



# AROUND THE HORN

February 1995

## Draft, Trades Enliven '57 Hot Stove Circuit



Not only trades and draft picks captured the suspense of the '57 draft, but controversy reared its ugly head on the left coast on draft eve.

In an attempt to psyche his rival division managers Mavericks' manager Mike Cascarano kept house guests Bob Calichia and Lou Ross awake well into the night trying to wrest the likes of Bob Skinner from the Cascades. It didn't work, although the tension mounted the next morning when both Ross and Cascarano showed up armed at breakfast with a tee-shirt saying, "Baseball is Life...The Rest is Just Details."

Things did settle down and it was a relatively quick run through the opening round with the only surprise appearing to be the choice of Eddie Kasko by the Minors. While an immediate help at 3B, Kasko will most likely be the SS of the future for Mountain Park. Without becoming disoriented, follow the bouncing ball with the trades on page 4 and draft lists on pgs. 5-6, Rick Ryan of the Cubs and Gary Plunkitt moved the most players. Will the moves result in '57 title? We'll see, beginning March 1st.

WHAT IS IT? See Page 4.



### 1945 Standings thru May

Eastern	W	L	PCT	GB
Fortress	30	13	.667	
Dodgers	29	16	.644	1
Hornets	21	24	.467	9
Federals	20	25	.444	10
Gold Sox	20	25	.444	10
Redbirds	19	26	.422	11
Monarchs	13	32	.289	17

Western	W	L	PCT	GB
Marauders	36	9	.800	
Whales	29	16	.644	7
Bears	24	21	.533	12
White Sox	20	25	.444	16
Elephants	20	25	.444	16
Trees	19	26	.422	17
Acorns	15	30	.333	21

### MIKE AGREES TO TOSS OUT 1st BALL AT SPB OPENER



President Eisenhower has accepted an invitation to toss out the first ball at the SPB opener on March 1st.

Hey, Let Mikey Try It. Check Page 2 for a revealing look.

## Commissioner's Forum

by Jim Wheeler

Another successful draft has come and gone and the anticipation and maneuvering for 1957 has produced a flurry of activity. There were 3 items up for a vote at draft time and I'd like to clear up some of the confusion surrounding the voting procedures.

According to the Constitution, the Rules Committee is made up of the League President and Statistician from each SPB League and the Commissioner. After consideration of a proposal, they have the option of adopting the rule immediately with the next season or requesting the issue be voted upon by the entire league. In the event of a tie, the Commissioner casts the final vote, otherwise, he has no vote. He will also vote if there is a tie after the full leagues vote or kill the proposal.

There were 3 recent issues considered. The only one which passed (by a unanimous vote) permits each club to protect 19 players at the end of the season, to be in effect at the end of the '45 and '57 campaigns. The issue of cutting to 14 players received no YES votes and the trading issue was a split vote and I exercised my vote and put the issue to rest with a NO vote.

One other item. With John Turnbull leaving for Korea there is a spot on the Rules Committee. That person would of course, assume the role of statistician as well.

A reminder. Unless changed in the future, NO future draft picks may be traded. This is very clear in the Constitution. One trade was already invalidated this off season. Have fun!

# Marauders Pillage East in '45 Stampede

by John Ungashick

The second month of the season saw a tight two-team race in the East and the makings of a blowout in the West. The Antelope Valley Marauders went on a tear, winning 12 in a row at one point and finishing May with a gaudy 24-6 record and a seven-game lead over the Whales. Barring a collapse by the Plundering Herd, or a very hot streak by another team, the rest of division is playing for third place. The Marauders great mark came at the expense of the East where no one did especially well, but the Fortress clings to a one-game lead over the Dodgers with everyone else in the dust.

Augie Bergamo of the Evanston Trees leads the league with a .434 average, while Chuck Workman of the Dodgers led in HRs with 11 and RBIs with 51. Nelson Potter of the Federals and Red Barrett of Brooklyn each had 7 wins to lead in that category.

The Marauders had two 15-run games during their hot month plus several nail biters. Against the Fortress, they scored 4 runs with two out in the bottom of the 9th to pull out a 5-4 win, they turned around to squeak out 9-8 & 3-2 wins over the Monarchs, again in their final at bat. In the 3-2 game, pitcher Eddie Lopat picked up the winning hit. These two wins were part of a 10-game sweep of the Monarch season series.

The Lafayette Gold Sox hurt the Whales badly by winning 4-of-5 at home, including a 17-10 slugfest featuring a 9-run inning and 38 hits. They also scored 2 in the 9th to steal one from the Chicago crew. Frankfort got an early Xmas present from ex-Fortress 3B Billy Jurgens, who committed 3 errors for the Rossmoor Bears in a 4-0 victory. In the battle of the "Rosses," the Bears pounded the Rossville Hornets 4-1, with 3 one-run triumphs. The Hornets needed two 11th

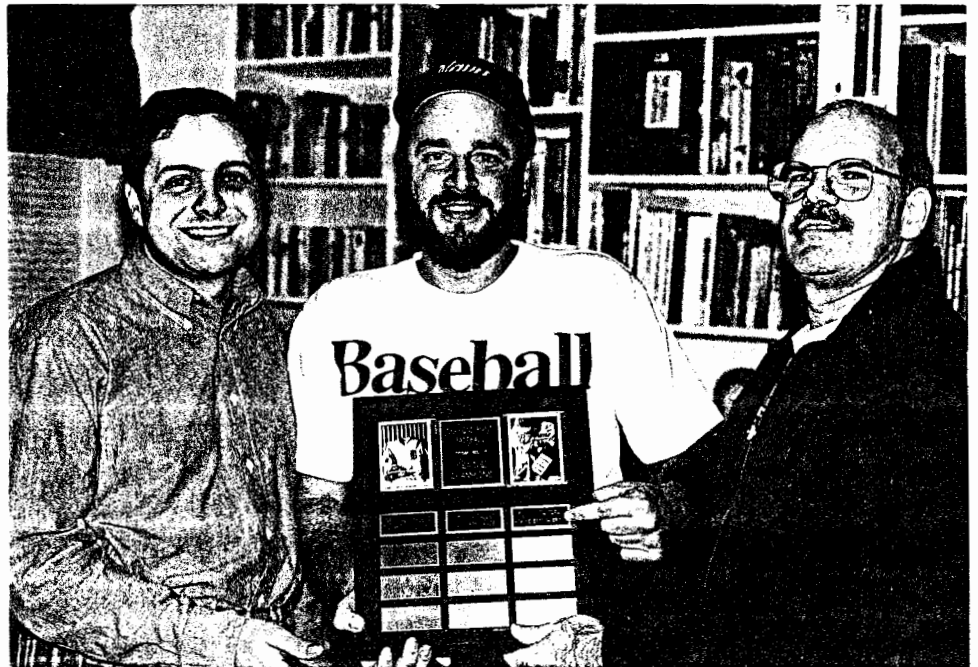
inning errors to salvage a 4-2 victory and their only series win.

The West Warwick Monarchs literally kicked their way to victory over the Bears as Red Steiner kicked the ball out of catcher Vince Castino's glove in the bottom of the 11th for the winning run. The "Kings" needed a squeeze bunt in the last of the 10th to earn a 6-5 victory over the Whales, but the Chicagoans swept the other four.

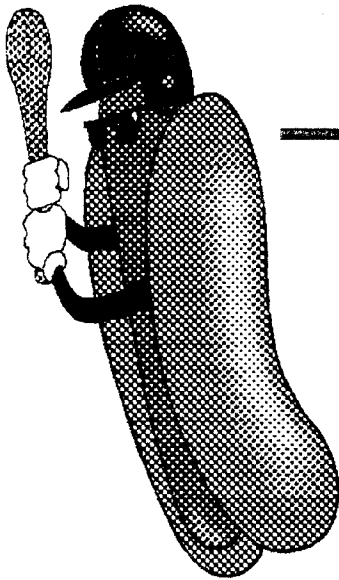
The Federals chopped the Trees in the first two games of their series, but the roof fell in as the Trees posted successive 16-1, 12-7 and 11-1 victories. Mel Ott of the Trees went 5-6 with 4 runs, 4 RBIs and 2 HRs in the 12-7 win.

The team of the month was the Marauders in a runaway. They had 9 more wins than anyone else and led the league in both BA (.318) and ERA (2.82). Player of the Month went to the Trees' Mel Ott with a .429 BA, .519 OBA, .703

SLG and 6 HRs, 24 RBIs. Pitcher of the Month was a close race between Harry Feldman of the Whales (4-0, 1.67) and two shutouts and Jim Wilson from the Trees (4-0, 1.94). Feldman gets the honors by a whisker. Eddie Lopat (Marauders) was Fireman of the Month as he went 3-0 with two saves and only two unearned runs in 16 innings of work.



SPB's West Coast Connection: Bob Calicchia (left) and Lou Ross (right) present the 1956 SPB championship trophy to High Desert Mavs' skipper Mike Cascarano at the 1957 player draft.



## Reflections

by LOU ROSS

That eminent physician of polyhedrals, Steve Ehresman, proclaimed it so succinctly in our opening issue: "Baseball is not a place, but a state of mind." Simply put, emotions and senses.

Looking back, I was quite fortunate to have grown up in Brooklyn. Not only did I get the opportunity as a youngster to visit that hallowed ballyard, Ebbets Field, but also Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds on a regular basis. And New York in the 50's was a veritable bonanza of TV games as all home games for the three clubs were broadcast.

On a daily basis, it was a steady diet of Red Barber, Mel Allen, Vin Scully and Russ Hodges, among others. It was a conglomeration of riches, from Allen's "Ballantine Blasts" to the aura of Flatbush and the Brooklyn announcers giving away cartons of Lucky Strikes to hospitalized veterans in local hospitals.

Almost forty years later, the things I recall from those days are somewhat sketchy, but each memory brings a smile to my face. I can recall my dad rushing home from work so we could get to Ebbets for batting practice and "take in the atmosphere." Riding the subway was fun in those days and that first glimpse of

Yankee Stadium as the Woodlawn-Jerome IRT train exited the tunnel was enough to create instant goose bumps. Even as an adult, it had the same effect.

The Stadium (that's all you had to say), was awesome. A vast expanse with its angled black outfield fences, the monuments in deepest centerfield and the massive scoreboard in right, with the subway peeking out from behind are images that last forever.

Being at Ebbets Field was like being at a small public park in contrast. Cozy and close with the jagged Schaefer scoreboard in rightfield providing protection for Bedford Avenue from

*"Why didn't you hit a home run like I told you to? If you're not going to do what I tell you, what's the use of my being manager?"*

-Groucho Marx to Jack Benny at a charity baseball game and also heard at numerous SPB games.



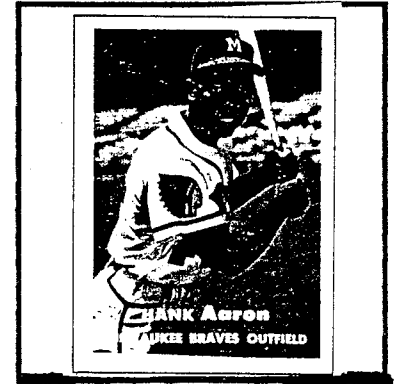
Duke Snider's blasts.

I never fully realized until years later who those ballplayers were who were "next door on the stoop." All the Dodgers lived "in 'da neighborhood" and my next door neighbor was a young Dodgers' catcher, Joe Pignatano.

Those ballplayers who'd hang out on 61st Street? A guy named Sandy Koufax, Gil Hodges, Don Drysdale and Duke Snider. When I last saw Pignatano a few years

### What's Wrong Here?

Do we now have to change PTP players ratings or is this just a bit of humor being exhibited by Hank Aaron in this pose for his 1957 Topps' card?



ago, he greeted me with the same, "Hey, Louie," that I heard as a youngster.

That's what I mean, memories. Small ones, fond ones. The type that give you a nice feeling and the kind we try to recapture here in Seasons Past Leagues.

Who said you can't go home again?

### EXPANSION RULES

As a reminder, SPB I will have its first expansion beginning with the 1981 campaign. About a year ago, there was considerable discussion on the draft format to stock the two new teams and the following was decided: **All players who were on the rosters of the expansion teams during that first season are eligible. Each new manager will select 18 players from those rosters with NO limit on the number of players an existing team may lose. After rosters are filled, remaining players are returned to their original team and the normal draft procedures will take place. A few players on rosters of SPB teams from 1954-55 who were NEVER released or traded are exempt.**

# AROUND THE HORN.....The Newsletter of Seasons Past

## '57 TRADE REGISTER

Thru Feb. 1st

**TRADE DEADLINE: FEB. 15th**

83. SAXONS send Larry Doby to the BLUEBIRDS for Ned Garver.

84. CUBS swap Warren Hacker & 4th round pick to BLACK SOX for Clem Labine & Tom Poholsky.

85. RIFLES move Lee Walls & Bob Will to MAVERICKS for Red Wilson & Bob Miller.

86. CUBS send Tom Poholsky & 4th round pick to GRAYS for Hank Sauer.

87. SAXONS trade Billy Hoefl to GRAYS for Arnie Portecarreo.

88. PELICANS swap Art Schult to TIGERS for Hershell Freeman.

89. KNIGHTS obtain Gene Conley & Jim Finigan from SAXONS in exchange for Curt Barclay & Andy Carey.

90. CUBS trade Dave Hillman to BLACK SOX for Ray Narleski.

91. CASCADES send Hal Jeffcoat & Bob Speake to GRAYS for Billy Hoefl.

92. TIGERS move Harry Anderson, Turk Lown, Jim Piersall, PeeWee Reese, Dave Sisler & Mickey Vernon to BLUE SOX for Tito Francona, Andy Pafko, Jim Pisoni, Bob Trowbridge, Virgil Trucks & Pete Whisenant.

93. TIGERS then trade Whisenant and Art Schult to CUBS for Norm Zauchin & Jim Constable.



94. MINORS swap Bob Boyd, Walt Dropo, Taylor Phillips & Nelson King to GRAYS for Harry Simpson, Ted Lepcio, Jim Derrington, Tom Poholsky & Art Fowler.

95. CUBS move Pete Whisenant, Willie Miranda, Bill Wight & Murray Wall to GRAYS for Joe Altobelli, Ramon Mejias, Walt Dropo & Hal Jeffcoat.



### Coming Soon to *THE HORN*...

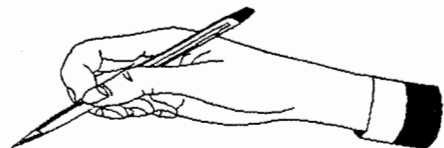
- ◆ **1957 Season Preview**
- ◆ **A peek at '46 draft**
- ◆ **Home-Away monthly team skeds and logos**
- ◆ **Great strides and improvements in baseball equipment**
- ◆ **Babe Ruth speaks**
- ◆ **.....and more**

### ANSWER TO Page 1

#### Picture

That specimen on page one is the new symbol of the former DAYTON FLYERS. Manager Jim Wheeler has renamed his franchise the HATTERAS PELICANS.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



You will notice that this edition of *AROUND THE HORN* is a bit larger and a few days later than in the past.

Enclosed is the 1957 schedule, so you can all begin plotting your pitching rotations, saving key starters for the stretch run. It's in a different format than in the past, just a personal choice of trying to jazz it up and condensing so that we save on paperwork. Hope it passes muster.

In talking with various league members over the past few weeks, there is some feeling that we might look to starting a league using the new STRAT game. The consensus of opinion is that while PTP has and will continue to serve us well, the idea of a different perspective to our play might be in order.

Graphical representation of ballparks would certainly help offset the tedium which at times sets in during games. Considering the statistical glitches we have seen in PTP (and a multitude of theories abound), it might be worth a shot.

Just tossing out a flyer for all of you? For those who have played STRAT, do you feel the manager profile offers a more extensive base from which to work? Would the graphics and mouse support ease play? With which season would we begin?

Provide some feedback and let's get the forum started. Since there is no immediate ballpark graphics module for PI should we consider an alternative or simply "delete last play?"