

# Howard Takes MVP Award In American

BOSTON (UPI)—The American League's Most Valuable Player award remained almost the exclusive property of the New York Yankees today when Elston Howard won the 1963 honors in a landslide.

The 33-year-old Yankee catcher collected 15 of 20 first place votes in balloting by selected members of the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) and finished 100 points ahead of runnerup Al Kaline of the Detroit Tigers.

The results of the voting were announced here by Hy Hurwitz, national secretary of the association. Two members in each of the 10 American League cities participated in the balloting.

In scoring his clear-cut victory over outfielder Kaline, Howard became the fourth successive Yankee to capture the coveted award and the eighth New York winner in the last 10 seasons.

**Succeeds Mickey Mantle**  
Howard succeeded Yankee outfielder Mickey Mantle, the 1952 MVP selection. Roger Maris won the award in 1960 and 1961 and Yogi Berra, the Yankees' new manager, captured the title three times, in 1951, 1954 and 1955.

Only the third catcher to win MVP honors, Howard totaled 243 points to 148 for Kaline. Yankee pitcher Whitey Ford finished third at 123 points and was second only to Howard in first place votes with three. Kaline and Yankee Tom Tresh, who was 11th in the point to-

als, netted the remaining No. 1 votes.

American League home run champion Harmon Killebrew of Minnesota won a close three-way battle for the fourth spot, his 35 points barely edging Boston relief pitching ace Dick Radatz (34) and American League batting champion Carl Yastrzemski of the Red Sox (31).

The point totals dropped off rapidly from there with 29 players earning mention in the balloting.

**Top Fielding Catcher**  
Howard, who didn't get a single vote in 1962 though he batted .279, was named on all 20 ballots this year after a season in which he hit 287 to finish 12th in the league. He had 27 home runs, drove in 101 runs, and led the league's catchers in fielding with a .984 average.

Kaline, who was mentioned on 19 of the 20 ballots, ranked second in the American League hitting race with a .312 average. The Detroit outfielder, who was rested by the Tigers during the late stages of the season, had 27 homers and 101 runs batted in.

Forced led the American League in games won (24), percentage (.247 for .774), and innings pitched (267). Killebrew, who was third in the voting a year ago, was the league's top slugger with 45 homers though he batted only .253.

Though he did not qualify among the official league leaders on the basis of linings pitched, Radatz had the circuit's best earned run average

of 1.98 while posting a 15-6 record in 66 games of relief. Yastrzemski's .321 average led the league by nine full points to earn him mention on 17 of the 20 ballots.

Howard's choice meant that members of the New York Yankees have won MVP honors 16 times in the 33-year history of the award. Detroit is New York's nearest challenger for most MVP's with a total of six selections.

**Selected Before Series**  
Howard's selection came in voting conducted even before World Series play when he led Yankee regulars by getting five hits off the Los Angeles Dodger pitching staff. In addition, Howard was struck out only once by Dodger southpaw Sandy Koufax, who posted a World Series strikeout record and last week was named the National League's Most Valuable Player.

It was Howard who spoiled Koufax's World Series no-hit bid and who drove in a run to break the Dodger southpaw's shutout try in the opening game.

A nine-season Yankee veteran, Howard broke into organized ball as an outfielder with Muskogee of the Central League in 1950 and had his minor league career interrupted by two years in the service.

He won the International League's Most Valuable Player award while playing at Toronto after he was ordered converted to a catcher by Casey Stengel in 1952.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE'S BEST — New York's Elston Howard is shown in batting and catching poses this year. The Yankee standout was named Most Valuable Player in the American League today. — UPI Telephoto

## Sinatra Open Draws Large Starting Field

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (UPI) — Some 150 professional golfers start taking pot-shots today at a pot of \$50,000 in the first Sinatra Open invitational at the new Canyon Country Club course.

This is the largest pot ever put up for the opening of a PGA tournament but there's an explanation — sponsor Frank Sinatra is a well-heeled and a well-known singer.

The Sinatra fun-fest — modeled after that of his older pal, Bing Crosby, will be topped by a \$10,000 pro-amateur 18-hole event Monday and an evening party at \$35 a plate.

Profits go to boys clubs in this area.

The 72-hole open invitational has attracted most of the nation's top pros who like the idea of the \$9,000 first prize. The field included: veteran

## 49ers Lose Defensive Halfback

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (UPI) — Rookie defensive halfback Kermit Alexander of the San Francisco Forty Niners may miss Sunday's game against the Dallas Cowboys at Kezar Stadium because of an ailing ankle.

Alexander, who had a tough time against Detroit's Terry Barr last weekend, was the only absentee at a Forty Niner workout Wednesday. Coach Jack Christiansen said he would test the ankle today.

## Battle Figures Not Enough; Hood Wins

PORTLAND (UPI) — Mike Hood of Southern Oregon was

named Back of the Week and Jim Dent of Oregon College lineman of the week by Oregon Collegiate Conference coaches today.

Hood carried the ball 18 times for 135 yards in SOC's Saturday loss to Chico State. Dent helped hold champion Portland State to 72 yards on the ground, the latter's lowest total of the year.

Bob Battle of Oregon Tech led in rushing with 583 yards in 149 carries. Bill Bailey of Southern Oregon topped the passers with 74 of 144 for 780 yards and six touchdowns, although Mike Schunk of Portland State had a higher percentage and more yardage with 38 for 106 for 897 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Doug Olsen of SOC led the scoring with 65 points on 7 touchdowns and 23 extra points. Jim Hollingsworth of Portland State, Steve Jackson of OCE and Vic Ventura of OTI each had 25 pass receptions with Hollingsworth's 451 yards in front.

The coach added that the university, by contract, would have to make refunds to stations holding radio and television film rights to Washington football games.

## Washington Decision Brings Hot TV Words

SEATTLE (UPI) — Television Station KIRO-TV Wednesday protested University of Washington Athletic Director and Football Coach Jim Owens' refusal to allow telecasts here of Washington's remaining games against California, UCLA and Washington State.

Station Manager Lincoln W. Miller said Owens' decision "unnecessarily forecloses the sports-minded public from witnessing its own tax-supported athletic team in action."

KIRO-TV, an affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System, has requested permission to televise "live" the three remaining games.

Owens, in a letter to the station management, said he rejected the proposal because NCAA policy discourages "television exposure" of a member team in more than one national and one regional telecast per season.

Washington's game with Air Force was televised nationally and the Washington-USC game regionally.

Owens wrote that last year the NCAA approved only six exceptions to the two-telecast policy. One of the exceptions was the Washington-Washington State game in Spokane.

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First Rose Bowl football game at Pasadena, Calif., was played in 1902: Michigan vs. Stanford.