

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL I
1955 SEASON

01/02/1994

ALL-STAR BALLOTING

In the next few days all managers should be receiving their 1955 All-Star ballot from Red Sears. This ballot must be completed and mailed to Red promptly so that he may play the All-Star game at the end of January. As previously stated, managers failing to submit a ballot to Red will have their 3rd round draft pick moved to the lowest positions. Let's make this All-Star game the beginning of an SPB tradition!

TRADING SEASON

The league office has informally received notification of several 1956 season trades that have already been made. Remember before a trade can be official, each manager must:

- o Have paid his league dues for the next season.
- o Must submit IN WRITING the detail of the trade.

Thus far, no manager involved in any trades has met the specified criteria. Therefore, none of the trades reported by phone to the league office is considered official.

2nd ROUND DRAFT ORDER

As some of you may recall at the July draft convention, Vern Easley proposed that the 2nd round of each Rookie Draft be drawn in random order. This issue has yet to be resolved and your input is needed. Personally, I am in favor of the proposal. The randomness is attractive because it imitates real life in the sense that even the best teams sometimes continue to stay rich by signing the right young rookies. At any rate, I am asking each of you to either phone or write me with your vote by January 31, 1994. In order to pass, this issue will need at least eight (8) YES votes.

Also remember that the first three (3) draft picks will be assigned via a lottery style draft. The team with the worst overall record will receive three (3) chances, the next team two (2) chances, and the final team one (1) chance.

PTP VERSION 5.0

By now all of you should be aware that PTP is soon to release Version 5.0 of the game. This is a MAJOR overhaul of the game and will be the version we will be playing with for the 1956 season. Specifically of interest to us, is the improvement of stamina for pitchers. Early test results have shown a dramatic improvement in the number of complete games thrown and a reduction of appearances by relief pitchers. Order your copy ASAP so we all will have this version for the 56 season.

THE BASEBALL CURMUDGEON

(So, who is the BASEBALL CURMUDGEON? Just your basic old, gravel-voiced 1955 pressbox gadfly who has been living off ballpark food and Jack Daniels while chomping on thick cigars since the days of Cap Anson. Cynical and irascible might be the best way to describe him, although his philosophy is basically, "I'm here to protect this game.")

Well, well, well. Must be the marketing people are getting involved here in SEASONS PAST BASEBALL. It's more than rumor that two franchises have been meeting with advertising agencies and probably even fashion consultants to change their image in 1956. Trying to disguise themselves, I imagine! Or hide. The Quartz Hill Wind, sitting right on the San Andreas Fault and unable to draw anything but journeymen players, will be known as the HIGH DESERT REBELS. Now, why isn't a high desert a plateau? The word high doesn't necessarily correlate to their position in the standings.....And then the ill-fated TORONTO TITANS are going to be called the SPRINGFIELD RIFLES. Bet the NRA is behind that one and it has something to do with selling the Cold War rather than being named for Vic Raschi. Better pass a rule that we can't name teams after ballplayers until they're retired at least five years. Would the Incognito INDIANS be politically correct?

Now that the great minds that be (quick, can we find one amongst us) have decided that the expansion franchises are going to be thoroughly fleeced, it's good to know that Harry Chiti will still be on the RIFLES roster in 1961. Sort of takes them right out of the race. And Mr. O'Malley didn't lie about trading for Wrigley Field in LA. He just didn't get the chance to finish his story. That whiskey was great, Walter!

Touchy, touchy. A "war" brewing between the Sox, blue and black about the quality (or lack of) of trades made by Evanston Black Sox and the comments of the Lafayette Blue Sox skipper? Steve Ehresman sounds like a Notre Dame coach when he whines about how bad his team is and then proceeds to kick butt. More like a wrestler who gets on his knees and pleads for mercy when he's going to get whooped.

For all of you getting ready to draft for 1956, the Turnbull meter is ticking. Here's one to tilt the balance: Vinegar Bend Mizell completed

his 2-year Army stint by leading the McPherson Third Army team to the All-Army title in 1955 with a 21-0 record. Included were 3 no-hitters!

Len Okrie has been named manager of the Lafayette entry in the Midwest (D) League for '56 and Pete Reiser will skipper at Kokomo. Al Unser will be at Decatur trying to yes, start their engines.

The secret to the success of Don Newcombe was found in BASEBALL DIGEST. He's become "grimly serious, self-controlled and earnest." Plus, he came up with a new grip on his curveball. Same thing with Dick Donovan who discovered the nickel curve (slider) early in the year.

Here's something from Lew King of the Philadelphia Daily News on the difficult year for southpaws in 1955:

It's no year for lefties; they just ain't going right.
Take Simmons and Haddix, consider their plight.
Take Spahn, Antonelli....lost much of their heft
This '55 season the southpaws got left.

Pretty weak, eh. That's for the Rifles, nee Titans (that's how they used to put in the obituaries in New York). He probably meant HOEFT.

The biggest controversy in baseball in 1955? No, not the expansion talk, not the potential overuse of players, but.....the hit and run play! It is being analyzed to the nth degree by baseball experts since Leo Durocher has made it a key weapon for his offensive strategy.

Let's hand the mike over to Tim McCarver for a few million words on the subject.....
