

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1954 SEASON

Here are some factoids from the 1954 season (20th Century Baseball Chronicle published by Beekman House).

- o Indians break Yankees' choke-hold on AL flag, win AL record 111 games.
- o Giants return to top in NL.
- o Giants sweep Worlds Series in huge upset.
- o Willie Mays makes most famous catch in Series history in game one on long drive by Vic Wertz.
- o Giant Dusty Rhodes hits two game-winning homers, drives in seven runs in only six Series at-bats.
- o Wertz leads all regular players in Series with .500 BA and eight hits.
- o Yankees win 103 games, most in any season under Casey Stengel, but finish a distant second.
- o Mays wins National League MVP.
- o Yogi Berra takes MVP Award in the American League.
- o AL wins All-Star Game 11-9 in Cleveland, as hometown star Al Rosen hits two homers and knocks in five runs.
- o Mays tops NL in batting (.345) and slugging (.667) after spending past two years in armed service.
- o Cleveland pitchers Mike Garcia (2.64), Bob Lemon, and Early Wynn rank one-two-three in ERA.
- o Wynn and Lemon tie for the AL lead in wins with 23.
- o On August 1, Milwaukee's Joe Adcock hits four homers and collects ML record 18 total bases.
- o Players no longer allowed to leave their gloves on playing field while their team is batting.
- o Ted Williams returns from Korean War duty and hits .345
- o Cleveland's Bobby Avila awarded AL bat crown (.341) because Williams has fewer than 400 at-bats.
- o Cleveland's Larry Doby tops AL in homers (32) and RBI (126).
- o The Tribe outscores its opponents by 242 runs.

o The Hall of Fame inducts Rabbit Maranville, Bill Dickey, and Bill Terry.

o Ray Jablonski of the Cards becomes the second player in ML history to drive in 100 runs in first two seasons.

o After the season, St. Louis trades Jablonski and Gerry Staley to Cincinnati for Frank Smith.

o Baltimore trades Roy Sievers to Washington for Gil Coan.

o The Cards deal Enos Slaughter to the Yankees for Bill Virdon, Mel Wright, and Emil Tellingier.

o The Orioles ship Vic Wertz to Cleveland for Bob Chakales.

o In August, the Yanks buy Jim Konstanty from the Phils.

o Prior to the season, the Braves trade Antonelli, Don Liddle, and two other players to the Giants for Thomson and Sam Calderon.

o Cass Michaels of the White Sox is beamed and his skull fractured; he's forced to retire at age 28.

o Gil Hodges of the Dodgers sets an ML record with 19 sacrifice flies.

o Only three AL teams win more than 69 games-Cleveland, New York, and Chicago (94).

o Cleveland is only 22-22 against New York and Chicago, but goes 89-21 against the rest of the AL.

o The Yankees' 103 wins are the most ever by an AL also-ran.

o Red Sox finish fourth in AL with a .448 win pct.

o THE Pirates lose 100 or more games for the third year in a row.

o The World Series winners share tops \$10,000 per player for the first time.

o Joe Bauman of Roswell in the Longhorn League hits an OB record 72 home runs.

- o Giants newcomer Johnny Antonelli tops NL in win pct. (.750) and ERA (2.29) and ties for second place in wins (21).
- o Robin Roberts leads the NL in wins (23), Ks (185), CGs, (29), and innings (337).
- o St. Louis' Wally Moon is NL Rookie of the Year.
- o Yankee Bob Grim is AL ROTY.
- o Grim becomes the only pitcher in ML history to win 20 games while pitching fewer than 200 innings.
- o Browns are sold and move to Baltimore, becoming first American League franchise to be moved since 1903.
- o On August 8, in the eighth inning, the Dodgers score 12 runs with two out and the bases empty.
- o Cards rookie Rip Repulski collects an ML record two-or-more hits in ten consecutive games.
- o The sacrifice fly rule is reinstated once again.
- o Cincy's Ted Kluszewski breaks Johnny Mize's NL record when he scores at least one run in 17 straight games.
- o Karl Spooner of the Dodgers hurls shutouts in his first two ML starts.
- o Spooner sets an ML record by fanning 15 batters in his big league debut.
- o Jim Wilson of Milwaukee no-hits Phils on June 12.
- o After the season, the Yankees and Baltimore make a record 18-player swap.
- o On May 2, Stan Musial becomes first player to hit five homers in a doubleheader.
- o Bobby Thomson's injury frees a spot in the Braves outfield for rookie second baseman Hank Aaron who hits .280.
- o Duke Snider leads NL in runs (120) and total bases (378).
- o Kluszewski tops NL in homers (49) and RBI (141).
- o Musial leads NL in doubles (41) and ties in runs (120).