

## PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1962

### American League

#### New York Mets

The defending WS Champs won 114 game last year but won't have that level of stellar success this year. The Mets' attack is by far the best in the AL, but they do have some pitching issues and could be pressed by the Frigates. Norm Siebern is solid at first base, and he can do it all, a good BA with power, a knowledge of the strike zone and he is a good fielder. At second, Jerry Lumpe is a fine hitter for a middle infielder and can do the job on defense. Roy McMillan at short isn't quite as good a hitter as Lumpe but is a better fielder. Kenny Boyer is a lock at the hot corner where he combines a good bat with power and won't kill you on defense. Johnny Romano has 25-homer potential behind the plate and is a solid receiver. His main backup Earl Averill also plays the outfield. Willie Davis in center field is a sensational ballhawk and also has nice power in his bat. Frank Robinson in right is probably the best hitter on the team with a .340 bat and the potential of 100 extra base hits. Bob Skinner in left has some fielding issues but is a solid hitter. Ron Fairly and Ty Cline are available for spot play in the garden. On the mound, Whitey Ford, Johnny Podres and Dick Donovan are a solid 1-2-3 and Ken Johnson will round out the rotation. Eddie Fisher is a nice reliever, but the quality is a little thin after him.

#### Frankford Frigates

Look for a big improvement over 1961's 85 wins and Frankfort could even challenge for the pennant. Their offense isn't as good as the Mets, but the pitching staff is the best in the league. Gordy Coleman has good power at first and he'll be backed up by defensive whiz Jerry Harkness. Frank Bolling will get most of the starts at second base where he is acceptable; his backup Jake Wood can't do much of anything well except steal bases. Andre Rodgers is decent at short but his primary backup, Dick Howser is a disaster in the field. At third base, Frank Malzone has some decent power and can play every day. Roman Mejias has some serious fielding issues, but his bat is too good to keep him out of the lineup. Billy Bruton is capable of playing a workmanlike center field. Wally Post, Ted Savage and several no-names will fill out the balance of the outfield starts. Elston Howard at catcher has good power and a cannon arm. His primary backup is Doug Camilli. It's on the mound where the Frigates will shine. Warren Spahn and Bob Purkey are a great L/R duo, and both have 20-win potential. Billy Pierce, Jim Bunning and Ray Washburn round out the rotation. Don Elston and Ron Perranoski might be two of the best relievers in the league and they will get able assistance from Don Ferrarese.

#### Newark Bears

The Bears look to improve on last year's 71 wins and could challenge Frankfort for second place but competing for the pennant will be a tall order. They have some offensive issues, but the pitching staff is solid. Dale Long who hits from the left side will share first base with Joe Adcock, a righty hitter. Both have good power, but Adcock is a poor fielder. Bernie Allen at second is not a good fielder but he can hit. Woodie Held who has some power and a decent glove will play shortstop. Third base is a grab bag with several players shuttling in and out; Steve Boros has some power but can't field very well and the others are even worse. Hank Aaron in right and Willie Mays in center are the stars of the show as they both combine a high average bat with 45-50 home run power; both are good fielders. Joe Hicks and several no-names will share time in left field. Bob Rodgers doesn't hit much but he is a top-notch receiver behind the plate. Bill Monbuquette is the workhorse leader of the pitching staff, but he'll get great support from Hank Aguirre, Robin Roberts and Don Rudolph. Don McMahon and veteran Bobby Shantz are sensational relievers.

### **Mound City Saints**

The Saints will battle the Bears all year for third place and could move up with some breaks. Both the attack and pitching staff are middle of the road. First baseman Orlando Cepeda isn't much of a fielder, but he can hit with power. Julian Javier at second is a slick fielder and can hit just enough to be a net plus in the lineup. Shortstop Maury Wills is a lead-off man extraordinaire who may set a new record for stolen bases. Third sacker Junior Gilliam doesn't have much pop in his bat, but he does know how to get on base, although his defense is below par. Rocky Colavito in left has a cannon arm and great glove to go with a great knowledge of the strike zone and 40-homer power. Gino Cimoli in center has decent power and can play every day. Charley James and Marty Keough will share the third outfield slot; neither has much power. Ken Retzer is a decent hitter and receiver behind the plate, and he'll be spelled by Chris Cannizaro and Hobie Landrith. Jim O'Toole, Bob Hendley and Ernie Broglio are three decent starters. Milt Pappas and swingmen Steve Barber and Jim Bouton will round out the rotation. Ancient Diomedes Olivo and Jack Lamabe are a decent bullpen duo.

### **Massillon Tigers**

The Tigers finished a hair over .500 in 1961 thanks to a solid pitching staff and despite a woeful attack but the roles are reversed this year as the offense isn't bad, but the pitching staff is and getting back to .500 will be a real accomplishment. They will battle the Jakes all year long for fifth place. Slick fielding first sacker Vic Power doesn't know the strike zone very well, but he does have some power and could flirt with a .300 batting average. Lee Thomas, who also plays the outfield, will get some time at first. Second baseman Don Blasingame has a punchless bat, but he can get on base and knows how to field his position. Chico Fernandez at short has some home run power but not much else on offense or defense. Fernandez is horrible against LHP and will be platooned with Billy Consolo. Last year's number one draft pick Rich Rollins has arrived and will be a solid performer with both the bat and glove at third base. Tom Haller and Doc Edwards will share time behind the plate. Al Kaline is clearly the best hitter on the team and is a great defender, but injuries will limit him to not much more than 100 games. Thomas and Lee Maye will pick up the slack. Albie Pearson, who can't hit lefties will platoon in center with Carl Warwick. Manny Jimenez, a decent hitter will share time in left with Thomas. The starting rotation has no standouts but Bob Buhl, rookie Dennis Bennett, Don Mossi, Al Jackson and Art Mahaffey will try to do the job. Turk Lown, Bob Duiba and Bob Botz are the guts of a mediocre bullpen

### **Joliet Jakes**

The Jakes won 112 games last year thanks to a thunderous lineup which scored well over 1,000 runs and had 329 homers but it wasn't enough to get them into the fall classic. This year's squad has a much less formidable attack. The pitching staff is arguably the worst in the AL and will give the expansion Bullies in the NL a run for their money as the worst in all of SPB60. Moose Skowron at first has a decent power bat and can field his position. At second Bobby Richardson should have one of his best offensive seasons but his defense is wanting. At short, Eddie Kasko doesn't have much power, but his defense is acceptable. His backup is Phil Linz whose bat is punchless. Ed Charles is a nice third baseman with both the bat and glove. Catchers John Blanchard and Yogi Berra should be well below their production in 1961. Roger Maris who had 65 homers last year will be lucky to have half that number in '62. Likewise with Mickey Mantle whose defense is down but he still has a .320 bat and good knowledge of the strike zone but will be limited to about 125 games, due to injuries. Jim Landis is still a top-flight center fielder, but his bat has fallen way off. Willie Tasby is available for spot play in the garden. Bill Stafford and John Buzhardt are the top two starters, but both would be no better than fourth or fifth starters on a good team. Eli Grba is also available but at the bottom of the rotation will be Don Schwall and Jack Hamilton both of whom have serious control issues. Jim Brosnan and swingman Frank Baumann are decent relievers but last year's ace, Luis Arroyo promises to be a shadow of his former self.

### **Beard Black Cats**

The Cats were tied for the cellar in 1961 but will need a total collapse to fall that far this year as the expansion Fairfax Grays are horrible. Tommy Aaron, not to be confused with his All-Star brother will play first base but his sole positive quality is a decent glove. Charlie Paw Paw Maxwell will also get some 1B starts. Chuck Hiller can play every day at second, but his bat is punchless although he can field his position adequately. Dick Groat is still a productive hitter at short and can do the job with the glove. Harvey Kuenn who could hit .300 with modest power will play third base but not very well; he'll be spelled by Don Hoak against LHP's. Del Crandall and John Edwards will share time behind the plate; Del is the better player both offensively and defensively. Leon Daddy Wags Wagner has by far the best power on the team and can play every day in left field. Floyd Robinson, the best hitter on the team will hold down right field. Bill Virdon is averse to the base on balls and has little power but can play a decent center field. Bob Friend is the undisputed leader of the staff and could win 20 games with proper support but that isn't going to happen with this team. Pedro Ramos, Jack Kralick, pint size Harvey Haddix and swingman Curt Simmons will fill out the rotation. Roy Face is a knockout closer but might not have a lot of leads to protect with this club. Tex Clevenger and Sad Sam Jones will also help out in the pen.

### **Fairfax Grays**

The expansion Grays have a putrid offense and a pitching staff just a shade better than the Jakes. Veteran Roy Sievers is a solid hitter and will play most games at first. Johnny Temple has serious defensive issues but will have to share second base with Ken Hamlin whose bat is punchless and his glove only slightly better than Temple. Bob Aspromonte has an OK bat but leaky glove and will play short while hot shot Ron Hansen will miss most of the season with injuries but hopefully will be back next year hale and hearty. Hulking Frank Thomas who has the most power on the team will get the majority of starts at third base but also needs to play some outfield. When he's not at third Bubba Phillips will play but he never learned about the base on balls from his mother when he was a kid. Jose Azcue and Carl Sawatski will share time behind the plate; Carl is a much better hitter. Jackie Brandt has some power and will patrol centerfield. Willie Kirkland has 20-homer potential but might not hit .200; he'll be the right fielder along with Thomas. Al Luplow and Don Landrum will share time in left. Luplow can field and has some power while Landrum knows how to get on base. Joey Jay, Gene Conley and Cal Koonce are the three top starters. Ed Rakow and Jay Hook along with swingman Pete Burnside round out the rotation. Chet Nichols, Russ Kemmerer and Don Nottenart are the three best relievers. Hot shot rookie Gaylord Perry is waiting in the wings.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **New Bedford Ahabs**

The Ahabs will be in a three-way race with the Lightning and Bombers all season long and any of the three could grab the NL flag. This team has very good power diffused throughout the lineup. Pete Runnells at first has a solid bat and knows how to get on base but has defensive issues. Charlie Neal at second also has defensive shortcomings but his offense is not bad. Eddie Bressoud at short is a decent hitter with 40-double potential and he can field well. Vacuum cleaner Brooks Robinson returns at third with a solid bat to go with his extraordinary glove. Felix Mantilla could start for many other teams but will fill in here at all three infield positions. John Roseboro and Dick Brown will alternate at catcher; Roseboro is the better hitter while Brown has a cannon arm. Tommy Davis could challenge for the batting crown and has good power and defense at one of the corner outfield slots. Felipe Alou isn't quite as good as Davis but still outstanding with the bat; since the team doesn't have a natural

centerfielder he may be forced to play there. Chuck Hinton is another solid hitter and can play all three outfield positions. Space must also be found for Don Demeter who has 30-homer potential not to mention Chuck Essegian who is a solid hitter. Matty Alou will serve as a top pinch hitter but can also start in the garden. The team has a wealth of outfielders, and an early season trade may be in the offing. On the mound Ray Herbert, Camilio Pascual, Dave Stenhouse and swingman Earl Francis form a solid rotation. Dick the Monster Radatz is a formidable presence in the bullpen, but his mates Dick Hall and Ed Roebuck are also outstanding.

### **Louisiana Lightning**

The defending NL champs are poised for another run in 1962. The lineup is solid and the pitching staff the best in all of SPB60. At first Stormin' Norman Cash has great power and an advanced knowledge of the strike zone but has some issues with LHP's and may platoon with Gene Green. Bill Mazerowski returns at second with a solid bat and glove. Luis Aparicio can still steal bases and field very well, but his bat is not strong. Cletis Boyer has a great glove and decent power and will man the hot corner. Earl Battey is a solid hitter and fielder behind the plate and will be backed up by Cam Carreon. Roberto Clemente, Billy Williams and Vada Pinson form a sensational outfield although Pinson has some defensive issues. Time must also be found for Joe Cunningham who has a great OBA; he also plays first base. But it's on the mound where the Lightning really excels. Don Drysdale, Bob Gibson, Jim Kaat and Jack Sanford are the strongest starting rotation in the league. Terry Fox, Jim Umbricht and Larry Sherry form an excellent bullpen

### **Gem City Bombers**

The former Riverside Robbers renamed the team in 1962 just in time for a pennant run. They are not as good as the A-habs on offense or the Lightning on the mound but well above average in both and should be in the fight all season long. Willie Stretch McCovey and Dick (Dr. Strangelove) Stuart will alternate at first base. Both have good power, but Stuart has some defensive issues. Second baseman Billy Moran is a solid hitter with decent power and can field his position well. Jerry Adair is a workmanlike shortstop although it would be nice if he walked a little more. Felix Torres and Danny O'Connell will share time at third; both are adequate at best. Billy Klaus is a decent infield utility man. Joe Torre, Mike Roarke and Russ Nixon will share time behind the plate. Veteran Stan the Man Musial has serious defensive issues, but you aren't going to find many better outfield hitters. Centerfielder Ritchie Ashburn is a solid leadoff man although his defense is suspect. Harmon Killebrew given his unchallenged power has to play somewhere but he is also a defensive cypher. And that doesn't account for Frank Howard who is a solid hitter; where is the DH when you need it? Ralph Terry and Bob Shaw are the top two starters, but swingmen Dean Chance, Claude Osteen and Dick Stigman will also feature in the rotation. Art Fowler, Tom Morgan and Frank Funk form a good bullpen.

### **Raleigh Tarheels**

A lot of talent above them but the Tarheels have a good squad and could compete, but it will be tough to climb over three teams. Bill White at first is the best hitter on the team and also a decent fielder plus he plays every day. Jerry Kindall at second has some modest power but not much more of a bat but he is an excellent defender. Joey Amalfitano and 20-year-old phenom Jim Fregosi will share time at shortstop. Ron Sano at third is just getting this feet wet but his potential is unlimited. Clay Dalrymple and Jim Paglioni are both decent offensively and defensively behind the plate. Johnny Callison in right is a solid hitter and great defender with both range and a cannon arm. Curt Flood is another ballhawk in center and his bat is top notch. Bb Allison has 30-homer power and rounds out the garden. Whitey Herzog and George Alusik are also solid outfielders. They have a good rotation with Sandy Koufax, Juan Marichal, Tom Cheney, Al McBean and Jim Maloney but only Marichal can be counted on to pitch every

fourth day. The bullpen is a little thin and the starters will have to stay in longer than the manager might like.

### **Houston Colt 45's**

A major falloff after the top four and the likelihood of any second division team moving into the first division is very slim. However, the Colt 45's will battle it out all year with the Argonauts for fifth place. Norm Larker at first is a solid hitter and defender but you'd like a little more power out of this position. Pepper pot Nellie Fox returns at second and his numbers look to be little below that of 1961 but his hustle and enthusiasm are a vital part of the '45 legacy. The two Bobs (Lillis and Wine) will share time at shortstop; neither is a star nor an embarrassment. Slugger Eddie Mathews, one of the fan favorites returns at the hot corner. Eddie is the top power man in the lineup. Gene Oliver is a decent hitting, but poor fielding catcher and he'll be backed up by veteran Sherm Lollar. Lennie Green is an OK hitter and fielder but has a weak arm; he'll play centerfield. Russ Snyder, Al Spangler and Wes Covington will shuttle in and out of the lineup along with youngster Lou Brock, who has some serious defensive issues. Highly touted rookie Tony Oliva has a world of talent, but his time has not yet come. Versatile utilityman Rod Kanhel is available to fill in at every position except catcher. Turk Farrell, Don Lee Bo Belinsky, Larry Jackson and Juan Pizzaro form a decent if unspectacular rotation. Swingmen Bob Bruce, Mudcat Grant and Gal Woodeshick along with fireballer Ryne Durn constitute a weak bullpen.

### **Asbury Argonauts**

As stated above Jason's crew will battle with Houston all year for fifth place. Ernie Banks moved from short to first but still has a power laden bat, but it would be nice if he walked a little more. Chuck Cottier, a fine fielder will get most of the starts at second and he'll be spelled by Red Schoendienst who will also serve as a solid pinch hitter. Wayne Causey and Elio Chacon will split time at short; both are OK hitters, but Causey is a better fielder. Dick McAuffe is a solid hitter and will hold down third base. Smokey Burgess and Dick Bertell, both fine hitters will alternate at catcher although Bertell has defensive issues. George Altman will man right field where he has a nice bat with good power and OBA. Al Smith is another good hitter with power and will play left. Tony Gonzales, a .300 hitter with good power and on base will play center alongside Jim Hickman who is not a good hitter. Veteran Vic Wertz is available as a dynamite pinch hitter. The pitching staff lacks a workhorse team leader but a bevy of swingmen such as Phil Regan, Jim Perry, Tony Cloninger, Ike Delock Tom Sturdivant and Dallas Green will move in and out of the rotation and the bullpen. They lack a pure standout reliever only and will have to rely on the non-starting swingmen.

### **Toledo Rockets**

The Rockets have issues on both offense and the mound and will be spared the cellar due to the presence of the expansion Bullies. Diamond Jim Gentile has the best power on the team and holds down first base. Tony Taylor at second has a leaky glove but he hits enough to be an offensive contributor and plays every day. Shortstop Leo Cardenas has a very good bat for a middle infielder and can field his position very well. Jim Davenport at third is another steady performer on both offense and defense. Hal Smith and Bob Schmidt will share time at catcher; both have modest power but not much else. Switch hitter Tom Tresh has a very productive bat with power and anchors left field. Bobby Del Greco has a good glove in centerfield, but you'd like it if he had a little more pop in his bat. Veteran Gene Woodling a fine hitter but poor fielder. Bill Tuttle and Bobby Gene Smith both of whom have punchless bats will round out the garden crew. Billy O'Dell and Ken McBride are the leaders of the starting corps and they'll be followed by swingmen Denny LeMaster, Chris Short and Barry Latman plus ancient Burly Early Wynn. The bullpen is pretty good with Hoyt Wilhelm and Jack Baldschun but how many leads will they have to protect?

### **Boulder Run Bullies**

O the joys of an expansion team. They finished at the bottom of almost all the categories in my complex formula and as stated above they will challenge the Jakes for the "honor" of having the worst pitching staff in SPB60. Tito Francona a solid hitter and fielder will anchor first base. Chuck Schilling and Marv Breeding will share time at second; neither can hit much but Marv is a much better fielder. Jose Pagan is a below average hitter and lousy fielder but will be forced to play shortstop as there are no real alternatives. Bob Johnson has some power and a decent bat and will get the majority of starts at third base. Ed Bailey who has decent power and knows how to take a walk will share time at catcher with Charley Lau who can hit but is a terrible receiver with a poor arm. Mike Hershberger (a Massillon Ohio native!) is the closest thing the team has to a full-time outfielder, but he doesn't bring much offense to the table. Jimmy Piersall is a standout ballhawk in center field but doesn't hit much. Veteran Duke Snider, Hector (no Hands) Lopez and Lou Clinton who has some power are also available in the outfield. Chuck Estrada is the leader of the staff by default, but he has serious control issues. Veteran Cal McClish. Stan Williams, Dan Pfister and Rollie Sheldon will also figure in the rotation but most of the time with this crew it will be bombs away. On the other hand, Marshall Bridges, Jim Hannan and Don Larsen form a decent bullpen. Too bad they can't pitch more early in games.