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MLB Tickets In The NL East – It's The Mets And Everyone Else

By Jay Nault

Although there was a swap of positions in the middle of the division standings over the past few weeks, MLB tickets are only relevant for the rest of the 2006 season in one or possibly two cities. The Mets are just a game or two away from clinching the division, and we'll examine their postseason prospects. The Phillies also remain somewhat alive, so we'll examine them and the outlook for 2007 for everyone else.

New York Mets

Currently: The Mets have basically won the division on the heels of a tremendous season by Carlos Beltran and decent pitching. Not to take anything away from them, but this is a relatively weak division as well, and the Mets have feasted on their lack of competition. This is a veteran team that knows how to close out a race, and that's exactly what they're doing as of this writing.

Outlook: The Mets are getting Pedro Martinez back just in time, and he along with Tom Glavine need to be strong in the postseason. Beltran also needs to maintain his high level of play, or else the Mets will struggle. As it is, they're as good a bet as anyone to get to the World Series.

Philadelphia Phillies

Currently: It's been a strange season for the Phillies, as they appeared to give up on the season only to surge into contention for the Wild Card spot. They're still barely hanging on in the chase, but they need to turn it on now, as they're running out of games to catch the Padres. The story of the season has been the emergence of Ryan Howard, and baseball fans everywhere want to root for a "clean" player as he puts up historic HR numbers.

Outlook: The Phillies could possibly land in the postseason, but regardless, they need pitching and another bat in their lineup to take the next step.

Florida Marlins

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Currently: The Marlins took over third place in the division and moved over the .500 mark as of this writing with a 19–9 month. This is a team that's slowly but surely getting better with another young nucleus that could challenge for big things in the coming season as these players mature. The Marlins have talent behind the plate and on the mound.

Outlook: MLB tickets should be a hot item in South Florida in 2007, as the team looks to only get better as their young team puts another year of valuable experience behind them.

Atlanta Braves

Currently: The Braves' incredible postseason streak is ending this year, but what they've accomplished in recent times should not be overlooked. The 2006 season was ruined by injury and age, and the Braves have struggled to maintain any type of consistency.

Outlook: The Braves always seem to be stocked with young talent, and they'll need that next generation to come of age to contend in 2007, as Andruw and Chipper Jones aren't getting any younger.

Washington Nationals

Currently: The Nationals have been a bit of a disappointment this year after reaching the .500 mark in 2005. Their downfall was due to two things: bad pitching and no one besides Alfonso Soriano in the lineup that was a threat to produce runs.

Outlook: The Nationals need another bat in the lineup and more pitching. If they get that done during the offseason, MLB tickets will again be a hot item in Washington, D.C.

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about any event in the world.

Which Mlb Tickets Provided A Look At The Nl Award Winners In 2006?

By Jay Nault

It's been an interesting season in the National League, and MLB tickets in every city have offered fans

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a chance to see players having special seasons. It's getting to the time when voters and fans alike start thinking about not only the postseason, but also the awards that will be handed out in the coming months. We're going to predict who may win what with our own award projections, even if they are informal in nature.

MVP: Ryan Howard

All Howard did this season was carry the entire Phillies team on his back. It appeared that the organization had basically given up on the season with its trade deadline moves, but somehow, some way the Phillies have stayed in contention. Howard is leading all of baseball and challenging history with his home run totals, and he's also setting the MLB pace in RBI's. This one appears to be a clear decision, and Howard deserves the accolades.

Cy Young: Chris Carpenter

This is a tough call, as it appears to be a two–man race between Carpenter and Brandon Webb of the Diamondbacks. Their statistics are nearly identical in terms of wins and ERA, and each has been vital to their teams. However, Carpenter's Cardinals are headed to the postseason while the Diamondbacks are not, and that always seems to make a difference with the voters.

Comeback Player of the Year: Carlos Beltran

Normally, this is an award that's given to someone who drops out of sight completely due to injury or some other reason. Beltran wasn't hurt in 2005, but he had an off year to say the least, hitting only 16 home runs. When Beltran is in a groove, he's the type of talent that can move MLB tickets all by himself, and he's definitely been in a groove this season as he helped the Mets win their division. Beltran is in the top 10 in the NL in six offensive categories and has, as of this writing, slugged 40 home runs. Theories abound as to why he turned it around so quickly, but I doubt the Mets or their fans are really concerned with the reasons as they are pleased with the results.

Manager of the Year: Charlie Manuel

Manuel dealt with the same trials and hurdles that Howard did this year in Philadelphia. He did have what could be the MVP on his roster, but this was a team that was all but left for dead at mid–season, and he lost Bobby Abreu along the way. Manuel steered the ship in the right direction, and the team could wind up in the postseason after all. It's been a remarkable turnaround, and Manuel deserves credit for keeping his team focused despite the signals from management that could've doomed this team to another year of watching the playoffs in television.

Rookie of the Year: Hanley Ramirez

All Ramirez has done in his first season is step in and lead a young Marlins team to a solid record. Ramirez ranks near the top of the NL in runs and stolen bases and he hits for average. Ramirez is also

a good defensive shortstop, and he appears to be set in his position for the long–term in Florida.

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All in all, it's been quite a year in the NL, and MLB tickets around the country have sold well because there were special performances all around the league. However, these candidates, even if they don't win these awards, deserve to be recognized.

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