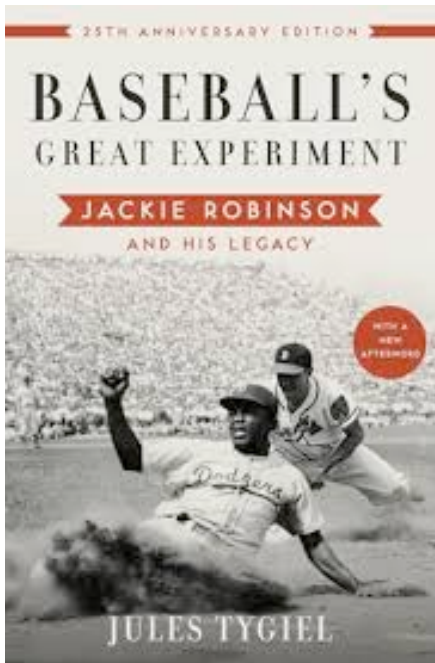
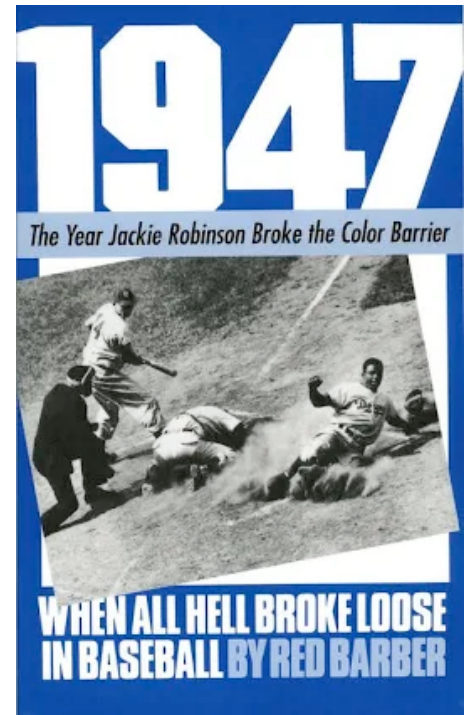


1947 Strat-O-Matic Replay



I started this narrative late and so I am into early July in the 1947 replay. In the National League, the Brooklyn Dodgers are mired in fourth place, eleven and a half games behind the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cardinals, behind Whitey Kurowski and Ron Northey's torrid hitting, and Red Munger's league leading 1.76 ERA and 8 wins, are ten games above their historical record. St. Louis traded Harry Walker on May 3rd that year for Northey. In the replay, Northey is on fire but you could argue



that had the historical Cardinals kept Harry the Hat, who hit .363 that year (.373 so far in the replay), they might have won the pennant.

Brooklyn, meanwhile, is four games off their pace and in real trouble. The Braves, another possible contender, are in 6th place, eight games off their pace. Jackie Robinson, in the replay, is hitting .270/.343/.338, well below his historical marks.



In the American League, the Boston Red Sox hold a precarious one game lead over the Cleveland Indians and the New York Yankees. The Yankees' Spud Chandler is keeping them in the race, sporting a 2.24 ERA and a 10-3 record. But he appears to be injured and may not make it



through the campaign. Meanwhile Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams battled it out for the league battling title, but currently trail Detroit's George Kell. Bob Feller leads the league in wins, with a 13-5 record and 2.72 ERA.

August 16: Dodgers continue to flounder and the Cardinals have maintained an 8.5 game lead, ten in the loss column. The Dodgers still have seven games left vs. the Cardinals, but they are running out of time. The Cardinals are leading the league in both hitting/runs scored and ERA/runs allowed, each by a considerable margin (only Pittsburgh is close



on offense and Brooklyn on pitching). Whitey Kurowski is batting .328 with a league leading 102 rbi. Stan Musial, Enos Slaughter, and Ron Northey (.336, 19 HR, 61 rbi, in part-time play) back up Kurowski. Jim Hearn, 11-0, 2.45 and Red Munger, 11-2, 2.64 ERA, lead the pitching staff. Not sure why St. Louis didn't play Northey more as he's a stud, nor do I understand why, after a brief experiment, the Dodgers kept Pee Wee Reese, clearly one of

their best hitters, in the 8th spot. Although I've been almost universally

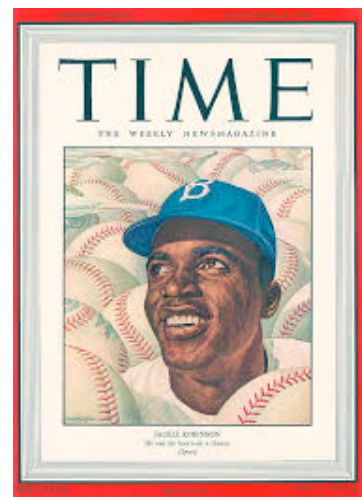
faithful to "as-played" lineups, I might have to move Reese to see if the Dodgers can pull this out. Meanwhile, Jackie Robinson has shown some signs of life, including an 8th inning double in yesterday's game that gave Joe Hatten some breathing room. But, overall, it's the Dodger pitching, especially Ralph Branca, 16-7, 2.39, Hatten, 14-8, 3.44, and Vic Lombardi, 6-3, 2.93, who are keeping the Brooklyn hope alive. Harry Taylor, 7-10, 4.06 needs to pick it up on the stretch drive.



Monday, August 18 and the only games on the NL schedule are a double dip between Brooklyn and St. Louis, start of a four game series. Brooklyn pretty much has to sweep to keep their hopes alive. The Dodgers woes have meled to think

about how "baseball's great experiment" could have turned out so differently. Statistical probabilities, that Strat has had me thinking about for sixty years, suggest that Robinson could easily have had a disappointing season and the Dodgers might easily have lost the pennant. How might that have shaped the experiment? It just reinforces in my mind what a remarkable thing Robinson did in 1947, which intense pressure.

Dodgers dropped the opener then took three straight. Probably not enough and Jackie did nothing. But still possible.

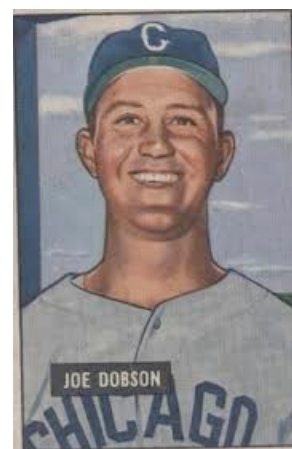


Meanwhile, the Yankees entered August also trailing in the pennant race, a full 10 games off their historical pace on August 4th, and trailing league-leading Boston by 5.5. games. Ted Williams leads Bos-

ton on a triple crown pace, backed by Joe Dobson, 15-4, 1.59 ERA and Tex Hughson, 13-7, 3.26 ERA. Spec Shea, 11-5, 2.14, and Spud Chandler, 10-3, 2.24, have kept the Yankees in the race. But Chandler has only two starts left. The thirty-nine year old Bobo Newsom, who gave the Yankees a late season boost after having been purchased from the Washington Senators, has pitched well, with a 2.38 ERA in five starts for the Yanks, but he's only 2-3. Joe DiMaggio has been steady, clocking in at .333/.377/.519 with 14 homers and 62 batted in. But that pales somewhat in light of Teddy's .339/.459/.686 line! Williams has belted 27 homers and driven in 82. The two teams have seven head to head games left, three in New York and four in Boston. But Cleveland, playing way over their heads, may still have something to say as they stand second in the league, three games behind Boston.

September 1: the Dodgers made a move and pulled to within 4.5 games on August 29th but then dropped two ugly games to their hated rivals the Giants, who leapfrogged them to pull within 4.5 of faltering St. Louis (4-10 over last the last two weeks of August). Jackie Robinson continues to under perform, although he did smash a big double in a comeback on August 30th versus the Giants, a game the Dodgers then lost when Hugh Casey gave up seven runs (two earned – Stanky made a huge error) in the last two innings. A big Monday slate of doubleheaders on September 1 looms. The Dodgers plays two, at home, vs. the cellar dwelling Phillies, while St. Louis plays two at home versus the slugging Pirates and the Giants host two against the tough Braves, with Spahn going in one of those.

Meanwhile, the Yankees pretty much look dead in the water, 9.5 behind Boston, 11 in the loss column. Ted Williams continues to outplay DiMaggio and pace a potent Boston offense while seeming to lock down the triple crown. The Yankees play their final series against Boston (other than a makeup game September 26), beginning with a doubleheader at Boston on September 1. The Red Sox offense has been relentless, leading the lead in both runs and homers, while Joe Dobson had anchored the pitching with a 20-4, 1.71 campaign.



On September 1st, St. Louis and Brooklyn split double headers vs. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, respectively, while New York took two from Boston. It's looking more like a race between St. Louis and the Giants, who are three back in the loss column, than between St. Louis and fading Brooklyn. The Dodgers do get Pee Wee Reese back now after a two week absence and they missed him.



On September 3rd, the Yankees and Red Sox played a doubleheader. Bobo Newsom survived a rocky first to pitch a complete game and beat the Red Sox as Joe DiMaggio collected four hits. Johnny Lindell launched a grand slam homer in the 2nd inning of the nightcap but Spec Shea could not make it stand up as Ted Williams slammed three home runs, driving in five. New York then headed to the nation's capital where they dropped four straight to the lowly Senators. That was it for New York as Boston finished 18 games above their 1947 record, winning 101 games and taking the pennant by nine games.

The NL race in September increasingly seems like a race between St. Louis and the New York Giants, with the Dodgers fading. The Dodgers and the Giants matched up for a weekend series September 4-7, with New York taking three of four. Meanwhile, the Cardinals faced the Cincinnati Reds, taking two of three. So the morning of September 8th, the Giants had cut the St. Louis lead to three and a half games (three in the loss column) with the Dodgers nine back (eleven in the loss column). Johnny Mize caught fire, with 49 homers and 111 RBI, threatening Whitey Kurowski's long lead in RBI (at 119). Over the past ten days, Mize had 6 homers, 14 RBI, and a .378 average (.287 on the year). Willard Marshall supported Mize with 40 round trippers of his own and 104 RBI. While Philadelphia clocked in as an also-ran, in last place, Harry Walker continued to make a run at .400, standing at .388 on September 8.



On September 14th, the New York Giants found themselves one game out of first place, in St. Louis to play the first-place Cardinals. Jim Hearn, a stellar 14-0 with a 2.35 ERA, went for St. Louis against Larry Jansen, 16-8, 3.65 ERA. Cards went up early but Hearn ran into some trouble in the 8th and gave way to Ted Wilks who surrendered a game-tying homer. Giants went out to rally for two runs in the 9th to win it and tie up the race. Hearn escaped the loss and retained his perfect record. Andy Hansen won in relief.

The next day Dave Koslo stymied the Cardinals for his 17th win, aided by Johnny Mize's 52nd HR, a three-run job. The Cardinals have been missing Kurowski, who surrendered the RBI lead to Mize in this game. Then Ray Poat put down the Cardinals with only 5 hits, for a 6-0 shutout and a two game lead. Mize hit #53.

After the Giants lost a double header to the Cubs on September 18th, the two teams jockeyed back and forth, with the Giants having either a one game or half game lead. On September 25, New York beat Boston, 2-0, behind Larry Jansen's 18th while the Cardinals took a doubleheader from the Pirates, with Musial, Kurowski, and Slaughter leading the way (two days earlier, Jim Hearn bested the Pirates to up his record to 15-0). So September 26th began with the Cardinals a half game out, down one in the loss column. New York faced Boston and Warren Spahn while the Cardinals faced the Cubs. Spahn threw a complete game, hanging on in the 9th for a 4-3 win. Meanwhile, the Cards had first place in hand after a Kurowski-Musial led comeback, but Eddie Waitkus slammed a three run walk off homer.

Two days left, Giants holding a half game lead over the Cardinals. The Giants play Philadelphia over the final weekend, including a doubleheader on Sunday. The Cardinals have two day games at Wrigley. Both teams lost September 28th, as Schoolboy Rowe shut out the Giants on seven hits, winning 2-0, while Ralph Hamner handled the Cardinals, giving up only seven hits and one run, winning 3-1. So it went down to the final day. In the opener on Sunday, the Giants scored three runs in the 8th to overcome a 4-2 deficit. Three singles and three walks produced the runs, Walker Cooper singling home the winner. The Giants dropped the second game, however, leaving an opening for the Cardinals. Ken Heintzelman, making up for his poor relief performance in the 8th inning of game one, pitched the final three innings, shutting down the Giants who lost, 4-3, despite homers from Willard Marshall (#43) and

Walker Cooper (#31). So it came down to the Cardinals final game with a chance to force a playoff. Thanks to a solid start by seldom-used Ken Burkhart, the Cardinals went into the 9th winning 3-2. But Bob Sheffing opened with a double for the Cubs and Dom Dallessandro drove him in to tied the score. In the bottom of the 11th, with Jim Hearn on in relief, risking his perfect 15-0 season, Ray Mack ripped a one-out double off Hearn. Another single by Don Johnson and HBP of Hank Schenz loaded the bases for Eddie Waitkus. Eddie singled and sent the Giants to the World Series.



Fantasy World Series: New York Giants vs. Boston Red Sox

Game one: Williams doubles and homers, 3 RBI; Dobson handles Giants as Jansen takes the loss.

Game two: Mize homer gives NY a brief lead but Mele's two triples and Hughson's CG too much; Koslo takes the loss.

Game three: Ghost of Whitey Lockman extends it; Giants win in 12th; Lockman ties in in 9th by working bases-loaded walk; Buddy Blattner singles home winner. Sheldon Jones wins it, Johnny Murphy loses

Game four: No contest; Red Sox slam 6 homers; two each for Williams and Jones, Dobson wins his second, Jansen loses his second.

Game five: Thomson's double in middle of Giants 9th inning comeback; Mickey Harris almost does it, taking a 2-1 lead into the 9th but doubles from Bill Rigney and Thomson and then Buddy Kerr's single ends it.

Game six: Epic game: more Mele (2 for 4, homer run, .474), Mize 5 rbi; Ted grand slam, Poat weakens in 8th but Giants win. Tied 6-6 in the 9th, the Giants erupt for four runs to win, 10-4. Jansen gets the win in relief and Bob Klinger took the loss.

Game seven: Walker Cooper's two HRs complete Giant comeback for WS win; Sheldon Jones! Eight strong innings for his 2nd win of series.

Historical World Series: Brooklyn Dodgers vs. New York Yankees

Game one: More heartbreak for Branca; pitched great but lost 2-1 to Spec Shea. Rizzuto homers.

Game two: Dixie Walker show two for two with a homer, two RBI and three runs scored; late HR from Hermanski; Lombardi makes some big pitches, getting out of jams, for the win; Allie Reynolds took the loss.

Game three: Jackie redeems nightmare game (season) with GW single in 11th; DiMaggio's rbi single in 9th sends it to extras; 0 for 5 in the game to that point, Robinson came up in the 11th with two outs and Jorgenson on 2nd. He singled him home for the win.

Game four: Dixie Walker stays hot, 2 for 4 with a double and an rbi, hitting .600, behind Hank Taylor CG gem as Dodgers take 3-1 lead in series. Bill Bevens (of near perfect game fame) took the hardluck loss, 3-1.

Game five: Surprise starter Branca redeemed (Burt Shotton didn't trust him but I did); stars on mound and at plate; Jackie, so sad, ends WS hitting .100. But Dodgers take the series.