

Marvin's memories: Phillies can expect World Series loss to linger for awhile

Chicago native Marvin Freeman was a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves teams that captured National League pennants in the 1991-93 seasons. Here the Chicago Baseball Museum board member reflects on the finality of a World Series defeat.

By Marvin Freeman

Posted on Monday, November the 9th

I feel for the Philadelphia Phillies right now, not only because they were my first major league team but also because I know what it's like to lose a World Series not once but twice.

For me, defeat was more difficult to handle the first time around. That was in 1991, when I was a member of the Atlanta Braves. I was one of several young guys who were early in their careers, and to lose in such a heartbreaking way was traumatic for many of us. It was the first time that I saw grown men become distraught about a game.

The initial shock comes as soon as the last out is made. You shake your head and say to yourself, "Man, that's it. It's over. That could have been us over there, but it's not. Get ready for next year." The next few days are like a giant hangover. You reflect on your performance and that of your team and what might have been. You never put those thoughts behind you, really.

What makes it more difficult is, you never know whether you'll be back to the World Series again. There are so many teams that strive to get there, it's not a given that that you'll get another chance. A lot of guys who played in the World Series this year won't get there again.

Because the Phillies won the World Series a year ago, it will be it easier for the guys who have a championship ring to accept the defeat. But I imagine their younger guys are going through the same mental agony that I did years ago.

My advice to them is, cherish the National League championship and remember what it took to win it. Celebrate the accomplishment. You didn't complete the task, but second place is a lot better than third.