

Mantle Leads Voting For AL All-Star Club

NEW YORK (UP)—Center fielder Mickey Mantle won unanimous acclaim today on the annual United Press American League All-Star team and catcher Yogi Berra missed out on only one ballot, dominating the voting as the world champion Yankees had dominated the pennant race.

Lefty pitcher Whitey Ford of the Yankees also made the honor squad selected by 38 sports writers from the eight league cities.

Three Detroit Tigers — outfielder Al Kaline, shortstop Harry Kuen, and third baseman Ray Boone — were chosen, along with two Chicago White Sox players — second baseman Nellie Fox and pitcher Billy Pierce — and two Boston Red Sox players, outfielder Ted Williams and first baseman Mickey Vernon.

There was little or no contest for most of the positions and the

team was the same as the 1955 American League UP All-Star squad except that Pierce replaced Early Wynn of Cleveland as one of the two pitchers.

Mantle was named on all 58 ballots, Berra on 57, and Williams on 52. Two others, Kaline and Fox, received 50 votes each, while Kuen had 48, Boone 44, Pierce 33, and Ford 25. The only close race was at first base where Vernon had 16 votes to edge out Vic Power of Kansas City with 14 and first baseman Bill Skowron of the Yankees with 12.

Mantle's triple crown champion of the majors with a .353 batting average, a total of 130 runs batted in and 52 homers, clearly deserved his unanimous selection.

But there was a powerful array behind him.

Williams pursued him closely for the batting title down the stretch and wound up with a .345 average and 82 runs batted in. Kaline was just behind for the RBI title with 128 and a healthy .314 average. Berra was the third man on the squad to drive in 100 or more runs with 105 and he also had 30 homers to go with his .298 average. Berra and Fox were the only All-Star men below the .300 level and they more than made up for that deficiency with their all-around talents.

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The two lefty pitchers were among the best in baseball. Pierce had a 309 won-lost mark with the third place White Sox and Ford was kingpin of the Yankee staff with a 19-6 mark. Two Cleveland hurlers, Wynn and lefty strikeout star Herb Score, ranked next in the voting with 15 ballots apiece.

It was significant that Yankee World Series hero, Don Larsen, who may win athlete of the year honors for his perfect game no-hitter against Brooklyn, did not receive a single vote on the basis of his season performance.

Vernon, who had a fine year after being traded to Boston from Washington, batted .310, while Kuen, always a contender for the batting title, hit .322 after a slow start. Boone, his running mate at third, was a .308 hitter and batted in 81 runs.

Musial, St. Louis, also never has finished below .300. He has played both the outfield and first base, has won six batting titles, winning three straight from 1950-52. His highest average was .376 in 1948.

players, among those who have participated in at least 300 games, own .300 or better averages. Hank Aaron of Milwaukee and Pittsburgh's Bill Virdon moved into this elite category as a result of their 1956 performances.

Aaron, the league's batting champion, hit .328 to boost his lifetime average from .299 to .310. Virdon, in only his sophomore year, reached .301 because of an even .300 average.

Wally Moon of the Cards was the lone player to drop out of the .300 class. Moon batted .298 this past season and saw his lifetime mark fall from .300 to .299.

Dale Mitchell, veteran Cleveland and Brooklyn outfielder, compiled a .312 average before he retired earlier this week.

Nine American League batters are over .300 lifetime, with only one change resulting from the 1956 figures. Cleveland's Bobby Avila fell from the select ranks, while Mickey Mantle of the New York Yankees moved into the .300 group.

Avila hit .224 this past season and his lifetime mark skidded from .300 to .299. Mantle, the league's batting kingpin at .353, lifted his career average from .298 to .308.

Brook Rook Shells Japs

TOKYO (UP)—Japanese baseball experts had high praise Thursday for a 24-year-old Brooklyn rookie southpaw who has struck out seven of Japan's outstanding sluggers and issued only four hits and one walk so far in two appearances.

Big Fred Kipp, formerly with Brooklyn's farm team at Montreal, faced 23 batters in seven innings Wednesday, fanned six and gave up four hits and one pass. He blanked an all-star Japanese team composed of top players from the Tokyo-Yokohama-Nagoya area.

Nobuyasu Nizuhara, pilot of the Yomiuri Giants said, "Japanese batters are able to handle the fast ball but we're still helpless against curves and a change of pace such as those so flawlessly demonstrated by Fred Kipp."

Third sacker Atsusi Hakoda shook his head and said: "Kipp is a hard pitcher to get to. I couldn't hit any of his inside balls. They cut the corners sharp. They were puzzlers and I still don't know if they were a knuckleball or a palm ball."

Hakoda, of the Kokutetsu Swallows, did get a single off Kipp in the first inning of Wednesday's game.

Japanese players are calling Kipp a "knuckle ball artist." Kipp himself admits he threw at least two dozen knuckle balls in the Sendai game.

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Specialized Service

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Motor Investment

Last night's results:

Eastside Motor Investment 1

Olson 3 Balsiger-Bennett 1

Specialized 4 Halverson's 0

Basin Motors 2 Jim Winslow 2

Balsiger 3 Carlson 1

Pacific Buick 4 Commercial Shell 0

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High team game—Balsiger Motors 999

High team series—Specialized Service 2761

High individual game—Leon Bell 256

High individual series—Earl Brooks 506

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