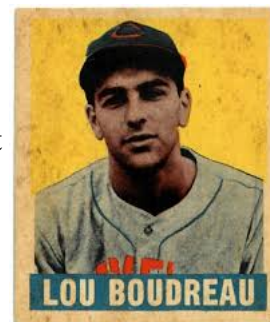




I started this narrative early (and it's quite long as this turned out to be quite an exciting season, at least for me, the best season/league so far, although it's early). On the fourth day of the season, the Detroit Tigers and Hal Newhouser beat the (Lou) Boudreaumen to drop them to 0-4; only Gordon and Keltner are hitting. In the following weeks, Gordon and Keltner kept the Indians in the hunt, but Boudreau continued to slump.



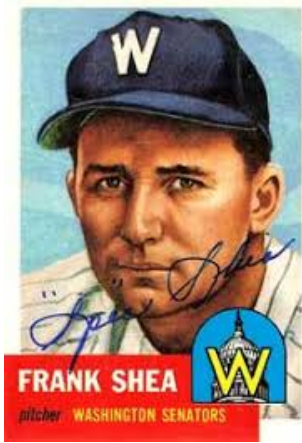
AL: May 10th: The Red Sox completed a three-game sweep of the Indians in Boston. Lou Boudreau is slumping badly, hitting .203. The Indians stand five games behind the league leading Yankees. The next day Cleveland faced the Yankees in New York. Bob Lemon pitched a complete game shutout, wriggling out of a 2nd and 3rd no one out jam in the 8th to win 1-0 on Larry Doby's first inning HR. Boudreau fell under the .200 mark but this might signal a turning point. Meanwhile, Hal Newhouser had the Tigers continuing to flirt with first place with his 5-1, 1.97 ERA season so far.

AL: May 20th: Cleveland prepared to host Boston having won its last six games. New York remained in first, however, behind the stellar pitching of Vic Raschi, Eddie Lopat, and Spec Shea.

May 24th: Al Zarilla is enjoying a 24 game hitting streak for the woeful Browns.

AL May 27: Cleveland ace Gene Bearden walked five in 2 plus innings allowing the lowly Senators to take it to the Indians; Boudreau is moving his average up (.302) and showing some power, hitting .469 in the last ten games, but he missed some big chances to make this one a game. Meanwhile the Yankees are rolling, 22-8, four games in front of Detroit with Cleveland in third, five games back. The Yanks team era of 2.32 is nearly a full run better than second place Boston at 3.21. DiMaggio in pacing the club in homers (7) and rbi (30) and hitting a respectable .304. Ted Williams however leads the MVP race (and keeping Boston in the hunt with 6 homers, 38 league-leading rbi, and a robust .351 BA). Zarilla hitting streak is up to 28 games. (Detroit's Virgil Trucks ended it at 29 games on May 29th). Yankees split the doubleheader, Shea moving to 7-0 winning the opener. Cleveland swept St. Louis to creep within 4 games of the Yanks. Boston took two from Philly to move to 4.5 back and Detroit split with Chicago, also 4.5 back.





AL May 31: Ready to play Washington in a Memorial Day doubleheader, the Yankees are 15-5 over their last twenty and five games in front, giving no sign of weakness. The three starters, Vic Raschi, Allie Reynolds, and Eddie Lopat, who will lead the Yankees to 5 straight World Championships starting in 1949, are pitching well (especially Raschi who is 5-1, 1.84) but it's Spec Shea, the wunderkind from 1948, who is 6-0, 2.48. I knew next to nothing about Shea before I started this project, but he's become a favorite. Meanwhile Cleveland is set to play a doubleheader against the

Browns.

AL June 11: Yankees sweep a doubleheader against Cleveland, Reynolds besting Beardon (Byrne won in relief) and Shea beating Moncrief. Yanks are threatening to run away with it, leading Cleveland and Boston by 7 games. DiMaggio is on a roll and the pitching is stellar. Boudreau is mired in another big slump. Walt Judnich has been hot, hitting .396, but it's not been enough. By June 16th, Cleveland sported a six game losing streak and fell ten games off the pace.

AL: June 19: Cleveland's losing streak now at 9, sitting 12.5 games out. Shea is now 10-0, 2.01. I perused the Yankee cards last night; they are going to be very hard to catch. On June 20th, they swept a doubleheader from the Browns (Cleveland did the same to Philadelphia) to extend the Yankees' winning streak to 10 straight. Big series coming up: Cleveland hosts the Yankees for four games.

AL: June 21: Allie Reynolds scattered 11 hits in shutting out the Indians for a 1-0 victory on Henrich's first inning home run. Dimaggio nailed Eddie Robinson at the plate in the 6th, trying to score on Gordon's double, to preserve the lead. Bearden lost the heartbreaker, giving up only three hits.

June 22: Reynolds somehow scatters 11 hits and 2 walks in pitching a CG shutout. Beardon hung tough, also going the distance, giving up only 3 hits but, yes, one run, in the first, a Henrich HR. With two on and one out in the Cleveland 3rd, Boudreau grounded into an inning ending DP.

June 23: Yankees beat Cleveland again. Boudreau makes three errors, goes 1 for 5. Berra 5 for 5. Yanks, 5-2

June 24: Yankees again. Raschi went 9, giving up 7 hits and 4 runs. Feller lasts only 6, giving up 5 runs. Yanks, 7-4. Winning streak at 14. They lead Boston by 9, Detroit by 15, and Cleveland is 15.5 back.



AL: July 7: I autoplaved about a week's worth of games and also decided I have to manage Cleveland the rest of the way. Boudreau has blown several games by leaving his starters in too long. Meanwhile, the Yankees have stayed hot, going 23-5 in June, including a 14-0 streak, and building up a seemingly insurmountable lead of 10.5 games over Boston and 14.5 games over Cleveland. Berra and DiMaggio are pacing the Yanks, aside from their stellar pitching, hitting .343 and .341 respectively. Shea is 12-0, 2.13 and Raschi is 11-2, 1.87.

AL: July 10th: Cleveland has revived a bit, along with Boudreau, sporting a six-game winning streak. But they remain 12.5 behind the Yankees, 11 in the loss column. Long way to go.

AL: July 15th: with the Yankees sputtering to a 5-5 record over the last ten (vs. Washington, Philadelphia, and St. Louis – as well as Boston). Cleveland extends its winning streak to ten in a row with a doubleheader sweep of Philadelphia.

July 16: Yankees win and Boudreau grounds out to kill rally in 9th and then makes a crucial error in the 9th to help Philadelphia beat Feller, 5-4. Gordon (.327, 18 HRs) and Keltner (.358 and 15 Hrs, 14 game hitting streak) have been carrying the load. Boudreau needs to heat up and stay hot very soon.

AL: July 24: Cleveland just played a three-game set in New York. They split a doubleheader on Thursday and then dropped the rubber game on Thursday, with DiMaggio and Billy Johnson hitting big doubles and Lou Boudreau, you guessed it, making the final out with the tying run on base. Cleveland, 3-11 vs. the Yankees, are now 11.5 games out, 11 in loss column. Saturday Cleveland heads to Boston for another doubleheader while the Yanks have a soft touch vs. Chicago.

AL: July 25: Boston pummeled Cleveland in a three game set in Boston. Cleveland is now 13 games out and Boston has emerged as the Yankees main competitor, pulling to within 7.5 games.

AL: July 28: Boston beat Detroit for their 9th straight win; Yankees lost to St. Louis, shortening their lead to 5.5. Cleveland won, but still down ten games in loss column.

AL: August 4: The Yankees have cooled off, Boston is five out, but Cleveland still sputtering. Spec Shea is now 13-1, the one loss coming against the White Sox, 2-1. He was 9-10 in MLB, so the Yankees owe a great of their unexpected success to Shea and his 2.28 ERA (3.41 actual).

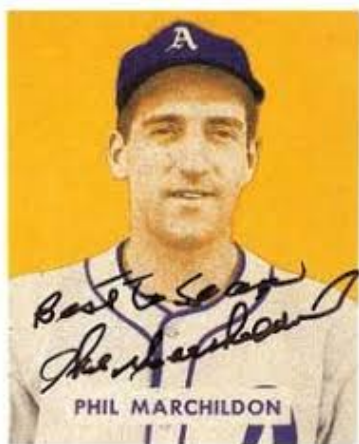
AL: August 8: Cleveland has made it interesting by taking the first two games of a four game set with the Yankees in Cleveland behind Feller and Lemon, beating Lopat and Raschi. Keltner and Gordon combined for 4 rbi on August 6. On the 7th, Raschi had two hits and the rest of the Yankees had only two more. Lemon went the distance, Dale Mitchell going 4 for 4. The Indians are still 9 games out, but 8 in the loss column. Boston is 3.5 back, five in the loss column. A

Sunday doubleheader is on tap, with Spec Shea and (in his debut) Bob Porterfield will pitch for New York while Zoldak and Gromek for Cleveland.

AL: August 9: In first game of the doubleheader, Dimaggio slammed an early 3 run homer off Zoldack to give Spec Shea a lead 7-0 lead. But Cleveland got five back in the fifth, keyed by Boudreau's triple and doubles from Keltner and Hegan. Satchel Paige held the Yankees for two innings and then the Indians put up 9 runs in the 8th, capped by Boudreau's two-run homer (a star of the game despite his two errors). In the nightcap, Porterfield (in his MLB debut) and Gromek took shutouts into the 7th. Gromek ran into trouble in the 7th when DiMaggio singled and George McQuinn doubled. I brought in Christopher who got them 1-2-3, except that a run scored on Rizzuto's squeeze bunt. In the Cleveland 7th, with two out and Keltner, having singled, on first, Eddie Robinson went yard to turn the game around. Boudreau added an insurance run by homering to lead off the 8th. Christopher made it stand up. Against all odds, Cleveland (not to mention Boston) is making it interesting. Boston is now 2.5 back, four in the loss column and Cleveland is 7 back but only 6 in loss column.

AL August 15: The Yanks continue to sputter, losing to Philly 6-3 as Raschi faltered. They are 4-6 over their last ten. Gromek and Hegan starred as Cleveland bested Chicago and pulled to within five games of Yankees. Boston, who lost to Washington, is 4.5 games out. All three contenders have Sunday doubleheaders today.

AL: August 21: Teddy Ballgame could not have been happy as Boston dropped a doubleheader to Washington, in Boston no less. Meanwhile the Yankees lost to Philadelphia and Cleveland beat Chicago handily as Ken Keltner's magic season continues. He is hitting .368 with 26 homers and 86 RBI. New York's lead over Cleveland is 3.5. Boston is 5.5 back.



AL August 16: Boudreau slammed a two-run homer in the 10th to complete a doubleheader sweep of Chicago. Spec Shea won his 14th in the opener of a doubleheader vs. Philadelphia. But the Yanks lost the donnybrook as a nightcap, 9-7, as Phil Marchildon went 11 innings for a CG victory, his 11th. So Cleveland is now in second place, as Boston split a doubleheader in Washington.

AL August 24: Satchel Paige and Mike Garcia combined to shutout the Red Sox as Gordon and Keltner each homered as they continue to lead the Indians. The Yankees got pummeled by the White Sox, 8-2. Cleveland is now 1.5 games out, two in the loss column.

AL August 25: Randy Gumpert bested his old mates as the White Sox beat New York; meanwhile, Indians scored 16 against the Red Sox. They are now .5 games out. Quite a comeback for the Boudreaumen. Lou went 4 for 6 and is now up to .312. Keltner at .372 is

challenging Williams (at .377) for the batting title. None of this has been Joltin' Joe's fault as he is hitting .359 with 24 homers and a league-leading 121 RBI; he is currently the frontrunner for MVP. Cleveland is an amazing 23-3 in August while New York is 11-12. Cleveland has won 12 in a row.



AL August 27: Spec Shea stymied the White Sox to raise his record to an astounding 15-1.

Cleveland managed to beat Boston but it took a key late triple from Jim Hegan and 11 innings. Christopher fanned Teddy in the 11th with the game on the bases. Boston has fallen 7 games off the pace. Big Friday doubleheader for Cleveland in New York. Raschi and Reynolds vs. Feller and Gromek. Keltner is on a 21 game hitting streak. He and Gordon each have 28 home runs.

AL August 28: Joe Dimaggio homered twice and Vic Raschi silenced the Indians in a four-hit shutout for his 18th win in the first game of the doubleheader, NY, 7-0. But Steve Gromek held the Yanks more or less at bay in the nightcap, with Boudreau and Keltner homering and Christopher going the last two for the save in a tight 8-6 win. So Cleveland still .5 back; Boston beat the White Sox and are now 6.5 back. Keltner is now ahead of Williams for the batting title, .375 to .372.

AL August 29: Yesterday the Yanks and Indians played an amazing game, a 12-11, eleven inning victory for the Yankees – on a walkoff Joe DiMaggio HR, his third homer of the game! Early on it looked like Lou Boudreau, with his two home runs, would be the hero. Or Keltner-Gordon-Mitchell who went back to back to back. I pulled Zoldak with a 9-4 lead in the 8th and brought in Moncrief. Who proceeded to give up 5 runs. Christopher gave up another two after the Indians regained the lead with 2 in the 9th. Klieman gave up game winner to Joltin Joe.



AL: September 1st: Boudreau and Keltner each had four hits as Cleveland overwhelmed the Senators. Meanwhile New York lost to the lowly Browns, bringing Cleveland back to within a half game. Keltner is flirting with .400, currently at .380.

AL September 3: Spec Shea beat Washington to move to 16-2. He also leads the AL in ERA at 2.31. Cleveland won a close one in St. Louis, 2-1, scoring the winning run in the 9th – who else, Keltner got the RBI single.

AL September 5: The Yankees lost to Washington, at the Stadium, 4-3, as Milo Candini went 7.1 for the win. The Indians shellacked the Browns behind a brilliant game for Satchel Paige who went 8.2 scoreless innings. Don Black got the final out for the combined shutout, 12-0. The Indians are now, incredibly, in first place by one half game. Remarkable comeback. I have been fiddling with the lineups, not replacing players but shifting the order, and I occasionally manage Cleveland, but basically this has just been a wild run for them – after an admittedly awful first half. Yankees then beat Washington the next day while Cleveland was idle, so it's dead even, with twenty-five games to play. Each are 83-46. Cleveland now heads to Chicago while New York hosts the Athletics.

AL: September 9th: Cleveland now up by one game. Yesterday Shea and Lemon pitched for the Yanks and Indians and both lost, to Boston and Detroit respectively – Dobson and Hutchinson doing the honors for the winners

AL: September 11: The Yankees beat Boston 11-3 yesterday, behind four hit games from both DiMaggio and Berra who also had 4 rbi. Raschi won his 20th. Combined with Cleveland's 3-1 loss to Detroit and Dizzy Trout, the Yankee win gave them a one game lead for first. Meanwhile, DiMaggio is making a legitimate run at the triple crown. He's essentially wrapped up the RBI crown with 144 to Vern Stephens's 126. He's tied with Stephens for home runs at 32 and his second in batting average, .371 to Keltner's .375.

September 15: In a makeup game, the Yankees and Indians faced each other for the final time in the regular season. Lou Boudreau homered off Eddie Lopat and Bob Lemon had two hits and two rbi and took a 5-2 lead into the 9th. Lemon weakened and the computer manager, aka Lou Boudreau, brought in Groth's 9.00 1 IP card to the 9th inning of the most important game of the year; miraculously he got the first hitter, George McQuinn, but then walked pinch hitter Johnny Lindall and I pulled him for Bob Moncrief who preserved a 5-4 that put Cleveland into a tie for first place with the Yankees.

AL: September 17: In the first game of a twinbill, Vic Raschi won his 21st as the Yankees pounded four home runs off Detroit starter Fred Hutchinson. In the second game, Dimaggio homered (as he had in game one) in the 8th to give New York the lead. But Joe Ginsberg laced a pinch hit single with the bases loaded in the Tiger 8th to turn the game around. Al Benton, who had blow the save for Dizzy Trout, won in relief, a vultured win. Cleveland lambasted the Senators, winning 12-0 behind Gene Bearden's 14th win. The Yankees had a 10 game lead as late as August 1st. Both Boudreau and DiMaggio are playing at an MVP pace; Boudreau is on a 14 game hitting streak; DiMag's is 15!

September 19: Joe Dimaggio has hit five home runs in the last three games. Although his homer yesterday was more add on, as Phil Rizzuto took ace Hal Newhouser deep for an early lead. Yankees, 10-1. Cleveland manhandled Washington, 12-1. New York and Cleveland are taking no prisoners. Boudreau homered.

September 20: Sunday doubleheaders, New York in St. Louis and Cleveland hosting Philadelphia. On a hot summer day in St. Louis, Al Widmer was trying to save a 7-5 victory for the Browns. He induced Bobby Brown to bounce into a double play with the tying runners on and DiMaggio on deck. Interesting note: Earlier, in the 4th inning I pinch hit the Browns bench player Joe Schultz and he got a clutch base hit, driving in two. For some reason I wanted to look this guy up; clutch batter, no defensive position on his card, 37 at bats over the season. Turns out this is the Joe Schultz of Jim Bouton's *Ball Four* fame, the profane (sh*tf*ck; pound those budweisers) manager of the Seattle Pilots. Yanks lose opener, 7-5. Yanks roll in the second game, 9-2, as Raschi wins his 22nd. Bob Lemon defeated Philadelphia in their first game, winning his 21st. Boudreau homered (in the 1st) and doubled, driving in three. 8-1 Cleveland. In the second game, Steve Gromek went the distance and doubled in two key runs in a 4-2 victory. Cleveland's lead is now 1.5, one in the lose column. Dimaggio is now leading the triple crown race with .374, 39, and 162. Keltner is at .373, Mitchell at .370, and Williams at .369.

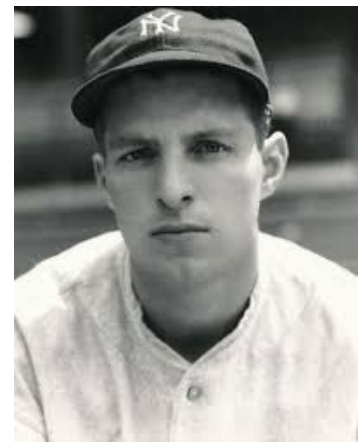
September 21: The St. Louis Browns went up 7-0 vs. the Yankees and Allie Reynolds only to see the Yanks stage a furious comeback in the last three innings capped by DiMaggio's two-run triple. DiMaggio's hitting streak is up to 20. The Browns loaded the bases in the 9th, but yesterday's hero, Joe Schultz, grounded into a game-ending double play Cleveland held serve behind Gene Bearden's 15th win, despite a late A's comeback. Cleveland still up 1.5, having won 7 straight. Boston keeps winning but can't gain any ground, still 6.5 back.

September 23: Boston alone played on the 21st and they lost to Detroit. Now 7 out. On the 22nd, Bob Feller went for his 16th win again Dobson and Boston. Boudreau homered early for the lead but Feller imploded in the 7th, falling behind 5-4. The Indians rallied in the 9th, capped by Joe Gordon's 34th homer, a walk-off. Joe Dimaggio is hot as blazes, lofting a grand slam in the 1st inning against Chicago and then robbing Cass Michaels of a homer run in the bottom of the 1st. New York rolled Chicago, 18-5. Lead is still 1.5. The magic number is 8.

September 25: It's all tied up and Boston has been eliminated. Joe Dimaggio homered off Ellis Kinder in the bottom of the 9th for walkoff 2-1 victory at the Stadium. Lemon faced the Tigers and he didn't have it, getting chased early. Boudreau did what he could, three hits, two doubles, but the Indians folded and lost, 14-3. Seven games left, New York and Cleveland tied at 95-52. Historically, NY, Cleveland, and Boston were all tied, 91-56.

New York has the tougher schedule, facing Boston and Philadelphia (who historically hung into the pennant race until the last few weeks) while Cleveland faces Detroit and Chicago. It has been a delight to watch Boudreau and DiMaggio battle it out this past month, both playing at heroic paces. And after I so bemoaned Boudreau's underperformance in the first half.

September 26: Thanks to a Keltner HR and Gordon RBI single, Bearden took a 3-2 lead over the Tigers into the 9th. But little used sub Johnny Groth (.471 in 17 AB) doubled home the tying run. In the 13th,



Mayo and Lipon doubled off Gromek to win it. New York now up one game as Allie Reynolds, having a sub-par season, fired a six-hitter, beating the Red Sox 3-1. Henrich blasted his 27th homer leading off the 7th to break a 1-1 tie. He has been unheralded hero. Currently hitting .311, with those 27 homers, he also has 98 RBI.

September 27: Tommy Byrne carried a no-hitter into the 7th yesterday, beating Boston and Mel Parnell, 6-1. Behind Bob Feller's 15th win, Cleveland held serve, beating Detroit and 21 game winner Hal Newhouser, 10-1. Gordon homered twice, Boudreau and Eddie Robinson once each. Cleveland still one game back.

September 29: I've stopped managing and just watch them play. It cost the Yankees yesterday as Bucky Harris left Dick Starr in to walk the bases loaded in the 9th before bringing in Joe Page – too late. DiMaggio had homered and tripled and Berra got a huge two run single and Bauer slammed a pinch hit triple, all to no avail. And this with Raschi on the mound. Bad loss. Bearden, pitching on two days rest, won again, his 16th, behind a 16 hit attack. Kellner collected three hits, putting the pressure on Triple Crown aspirant Joe D for batting average. Teams are tied for 1st.

AL: September 30: Yesterday, the Yankees were down 4-0 in Philadelphia in the seventh when DiMaggio banged a two-run single to center. It stayed 4-2 until the 9th, DiMaggio up fourth (sporting a two for three day with 2 rbi). But Rizzuto, Ol' Reliable Tommy Henrich, and Bobby Brown all went down, leaving DiMag with a bat in his hand. Meanwhile, Bob Feller pitched a three-hit gem in Cleveland to vanquish the White Sox, 6-1. Boudreau 2 for 4 with an rbi and rs. Cleveland takes a one game lead.

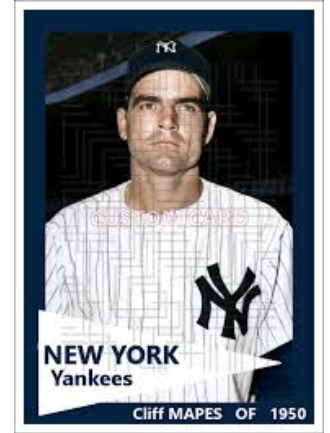
AL: October 1: The Yankees climbed back to within .5 game by beating the Philadelphia A's 4-0. Eddie Lopat came up big in this one, throwing a five hit shutout. With his 46th double of the year, DiMaggio plated Rizzuto in the 1st, although Joe D. went 0 for 3 after that. Cleveland was idle.

October 2: Bob Lemon helped Cleveland get its lead back to 1 full game in winning his 22nd game. Keltner turned a big x dp in the 8th to aid Lemon. Boudreau went one for two with a rbi, a walk, and a HBP. Yankees were idle. It all comes down to games on Saturday and Sunday.

October 3: Tiger starter Lou Kretlaw gave up three runs to the Indians' in the first but then settled in until Gene Bearden slammed a two run homer in the 7th. Down 5-0, the Tigers scored four in the eighth and had the tying run on 2nd but couldn't bring him in. They went down meekly in the 9th. Indians, 5-4. Byrne for the Yanks and Kramer for Boston at Fenway; must win for Yankees. Joe DiMaggio, of course, slammed a two-run homer in the 1st and the Yankees costed to an 8-1 victory behind Tommy Byrne's 14th win. It all comes down to the final day. Cleveland has a one game lead.

October 4: Marquee matchup in Cleveland: Hal Newhouser vs. Bob Feller. Yankees send Porterfield against Joe Dobson at Fenway. Feller faltered, giving up four runs in the 1st. The

Indians climbed back in late against Dobson but fell short. Boudreau went 0 for 5, plum out of heroics. In Boston, Ted Williams slammed a two run homer in the 3rd off Porterfield. Dobson plunked Dimaggio in the 2nd and got away with it. He hit him again in the 4th, but this time Brown, who had doubled ahead of Joe, and DiMaggio both score on Snuffy Stirnweiss's two-out single. The Red Sox went ahead in the bottom of the 8th on Vern Stephens triple and Stan Spence's single. Backs against the wall, the Yankees quickly had two outs in the 9th (Hank Bauer and Charlie Silvera). Harris pinch hit Cliff Mapes for Stirnweiss and he doubled and scored when the next pitch hitter, Johnny Lindell also doubled. Tie game. Boston went quietly against Joe Page in their 9th. Of course this game went extras. In the 10th, Bobby Brown hit a one-out double and, of course, Dimaggio doubled him in. Page got Boston for the win.



Cleveland and New York in a playoff for all the marbles. (Cleveland and Boston had to do this in MLB). New York won the season series so the game is at the Stadium. Allie Reynolds got the nod for the Yankees and I chose Satchel Paige for Cleveland. Cleveland took a one run lead when Rizzuto booted Paige's routine grounder. Singles by Mitchell and Doby loaded them for Boudreau. Lou bounced into a double play, Paige scoring. Paige went the first 7, surrendering 4 hits, and leaving with a 1-0 lead. Russ Christopher came on in relief. In the Yankee 8th, Brown doubled and Billy Johnson singled, 1st and third, no one out. Henrich bounded into a fielder's choice, Bauer (pinch running for Brown) nailed at the plate. Lindall popped out. Two down, game on the line. Dimaggio up. He walked (not intentionally) and Berra doubled two runs home. Joe Page came on to save the 2-1 Yankee victory and pennant.

DiMaggio did win the triple crown at .374, 43, 181. Quite a campaign. He of course won the MVP as well. And almost single-handedly held off Cleveland. Vic Raschi, 23-4, 2.45, won the Cy Young.