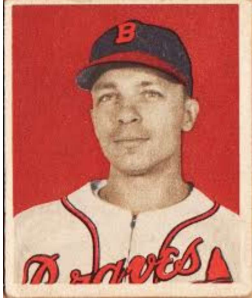


The Boston Braves started hot, 3-0, beating the Phillies, 18-3 and then 17-3, as Philadelphia Manager Eddie Sawyer lets the kid (Curt Simmons, soon to be a whiz kid) take a pounding, in gmaes one and two to complete the sweep; Boston looks formidable.



Stanky! Six rbi in the early going, constantly on base. Spahn collapses d in 9th vs. Giants as Willard Marshall tripled with two outs and then Jack Lohrke and Bobby Shawn homered back to back. But Braves rally in bottom of 9th to win anyway, upping their record to 4-0. Then the Giants roughed up Johnny Beasley (in his first of two starts that year) to hand Braves their first loss.

NL: April 25th: Giants reach Sain for four home runs in the first game of a double header. Second game goes into extras. Bobby Hogue, in his fourth inning of relief, gave up two runs in the top of the 12th. But the Braves stage a huge comeback, capped by a grand slam from Jim Russell to win 7-5.

NL: Boston finished April up a game ahead of both New York and surging Pittsburgh. The offense carried the squad, scoring 87 runs nearly 30 more than runner up (in runs scored) New York. The pitching wasn't bad but couldn't match the fast start Pittsburgh's staff had. Both Elmer Riddle and Hal Gregg are in the top five ERA.

NL: May 9-10: St. Louis hosted the Braves for two games, roughing up first Spahn then Sain and pulling to within a half game of first place Brooklyn. The Braves are in 5th place, two games out.

NL: May 15: Dodgers shell Spahn who still hasn't gotten on track.

May 17: Pee Wee Reese's slam beats Sain and the Braves. Brooklyn takes over first place by a half game over St. Louis. Boston has dropped to sixth, with an 11-12 record. Perhaps the Braves need four days of rain.

NL: May 20: Braves-Dodgers: The score was knotted at 4 after nine innings. St. Louis ended up winning it in the 12th inning. The big moment was provided by Slaughter who silenced Ebbets Field as he launched a Grand Slam homer run. St. Louis totaled 14 hits on the afternoon.



NL: May 27: Yesterday, Spahn got his first - shaky - first win, going the distance and beating Cincinnati 5-4. Winners of four straight, the Braves has climbed to within 2.5 game of first place St. Louis and Brooklyn. So far, Spahn and Sain and pray for rain is a liable on Vern Bickford and Bill Voiselle who are holding the starting rotation together.

NL; May 28: Branca fires a one-hitter vs. the Cubs to up his record to 5-1, 2.53 ERA. Idle Boston remained in 3rd, behind the Dodgers and Cardinals tied for first.

NL June 8: with the Dodgers faltering a bit, the Cardinals snuck into first on June 8 behind Harry Breechen's 7th win, a 1-0 shutout of the Phillies to lower his ERA to 1.31. But the Braves came to town for a two game set and, while shaky, Spahn and Sain won the two games to catapult Boston into first (a tie, just percentage points ahead). With Dark and Stanky in and out of the lineup, Jeff Heath got hot and carried the Braves a bit, with help from Bob Elliot. Bill Voiselle (7-2, 3.61) and Vern Bickford (5-2, 1.46) are outpitching the celebrated Spahn (2-4, 4.91) and Sain (6-5, 3.56) duo but the pitching is good enough to give the Braves the top run differential, +65.

NL: June 21: With Spahn and Sain picking up the pace, and Voiselle and Bickford (the star so far, at 7-2, 1.67), remaining steady, the Braves took over first place on June 10th as Sain defeated St. Louis. Leading the league in run prevention, the Braves also lead, by a good margin, in runs scored.



June 22: New York's Johnny Mize has hit 7 homers in the last ten games. Ralph Branca is having a nice year at 9-2, 2.73.

June 26: Boston has won 11 straight and leads Brooklyn by 7 games.



July 6: Boston finished June with a 25-5 record and started out hot in July as well, building a 10.5 game lead over Pittsburgh. The Giants are in second 11.5 out and St. Louis, scuffling badly, is 12 out. Bob Elliot has turned it on for Boston and now leads the NL in RBI with 64. Stanky has been getting on base and scoring with regularity. But it's the pitching that is leading the way. Bill Voiselle leads the league with 12 wins and Vern Bickford leads in ERA at 1.60 (with 8 wins). Spahn and Sain had 8 and 10 wins respectively.

NL: July 18: I autoplaid about a week's worth of games. The Braves roll on, holding an 11 game lead over New York, 13 over St. Louis. Brooklyn is stumbling, 17 games out, despite a nice season from Branca (11-5, 2.82). Bickford (10-2, 2.17) and Voiselle (12-3, 3.87) continue to pace the Braves. But Spahn and Sain have picked it up a bit recently. Spahn (10-5, 3.97) has won nine of his last ten starts. Sain (11-8, 2.96) is 9-4 over his last 13 starts.

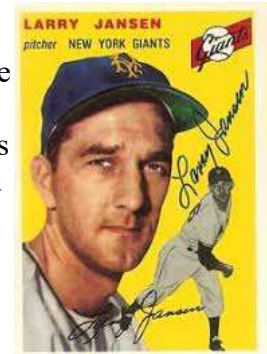


NL August 1: Stylish Nels Potter, in a rare start, beat St. Louis as Boston extended its lead to 9 games over New York, 11 over St. Louis and Pittsburgh. I've been autoplaid a good bit of this season as there is not much of a race. We'll see.

NL: August 5: Reds beat Braves, as Voiselle has stalled at 14 wins. Giants took two from the Cardinals to pull within 8 of the Braves, seven in loss column. Johnny Mize has 36 homers and 92 RBI with a .301 BA.

NL: August 9th: Giants now 7 back. Voiselle has lost four of his last six starts and the Giants' Larry Jansen is now 16-4, 3.08.

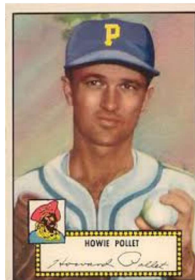
NL: August 16: I'm well into September in an exciting AL race between the Yankees and Indians, with Boston a long shot chance. So I've been doing more autoplay except that the race is getting interesting as the Giants, my surprise winner in 1947, has pulled to just six games back, five in the loss column. This after yesterday when the Braves lost to Brooklyn 5-4, in a game where Branca pitched great, gave up a late two-run homer to go down 2-1, but the Dodgers pulled it out after Branca left the game, while the Giants won a doubleheader from Philadelphia. Larry Jansen is leading the Giants with a 16-4, 3.02 campaign so far while Johnny Mize has sparked the offense with .303, with a league-leading 38 homers and 97 RBI.



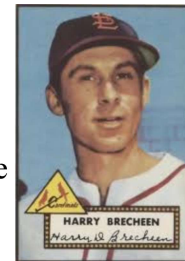
NL: August 19: Giants just finished a two-game series vs. Boston yesterday. With a real chance to make it a race, the Giants lost both games. Bill Voiselle (now 15-7) beat Dave Koslo, 5-3, in the first game and Vern Bickford beat Sheldon Jones, 7-2 in the second game. Giants are now 8.5 games out, 7 in the loss column, with 46 left to play (Boston has 43 to play).

NL: August 21: A Spahn and Sain doubleheader today for the Braves at Brooklyn. Sain won, Spahn lost. Giants beat the Phillies, Jansen won his 17th; team now 8 out, 6 in loss column.

NL August 23: Giants dropped a doubleheader to Phillies while Boston fell to Brooklyn. St. Louis, in the midst of a 21-12 August, beat Pittsburgh to leap over the Giants to second place, 8 out.



NL August 24: Big showdown today, Sain vs. Brecheen as St. Louis tries to make this a race. Paul Minner and the Dodgers beat the Braves yesterday, so is St. Louis 7.5 out, 7 in loss column. Gotta make a move now if ever. And St. Louis won the opener, behind Brecheen who was done in by two errors, and Gerry Staley who entered tired (F8) and quelled a rally in 9th and then singled to drive home the winner in the bottom of the 9th. Cardinals won again the next day, Howie Pollett over Spahn, 9-2. Big homers in the series from Musial and Northey.



NL: August 29: The Braves nipped the Cubs, 5-4, in 10 innings while the Cardinals took a doubleheader from the Giants. Still 5.5 out. Musial, who has been hot, hit his 35th homer in the first game. Pittsburgh took a doubleheader from Philadelphia to pull within 7.5. The Giants have fallen off the pace, 9 games out.



NL: August 30: Boston split a doubleheader with Pittsburgh and St. Louis did the same with Brooklyn. Status quo (although New York took two from Cincinnati to pull within 8; Pittsburgh is 7.5 back), but Musial is making a run at the triple crown. He is one point behind Ashburn, .358 to .359, seven behind Mize (so that's tough) in homers, 43 to 36, and six behind Mize in RBI, 111 to 105. Musial is hitting .459 with six homers and 15 rbi in last ten.



NL August 31: Pirates and Fritz Ostermueller beat the Braves and Johnny Sain. The Cardinals took two from the Dodgers. Braves' lead is now 4. Musial gets three hits in the doubleheader and is now leading the league with a .360 average. Boston goes to Cincinnati next while St. Louis hosts Philadelphia.

NL: September 1: Reds scored 9 runs against Boston yesterday but found a way to lose it, in a sloppy 10-9 game. Meanwhile St. Louis went 17 innings against the cellar-dwelling Phillies, finally losing on ex-Cardinal Harry Walker's double, his sixth hit of the game.



September 5: Boston hosted the Phillies for two more with Voiselle and Bickford starting vs. Schoolboy Rowe and Monk Dubiel. Rowe outdueled Voiselle in the opener, with key help from Curt Simmons, who got Jeff Heath to tap one in front of home plate that Seminick turned into an inning-ending double play, rescuing Rowe from from a bases-loaded one-out jam. Del Ennis had roped a first inning, two run homer to set the tone. In the nightcap, Monk Dubiel held up his end, giving up only 2 runs on 8 hits. Bickford was better, however, taking a shutout into the 9th. But then Granny Hamner tripled, and Johnny Blatnik doubled. Tying run on second, no one out. But Phillies couldn't close the deal. Bickford goes to 13-4, 2.25. Meanwhile St. Louis breezed by Cincinnati, 7-0, behind Harry Brecheen, 16-4, 1.75. St. Louis if 5.5 back, but only 4 in the loss column.

NL: September 5: Braves' magic number down to 19 with 23 to play. Phillies came up short again yesterday, when the defense let down Heintzelman (2-14) as Boston won, 6-3. St. Louis inexcusably lost to Cincinnati as Pollett gave up three in the first and Cards couldn't catch up. Cardinals now 6.5 out, 6 in loss column.

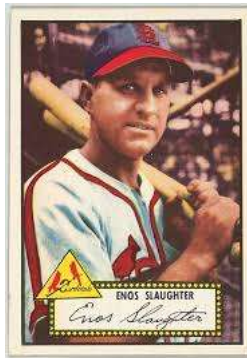
NL: September 6: Labor day doubleheaders yesterday. Branca (having a great season, 15-6, 2.69) and Brooklyn beat the Spahn and Braves in the opener but dropped the nightcap, 9-1, to Sain's 17th win, a complete game. St. Louis swept the Pirates, the nightcap going 15 innings with Brecheen and Dickson getting the win and save, respectively, both pitching in relief, in the nightcap. St. Louis back to 5.5 back, four in loss column but running out of time.

NL: September 15: Back and forth, Cards now 4.5 out. Musial has been leading the charge, along with Brecheen who has 19 wins. Musial still has a long shot at the triple crown. But Boston hasn't faltered and keep winning with Sain and Spahn pitching well, along with Bickford and Voiselle.

NL: September 18: Yesterday, Ralph Kiner blasted a three-run homer in the 1st off Johnny Sain and Vic Lombardi made it stand up, as Pittsburgh beat Boston, 4-2. St. Louis did its part behind Howie Pollett, beating the Dodgers, 7-6. Brooklyn's rally in 9th just came up short. Lead is now 4.5. Boston's run differential is an astounding +212 as the pitching has been as good as it was in 1948 while the batting has exceeded the historical record. They are three games better than their actual 1948 pace.

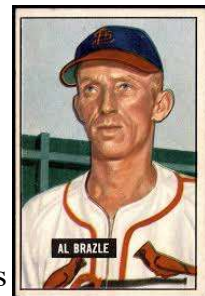
NL: September 19: Spahn beat Pittsburgh for his 18th win while St. Louis blew an early 4-0 lead when Brooklyn put up 8 run in the 6th off Brazle and Wilks. Cards scored 3 in the 9th and had runners on 1st and 2nd but couldn't tie it up, losing 9-8. Lead is now 5.5, five in loss column.

NL September 20: the Braves beat the Reds easily, 7-1, for Red Barrett's 7th win. The Cardinals played a doubleheader against New York and had to come from behind in both games to sweep. Musial homered twice in the opener and then Enos Slaughter homered twice in the nightcap, helping Brecheen win his 20th. Brecheen also doubled twice and drove in four runs to key the comeback. Lead is 5 games. St. Louis and Boston play a showdown series next, doubleheader on Tuesday, single game on Wednesday.



NL: September 21: "Houston, we have a pennant race." The Cardinals beat Sain in the opener, as Slaughter drove in Marion in the 11th inning for the 4-3 win. Hearn won in relief, Wilks saved it. In the nightcap, Slaughter went four for five with three doubles and Musial went three for five with a home run to shellack Bickford and the Braves and help Pollet to a 9-3 victory. Lead is three games. I should mention that Johnny Mize is having quite the season, racking up 50 home runs and 133 RBI and leaving Musial's triple crown effort a lost dream.

NL: September 22: Spahn vs. Al Brazle: Shutout baseball into the 12th winning. Terry Moore doubled leading off and one out later, he scored on Schoendienst's grounder. 1-0 Cardinals. Lead is down to two games.



NL: September 23: Boston was idle while St. Louis easily beat Chicago for Brecheen's 21st. Terry Moore starred on offense again. Lead is 1.5, two in loss column. Boston has games against both Brooklyn and New York left, while St. Louis has tough Pittsburgh but also patsy Chicago.

NL: September 26: Sain easily contained New York, 9-1, for his 19th win. St. Louis rallied to take a lead against Chicago in the 9th, thanks to Schoendienst's 3 run homer, only to lose, 5-4, in the bottom of the 9th when Jim Hearn could not close the deal. The immortal Emil Verban started the rally and Bill "Swish" Nicholson ended it. Lead is now 2.5, three in loss column.

NL: September 28: New York beat Boston yesterday behind Larry Jansen's 21st victory. Facing the lackluster Cubs and Bob Rush, St. Louis staged another comeback in the 9th, loading the bases after Schoendienst homered again in the 9th to make it 3-2, but then could not bring the run home against Jess Dubernic who earned his 12th save (never heard of the guy). What a missed opportunity.

September 28: Spahn defeated the Giants yesterday, 6-2, for his 19th win, to build the lead back to 3.

September 29: Rex Barney outdueled Johnny Sain in a 1-0 win for the Dodgers. The Cardiac Cardinals came back late once again, keyed by Terry Moore's pinch hit double in the 7th. 2 game lead for Braves.

October 1: Ralph Kiner blasted a three run homer off Red Munger to down the Cardinals in the first game of a doubleheader. Brecheen took care of business in the second game, winning his 22nd in a CG two hit shutout to gain the split. Two game lead. Magic number is 3. Boston has four games left (five if they had to make up the game they missed vs Giants), Cardinals have three.



October 2: Marquee matchup yesterday, Branca vs. Bickford. Great pitching duel; Branca loses it on sac fly in 9th, 1-0. Cardinals' Howie Pollet took a shutout into the 9th and beat the Cubs, 5-2. Musial broke out of a mini-slump with a double and triple to power the offense. Two game lead but magic number down to 2.

October 3: The Braves played a doubleheader at the Polo Grounds, with Spahn and Sain on the mound, while St. Louis hosted the pesky Cubs. Jack Lohrke ripped a grand slam off Spahn in the first but the Braves came back, powered by two home runs each from Bob Elliott and Bill Salkeld. Magic number is one. The Cardinals beat the Cubs, behind Musial's four for four, to stay alive. But Johnny Sain pitched masterfully in the second game of the doubleheader, going the distance for his 20th win, 11-1. The Braves are the champions, finishing one game ahead of their historical pace, with 92 wins.

Musial won the MVP, with Mize second, and Brecheen won the Cy Young, with Jansen second.