

AROUND THE HORN

March 1995

CAN CUBBIES WIN IT ALL WITH '57 MURDERER'S ROW?

by *The Baseball Curmudgeon*

The old B.C. is not accustomed to performing in a pinch-hitting role, but we all have to pitch in, sometimes. As Dr. Diamond makes a valiant attempt to get out from under mounds of paperwork, I offered to do the preview. Dark glasses and Copper-tone in tow, well rested after a few weeks in the spring training sunshine, it's time for paralysis by analysis, a clinical and cynical perspective on the new 1957 campaign.

The revolving doors were wildly flying as front offices made well contrived, though sometimes emotional decisions to better their clubs. But, when the dust has settled on the key-boards, it looks like the two statistical favorites may be meeting in the World Series.

On Page 9, you will see a breakdown of team stats by division in batting and pitching categories. A relatively simple point system was attached to each and from the results, you will clearly see the balances among the contenders and pretenders. Numbers aside, here's a look at the '57 season.

Will Warren Spahn rebound from his poor 7-22 4.45 year for the Saxons to put them back in the thick of the race? Can an aging Ted Williams do it one more time and finally bring Frank Papp's Falcons a flag? Does the loss of Bill White to military service doom the Mavs to a second division finish in the West? Have the Bluebirds put together the right balance to survive?

And yes, do Rick Ryan's Cubs have the pitching to support that awesome batting order? Turn to Page Two to see.

Commissioner's Forum

by *Jim Wheeler*

The coffee in the press box is hot, the stat sheets and team notes are neatly laid out and the new address and updated SPB Constitution should be in the hands of every manager for the '57 campaign.

Some relatively minor changes for '57 with the Nebraska Knights moving to the East and the Evanston Black Sox to the West. This move was precipitated by John Turnbull's military transfer to Korea in early summer. I felt that the move would permit facilitating the play of the Knights' games.

I urge ALL managers to read the new Constitution carefully and at least be aware of our mandates. The new version includes the recent updates.

Bill James' new CD BASEBALL ENCYCLOPEDIA from APBA is the newest historical database. For \$44.95, it's like having every BASEBALL GUIDE at your fingertips. Without a doubt, THE BEST

There has been some movement to further revising our By-Laws by permitting the trading of future draft picks. Let's take the time to think about this item and consider it closely as a means of maintaining the stability, year-to-year, of our league.

For now, *PLAY BALL!!!!*

BANKS

MATHEWS

MAYS



IKE COULDN'T MAKE IT TO OPENING DAY....See Page 3 for his replacement

COMEBACKS, AGE ARE '57 ????

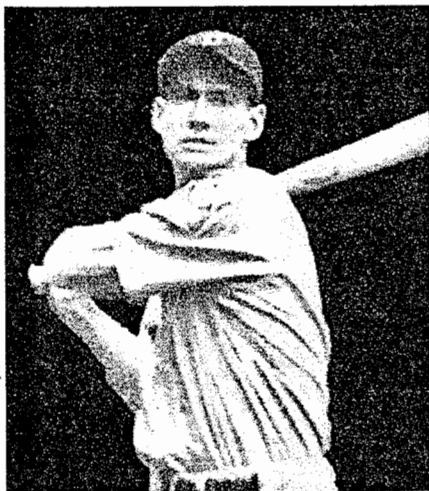
(Continued from Page 1)

EASTERN:

TIGERS- Eddie Mathews was shipped to the Cubs, yet the Tigers are still well balanced on offense with Mickey Mantle, Ed Bailey, Wes Covington, Ed Bailey and Tito Francona providing the thrust. Gil Hodges and Hank Bauer balance from the right side, but the pitching will have to come through for a repeat. Excellent starting rotation again led by Tom Brewer and John Antonelli and reinforced with rookie Dick Drott. Tigers are a bit weak in the closer role for '57, so Gary Plunkitt will need to make some adjustments. Never count this club out. Until the World Series.

CUBS- Congrats to the first pitching staff which gets past this lineup unscathed. Five hitters with over 20 HRs including Ernie Banks, Ed Mathews and Willie Mays. Solid at every position, the only question here will be can the pitching get the job done. Clem Labine and Ray Narleski should get loads of work as stoppers, although being tops in CG and saves does not create a good balance. Much traveled Hal Jeffcoat allowed 29 HRs in '57, Jim Wilson 22. Lots of high scoring games in Rossville. Still will be 1st.

MINORS- Without a 20 HR hitter in Fenway Park and a team ERA of 4.47, it could be a VERY long season for Vern Easley. This is basically a transition team with rookie Don Cardwell expected to get his baptism of fire



behind veterans Frank Lary and Robin Roberts. Ruben Gomez has the only winning record, but his 28 HRs should give him neck strain from watching balls fly over the LF wall. We all gasped when Easley chose Eddie Kasko as the first pick, but with a dearth of SS in future, a good long range move. This year? Fifth place at best.



BLUE SOX: Trader Steve made his usual complement of off-season moves and the result is a well balanced team. Enough to win a flag? Maybe. Good power from both sides of the plate with newcomer Harry Anderson, Wally Moon and Duke Snider on the left and Jim Lemon, Jimmy Piersall and Frank Malzone pounding the LF wall. Problems on the hill with only 3 pitchers over 10 wins. Billy Pierce will again anchor the staff with Brooks Lawrence second in line. Two excellent relievers in Roy Face and Turk Lown, but will they ever get to perform their magic? Middle of the pack in '57.

GRAYS: No longer the Siberia of SPB as Paul Kenyon made some major moves, enough to be competitive and ruin the hopes of some contenders. This year will be the year of the unlimited hurler for the Grays who are woefully short of starts. Dick Littlefield's arm will be scraping the ground by September But the future looks bright with Mike McCormick and Jerry Walker. Enough to scare you on offense with potent bats of Rocky Colavito and Hank Aaron supported by Bob Speake and Charlie Neal.

PELICANS- Will the name change to Hatteras Pelicans make a difference for the former Flyers? Well, the hitters should be able to eat up and spit out opposing pitchers with the likes of Jackie Jensen, Gus Triandos and Gene Woodling providing the punch and Vic supplying the Power and excitement. Fine bench and part-time support from Jerry Lumpe, Jerry Lynch and Carl Sawatski. Top-notch pitching staff with ERA leader Johnny Podres back from the service and not bad arms behind him in 17-game winners Lew Burdette and Don Drysdale. Bullet Bob Turley must keep his walks down, but his 2.71 is just behind Podres. Dark horse in the race with enough to contend.

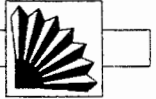
Continued Page 10

HOT STOVE REPORT

'45-Luis Olmo becomes only player in history to hit a bases loaded HR and triple in same game....White Sox lose a doubled ip to Bosox, picking up only 3 hits on the day....On July 1, Hank Greenberg returns from the Army and homers in his first game back..The A's and Tigers go 24 innings in a 1-1 tie with Les Mueller tossing 19.2 for the Bengals....Luke Sewell on one-armed Pete Gray: "I knew he couldn't make it..He had no power...just couldn't play in the major leagues"... The replacement player sideshow continued as Jimmie Foxx, 37, took the mound for the Phillies and also hit the last of his 534 HRs...

'57--Television Age reports MLB will receive \$9.3 million in Radio rights in 1957....On March 18, the Red Sox offer \$1 million for Herb Score. Tribe GM Hank Greenberg refuses, saying the Indians are building for the future, not selling its best ballplayers.

On April 21, Reds' baserunner Don Hoak fields a Wally Post grounder to break up a DP and is called out for interference. Four days later, the majors adopt a rule prohibiting a runner from interfering with a batted ball "in any way."



GAZING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL AT '46 DRAFT PICKS

We seem to have cornered the market on "resident experts" here in the halls of SPB. So, now, nattily attired in his Carnac outfit, we present Tom Falduto to unlock the vault of treasures available in the 1946 SPB draft. Mark down **June 24th** at Frank Papp's house as D-Day.

The Great Faldini, Master of Numbers and Clairvoyant to the Clueless, has outlined his selections of the top players by position. Looking into his crystal ball, Tom forecasts the top choice as either Ted Williams, Yogi Berra or Warren Spahn. If given the opportunity, Tom will choose Spahn until the crafty lefty gets it right.

Tom has gazed into his crystal ball and sees it being top heavy in OF and hurlers with the weakest spots being 2B and catcher. The envelope, please:

Continued Page 7

"He was the best I ever had, with the possible exception of Mays. At that, he was even faster than Willie."

**-Leo Durocher
On 40s OF Pete Reiser**

JUNE SWOONS IN '45 RACES

by LOU ROSS

As this issue of *AROUND THE HORN* went to press (gosh, I love that big-time newspaper talk), John Ungashick was getting ready to take off for Mexico on the second of his seven annual vacations. With the stats in the mail to team managers, John got me the latest June standings by phone the other evening and I'm working with a few notes and hysterical comments about June '45 play.

In the East, the Frankfort Fortress extended their lead over the Dodgers by going 17-8 while the Dodgers sputtered at 14-11. Three of the Brooks' losses came at the hands of the Western Division Bears who finished a paltry 7-18 for the month.

The Redbirds went a meager 11-14, yet leapfrogged to 3rd place, although they fell 2 games further behind the Fortress. The Monarchs remain in the basement 23 back.

Wire-to-wire for the Marauders is in question as they went only 12-13 for the month out West while the Whales spouted at 14-11 and cut the margin to a mere 4 behind the Valley Boys. Both the Trees and Elephants went 15-10 and moved to 3rd and 4th respectively. The Bears' miserable month dropped them 5 more off the pace to 17 back.

Against the Bears, the Hornets unloaded for 20 runs and 23 hits in a 20-2 rout. Both Danny Gardella and Babe Dahlgren went 5-6 with 4 RBI in that contest and were joined by Hal Newhouser's 3 RBIs. In another match in the series, Charlie Keller drove in ALL 8 runs with 3 HRs in an 8-5 triumph.

In the Bears-Dodgers series, Ernie Lombardi and Whitey Lockman smacked grand slams in consecutive game to defeat Dem Burns.

1945 JUNE STANDINGS

Eastern	W	L	PCT	GB
Fortress	47	23	671	
Dodgers	43	27	614	4
Redbirds	34	36	486	13
Hornets	33	37	471	14
Gold Sox	31	39	443	16
Federals	30	40	429	17
Monarchs	24	46	343	23

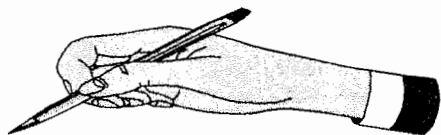
Western	W	L	PCT	GB
Marauders	48	22	686	
Whales	43	27	615	4
Elephants	35	35	500	13
Trees	34	36	486	14
Bears	31	39	443	17
White Sox	30	40	429	18
Acorns	27	43	386	21

....so, Nixon's the One!!!



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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



You will notice a few cosmetic changes to this edition of *AROUND THE HORN*. With the same speed with which I make trades, I finally got around to installing the new HP Printer I bought around Thanksgiving. The masthead and some text styles will appear different than in the past as will the quality of the photos. When possible, I'll include some color items similar to page 7 for your enjoyment.

Mike Cascarano has recommended that we add a Rookie-of-the-Year Award to our post-season voting. On an editorial note, with the retirement of Jackie Robinson from SPB I play, I propose that we name the award after the very first winner. Opinions are welcome.

From the Marketing Division of SPB (me !), the logos attached to the schedules are subject to change if they are not to your liking. Let me know.

On the issue of Strat usage, please put your comments into writing and drop a line. So far, the reaction has been lukewarm at best, with the basic concern being transition. Basically, we are all concerned about stats and computer manager capability.

Cont. Col. 2

A few notes on the logistics and publication dates for *ATH*.

With both seasons running concurrently, it's a bit of a strain to ask each league statistician to have info and writeups here by the 25th of the month for a release the following week. I plan to push back the release date to about the 5th of each month, thus allowing sufficient time for info to arrive and be turned around.

As for *REFLECTIONS*, I thank you the feedback. Don't sit back. Just go ahead and send me your memories of when you began following baseball. I know there are some interesting stories out in our league, so share them with the other members. I'll publish one each month. Only with your input will this continue to flourish.

The Babe Speaks.....



And he didn't even use one of those 1-900 psychic numbers. The Reverend Speaker Gerald Polley, who spends his time in Ellsworth, ME. still seeking divine intervention to bring the Red Sox a title, claims to have had contact with Babe Ruth

Cont Col. 3

and other players over the years.

In an interview on KJR in Seattle, Polley claimed that the Babe had no intention of returning as a replacement player. Moreover, Ruth and his heavenly cohorts are looking for an end to the "slave staus" in present day baseball.

Yet, Polley claims Ruth spearheads a move to keep a player salary at a maximum of \$1 million per season.

That's reasonable, considering Ruth's feelings (if there are any in his present state), would be h that today's players earned more than he did in his greatest years.

Next time you see one of those infomercials with men in bad hairpieces and women with trowel-like makeup and big earrings looking to the heavens for guidance, think that they may be looking for the Babe, asking, "When will the strike end?"

NEXT MONTH....

- ◆ '50s Uniform Changes
- ◆ '45 & '57 Updates
- ◆ Reflections
- ◆ Comments
- ◆and more



The Great Faldini's '46 Crystal Ball

1B	2B	SS	3B	C
Mickey Vernon	Joe Gordon	Pee Wee Reese	Bob Dillinger	Yogi Berra
Johnny Mize	Jerry Priddy	Johnny Pasky	Eddie Yost	Sherm Lollar
Eddie Robinson	Bobby Adams	Phil Fizzuto	Billy Johnson	Les Moss
Elbie Fletcher	Don Kolloway	John Lipan	Hank Majeski	Bruce Edwards
	John Berardino		Grady Hatton	Birdie Tebbets
	Pete Suder		Bobby Brown	
	Buddy Blattner		Bill Rigney	

PITCHERS

Warren Spahn	Randy Gumpert
Bob Lemon	Kirby Higbe
Virgil Trucks	Joe Matten
Murry Dickson	Ellis Kinder
Joe Dobson	Phil Marchildon
F. Hutchinson	J. VanderMeer
Howie Pollett	Dave Koslo
Al Brazle	Hugh Casey
John Schmitz	Monte Kennedy
Johnny Sain	Mickey Harris
Ewell Blackwell	Ray Scarborough

OUTFIELDERS

Ted Williams	Will'd Marshall
Joe DiMaggio	Elmer Valo
Enos Slaughter	Dale Mitchell
Carl Furillo	Pat Mullin
Ralph Kiner	Walt Judnich
Del Ennis	John Wrostock
Sid Gordon	Hank Edwards
Bobby Thomson	Gene Woodling
Dom DiMaggio	Pete Resier
Tommy Henrich	Taft Wright
Hoot Evers	Harry Walker
Barney McCoskey	Gene Hermanski



Luke Appling mishandled a grounder that allowed Joe DiMaggio's streak to continue.

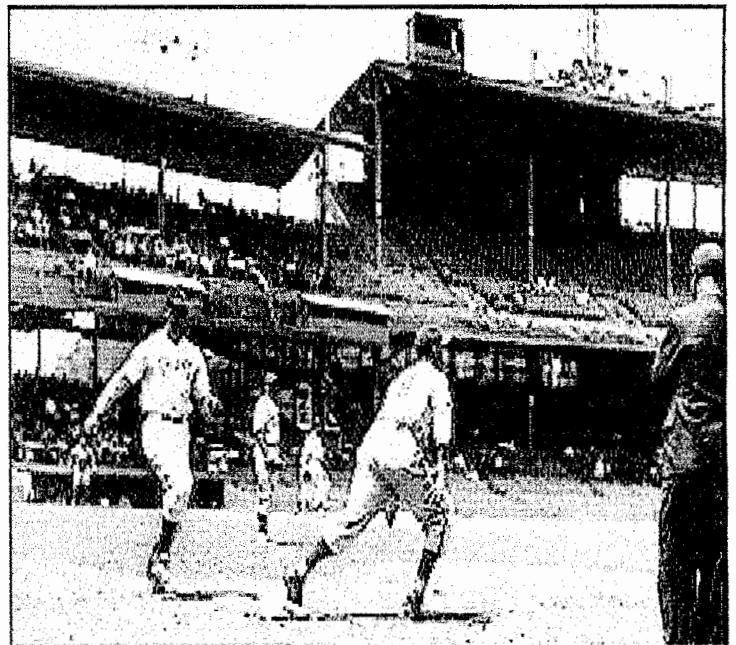
PROJECTED

1st Round

(Not in Order)

1. Berra
2. Vernon
3. Mize
4. Reese
5. Slaughter
6. Furillo
7. Ennis
8. Kiner
9. Williams
10. Joe DiMaggio
11. Lemon
12. Trucks
13. Dickson
14. Spahn

HOMESTEAD GRAYS IN '45 NEGRO LEAGUE GAME



GREAT ADVANCES IN BASEBALL EQUIPMENT!

Back when dinosaurs roamed the earth, the perception of baseball came from black and white TV in a small frame or grainy radio waves inside a plugged in clunky box and the World Series broad-casts made you "Look sharp," baseball equipment had evolved from the early days. Flat gloves with pockets replaced models which looked as if they had been run over by the 5 PM bus and bats were more tailored.

But the biggest advances came in catching equipment. As you can see from the catcher on the left, you now know why backstops were often the ugliest players on the team (See Berra, Yogi). They didn't wear masks and kept their fingers clenched around the lower ridge of the mitt. Imagine, pitch after pitch ramming into fingers. No wonder most catchers had short careers.

Then, the clouds moved and the sun shone through and masks were invented. Catchers were taught how to keep their hands away from the glove and marvel of marvels, catchers were saved from extinction.

Making the Great Plays in the Majors!

Rawlings

GLOVES and MITTS

First choice among Major League players season after season because...

- ...They're "lattice-designed" with the player in mind.
- ...They have the "pleated" that makes a glove.

Raw Composite Catcher's Mitt, Twin-Arrow Rebounder, Grip-Tite Pocket.

Big Snoop® First Base-Dom's Mitt, Proformed Double Pockets—extra track for high, wide catch.

*Pleated mitts are trademark of the Wilson-Arrow Co. Inc.

Win With Wilson
Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago

A similar ad by Wilson in 1958 reflects significant changes—less padding, longer and more contoured fingers.

Detroit catcher Matt Batts models a revolutionary lighter mask design in 1952, holding the older model in his hands.

A 1950 Rawlings ad illustrated the latest in contemporary baseball gloves as the decade began.

1957 TEAM RANKINGS TABLE

The pre-season statistics were analyzed by division to give us an overview as to relative strengths and weakness of each club. Each team was ranked in the individual category and assigned points from 1-7 with 7 points given for first place and 1 point for 7th position ranking.

RANKINGS KEY:

K/W RATIO

(CG) -COMPLETE GAMES

(SV) -TOTAL SAVES

(HR/BFP)- The total # of HRs allowed by a pitching staff in relation to the total batters faced.

(ERA) Total team ERA

(PIT PTS)- The total # pts accrued.

(POS)-Overall ranking in Pitching categories by division.

(HR/TAB)- HRs hit based on total ABs which includes Official ABs, BB, HBP & IW.

(SLG)- Slugging %

(OBP)- On Base %

(BAT AVG)- Team Batting Average

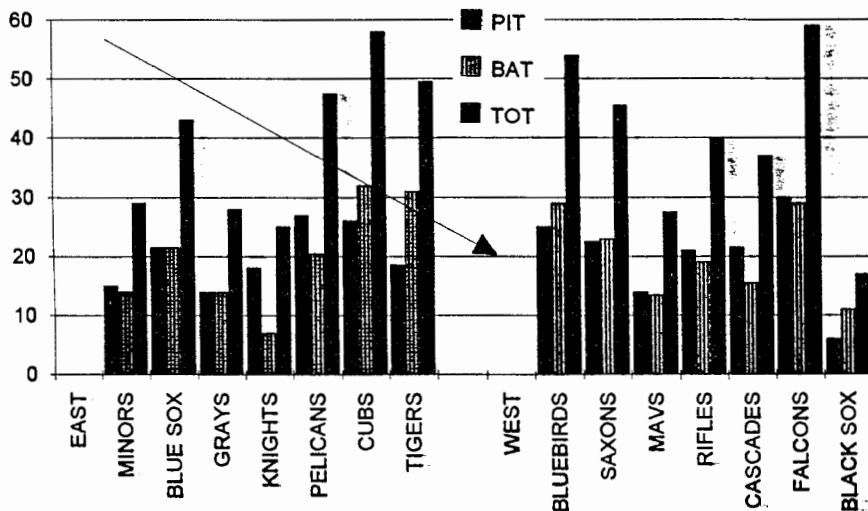
(BAT PTS)- The total # pts accrued

(POS)- Overall ranking in Batting Categories

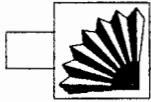
(TOT PTS)- Combined Batting & Pitching

(TOT RANK)- Overall ranking in both categories by division.

* Indicates tie in position



	K/W	CG	SV	HR/	ERA	PIT	POS	HR/	SLG	OBP	SB/	BAT	BAT	POS	TOT	TOT
	RAT			BFP		PTS		TAB	%		ATT	AVG	PTS		PTS	RANK
EAST																
MINORS	7	5	1	1	1	15	6	1	2	3	4	4	14	5*	29	5
BLUE SOX	5	2.5	5	3	6	21.5	3	5	4	4.5	5	3	21.5	3	43	4
GRAYS	2	1	2	6	3	14	7	4	3	2	3	2	14	5*	28	6
KNIGHTS	6	4	4	2	2	18	5	2	1	1	2	1	7	7	25	7
PELICANS	4	6	6	4	7	27	1	3	5	4.5	1	7	20.5	4	47.5	3
CUBS	3	7	7	5	4	26	2	7	7	6	7	5	32	1	58	1
TIGERS	1	2.5	3	7	5	18.5	4	6	6	7	6	6	31	2	49.5	2
WEST																
BLUEBIRDS	6	4	6	5	4	25	2	6	7	6	3	7	29	1*	54	2
SAXONS	3	6.5	3	3	7	22.5	3	3	4	7	4	5	23	3	46.5	3
MAVS	2	5	4	1	2	14	6	2	2.5	3	2	4	13.5	6	27.5	6
RIFLES	5	2	5	6	3	21	5	7	5	4	1	2	19	4	40	4
CASCADES	4	6.5	2	4	5	21.5	4	4	2.5	1	5	3	15.5	5	37	5
FALCONS	7	3	7	7	6	30	1	5	6	5	7	6	29	1*	59	1
BLACK SOX	1	1	1	2	1	6	7	1	1	2	6	1	11	7	17	7



Continued from Page 2

KNIGHTS- Shifted to the East, the prognosis is that there will be no shining armor to deflect the losses. John Turnbull will not be here for the full season and probably out of earshot from hearing the thud as the Knights hit the basement. But watch out in two years. Gunner has done a fine job of building this club and the seeds are there for a contender. Great draft with both Jack Sanford and Tony Kubek in the first round, so the future is solid. That Kubek- Bobby Richardson combo up the middle will be deadly with Harmon Killebrew's future power at 3B a major plus. A bit thin at the corners with Gail Harris and Whitey Lockman filling in for limited ABs by Joe Adcock at 1B and a slump year from Willie Jones. Will give fits to opponents with Harvey Haddix and Sanford. Jerry Staley will be a non-factor as relief ace as Knights will be out of many games early.

WESTERN-

FALCONS- After years of anguish the Falcons are ready to soar. Almost as awesome at the plate as the Cubs, with Teddy Ballgame, Ken Boyer and Frank Robinson joined by Rip Repulski. Setting the table will be Junior Gilliam, but his DP partner, Daryl Spencer may be a liability with the glove. With wily vets Sal Maglie, Mike Garcia and Connie Johnson joining rookies Von McDaniel and Danny McDevitt, the Falcons possess an excellent rotation. Dick Farrell will be the stopper the Falcons need. Looks like a 1st place finish.

BLUEBIRDS- Not far behind the Falcons, the Flock hopes to bounce back to the title Andy Langert took in '54. Deft changes have put the club back into contention led by Frank Sullivan, Moe Drabowsky and Lindy

McDaniel. Sandy Koufax will show his first glimpses of stardom with 122 Ks in 104 innings. Richie Ashburn annoys opponents at the leadoff slot and there's plenty of thump with Charlie Maxwell, Frank Thomas, Larry Doby and Bobby Thomson. It will be interesting to see the numbers produced by part-timer Bob Hazle. Bluebirds will be in it down to the wire.

SAXONS- Tom Falduto is still shaking his head about what went wrong in '56. A rebound year by Warren Spahn should put the Saxons right back in the race as the team had the league low ERA. With Falduto's handling of the pitching staff, we'll see enough wins from Art Ditmar, Curt Barclay and vet Carl Erskine to be in it all the way. An OF of Joe Cunningham, Billy Bruton and Al Kaline will tire out pitchers and there's fine depth. Only question might be at SS with Billy Klaus. But there's enough maneuverability to get it done. Don't count out the Saxons.

CASCADES- Once again, pitching was the key for the Cascades in the draft with Billy O'Dell the top choice. Manager Ross added Bily Hoeft and has seven hurlers with ERAs under 3.50. After two straight Cy Young Awards, Don Newcombe will be under the microscope. Limited starts by Cal McLish will be utilized against power teams and he will also serve as stopper with O'Dell. There will be a problem in OF as the Elephant Brigade of Del Ennis, Walt Moryn and Gus Zernial will lumber after fly balls. But Nellie Fox and Dee Fondy will be on base enough for the thumpers to drive them home. Middle of the division for this club, looking to the future.

MAVERICKS- Mike Cascarano pulled one out of his hat last year, but '57 will be much different. Two excellent 1st round choices in John Roseboro and Juan Pizarro, but they are for two years out. Good pitching foundation with Whitey Ford and Jim Bunning and Ron Kline always seems to get the job done. Bob Keegan and Willard Schmidt have some numbers, but not enough. The loss of Bill White will devastate the offense as only Stan Musial is a power threat. Keep an eye on Gino Cimoli's production and the growth of Bill Mazerowski. Fifth place?

RIFLES- Roy Sievers and George Crowe are the heavy ammo for the Rifles as Bob Calicchia works Roger Maris into the middle of the order along with Bob (Not Yet Roberto) Clemente. There will be lots of platooning to get maximum production from Roger and Bob Bowman. Good infield with Don Hoak and Roy McMillan on the left side and Danny O'Connell at 2B. Bob Purkey, Camilo Pascual, Vern Law and Sam Jones form the nucleus of a fine staff. Fine relief with Don McMahan and maybe a surprise from lefty Bob Smith. Best Bob can hope for is a fourth place finish as he rebuilds the attack.

BLACK SOX- Welcome to Siberia. John Ungashick tore his team apart, following the philosophy of trading players a year too early rather than a year too late. An old ballclub with power only from Gus Bell and Vic Wertz and a pitching staff with the highest ERA in the circuit. Only Tom Gorman has an ERA under 4.00 for Sox. It will be a loooooong season in Evanston.