

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL



1955



YEARBOOK



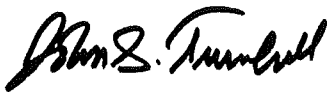
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In "The On-Deck Circle"

With another season in the books, it's time to move the calendar forward another year (or is it turn the calendar back again??). The 1955 season has seen many developments take place, from a new champion being crowned, to two new managers joining the league, to the league's first no-hitter.

This year's yearbook is bigger and better than ever than last years, with the help from inputs from other league members. Once again, this edition is intended to not rehash what has already been published (like the All-Star game), but to give you one last look at the season from a different seat. There are many new items this year, which you'll see as you peruse the pages. So grab yourself a Yoo-Hoo, and some Cracker Jacks, relax, and enjoy what for me has been an absolute joy for me to put together for you all, and what I like to think is the best of it's kind: THE Season's Past Baseball 1955 Yearbook!



JOHN S. TURNBULL
LEAGUE STATISTICIAN

FINAL STANDINGS

HARRIDGE DIVISION					GILES DIVISION				
	WON	LOST	PCT	GB		WON	LOST	PCT	GB
Schaumburg Saxons	100	54	.649	--	Frankfort Tigers	94	60	.610	--
Pacific Cascades	94	60	.610	6	Evanston Black Sox	91	63	.519	3
Lafayette Blue Sox	93	61	.604	7	Heartland Bluebirds	88	66	.571	6
Rossville Cubs	85	69	.552	15	Dayton Flyers	72	82	.468	22
Mountain Park Minors	68	86	.442	32	Toronto Titans	63	91	.409	31
Quartz Hill Wind	57	97	.370	43	Nebraska Knights	62	92	.403	32
Dayton Ducks	52	102	.338	48	Gurnee Falcons	59	95	.383	35

BATTING TOTALS

HARRIDGE	AVG	OBP	SPC	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cascades	.274	.346	.407	5391	822	1476	192	40	149	779	557	576	8	23
Saxons	.274	.356	.402	5435	849	1488	210	40	136	807	686	617	74	31
Blue Sox	.273	.340	.426	5337	798	1458	286	46	145	778	516	690	28	38
Cubs	.270	.335	.424	5367	780	1451	209	55	168	759	518	666	29	43
Minors	.266	.331	.376	5405	699	1439	200	41	103	667	500	474	52	14
Wind	.263	.338	.376	5356	662	1407	219	45	99	625	613	619	24	10
Ducks	.253	.323	.370	5311	661	1343	215	40	109	627	552	764	16	9
DIVISION	.267	.337	.397	37602	5217	10062	1531	307	909	5042	3942	4406	231	168

GILES	AVG	OBP	SPC	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS
Bluebirds	.276	.352	.416	5338	823	1471	246	47	136	798	638	674	7	11
Black Sox	.269	.340	.411	5397	778	1454	218	43	153	747	580	693	17	8
Tigers	.268	.358	.434	5328	886	1429	247	47	180	837	728	739	30	44
Flyers	.262	.335	.382	5353	711	1403	240	36	110	682	570	578	33	30
Knights	.251	.326	.367	5377	688	1348	231	26	114	653	589	685	10	3
Titans	.247	.320	.366	5257	636	1296	197	48	112	600	557	640	2	10
Falcons	.244	.323	.363	5294	631	1293	212	27	121	608	599	567	22	28
DIVISION	.259	.335	.391	37344	5153	9697	1591	274	926	4925	4261	4567	121	134

PITCHING TOTALS

HARRIDGE	WON	LOST	SAVE	ERA	INN	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	DP	CG	ShO
Saxons	100	54	36	3.34	1389.0	1287	583	515	498	676	101	122	47	13
Blue Sox	93	61	23	3.59	1376.2	1243	616	549	587	566	127	120	63	12
Cascades	94	60	33	3.98	1378.0	1435	678	610	485	661	132	166	41	10
Cubs	85	69	27	4.23	1382.3	1336	711	649	593	491	114	124	47	13
Minors	68	86	20	4.33	1381.0	1414	745	664	570	621	137	140	50	6
Wind	57	97	21	4.96	1373.3	1528	846	757	564	496	154	143	32	5
Ducks	52	102	15	5.90	1356.0	1737	1002	889	673	652	130	137	28	4
DIVISION	549	529	175	4.32	9636.3	9980	5181	4633	3970	4163	895	952	308	63

GILES	WON	LOST	SAVE	ERA	INN	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	DP	CG	ShO
Black Sox	91	63	32	3.65	1385.6	1279	665	562	570	762	122	127	30	9
Bluebirds	88	66	34	3.92	1391.6	1351	705	606	557	594	141	139	36	6
Tigers	94	60	34	4.23	1368.3	1344	722	643	631	678	124	126	39	4
Flyers	72	82	25	4.30	1381.0	1346	733	660	661	755	135	133	47	3
Titans	63	91	28	4.40	1370.0	1369	734	670	670	698	134	140	35	9
Knights	62	92	26	4.84	1382.3	1569	822	744	545	676	151	150	30	8
Falcons	59	95	23	4.87	1383.3	1524	863	749	593	657	133	147	22	7
DIVISION	529	549	202	4.31	9663.3	9782	5244	4634	4227	4820	940	962	239	46

STATISTICAL SEASON AT A GLANCE

Once again, what would a good would a computer game be without comparing the computer stats with that of the actual 1955 season. Considering the two best pitchers parks were not taken, and that most players in SPB55 played in different ballparks than they did in real life, the statistics came out pretty realistic. That will be proven further when you see how the league leaders compared with that of the leaders of the 55 campaign.

	1955 Season	SPB55	SPB55 PROJ*	DIFF	% DIFF
AVG	.259	.264		+.005	+1.9
OBP	.333	.338		+.005	+1.5
SLG	.396	.394		-.002	-0.5
Games	1237	1078	1237		
At Bats	82516	74946	86000	+3484	+4
Runs	10933	10424	11961	+1028	+9
Hits	21391	19759	22673	+1282	+6
Doubles	3222	3122	3582	+360	+10
Triples	696	581	667	-29	-4
Home Runs	2218	1835	2106	-112	-5
RBIs	10320	9967	11437	+1117	+10
Walks	8940	8203	9413	+473	+5
Strikeouts	10621	8982	10307	-314	-3
Stolen Bases	686	352	404	-282	-70
Caught Stealing	534	302	347	-187	-54
Home Run %	.027	.024		-.003	-12
BB/SO	.842	.913		+.071	+8
ERA	3.89	4.32		+0.43	+10
Saves	349	377	433	+84	+19
Innings	21316	19298	22144	+828	+4
Earned Runs	9214	9267	10634	+1420	+13
Double Plays	1772	1914	2196	+424	+19
Complete Games	744	547	628	-116	-19
Shutouts	158	109	125	-33	-26

Overall, a better year than last. I think that was in part to the tightening of the player usege rules. Home Runs were down, and even though we still resort to the 90's pitching mentality, the percentage of complete games has actually risen in the league since last year. But still, managers were a lot more reluctant to steal a base than last year. I guess the legacy of Earl Weaver lives on!

MONTHLY RECAP

***** TEAM RECORDS *****

	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
Tigers	13- 7(1)-	18- 7(1)-	11-14(1)-	19- 9(1)-	17-11(1)-	16-12(1)-
Black Sox	11- 9(2)2	14-11(2)6	13-12(2)4	16-12(2)7	19- 9(2)5	18-10(2)3
Bluebirds	8-12(5)5	16- 9(3)7	12-13(3)6	17-11(3)8	18-10(3)7	17-11(3)6
Flyers	11- 9(2)2	12-13(4)8	11-14(4)8	14-14(4)13	14-14(4)16	10-18(4)22
Titans	6-14(7)7	11-14(7)14	11-14(6)14	11-17(6)22	10-18(5)29	14-14(5)31
Knights	9-11(4)4	9-16(6)13	9-16(7)15	11-17(7)23	11-17(5)29	13-15(6)32
Falcons	8-12(5)5	11-14(5)12	11-14(5)12	10-18(5)21	9-19(5)29	10-18(7)35
Saxons	13- 7(2)2	16- 9(1)-	17- 8(1)-	20- 8(1)-	14-14(1)-	20- 8(1)-
Cascades	13- 7(2)2	15-10(2)1	18- 7(1)-	13-15(3)7	19- 9(2)2	16-12(2)6
Blue Sox	15- 5(1)-	13-12(2)1	14-11(2)4	20- 8(2)4	16-12(2)2	15-13(3)7
Cubs	8-12(6)7	12-13(4)9	15-10(4)11	18-10(4)13	16-12(4)11	16-12(4)9
Minors	9-11(4)6	12-13(4)8	11-14(4)14	9-19(5)25	11-17(5)28	16-12(5)32
Wind	9-11(4)6	8-17(6)12	10-15(6)19	13-15(6)26	10-18(6)30	7-21(6)43
Ducks	7-13(7)8	8-17(7)14	12-13(6)19	5-23(7)34	12-16(7)36	8-20(7)48

Records are shown month by month, with the placing in the division in parenthesis, and the number of games behind the leader at the end of that month to the right of the ().

***** PLAYER AWARDS *****

	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>STARTER</u>	<u>RELIEVER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
SEPTEMBER	A.Smith(SAX) W.Post(KNI)	W.Spahn(SAX)	P.LaPalme(SAX)	Blue Sox
OCTOBER	G.Bell(ASX)	B.Pierce(USX)	D.Howell(FAL)	Tigers
NOVEMBER	T.Kluszewski(SAX) W.Mays(CUB)	W.Spahn(SAX)	P.LaPalme(SAX)	Cascades
DECEMBER	W.Post(KNI)	W.Spahn(SAX)	D.Mossi(FAL)	Saxons
JANUARY	M.Mantle(TIG)	H.Haddix(KNI)	H.Freeman(TIG)	Black Sox
FEBRUARY	W.Mays(CUB)	W.Hacker(CUB)	E.Kinder(FAL)	Saxons

FOR YOUR INFO: Total number of series records:

7-0:4 6-1:14 5-2:34 4-3:29 5-0:8 4-1:29 3-2:61

SAXONS TAME TIGERS FOR TITLE

Johnny Temple named series M.V.P.

The highly-coveted SPB championship plaque goes to the Schaumburg Saxons, and Manager Tom Falduto. The Saxons led the league with a record 100 victories, and was powered by an effective nucleus of Al Kaline, Ted Kluszewski, and pitchers Warren Spahn, and Billy Hoeft.

A STRONG START

The series opened at Briggs stadium, the "bandbox" of the league, and even though the Saxons took the first game, the only homer hit in game one was the only run of the game for the Bengals, by catcher Les Moss. The Saxons took the early lead in the 2nd on an RBI single by Bill Bruton, scoring Al Smith. The Tigers tied the score in the bottom of the 5th on the Moss homer, with the Saxons taking the lead for good in the top of the next inning on a Jim Finigan error, and a single by Klu. Billy Hoeft got the opening game assignment and got the "W" with Johnny Antonelli taking the loss.

TIGERS REBOUND

After falling behind 2-0 in the 4th inning, the Tigers bounced back to tie the score at 2, and then the show belonged to Eddie Mathews. Mathews hit a go-ahead solo-homer to lead off the 8th to put the Tigers up, but Jack Meyer could not hold the lead in the 9th, giving up a pinch-hit 1-out homer to Faye Throneberry. Mathews again, in his next at bat, smacked a 2-out game winning home run in the bottom of the 10th to knot the series at one.

EXTRA INNINGS AGAIN

After an off day, the series moved up I-65 to the suburbs of Chicago.

Picking up where he left off, Eddie Mathews tied a world series record by homering in his third straight at bat in the first inning. The Tigers led until the bottom of the eighth inning, when a tired Jack Harshman walked the last two batters he faced to load the bases, but reliever Jack Meyer couldn't stop the bleeding, giving up a 2-RBI single to pinch-hitter Faye Throneberry to tie the score at 4. The Tigers threatened in the top of the 9th when Jim Hearn walked the bases loaded, then Jim Konstanty got Dale Long looking to end the inning to send the contest into the an extra-inning affair for the second straight game. With 1-out in the bottom of the 10th, Ted Kluszewski ripped a Hersh Freeman fastball over the fence for the first home playoff victory for the Schaumburg faithful.

A LITTLE COCKY??

Game 4 saw the Saxons pull out to a comfortable 9-2 lead after just 4 innings, but the Tigers put on a fierce comeback effort in the top of the 9th inning. With two outs and a runner on first, Tappe doubled, scoring Mantle, pinch-hitter Eddie Robinson walked, and pinch-hitter Solly Hemus singled the bases loaded off of Saxons reliever Dick Hall. Ed Roebuck relieved Hall, and quickly gave up a pinch-hit single to Stan Palys, scoring Robinson. The Saxons then replaced Roebuck with Bob Friend, who walked Reese to load the bases once again. An impatient Tom Falduto pulled Friend after just one batter and inserted Paul LaPalme. Wally Moon then made the Saxons sweat with a 2-RBI double. Falduto stuck with Paul,

who got then-hero Eddie Mathews to pop up to the catcher to end the ballgame. Starter Herm Wehmeier took the loss for the Tigers, with Saxons starter Ray Crone getting the victory.

TIGERS DON'T QUIT

The Frankfort ballclub, now down 3 games to one, temporarily avoided elimination by defeating the Saxons 7-3. The Tigers built a 6-3 lead on the heels of Eddie Mathews fourth HR of the series, and Johnny Antonelli tossed the first complete game of the series for the victory. Schaumburg's Billy Hoeft never made it out of the third inning.

AN EASY W FOR THE FLAG

The Saxons did not want a seventh game, now that the seires shifted back to Indiana. They made sure of that early, by jumping out to a 6-2 lead by the 4th inning, and added insult to injury in the eighth to secure the win and the title by thrashing the Tigers 10-3. Willard Schmidt cruised for the complete game victory, while Carl Erskine took the loss. Series MVP Johnny Temple led the attack with 3 hits, with Big Klu adding 3 hits, with a double and a homer.

TEMPLE CONSISTANT

Even though he didn't deliver a GWRBI, Temple set the table in grand fashion for the Champion Saxons. He had at least 2 hits in each game except for game one. his .464 average led all hitters, smacked 13 hits, three doubles, and did not strike out in 28 at bats. Eddie Mathews ran a close second.

SERIES STATISTICS

TEAM HITTING

SAXONS	AVG	OBA	SLG	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	BI	BB	SO	SB	CS
Temple	.464	.482	.642	6	28	13	3	1	0	5	2	1	0	2	0
Kluszewski	.333	.357	.629	6	27	9	2	0	2	5	5	1	3	0	0
Bruton	.231	.259	.384	6	26	6	2	1	0	4	4	1	0	0	0
Kaline	.250	.333	.280	6	24	6	0	0	0	3	4	3	2	0	0
Smith	.350	.500	.500	6	20	7	3	0	0	7	0	6	1	1	0
House	.333	.333	.333	5	15	5	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	0
Dark	.214	.214	.285	5	14	3	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0
Yost	.083	.153	.083	3	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Hatton	.273	.384	.363	3	11	3	1	0	0	2	3	2	2	0	0
Seminick	.200	.272	.200	3	10	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0
Morgan	.100	.100	.200	3	10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Throneberry	1.000	1.000	2.500	3	2	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0
Agganis	.000	.000	.000	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyck	.000	.000	.000	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Evers	1.000	1.000	1.000	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Korchcheck	.000	.000	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Schmidt	.143	.143	.143	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Crone	.333	.333	.333	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hoeft	.333	.333	.333	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Spahn	.000	.000	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Friend	.000	.000	.000	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAXONS	.281	.334	.398	6	221	62	13	2	3	35	33	16	24	3	0

TIGERS	AVG	OBA	SLG	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	BI	BB	SO	SB	CS
Moon	.179	.206	.250	6	28	5	2	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	0
Mathews	.296	.344	.629	6	27	8	1	0	4	6	6	2	8	0	0
Long	.208	.296	.375	6	24	5	1	0	1	2	4	3	4	0	0
Mantle	.318	.444	.590	6	22	7	3	0	0	7	1	5	7	2	0
Reese	.238	.428	.333	6	21	5	0	1	0	2	1	7	4	0	0
Finigan	.100	.142	.150	6	20	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Walker	.500	.600	.666	6	12	6	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Palys	.333	.333	.444	6	9	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Tappe	.111	.272	.222	4	9	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	1
Moss	.250	.250	.625	3	8	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Busby	.200	.200	.200	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hemus	.400	.400	.600	5	5	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kiner	.000	.000	.000	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robinson	.333	.600	.333	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0
Stephens	.000	.500	.000	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bailey	.000	.000	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Antonelli	.000	.000	.000	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Harshman	.000	.000	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Erskine	.500	.500	.500	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wehmeier	.500	.500	.500	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TIGERS	.237	.323	.393	6	211	50	13	1	6	27	24	24	35	3	1

SERIES STATISTICS

TEAM PITCHING

SAXONS	ERA	G	W	L	S	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	HR	GS	CG
Schmidt	2.40	2	1	0	0	15.0	10	5	4	3	11	59	0	2	1
Hoeft	4.50	2	1	1	0	10.0	9	7	5	4	5	44	2	2	0
Crone	3.86	1	1	0	0	7.0	9	3	3	6	8	35	0	1	0
Spahn	5.14	1	0	0	0	7.0	11	4	4	1	5	32	2	1	0
Friend	2.70	3	0	1	0	6.2	5	2	2	4	2	28	1	0	0
LaPalme	3.38	3	0	0	1	2.2	2	1	1	0	0	10	1	0	0
Konstanty	0.00	2	1	0	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0
Shantz	0.00	1	0	0	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0
Hearn	0.00	1	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0	3	1	8	0	0	0
Hall	21.60	1	0	0	0	1.2	2	4	4	3	0	9	0	0	0
SAXONS	3.88	6	4	2	1	55.2	50	27	24	24	35	241	6	6	1

TIGERS	ERA	G	W	L	S	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	HR	GS	CG
Antonelli	2.81	2	1	1	0	16.0	13	6	5	1	9	63	0	2	1
Erskine	3.00	2	0	1	0	9.0	9	5	3	3	3	40	1	2	0
Harshman	4.70	1	0	0	0	7.2	7	4	4	4	6	33	0	1	0
Freeman	7.11	3	0	1	0	6.1	10	6	5	1	2	30	1	0	0
Meyer	4.15	3	0	0	0	4.1	5	2	2	3	4	21	1	0	0
Birrer	9.82	3	1	0	0	3.2	7	6	4	0	0	19	0	0	0
Wehmeier	18.00	1	0	1	0	3.0	7	6	6	0	0	16	0	1	0
Hughes	0.00	1	0	0	0	2.0	2	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Brewer	0.00	1	0	0	0	1.1	2	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	0
Schallock	0.00	1	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
TIGERS	4.80	6	2	4	0	54.1	62	35	29	16	24	244	3	6	1

Errors: Tigers- Erskine 1, Finigan 3, Reese, 1
 Saxons- House 1, Temple 1, Yost 2, Dark 1

GWRBI: Tigers- Long, Mathews
 Saxons- Kaline, Kluszewski 2

Sacrifice Flies: Tigers- Robinson, Tappe
 Saxons- Evers, House, Temple, Throneberry

Hit By Pitch: Tigers- Robinson, Tappe, Walker
 Saxons- Kaline, Smith

COMPOSITE SCORES BY INNINGS:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TIGERS	5	7	0	0	4	1	3	1	5	1
SAXONS	1	9	1	12	0	2	1	5	3	1

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL 1955 SEASON PITCHING (MINIMUM 154 INNINGS PITCHED)

NAME	TEAM	ERA	G	W	L	S	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	HR	GS	CG	SH	WP	DP
1 Pierce	USX	2.32	28	16	7	2	201.3	156	59	52	70	142	821	15	25	14	4	0	15
2 Dickson	USX	2.79	33	13	10	0	222.3	182	80	69	94	89	933	19	28	11	3	4	27
3 Spahn	SAX	2.83	33	18	7	0	254.0	223	92	80	75	123	1046	17	32	15	5	0	19
4 Newcombe	CAS	2.83	34	21	9	1	260.6	250	96	82	51	144	1079	27	31	19	3	0	21
5 Hoefft	SAX	2.83	30	18	6	0	226.0	208	79	71	80	119	945	19	29	13	4	0	27
6 Haddix	KNI	2.99	31	16	12	1	234.6	202	86	78	80	165	973	14	30	17	4	1	21
7 Friend	SAX	3.09	37	10	14	11	168.6	162	67	58	55	78	719	5	19	4	2	0	14
8 Buhl	CAS	3.13	33	12	11	2	218.6	170	86	76	118	122	932	8	27	4	1	4	26
9 Wilson	CUB	3.39	34	13	9	0	247.0	229	101	93	90	81	1045	15	31	11	2	6	19
10 Hacker	CUB	3.41	34	14	10	0	224.3	184	91	85	61	78	915	22	30	11	3	1	14
11 Score	ASX	3.48	32	17	7	0	237.6	188	120	92	167	251	1058	15	32	8	2	18	21
12 Rogovin	ASX	3.51	26	9	12	0	156.3	149	75	61	48	53	670	6	23	2	1	5	10
13 Rush	BLB	3.55	33	14	12	0	243.3	233	119	96	85	126	1048	21	33	10	2	2	14
14 Turley	FLY	3.56	36	12	16	1	267.6	189	124	106	187	210	1177	17	34	17	0	7	25
15 Donovan	CAS	3.57	28	16	4	1	194.0	212	84	77	49	78	826	11	24	8	3	0	25
16 Jones	TIT	3.64	34	13	14	0	257.3	191	110	104	189	194	1146	16	34	14	6	6	33
17 Podres	FLY	3.66	24	9	10	0	172.0	169	79	70	71	119	730	9	24	5	0	0	24
18 Lemon	USX	3.71	33	15	12	0	237.6	227	106	98	93	86	1008	19	31	14	1	6	21
19 Sullivan	BLB	3.74	34	17	8	0	274.0	240	129	114	116	107	1158	28	35	16	1	1	31
20 Antonelli	TIG	3.77	36	17	10	0	250.6	231	116	105	78	143	1061	25	32	13	1	3	18
21 Wehmeier	TIG	3.79	29	14	7	0	182.6	181	87	77	57	69	777	12	28	10	1	2	15
22 Gromek	ASX	3.84	25	10	11	0	159.3	161	79	68	35	71	687	19	25	3	0	2	19
23 Hearn	SAX	3.87	33	12	10	0	223.3	220	106	96	72	83	946	21	33	4	1	1	21
24 Roberts	MPM	3.91	38	15	16	0	312.6	320	152	136	76	165	1322	40	38	21	2	3	22
25 Lary	MPM	3.92	32	8	17	1	227.3	240	119	99	110	90	1014	16	30	9	0	8	29
26 Poholsky	ASX	3.92	27	9	7	0	179.0	167	83	78	56	82	756	24	24	5	3	4	15
27 Harshman	TIG	4.00	31	9	9	0	166.6	147	84	74	90	113	730	17	23	3	0	0	17
28 Fowler	USX	4.15	36	12	10	2	193.0	185	103	89	81	69	843	19	26	8	1	4	11
29 Erskine	TIG	4.23	31	15	2	0	191.6	186	101	90	97	71	847	21	29	8	0	1	17
30 Byrne	BLB	4.25	25	11	4	1	154.6	142	78	73	88	81	683	12	22	5	2	1	18
31 Ford	WIN	4.29	34	14	12	0	247.6	233	133	118	124	125	1090	27	33	10	2	0	26
32 Nuxhall	WIN	4.31	34	11	15	0	236.0	230	123	113	86	76	1016	25	33	11	3	0	22
33 Minner	KNI	4.32	22	7	11	0	158.3	176	84	76	45	50	691	11	22	4	1	0	21
34 Wynn	ASX	4.38	31	13	9	0	228.0	231	136	111	95	119	1017	19	31	9	2	2	16
35 Maglie	FAL	4.45	33	8	14	0	170.0	187	100	84	52	84	748	17	24	4	2	0	17
36 Porterfield	DUC	4.53	30	5	14	0	182.6	226	102	92	52	67	821	12	25	4	0	0	20
37 Brewer	TIG	4.79	30	8	11	0	159.6	188	107	85	74	80	730	16	28	4	2	4	25
38 Gomez	MPM	4.82	30	16	9	0	209.0	221	126	112	88	74	936	19	30	11	3	3	22
39 Nixon	CUB	4.90	31	9	14	0	196.3	216	111	107	92	68	883	9	31	9	2	2	22
40 Littlefield	KNI	5.03	28	6	11	0	161.0	204	102	90	77	85	752	16	21	2	2	2	22
41 Simmons	DUC	5.05	29	9	10	1	181.6	213	116	102	70	82	831	19	25	6	2	2	17
42 Law	TIT	5.06	28	13	17	0	251.0	299	154	141	92	94	1129	22	35	11	3	5	16
43 Kellner	KNI	5.06	27	6	9	1	165.3	191	102	93	61	91	744	22	24	2	0	0	16
44 Garcia	FAL	5.10	34	6	13	0	208.3	259	134	118	65	108	948	22	31	7	2	0	17
45 Palica	CUB	5.10	30	8	10	0	155.3	161	101	88	99	47	717	12	25	5	1	6	19
46 Maas	FAL	5.16	28	4	13	0	162.3	172	106	93	92	68	741	12	24	3	1	3	19
47 Burdette	FLY	5.70	38	9	20	1	232.0	308	157	147	75	71	1070	26	33	8	0	4	20
48 Woolridge	WIN	5.96	31	5	11	0	154.0	189	107	102	63	33	706	16	24	0	0	3	16
49 Jackson	DUC	7.03	31	2	16	0	167.6	232	140	131	85	71	819	25	25	2	0	3	16

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL 1955 SEASON HITTING (MIN 477 PLATE APPEARANCES)

NAME	TEAM	AVG	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS
1 Goodman	BLB	0.356	142	519	185	31	0	4	105	65	86	38	0	0
2 Ashburn	BLB	0.347	153	600	208	42	9	1	137	51	119	45	1	4
3 Campanella	CAS	0.341	134	498	170	19	1	37	94	134	54	34	0	0
4 Bell	ASX	0.341	154	630	215	36	3	35	123	125	74	53	0	0
5 Williams	FAL	0.337	128	398	134	21	2	32	70	91	93	30	1	4
6 Furillo	WIN	0.329	150	575	189	20	4	21	86	99	57	47	0	0
7 Mantle	TIG	0.317	154	580	184	40	6	48	151	139	113	92	14	6
8 McDougald	WIN	0.313	128	518	162	13	9	8	85	48	61	67	4	1
9 Mueller	MPM	0.312	154	645	201	16	7	8	74	77	24	17	0	0
10 Kaline	SAX	0.311	154	604	188	21	4	27	123	112	86	62	2	3
11 Mays	CUB	0.311	154	611	190	18	14	45	135	131	83	69	24	15
12 Post	KNI	0.310	154	625	194	43	2	39	112	133	75	111	0	0
13 Miranda	CAS	0.307	133	498	153	17	10	2	73	55	50	62	0	3
14 Smith	SAX	0.306	154	591	181	21	2	18	100	95	98	80	6	3
15 Mathews	TIG	0.306	149	496	152	27	6	33	112	116	93	88	3	3
16 Rivera	USX	0.305	133	456	139	31	1	14	84	65	49	69	18	13
17 Kell	FLY	0.303	126	491	149	25	2	8	79	54	51	44	0	3
18 Kluszewski	SAX	0.302	154	639	193	28	0	46	114	152	60	43	1	2
19 Fox	CAS	0.301	154	654	197	25	6	8	96	76	32	8	0	7
20 Long	TIG	0.300	135	433	130	19	15	14	62	82	51	62	0	0
21 Musial	WIN	0.300	144	564	169	41	1	21	84	106	77	40	0	0
22 Snider	USX	0.300	153	587	176	40	9	39	112	123	85	95	1	5
23 Avila	MPM	0.299	154	579	173	20	3	8	81	63	83	37	0	4
24 Aaron	DUC	0.297	154	616	183	39	3	19	86	87	57	55	3	1
25 Ennis	CAS	0.295	146	600	177	25	10	20	98	109	39	37	0	0
26 Doby	ASX	0.295	136	498	147	18	13	23	85	89	56	94	3	2
27 Burgess	TIT	0.293	132	468	137	25	2	13	58	73	53	42	0	0
28 Vernon	BLB	0.293	154	588	172	29	11	18	106	108	80	38	0	0
29 Kuenn	MPM	0.292	154	660	193	32	8	6	84	72	46	24	17	2
30 Moon	TIG	0.287	149	585	168	21	8	17	91	91	49	75	1	9
31 Groat	FLY	0.287	151	592	170	33	3	4	68	74	41	25	0	5
32 Schoendienst	FLY	0.286	138	552	158	31	1	7	85	49	59	23	2	3
33 Robinson	CAS	0.286	110	409	117	14	0	6	61	41	69	25	7	6
34 Logan	USX	0.285	150	578	165	36	9	6	88	59	56	60	1	4
35 Power.	USX	0.285	151	613	175	37	6	13	88	110	36	28	0	0
36 Boone	BLB	0.282	143	500	141	24	10	17	76	94	59	41	0	0
37 Klaus	ASX	0.281	147	601	169	35	1	8	96	67	65	45	10	4
38 Bruton	SAX	0.278	154	658	183	27	7	7	100	89	47	65	26	9
39 Piersall	FLY	0.273	150	597	163	29	5	13	72	99	58	61	14	1
40 Rosen	CAS	0.273	137	465	127	16	1	18	73	70	81	35	0	1
41 Virdon	CUB	0.272	149	588	160	26	5	17	77	68	28	83	0	7
42 Hodges	FLY	0.271	153	597	162	26	7	15	75	96	85	95	0	0
43 Jones	KNI	0.270	147	563	152	22	3	12	92	76	93	54	2	0
44 Temple	SAX	0.269	153	602	162	14	3	1	105	57	87	43	36	12
45 Thomas	BLB	0.268	152	582	156	27	1	29	81	109	52	85	1	1
46 Simpson	CAS	0.268	115	451	121	25	5	2	56	45	36	84	0	4
47 Runnels	FAL	0.268	136	514	138	17	7	1	56	51	59	55	0	0
48 Zernial	ASX	0.268	139	496	133	14	4	39	66	123	36	94	0	0
49 Carey	USX	0.267	140	460	123	21	10	4	59	48	32	42	0	1
50 Torgerson	FAL	0.267	148	501	134	21	0	15	81	57	92	63	14	7
51 Reese	TIG	0.267	153	600	160	27	4	9	109	49	72	58	1	13
52 Crandall	CUB	0.266	138	481	128	18	2	25	71	87	47	55	0	1
53 Berra	KNI	0.266	132	497	132	18	2	18	76	71	59	25	0	0
54 Hamner	KNI	0.265	137	495	131	14	5	7	56	66	58	44	0	0
55 Freese	DUC	0.264	127	500	132	20	10	14	74	69	31	49	6	3
56 Triandos	FLY	0.264	121	447	118	17	4	12	54	63	40	39	0	1
57 Lopez	ASX	0.262	140	500	131	20	5	17	68	70	41	60	0	0
58 Minoso	MPM	0.261	150	574	150	28	8	14	89	85	98	42	31	7
59 Carrasquel	BLB	0.261	154	533	139	11	1	9	62	61	67	54	0	1
60 Jensen	FLY	0.261	154	589	154	19	7	21	96	96	90	64	10	3
61 Lollar	USX	0.259	145	429	111	10	3	12	58	58	68	33	0	0
62 Lockman	MPM	0.259	128	456	118	12	1	8	55	70	32	25	0	0
63 Banks	CUB	0.258	154	620	160	24	11	33	98	105	48	72	2	3
64 Boyer	FAL	0.256	150	601	154	35	2	14	65	75	31	65	1	2
65 Dropo	MPM	0.256	129	492	126	12	1	25	71	77	48	79	0	0
66 Tuttle	TIT	0.254	154	649	165	20	5	12	86	59	65	60	0	3
67 Woodling	KNI	0.254	122	469	119	31	4	1	72	39	70	40	0	2
68 Jackson	WIN	0.253	118	463	117	15	7	22	71	73	43	55	0	0
69 Gilliam	FAL	0.250	144	528	132	17	8	4	60	43	65	49	1	8
70 Baker	CUB	0.248	152	622	154	24	2	4	82	67	45	59	0	8
71 Sievers	TIT	0.248	154	592	147	24	7	24	78	76	75	73	0	0
72 Repulski	FAL	0.245	152	593	145	28	0	19	74	72	44	58	0	1
73 Fondy	CUB	0.241	144	547	132	12	7	7	58	68	31	80	0	5
74 Miksis	KNI	0.237	141	497	118	20	3	6	48	53	39	48	0	1
75 White	MPM	0.236	150	546	129	19	6	7	59	62	44	59	0	0
76 McMillan	TIT	0.235	153	601	141	21	5	2	78	42	83	41	0	1
77 Abrams	DUC	0.233	119	399	93	20	3	2	68	29	89	95	0	2
78 Clemente	TIT	0.233	132	459	107	22	15	3	46	40	21	54	0	4
79 DeMaestri	DUC	0.232	134	499	116	11	0	5	44	45	27	37	0	0
80 Zauchin	CAS	0.219	138	475	104	12	0	27	72	81	69	95	1	0
81 Finigan	TIG	0.216	151	509	110	20	2	2	51	67	60	45	0	2
82 Thompson	ASX	0.209	143	498	104	13	0	13	84	61	95	66	0	0

COMPARISON OF LEAGUE LEADERS

HITTING LEADERS

BATTING AVERAGE

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Kaline	.340	.356	Goodman
Ashburn	.338	.347	Ashburn
Mays	.319	.341	Campanella
Musial	.319	.341	Bell
Power	.319	.337	Williams

HOME RUNS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Mays	51	48	Mantle
Kluszewski	47	46	Kluszewski
Banks	44	45	Mays
Snider	42	39	Zernial
Mathews	41	39	Snider/Post

ON BASE AVERAGE

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Ashburn	.449	.462	Williams
Mantle	.433	.453	Ashburn
Kaline	.425	.444	Goodman
Snider	.421	.433	Mantle
Mathews	.417	.413	Mathews

RUNS BATTED IN

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Snider	136	152	Kluszewski
Mays	127	139	Mantle
Ennis	120	134	Campanella
Banks	117	133	Post
2 tied at	116	131	Mays

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Mays	.659	.655	Mantle
Snider	.628	.633	Williams
Mantle	.611	.607	Mays
Mathews	.601	.606	Campanella
Banks	.596	.598	Snider

WALKS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Mantle	113	119	Ashburn
Mathews	109	113	Mantle
Ashburn	105	98	Minoso
Snider	104	98	Smith
Goodman	99	95	Thompson

HITS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Kaline	200	215	Bell
Fox	198	208	Ashburn
Kluszwski	192	201	Mueller
Power	190	197	Fox
Kuenn	190	194	Post

TOTAL BASES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Mays	382	380	Mantle
Kluszwski	358	371	Mays
Banks	355	362	Bell
Post	345	359	Kluszewski
Snider	338	358	Post

DOUBLES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Kuenn	38	43	Post
Logan	37	42	Ashburn
Aaron	37	41	Musial
Snider	34	40	Mantle
Power	34	40	Snider

STOLEN BASES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Bruton	25	36	Temple
Rivera	25	31	Minoso
Mays	24	26	Bruton
Boyer	22	24	Mays
2 tied at	19	18	Rivera

TRIPLES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Mays	13	15	Long
Long	13	15	Clemente
Bruton	12	14	Mays
3 tied at	11	13	Doby
		11	Vernon/Banks

RUNS SCORED

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Snider	126	151	Mantle
Smith	123	137	Ashburn
Mays	123	135	Mays
Mantle	121	123	Kaline
Kaline	121	123	Bell

COMPARISON OF LEAGUE LEADERS

PITCHING LEADERS

WINS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Roberts	23	21	Newcombe
Newcombe	20	18	Hoefl
Sullivan	18	18	Spahn
Lemon	18	17	Score/Antonelli
Ford	18	17	Sullivan

INNINGS PITCHED

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Roberts	305.0	312.2	Roberts
Sullivan	260.0	274.0	Sullivan
Nuxhall	257.0	267.2	Turley
Ford	253.2	260.2	Newcombe
Turley	246.2	257.1	Jones

WINNING PERCENTAGE

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Newcombe	.800	.882	Erskine
Byrne	.762	.800	Donovan
Ford	.720	.750	Hoefl
Hoefl	.696	.733	Byrne
Lemon	.643	.720	Spahn

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Pierce	1.97	2.32	Pierce
Ford	2.63	2.79	Dickson
Wynn	2.82	2.83	Hoefl
Friend	2.83	2.83	Newcombe
Score	2.85	2.83	Spahn

GAMES PITCHED

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Labine	60	61	Wilhelm
Narleski	60	52	Freeman
Wilhelm	59	50	Mossi
Mossi	57	48	Narleski
Gorman	57	47	Gorman

STRIKEOUTS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Score	245	251	Score
Turley	210	210	Turley
Jones	198	194	Jones
Roberts	160	165	Haddix
Pierce	157	165	Roberts

COMPLETE GAMES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Roberts	26	21	Roberts
Ford	18	19	Newcombe
Newcombe	17	17	Haddix
Hoefl	17	17	Turley
Spahn	16	16	Sullivan

BASERUNNERS PER 9 INNINGS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Pierce	10.02	10.15	Hacker
Newcombe	10.05	10.19	Pierce
Roberts	10.24	10.46	Newcombe
Friend	10.42	10.67	Spahn
Hacker	10.44	11.12	Haddix

SHUTOUTS

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Hoefl	7	6	Jones
Wynn	6	5	Spahn
Turley	6	4	Pierce
Pierce	6	4	Susce/Hoefl
Nuxhall	5	4	Haddix

SAVES

<u>1955</u>		<u>SPB55</u>	
Narleski	19	20	Wilhelm
Kinder	18	19	Jeffcoat
Gorman	18	18	Ramos
Meyer	16	17	Meyer
Roebuck	12	14	McCall/Face

SPB AWARDS BANQUET

MANTLE NAMED MVP

Mickey Mantle of the Frankfort Tigers easily beat out a formidable field of contenders to garner the SPB55 MVP award. Mantle led the Frankfort Tigers to the Giles division title, on the heels of a .317 campaign. He was amongst the league leaders in every offensive category imaginable, and led the league in slugging (.655), runs scored (151), total bases (380), and home runs (48).

Voting went as follows: (first place votes in parenthesis) 120 points represents a perfect score with 12 ballots received.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1. M.Mantle-TIG | 102 (9) |
| 2. T.Kluszewski-SAX | 85 (2) |
| 3. G.Bell-ASX | 82 |
| 4. R.Campanella-CAS | 67 (1) |
| 5. W.Mays-CUB | 66 |

CY GETS "NEWKED"

The Pacific Cascades' Don Newcombe, getting the most points of any other award winner, won the CY YOUNG award for the leagues best pitcher. Billy Pierce was a tough second, and could have won the award if it weren't for his season-ending collapse, and also for his lack of work. Newcombe was the league's only 20-game winner, and finished fourth to Pierce in ERA with a nifty 2.83. Don also led the league in fewest walks per 9 (1.76), and was second in complete games (19), and fourth in innings pitched (260.2).

Cy Young Voting:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1. D.Newcombe-CAS | 105 (10) |
| 2. B.Pierce-USX | 92 (1) |
| 3. W.Spahn-SAX | 91 (1) |
| 4. H.Score-ASX | 65 |
| 5. D.Donovan-CAS | 46 |

FIREMAN GOES TO WILHELM

Hoyt Wilhelm, one of the only bright spots for the improving, but struggling Toronto Titans, was chosen as the Fireman of the Year, given to the league's best relief pitcher. Wilhelm led the league in saves (20), and also won 8 games, good for second best on the team. Wilhelm made a league-leading 61 appearances, and logged a whopping 106 innings.

Fireman Voting:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1. H.Wilhelm-TIT | 100 (8) |
| 2. T.Hurd-BLB | 70 (1) |
| 3. W.McCall-ASX | 64 |
| 4. H.Freeman-TIG | 64 |
| 5. T.Sturdivant-CUB | 63 (1) |

FALDUTO PICKS UP MORE HARDWARE

Schaumburg Saxons skipper Tom Falduto was voted by his peers as the manager of the year. Tom guided the "northwest-siders" to a league record 100 wins, and a World Championship. The road to the flag started 9 months ago when he acquired Ted Kluszewski to bolster an already powerful team. Falduto edges out Gary Plunkitt in the closest race of the four awards.

Manager of the Year voting:

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| 1. T.Falduto | 100 (6) |
| 2. G.Plunkitt | 95 (2) |
| 3. J.Ungashick | 82 (1) |
| 4. L.Ross | 76 (2) |
| 5. S.Ehresman | 67 |

SKIPPER STATS

Back by a somewhat hesitant review in the inaugural yearbook, we take a look at the managerial intricacies that made up the 1955 season. You must first realize that a manager's hands are somewhat tied to the talent available, and the park they play in. We bring first, infamous expected wins category, showing you based on the number of runs a team allows versus the number they score, just how many wins that club should have had.

CLUB	RUNS FOR	RUNS AGAINST	EXPECTED WINS	ACTUAL WINS	+/-
Cascades	822	678	84	94	+10
Saxons	849	583	91	100	+ 9
Tigers	886	722	85	94	+ 9
Black Sox	778	665	83	91	+ 8
Blue Sox	798	616	87	93	+ 6
Bluebirds	823	705	83	88	+ 5
Cubs	780	711	81	85	+ 4
Flyers	711	733	75	72	- 3
Minors	699	745	74	68	- 6
Falcons	631	863	65	59	- 6
Titans	636	734	71	63	- 8
Knights	688	822	71	63	- 8
Ducks	661	1002	61	52	- 9
Wind	662	846	67	57	-10

New this year, we'll take a look at just how active each of our SPB managers were at home during the past season. Some managers, like Whitey Herzog, runs the same 8 men out on the field and let them play, and some managers, like Tony LaRussa, like to get facetime on national TV, and hopes that none of his players get placed on the "All-Airport" team. This list notes the total number of player changes each home manager made during the past year. Totals are for 77 home games.

MANAGER	PLAYER CHANGES	PITCHING CHANGES	TOTAL CHANGES	CHANGES PER GAME
Gary Plunkitt	418	121	539	6.99
John Ungashick	346	96	442	5.74
Jeff Nicholson	317	102	419	5.43
Steve Ehresman	323	95	418	5.42
Frank Papp	201	139	340	4.41
Tom Falduto	217	96	313	4.06
Mike Cascarano	218	94	312	4.05
Rick Ryan	203	102	305	3.96
Andy Langert	211	84	295	3.83
Red Sears	162	117	279	3.62
Jim Wheeler	145	102	223	3.02
John Turnbull	132	83	215	2.79
Lou Ross	102	90	192	2.49
Vern Easley	90	91	181	2.35
LEAGUE AVERAGE	220	100	320	4.15

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Accumulated statistics for each manager since the inception of Seasons Past Baseball.

	WINS	LOSSES	PCT	90+WIN SEASONS	WINNING SEASONS	DIV. TITLES	LEAGUE TITLES
Andy Langerf	182	128	.587	1	2	1	1
John Ungashick	182	128	.587	2	2	0	0
Tom Falduto	175	135	.565	1	1	1	1
Steve Ehresman	171	139	.552	1	1	0	0
Rick Ryan	168	142	.542	0	2	0	0
Vern Easley	166	144	.535	1	1	1	0
Lou Ross	164	146	.529	1	1	0	0
Gary Plunkitt	163	147	.526	1	1	1	0
Jim Wheeler	154	156	.497	0	1	0	0
Jeff Nicholson*	135	175	.435	0	1	0	0
Mike Cascarano	133	177	.429	0	0	0	0
John Tumbull	132	178	.426	0	0	0	0
Red Sears	57	77	.425	0	0	0	0
Frank Papp	128	182	.413	0	0	0	0
George Kaldis*	60	116	.341	0	0	0	0

* No longer league member

"FIELD OF NUMBERS"

Being the purveyor of numeric digits that I am, you don't think I would let another page go by without digging for more numerical nuggets now, would you?? I think by now, Ross Perot would be proud of me!! Anyways, let's take a look "Inside the Numbers," and look to see just how each ballpark played out in this SPB55 season.

BALLPARK - TEAM	HIT RAT	HR RAT	HITS	HOME RUNS	BAT AVG.	RUNS
Fenway-Minors	160	139	1706(121)	131(100)	.300(113)-	894(120)
K.C.Muni-Blue Sox	125	149	1465(103)	179(136)	.264(100)-	824(110)
Griffith-Ducks	75	49	1407(99)	85(64)	.260(98)+	737(99)
Briggs-Tigers	99	119	1393(98)	180(137)	.257(97)-	821(110)
Wrigley-Cubs	96	79	1344(95)	129(98)	.250(94)-	722(97)
Polo Grounds-Titans	97	122	1392(98)	128(99)	.254(96)-	701(94)
Forbes Field-Flyers	92	63	1259(89)	91(69)	.235(89)-	639(85)
Yankee Stadium-Wind	92	104	1388(98)	115(87)	.255(97)+	688(92)
County Stadium-Saxons	83	65	1271(90)	99(75)	.237(90)-	643(86)
Clev. Muni-Bluebirds	99	119	1409(99)	153(116)	.262(99)-	806(108)
Sportmans Pk-Falcons	107	111	1405(98)	130(99)	.258(97)+	741(99)
Crosley Fld-Cascades	99	111	1485(105)	151(115)	.267(101)-	762(102)
Ebbetts Field-Knights	114	121	1530(108)	143(109)	.271(103)+	781(105)
Comiskey-Black Sox	89	84	1305(92)	121(92)	.239(91)-	665(89)
LEAGUE AVERAGE			1412(100)	131(100)	.264(100)	744(100)

NOTE: The +/- next to the park batting average and the league rating indicates whether that club's opponents hit better or worse at their own ballpark than they did. A (+) indicates that the visiting team hit better at the home team's park, and a (-) indicates that the home team hit better than the visiting team at the home team's park. What did hold true for this year is that Fenway Park was one of the most bombastic hitters parks of its time, especially in 1955. Just ask Warren Spahn of the Mountain Park Minors! The HIT and HR ratings in the first two columns are averages for both left and right handed hitters combined with the numbers weighted towards right-handed hitters since there were more righty batters than lefties. Thanks to Mickey Mantle, Briggs Stadium gets the honors as this year's best Home Run hitters park. Getting back to Fenway Park, maybe Warren Spahn had wished the Yawkey family had put up those luxury boxes up behind home plate sooner!!

TEAM HOME/ROAD HITTING

		AVG	OBP	SLG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS
BLUEBIRDS Cleveland	HOME	.284	.365	.427	2566	439	728	117	22	69	421	329	326	4	3
	ROAD	.269	.341	.406	2772	384	746	129	26	67	377	309	348	3	8
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
CASCADES Crosley	HOME	.284	.352	.425	2675	443	760	90	19	83	420	253	277	4	17
	ROAD	.264	.339	.390	2716	379	716	102	21	66	359	304	299	4	6
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
SAXONS County	HOME	.260	.345	.379	2601	392	677	90	20	60	373	332	307	37	19
	ROAD	.286	.367	.423	2834	457	811	120	20	76	434	354	310	37	12
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
BLUE SOX KC Muni	HOME	.293	.357	.471	2639	452	772	160	23	88	442	251	328	18	23
	ROAD	.254	.323	.381	2698	346	686	126	23	57	336	265	362	10	15
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
CUBS Wrigley	HOME	.266	.334	.407	2588	368	688	86	30	73	361	264	308	17	28
	ROAD	.275	.335	.439	2779	412	763	123	25	95	398	254	358	12	12
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
BLACK SOX Comisley	HOME	.276	.355	.421	2553	381	705	99	24	74	364	315	304	15	8
	ROAD	.263	.327	.402	2844	397	749	119	19	79	383	265	389	2	0
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
TIGERS Briggs	HOME	.280	.368	.466	2362	471	736	119	22	109	443	357	392	20	25
	ROAD	.257	.348	.402	2696	415	693	128	25	71	394	371	347	10	19
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
MINORS Fenway	HOME	.313	.368	.449	2737	448	857	140	31	57	430	232	213	30	5
	ROAD	.218	.293	.300	2668	251	582	60	10	46	237	268	261	22	9
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
WIND Yankee	HOME	.254	.332	.367	2564	293	651	104	26	45	277	293	301	18	8
	ROAD	.271	.345	.384	2792	369	756	115	19	54	348	320	318	6	2
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
FLYERS Forbes	HOME	.243	.318	.350	2549	293	620	116	17	41	278	268	276	23	23
	ROAD	.279	.351	.411	2804	418	783	124	19	69	404	302	302	10	7
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
DUCKS Griffith	HOME	.233	.308	.334	2561	283	596	106	18	39	269	276	287	5	4
	ROAD	.272	.337	.404	2750	378	747	109	22	70	358	276	377	11	5
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
KNIGHTS Ebbetts	HOME	.259	.329	.386	2660	347	689	129	15	60	330	273	342	1	2
	ROAD	.243	.323	.348	2717	341	659	102	11	54	323	316	343	9	1
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
TITANS Polo	HOME	.257	.330	.380	2610	325	671	97	23	59	311	275	320	1	6
	ROAD	.236	.310	.353	2647	311	625	100	25	53	289	282	320	1	4
		<u>AVG</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>
FALCONS Sportsmans	HOME	.246	.325	.360	2564	300	632	101	13	55	292	295	259	4	17
	ROAD	.242	.320	.366	2730	331	661	111	14	66	316	304	308	18	11

TEAM HOME/ROAD PITCHING

		ERA	W	L	S	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	DP	CG	ShO
SAXONS County	HOME	2.77	56	21	18	718.0	594	251	221	246	370	39	55	25	10
	ROAD	3.94	44	33	18	671.0	693	332	294	252	306	62	67	22	3
BLUE SOX KC Muni	HOME	4.30	49	28	5	704.0	693	372	336	315	288	91	60	32	4
	ROAD	2.85	44	33	18	672.2	550	244	213	272	278	36	60	31	8
BLACK SOX Comiskey	HOME	3.07	51	26	17	701.0	600	284	239	291	403	47	59	17	5
	ROAD	4.25	40	37	15	684.2	679	381	323	279	359	75	68	13	4
BLUEBIRDS Cleveland	HOME	4.03	47	30	17	705.0	681	367	316	274	303	84	69	18	3
	ROAD	3.80	41	36	17	686.2	670	338	290	283	291	57	70	18	3
CASCADES Crosley	HOME	3.52	58	19	19	718.0	725	319	281	238	315	68	95	21	5
	ROAD	4.49	36	41	14	660.0	710	359	329	247	346	64	71	20	5
CUBS Wrigley	HOME	4.09	44	33	10	710.0	656	354	323	312	264	56	70	26	9
	ROAD	4.36	41	36	17	672.1	680	357	326	281	227	58	54	21	4
TIGERS Briggs	HOME	4.01	55	22	15	704.0	657	350	314	316	355	71	72	23	2
	ROAD	4.46	39	38	19	664.1	687	372	329	315	323	53	54	16	2
FLYERS Forbes	HOME	3.93	36	41	11	716.0	639	346	313	333	385	50	69	26	2
	ROAD	4.70	36	41	14	655.0	707	387	347	328	370	85	64	21	1
MINORS Fenway	HOME	5.12	36	41	10	699.0	849	446	398	310	328	74	77	25	2
	ROAD	3.51	32	45	10	682.0	565	299	266	260	293	63	63	25	4
TITANS Polo	HOME	4.38	33	44	14	712.1	721	376	347	330	357	69	77	15	4
	ROAD	4.42	30	47	14	657.2	648	358	323	340	341	65	63	20	5
KNIGHTS Ebbetts	HOME	4.93	32	45	14	714.0	841	434	391	259	326	83	80	15	4
	ROAD	4.75	30	47	12	668.1	728	388	353	286	350	68	70	15	4
FALCONS Sportsmans	HOME	4.85	29	48	12	702.0	773	441	378	293	346	75	80	7	2
	ROAD	4.90	30	47	11	681.1	751	422	371	300	311	58	67	15	5
WIND Yankee	HOME	4.32	32	45	11	708.0	737	395	340	307	268	70	82	18	4
	ROAD	5.64	25	52	10	665.1	791	451	417	257	228	84	61	14	1
DUCKS Griffith	HOME	5.01	29	48	4	710.0	811	454	395	364	334	46	68	17	4
	ROAD	6.88	23	54	11	646.0	926	548	494	309	318	84	69	11	0

THE STATS PTP MISSED

HITTING STATISTICS

% OF TEAM'S RUNS SCORED

1. Mays-CUB	17.31
2. Mantle-TIG	17.04
3. Ashburn-BLB	16.65
4. Post-KNI	16.28
5. Bell-ASX	15.81
6. Kaline-SAX	14.49
7. Snider-USX	14.04
8. Tuttle-TIT	13.52
9. Jensen-FLY	13.50
10. Kluszewski-SAX	13.43
LEAGUE AVG	3.20

%GWRBI TO TEAMS WINS

1. Furillo-WIN	24.56
2. Musial-WIN	22.81
3. Post-KNI	22.58
4. Mays-CUB	22.35
5. Mueller-MIN	22.06
6. Ennis-CAS	21.28
7. Snider-USX	20.43
8. Zernial-ASX	18.68
9. Bell-ASX	18.68
10. Repulski-FAL	18.64
LEAGUE AVG	3.20

%RBI TO TEAMS RUNS

1. Post-KNI	19.33
2. Klu-SAX	17.90
3. Mays-CUB	16.79
4. Campnlla-CAS	16.30
5. Bell-ASX	16.07
6. Musial-WIN	16.01
7. Zernial-ASX	15.81
8. Mantle-TIG	15.69
9. Snider-USX	15.41
10. Furillo-WIN	14.95
LEAGUE AVG	3.20

PLATE APPEARANCES

1. Ashburn-BLB	730
2. Fox-CAS	727
3. Tuttle-TIT	719
4. Bruton-SAX	715
5. Kuenn-MIN	714
6. Kluszewski-SAX	713
7. Bell-ASX	708
8. Post-KNI	706
9. Mays-CUB	704
10. Kaline-SAX	703

SINGLES

1. Mueller-MIN	170
2. Fox-CAS	158
3. Ashburn-BLB	156
4. Goodman-BLB	150
5. Kuenn-MIN	147
6. Furillo-WIN	144
6. Temple-SAX	144
8. Bruton-SAX	142
8. Avila-MIN	142
10. Bell-ASX	141

EXTRA BASE HITS

1. Mantle-TIG	94
2. Snider-USX	88
3. Post-KNI	84
4. Mays-CUB	77
5. Bell-ASX	74
5. Kluszewski-SAX	74
7. Banks-CUB	68
8. Mathews-TIG	66
9. Musial-WIN	63
10. Aaron-DUC	61

TIMES REACHED BASE

1. Ashburn-BLB	331
2. Mantle-TIG	304
3. Bell-ASX	289
4. Smith-SAX	287
5. Kaline-SAX	282
6. Mays-CUB	280
7. Goodman-BLB	272
8. Post-KNI	269
9. Avila-MIN	264
10. Fox-CAS	263

STOLEN BASES ATTEMPTED

1. Temple-SAX	48
2. Mays-CUB	39
3. Minozo-MIN	38
4. Bruton-SAX	35
5. Rivera-USX	31
6. Torgeson-FAL	21
7. Mantle-TIG	20
8. Kuenn-MIN	19
9. Piersall-FLY	15
10. Reese-TIG	14
LEAGUE AVERAGE	1.5

STOLEN BASE PERCENTAGE

1. Piersall-FLY	93
2. Kuenn-MIN	89
3. Minozo-MIN	82
4. Busby-TIG	79
5. Jensen-FLY	77
6. Temple-SAX	75
7. Bruton-SAX	74
8. Klaus-ASX	71
9. Mantle-TIG	70
10. Torgeson-FAL	67
LEAGUE AVERAGE	53.8

HIT BY PITCH

1. Fox-CAS	34
2. Minozo-MIN	13
2. Lollar-USX	13
4. White-MIN	11
5. Berra-KNI	10
6. Bauer-USX	9
6. Furillo-WIN	9
8. Kaline-SAX	8
8. Smith-SAX	8
8. Repulski-FAL	8

PITCHERS

HITTING

STATISTICS

BATTING AVERAGE (HITS)

1. Gomez-MIN (28)	.350
2. Palica-CUB (18)	.340
3. Donovan-CAS (26)	.333
4. Law-TIT (29)	.330
5. Wehmeier-TIG (22)	.324
6. Minner-KNI (17)	.315
7. Lemon-USX (25)	.313
8. Garver-BLB (14)	.304
9. Donoso-MPM (13)	.289
10. Fowler-USX (17)	.288
LEAGUE AVERAGE	.180

RUNS BATTED IN

1. Newcombe-CAS	18
2. Gomez-MIN	15
3. Roberts-MIN	13
3. Law-TIT	13
3. Antonelli-TIG	13
6. Donovan-CAS	11
6. Spahn-SAX	11
8. Pierce-USX	10
8. Jones-TIT	10
10. Fowler-USX	9
10. Burdette-FLY	9
10. Wynn-ASX	9
10. Byrne-BLB	9
10. Lemon-USX	9

THE STATS PTP MISSED

PITCHING STATISTICS

% OF TEAMS WINS

1. Haddix-KNI	25.81
2. Ford-WIN	24.56
3. Gomez-MIN	23.53
4. Newcombe-CAS	22.34
5. Roberts-MIN	22.06
6. Jones-TIT	20.63
6. Law-TIT	20.63
8. Sullivan-BLB	19.32
9. Nuxhall-WIN	19.30
10. Score-ASX	18.68
LEAGUE AVG	7.60

STUFF RATING (BR/9-K/BB)

1. Newcombe-CAS	7.57
2. Pierce-USX	8.08
3. Hacker-CUB	8.55
4. Haddix-KNI	8.76
5. Spahn-SAX	8.92
6. Gromek-ASX	9.04
7. Roberts-MIN	9.23
8. Antonelli-TIG	9.26
9. Poholsky-ASX	9.75
10. Hoeft-SAX	9.98
LEAGUE AVERAGE	11.95

UNEARNED RUN AVERAGE

1. Brewer-TIG	1.24
2. Score-ASX	1.06
3. Wynn-ASX	0.99
4. Rush-BLB	0.85
4. Maglie-FAL	0.85
6. Rogovin-ASX	0.81
7. Lary-MIN	0.79
8. Palica-CUB	0.75
9. Maas-FAL	0.72
10. Simmons-DUC	0.69
10. Garcia-FAL	0.69
LEAGUE AVG	0.54

WIN% - TEAM'S WIN %

1. Erskine-TIG	.272
2. Gomez-MIN	.198
3. Donovan-CAS	.190
4. Ford-WIN	.168
4. Haddix-KNI	.168
6. Byrne-BLB	.162
7. Simmons-DUC	.136
8. Score-ASX	.117
9. Sullivan-BLB	.109
10. Hoeft-SAX	.101

WINNING PERCENTAGE

1. Erskine-TIG (15-2)	.882
2. Donovan-CAS (16-4)	.800
3. Hoeft-SAX (18-6)	.750
4. Byrne-BLB (11-4)	.733
5. Spahn-SAX (18-7)	.720
6. Score-ASX (17-7)	.708
7. Newcombe-CAS (21-9)	.700
8. Pierce-USX (16-7)	.696
9. Sullivan-BLB (17-8)	.680
10. Wehmeier-TIG (14-7)	.667

COMPLETE GAME PERCENTAGE

1. Newcombe-CAS	.559
2. Roberts-MIN	.553
3. Haddix-KNI	.548
4. Pierce-USX	.500
5. Turley-FLY	.472
6. Sullivan-BLB	.471
7. Spahn-SAX	.455
8. Hoeft-SAX	.433
9. Lemon-USX	.424
10. Jones-TIT	.412
LEAGUE AVERAGE	.254

1955: A Retrospective by the Doctor

After a brief hiatus (The time must have seemed interminable for those of you who hang on the Doctor's every utterance.), the wise practitioner of irreverent commentary, SPB's own Doctor Diamond, returns to tell you what you should think about the 1955 season. Just to keep it fair, the Doctor will write with one half his brain tied to the bench in the dugout, just to make it fair.

What would a post-season party be without an awards ceremony? The Doctor's idea of a party is more like an autopsy, however; so those of you about to become recipients of the Doctor's post-mortem accolades, please retract your considerable egos.

The Kenesaw Mountain Landis Award

This award, named for the imperious Czar of Baseball, goes to SPB's own legendary commissioner, Jim Wheeler. Heck, Landis only had to deal with gamblers, Black Sox, and Charley Comiskey. Commissioner Wheeler has had to deal with fourteen recalcitrant owners/managers (including himself, of course) to keep the SPB off the rocks and on course. Like Jim Wheeler, Judge Landis was said to project an image of "probity and seriousness with a gothic touch" (Harvey Frommer Shoeless Joe and Ragtime Baseball). Certainly, Commissioner Wheeler does not possess Landis's august appearance: his "craggy face" and his "white mane of shaggy hair" (Frommer), but the Doctor feels obligated to report that SPB's own "Mountain of Integrity" (Frommer) recently turned forty and has been seen assuming dramatic poses for a nationally distributed periodical.

The Casey Stengel Award

This award named for the garrulous Yankee field boss, goes to the "Aw shucks, I'm just a country boy" manager of the Frankfort Tigers, Gary Plunkitt. Like Ol' Casey, Manager Plunkitt has been known to speak in malapropisms and fractured syntax while eulogizing his Bengal Bashers and like Ol' Casey, he is determined to build a dynasty from the generous flow of talent supplied by his "farm clubs" (Rossville and Lafayette, please take note.). A few rival managers, engaging in a little springtime bravado, entertain notions of "dynastic interruptus," believing that they can cancel the Tigers' 1956 World Series reservations. Take heart, Manager Plunkitt. They laughed at Casey too.

The "You might Call me, Al" Award

This award is named for the Oldtime Baseball News column by James Oscar Lindberg. The column tests fans' knowledge by supplying brief biographies of old-time ball players, then inviting the readers to guess the identities of the featured players. This year's award goes to Tom Falduto of the Schaumburg Saxons, who, reliable league sources report, has frequently called Commissioner Wheeler's wife (when the commissioner was not at home) using the alias "Faldini." Although Manager Falduto has tried to preserve his anonymity through the use of a pseudonym, his 1955 Saxons have blown his cover. After this season, everyone associated with SPB will know his name, even the commissioner's wife.

The Frank Lane Award

This award is named for the notorious "wrecking ball" of the Cleveland Indians, Frank Lane, the man who traded Rocky for Harvey and called down The Curse of Rocky Colavito on the unfortunate denizens of Municipal Stadium (see Terry Pluto's new book). Actually, this award is shared by two SPB franchises: the Evanston Black Sox and the Rossville Cubs. Last fall, the Doctor derided Manager John Ungaschick for his trades: Lockman for Phillips, Dark for Klaus, and Hacker for Hale. The Doctor, however, has been treated to a meal of crow, as the Evanston crew proved to be one of the most competitive and dangerous teams in SPB's 1955 season. The Doctor also scoffed at Manager Rick Ryan's "Doctor Death" trade with Frankfort, which brought Ernie Banks to Rossville, but sent Eddie Mathews packing for Weinertown. As a new SPB season impends, Rossville is without a pennant, without a 90 win season (Editor's note: see Managerial records), and without a third baseman. Hey, Cubs, chin up. The Doctor hears that Eddie Miksis is available in the rookie draft.

The Danny Murtaugh Award

This award harks back to the 1957 season, in which Danny Murtaugh relieved Bobby Bragan at the helm of the beleaguered Buccos and guided Pittsburgh to a 26-25 record the rest of the way. We all know what happened three seasons later. The award for the 1955 season goes to Red Sears, the veteran news hound, who assumed command of the moribund Toronto

franchise and raised them to respectability. Resisting the blandishments of veteran SPBers ut to swing a quick trade with a rookie skipper, Manager Sears held together the nucleus of a fine club and has promised the folks in Baltimore a contender in 1956. Good luck to the new Baltimore franchise, but please, Manager Sears, find a way to keep your reserve catcher happy (Harry Chiti, for example) so that he doesn't lumber into rightfield wearing only a catcher's mitt and a smile.

The Rich Crunch Opponents and The Poor Crunch Numbers: Draft Inequity Award

Although this SPB award is not named for an historical individual, it designated the team who stands to fatten up the most from the rookie talent pool and the team who most embodies the spirit of franchise futility: in other words, the team that got "the shaft in the draft." This year's winners are the Evanston Black Sox, managed by John Ungaschick, and the Nebraska Knights, managed by SPB's answer to Bill James and Willard Scott, John Turnbull. Whereas the Black Sox draft third in the first round and eleventh in the second round, the Knights draft ninth in the first round and all the way down to twelfth in the second round. Pedro Ramos would look pretty good this year, eh, Statmaster Turnbull??

The San Diego Padres Award

This final and most coveted award of Doctor Diamond's awards goes to the franchise that has worked overtime to ensure a future of mediocrity. Actually, this year's winner would be ecstatic with mediocrity. Paul Kenyon inherits the mess called the Ducks. This year's version of D2 moves to Rhode Island and will be called the Grays. For his courage, similar to that displayed by the Light Brigade in the Crimean or by Pickett at Gettysburg, Paul Kenyon deserves the thanks of every SPB manager. Manager Kenyon, does the 1930 Philadelphia Phillies pitching staff mean anything to you?? It will.

As his final duty of the 1955 season, the sage Doctor will name his "Diamond Dandies," those players who excelled at each position during the 1955 SPB season.

First Base

Diamond Dandy: Ted Kluszewski it's hard to argue with 46 homers and a league-leading 152 RBI.

Runner Up: Stan Musial Without his 21 homers and 106 RBI, the Wind would have finished in the Pacific Ocean.

Second Base

Diamond Dandy: Billy Goodman What would a second sacker who hit .356 be worth in 1994?

Runner Up: Hank Aaron I know. I know. This is an illegitimate choice, but the Doctor wants to commemorate the last season Hank Aaron will have fewer than 20 homers and less than 100 RBI in our lifetimes.

Third Base

Diamond Dandy: Eddie Mathews Could the Cubs use a hot corner man who hits 33 homers and drives in 116 runs?

Runner Up: Ray Boone Last year's league champion Bluebirds deserve a bone, don't they? Besides, in this season, a third sacker who has 17 homers and 94 RBI is a pretty big dog.

Shortstop

Diamond Dandy: Ernie Banks Although he wasn't the most valuable Cub, he is "Mr. Cub." Thirty-Three taters and 105 ribbies were disappointing to the Cub brass. Many other teams would like to be disappointed in this fashion.

Runner Up: Dick Groat Somehow Banks was traded for this guy and the underachieving Lew Burdette. Groat did bang out 33 doubles and drive in 74 runs in Manager Wheeler's offensive "dead zone" known as Forbes Field.

Catcher

Diamond Dandy: Roy Campanella No receiver came close to his .341 with 37 home runs and 134 RBI. When Campy is gone after the 1957 season, SPBers will have a long wait for another like him. Somewhere in Oklahoma a Little Leaguer named Johnny Bench is putting on the shin guards and dreaming The Dream.

Runner Up: Del Crandall He smacked 25 round-trippers and

drove in 87 runs. Good numbers. Very good numbers. But...Where the hell was Yogi Berra? Must have been chowing down at a fine Italian establishment in the Hill with his old buddy Joe "I didn't try to spike Jackie Robinson" Garagiola.

Left Field

Diamond Dandy: Ted Williams As much as the Doctor admires "teddy Ballgame," he had a difficult time giving his highest single season accolade to a guy with fewer than 400 at bats. He did finish fifth in the batting race (.337), first in on base percentage (.461), and second in slugging (.633). The Doctor can hardly wait for SPBII's 1946 rookie draft.

Runner Up: Al Smith Since "The Man" has already received an award for his fine season at first base, the Doctor will go with his heart on this one. Smith had a fine season protecting Big Klu in the Saxon lineup: 18 homers, 95 RBI, 98 walks, .306. Besides, Al smacked that big tater in '59.

Center Field

Diamond Dandy: Mickey Mantle Seventh in average (.317), fourth in on base percentage (.433), first in slugging (.655), first in runs scored (151), second in RBI (139), fourth in doubles (40), first in home runs (48), second in walks (113), and even eighth in stolen bases (14). Mantle did it all, from the word "go," all season long: the Doctor's choice for MVP. No discussion.

Runner Up: Willie Mays The first half of the season, this guy was suffering from an identity crisis. His stats looked like Jim Busby's. The second half of the season, they looked like Babe Ruth's. The Doctor will reward the Ruthian half.

Right Field

Diamond Dandy: Wally Post What a season: 194 hits, 39 homers, 133 RBI, .310. Too bad he didn't have enough ball players around him to get the recognition he deserves. Sorry, Wally. It's too much to ask for Nebraska to have two good teams.

Runner Up: Al Kaline This was one of the most difficult decisions for the Doctor. How can you call a guy with 27 homers, 112 RBI, and a .311 average secon best? Oh well, it was never easy being Al Kaline with Frank Robinson, Roberto Clemente, and Hank Aaron around.

Left Handed Starter

Diamond Dandy: Warren Spahn This was the year for southpaws in SPB,

but among those sparkling lefties, two stood out, both of whom were on the same team. Spahn gets the nod as the top lefty, thanks to his 254 innings, 15 complete games, and an 18-7 record.

Runner Up: Billy Hoef And everyone thought the Saxons won the World Championship because of Kaline and Kluszewski. Hoef, like Spahn, had a nifty 2.83 ERA for Schaumburg. In addition, he logged 226 innings, hurled 13 complete games, and finished with an 18-6 record. Not bad for a guy left off the Cy Young ballot.

Right Handed Starter

Diamond Dandy: Don Newcombe A 21-9 record, a 2.83 ERA, 19 complete games, and 260.2 innings. Are there any questions? It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that "Newk" is the Cy Young award winner.

Runner Up: Murry Dickson While fellow Blue Sox Billy Pierce was wowing the SPB with a microscopic ERA at the All Star break, only to be pulverized in the final month of the season, this guy was quietly putting together a tremendous season: 222.1 innings, 11 complete games, and a 2.79 ERA. His only failing was a 13-10 record.

Fireman

Diamond Dandy: Hoyt Wilhelm In a sneak preview of his future career, knuckelballing Hoyt Wilhelm appeared in 61 games and recorded 20 saves. Though his ERA was a modest 3.55, Wilhelm compiled his stats for the lowly Titans, now the Springfield Rifles. That is a true labor in ignominy.

Runner Up: Clem Labine Although he was not used as a full time closer (Sorry, folks, the anachronism just slipped out.), Labine was the best overall relief pitcher in SPB's 1955 season. In addition to his 42 relief appearances, his 12-5 record, and his 2.83 ERA, Labine even started six games and hurled a shutout.

Before the Doctor departs, he would like to thank each SPB owner/manager for a fine 1955 season. This group of characters, like the castaways on Gilligan's Island, has weathered a few stormms together, but the League has survived. The Doctor hopes for many more electronic dream seasons. After all, without you guys, he wouldn't have anything to laugh at.

THE BASEBALL CURMUDGEON

(So, who is the BASEBALL CURMUDGEON? Just your basic old, gravel-voiced 1950's 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 basic philosophy is, "I'm here to protect this game.")

Second season of this league is over already? Geez, seems as if it was only a few weeks ago we were drafting over in Frankfort. And to show you why you have to ignore that new wave of math nerds nudging their way into baseball, let me take you back to the car ride I had from Chicago to the draft.

That young guy, John Turnbull was expounding to grizzled veteran, Tom Falduto, about how old Ted Kluszewski wasn't worth trading for. Something about him not being able to put up numbers for a long period. Well, Falduto turned a deaf ear and all he did was win the whole damned title! That's what baseball is all about. The feel of how a player will fit into your system, in your ballpark and if you desire to WIN.

Tom's Saxons went out and took the division over the Cascades and Blue Sox, as the bottom three clubs from '54 fortified in '55 made it through a tough campaign. In the Series, the Saxons toppled Gary Plunkitt's Tigers in six games.

And who picked up the winning RBI in the opener? None other than the Big Klu to support Billy Hoeft's pitching. The tigers pulled out a 10-inning deal (4-3) in the next contest on a two-out game winning blast by Eddie Mathews at Briggs Stadium. Another 10-inning affair in the third game, this time the Saxons prevailed on Faye Throneberry's single.

Saxons almost gave away game four. After leading 9-2, the Bengals put on a surge with five runs in the 9th, but fell short, 9-8. Johnny Antonelli went all the way in the fifth game as the Tigers won going away, 7-3.

It was all Saxons in the finale at Briggs, a 10-3 win. Willard Schmidt went all the way for the triumphant win. Oh, Klu only hit .333 with 2 doubles and 2 homers for the series. Guess he was washed up?

So, we look ahead to 1956, much anticipated with an influx of young stars. To help you all out, the BASEBALL CURMUDGEON has unearthed, from the "secret" files of major league clubs (got a scout friend of mine drunk), full scouting reports of all prospects.

Read these carefully and take them to heart. Remember what I said before about stats. These are real pros who put these reports together and they know their stuff. Don't attempt this at home. It can be dangerous.

Here are some of my own astute observations from scanning the reports based on years of experience at being fooled.

Forget about: This guy, Frank Robinson. He's not even listed. Go for Gino Cimoli instead. And this Colavito fella, scouts say he's "not improved as a hitter...lacks speed." Woodson Held, "doubtful he can make the majors." That little Venezuelan player, Aparicio might be good, but Humberto Fernandez is better. Take him first. (Editor's note: Are we sure this "Curmudgeon" guy isn't related to Sparky Anderson??)

Best bets: Lou Skizas may be here to stay and Fred Van Dusen has been rated by Hall of Famer Al Simmons as "the best prospect I have ever seen." Scoop them up, quick! And Frank Torre "lacks drive and hustle." But I think he's a first-rounder. Don Eaddy, "of American Negro descent," (believe that?) is a "can't miss."

So, make your choices accordingly on April 23rd.

The BASEBALL CURMUDGEON is in a grumpy mood these days. Seems like Mr. O'Malley is making a fool of me and has something up his sleeve. Those seven games the Dodgers are going to play in Jersey City? There's something behind that. I think he's going to move that team to Newark. Beautiful city, close to Manhattan, lots of parking. Yep, that's it.

And what is this with the new divisional setups? Just when I get to know where everyone is and what to expect, things go bump in the night.

Think I'm going to stop at Arnold's when I get to Milwaukee. Gotta talk to my buddy Fonzarelli to "straighten things out."

Oh, right. We've got a new skipper in the league. Paul Kenyon has the smallest state in the Union and he picks the world's biggest and worst ballpark. Must be the Napoleon syndrome. Hey, skipper, you got down off the Ducks, but unless you read those scouting reports thoroughly, it'll be a long season. Good luck, and welcome.

By the way, in the Cardinals' broadcast booth this year will be Jack Buck, Joe Garagiola, and Harry Carry. Try to get a word in edgewise in that booth! Next time, I'll have a report on Harry's winter trip to Bavaria where he said, "I MARVELED AT BAVARIA. IT'S GAY, IT'S FRIENDLY, IT'S WUNDERBAR."

Even though they wouldn't let him sway from the Alps, Bud in hand singing TAKE ME OUT OT THE BALLGAME? Gay, Harry?

SPB55 "Game Of The Year"

DAYTON

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Abrams cf	3	2	1	1	Schmkr cf	5	3	3	2
Grngrs lf	6	1	2	3	Fox 2b	5	2	3	2
Howard c	5	1	3	2	Smith lf	5	1	2	2
Aaron 2b	6	1	1	1	Zauchin 1b	5	2	1	2
King rf	6	3	4	3	Campanla c	1	2	1	0
Blaylock 1b	2	2	0	0	Daley ph	3	0	1	1
Causey 3b	5	1	1	1	Rosen 3b	5	0	1	0
Strckld ss	5	2	2	3	Slgtr rf	4	1	0	1
Abernth p	0	0	0	0	Miranda ss	2	2	1	1
Jackson p	0	0	0	0	Joost ss	3	1	1	0
Kipper p	4	1	1	1	Flowers p	2	2	2	2
Sauer ph	0	1	0	0	Black p	1	0	0	0
					Ridzik p	1	0	1	1
					Jeffcoat p	0	0	0	0
					Donovan p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	42	15	15	15	TOTALS	42	16	17	14

Dayton.....000 310 047-15
 Pacific.....870 000 01x-16

E-Greengrass, Causey, Abernathy. LOB-Dayton 8, Pacific 7. 2B-King, Causey, Strickland, Smith, Zauchin, Ridzik. 3B-Schoonmaker. HR-None. CS-None.

Dayton		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Abernathy L	0-1	02-3	3	8	0	2	1
Jackson		1	9	7	0	2	1
Kipper		61-3	5	1	0	2	3

Pacific		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Flowers W	1-0	5	5	4	4	4	4
Black		22-3	4	4	4	2	2
Ridzik		02-3	3	4	4	0	1
Jeffcoat		0	3	3	3	1	0
Donovan S	1	02-3	0	0	0	0	0

HBP-by Abernathy (Fox), by Ridzik
 (Blaylock) T-@0:20 A- 2

DUCKS 1st:

Abrams strikes out, Greengrass flies to right, Howard singles, Aaron grounds out 4-3.

CASCADES 1st:

Schoonmaker triples, Fox gets hit by pitch, Smith lines to second, Zauchin reaches on error by Abernathy scoring Schoonmaker, Campanella walks (bases loaded), Rosen strikes out, Slaughter walks scoring Fox, Miranda reaches on error by causey scoring Zauchin, Flowers singles in Campanella and Slaughter, Schoonmaker singles in Miranda, JACKSON replaces ABERNATHY, Fox singles in Flowers, Smith singles in Schoonmaker, Zauchin strikes out.

CASCADES 8 DUCKS 0

DUCKS 2nd:

King grounds out 4-3, Blaylock flies to right, Causey grounds out 6-3.

CASCADES 2nd:

Campanella singles, Rosen lines out to shortstop, Slaughter grounds out 4-3 advancing Campanella, Miranda singles scoring Campanella, Flowers singles, Schoonmaker singles scoring Miranda, Fox singles scoring Flowers, Smith doubles home Fox, Zauchin doubles scoring Smith. KIPPER replaces JACKSON, Campanella singles scoring Zauchin, Rosen singles, Slaughter grounds into fielders choice 6-4.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 0

DUCKS 3rd:

Strickland grounds out 6-3, Kipper grounds out to 1b unassisted, Abrams walks, Greengrass strikes out.

CASCADES 3rd:

Joost replaces Miranda and flies out to SS, Flowers walks, Schoonmaker grounds into FC 5-4, Fox singles, with Flowers being thrown out at third.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 0

DUCKS 4th:

Howard singles, Aaron grounds out 5-3 advancing Howard, King singles scoring Howard, Blaylock walks, Causey flies to RF, Strickland doubles scoring King and Blaylock. Kipper grounds out 6-3.

CASCADES 4th:

Smith grounds out 1-3, Zauchin strikes out, Daley, pinch-hitting for Campanella flies to center.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 3

DUCKS 5th:

Abrams walks, Greengrass strikes out, Howard walks, Aaron flies to second, King singles scoring Abrams, Blaylock strikes out.

CASCADES 5th:

Rosen grounds out 5-3, Slaughter grounds out to first, Joost grounds out 3-1.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 4

DUCKS 6th:

BLACK replaces FLOWERS, Causey flies to right, Strickland flies to center, Kipper flies to right.

CASCADES 6th:

Black grounds out to first, Schoonmaker strikes out, Fox grounds out 6-3.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 4

DUCKS 7th:

Abrams grounds to first, Greengrass flies to right, Howard strikes out.

CASCADES 7th:

Smith grounds out 5-3, Zauchin strikes out, Daley flies to second.

CASCADES 15 DUCKS 4

DUCKS 8th:

Aaron singles, King doubles scoring Aaron, Causey strikes out, Strickland flies to second, Kipper singles scoring King, Abrams walks, Greengrass singles scoring Blaylock and Kipper, RIDZIK replaces BLACK, Howard flies to third.

CASCADES 8th:

Rosen flies to right, Slaughter flies to center, Joost singles and advances to second on error by Blaylock, Ridzik doubles scoring Joost, Schoonmaker walks, Fox flies to center.

CASCADES 16 DUCKS 8

DUCKS 9th:

Aaron strikes out, King singles, Blaylock is hit by pitch, Causey doubles scoring King, Strickland singles scoring Blaylock, JEFFCOAT replaces RIDZIK, Sauer pinch-hitting for Kipper walks, Abrams singles scoring Causey, Greengrass singles scoring Strickland, Howard singles scoring Sauer and Abrams, DONOVAN replaces JEFFCOAT, Aaron grounds into fielder's choice 4-6 scoring Greengrass, King flies to second.

CASCADES 16 DUCKS 15

SPB55 "First No-Hitter"

Listed below is the boxscore and Evanston play-by-play of the leagues first no-hitter throw by Harry Byrd. Byrd never threw a No-Hitter in real life. A No-Hitter was thrown in 1955 by Sam Jones against Pittsburgh 4-0.

THE BOXSCORE

EVANSTON					DAYTON				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Thompsn 3b	4	0	0	0	Abrams cf	3	0	1	0
Bmhltz lf	3	0	0	1	Freese 3b	2	0	0	0
Bell cf	4	0	0	0	King rf	4	1	0	0
Doby rf	3	0	0	0	Aaron 2b	4	0	1	0
Wertz 1b	2	0	0	0	Speake 1b	4	0	1	0
Lopez 2b	2	0	0	0	Grngrss lf	3	0	0	0
Atwell c	3	0	0	0	Courtny c	3	0	1	0
Vldvso ss	2	0	0	0	Strklnd ph	1	0	0	0
O'Brien ss	0	0	0	0	Fitzgrld c	0	0	0	0
Gromek p	1	0	0	0	DeMstri ss	1	0	1	0
Hale ph	1	0	0	0	Blaylck ph	1	1	1	0
Narleski p	0	0	0	0	Byrd p	2	0	0	0
Zernial ph	0	0	0	0	Howard ph	1	0	1	0
Saffell pr	0	1	0	0					
Consgra p	0	0	0	0					

TOTALS 26 1 0 1 TOTALS 29 2 7 2

Evanston.....000 000 001-1
Dayton.....000 100 001-2

One out when winning run scored
E-Thompson, LOB- Evanston 2, Dayton 11
2B-Speake, CS-None. S- Baumholtz.

Evanston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gromek	5	3	1	0	3	4
Narleski	3	2	0	0	2	1
Consegura L 0-1	0	2	1	1	0	0

Dayton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Byrd rs W 1-0	9	0	1	1	3	5

T-@0:08 A- 2

THE PLAY-BY-PLAY

EVANSTON 1st:

Thompson grounded out 5-3
Baumholtz flies out to third
Bell grounds out 6-3

EVANSTON 2nd:

Doby strikes out
Wertz strikes out
Lopez grounds out 4-3

EVANSTON 3rd:

Atwell strikes out
Valdivelso flies to second
Gromek flies to second

EVANSTON 4th:

Thompson grounds out 1-3
Baumholtz flies out to left
Bell flies out to second

EVANSTON 5th:

Doby flies to left
Wertz grounds out 4-3
Lopez strikes out

EVANSTON 6th:

Atwell grounds out 4-3
Valdivelso grounds out 5-3
Pinch-hitter Hale flies out to right

EVANSTON 7th:

Thompson strikes out
Baumholtz fouls out to the catcher
Bell flies out to left

EVANSTON 8th:

Doby grounds out 4-3
Wertz walks (PERFECT GAME ENDED)
Lopez walks
Atwell flies to left

EVANSTON 9th:

Pinch-hitter Zernial walks
Saffell pinch runs for Zernial
Wild pitch advances Saffell to second
Thompson grounds out 4-3 advancing Saffell to 3rd
Baumholtz sac flies to center scoring Saffell
Doby grounds out to first unassisted

S.P.B. "TOP TEN"

David Letterman, eat your heart out!! In a feeble attempt at humor, we bring you the **TOP 10 MYTHS ABOUT SEASON'S PAST BASEBALL:**

- #10: Jim Wheeler is willing to trade his entire "Sporting News" collection to Red Sears for Roberto Clemente.**
- # 9: Steve Ehresman consults Dr.Diamond before making pitching changes.**
- # 8: A Nebraska Knight will be named Player of the month or Pitcher of the month EVERY MONTH.**
- # 7: The REAL reason Andy Langert transferred from CON-AGRA to KEEBLER is because CON-AGRA wouldn't let him advertise behind home plate.**
- # 6: The SPB 1999 season rookie draft will be held at the St.Pia Zadora Golden Buckeye retirement community clubhouse.**
- # 5: Steve Ehresman is under the influence when he is proposing a trade.**
- # 4: John Turnbull keeps a pitch count on all starters.**
- # 3: Gary Plunkitt secretly intercepts all mail, changes lineups, and road results to favor his team.**
- # 2: The Computer Manager bets on SPB games.**
- # 1: Lou Ross and Tom Falduto are NOT leading candidates for Manager of The Year, but instead, candidates for the "Hair Club for Men".**