

WIN SHARE PREDICTIONS FOR 1956

	Position Player	Pitcher	Total Win	Adjusted Total Win	Wins	Losses
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Shares</u>		
<u>American League</u>						
West Warwick Monarchs	171	146	317	279	93	61
Lafayette Colts	164	132	296	260	87	67
South River Gladiators	181	104	285	251	84	70
Salzburg Bishops	215	63	278	245	82	72
North Michigan Comets	170	93	263	231	77	77
Brooklyn Bridge	192	63	255	224	75	79
Los Angeles Surfers	161	78	239	210	70	84
<u>National League</u>						
Rossville Hornets	181	120	301	265	88	66
Hampton Roads Cruisers	176	94	270	238	79	75
Evanston Elephants	159	108	267	235	78	76
Dayton Flyers	168	81	249	219	73	81
Frankfort Fortress	150	91	241	212	71	83
Goshen Aces	135	85	220	194	65	89
Portland Beavers	132	62	194	171	57	97

Another year and another try at predicting this year's pennant winners. Before we get to 1956, I'd like to look back at last year's prognostication. The Colts were predicted to edge the Gladiators in the American League, while the Elephants were ahead of the Fortress in the National League. Of course, both the Gladiators and Fortress won, making the system 0-2. One interesting note is that both the Colts and Elephants had the best pitching staffs, while the Gladiators and Fortress had the strongest everyday lineups. This may be a coincidence or it could be that the system over-emphasizes pitching strength. The Gladiators have now been predicted for 2nd place finishes the past two years and yet have won the AL pennant both seasons.

The American League

As you can see above, the Monarchs are predicted as the top American League team. Unfortunately for them, it is a SPB-2 strongest pitching staff that propels them to the top spot. The team has Maglie, Brewer and Harshman as starters with Labine and Face in relief. The Colts get the second place nod, but are similar to the Monarchs with a deep pitching staff led by Early Wynn and Herb Score, but also have some solid defense with Richie Ashburn and Luis Aparicio. The Gladiators will try to make it three in a row with a solid attack featuring Mays and Musial and the ageless Warren Spahn as ace. The Comets have enough hitting (Willie Jones, Bob Nieman, and Joe Adcock) and pitching (Bob Rush, Billy Hoef) to try to move into the upper division. The Bishops and Bridge take the next two spots, and are both strong with position players and weak in their pitching staffs. This could be a combination that moves them higher in the standings, given previous year's results. The Bishops have Jim Gilliam, Ted Williams and Jackie Jensen, while the Bridge counter with Duke Snider, Wally Moon, and Gus Bell. The Surfers are predicted to win 70 games, but that is still the bottom spot in 1956. The team will still be entertaining with potential MVP candidate, Mickey Mantle.

The National League

The National League favorite by a ten game margin is the Rossville Hornets. The Hornets are projected to have the strongest everyday lineup and pitching staff, a deadly combination. Minoso, Banks and Hodges will provide the offense, while Lary, Lemon and Pierce are a terrific starting trio. The Cruisers are picked for second and they also sport a strong everyday lineup featuring rookie Frank Robinson, and veterans Moose Skowron and Roy Sievers. Whitey Ford will be the ace. The Elephants are a close third with a staff that includes Newcombe, Friend and Kline with a young Hank Aaron ready to lead the offense. The Flyers have Yogi Berra, Charlie Maxwell and Johnny Logan to attempt to pry their way into one of the top spots. Last year's World Series champion Fortress will be in a rebuilding mode. They will have to count on Johnny Antonelli to entertain the hometown crowds. Harvey Kuenn and Gil McDougald should keep the Aces out of the cellar. The Beavers are projected as the winners of next year's 1st draft pick, though young Ken Boyer will give opposing managers fits.