Yanks took 1922 pennant after epic battle with the St. Louis Browns

by Steve Steinberg

The year was 1922. The Yankees overcame enormous adversity and prevailed after a three pennant race. It culminated in what sportswriter William McGonagle of the New York Herald called "the most crucial games in the most crucial series that the Yankees have ever faced."

It was known as the Little World Series.

The Yankees won their first pennant in 1921, edging the Cleveland Indians by four games. However, the Bombers lost a thrilling World Series to the New York Giants, five games to three.

Following the defeat, Babe Ruth and Bob Munden went on a postseason barnstorming tour, in violation of Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis’ warning. He docked the stars their World Series pay and suspended them for almost six weeks at the start of the 1922 season.

The Yankees outfield was in disarray until late May 1922, with only starter Elmer Miller available. The team reinforced its ranks by acquiring Wally West from the Philadelphia Athletics. Yet quickly became the team’s leadoff hitter and regular centerfielder. He went on to lead the league in walks that year, with a .406 on-base average.