

AROUND THE HORN

January 1995

Roy & Dale Star in '56 Hit Feature, "Man Bites Dog"

A month of Sundays hit the calendar. Hall froze over. Man certainly did bite dog. And the eyes of the Roy Rogers Museum shone down on the High Desert Mavericks as the twang of *Happy Trails to You* wafted through the Frankfort Tigers' clubhouse.

The '56 SPBL series sent shock waves through the league and order has yet to be restored. Perhaps Tigers' manager Gary



Plunkitt did not realize the irony. His Frankfort Tigers won a record 110 ball-games during the SPB regular campaign as

did the equally formidable 111 win '54 Indians. But it seems he wasn't prepared for the one constant in the man who would help cut down each champ during the World Series. It was none other than Dusty Rhodes, a member of the '54 NY Giants who swept the Indians and also a part-timer with Mike Cascarano's champion HIGH DESERT MAVERICKS, 69-55 during the campaign.

The Mavs won the opening two contests at home and the crisp, clear fall air provided the perfect setting for the Fall Classic. With the facade and grandstand railings draped in bunting, the visiting Tigers appeared in awe of the surroundings. Let's go to that grainy black and white film and take a look at how the four game sweep took place.

Continued p.4 col.

1945 APRIL STANDINGS				
EASTERN	W	L	PCT	GB
FORTRESS	17	3	.850	-
DODGERS	15	5	.750	2
HORNETS	9	11	.450	8
FEDERALS	8	12	.400	9
GOLD SOX	8	12	.400	9
REDBIRDS	8	12	.400	9
MONARCHS	7	13	.350	10

WESTERN	W	L	PCT	GB
MARAUDERS	12	3	.800	-
WHALES	14	6	.700	1/2
BEARS	8	7	.533	4
ELEPHANTS	13	12	.520	4
WHITE SOX	8	12	.400	6 1/2
ACORNS	8	17	.320	9
TREES	5	15	.250	9 1/2



BEWARE OF THIS MAN ! HE IS ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
See Page 3 for important details!

DON'T FORGET! SEND INTERESTING GAME HI-LITES, SPECIAL COMEBACKS OR RARE PLAYS TO LEAGUE STATISTICIAN OR HERE.

Commissioner's Forum

Time again for another draft. You have already received your list of available rookies and free agents and I'm sure that every aspect of each player's pedigree has been fully analyzed.

To reiterate (we do a lot of that in SPB), the draft will be held on JANUARY 14, 1995 @ Andy Langer's home, 1140 35th Street, Downers Grove, IL. It will begin at HIGH NOON CST (10 AM West Coast).

If you are NOT participating in person, you must submit a WRITTEN draft list to the Commissioner by Thursday, January 12th.

Those drafting via phone will receive one ring via phone when it's their turn to draft. He will call to 708-852-3609 to get the latest picks and then will have 5 minutes to make a selection. Those at the draft will abide by the same 5 minute rule.. Good drafting!

Jim Wheeler

'57 HOT STOVE REPORT

The Senators are looking at both Louisville and San Francisco as possible future franchise sites....The Dodgers sold Ebbets Field to a real estate group and agree to stay until 1993 with options through 1991...However, Walter O'Malley trades the Dodgers' Ft. Worth franchise to the Cubs for the LA Angels (PCL) team and their Wrigley Field (LA) site..They will play 10 exhibition games in California in 1993 and seven regular season '97 games once again in Jersey City....Bob Feller is named president of a new players' association....Jackie Robinson is traded to the rival NY Giants and retires on January 5....A Boston newspaper reports that Ted Williams never paid the \$5,000 fine he was assessed for spitting at fans.



LIMPING TO THE HITS: '45 STYLE

by John Ungashick

Beginning any baseball writeup with the phrase, "On a cold and blustery April day" is almost as cliché ridden as starting a novel with the phrase, "It was a dark and stormy night," but here goes.

On a cold and blustery April day, the traditional opener involving the league's oldest franchise, the Ohio Redbirds, took place amidst glorious news of stirring victories over a fast-fading Nazi regime and the recent fall of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. Vice-President Harry Truman, pinch-hitting for an ailing Franklin Delano Roosevelt, threw out the first pitch. Unfortunately, the Redbirds' guests, the Rossmoor Bears, spoiled the party by "ruffing up" Bird starter Red Ruffing and coasting to a 13-2 victory.

In a later series, the Redbirds were victimized by the Antelope Valley Marauders, who won all five games in the last at bat and swept the series despite outscoring the Birds by only seven runs! In other action, the Chicago Whales pounded out 20 hits and scored 10 runs in the 8th inning of a 16-5 massacre over the Fairfield Federals. The Feds' Rube Fischer was forced to go the distance and saw his ERA soar into the stratosphere. Those self-same Federals scored two runs in the last of the 9th to edge the White Sox 6-5 and hand Al Benton a 15-hit complete game victory.

The White Sox were handed two unearned runs in the 11th inning and edged the Lafayette Gold Sox 5-3. The Lafayette crew scored two runs in the last of the 9th off the Elephants' ace reliever, Andy Karl and won 6-5. The Brooklyn Dodgers turned that scenario into a broken record as they scored 3 in the last of the 9th and 1 in the last of the 11th to edge the Pachyderms twice. The Trolley Dodgers rapped out 19 hits in a 15-9 victory over the Glendale Acorns. Hal Newhouser of the Hornets pitched two fine games against the Elephants, but lost the first 3-2 by walking in the winning run in the last of the 9th and after throwing no-hit ball for 5 innings, lost the second 3-2 as all Elephant runs were unearned.

The Rossmoor Bears had a couple of barnburners against the Federals. The first was a 14-inning marathon, won by the "Large Furry Mammals" 2-1 as first round pick Ken Burkhart pitched 7 inning of relief to pick up the win. In the 11th, the Feds had two men cut down at the plate. In the 5th game of the series, the Bears got three consecutive pinchhits in the last of the 9th and won 3-2.

The pennant races are shaping up as two team affairs in both leagues. In the East, the Frankfort Fortress broke from the gate with a stunning 17-3 record, followed closely by the Dodgers at 15-5. All other teams in the division are under .500. The West was a little closer, but the Marauders had a 1/2 game lead over the defending champion Whales with two other teams four games out.

The team of the month was the FRANKFORT FORTRESS who hit .301, but even more amazing had a 2.13 ERA and allowed only four home runs in 20 games! (Ed. note-Dodgers permitted 3 HR in 20 games).

Chuck Workman of the Dodgers was Player of the Month as he hit .397 and had a wide lead in both homers (9) and RBIs (29). "Boo" Ferriss of the Fortress won Pitcher of the Month honors in a close race with teammate Van Lingle Mungo. In fact, the pair combined for a 6-0 record with a 1.03 ERA! Reliever of the month was Andy Karl of the Elephants who fashioned a 4-1 record with 1 save and only allowed one earned run in 15 innings covering eight appearances.



NUMBER CRUNCHING

Dear League Members,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Happy Holidays to all you politically correct types! I would like to thank everyone for being so prompt this month. Let's keep it up all season.

You will notice that the Expanded Standings and Game Summaries files have some garbage data in them due to carelessness. I'm sure you're sick of hearing this, but let me restate it once more.

1. WHENEVER YOU START A NEW MONTH, ZERO OUT THE STATS IN LEAGUE MODE. THIS IS VITAL AND WILL LEAD TO MORE PROBLEMS IF WE DON'T FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE RULE.

2. COPY THE ENTIRE SUBDIRECTORY WHERE YOU HAVE PLAYED YOUR GAMES. DO NOT SEND ME EXPORTED FILES. I CANNOT "TEST" THE EXPORTED FILES UNLESS I MERGE THEM WITH A DUMMY COPY OF MY MASTER FILE, WASTING TIME IN THE PROCESS. PLUS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CORRECT CERTAIN PROBLEMS IF I HAVE SUBDIRECTORIES, BUT IMPOSSIBLE WITH EXPORTED FILES.

If you are NOT a computer whiz and have no idea what I am talking about (which isn't a crime by the way) or are unclear, please call me and I'll gladly walk you through, step-by-step. JMU

HOW'D HE GET THERE?

Look at your '45 rosters and say, "What happened?" Well, here are some trades reported too late to make it into the last newsletter:

- 25- HORNETS trade Ed Head, Gee Walker & Ira Hutchinson to GOLD SOX for Kermit Wahl, Lloyd Waner & Eddie Miksis.
- 26- REDBIRDS swap Eddie Miller, John Lazor & Frank Dasso to FEDERALS for Ed Basinski, Mel Harder, Atley Donald & Walt Halborrow.
- 27- HORNETS trade Morrie Aderholt to BEARS for Skeeter Webb.
- 28- HORNETS trade Arnold Carter to FEDERALS for Bill Hart.



WHEN IT WAS A TRADE!

Back in the days when baseball GMs actually traded players instead of contracts, there was a monumental deal on November 20, 1957 which included 13 players. The Detroit Tigers and KC A's were the culprits and the major surprise is that the A's did not this time trade with the Yankees.

While it may have rivaled the deal consummated in SPB I between the Tigers and Cubs in quantity, it was hardly a deal of quality ball-players.

The A's sent Billy Martin, Gus Zernial, Tom Morgan, Lou Skizas, Mickey McDermott and Tim Thompson to the Tigers for a group of bodies on the stepping stone to mediocrity.

In one of the many trades that made the A's what they were in Kansas City, the Tigers unloaded Bill Tuttle, Jim Small, Duke Maas, John Tsitouris, Kent Hadley and Jim McManus on the KC fans.

TRADING BLOCK

Manager Paul Kenyon is looking to remove that sour taste from a dismal '56 campaign by offering veteran slugger Hank Sauer for trade. This wily veteran could help any team in the pennant chase with his strong righty bat. Paul's trade hot line awaits.



ANSWER TO PAGE 1 PHOTO

Frankfort Tigers' Manager Gary Plunkitt in trading mode. Beware of this man! He has been known to tease rival managers with old broken down ballplayers asking for only the up-and-coming prospect or draft choice.

REVISED '57 DRAFT LIST

This list reflects trades thru 12/27

ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
1-RIFLES	1-MAVERICKS	1-GRAYS
2-CASCADES	2-TIGERS	2-SAXONS
3-KNIGHTS	3-RIFLES	3-CUBS
4-BLUE SOX	4-BLUEBIRDS	4-BLUE SOX
5-BLUEBIRDS	5-FLYERS	5-MINORS
6-GRAYS	6-KNIGHTS	6-BLACK SOX
7-FALCONS	7-MINORS	7-FLYERS
8-KNIGHTS	8-CASCADES	8-BLUEBIRDS
9-BLACK SOX	9-BLACK SOX	9-CASCADES
10-GRAYS	10-TIGERS	10-RIFLES
11-MINORS	11-FALCONS	11-BLACK SOX
12-TIGERS	12-BLACK SOX	12-FALCONS
13-MAVERICKS	13-BLACK SOX	13-MAVERICKS
14-TIGERS	14-GRAYS	14-TIGERS

"The whole history of baseball has the quality of mythology."

-widely attributed

THE "SISLER" FORMULA

Jim Wheeler has come across the following formula to measure pitcher effectiveness. Named after that great baseball family, the DiMaggio's (no!), the Sisler Formula evaluates a hurler's achievements outside of the overall team performance. According to the article, an average pitcher finishes at a 1.0 average rate for a career. Here it is:

$$(BB*1.3) + H-K/ip$$

For example, '57 draftees Billy O'Dell rates out at .71 over his career while Jack Sanford has a career mark of .82.

Have fun rearranging your draft lists!

'57 TRADE REGISTER
(As of December 26)....

76. BLACK SOX swap Larry Doby, Billy Klaus & Herb Score to SAXONS for 2nd & 3rd round picks.

77..TIGERS send Duke Snider & 5th round pick to BLUE SOX for Jim Rivera & 2nd & 4th round picks.

78. SAXONS trade Al Dark to TIGERS for 2nd round pick obtained from BLUE SOX in trade #77.

79 KNIGHTS send Gene Conley & 3rd round selection to SAXONS for 1st pick.

80. KNIGHTS send their 1st round choice (#2 slot) to CASCADES for the PACIFIC 1st round choice (#3 slot) and Andy Carey,

81. FLYERS swap their 1st round pick to GRAYS for Jim Brosnan & Preston Ward.

82.TIGERS move Eddie Mathews, Paul Foytack, Jim Rivera & Jim Busby to CUBS for Gene Freese, Jimmy Piersall, Wes Covington, Al Smith, Hank Aguirre and the CUBS 1st & 2nd round picks.

'56 AWARD WINNERS

The TIGERS' Mickey Mantle (left), MVP winner and the CASCADES Don Newcombe (right), CY YOUNG AWARD, walked away with post-season honors in the manager poll.



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

POLLING BOOTH

Time to once again pull out the old secret ballot and take advantage of that SPB privilege of voting. Here we have THREE potential administrative rule changes which would become part of our By-Laws beginning with the 1958 and 1947 seasons.

The votes will be tabulated by Judge Wheeler and announced immediately following the '57 draft.

- 1 All teams will protect 19 players at the end of the season. This will eliminate the current arrangement of 18 for sub-.500 teams, 19 for over-.500 clubs and 20 for each division winner.
- 2 Any team protecting 14 or fewer players will receive an additional first round draft pick. These teams will pick after the original first round is completed, but before the 1st pick of the 2nd round. The order of these BONUS ROUND picks will be based upon team record, from worst to best. These selections would NOT be tradeable.
- 3 At the conclusion of the season, a 2-week trading period will be implemented prior to the submission of final protected lists. This will allow teams to trade those players who are on the fringe but have some value to other teams.

Cont. from p.1

Game 1- An 11 mph wind right to left with two lefty aces, John Antonelli vs. Whitey Ford. Bauer homered in the 4th for a 1-0 Tiger lead which was short-lived as Monte Irvin doubled and White singled to knot the score. In the 5th, Mazeroski reached on Mathews' error which moved Randy Jackson to 3rd where he scored on a sac fly by Groth for a 2-1 lead. Tigers took lead in 8th when Musial lost Hodges' fly in the LF Yankee Stadium sun, but SN was nailed at 3rd trying to stretch the double. Tigers KO'd Antonelli in 6th when he loaded the bases on two walks and a single and Ford squeezed home the go-ahead run after Jackson's single tied the game. Snider HR in 7th took lead again, but that man Jackson singled home 2 for a 6-4 lead, the eventual final score. Grissom shut the door in the 9th for the save.

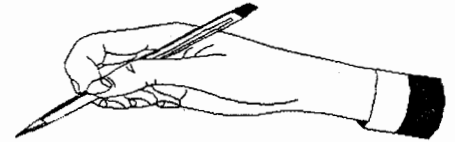


Game 2- Mavs jumped on Tom Brewer for 2 in 1st on singles by Musial and Rhodes after a Reese error. Tigers came back on solo HR from Bailey in 5th and Snider in 8th and Mathews single. One more in 7th and it looked good for Tigers until 8th when Pilarcik walked, Wilson singled and Mazeroski singled home a run when Bailey dropped the throw to the plate from Bauer. McDougald's single drove home the 3rd run of the inning for a 5-4 lead. Grissom held the Tigers at bay in the 9th, 1-2-3.

Game 3- The home field proved no advantage for the Bengals due to Randy Jackson's Grand Salami off Jack Harshman in the 4th. The Tigers gnawed back with HRs from Bauer and Mantle in the 8th, but Grissom came on to save it for Willard Schmidt. Manager Cascarano said later that if playing at home, he would have taken out Schmidt after the first HR and was fortunate the computer manager made the road decision when it did for a 6-3 win.

Game 4- Dazed and confused the Tigers were never in this one. Paul Foytack allowed 7 walks in 3+ innings and Hersh Freeman couldn't quell the Mavs' attack. Even HRs by Mantle, Hodges and Reese couldn't keep the fans in their seats until the end as the Mavs raced to a 10-4 triumph and a sweep.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Not only does the belt get a bit tight this time of the year, but so do time and space. Thus, the premiere entree of REFLECTIONS, about baseball's golden age, will appear next issue.

As a number of managers pointed out, not everyone in the SPB leagues is an old coot. "We're not all THAT old," or "Didn't grow up in that era." All we want to hear about are those special memories of our youth and fondness for baseball, regardless of the year.

Feedback on the question regarding a possible distortion of '56 stats was interesting. While some feel that there is a flaw in the PTP game algorithms, it is felt more that playing in different home ballparks and with varying power balances is the primary reason. As for the lefty pitching, the initial opinion is it has to do with defense and differing offensive support. Anyone wish to step forward a write a term paper as to why?

Now that it seems fairly certain that Roger Maris will be residing with the Rifles as the first pick in the draft, late news indicates it will be carried on the Dumont Network. A young Keith Olberman will be doing the commentary. He's home right now practicing his "He's not going to get him," for forlorn managers.

One editorial note:: Doesn't voting item #2 give the appearance of the Cuban refugee boat lift? Letting all of those mediocre ball-players loose could be harmful to the environment.

LOU ROSS

*****		'56 SERIES		*****	
		LINESCORES			
Game 1 @ Yankee Stadium					
TIGERS	0-0-0-1-0-2-1-0-0	4-7-1			
MAYS	0-0-0-1-1-2-2-0-x	6-10-0			
Antonelli, Freeman(7), Sisler(8) & Bailey					
Ford, Grissom (9) & Wilson					
WP-Ford LP-Freeman Save-Grissom					
Game 2@ Yankee Stadium					
TIGERS	0-0-0-0-1-2-1-0-0	4-7-4			
MAYS	2-0-0-0-0-0-0-3-x	5-6-0			
Brewer & Bailey					
Kline, Aber (8), Grissom(9) & Wilson					
WP-Aber LP-Brewer Save-Grissom					
Game 3 @ Briggs Stadium					
MAYS	0-0-0-4-0-0-0-1-1	6-10-0			
TIGERS	0-0-0-0-0-0-1-2-0	3-7-1			
Schmidt, Grissom (8) & Wilson					
Harshman, Sisler (7), Acker (8), Freeman (9) & Bailey					
WP-Schmidt LP-Harshman Save-Grissom					
Game 4 @ Briggs Stadium					
MAYS	0-2-0-6-0-0-0-0-2	10-10-1			
TIGERS	0-0-0-1-2-0-0-0-1	4-9-0			
Kuegan, Gross (9) & Wilson					
Foytack, Freeman (4), Larsen (6), Meyer (8), Acker (8) & Bailey					
WP-Kuegan LP-Foytack					
