

# Michigan Every Day

By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly

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Denny McLain personifies 1968 Detroit Tigers

The Detroit Tigers were on their way to not only the American League pennant but to win the World series in 1968. Tiger fever was high and a song belted out on local airways proclaimed, “We’re all behind our basement team – go get them Tigers.” At the forefront of that effort was pitcher Denny McLain, who had a spectacular season. The tigers were up against the New York Yankees on Sept. 19, 1968 when McLain pitched his 31<sup>st</sup> win of the season, a remarkable feat. He became the first pitcher to surpass Dizzy Dean’s 30-win year in 1934. McLain finished the year with 31 wins and six shutouts, and obvious choice for that year’s prestigious Cy Young Award for pitching. Detroit bested the St. Louis Cardinals in a series that went the full seven games, ending with a victory in the World Series. Mickey Lolich pitched three of the winning games and earned the Most Valuable Pitcher for the series.