

Old Records Likely to Stand, Despite Longer Major Skeds

WASHINGTON, D. C.—What of the new records in 1962? Ford Frick, and other baseball men, have suggested there be a new set of 162-game records, beginning with 1961 in the American League and 1962 in the National. However, with the exception of new team and league records, most of the old records are likely to hold for some time.

Perhaps the first record to go in the new 162-game N. L. season is Hack Wilson's National record of 56 home runs in 1930. However, Hack's major RBI mark of 190 the same year is not likely to be menaced.

Even with the eight additional games, the old individual major league records for a 154-game season are likely to stand: At-bats, Forrest Jensen, 1936 Pirates, 696; runs, Billy Hamilton, 1894 Phillies, 196; Babe Ruth, 1921 Yankees, 177 (modern); hits, George Sisler, 1920 St. Louis Browns, 257; singles, Willie Keeler, 1897 Baltimore Orioles, 199; Lloyd Waner, 1927 Pirates, 198 (modern); two-baggers, Earl Webb, 1931 Red Sox, 67; triples, Owen Wilson, 1912 Pirates, 36; home runs, Babe Ruth, 1927 Yankees, 60 (154 games); Roger Maris, 1961 Yankees, 61 (162 games); total bases, Babe Ruth, 1921 Yankees, 457; bases on balls, Babe Ruth, 1923 Yankees, 170; stolen bases, Ty Cobb, 1915 Tigers, 96 (modern).

NEW ERA

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for Joe Cronin, an earlier American League All-Star. "We're going to take care of that," said the A. L. prexy with considerable feeling.

With the two leagues starting the 1962 season with 20 clubs, major league attendance may hit a new high. In all probability, it will go over 20,000,000, with a possibility that it will break the record of 20,920,842 in the lush post-war year of 1948.

Despite two new American League clubs in 1961, big league attendance was down five per cent from its 19,911,489 of 1960. The two new American League clubs, Minnesota and Los Angeles, helped the A. L. to show a 10.4 per cent increase to 10,182,171. But, that still was well below the old eight-club high of 11,150,099 in 1948.

Injuns Set Gate Record

But, these latter figures came when TV still was a squalling baby, and all baseball, major and minor, enjoyed its greatest boom. The Cleveland club, helped by its second pennant winner and Bill Veeck's zany promotions, drew a record-breaking 2,620,627 and the turnstiles of the third-place Yankees clicked 2,373,901 paid admissions.

Much was made of the National League falling off 18.2 per cent in attendance last season over 1960. But, many lost sight of the fact that 1960 was the league's all-time high of 10,684,963. The drop was occasioned by unusually poor early spring weather; Cincinnati, with the loop's smallest population, winning the pennant (the Reds held the lead for 114 days), and that big league ball no longer is a novelty in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Milwaukee. Milwaukee, which for several years drew over 2,000,000, fell to 1,100,781 with a fourth-place club, lowest since the beer city obtained a National League franchise in 1953. Restrictions on bringing beer into County Stadium, also irked many Wisconsin fans.

N. L. Mark Predicted

If all goes well this year, the N. L. should top its attendance record of two years ago. Unless the new Mets and the Colt .45s flop quickly, these clubs should add 2,000,000 to the old eight-club attendance. The Colts, in their first year in the majors, will be handicapped by the limited seating capacity of Colt Field, but the Mets should have no difficulty in playing to over a million.

Better attendance generally is expected in other cities. Though the new Dodger Stadium does not hold as many as the L. A. Coliseum, where the Dodgers had some crowds just under 100,000, it is a far better ball park, more accessible to downtown Los Angeles, and there will be curiosity to see O'Malley's new baseball shrine. The Dodgers, who lost the 1961 pennant by four games, again should be spirited contenders. Having one year of managerial experience behind him, Alvin Dark should get more out of the San Francisco Giants, and thereby stem last year's attendance drop at Candlestick Park. The

Dummy Hoy Dragged in Fly for First Putout in A. L.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Dummy Hoy, who died last December 15, less than six months short of his 100th birthday, had the honor of making the first putout in American League competition.

Hoy was a member of the Chicago White Sox, piloted by Clark Griffith. On opening day of the American League as a major league—April 24, 1901—rain caused postponement of all games except the one at Chicago between the White Sox and Cleveland.

Oliver Pickering of Cleveland was the first batter. He hit a fly to Hoy in center. The White Sox won, 8 to 2. AL KERMISCH.

Reds, unless they repeat in a close race, can hardly expect to duplicate their 1,123,240 of 1961, a gain of nearly half a million over 1960.

Though the Cardinals have one of the oldest outfielders in baseball history, with 41½-year-old Stan Musial in left and 39½-year-old Minnie Minoso in right, the club is an attractive one, and ol' Minnie could jazz up the gate. After plummeting from a surprise pennant in 1960 to 1961, the Pirates, with Vern Law's arm still in doubt, will try to bounce back.

Tight Race Could Hypo Gate

The American League is unlikely to break its 11,150,099 high of 1948, but it should exceed its satisfactory 1961 figures. It all depends on how well the nine other clubs fare with the perennial Yankee champions. It wasn't only the Maris-Mantle home-run derby, but the fact that the 1961 Tigers fought the Yanks tooth and nail until mid-September that enabled the world's champions to play to a fine home gate of 1,748,836. And the Tigers' brave fight upped the Detroit attendance to 1,606,500. If Frank Lary, Norm Cash, Al Kaline and Rocky Colavito again can carry the fight to Houk's slugging crew, the Tigers could excell that figure in 1962.

The A. L. attendance also should be helped by the new stands in Washington and Los Angeles, where the Angels will share the Dodger stadium, and completed stands in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a year ago the park capacity was only a little better than 20,000 when the season opened. Even so the Minnesota Twins lured 1,259,160 fans, third best in the league.

It is a general impression that the Maris-Mantle home-run duel will not occupy the stage as it did in 1961. Many feel that Harmon Killebrew, Jim Gentile, Norm Cash and Rocky Colavito of the American League and Orlando Cepeda of the National may be more of a factor in the 1962 home-run derby than the slugging home-run M's of the Yankees.

All baseball men feel the game is in the spotlight this spring more than in any year since the end of World War II. Most of them have been irked and hurt, some deeply, by statements printed during the winter that baseball no longer is the No. 1 American sport, or that it will cease to be within the next ten years. They accept it as a challenge.

Dodgers, Giants, Redbirds Loaded With Slab Talent

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question mark at one position or another.

If they are all in this general category, why pick three above the rest?

The Giants, Dodgers and Cardinals have one important commodity in strong and deep supply. All three are well fortified for pitchers. The Milwaukee pitching staff is rated the best in the league, but the ravages of time have taken some toll. In addition, the Braves still lack that all-important man that every club must possess these days—the big guy coming out of the bull pen.

The Giants had the top fireman in the league last year in Stu Miller. The Cardinals have Lindy McDaniel and the Dodgers possess Larry Sherry, both of whom are young, big and determined.

The Dodger front foursome of Stan Williams, Don Drysdale, Sandy Koufax and Johnny Podres is famous and exciting—but it is not as effective as the front wall of the Cardinals.

Big Four on ERA Basis

In Larry Jackson, Bob Gibson, Ray Sadecki and Curt Simmons, the Cardinals in 1961 had the top four, so far as earned-run average is concerned. They will be bulwarked this year by Ernie Broglio, attempting to return to his peak of the 21-game 1960 season, and the best-looking young pitcher to come to the Redbirds in 20 years, hard-throwing Ray Washburn.

Because of this staff, this observer is looking for a third straight surprise pennant winner in the National League—the St. Louis Cardinals.

The rundown is like this:

1. St. Louis; 2. Los Angeles; 3. San Francisco; 4. Milwaukee; 5. Cincinnati; 6. Pittsburgh; 7. Chicago; 8. Philadelphia; 9. New York; 10. Houston.

Let's explain the selections in more detail.

The Cardinals have six starters if Broglio is sound. Washburn and Sadecki, both youngsters, both could be 20-game winners within a year or so. In Bill White, Ken Boyer, Stan Musial, Minnie Minoso and Gene Oliver, the Cards have a solid, if not overpowering, middle of the lineup. Julian Javier was the best second baseman in the league last year. Curt Flood hit .322 and covered center field as well as Willie Mays.

For the only question marks, Julio Gotay and Oliver must prove they can protect the shortstop and catching spots.

The Dodger's front-line pitching is formidable but still has to win its spurs. The ravages of time and the National League expansion have forced the Dodgers to rebuild three-

Sum-Up of Junior Loop Clubs

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WASHINGTON SENATORS

By SHIRLEY POVICH, Washington Post Times-Herald

PITCHING—Skimpy first line and also lacks depth in bull pen.

CATCHING—Improved.

INFIELD—Left side barely adequate defensively, but Johnson valued for bat.

OUTFIELD—Good trio in Piersall, Woodling and Hinton, but long ball lacking, except for Woodling.

SUMMATION—Lack of depth alarming, but regulars could enable club to beat out two or three others.



Mickey Vernon

KANSAS CITY ATHLETICS

By ERNEST MEHL, Kansas City Star

PITCHING—Some improvement over last year suggested, but still a question mark.

CATCHING—Sullivan and Azcue capable duo.

INFIELD—Strong.

OUTFIELD—Needs help.

SUMMATION—Better speed, probably better defense and pitching may be better, but not enough power and problem will be in scoring runs. Could finish anywhere from sixth to eighth.



Hank Bauer

fourths of their infield. Ron Fairly and Tommy Davis seem ready for stardom. If all units on the Dodgers clicked simultaneously, the Raviners could run away and hide with the pennant—but that's what everybody thought would happen in 1960 and 1961 and it didn't.

The Giants, like the Dodgers, have the material to go all the way but they haven't done it since they moved to San Francisco and that ball park sets up a mental block. No club has a two-man tandem to match Willie Mays and Orlando Cepeda. The team has power from top to bottom, is sound defensively except at second base, has adequate pitching and a great reliever. They have no real stopper.

Braves Strong on Paper

You can prove by statistics that the Braves should have won last year. They dominated the All-Star team but they came home fourth.

Despite the Reds' challenge to comments that they won't repeat, the thought persists that they'll have trouble putting together all the ingredients they did a year ago. The Pirates' pitching is spotty, particularly with Vern Law far away from being ready, Joe Gibbon hampered by elbow trouble. Smoky Burgess' illness hasn't helped matters.

The Cubs, rebuilding position by position, have two good rookies in Lou Brock and Ken Hubbs. Ron Santo and Billy Williams may be ready for stardom. George Altman and Ernie Banks spell power but the Cubs' pitching is spotty.

In Ted Savage, the Phils may have the rookie of the year. They will be fast, they'll be better than they were a year ago and they have more power with Don Demeter available all year and Roy Sievers added—but outside

Connie Mack an Old Met; Caught Exhibitions in '85

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The New York Mets, back on the major league scene after an absence of 75 years, have one famous ancestor who doesn't show up in the official records. He is none other than Connie Mack, who managed in the majors 52 years.

Connie, a catcher in his playing days, joined the Mets after the 1885 American Association campaign and caught several exhibition games for them. On October 15, 1885, this item appeared in a New York paper:

"The Metropolitan club visited Newark yesterday and met with defeat at the hands of the Newark club. The game was fairly well contested, but there was little interest in it. The Metropolitans put in Clayton, a new pitcher, and Mack, a new catcher. Both men played well." AL KERMISCH.

of Art Mahaffey, the Phils' pitching leaves much to be desired.

There is no point in trying to find a spot for the Mets and Colts. Only time will tell.

To return to the American League:

The Yankees are solid. They have a man at every position except shortstop virtually the equal of any man in the league. Bill Stafford appears ready for a big season.

Powell Classy Rookie

Baltimore is hampered by the service commitments of Hansen and Barber, the appendectomy of Milt Pappas. If Pappas is ready by May 1 and Barber can pick his spots, the staff could be the best in the league. Boog Powell may be the rookie of the year.

No team was busier in the deal department during the winter than Chicago. Eddie Short moved out some aging and expensive bric-a-brac and brought in good young talent. Gaps at first and third have been plugged, Joel Horlen looks like a good addition to the staff. But the Sox will need improved pitching and bull-pen help.

Detroit surprised and scared everybody last year. Despite the power of Al Kaline, Norm Cash and Rocky Colavito, the Tigers will have trouble finishing as high as second again. They're weak in the bull pen.

Picking the Indians as high as fifth is going against what they have shown this spring. The Indians have one of the poorest records in camp and General Manager Gabe Paul picked up Pedro Ramos from the Twins to help.

The Twins have one of the best-looking rookies in former All-American Quarterback Bernie Allen, added Vic Power, have plenty of power and some pitching. Boston, building with youth, seems a year away.

Fred Haney did a magnificent job last season of building a club tailored to chummy Wrigley Field specifications. He may have some adjustments to make in more expansive Chavez Ravine.

The Senators and Athletics have a long way to go.

Rundown on N. L. Entries

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NEW YORK METS

By JOE KING, New York World-Telegram & Sun

PITCHING—Craig must be stopper while Stengel shapes his staff.

CATCHING—Landrith adequate on defense.

INFIELD—Shortstop shaky, but other positions well manned.

OUTFIELD—Deepest and most formidable department.

SUMMATION—May have trouble winning 50 games with present cast, but personnel likely to be upgraded as season goes along.



Casey Stengel

HOUSTON COLTS

By CLARK NEALON, Houston Post

PITCHING—Better than expected; could be surprise with Shantz, Bruce, Johnson, Golden and Umbricht as probable starters.

CATCHING—First-class with Smith.

INFIELD—Strength of club with Larker, Amalfitano, Buddin, Aspromonte.

OUTFIELD—Sound defensively, lacks big punch.

SUMMATION—Strong candidate for sixth place and likely example of often overlooked value of defense.



Harry Craft