

# World Series X-FACTORS

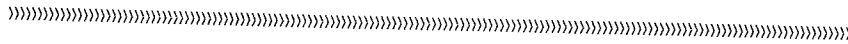
Role players often become Series heroes. Here are four who could do it this year.

**B**rian Doyle hit just one home run in 110 games during his four-season career. But he earned his place in big-league history in the 1978 World Series. His .438 average helped the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in six games.

"I feel like Cinderella," he said at the time. "I've always believed there

is a spot in baseball for the little man."

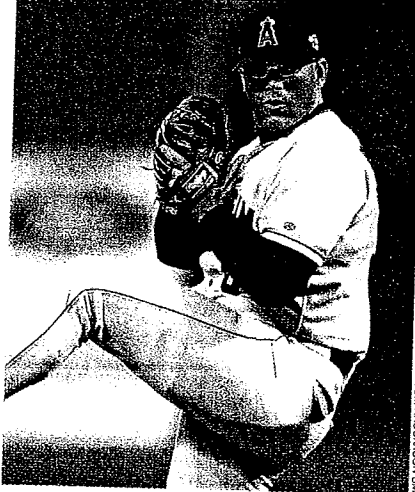
*Little men, X-factors, role players.* There are many ways to describe unlikely heroes who step up to help their team win the World Series. Below are four men who played key roles in past Series and four current players who could fill those roles this year. (All stats through September 6.)



## Setup Man

**Why Teams Need One:** These little-known hurlers get crucial outs that bridge the dangerous gap between a team's star starter and its stud closer.

**2002: Brendan Donnelly**



A rookie at 31, Donnelly allowed just one hit and no runs in 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings in the 2002 Series. His superb relief pitching helped the Anaheim Angels beat the San Francisco Giants, four games to three.

**2004: Giovanni Carrara**

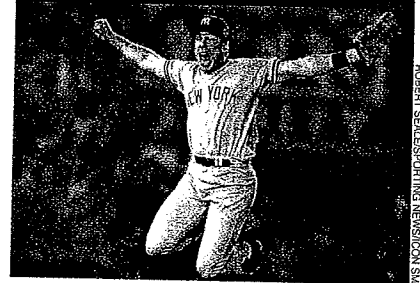


Journeyman Carrara has found a home with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2004. He had a 4-2 record and a sparkling 1.18 ERA in 38 innings pitched.

## Overlooked Star

**Why Teams Need One:** Superstars on opposing teams often cancel each other out in the Series. The difference maker can be a lesser star whom the opponent has overlooked.

**1998: Scott Brosius**



Despite a strong season (.300, 98 RBIs), third baseman Brosius didn't get much attention on the star-studded New York Yankees in 1998. But he was named the Series MVP after hitting .471, with 2 homers and 6 RBIs, to help the Yankees sweep the San Diego Padres.

**2004: Ruben Sierra**



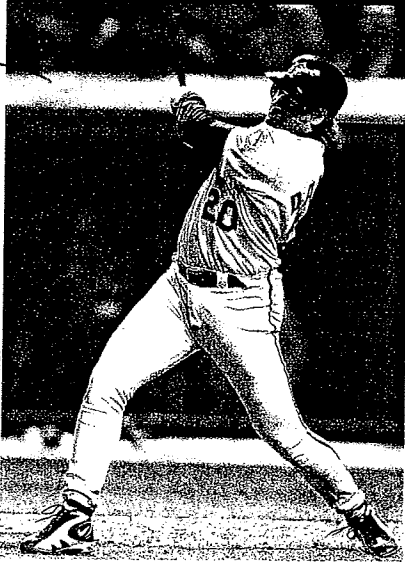
The 2004 Yankees are also loaded with big-name players. But don't overlook 39-year-old designated hitter Sierra. The clutch hitter had 15 homers and 55 RBIs in just 260 at-bats.

## Mid-season Pickup

**Why Teams Need One:** Nearly every Series champion in the past 20 years has made a key move during the season,

trading for or signing a player who shores up a weak point and adds the last piece to the championship puzzle.

**1997: Darren Daulton**



CHUCK SOLOMONSPORTS ILLUSTRATED

The Florida Marlins added a clutch bat in former All-Star catcher Daulton. The 14-year vet batted just .262 in 52 regular-season games after being acquired from the Philadelphia Phillies in July. But he found his old form and hit .389, with seven runs scored, in the Marlins' seven-game triumph over the Cleveland Indians.

**2004: Larry Walker**



RICHARD C. LEWIS/WIREIMAGE.COM

Walker, a three-time National League batting champ and former league MVP, was traded from the Colorado Rockies to the St. Louis Cardinals in August. With Walker's big bat added to their potent lineup, the Cards have the most feared offense in the N.L. Walker's powerful throwing arm in rightfield also pumps up the team's defense.

## Rotation Booster

**Why Teams Need One:** One great starting pitcher is rarely enough to strong-arm a team to the World Series

championship. More often, a deep and balanced pitching rotation carries a team to the title.

**2003: Brad Penny**



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Apart from his Florida Marlin teammates, few believed that 25-year-old Penny would be a match for the Yankees in the 2003 World Series. With a 14-10 record and 4.13 ERA in the regular season, he looked like a shaky number 2 starter. But Penny shined in the Fall Classic. He went 2-0, with a 2.19 ERA, to help the Marlins upset New York in six games.

**2004: Carlos Silva**



BOB ROSS/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

The Minnesota Twin will be 25 this October. In Silva's first full season as a starter, his numbers (10-8, 4.56 ERA) aren't overwhelming. But, like Penny, he challenges hitters with a heavy sinker and a quality fastball. More important, in eight starts against playoff contenders this season, he was 4-0, with a 3.06 ERA.

## World Series X-Factors

Player's Name	Year of Accomplishment	Position Played	Team Played For	Accomplishment
Brendan Donnelly			Anaheim Angels	
Carlos Silva	2004			
	1996	3rd Base		Series MVP Hit .471
Larry Walker			St. Louis Cardinals	
	1997	Catcher Marlins	Florida	
Giovanni Carrara				4-2 Record 1.18 ERA in 38 innings Pitched
	2003	Pitcher		2-0 w/2.19 ERA to help Marlins upset New York
	2004	Designated Hitter		

