

MICRO LEAGUE *Baseball*

ALL-STAR ROSTERS

ACROSS THE DECADES



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1950

NL 4

AL 3

The first game to go extra innings, won by the NL when Red Schoendienst of the Cards lined a HR off the Tigers' Ted Gray in the top of the 14th inning. This was only the second year that black ballplayers were participating in the summer classic — with Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, Larry Doby appearing in the game.

Speaking of appearing, both teams used the bench and bullpen like it was the last game of the season — and so should you because the talent on these two squads was phenomenal. The only downer — Ted Williams was injured during the game crashing into the fence; though continuing to play into the 9th, the injury turned out to be a fractured elbow which kept him sidelined till late in the season.

1957

AL 6

NL 5

This game is renown for its late inning scoring and managerial moves, but perhaps even more so for the ballot-stuffing done by the Cincinnati fans — which yielded starting positions for all Reds except first baseman George Crowe. Commissioner Ford Frick jumped into the fray, deleting Gus Bell and Wally Post from the roster, though Bell was added by Walt Alston to the squad under managerial prerogative.

The AL team took a 6-2 lead into the bottom of the 9th at Busch Stadium, St. Louis, and hung on for a 6-5 "whew!" type of victory. The game could easily have gone the other way, but you weren't managing these teams.

1961

1st Game NL 5

AL 4

2nd Game NL 1

AL 1

That's right — two All-Star games this year, with one ending in a tie, the only one in All-Star history. From 1959-1962, two games were played (many said to bolster the Players Association coffers).

July 11, 1961

The first game was played in near typhoon winds at Candlestick Park, San Francisco. Leading 3-1 in the 9th, Stu Miller from the Giants was blown off the mound by a strong gust of wind — resulting in a balk (with two runners on) and yielding a play that's been talked about ever since. An error followed, and the game was knotted. The A's scored one in the 10th, but the home NLers rallied for two in the bottom of the 10th to win 5-4. The overall All-Star record was now 16 wins for the AL, and 14 for the Senior Circuit.

July 31, 1961

The second game this year (at venerable Fenway Park in Boston) was a pitcher's duel with Rocky Colavito belting a homer off Bob Purkey in the 1st and the NLers tying it in the 6th. This wasn't a high-hitting game, and after a long wait when a deluge of rain was pounding Fenway, this game went into the history books as the only tied game in over 50 years of summer play.

1967

NL 2

AL 1

Whether this will happen in Micro League or not is not the question — since you weren't playing or handling the managerial moves of the two teams. The real game itself was notable — a lot of strikeouts by the 12 pitchers used (Marichal, Jenkins, Gibson, Short, Cuellar, Drysdale, and Seaver for the NL; Dean Chance, McGlothin, Peters, Downing, and Hunter for the junior circuit) and 11 pinchhitters and 1 pinchrunner.

Why all the bench and bullpen moves? The actual game went 15 innings (three hours and 41 minutes, the longest in All-Star history) and just as it was looking like it would never end, the Reds Tony Perez sat on a Catfish Hunter fastball and this game was mercifully over.

1971

AL 6

NL 4

The first win by the American League stars in eight games (with the NLers after this contest holding a 23-18 edge), this game at Tiger Stadium was a longball power, three "taters" on each side. The pitchers only gave up 12 hits (total) and recorded double digit strikeouts. But the big power boys on each squad provided the damage, bending on the hurlings of a fine corps of pitchers. Of course, this was in the friendly confines of Tiger Stadium, well known over the years as a "hitter's park".

1976

NL 7

AL 1

The Bicentennial year for the USA, and the game played in Philadelphia (where else?) — the stage was set for the American Leaguers to break the losing jinx of NL dominance. Since 1971, the last AL victory, the NL had won 4 straight. That pattern didn't change in '76 — perhaps the American Leaguers had spirit but with only getting 5 hits it was hard to avoid getting skunked 7-1 in a contest that took its clue in the first inning with the NLers scoring two off Mark "The Bird" Fidrych (P.S., the only All-Star appearance by this phenom hurler who got injured and never regained his form). By now the NLers enjoyed a 28-18 lead over the American League squads, who once held a 12-4 advantage in the early years of the Classic.

Tony DePetris and John Foskey researched and programmed into the computer the myriad stats for these All-Star rosters, under the baseball purist eye of Paul Kelly. Jeri Metallo created the design for this love of baseball writup. Special credit to the yeoman work of The Sporting News staff, whose publications such as the Baseball Dope Book give all of us fans many hours of pleasure.

1981

NL 5

AL 4

The largest crowd ever, 72,086, was on hand in Cleveland's Memorial Stadium — also making history since it was the latest game in the season ever played, August 9, 1981. (Games had always been played in July before this year).

Why the delay til August? Well, this was the year of the 50-day player strike and the All-Star game was the vehicle to welcome back Major League Baseball to fans across the country. Not a nice welcome, however, for the junior circuit stars continued their losing ways, last winning a decade ago in 1971.

This was a close match, and in reverse fate history pitcher Vida Blue notched the win for the National League — who by the way was the pitcher who won it for the ALers in their last summer event win 10 years earlier.

1983

AL 13

NL 3

A real blowout on this 50th anniversary All-Star Classic — the ALers pounded a double-digit hit total and raked (that's raked, with a k) the seven NL hurlers all evening in Comiskey Park, the site of the first game in 1933.

Perhaps this win was an expected event (in the life of baseball probability odds) in that the senior circuit had won 19 of 20 games and 11 straight. But this was not the night for that continuing pattern. After jumping off to a 1-0 lead, the ALers erupted for a big run inning, cornerstoned by Freddie Lynn's grand slam blast, the first in All-Star history. But one game doesn't make the NL - AL rivalry stop, and who knows what could have happened if you were in the dugout managing in Micro League Baseball.

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ALL-STAR NOTES

MLSA has selected 10 years which characterize and capture the flavor of what is Major League Baseball's greatest showcase of super-star talent. The All-Star game began in 1933, needing the constant urging of Archie Wald (a sports writer, then editor of the Chicago Tribune) who finally convinced Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis and skeptical owners that this event would be a hit.

For the first two years (1933 & 1934), AL and NL fans picked players for the roster of the opposing league. From 1935-46, managers picked their rosters, and from 1947-57 the selection was again returned to the fans. But the parochial balloting of Cincinnati fans to their local heroes in 1957 caused a shift — to players, managers, and coaches selecting the starters with the manager for that year picking the remainder of the squad. Then in 1970, Commissioner Bowie Kuhn returned the starter selection to the fans, with managers for each league (the one who won the pennant the year before), having the latitude to round out the roster.

Except for the period 1959-62 (when two games were played — an experiment that didn't work), there's always been one and only one All-Star game save 1945 when WWII intervened for travel restrictions and fuel economies.

With Micro League Baseball, you can manage any of these heart-throb rosters — and while the one-game results from the actual game may at times not match your outcomes, not to worry. With you in the manager's seat, who is to say which version is reality?

Note: All pitchers on All-Star rosters are designated as relievers, since in this type of contest (as in real life All-Star games) any pitcher can start or relieve.

1933

AL 4

NL 2

The very first "Dream Game" — July 6, 1933 at Comiskey Park. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Earl Averill, Lefty Grove and other big stars of the AL were there, going up against Frankie Frisch, Pie Traynor, Bill Terry, Carl Hubbell plus other super stars of the era. Hallahan, the NL starter, didn't last long (issuing 5 walks and two hits) in 2+ innings. Ruth hit a two-run homer, the first in All-Star competition. Did the fans go for this battle between the leagues? Well, 47,595 thought so in 1933 and since then fans across the U.S. have always been eagerly waiting this mid-summer get together.

1941

AL 7

NL 5

As the afternoon at Briggs Stadium, Detroit, waned to a close, the NLers had it wrapped up — or so it seemed. Leading 5-3 in the bottom of the 9th, the ALers got the bases loaded with one out. A fielder's choice scored one, and a young Ted Williams strode up to bat against the Cub's Claude Passeau. One sweet swing and the ball landed in the upper deck in right, a three run blast to make the American Leaguers victorious again.

Big names were there for this gala — Enos "Country" Slaughter, Johnny Mize, Pete Reiser, Mel Ott, "Cookie" Lavagetto et al for the Senior Circuit, and the DiMaggio brothers (Joe for the Yanks, Dom for the Sox), Lou Boudreau, Rudy York plus other future Hall of Famers. As a Micro League manager, "Play it again, Sam."

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