

Cubs, Sox fans weigh in on new season

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Year after year, articles are written about the ongoing rivalry between Cubs fans and Sox fans. This year is special, however, because one of those teams became World Series champions. The Chicago White Sox rode their 99-win season into the postseason and ended up losing just one game on their way to winning the World Series, while the Chicago Cubs ended the season with 21 games behind division leader St. Louis Cardinals and a record under .500.

“Last season was another disappointing season. Again [the Cubs] failed to stay healthy and put a winning team on the field,” said junior Cubs enthusiast Charlie Piermattei.

Indeed the fate of Cubs and Sox fans had taken a dramatic switch ever since the infamous “Bartman Ball” incident. At the time, the Cubs were five outs short of making it to the 2003 World Series. Two seasons later, the Cubs haven’t been back to the postseason and the White Sox are world champions. Does this mean that the Cubs truly are under the hex of that strange man with the prohibited billy goat?

“I do believe in the curse, but I don’t think that this will be a cursed season. I think that two years ago it was, though. When we blew the chance to go to the World Series, a lot of people don’t know that it was the Year of the Goat,” said junior Cubs fan Robert Hilbrich.

Now that the “curse” of the 1919 Black Sox (who were paid off to lose the World Series) has been lifted from the shoulders of the White Sox, the team’s fans can ridicule the Cubs’ failure as often as they want.

“There is no curse. Cubs fans are just too proud to admit that they [stink] and need to blame it on something else. So now every time a player messes up, everyone thinks it’s the curse,” said junior White Sox follower Mansoor Ali.



Cubs fans hope hurler Mark Prior's latest arm ailment isn't serious.
Photo courtesy of KRT Campus

This past season has been like a dream for White Sox fans. They saw their team win the World Series, and did it without jacking out home runs.

“The Sox had a really great season. They used ‘small ball’ to perfection and had really good team chemistry and it resulted in a World Series ring,” said freshman White Sox fan Shaizan Malik.

Not every Cubs fan showed malice toward the success of the White Sox. Some enjoyed the experience, and others went as far as actually rooting for them.

“I actually did root for the Sox because I have a lot of family who are fans of the team,” Piermattei said.

The Cubs, on the other hand, did not do so well. After a decent start, the Cubs completely fell apart after the All-Star Break and could never recover.

“I am a little disappointed because I knew that they could have done better. I hope that [pitchers Mark] Prior and [Kerry] Wood can stay healthy for the entire season this time. We’d probably have a good chance to do some damage then,” Hilbrich said..

It seems that Cubs fans are not as pessimistic about this upcoming season as one would expect following the lack of success they had last season. However, offseason additions such as centerfielder Juan Pierre have Cubs fans once again excited.

“I can’t wait until this season gets underway. I am expecting the Cubs to win the NL Central Crown thanks to an improved team and declining Cardinals and Astros teams,” Piermattei said.

Sox fans have been riding a train of euphoria this off-season and are expecting big things from the White Sox again this year. Additions to their team, like first baseman Jim Thome, have many people believing that this team may be even better than that of a year ago.

“This offseason has me really excited. They got great quality players and are going to be putting a great team out this season. I don’t think that they are going to make it back to the World Series; I know it,” said Malik.

This season should be an exciting time for both Sox and Cubs fans alike because their respective teams have made great additions and should be putting quality teams out on the field.



Jubilant White Sox celebrate.
Photo courtesy of KRT Campus