

1981 KANSAS CITY ROYALS

50-53 4th

MGRs Jim Frey #41 (70 games)
Dick Howser #21 (33 games)

DP: 311 to 334

Error: 351 to 354

	BA	SB	W/K	HR	T	D	L	R	RNG	Def.		
Willie Mays Aikens #24	.266	0		125	-	143	241	244	SLO	1B99		L R
Frank White "Hoover" #20	.250	4		115	116	134	236	236	AAR	SD 2B93		R R
U L Washington #30	.227	10		111	112	132	231	231	AAR	SS98		B R
George Brett #5	.314	14	MK	114	122	151	261	262	AAR	3B88		L R
Darryl Motley #4	.232	1		113	-	124	232	232	AAR	OF39(RF/LF)		R R
Amos Otis "A. O." #26	.269	16		115	121	142	244	244	AAR	SD/T-1 OF97(CF/LF)		R R
Willie Wilson #6	.303	34	MW	-	113	122	261	255	S	SD/T-1 OF101(LF/CF)		B R
John Wathan "Duke" #12	.252	11		111	113	123	242	236	AAR	C73, OF16(RF/LF), 1B1		R R
Hal McRae #11	.272	3		114	115	136	251	244	AR	LD DH, OF4(LF/RF)		R R
Cesar Geronimo #23	.246	6		114	122	-	232	236	AAR	SD OF57(RF/LF/CF)		L L
Jamie Quirk #9	.250	0		-	-	133	236	236	AR	LD(3B) C22, PH, 3B8, OF1(RF)		L R
Clint Hurdle #10	.329	0		125	132	145	265	265	SLO	OF28(RF)		L R
Jerry Grote #15 +	.304	1	MK	114	122	142	262	255	SLO	C22		R R
Lee May "Big Bopper" #14	.291	0	PK	-	-	126	256	252	SLO	PH, 1B8, DH		R R
Dave Chalk #7	.224	0	MK	-	-	131	232	226	AR	3B14, 2B10, SS1		R R
Rance Mulliniks #18	.227	0	MW	-	-	133	231	231	AR	2B10, SS7, 3B5		L R
Ken Phelps "Digger" #16	.136	0	MW PK	-	124	-	153	156	SLO	PH, DH, 1B2		L L
Danny Garcia #45	.143	0		-	-	-	156	161	AAR	OF6(RF/LF), PR, 1B2		L L
Pitcher R	.110	-	MW PK	111	-	113	153	145	SLO			
Pitcher L	.110	-	MW PK	111	-	113	145	146	SLO			

	ERA	IP	W	K	G	GS	SV		
Dennis Leonard #22	2.99	202	123	622	26	26	0	.000	R R
Larry Gura #32	2.72	173	124	635	23	23	0	.000	B L
Rich Gale #38	5.40	102	134	626	19	15	0	.000	R R
Paul Splittorff #34	4.36	99	124	626	21	15	0	.000	L L
Mike Jones #40	3.21	76	134	634	12	11	0	.000	L L
Atlee Hammaker #33	5.54	39	131	644	10	6	0	.000	B L
Dan Quisenberry #29 SD	1.73	62	125	641	40	0	18	.000	R R "Quiz" "Q"
Renie Martin #27	2.77	62	143	633	29	0	4	.000	R R Renie Donald (first name pron. REE-nee)
Jim Wright #35	3.46	52	135	624	17	4	0	.000	R R
Ken Brett #25 SD	4.18	32	141	651	22	0	2	.000	L L
Juan Berenguer #37 #53 +	8.69	20	162	542	8	3	0	.000	R R "Senor Smoke"

The defending American League champions had a "tale of two seasons" like any other ballclub in baseball in 1981. The long list of disagreements (too long to list here) primed the decision for the Major League Baseball Players Association and the major league team owners to shutdown the season June 12th. The Royals played .400 baseball (20-30, 5th place of the AL West) up until the abrupt halt of play. The team hit 25 home runs, batted .264, and posted a 4.17 ERA from the pitching staff to complete the first half. With an agreement between the two leading factions of the game, play resumed in August with no plans to make up the canceled games. The Royals perked up in the second half, finishing in first place with a 30-23 record, a .270 team BA, 36 homers, and a staff ERA of 2.99. (Jim Frey was let go as manager August 31st with the Royals ten games under .500 and replaced by Dick Howser.) The first place winner of each half were designated to meet in a Division Series prior to the start of the ALCS. For the first time in major league history, a team with a losing record (the Royals at 50-53 overall) qualified for MLB's post-season. With two half-seasons combined, K. C. was a fourth place ballclub 11 games behind the Oakland A's...Those same A's, playing a brand of old-time style baseball under Billy Martin (Billy Ball) had won the first half of the season to square off versus the Royals in the first round. The best of five series commenced at Royals Stadium where the A's took the first two games, allowing Kansas City only ten hits and a single run. The curtain closer came in Oakland, the A's scoring two runs early in the game while allowing the Royals one run in the fourth. Oakland put two more runs on the scoreboard in the bottom half of the inning and held on to win, 4-1, despite three A's pitchers being raked for ten hits. In the series, George Brett batted .167 with no extra-base hits. The Royals offense (.267 BA during the regular season) was squelched to just one double and no home runs in the three games...Willie Wilson ended the year among major league leaders with 133 base hits, stolen bases (34), triples (7), and singles (115). First baseman Willie Aikens finished seventh in the majors with 62 walks. Brett tallied 27 doubles in the Royals 103 games...Pitcher Dennis Leonard led the majors in innings pitched and games started and was among the leaders in strikeouts (107). Larry Gura tied the A's Mike Norris for fourth place in complete games (14); closer Dan Quisenberry tied for fifth with his 18 saves.