



## 221 Intelligencer

Phillies Phever...Phinally!



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The Philadelphia Phillies are in the World Series at Citizens Bank Park searching for their first championship title since 1980. They ended the regular season with a great record of 90 wins and 70 losses to clinch the National League East Division Title. The team continued their winning streak into the October playoffs as they defeated the Milwaukee Brewers in just 4 games. Then, they beat Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers in 5 games to advance to the World Series.



The Phillies were to face a very inexperienced Tampa Bay Rays ballclub. It is Tampa's first World Series appearance in their mere 11 years of existence. Games 1 and 2 were located at Tropicana Field in Florida. The Phillies won Game 1, 3-2 to give themselves an early 1-0 series lead. Chase Utley powered the offense with a 2 run home run in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning. Phillies ace Cole Hamels pitched a fantastic game in 7 innings to hold Tampa's offense to only 2 runs. Cole also popped 5 strikeouts. Following Game 1, Rays rookie standout, Evan Longoria had something to say about his team's performance. "In my opinion, Game 2 is a MUST-WIN for us!" Longoria exclaimed. His desire came true as his team won the following night 4-2 to



tie the series at 1 game apiece. Next, the series traveled to Philadelphia for the next 3 games. Game 3 started 90 minutes late because of a nasty rainstorm. When the rain calmed down and Game 3 finally began, Jamie Moyer and the Phillies came out firing from all angles. Game 3 included 3 Phillies home runs. Carlos Ruiz, Chase Utley, and Ryan Howard all went deep in Saturday's contest. The game concluded a little after two in the morning. Eighteen hours later Phillies pitcher Joe Blanton pitched against Andy Sonnanstine of Tampa Bay. The Phillies brought their bats to Game 4 as they launched 4 home runs including a very rare blast from Phillies pitcher Joe Blanton. The stadium was rocking and the rally towels were shaking in Game 5. The fans quieted and many left, as buckets of rain fell from the sky. The game was suspended until the next night, everyone was hoping that the weather would cooperate so that the World Series could continue. Unfortunately, the next night an unusual October snow forced Bud Selig (the Commissioner of baseball) to push back Game 5 to another day. Finally, after the longest suspended game occurred in World Series history, Game 5 finished its last 3 innings. Cole Hamels pitched remarkably well and Shane "Flying Hawaiian" Victorino added 2 RBI's to carry the Phillies in Game 5. Brad Lidge came in to close out the World Series and he struck out Eric Hinske on a slider to give the Phillies their first World Series since 1980!

October 31, 2008 wasn't just an ordinary Halloween for Phillies fans. It was the Philadelphia Phillies World Series Champions Parade along Broad Street. Millions of fans gathered in the streets to celebrate the victory. "This is crazy," Phillies right fielder Jayson Werth told a Fox 29 news reporter as his truck made its way down Broad Street. "These people are awesome! It was the best time in my life." Fans and Players will remember this day for years to come.

