

Spahn Landslide Winner of Majors' Mound Award

Braves' Southpaw Receives 15 of 16 Votes, With Remaining Ballot Going to Donovan

By DAN DANIEL

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Warren Spahn, 21-game winner of the world's champion Braves, was the landslide winner of the Cy Young Memorial award for 1957, gaining the high accolade from the committee of 16 members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America which picked the Pitcher of the Year.

In fact, it was no contest. Spahn polled 15 votes. The sixteenth went to Dick Donovan, White Sox righthander. Last year, when the award was set up, at the request of Commissioner Ford C. Frick, Brooklyn's Don Newcombe, who had won the National League Most Valuable citation, took the Cy Young prize with ten votes. Sal Maglie, also of the Dodgers, got four and Spahn and Whitey Ford picked up one each.

In the 1957 Most Valuable competition, Spahn finished fifth, behind Hank Aaron and his 239 points, with 131. He was the first pitcher to show in the scoring, after Hank, Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst and Willie Mays.

That Spahn would take the Cy Young Memorial became a virtual certainty at the close of the National League season. All the votes were in by that time. World's Series performances do not count in any of the major competitions.

Eighth Year in 20-Win Class

Spahn appeared in 39 games in the Braves' pennant-winning race. He won 21 and lost 11, for .656, with four shutouts, 271 innings of work, 44 walks, 109 strikeouts and an earned-run average of 2.69. It was Warren's eighth year in the 20-victory category.

Donovan worked in 28 contests, with 16 and 6 for .727. He issued 45 passes, fanned 88 men, had two shutouts, 16 complete games, 221 innings and an earned-run mark of 2.77.

In the matter of spectacular progress in one year, Donovan had an edge over Spahn. But in eligibility for the award, the Milwaukee hero stood over Dick by 15 to 1.

Commissioner Frick suggested the Cy Young Memorial after Robin Roberts had finished nowhere in the Most Valuable competition, year after year. The commissioner decided that a new competition would have to be set up for pitchers. This was before Newcombe scored his 1956 double.

That the Cy Young contest is a good thing is not doubted. That it is the best thing is not so certain. Some of the writers believe it bars hurlers from winning the MVP unless they stand out the way Newcombe did with his 27 games last year and Spahn did this year.

The Cy Young Memorial Award election committee included Joseph Sheehan, New York Times; John Drebing, New York Times; Mike Gavin, New York Journal-American; Al Abrams, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; Edward Pollock, Philadelphia Bulletin; John Carmichael, Chicago Daily News; Leo Fischer, Chicago American; Cleon Walford, Milwaukee Journal; Ellis Veech, East St. Louis Journal; Earl Lawson, Cincinnati Times-Star; Francis Stann, Washington Star; Joseph McGuff, Kansas City Star; Lyall Smith, Detroit Free-Press; Rodger Pippen, Baltimore News-Post; Ed M. Rumill, Boston Christian Science Monitor; Franklin Lewis, Cleveland Press.

Pitcher of Year



Warren Spahn

Gabe Weighs Bids for Bailey; Good Hurler Could Tip Scales

Braves and Pirates Have Pitchers That Redlegs Could Use

By EARL LAWSON

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.



Ted Kluszewski "There are too many diversions and too much confusion during the meetings," explained Paul, "for club officials to sit down for any length of time and seriously discuss a trade."

Paul hastened to add that this is "just one man's personal observation." "You never know about trades," he remarked, "until somebody says, 'Yes,' and that can be any time."

The Redleg boss has been in contact with every other National League club since his return from a tour of the winter leagues in mid-November.

"We've had some pretty long conversations," he remarked. So far, though, the only one to benefit has been the telephone company.

Pitching Immediate Objective

"Actually," continued Paul, "I feel there'll be a lot of trading this winter."

"Pitching," said the Redleg boss, "is still our immediate objective."

Paul rules out the possibility of pitching help from the minor leagues. The pitcher the Redlegs need must be acquired in a trade.

"And," stated the Redleg boss, "we know that to get something good you must give up something good."

Paul again emphasized that no player on the Redleg roster is labeled "untouchable."

"We shoot for the best and so do

'Kluszewski Can Be Great If He Desires'—Tebbetts

NASHUA, N. H.—If Ted Kluszewski "makes up his mind to it" he can be a great player next season, with or without an operation, says Birdie Tebbetts, manager of the Redlegs.

Tebbetts made the comment at his home here following the refusal of the big first baseman to undergo an operation for a slipped spinal disc. "I won't interfere with his decision," Birdie said, "because that's strictly his business. However, I don't think he can make it if he continues to carry his present weight."

Big Klu spent most of last season on the bench or serving as a pinch-hitter.

In fact, it was one of his worst seasons in Organized Ball. He appeared in 69 games and had only 127 at-bats. His home-run production dropped from 35 in 1956 to a mere seven, and his batting average plunged 34 points, from .302 to .268.

Another alarming factor for a slugger in the \$40,000 class was the lack of RBIs, only 20 against 102 in 1956.

the other clubs," continued the Redleg boss. "If the offer isn't right, all of us have the privilege of saying, 'No.'"

More than one club in the National League has expressed considerable interest in the Redlegs' young backstop, Ed Bailey, the loop's All-Star catcher for the past couple of years. And one gathers that the offers made have been quite attractive.

"You have to do a lot of thinking, though," admitted Paul, "before you give up a catcher with Bailey's ability."

Paul is in a better position to relinquish a player of Bailey's caliber

than other rival general managers. Behind Bailey, the Redlegs have Smoky Burgess, the only catcher in the majors today with a lifetime .300 average, and young Dutch Dotterer, a rookie who batted .303 for Nashville in the Southern Association last season.

"Funny thing about Burgess," chuckled Paul, "everyone berates him, but everyone still wants him."

Both Milwaukee and Pittsburgh have a pitcher that the Redlegs can use. And it's no secret that both the Braves and Pirates would welcome Bailey's addition to their lineup.

One gets the impression that the Redlegs are quite willing to trade Wally Post, their slugging right fielder. But it's extremely doubtful whether rival clubs will see eye to eye with Paul on the Ohio farm boy's value.

Surplus of First Basemen

Two years ago, Post, after swatting 40 homers and batting .308, would have come high. But, as Mayo Smith, the Phillies' pilot, said recently, "I can't help but remember that last season there were a lot of times when Post wasn't the Reds' regular right fielder."

Asked what he planned to do with three first basemen—Ted Kluszewski, Steve Bilko and George Crowe—Paul smiled and replied, "Time will take care of that. It's always better to have a surplus than a shortage."

The Redleg boss was happy to learn last week that Ted Kluszewski has decided against an operation on his back to correct a slipped disc condition.

"I've felt all along," said Paul, "that Klu shouldn't have an operation. I've based my feeling on the reports on him which we obtained from the Leahy Clinic in Boston."

"It's Kluszewski's back and his future that's at stake, though," continued Paul, "and I withheld from saying anything because I didn't want to be accused of influencing him one way or the other."

"I know one thing," he added. "If it were my back, I wouldn't let them touch it."

Barnes Sold Browns After 'Achieving My Three Aims'

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tee to work with us and look into every angle of the proposed franchise shift. Harridge had a duplicate file on all of our movements and knew of our dealings with Breadon, Wrigley, the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, the American League scheduler, the airplane and railroad people and all the rest.

"The late Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, then commissioner, also was informed regularly on our progress. He was quite interested, but I never could get him to express himself one way or the other. All he'd say was: 'That is a matter you boys (club executives) must settle among yourselves.'"

In October, 1941, the Browns' president called on Wrigley in Chicago and, with the aid of the Cubs' attorney, Paul Harper, an optional agreement was drawn up for the transfer of the Los Angeles franchise, players and ball park to the Browns on the terms stipulated earlier.

The list of players to be turned over to Barnes and his associates included such Coast league stars at the time as Jesse Flores, Joe Berry, Eddie Mayo and Phil Weintraub.

Long Beach Sought Club

"With this matter out of the way," Barnes recalled, "I called in Arthur and advised Harry of the part he was to play on the West Coast. His brother, Milton, a Long Beach, Calif., theater man, and the late Charley Paddock, who was associated with a newspaper family out there, were to make preparations to move the Los Angeles club of the Pacific Coast League to Long Beach as soon as we got the green light to transfer the Browns to the Coast. Harry conferred with Long Beach civic leaders and was assured they would build a suitable ball park as soon as their city was awarded the Coast league franchise."

Baseball law, which since has been changed to make shifting franchises more complicated and costly, simply provided in 1941 that a major league club could draft minor league territory by paying the minor league invaded \$5,000, with another \$5,000 going to the minor league club dispossessed.

"Since we'd own the Los Angeles franchise, we wouldn't have to pay ourselves damages for moving the Browns to Los Angeles," the one-time club owner explained. "Of course, we'd have to pay the Coast league \$5,000. Hollywood? Well, we wouldn't have been infringing on the Stars, as they actually had no territory, but were operating under a 20-year agreement giving them the right to divide the Los Angeles territory. That agreement expired the past year."

"Still, we were going to put it up to the Hollywood management and let them decide if they wanted to continue to play there or shift their franchise elsewhere. If they had decided to stay, we'd have co-operated in our schedule-making so that there would have been no conflict between us in home games."

Bombs Shattered Dream

"Finally," Barnes continued, "the big day was at hand. The major league meetings were scheduled for the Palmer House in Chicago on December 8, 9 and 10. Bill and Charley DeWitt, Manager Luke Sewell of the Browns and I arrived in Chicago on Sunday, December 7, to do our final campaigning before formally presenting our proposal on Monday, December 8, to move the St. Louis American League franchise to Los Angeles."

"Jimmy Conzelman, then coach of the Chicago Cardinals, invited us to attend his team's game with the Bears, Sunday, December 7, as a sort of celebration on the eve of our triumph—for we were pretty confident that we'd put over our transfer shift at the meeting the next day."

"But that's when disaster struck. Over the public address system came the sad announcement that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. With the scare of a West Coast invasion, we realized at once that Los Angeles was no place for the Browns. Our dream was shattered."

"I phoned Arthur and Harry flew in from California, arriving in Chicago late that night. We agreed that the whole matter should be tabled. So the next day, I phoned Mr. Harper, Wrigley's attorney, and notified him that the deal for the Los Angeles club was off. He readily understood our plight."

The next day Barnes went through with the presentation of his plan to the American League with a request, however, that the proposal be dropped

L. A. Press Luncheon Set Up to 'Announce' Browns' Move

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—So certain were the Browns' officials that their proposal to move their franchise to Los Angeles would be okayed by both the American and National leagues (as required at that time) at the major meetings in Chicago, December 8, 1941, that Harry Arthur, one of the club's directors, had set up a press luncheon in Los Angeles that day to make the official West Coast announcement.

"Working through the Los Angeles Publishers' Association," Arthur revealed, "I had notified the newspaper people what to expect, if and when we got the green light from the major leaguers at Chicago. All agreed to treat the matter in confidence until I gave them the word, which I expected to receive from Browns' President Don Barnes, via long-distance telephone from Chicago. I intended to make the announcement at a press luncheon I had set up for Lyman's Cafe in Los Angeles at 1 p. m., December 8."

"This, of course, would be 3 p. m. in Chicago, and by that hour, we figured, the matter would have been settled, undoubtedly in our favor. But the luncheon was never held. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Barnes summoned me to Chicago on Sunday, December 7, and we agreed to call the whole thing off."

and the Browns allowed to stay in St. Louis.

"I was astounded at the response," he said. "Some of those American League magnates, who had been quite skeptical of our idea from the start, suddenly had changed their minds and now expressed themselves in favor of the shift to Los Angeles—that is, if the country were not at war. In other words, if the Japanese had not struck at Pearl Harbor, the St. Louis Browns would have become the Los Angeles Browns—an American League entry on the West Coast—on December 8, 1941—16 years ago."

Achieved Three Aims

Asked if he later had ideas of reviving the plan to move the Browns to Los Angeles, Barnes replied in the negative, explaining that World War II continued to rage throughout his tenure as head of the club. Besides, the team perked up and in 1944 won its first and only pennant, attracting slightly better attendance (508,644 in 1944) than Los Angeles had guaranteed. "On the very day that I decided to sell out my interests in the Browns to Richard Muckerman, a St. Louis friend," he added, "the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. But I had set up three aims in baseball and had realized them all, so I was ready to sell my stock in the club and realize a profit on the investment."

"Here are the three accomplishments I had achieved: (1) To give St. Louis its first Brownie pennant-winner; (2) to fill Sportsman's Park (37,815 for the final game of the 1944 A. L. season) for the first time in its history for a Browns' game, and (3) to change the tune of the St. Louis newsboys, who had been in the habit of yelling 'Cardinal Victory!' to 'Browns Win Another!'"

Even as Flag Winners in '44 Browns Had Their Troubles

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—"With the Cardinals winning pennants in 1942 and '43, the Browns might have taken St. Louis by storm when they won their first and only American League flag in 1944," opined Bill DeWitt, former Browns' general manager, "if the Cards hadn't also won the pennant that year."

"To make matters worse, our National League neighbors beat us in the World's Series and that, of course, made the Cardinals more solid than ever with the St. Louis fans."

"The late Sam Breadon, president of the Cards, said many times afterwards that this (1944) World's Series was the one he got the most satisfaction out of winning."

"I don't want to appear unpatriotic, but while most clubs that get into the World's Series reap a financial harvest, it was our lot to pick up only \$59,021.32, entirely from the gate receipts, since all of the \$100,000 derived from the radio broadcasting rights was turned over to the Army-Navy Relief Fund."