	AVG	GM	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO
J.Morgan,2b	.412	5	17	3	7	0	1	0	1	6	2
D.Concepcion,ss	.375	5	16	0	6	0	0	0	1	1	1
K.Griffey,rf	.364	5	22	3	8	1	0	0	2	1	6
P.Rose,3b	.318	5	22	2	7	1	0	0	1	1	4
M.Rettenmund,of	.222	4	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
J.Bench,c	.158	5	19	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	1
G.Foster,lf	.150	5	20	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	4
T.Perez,1b	.133	5	15	3	2	1	0	0	4	5	6
C.Geronimo,cf	.071	5	14	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3
D.Driessen,dh-1b	.000	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
D.Chaney,ph	.000	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
D.Flynn,ph	.000	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.Armbrister,ph	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team totals	.238	5	164	16	39	5	1	2	15	21	34
Stolen base: Morgan(3), Griffey											
Error: Concepcion											

1998 YANKEE TEAM PITCHING

Name	ERA	W	L	G	GS	CG	SH	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
O.Hernandez	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.1	2	1	0
D.Holmes	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	1	0
R.Mendoza	0.00	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4.0	1	0	0
M.Stanton	0.00	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2.1	2	1	2
J.Nelson	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.2	2	0	2
D.Wells	1.69	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	16.0	11	6	9
A.Pettitte	2.25	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4.0	5	4	2
M.Rivera	3.86	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2.1	0	3	1
D.Cone	4.26	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	12.2	12	4	17
G.Lloyd	5.40	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1.2	4	1	1
Team totals	2.40	4	1	5	5	1	0	0	45.0	39	21	34

1975 REDS TEAM PITCHING

Name	ERA	W	L	G	GS	CG	SH	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
P.Borbon	0.00	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4.1	2	4	2
P.Darcy	0.00	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3.0	3	1	0
R.Eastwick	0.00	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2.2	0	0	3
C.Kirby	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2.1	3	0	2
G.Nolan	6.23	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	13.0	16	3	6
W.McEnaney	6.75	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	2.2	2	0	1
C.Carroll	7.20	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	1	0	1
F.Norman	10.38	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4.1	9	3	1
D.Gullett	16.50	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	6.0	12	5	5
J.Billingham	54.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	1