

## PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1960

### American League

#### Louisiana Lightning

And the last shall be first! The Lightning stockpiled great prospects in 1959 and finished in last place as a result but the fruits of that strategy will pay off big time in 1960. They are far and away the best team in the AL and should stack up well with the Black Cats, the consensus NL favorites. They have two outstanding first basemen, Norm Larker and Stormin' Norman Cash. Larker brings a great BA but not a lot of power and a mediocre OBA while Cash can hit the ball out of the park and knows how to take a walk. At second is Bill Mazeroski who has a sensational glove to go with a decent bat for a middle infielder. At short is Luis Aparicio, who is also a wizard with the glove but can also slap the ball around pretty well and is threat to steal every time he gets on first base. Cletis Boyer, another defensive star will share time at third with Reno Bertoia. Clete has some power but is averse to the base on balls while Bertoia is a mediocre hitter. Earl Battey, another of the 1959 phenoms will be the main catcher and be backed up by Hal Smith. Battey has some power and a cannon arm while Smith isn't far behind, at least with the bat. Roberto (don't call me Bob) Clemente returns in right with a .300 bat, decent power and an unexcelled throwing arm. Vada Pinson will hold down center with great extra base power and can also steal a base if needed. This will push Jim Landis to LF where he is more than capable and another potential base stealer. Jerry Lynch is available for spot play and can serve as a top flight PH while young Billy Williams waits in the wings. The Lightning pitching staff is also superb and stacks up right there with the Tigers as the best in the AL. Don Drysdale, Mike McCormick and Stan Williams along with swingman Frank Bauman are the core of the rotation with the balance of the starts going to other capable hurlers. The bullpen is manned by Lindy McDaniel, Larry Sherry and Russ Kemmerer but the depth behind them is thin although Phil (the Vulture) Regan and Jim Kaat are future stars.

#### Joliet Jakes

The Jakes finished only one game out in 1959 but they will be hard pressed to match Louisiana this year. The offense is very good but it will be handicapped by a less than adequate pitching staff. Moose Skowron brings a power laden bat to first base while Bobby Richardson brings his top flight glove and Punch and Judy bat to second. Eddie Kasko, who has a solid bat will move back and forth between second and short. Don Buddin and his mediocre bat will get the lion's share of SS at bats unless the manager wants to sacrifice defense and play Kasko there the majority of the time. Don Hoak holds down the hot corner where his bat and glove are both solid. Yogi Berra and John Blanchard will share time at catcher where Yogi has a good bat and is a much defender. The M & M boys (Mantle and Maris) will patrol CF and RF respectively where both have 40 homer potential, are good defenders and know how to take a walk. Gene Woodling and Bob Nieman will platoon in left and both know how to get on base but Woodling has much better power. Hot shot rookie Floyd Robinson will be on the bench. Then we get to the pitching staff which is certainly not up to the standards of the offense. Art Ditmar, Pedro Ramos and John Buzhardt are three decent starters but all have some control issues and the fourth slot will go by default to Bud Daley who is walk and home run prone. Swingman Bob Bruce will fill in the rotation as needed. Jim (Ball Four) Brosnan is a top-notch reliever and his sidekick Ron Piche isn't bad but then we are left with the likes of Tom Morgan and goggle-eyed Ryne Duren who might walk more batters than innings pitched.

### **Massillon Tigers**

The Bengals had a late season push last year and grabbed the AL pennant by one game then took a 3-1 lead in the World Series before losing three straight one run games and failed to grab the brass ring. Even with the return of a cracker jack pitching staff the offense is just too weak for the Tigers to compete unless they win a lot of 1-0 games. They will be hard pressed to get anywhere near 100 team homers and have by far the worst power in all of SPB60. Vic Power has a slick glove at first base but he doesn't walk much and won't hit much more than ten homers. Second baseman Don Blasingame has an OK glove but the best you can say about his offense is that he is an excellent bunter! You can say pretty much the same about shortstop Chico Fernandez but someone has to get on base before you can bunt! Pumpsie Green will fill in at second and short. Third base is a grab bag with Ted Lepcio, Alex Grammas and Billy Goodman sharing time but none of the trio can hit their way out of a paper bag and only Grammas has a decent glove. Hector Lopez may be drafted to play some third but his defense is atrocious. The catcher position is even worse as Hal Smith and Joe Ginsberg will split time and this duo might be the worse in all of SPB60. It looks like Al Kaline will have a down year as his power is off but he can still take a walk and his defense is superb. Harvey Kuenn won't repeat as the batting champ but he can still hit over .300, slap the ball around pretty well and knows how to take a pitch. Left field will be split between Lopez and Wes Covington but both men's power numbers will be well below 1959. Lee Maye and pint-size Albie Pearson are stars of the future. The mound staff is a completely different story. Vern Law, Frank Lary, Bob Buhl and Don Mossi might be the best 1-4 rotation in all of SPB60 with hot shot rookie Art Mahaffey available for spot starts. Turk Lown, Stu Miller and Joe Shaffernoth are all good relievers but after them the quality is thin. The starting staff will be the key to 1960 for the Tigers. if they excel who knows what could result but if they falter, the team will be lucky to finish .500.

### **Frankfort Frigates**

A real dogfight for positions four through six with the Frigates, Saints and Robbers battling it out all year long. One of them might get hot and climb into third but asking for any more would be a stretch. The Frankfort offense is the worst of the three teams but the pitching staff is the best. Steve Bilko, Gordie Coleman and Marvelous Marv Throneberry will all take turns at first base but none have much power. Coleman is the best of the trio and also has a good glove. Frank Bolling brings a good glove and mediocre bat to second base. Shortstop is a grab bag with a cast of thousands moving in and out of the lineup. The Walking Man, Eddie Yost, will hold down the hot corner and serve as the perfect lead-off man and he also has some modest power. Elston Howard and Red Wilson will share time behind the plate. Howard is a great receiver but neither of them can hit much. Billy Bruton in center is a solid defender and an above average hitter with some power while Charlie (Paw Paw) Maxwell in left is the team's top power hitter. Right field will see Gus Bell who has some power but doesn't know how to take a walk. The mound staff isn't bad and is clearly in the top half of the AL. Jim Bunning and Billy Pierce are a very good R/L combo at the top of the rotation but the manager will have to fill in the blanks with several swingmen, none of whom are outstanding. Dave Sisler and Freddie Green plus the non-starting swingmen form a decent bullpen.

### **Mound City Saints**

The Saints have decent team power but with a low team OBA many of these dingers will come with the bases empty. The pitching staff is OK, just a shade below the Frigates. Roy Sievers will play first; he has a good HR bat and can take a walk. Jim Gilliam at second also can take a walk but he doesn't have much power and his defense is just OK. Maury Wills is a solid, if punchless, hitter at short who can also steal a base. Frank Thomas, who also plays the outfield, and Al Dark will share time at third. Thomas has some power which Dark definitely does not. Gus Triandos is a decent catcher with some power but he'll be limited to about 100 games and his backups aren't much. The Baby Bull Orlando Cepeda is a fixture in

left where he is capable of hitting close to .300 with very good power. Rocky Colavito in right has 35 homer potential but may not hit .250. Joe Cunningham, who also plays first, and Gino Cimoli are available for spot play while Thomas and Sievers may also get some OF starts. The team has 23 pitchers on the roster but the quality is not so deep. The starting rotation of Steve Barber, Bob Turley, Vinegar Bend Mizell, Jim O'Toole and Milt Pappas plus swingman Ernie Broglio all have one common trait, a lack of control which could cause some serious problems as the season progresses. The two Bobs (Locke and Grim) will be the mainstays of the bullpen but there isn't much behind that duo other than Ed Palmquist who will be seriously limited in how much he can pitch.

### **Riverside Robbers**

The last of the trio fighting for fourth place have an above average attack but a lousy pitching staff. Stretch McCovey and Dick (Dr. Strange Glove) Stuart will share time at first and both have decent power. Billy Gardner can do the job in the field at second and won't kill you with his bat. Tony Kubek has a good glove and decent bat at short and even a bit of power. Harmon Killebrew will get 125 or so starts at third where he'll knock the ball out of the park 30 plus times, plus he knows how to take a walk. The balance of the 3B starts will go to Joe Morgan (not THE Joe Morgan) who can't do much of anything. Ritchie Ashburn will patrol CF and is a great leadoff man. Jackie Brandt is a solid RF who can field and also has some power. Frank Hondo Howard, who has a good HR bat and terrible glove, will share LF with Willie Tasby, a good fielder with a punchless bat. Russ Nixon, Harry Chiti and Clint Courtney will share time at catcher, with Nixon the best of the trio. Bob Shaw, Bob Anderson and swingman Ralph Terry are the three best starters with Carl Willey and Dick Stigman filling out the rotation. None of these hurlers would be in the top four of the better staffs and the last two wouldn't make the rotation at all. Eli Grba, Tex Clevenger and Joe Gibbon represent the bullpen which is not a team strength.

### **Wabash Six**

Wabash might have some hope of rising from the cellar but I wouldn't bet the rent on it. Norm Siebern, a fine hitter, will play first. Tony Taylor is a good defensive 2B with a decent, if punchless bat. Daryl Spencer, who can take a walk and has some power will be the shortstop by default as Leo Cardenas is still a work in progress; Spencer's glove is weak. Andy Carey who has a weak bat but good glove, will share time at third with Jim Davenport, who is a better hitter. Bob Schmidt and Cal Neeman will share time behind the plate; Schmidt is a better hitter while Neeman is horrible. Jimmy (I'm not crazy and I have a paper to prove it) Piersall is a great defensive CF with a decent bat and some power. Bob Allison is an OK fielder with some power in right. Bill Tuttle and Dick Williams (who also plays first and third) will fill out the balance of the outfield starts. Burly Early Wynn is the number one starter but he has control issues. Swingmen Billy O'Dell and Chuck Estrada plus Tom Brewer will fill out most of the balance of the rotation but all have control issues to one extent or another. Mike Fornieles, Hoyt Wilhelm, Chuck Stobbs and Leo Kiely are all very good relievers but how many leads will they have to protect with this team?

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **Bear Black Cats**

The defending WS champs look to be loaded again in 1960 with what is clearly the best pitching staff in all of SPB60 and a very good offense. Joe Adcock brings a power-laden bat and slick glove to first base. Pete Runnels at second and Dick Groat at short are clearly the best double play combo in all of SPB60. Both are slick fielders who could compete for the batting championship. Neither will hit a lot of homers but this is more than compensated elsewhere. Frank Malzone is a vacuum cleaner at third and also has

good power in his bat. Del Crandall at catcher is another standout both offensively and defensively and his backup, Ed Bailey, could start for most other teams. Bill Virdon in CF doesn't have the power of Mickey Mantle but he is a great flyhawk and won't kill you at the plate. Minnie Minoso in left is another star who excels in all offensive categories and is more than adequate in the field. The third outfielder, Tito Francona also has a very productive bat. In sum the Cats have no offensive weaknesses. Bob Friend and Sad Sam Jones are the backbone of an excellent starting rotation. Swingmen Jack Kralick, Curt Simmons and Roger Craig will get the balance of the starts leaving former stars Herb Score and Don Newcombe as mop up men. The bullpen is sensational with Roy Face, Gerry Staley and Bill Henry. It's hard to see how this team can be beat and may very well repeat as World Series champs.

### **Schenectady Patriots**

The Pats have a decent team and look to have a solid hold on second place but it defies logic to think they could overtake the Black Cats but we all remember the Miracle of Coogan's Bluff. Diamond Jim Gentile at first has a powerful HR bat and knows how to take a walk. He'll be spelled by Frank Robinson, when Robby is not playing the outfield. Marv Breeding at second has a good glove and is an acceptable slap hitter. Jerry Lumpe will play short and also fill in at second. He is a good fielder and decent hitter. Roy McMillan is also available to play SS. Ken Boyer at third can do it all, a great fielder, .300 BA, good batting eye and 30-homer power. Wally Moon is not a good outfielder but he can hit with modest power. Robinson has a powerful bat and is a fine fielder. The third OF will be Bob Skinner who has modest power and also knows how to take a walk. Ken Walters is available for spot OF play. Pete Daley, Elvin Tappe and Don Gile will share time behind the plate while the team waits for young Tim McCarver to develop but this is not a team strength. The pitching staff, though well below the quality of the Black Cats has some decent starters in Whitey Ford, Johnny Podres and Lew Burdette but the rest of the rotation is thin. Turk Farrell is a fine reliever but he doesn't have a lot of support.

### **New Bedford Ahabs**

The team will be locked in a year-long battle with the Argonauts for third place; rising to second would be a major accomplishment and falling to fifth a bitter disappointment. Vic Wertz is a decent first baseman and his backup is Dick Gernert. Charley Neal is a serviceable second baseman and he'll be spelled by Felix Mantilla who also plays short and the outfield. Eddie Bressoud who is below par in all offensive and defensive categories will get the most starts at short and be spelled by Dick Schofield who is a much better hitter and defender but will probably be limited to less than 70 games. Brooks Robinson will give you his usual superb defensive play at third and his bat is not bad. John Roseboro is a great defensive catcher who doesn't hit much and his backups can neither hit nor field very well. Ancient Ted Williams returns in left and while he is in there, there aren't too many better hitters but nagging injuries and old age will limit him to not much more than 100 games. Russ Snyder can do the job on defense in CF but his bat is the definition of punchless. Felipe Alou and Tommy Davis will also shuttle in and out of the lineup along with veterans Dave Philley and Elmer Valo. Ray Herbert, Dick Hall, Camilo Pascual, Gary Bell and Cal McClish form a decent rotation and the bullpen is top notch with Ed Roebuck and Bobby Shantz. There is a bit of depth with Duke Maas and John Gabler but not much else.

### **Asbury Argonauts**

As stated above, Jason and his buddies are pretty much dead even with the White Whalers in the total score from my complex formula but they come at it from opposite directions. New Bedford has a so-so offense but decent pitching staff while Asbury has a much better offense but poor pitching. First baseman Pancho Herrera strikes out a lot but he is a good fielder and has some power. Gil McDougal and Chuck Cottier will share time at second; both can field but neither can hit very much although McDougal is better. The incomparable Ernie Banks is a fixture at short where in addition to having a

flashy glove, he also 40-home run power, pretty rare for a middle infielder. McDougal may get drafted to play a number of games at third as the alternatives are pretty grim. Much like the Splendid Splinter mentioned in the Ahab's, Stan the Man Musial will drag his aging body out for 115 or so games and when he's in there you won't think of him as he was in his glory years but he is still a pretty good hitter, though a lousy fielder. Tony Gonzales is a good defensive CF and an acceptable hitter, though he doesn't have a lot of HR power. Hank Bauer and Milt Moryn along with several other spear carriers are available to fill in the blanks in the outfield. Smokey Burgess and Jim Cooker will be the main backstops; both can hit a little but neither has much power. Jim Perry, Dick Ellsworth and Gene Conley along with swingman Jack Fisher are the top rotation starters but behind them the cupboard is bare. Johnny Klippstein, Luis Arroyo and Clem Labine are three decent relievers but the remaining depth is weak.

### **Raleigh Tarheels**

The Heels will have a tough time moving up to fourth or higher and could easily slide to sixth but should be able to escape the cellar. Bill White has some decent extra base power and will man first base; he may also get some outfield starts yielding to veteran Dale Long. Second base is a problem as Jerry Kindall, Joey Amalfitano and Ossie Virgil will share time; none of the three will impress anyone. Ron Hansen is a great fielder with decent power at short which will leave Woodie Held, who only plays short without a position. Gene Freese, who has some power and a decent glove will share time at third with budding star Ron Santo. Earl Averill, Gene Berberet and Clay Dalrymple will switch off at catcher with Clay by far the best of the three. Curt Flood, a budding star will get most of the starts in center field but the big story for him is the future. Bob Will is a serviceable corner outfielder but don't expect much power. Whitey Herzog, Bobby Del Greco and future star Johnny Callison will fill out the balance of the outfield slots. On the mound, the staff leader is Bob Purkey with Jay Hook the number two but three diamonds in the rough (Sandy Koufax, Juan Marichal and Joey Jay) will contribute some this year but their future is unlimited. Swingman Chris Short and Bob Davis are OK relievers but the quality behind them is pretty grim. Raleigh might be this year's version of the Lightning in terms of stockpiling young phenoms but don't expect the payoff in 1961 to be quite as dramatic.

### **Newark Bears**

The Bears will battle Raleigh all year for the fifth spot and with a lot of breaks could move up to fourth but probably won't slide to the cellar. Ted Kluszewski, on the downside of a good career, will share time at first with Ron Jackson and Lee Walls who also plays second and the outfield. Big Klu is the best of the three but his power has declined over the years. Billy Martin and a host of nonentities will cover second base but none of them should be confused with an All-Star. Jose Valdespino is a decent fielder at short but his bat is practically non-existent and his backup Ken Hamlin is the definition of no-hit and no-field. Puddin Head Jones has declined quite a bit from his glory years but he is a major improvement from the player with whom he will share time at third, Bubba Phillips. Johnny Romano, a fine hitter and decent defender will share time at catcher with Danny Kravitz and Carl Sawaski. The outfield is where the true talent resides on the Bear's roster. Two aging future Hall of Famers, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron give you great power, a .300 plus bat, good defense and can steal a base; who could ask for more? Another former star, Duke Snider is not at the same level as Mays and Aaron but his offense is decent and he'll share the third OF spot with Faye Throneberry who has no power in his bat. Bill Monbouquette, Ray Sadecki, pint-size Harvey Haddix and veteran Robin Roberts along with swingman Skinny Brown form a decent starting rotation. The bullpen of Marshall Bridges, Hank Aguirre and Ray Moore is pretty good and any success with Bears have in 1960 will be due to the pitching staff and the outfield sluggers.

### **East Kenosha Lakers**

EKL finished last in 1959 and may very well repeat in 1960. First baseman Gil Hodges has seriously declined from his glory years and he'll share time with Harry Anderson and George Altman, both of whom also play the outfield. Nellie Fox is a solid second baseman who doesn't hit the ball out of the park but can slap it around the infield pretty well. Johnny Logan and Ruben Amaro will share time at short; both are acceptable fielders but neither can hit much. Slugger Eddie Mathews at third has the best power on the team and also knows how to take a walk. Veteran Sherm Lollar who is an excellent defender with a so-so bat will share time behind the plate with Sammy Taylor who is well below par with the bat. Lenny Green is a good defensive outfielder but his bat is punchless. Willie Kirkland has some power but a poor glove. Al Smith is probably the best of the outfielders as he has modest power, a .300 bat and decent OBA. Marty Keough, Gene Stephens and Altman when he isn't playing first will fill out the OF starts. As is usual with a Kenosha franchise this, quantity is often greater than quality especially on the pitching staff as they have 22 hurlers on the roster. Warren Spahn and Larry Jackson are workhorses and could be on any rotation in the league. Jack Sanford and Glen Hobbie are also decent starters but both have control issues. Swingman Don Lee is also available to round out the rotation. Marty Kutyna and Dallas Green lead the bullpen but once again control is an issue. The team does have three young pitchers who are still a year or so away; Mudcat Grant, Juan Pizarro and Eddie Fisher.