



AROUND THE HORN

"The Newsletter of Seasons Past Baseball"

NOVEMBER 1995

Pair of No-Hitters Mark '46 June Highlight Package

by John Ungashick

As the season moves into the critical intradivisional phase, the pennant races are heating up with a repeat of last season's all West Coast World Series a distinct possibility. In the East, the Dodgers opened up a three-game lead over the Fortress with the Gold Sox four back. Over in the West, the Marauders moved four ahead of the hard-charging Elephants while the Whales slipped seven back of the leader.

Mickey Vernon of the Fairfield Federals was the league batting leader at the end of June with a sizzling .402 mark. Joltin' Joe DiMaggio of the Elephants had the HR lead with 17.

On the mound, Johnny Schmitz of Fairfield and Mickey Harris of Rossville had 10

wins apiece to lead in that category.

The big story of the month were the first two no-hitters in SPB-II history! Howie Pollett of the Elephants spun his masterpiece against the Gold Sox, a 16-0 win. He followed it up later in the month with a 1-hit, 6-0 triumph over the Dodgers. Brooklyn was on the short end of the stick against the Marauders as Vic Lombardi allowed a first inning run, but managed to no-hit the Dodgers in a 9-1 win. (See Page 6).

The Elephants had a team ERA of 5.93 in their series against the Feds, usually a sure sign of disaster; but they won 4 Of 5 as the Pacyderms offense averaged 10 runs, 15 hits and 7 walks. In the first game, WhiteyKurowski had 7 RBI

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Commissioner's Forum

by Jim Wheeler

In spite of the efforts of some managers to screw up the simplest computer transactions, we still move on. The instructions were quite simple, yet some managers elected to use the Pre-Season disk for the first set of Manager Profiles. Amazing!!!

During the month of November each SPB manager will receive a survey and questionnaire from the league office. The survey will be aimed at gauging in which direction the league should go regarding setting limits for playter at-bats and roster size.

You will have 3 or 4 options to choose from and will be asked to simply check the option you like the best, then return to the league office (the league will even pay for your return postage with a SASE). The results of the survey will be turned over to the Rules Committee prior to their vote on this issue at the 1947 Rookie-Draft this winter. If you don't understand how the Rules Committee functions, please consult your League Constitution.

I am amazed that every time an issue is voted on, some manager feels offended because he never voted on anything. Again, consult your Constitution if you have any questions. This is your way to let the Rules Committee know how you feel.

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A STRANGE CELEBRATION RITUAL!!



It's only his first title, so perhaps the Cubs' Rick Ryan doesn't quite have the victory celebration down pat. Here, Ryan (left) attempts to pop the cork on rival skipper Frank Papp after the 1957 World Series sweep.

'58 SEASON PREVIEW

by *The Baseball Curmudgeon*

The winds of change blew across the SPB-I horizon in 1957 as the Iron Curtain was shattered and the East won it's first title via the Rossville Cubs. With it, the balance of power appears to have also shifted as the West, the poster child for parity in '57 has undergone changes.

The West Coast Braintrust of SPB worked long into the night (we forget which one it was) putting together the analysis of the upcoming '58 campaign. So, here are some cryptic notes and observations of the new season.

Based on Real Stats, the Mavericks show the best pitching numbers with a 3.22 ERA, followed closely and surprisingly, by the Tigers at 3.23. Frankfort also tied with the Falcons in permitting the fewest HRs, 125. The league ERA totals 3.78.

At the plate, the Saxons post a one point advantage over the Blue Sox, .270 to .269 with a league average of .259. Tiger batters crushed 230 HRs, 31 ahead of the vaunted Cubs attack.

Here goes:

EASTERN DIVISION:

CUBS- It's difficult to find a hole anywhere in this lineup and once again, opposing pitchers will get the shakes pitching thru the heart of the Cubs' order: Mays, Mathews, Banks. The addition of Billy Bruton fills an OF hole and the complement of journeyman OFs will get the job done. Cubs pitching was questioned in '57, but

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TRADE BAZAAR

Some last minute wheeling and dealing as we came close to the October 11th trade deadline for the '58 campaign:

112. **TIGERS** send Ossie Alvarez to the **MINORS** for Bob Speake.

113. **CUBS** trade Paul Giel to **MINORS** for Ed Fitzgerald.

114. **TIGERS** swap Chuck Essegian and Bob Speake to **CUBS** for Bob Bowman and Jim King.

Commissioner's Forum from page 1

Along with the questionnaire will be a brief biographical sketch for each manager to complete. We did this when the league first started and now have enough new members to make this effort worthwhile.

Please task the time to complete both the biography and survey.

Good luck with the '58 season.

ANYONE HOME?

Remember the *Neverending Story*?

Well, we appear to have our own version here in both SPB leagues. There are still a few managers who continue to be Stat-deficient in reporting stat data to opposing managers. All that is required is that Manager Profiles be sent **ON TIME** and that stats from completed home series be sent in **EXPORTED LEAGUE** mode.

That will permit immediate updating and allow managers to keep track of player usage and results. Also, **BOXSCORES AND SCORESHEETS** on disk. A "Report" file cannot be imported and requires numbers be compiled manually.

DIAMOND DUST

1946-Yankees top Boston 2-1 before 69,107 at the Stadium. Spud Chandler walks 9 in first 4 innings, but goes into 9th with a 0-hitter before Bobby Doerr gets a 1-out single....Johnny Sain misses a perfect game when Grady Hatton's pop fly drops among 3 Braves fielders behind 3B. Braves win 1-0....In 1st game of a double-bill, Lou Boudreau smacks 4 doubles and a HR, but Ted Williams hits 3 HRs and drives in 8. In the second game, the famous shift is born. Williams grounds out and walks twice as he ignores the shift.. In a game vs. Bosox, 14 White Sox are ejected for jeering umpire Red Jones.... Al Zarilla of Browns gets 2 triples in 4th inning against A's as Browns win 11-4.. Lew Flick of Little Rock (Southern Lg.) gets 9-straight hits in a 19-inning game and then 3 more in second game of the doubleheader.....

"I hope somebody hits .400 soon. Then people can start pestering that guy with questions about the last guy to hit .400."

1958- Dodgers erect 42-foot screen in LF at LA Coliseum as the wall is a mere 250' from home plate...San Francisco Board of Supervisors rejects plan to move proposed stadium from Bayview area to downtown... Herb Score lasts only 3-innings against A's in his first appearance since injury. He loses 5-0...Dodgers draw NL record crowd of 78,682 for home opener against Giants.. Hank Sauer hits 2 HRs for SF, but in 9th, rookie Jim Davenport is called out for failing to touch 3B with tying run... Duke Snider injures his arm before the game trying to throw a ball out of the Coliseum. He's docked a day's pay...Dodgers draw a night game record of 60,635 for a 5-3 win at home against the Cardinals... Ted Williams becomes the 10th ML player to get 1,000 extra base hits in a 10-4 loss to the A's...

'57 Trophy Time

by Mike Cascarano

(Ed. Note: The complete article was prepared and will run in the '57 Yearbook. In the interim, here are the highlights of the voting. Only 11 of 14 '57 skippers submitted ballots).

MVP- Ted Williams turned in the first .400 SPB season and bested runnerup Roy Sievers by ten points 52-42 with 9 first place votes. Mickey Mantle (17 points), Ernie Banks (15) and Stan Musial (14) rounded out the top five.

CY YOUNG- Don Drysdale broke Don Newcombe's two-year grip on the award, garnering 9 first place votes to best Jim Bunning 53-34. Johnny Podres chalked up the other 2 first place markers and finished with 32 points, ten ahead of comebacking Warren Spahn. Newk finished fifth with 8 points.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR- Rick Ryan's first title with the Cubs won him the honors over Frank Papp, 53-31 and 9 first place votes to 2. Jim Wheeler (28), Bob Calicchia (18) and Mike Cascarano (16) followed up.

FIREMAN- Clem Labine notched 24 saves and a 1.70 ERA in leading the Cubs to the championship. He finished with 6 first place votes to top the Saxons' Ed Roebuck and Marv Grissom (34 each). Rookie Dick Farrell (Falcons, 22) and Don McMahon (Rifles, 10) ended the Top 5.

JACKIE ROBINSON AWARD- The future finally looks bright for the Orient Express. Rookies Jack Sanford (30) and Tony Kubek (23) finished 1-2 in voting. The Minors' Eddie Kasko picked up 22 points and 2 first place votes while Farrell (17) and flash-in-the-pan Von McDaniel totaled 15 points.



Baseball Illogic

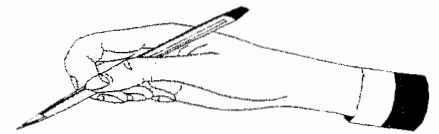
In the book, *BASEBALL'S BAD HOPS and LUCKY BOUNCES* by Mike Blake, there's a piece listed under "Weird Nuggets" on one of our former SPB-II heroes, or is it anti-hero, "Broadway" Bill Schuster. Wild Bill toiled for two seasons in relative obscurity for the SPB Brooklyn Dodgers, accumulating a great deal of bench time and limited numbers.

During his major league career, equally obscure and limited over five seasons, Schuster had a series of eccentric acts he performed. When he was hitting into a "sure" last out of a game, he'd often run to thirdbase instead of first. Once, he hit a grounder back to the box and instead of running hard to either first, or third, he raced up the middle and slid between the pitcher's legs. The hurler, "Skinhead" Hunter found no humor in the play, grabbed the ball and tagged Schuster on the head—over and over—knocking him out. Both teams left him there.

Schuster is also chronicled in *RUNS, HITS and an ERA, The Pacific Coast League 1903-58* by Paul Zingg. In 1949, as a Los Angeles Angels SS, he was so outraged at a strike call by umpire Gordon Ford, that he swung his bat at both Ford and Oakland catcher Don Padgett. He was merely tossed out of the game, not suspended.

Talk about nasty, *Bad Hops* makes note of the "attitude" of Dick Donovan, a member of the Cascades and a ten-year minor leaguer before he made it to the majors in 1955. Asked if he enjoyed hitting opposing batters, Donovan replied, "I don't care one way or another, but it does make an interesting sound when the ball hits them." He once hit Vic Power so hard that Power had the stitch marks near his spine for a week. Ah, what a nice guy!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



We've made some great inroads in the past year with both SEASONS PAST BASEBALL leagues. This is the 12th edition of *AROUND THE HORN* which I've had the distinct pleasure of putting together on a month-to-month basis, and despite the glitches which sometimes develop, we're on the right track.

While the newsletter is the immediate focal point, you will all be pleasantly surprised in the near future. Bob Calicchia has performed a yeoman task and put together the *SPB I-II Encyclopedia*, a chronicle of both the leagues from the outset. The book will be made available at NO COST quite soon.

All that remains is to come up with those early trades for 1954-55 and 1944-45. A number of us have searched and not been able to come up with every player move which took place. So, if anyone out there has the complete records, contact Bob so that we can get the project out for your reading pleasure.

I received the 1957 Yearbook from John Turnbull on October 27th. In the next week or so. I will be finalizing John's fine job and getting a copy to all of you. I promise, you will enjoy the fruits of his efforts, as always.

Now for the dirty work. While MOST managers are providing monthly series reviews and highlights for the newsletter, others have yet to send even one. You don't need the form, just a brief writeup will do, along with scoresheets or boxscores of special games. Send them to Lou Ross. Thanks.

'46 Season

from Pg.1

in leading Evanston to a 17-4 win. It could have been worse, but Evanston left 16 men on base!

The battle of the "Rosses turned completely around as the Rossville Hornets returned the favor from May by winning four of five from the Rossmoor Bears.

The team of the month was the Evanston Elephants who went 18-7 with the only downside being they made up only 1 game on the Marauders who went 17-8. Player-of-the-Month was Mickey Vernon who hit .450 with a .509 OBA and 10 doubles.

Howie Pollett looked like a shoo-in for Pitching honors until he was bombed for 8 runs in 7 innings in his lat start against Fairfield. The honor goes to Vic Lombardi of AVM, 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA and the no-hitter. Junior Thompson (Whales) gets Reliever honors almost by default with a 1.93 ERA and 3 saves.

MAY '46 STANDINGS

Eastern	W	L	PCT	GB
Dodgers	39	31	.557	—
Fortress	36	34	.514	3
Gold Sox	35	35	.500	4
Federals	34	36	.486	5
Monarchs	32	38	.457	7
Hornets	30	40	.429	9
Redbirds	28	44	.371	13
Western	W	L	PCT	GB
Marauders	47	23	.671	—
Elephants	43	27	.614	4
Whales	40	30	.571	7
White Sox	39	31	.557	8
Trees	32	38	.457	15
Acorns	32	38	.457	15
Bears	25	45	.357	22

(Following are tidbits and info from Game Summaries and Reports furnished to Lou Ross):

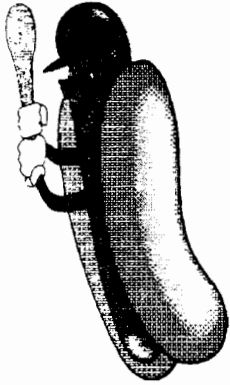
Marauders keep rolling against Gold Sox with 4-1 series win. Masi's 3-run HR wins openers for M's, but Erv Dusak pinch-hits a 9th inning blast for Sox and 4-3 win. Vic Lombardi gets plenty of support in 3rd game as Mark Christman hits a 3-run dinger for 9-1 win. Dave Koslo gets more support in 4th contest and 11-3 triumph with Joe Kuhel 3-5 and 4 RBI. In finale, Bucky Walters bests Harry Brecheen in M's comeback after Dusak launches a 1st inning 3-run homer. Another 4-1 series for M's against Hornets. Sam Chapman homers into the upper deck at Polo Grounds off Ted Wilks in 9th for 5-3 win. Hornets come back in fourth game on a Bama Rowell HR and in the final affair, Johnny Niggeling hurls a 2-hit 9-0 zip for the M's. The M's were well rested and waiting for the arch rival Dodgers to hit town. In the opener, with the score 2-2, Tommy Brown hits a PH HR off Al Gerhauser for a 4-2 AVM win. Dodgers get even in second as Schoolboy Rowe outhurls Ed Lopat 6-3, breaking it open after 7th. History in Game 3 as the Dodgers get a run in the first, but are NO-HIT by Vic Lombardi as AVM puts a nine-spot on the board for 9-1 win. Brooks' rebound in 4th game, on Kerr HR in 1st, and Harry Gumbert holds on against Koslo for a 3-1 win. In the rubber game, Niggeling vs. Cliff Fannin and Frank Gustine HRs for a 1-0 lead in 3rd and AVM adds 3 more. Although outhit, Dodgers are shutout again and M's even season series at 5-5. Bears extended Dodgers winning 2-of-5 at home. Phil Marchildon once again had the walk bugaboo, but held on for a 3-1 win, but Ralph Kiner and Bears put 19 hits on the board in a 10-5 blasting of Red Barrett. Sheldon Jones made one of his limited starts and spun a nifty 2-hit shutout for the Dodgers as Dan Litwhiler's 2-run HR was enough in a 3-0 win. Lee Handley was the force in game 4 for a 7-4 Dodgers win against Hank Schanz.

Tommy Bridges got offensive support from Kiner's HR and John Lucadello's double off Marv Grissom in a 8-4 finale win. Rain in Brooklyn played a major factor against the White Sox in game 3 as Ralph Hamner and Jack Kramer battled through the raindrops. In the 10th, Preacher Roe came on in relief in the 9th, but Don Padgett's base loaded comebacker to the mound scored the winning run as Dom DiMaggio beat the toss home. The next day, Roe started and stifled the cold Dodgers bats for a win. In Game 5 of Feds-Elephants series, there were a total of 33 hits, including Vernon's grand slam. Feds allowed 34 walks in the series. Versus Acorns, Frank Kush fired a 3-hitter and despite 24 series walks, Feds posted a 2.72 ERA. Nannie Fernandez popped a 10th inning HR to give Feds a 2-1 win in series finale. Gold Sox won 2 games in their final AB against Acorns and 2 against Trees. In one vs. Trees, John VanderMeer walked home winning run in 8th. Rex Barney walked home a winning run for Trees against Monarchs with 2 down in 9th. Monarchs finished a 4-6 homestand with a .176 BA. Barney McCoskey's single and Frank McCormick's 2-RBI double in 7th leads Trees to 3-2 series triumph over Monarchs. Marv Rickert's slam and Andy Seminick solo led Dodgers over Elephants in the opener of their series. Lee Handley had the only hit, a single in the 6th inning, as the Elephants' Howie Pollett spun his one-hitter. Pollett walked three in the 6-0 win. In 4th game of series, Cliff Fannin allows only 4 hits for Dodgers, but Art Herring, in third inning of relief, allows 2-out single to Benny Zientara in 11th for 3-2 Evanston series victory.



Reflections

Part II by John Ungashick



The acme of my APBA career was achieved with back-to-back titles in 1979 and 1980, the only championships I have ever won in any league. The two trophies still sit proudly on our piano. Several years

later, I was drafted to become the league commissioner and remained in that job until the league folded in 1993. With the advent of personal computers, I taught myself Lotus 1-2-3 primarily so I could maintain the league rosters; at the end, my roster spreadsheet was a marvel of macros and easily recorded transactions.

A couple years after joining APBA, I also joined a SOM league and stayed for about two years. Over the years, I became disgusted with SOM and the overmanaging with the righty/lefty matchups required. For three consecutive years in the early '80s I had the AL Cy Young Winner (Vuckovich, Hoyt, Stone) and all three were close to worthless. Vuckovich was so bad that he spent the entire season in the minors for my 100-loss team.

Around the same time, I obtained a job with a trucking company which also employed Andy Langert, a fellow member of both the APBA and SOM leagues. Andy talked the president into investing in White Sox season tickets and we set up a committee which was responsible for distributing the ducats. The committee consisted of the president's secretary, Andy and me! The tickets were located directly behind home plate and both of us used them extensively for the "necessary ordinary business expense" of entertaining our APBA and SOM buddies.

A few years later, I changed jobs and began working for a Chicago financier by the name of William F. Farley. He was a minority owner of the White Sox and actually tried to buy the team in the dying days of Bill Veeck, but was upstaged by the ill-fated Edward DeBartolo. He then became part of Jerry Reinsdorf's syndicate which in reality wasn't that much different from the Bill Veeck group; only the front man had changed.

Farley also had some killer season tickets which were about 10 seats off the screen on the third base side in the first and second row. I took full advantage of this employment perk, making sure that no business nonsense interfered with my enjoyment of the game.

One Friday in October 1982, Farley asked me if I was free to attend a World Series game being played that night in Milwaukee. It didn't take me very long to agree and we made the trek to Cheesehead land. The game was very exciting with Willie McGee's two homers leading the Cards to a 6-2 victory. However, the big thrill came afterwards when Farley asked us to go to a reception being held in County Stadium's Private Club. I and my two friends did not have tickets and the girl at the front refused to budge despite Farley's pleading. He then disappeared inside and came back a few minutes later leading Bud Selig who ordered the ticket taker to "Let those guys in."

Every baseball person you could think of was at this reception, including Frank Robinson, Dick Williams, Tommy Lasorda and Chub Feeney. Bowie Kuhn even tapped me on the shoulder as he exited the room and said, "Glad to see you," obviously believing I was somebody important, rather than a starstruck fan.

In 1983, the All-Star Game came to Comiskey Park and I was very excited about attending another one, 20 years after my first. Unfortunately, my wife's brother chose this weekend, of all weekends, to get married; the gall of that

guy! I was heartbroken as was one of my co-workers told me afterwards that he had seats in the second row! That same season, I obtained four tickets to the fifth playoff game involving the White Sox and Orioles. As every Sox fan will tell you, there was no fifth game as the immortal Tito Landrum homered off Britt Burns in the top of the 10th. I was not a happy camper that night.

Around this time, I also made the acquaintance of Tom Falduto, who also joined both baseball leagues. Tom is not only an astute baseball mind, but one of the few surviving liberal Democrats; certainly one of the few who has a "real" job versus such people as college professors, social workers and "activists." He is also one of the few people with whom I can discuss not only the HOF merits of Nellie Fox, but also the circumstances and results of the Schlieffen Plan of 1914 and Operation Barbarossa in 1941.

By 1984, Farley had sold my company and our free tickets were a thing of the past. Several of my friends, convinced that the Sox were a lock to win the pennant and wanting to guarantee playoff tickets, went together and bought four upper deck season tickets which we shared. We never did see a playoff game, but I was fortunate enough to be present at Jack Morris' no-hitter in 1984. At one of those games, I hosted Andy and his son, Danny, who was then about 6-7 years old. Danny was very excited, but his bedtime was approaching and they left after the 7th inning. In the 8th, Harold Baines fouled off a pitch that landed exactly where Danny had been sitting and I was fortunate enough to catch it. I didn't tell Andy, but about a week later I went to his house and presented him with the ball which I understand he still keeps on his mantle.

About this time, I became involved with Operation Scoresheet and was appointed White Sox Captain. My job was made very easy by the presence of a mailman

REFLECTIONS from P 5

by the name of Don Zminda who not only scored every game, but every pitch of the game! A later recruit was a young actuary by the name of John DeWan. I always wanted to say that John owes his whole future to me; he obtained my name and number from an advertisement and called to ask how he could get involved with "keeping the stats" for Operation Scoresheet. I gave him the name of the Bill James flunky who was coordinating the organization and shortly thereafter, John became fast friends with the great man himself.

A few years after becoming Director of Operation Scoresheet, John quit his day job and founded a company by the name of STATS, INC. I thought he was crazy, but the gamble worked in spades. Zminda later resigned from the post office and became a key member of the STATS, INC. staff.

I bought my first (I'm now on my 3rd, not including about 4 upgrades in the middle) personal computer in 1986 primarily to play APBA Baseball and keep the rosters for our league. I also indulged myself in four different full-season replays (1961, '53, '64, '59 in that order). In those days, you had to play every single game and hit a key for every batter. It was a great experience, but in the process, I became very disenchanted with APBA. I started a one-man crusade to reform the game and carried on a running battle of the letters with the editor of the APBA Journal, but to no avail.

Frank Papp joined the APBA league in the late 1980's but the league was definitely on the downside. It was only my constant badgering which kept it alive and after I quit as commissioner the league quickly collapsed. Fortunately, Frank recruited Tom and I for the SPB League and the rest is history.

DRAFT DAY REDUX



The SPB Braintrust, Jim Wheeler (l), Steve Ehresman, stifling a yawn after another draft pick slides away (c) and Gary Plunkitt (r) oversee '58 draft day proceedings.



Ryan and Papp Make Nice After Cubs Clubbing of Falcons in '57 Series



'58 Preview

Continued from P.2

came through. Will it repeat itself in the presence of rookie Jim Grant and veteran Hal Jeffcoat? Those are the keys.

TIGERS- Once again, power will be the forte for the Bengals, but is this a collection of aging stars behind Mickey Mantle? Possibly. The home for wayward OFs, with 15 rated, there seems to be an imbalance as Gary Plunkitt enters the season with a 10-man pitching staff. Good on paper, it remains to be seen how Carlton Willey and Brooks Lawrence support Tom Brewer and John Antonelli. Yet, the Tigers will once again beat opponents senseless with their hitting and there should be an abundance of 10-8 games.

PELICANS- Slowly, but surely, Jim Wheeler has put together a balanced ballclub. Nice depth at each position, nothing fancy, just productive. Key to this club is the lefty-righty pitching corps led by Don Drysdale, Johnny Podres, Bob Turley, Lew Burdette and newcomer Joe Nuxhall. Should be more productive at the plate than in the past and will definitely challenge for the title. Bob Allison, Jackie Jensen and Bill Virdon provide solid OF strength and Dick Groat is glue to IF with Red Schoendienst.

BLUE SOX- Still top-heavy in LH OFs, even after late pre-season swaps Jim Lemon provides lone RH bat among fly chasers. Still, not a bad club in terms of on base capability and building block is in place for future with Vada Pinson. Richie Ashburn, obtained from Albions, should anchor leadoff spot until Pinson's ready. Two excellent relievers in Turk Lown and Roy Face will get loads of work putting out the fires created by Ray Semproch and Ralph Terry who will support Bob Rush and Billy Pierce. The Good Doctor will need to improve his carnival talents to juggle this pitching staff all season.

GRAYS- It's been a long haul for skipper Paul Kenyon, but the light at the end of this tunnel promises a bright future. Cleve Boyer, Jim Gentile, Earl Battey and Frank Howard are in basic training waiting to join Hank Aaron and Rocky Colavito in the regular lineup. The 1958 crew will hope that Billy Loes can mesh with Curt Simmons, Larry Jackson and youngster Mike McCormick in the rotation. Hopefully, a few key starts by Dick Drott and Frank Baumann might make the Grays late-season spoliars.

MINORS- New skipper Bob Buonaccorsi inherits a club with a strange mix of talent, potential and aging players. Tony Taylor moves in to takeover 2B slot and solidify IF with Bill Skowron, Eddie Kaso and Brooks Robinson. Harvey Kueen is best all-around hitter at this time and is joined in the OF by Minnie Minoso and hopefully, a rebounding Harry Simpson. Interesting pitching staff with veteran starters Frank Lary and Robin Roberts who suffered from lack of support in the past and young vets Don Cardwell and Roger Craig. Bily Hoeft joins the club for starts, but team lacks a true closer. Future prospects are bright.

EXPRESS- You have to give John Turnbull credit for his patience in building this squad. Renamed the Orient Express, our over-seas cohort has a lineup that in two years will be the match of any team in the league. However, 1958 promises to be another year of fits and starts with Mike Cascarano handling the club while John is stationed in Korea. With the short LF fence in LF the Express still has the potential to crush loads of '58 rockets. Bob Cerv, Wally Post and Duke Snider fill out a nice group of veteran OFs while Tony Kubek and Bobby Richardson develop in the middle. Milt Pappas should impact right away on a staff with Pete Ramos and Jack Sanford. The remainder of hurlers could get lit up regularly on the left coast.

DIVISION PICK: PELICANS

WESTERN DIVISION:

FALCONS- Gurnee eeked out a surprise one-game win over four clubs in 1957, but can they repeat in '58? The Vegas odds makers say a resounding "NO." A potent middle of the lineup with Ted Williams, Ken Boyer and Frank Robinson, but a number of holes, in other slots. Pitching seems weaker, even with the addition of Bob Purkey as the Falcons seem to be in transition once again. Falcons lose some base-running strength with trade of Jim Gilliam and 1B could be a problem.

MAVERICKS- One of the 1-game short crew, basically due to poor season by White Ford. Curt Flood solidifies CF and leadoff spot for number of years. Stan Musial holds down 1B in absence of Bill White to military for most of season and Lee Walls and Al Pilarcik flank Flood in OF. Good depth here with Dick Williams to fill in everywhere and emergence of Bubba Phillips at 3B. A rebound year by Ford, coupled with Jim Bunning and Juan Pizarro, Ron Kline and Alex Kellner will make pitching tough. Needs good seasons from Marv Grissom and Willard Schmidt as they wind down their careers. Judicious use of Humberto Robinson will be a major factor.

SAXONS- Look out, they're back! After a lackluster season finishing 10 games off the pace, Tom Falduto has restocked the Saxons. The top average and OBP in the league may be distorted a bit by the limited use of some journeyman players, but the lineup is potent. The expected emergence of Joe Cunningham at 1B to fill out the IF of Johnny Temple, Don Buddin and Andy Carey-Eddie Yost combo at 3B is solid. Power in the OF with Al Kaline, Norm Siebern and rookie slugger Willie Kirkland will give the opposition fits. The pitching can go five deep with Bob Friend, Warren Spahn, Art Ditmar, Gary Bell and the diminutive

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