



CENTER FIELD

Willie Mays, San Francisco Giants.

Age—27. Years in majors—7.

1958 batting average—.347.

Major league career average—.317.

Best all-around player in the majors. Has speed, power, great range, a strong throwing arm, and an uncanny sense of the right thing to do at the right time. Sometimes swings at bad pitches, but he still gets on base more often than any other player in the league—almost 44 percent of the time. He'll make an occasional fielding error, but he'll also make catches nobody else could. Mays can beat you in a dozen different ways.

Best of the rest: **Richie Ashburn**, Philadelphia Phillies.



RIGHT FIELD

Henry Aaron, Milwaukee Braves.

Age—25. Years in majors—5.

1958 batting average—.326.

Major league career average—.315.

A "wrist" hitter, like Banks. Can hit any pitch to any field—and hit it with power. Excellent "bad-ball" hitter; there's no "safe" pitch to throw him, no matter how bad it is. Reluctant to wait out pitchers in looking for strikes. Average speed; tends to run on heels. Hits into a lot of double plays. Carefree outfielder with average range and average throwing arm.

Best of the rest: **Roberto Clemente**, Pittsburgh Pirates.



CATCHING

Del Crandall, Milwaukee Braves.

Age—29. Years in majors—8.

1958 batting average—.272.

Major league career average—.250.

Shrewd signal caller and defensive catcher. Has good arm that once troubled him with soreness. Handles pitchers well; did fine work with Brave rookies last season. Not consistent hitter though hit well above usual average last year. Has some power; good pull hitter.



PITCHING

Warren Spahn, Milwaukee Braves. Left-handed.

Age—38. Years in majors—14.

1958 record: 22 wins, 11 losses, 3.07 earned-run average.

Canny, shrewd pitcher. Fast ball not what it used to be but developed screwball and slider to compensate for this. Uses control and deception; always pitches to spots. Depends on fast and slow curves. Good durability; finishes high percentage of games started. When control is off, he's in trouble. Braves prefer not to pitch him against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Is easy home-run target for certain clubs, such as the Chicago Cubs. Very good fielder; has excellent pickoff move to first base. Good hitter.

Best of the rest: **Bob Friend**, Pittsburgh Pirates; **Lew Burdette**, Milwaukee Braves.

National League

American League



CENTER FIELD

Mickey Mantle, New York Yankees.

Age—27. Years in majors—8.

1958 batting average—.304.

Major league career average—.314.

The best combination of physical assets in the league—speed, power, reflexes, throwing ability—but tends to waste them. Doesn't study pitchers well, if at all. Occasionally careless in the field. Still tempted by bad pitches; usually leads league in strikeouts. But still led the league last season in total runs produced (186) and was second only to Williams in his ability to get on base (44.2 percent of the time).

Best of the rest: **Jim Piersall**, Cleveland Indians; **Roger Maris**, Kansas City Athletics.



RIGHT FIELD

Jackie Jensen, Boston Red Sox.

Age—31. Years in majors—9.

1958 batting average—.286.

Major league career average—.281.

Excellent power hitter. Has driven in more runs than anybody else in the league in the last five years. Named Most Valuable Player in 1958. Performance tailed off late in season, probably because of fatigue. Very fast for his size. Outstanding fielder with good range and a strong arm. Likes to hit curve balls. Has brains to use the short left-field fence (315 feet) in Fenway Park as target for long high fly balls.

Best of the rest: **Al Kaline**, Detroit Tigers; **Rocky Colavito**, Cleveland Indians.



CATCHING

Sherman Lollar, Chicago White Sox.

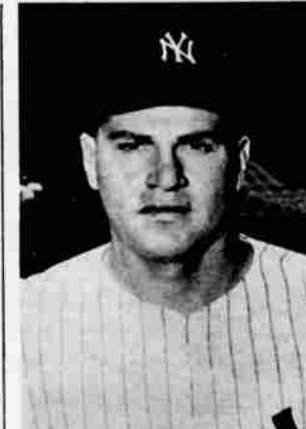
Age—34. Years in majors—13.

1958 batting average—.273.

Major league career average—.264.

Strong arm. Good handler of pitchers. Smart. Not a consistent hitter; usually falls off in hitting as season progresses, apparently because he gets little opportunity to rest. Good pull hitter but power is dissipated in very-large Comiskey park. Slow runner.

Best of the rest: **Yogi Berra**, New York Yankees; **Gus Triandos**, Baltimore Orioles.



PITCHING

Bob Turley, New York Yankees. Right-handed.

Age—28. Years in majors—7.

1958 record: 21 wins, 7 losses, 2.98 earned-run average.

Has excellent fast ball. Now has mastered the curve. Strong, smart, plenty of guts. Learned control by remembering to take deep breaths and stopping to think between pitches.

Best of the rest: **Billy Pierce**, Chicago White Sox; **Whitey Ford**, New York Yankees.