

# Yankees outperform Atlanta in all areas

NEW YORK (AP) — The bullpen was exceptional, as expected. Jim Leyritz delivered a big home run, Andy Pettitte threw a marvelous game and Paul O'Neill made a nifty catch.

The New York Yankees had it all — pitching, hitting and fielding in one of the finest weeks in their history.

But what about it, Joe Torre? Was there something else on your side? Did you think the Yankees were destined to win the World Series?

"I guess I did, but I wouldn't let it happen because once you think it's fate, you stop working," the New York manager said after Saturday night's 3-2 win over Atlanta in Game 6.

"Everybody has a piece of it. We went through a series and every player on our roster helped us win a game."

The result was the Yankees' record 23rd championship and first since 1978, along with one of the most remarkable turnarounds in baseball history. New York became only the third team in '92 World Series to win it after losing the first two games at home.

Wade Boggs and Cecil Fielder wound up with the first championships in their long careers, while emerging stars Derek Jeter and Bernie Williams also celebrated in a pileup on the mound after the last out. At Torre's suggestion, the team took a victory lap around the outfield, with Boggs riding a police



horse.

The Yankees were sentimental favorites, for sure, compared to Atlanta. Manager Bobby Cox and the Braves already had won last year's title, and were appearing for the fourth time in the last five World Series.

"I think it's unfortunate for (Atlanta Manager) Bobby Cox, because we seem to have more people praying for us," Torre said. "The story is about more than wins and losses and has a bit more human interest in it."

No doubt, the catch by that 12-year-old boy in right field during Game 1 of the American League championship series against Baltimore seemed to indicate luck was in the Yankees' corner.

But after losing the first two games to Atlanta at Yankee Stadium 12-1 and 4-0, New York needed more than just good fortune.

John Wetteland, who saved all four New York wins, became the first pitcher to earn four saves in a Series and got the MVP award.

The Braves' bullpen did not fare so well, especially in the pivotal Game 4, when Atlanta blew a 6-0 lead. Mark Wohlers gave up Leyritz's tying, three-run homer in the eighth inning and Steve Avery walked pinch-hitter Boggs with the bases loaded in the 10th.

# New-look wrestlers plan to overachieve

Coaches hope recruits can bolster inexperienced squad.

By ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Editor

Nebraska's wrestling program has a new attitude.

The Cornhuskers are still tough, big and confident. But this year, unlike years past, they're loose. The pressure is gone. No one in the wrestling community expects this team to be great.

Not only is the team different, bringing in the nation's No. 1-ranked recruiting class, but the wrestling room at the Bob Devaney Sports Center has a new attitude, too.

The mats that used to line the walls — candycane-stripped mats like those seen in an elementary school — are gone.

They are replaced with new, cherry-red mats that read Nebraska Wrestling. The floor mats are new, too, matching the cherry red of the wall mats with a simple N in the corner.

NU Assistant Coach Mark Cody said the changes have a lot to do with the incoming freshmen—led by Brad Vering—who will have to look up to veteran wrestlers.

Jason Kraft is one of those veterans. Kraft, a senior 158-pounder, will be a mainstay in the middle weights for the Huskers. More than that, Kraft is a leader in the wrestling room.

"I haven't accomplished my goals yet," Kraft said. "I've always been one

second away, one match away."

Kraft gives all the credit to Cody and Assistant Coach Brad Penrith. The work wrestlers do over the summer, Cody said, helps during the season.

"Guys that go (to the camps), are the guys that make the biggest steps," he said.

In addition, Cody said, the recruiting process at Nebraska has become much more strict. Coaches look into the background of the recruits, he said, making sure they're acceptable academically and socially — as well as good wrestlers.

"We've really cleaned up with our social conduct," 118-pounder Brad Canoyer said. "Nobody's getting in trouble. We have high-class, top-notch kids."

"We know we have something to prove," Kraft said. "We have the attitude that rankings don't mean anything."

Nebraska is ranked as high as fifth in preseason poll, but Coach Tim Neumann said that as soon as voters see the Nebraska lineup, the Huskers may drop as low as No. 20.

"We don't have any internal problems," Kraft said. "We just have guys who are going to work hard."

In addition to Kraft and Canoyer, 1995 heavyweight national champion Tolly Thompson returns to lead this squad. All-Americans Temoer Terry, a 158-pounder, and 190-pounder Ryan Tobin will redshirt this season.

The Huskers, who finished fifth at the 1996 NCAA Championships, and their attitude open the 1996-97 season on Nov. 23, wrestling in the Omaha Open.

# KU endures long night in 63-7 loss

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those yards would be hard fought. You're probably not going to be able to run the ball and beat Nebraska. We knew we'd have to mix it up, but we didn't mix it up well enough."

The Huskers rushed for 322 yards, but the big surprise, Mason said, was NU quarterback Scott Frost, who threw for 254 yards and three touchdowns.

"We probably stacked too many people up against the run," Mason said. "Nebraska has never been a one dimensional team, but they threw the ball better than I thought they would. Frost was hot."

Kansas will take on Iowa State next week in Ames in what Mason called a key for the Jayhawks.

"It's a very, very big game for us," he said. "We have not been playing well, but it's hard to judge your progress when you play teams like Nebraska."

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