The Texas Rangers will face the Arizona Diamondbacks in the World Series… wow. Let’s look at how these teams got here.

At the trade deadline, I didn’t have the Diamondbacks on my radar. They had a horrific bullpen, very inexperienced players, and their shortstop was imploding (Nick Ahmed). The Diamondbacks went out and DFAd Ahmed, they traded for Paul Sewald and signed free agent Ryan Thompson. Both relievers were incredible in the postseason thus far. Not to mention the likes of Andrew Saalfrank, Kevin Ginkle, and Joe Mantiply. In the postseason, the Diamondbacks bullpen was unbelievably good. Rookies Gabriel Moreno who came over in a trade with the Blue Jays last year, Corbin Carroll, and Alek Thomas were equally as good, including a barrage of hits in game 7 by Carroll. The biggest stories this far for the Diamondbacks though, had to be their captain Ketel Marte and their rookie starter Brandon Pfaadt. Marte has now hit in 16 straight postseason games and is hitting .358 prior to his 1-5 night. Marte is a good hitter in the regular season, but he’s an MVP in the postseason. Brandon Pfaadt had a horrible regular season. He was sent down numerous times, once with an ERA over 10. He ended the season with an ERA over 5. In the postseason, he has a 2.7 ERA now and had two major starts in the NLCS including game 7. I’d be lying if I said I saw the Diamondbacks making the playoffs, let alone the World Series.

The Rangers seemed to be on a downward spiral when Jake Odorizzi, Jacob DeGrom, and Ian Kennedy had arm injuries. They were a very good first half team, but the second half they fell short of being “great”, maybe even short of being “good”. Then they went out and signed Max Scherzer and traded for Jordan Montgomery. Even though Scherzer got injured and hasn’t looked great in the postseason, it’s nice to have a solid arm on your roster. Jordan Montgomery has looked exceptional since arriving in Texas and I even thought that was the best trade at the deadline. Texas won that trade by a mile. He was a lone bright spot during the second half. This team offensively has been led by Adolis Garcia, a young player who has only 3 career seasons and no previous postseason experience. Garcia is hitting .327 with 7 homers and 20 RBIs this postseason. Rookies Jonah Heim, Josh Jung, and Evan Carter are also batting really well, combining for 6 homers, 37 hits, and 19 RBIs. This team is loaded with young talent on the hitting side.

Both of these teams finished two seasons ago with over 100 losses. They both had extremely good starts to the season this year, followed by not great second halves. However, grit, togetherness, and experienced veterans combining with young talent came out for all the marbles in the postseason. We are in for a great World Series, and I can’t wait.