

MLB looks at weakest teams to reach postseason

BY NOAH TRISTER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

With just a few days left in the regular season, the AL West might make a particularly mediocre kind of history.

After Tuesday night's games, the Texas Rangers and Houston Astros were tied for first place at 78-79. No full-season division champion has ever had a losing record.

In fact, no team has made the postseason with a sub-.500 record, unless you count a trio of participants from years the playoffs were temporarily expanded: In the 2020 season shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic, Milwaukee and Houston were both 29-31 and made the postseason. In 1981, the Kansas City Royals went 50-53 overall — but they were the AL West's top team in the post-strike second half, meaning they got in.

MLB expanded its postseason to 12 teams in 2022, raising the likelihood that a sub-.500 team would sneak into October at some point. Just a few weeks ago, it looked like the American League could have several clubs with losing marks in this year's playoffs. The AL Central's Cleveland Guardians and Chicago White Sox have since reached 81 wins, so that won't happen. But the AL West title race could still yield a losing team.

In honor of that, here are 10 of the weakest teams to make the postseason, listed in chronological order with their records and run differentials in mind. Note that some of them went on lengthy postseason runs — so don't count out the Rangers or Astros just yet.

1973 NEW YORK METS
Record: 82-79 (first in NL East)
Run differential: 20
Postseason: Beat Cincinnati 3-2 in NL Championship Series, lost to Oakland 4-3 in World Series

The rallying cry was “Ya gotta believe!” from reliever Tug McGraw. It wasn't easy when New York was



Texas Rangers right fielder Brandon Nimmo, right, misplays the ball that allowed New York Mets' Francisco Alvarez to reach second and Carson Benge to score as center fielder Ezequiel Duran, left, looks on in the fourth inning of a baseball game on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

in last place after an Aug. 30 loss, but the Mets went 21-8 the rest of the way to win the division by 1 1/2 games. Tom Seaver (19-10, 2.08 ERA, 18 complete games) was still at the peak of his powers, and New York held the Reds to eight runs in five games in the NLCS — a series best remembered for a brawl involving Bud Harrelson and Pete Rose. The Mets led the World Series 3-2 and had Seaver starting Game 6, but they couldn't close out the Athletics.

1984 KANSAS CITY ROYALS
Record: 84-78 (first in AL West)
Run differential: minus-13
Postseason: Lost to Detroit 3-0 in ALCS

The Royals were 11 games under .500 in the middle of July, but they did enough to win the AL West. George Brett hit .284 — his worst average in a 14-year span from 1975-88 — and he was one of just two All-Stars on the team. The other was Dan Quisenberry, who had 44 saves while throwing 129 1/3 innings. He finished second in the Cy Young

race behind fellow reliever Willie Hernández of the Tigers. Although Kansas City took the division almost by default in '84, the Royals improved to 91 wins the following year and won the World Series.

1987 MINNESOTA TWINS
Record: 85-77 (first in AL West)
Run differential: minus-20
Postseason: Beat Detroit 4-1 in ALCS, beat St. Louis 4-3 in World Series

Frank Viola was the star of a pitching staff that otherwise offered little — aside from a trio of big names on the downside of their careers. Bert Blyleven allowed 46 home runs, Joe Niekro posted a 6.26 ERA and Steve Carlton made seven largely woeful starts for this Minnesota team. The Twins could hit, though. Kirby Puckett was third in the MVP race, while Kent Hrbek, Gary Gaetti and Tom Brunansky each surpassed 30 homers. Home-field advantage wasn't determined by record back then, so Minnesota had it in the ALCS despite finishing 13 games behind the Tigers, and

again in the World Series after being 10 games worse than the Cardinals. The Twins went 6-0 at the Metrodome in the postseason.

1995 COLORADO ROCKIES
Record: 77-67 (second in NL West, wild card)
Run differential: 2
Postseason: Lost 3-1 to Atlanta in NL Division Series

The first wild card in National League history was this Colorado team in a season shortened by the end of the 1994-95 work stoppage. The Rockies' ERA of 4.97 is the worst of the live ball era by a postseason team in a non-DH league. Colorado made up for that, not surprisingly, by leading the NL in runs. Dante Bichette led the league in home runs and RBIs and finished third in batting average.

2005 SAN DIEGO PADRES
Record: 82-80 (first in NL West)
Run differential: minus-42
Postseason: Lost 3-0 to St. Louis in NLDS

Jake Peavy and a Trev-

or Hoffman-led bullpen helped San Diego reach the playoffs, but this team never looked the part. The Padres scored the fourth-fewest runs in all of baseball, and their starters went 52-60 with a 4.49 ERA. In the postseason, San Diego never had the lead at any point against the 100-win Cardinals. Game 1 was 8-0 after six innings, Game 2 was 6-1 after seven, and Game 3 was 7-0 after 4 1/2.

2006 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
Record: 83-78 (first in NL Central)
Run differential: 19
Postseason: Beat San Diego 3-1 in NLDS, beat New York Mets 4-3 in NLCS, beat Detroit 4-1 in World Series

The Cardinals won at least 95 games four times under Tony La Russa, but their best postseason success came as a wild card in 2011 and with this team five years earlier. St. Louis nearly blew a seven-game lead in the division in the final two weeks of the regular season, but a roster with Albert Pujols, Scott Rolen, Chris Carpen-

ter and a young reliever named Adam Wainwright always had a chance to get hot. Yadier Molina's homer — and Wainwright's strikeout of Carlos Beltrán — gave the Cardinals the pennant in an epic series with the Mets.

2017 MINNESOTA TWINS
Record: 85-77 (second in AL Central, second wild card)
Run differential: 27
Postseason: Lost to New York Yankees in wild card game

After 103 losses in 2016, the Twins were in first place for a little while before eventually capturing the AL's final postseason spot and losing 8-4 to the Yankees. Byron Buxton played 140 games, the most of his career to date, and Brian Dozier hit 34 home runs. Joe Mauer had moved to first base by this point but was still quite good at the plate, batting .305. Ervin Santana led the rotation in his last good major league season. This team certainly wasn't great, but it was good enough in an AL that produced only five teams above .500.

2023 MIAMI MARLINS
Record: 84-78 (third in NL East, second wild card)
Run differential: minus-57
Postseason: Lost to Philadelphia 2-0 in NL Wild Card Series

The Marlins posted the worst run differential to date by a postseason team — this year's Astros are currently at minus-59 — but Miami went 33-14 in one-run games. The pitching staff with Sandy Alcantara, Eury Pérez, Jesús Luzardo and Braxton Garrett helped Miami into the playoffs. Of the Marlins' top 12 players in plate appearances, seven of them finished with negative wins above replacement, according to Baseball Reference. The offense was basically batting champ Luis Arraez, designated hitter Jorge Soler and not much else. Miami lost 93 games the year before this playoff appearance and 100 the year after.

Brown accepts reduced charge in attempted murder case

BY DAVID FISCHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former NFL star wide receiver Antonio Brown plans to accept a plea deal that will have him avoid prison time on a reduced charge in an attempted murder case in Miami. His lawyer said Wednesday the agreement with prosecutors was too good to turn down.

Brown is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 30 to make the deal final. Defense attorney Mark Eiglarsh said Brown will plead no contest to aggravated assault. He will be sentenced to probation, and adjudication will be withheld, meaning Brown will not be considered a convicted felon, the attorney said. Brown could have faced up to 30 years in prison if convicted of the original attempted murder charge.

Brown is accused of grabbing a handgun from a security staffer after a celebrity boxing match in Miami on May 16, 2025, and firing two shots at a man he had gotten into a fistfight with earlier, according to an arrest warrant. Zul-Qarnain Kwame Nantambu told investigators that one of the bullets grazed his neck.



Former NFL star wide receiver Antonio Brown walks after being released from the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center, Nov. 13, 2025, in Miami.

ATTORNEY INSISTS THAT BROWN WOULD HAVE PREVAILED AT TRIAL
“This was not an easy decision,” Eiglarsh said in a statement Wednesday. “Antonio believes in his innocence. He believes strongly in his Stand Your Ground defense, and he believes he would ultimately prevail at trial. But when prosecutors put an offer on the table that transforms a potential decades-long prison sentence into a significantly reduced charge and probation, there was simply no way he could reasonably turn it down.”

Florida's so-called Stand Your Ground law allows people who believe they face death or serious injury to use deadly force to defend themselves without a duty to retreat. Richard Cooper, an attorney for Nantambu, called the plea deal fair. “We are satisfied that justice is served. My client maintains what he said previously: that he forgives Brown and will not cooperate with law enforcement,” Cooper said in an email Wednesday. “We wish Mr. Brown good health and that he grows from this event.”

NANTAMBU'S ATTORNEYS HAVE SAID HE'D DECIDED TO FORGIVE BROWN

In a previous statement, his attorneys said Nantambu, a devout Muslim, had made the decision to forgive Brown after “considerable reflection, prayer, and consultation with his family and counsel.”

The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office declined

to comment on Wednesday, with spokesperson Ed Griffith saying the details would be “fully clarified” at next week's hearing.

Brown has said on social media that he was defending himself from an attack and that others were trying to steal jewelry from him.

Brown, 38, spent 12 years in the NFL and was an All-Pro wide receiver who last played in 2021 for Tampa Bay, including winning a Super Bowl championship with quarterback Tom Brady. He spent much of his career with Pittsburgh. For his career, Brown had 928 receptions for more than 12,000 yards and accounted for 88 total touchdowns, counting punt returns and one pass.

BROWN HAS FACED LEGAL PROBLEMS OVER THE YEARS
Brown was extradited in November 2025 from

Dubai, where he has business interests, after an arrest warrant on the attempted murder charge was issued in June 2025.

Brown has dealt with several legal problems over the years. He previously had been accused of battery of a moving truck driver, several domestic violence charges, failure to pay child support and other incidents. During a 2021 game with Tampa Bay against the New York Jets, Brown took off his jersey, shoulder pads and gloves and ran off the field, leading to his release by the Buccaneers and effectively ending his football career.

EMPLOYMENT
Help Wanted. Dairy Farm full time position. House provided. Brandenburg/Maukport area. Call 812-732-4769.

GARAGE SALE
SOUTH- Tamarack Rd., 327 Kentucky Pickers Estate Sale
Sept. 24th, 25th & 26th 8am- 4pm
Antiques, collectables, glassware, and old items of interest.

GARAGE SALE
WEST - Hwy. 81 S., 5856 St. Martin Church
ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE
Thurs & Fri 7-5 Sat. 7-12
Clothes, Coats, Toys, Houseware and Misc Items.

GARAGE SALE
WEST - KY 56, 7232 Owensboro, KY 42301
SAINT MARY MAGDALENE RUMMAGE SALE
Thurs, Sept 24th 6am-7pm
Fri, Sept 25th, 6am- 3pm
Sat, Sept 26th, 6am-11am
Gas Stove, Microwave, Vintage Toys & Dishes, Foosball/Pool Table, Ping Pong Table, Furniture, Household Items & Decor, Small Appliances, Clothing Infant- Adult Sizes, Holiday Decor, Books & Misc.
1/2 Price Saturday Only

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Sinda Ralph of 770 Sargent Drive , Owensboro, KY, 42301 has file an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 24' by 24' Post Frame Building in Rear of home. The property is located at 37.765751°W, - 87.196648 ° N.
Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410.

LEGAL NOTICE
DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
The Daviess County Board of Education will receive proposals for the following:
PURCHASE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REAL PROPERTY ANTICIPATED TO BE DECLARED SURPLUS
Proposals will be received up to the hour of 2:00 P.M. CT (3:00 P.M. ET), Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at the DCPS Central Office, 4801 Frederica Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. No awards will be made at that time. For additional information, please contact Sara Harley, Director of Finance – 270-852-7000.
/s/Sarah Harley
SARA HARLEY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLEASE PUBLISH ONE TIME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE