

OFFICIAL PLAYOFF PROGRAM • 2005

Autumn Harvest

OCTOBER MARVEL MARIANO RIVERA SPOOKS A NEW CROP OF YANKEES

\$10

INSIDE: Team Photo Poster

OFFICIAL

YANKEES

Roaring Race

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 fierce pennant race. It culminated in what sportswriter William Meridian of the New York Herald called "the most crucial game 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 Browns lost a thrilling World Series to the New York Giants, five games to three.

Following the defeat, Babe Ruth and Bob Meusel went on a post-season 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 needed wins in disaster until late May 1922, with only starter Elmer Miller available. The team returned its ranks by acquiring Whitely Witt from the Philadelphia Athletics. Witt quickly became the team's finishing hitter and regular centerfielder. He went on to lead the league in walks that year, with a .400 on-base average.