



# GOLDEN YEARS

*Ralph Terry's triumphant Game 7 gem was magnificent, but in 1962, a brilliant era of Yankees baseball was nearing its end*

*By Rich Thomaselli*

Let's begin at the end because, really, if you mention the 1962 New York Yankees' season, the first thought that comes to mind is the nail-biting, Game 7 finish to the World Series against the San Francisco Giants that October.

And, well, because even though the Yankees would go on to win the American League pennant in 1963 and '64, it really was a beginning to the end of a dynasty from the Golden Age of baseball.

Few Fall Classics reach a Game 7. Fewer still go to the bottom of the ninth of Game 7 with a 1-0 score. Even fewer than that produce the kind of drama that surrounded that last half-inning in '62.

Of course, that depends on one's definition of "drama."

"He said that!?" Tony Kubek says with a hearty laugh when the Yankees shortstop is reminded of a story told by his double-play partner, second baseman Bobby Richardson, that Kubek was cracking jokes during a critical pause in play in that ninth inning at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

"I like to think of it more as lightening the mood," Kubek, still laughing, says. "I mean, it was a tense moment. We're on the road, the crowd is going crazy, Candlestick was a wacky ballpark to play in anyway, there's already enough drama just from the fact it was Game 7, and then look who the Giants have coming up."

But ... more on that later.