Script for National League Show

# Slide 1 (Capture the audience’s attention and introduce the topic.)

Good afternoon. What do you think of when you hear these two sounds? (Advance to next slide.)

# Slide 2

(Allow audience to respond.) Right! Baseball. There is nothing like the crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd.

Today I would like to talk to you about one of America’s favorite pastimes—Major League Baseball. During this presentation, you will gain a better understanding of how baseball is organized and learn how a team advances to the World Series.

# Slide 3

Two leagues make up the major leagues—the American League and the National League. Let’s start by looking at the National League. The National League has three divisions—the East, the Central, and the West.

# Slide 4

During the season, each team plays 162 games. The season begins in April and runs through the end of September. Once in a while the season runs into October by a day or two. During the 2007 season, the Philadelphia Phillies had the best record in the National League East. They won 89 games and lost 73 games. The team with the worst record in 2007 was the Florida Marlins.

# Slide 5

As a result of winning 89 games and having the best record in the Eastern Division, the Philadelphia Phillies advanced to the playoffs. Do you have any questions about what I have covered so far? (Pause and answer questions from the audience.) If not, (or now) I’ll talk about the playoffs.

The teams with the best records in each division advance to the playoffs. In addition to the three division winners, a fourth team advances. This team is called the wild card. It is the team with the best record in the National League that didn’t win its division. In 2007, the Colorado Rockies and the San Diego Padres tied for the wild card, forcing a one-game playoff, which the Colorado Rockies won.

# Slide 6

Here you see the pairings for the playoffs. The first round is called the National League Division Series. Chicago played Arizona and Philadelphia played Colorado. Arizona and Colorado were the winners of the National League Division and advanced to the National League Championship Series. The winner, Colorado, advanced to the World Series.

# Closing

From my presentation today, you should have a better understanding of how baseball is organized and how a team makes it to the World Series.