

How MLB's 2010 Season Becomes Bud Selig's Pride and Joy

Written by Maury Brown
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Bud Selig is smiling. No, not because for the first time in a very long time, the issue of PEDs was not front page news for Major League Baseball this season, rather, Selig is smiling because the 2010 World Series is a statement on competitive balance, of sorts.

When the San Francisco Giants host the Texas Rangers this Weds, Selig can tout the following:

- In terms of the LCS... The Rangers, with the 27th ranked Opening Day payroll (\$55,250,544), knocked off the Yankees, who ranked (again) at #1 with a \$206,333,389 Opening Day player payroll. The Giants, who ranked at #9 with a \$98,641,333 Opening Day player payroll, beat the Phillies who ranked #4 (\$141,928,379)
- Of the top 5 in Opening Day Payroll, three clubs missed the playoff entirely (Red Sox, Cubs, Mets) with the Mets and Cubs finishing second to last in their respective Divisions.
- There have been 11 different clubs in the World Series over the last 6 years
- MLB has the lowest percentage of clubs going to the postseason than any of the Big-4 (8 of 30 or 27 percent) compared to the NFL (12 of 32 or 38 percent), NBA (16 of 30 or 53 percent), and NHL 16 of 30 or 53 percent)
- The Phillies are the only club to play in the World Series back-to-back (2008-09)
- Since 2000, the Yankees, with the by and large the highest payroll each of those years, has been in the World Series 4 times winning but 2 (2009 and 2000)
- For playoff teams, 2010 will go down as having the lowest average cost per marginal win (\$1,731,901) than any other over the last 5 years (see [Who Got the Biggest Bang for the Bucks in MLB for 2010?](#))

Finally, MLB operates without a hard cap, and the softest of the soft cap systems (the Luxury Tax). The league appears to be in no danger of a work stoppage (unlike the NBA and NFL) when their current labor agreement expires in 2011.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Maury Brown will be reporting from Game 1 of the World Series all day on Weds. Check BizofBaseball.com for continued details

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