Travelers Blazing A Destructive Trail!

The **Arkansas Travelers** destroyed their opposition from the **Oceanic Conference**, playing .800 ball (56-14) and losing only 4 games at home (31-4)! No surprise that the **Travelers** are first in batting (.311 AVG and first in runs with 455), first in pitching (3.24 ERA) and 2nd in fielding. The **Travs** offense is led by **Stan Musial**, **Larry Doby**, **Pete Runnels** and **Ted Kluszewski**. They sport two 12-game winners in **Marv Grissom** and **Bob Lemon**. This is going to be a tough team to take down this season!

Elsewhere in the **Atmospheric Conference**, the ***Wild Card*** is a 4-team scramble between **Sioux Falls**, **Cheticamp**, **El Dorado** and rejuvenated **Summer**.

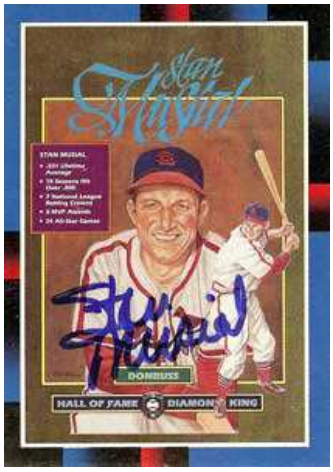
Over in the **Oceanic Conference**, we find a 3-team race between the perennial **TML Champs Albany**, with pressure from both **Beverly** and **Walla Walla**.

The early batting leader is **Arkansas's** ***"Player of the Period"*** **Stan Musial** at a lofty .397. In a distant second place is **Albany's Smoky Burgess** (.359). **Musial** also leads in Hits (110), RBI (76), SLG (.610), OBP (.459) and RC (74). **Summer's Ralph Kiner** is the early HR leader with 23 bombs! **Arkansas'** duo of **Pete Runnels** and **Larry Doby** are 1-2 in Runs scored (78 & 73, respectively). The early SB leader is **Moosen's Pee Wee Reese** (11 SB in 13 attempts).

The early ERA leader is **Beverly's** ***"Pitcher of the Period"*** **Billy Pierce** at 1.80, followed closely by **Sioux Falls's Bobby Shantz** at 1.93. **Arkansas's** dual Aces of **Bob Lemon** (12-0) and **Marv Grissom** (12-2) are the current Victories leaders. **Moosen's Virgil Trucks** is the Strikeout leader, with 109 Ks. The early Saves leader is **Summer's Eddie Yuhas** (3.41, 17 SV in 23 SVO).

Below are some awards and tid-bits from Period 1 in the 1952 TML American Retro.

** Player of the Period **



(AR) Stan Musial

.397, 110-277, 23-3-10, 169 TB,
66 R, 76 RBI, 35 W, 74 RC
1.283 OPS, 8 GW-RBI
10.8 RC/27

Honorable Mention:

Mickey Mantle(AV)	.331,	16 HR,	68 R,	45 RBI,	70 RC
Jackie Robinson(BB)	.331,	13 HR,	51 R,	28 RBI,	70 RC
Larry Doby(AR)	.325,	13 HR,	73 R,	64 RBI,	66 RC
Al Rosen(SF)	.343,	17 HR,	61 R,	55 RBI,	66 RC

** Pitcher of the Period **

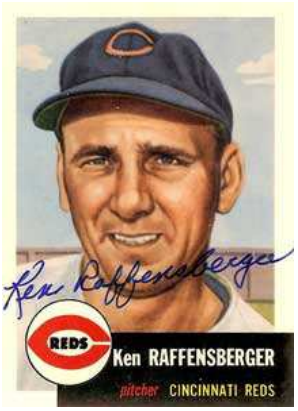
(BV) Billy Pierce

11-3, 1.80, 14 GS, 12 QS, 11 CG,
120.1 IP, 82 H, 19 W, 5 K,
.189 OAVG, 0.84 WHIP
3 shutouts

Honorable Mention:

Bobby Shantz(SF)	10-4,	1.93,	11 QS,	1.06 WHIP
Mike Garcia(WW)	10-7,	2.66,	15 QS,	1.30 WHIP
Marv Grissom(AR)	12-2,	2.45,	10 QS,	1.30 WHIP
Bob Rush(AV)	11-3,	2.27,	11 QS,	0.97 WHIP
Robin Roberts(BV)	10-3,	2.39,	8 QS,	0.99 WHIP
Chris Van Cuyk(WW)	8-5,	2.51,	11 QS,	1.01 WHIP

** Top Atmos. Conf Pitching Performance **



El Dorado's **Ken Raffensberger** spun tossed the season's first **no-hitter** at visiting **Walla Walla.** **Raffensberger** ran into a bit of trouble in the top of the 9th, with his team in the lead by the slimmest of margins, 1-0, when he issued 2 of his 3 walks, but got out of it on back-to-back FC outs. **Raffensberger** fanned 3 and used fewer than 100 pitches in his gem!

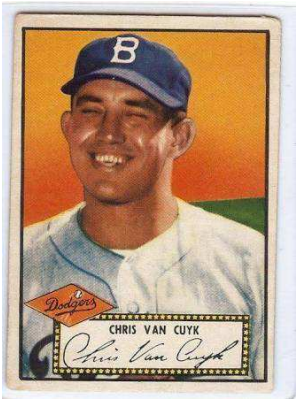
4/19/1952, WW52-EL52, Yankee Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Walla Walla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	x	-	1	10	0

Gold Sox	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	PCH/STR	ERA
K.Raffensberger (W 2-2)	9	0	0	0	3	3	98/65	4.74

Honorable Mention:
4/18: Eddie Lopat (AR) CG 1-hitter, 2W, 2K, Won 2-0

**Top Oceanic Conf Pitching Performances **



Lightly **Walla Walla's** **Chris Van Cuyk** tossed not one by two CG **1-hitters**! **Van Cuyk** first **1-hit** visiting **Bloomington.** **Van Cuyk** carried a no-hitter into the 8th inning and retired thee first two batters, before **Wally Westlake** broke it up with a ground single up the middle. The game was 0-0 into the 7th before the **Wombats** gave **Van Cuyk** some breathing room. Then, less than a month later, **Van Cuyk** took a **no-hitter** into the 7th inning against visiting **Sioux Falls**, before **Dick Sauer** doubled deep to left. This time, **Van Cuyk** coasted on a 7-0 lead as he completed his second gem.

5/22/1952, BY52-WW52, Comiskey Park

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Bloomington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	**1**	1
Walla Walla	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	x	-	3	9	0

Wombats	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**K**	**ERA**
C.Van Cuyk (**W** 6-3)	9	**1**	0	0	2	9	1.69

6/17/1952, SF52-WW52, Comiskey Park

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Sioux Falls	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	**1**	1
Walla Walla	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	x	-	7	11	1

Wombats	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**K**	**ERA**
C.Van Cuyk (**W** 8-4)	9	**1**	0	0	1	6	2.42

** Top Atmospheric Offensive Performance **

Summer's **Ralph Kiner** had single-handily buried visiting **Moosen**, in going 3-for-4, with three HRs, good for **8 RBI**. **Kiner's** power surge in the 7th & 8th innings blew the game wide open! The smartest thing the **Squirrel** pitchers did was walk **Kiner** in the 3rd.

5/15/1952, MO52-SM53, Ebbets Field

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Moosen	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	-	3	7	1
Summer	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	x	-	11	9	0

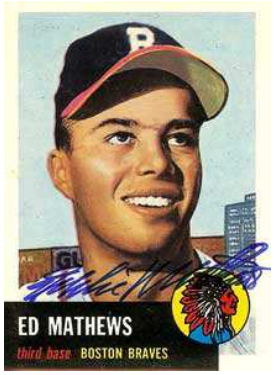
Cyclones		**AB**	**R**	**H**	**HR**	**BI**	**BB**	**AVG**
R.Kiner	lf	4	3	3	**3**	**8**	1	.271

1:3-RBI **HR**; 3:**BB**; 5:53; 7:2-RBI **HR**; 8:3-RBI **HR**

Honorable Mentions:

4/21:Luke Easter(AV) 3-5, 3R, 7 RBI: 2 3R HR, HR
4/25:Mickey Mantle(AV) 5-5, 2R, 5 RBI: 4 1B, 2R HR
5/13:Grady Hatton(MO) 3-5, 3R, 7 RBI: 2 3R HR, 1B
6/ 3:Jim Greengrass(DT) 3-5, 2R, 7 RBI: GS,3R HR, 1B
6/21:Eddie Mathews(WW) 4-4, 4R, 6 RBI:2R HR,3R HR,2B

** Top Oceanic Offensive Performance **



Walla Walla's **Eddie Mathews** had a big day against host **Cheticamp**, going 4-for-5, with a walk. **Mathews** blasted three HRs, the big one a 3-run blast during the **Wombats** 9-run 7th. **Mathews** drove in 6 runs in the game, leading his team to a 16-4 blowout. **Wombat** starter **Mike Garcia** got the CG victory.

5/18/1952, WW52-CH52, Sportsman's Park (A)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Walla Walla	4	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	1	-	16	17	1
Cheticamp	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	-	4	8	1

Wombats		**AB**	**R**	**H**	**HR**	**BI**	**BB**	**AVG**
E.Mathews	3B	5	5	4	**3**	6	1	.247

1:**1B**; 2:46/FC; 4:2-RBI **HR**; 7:**BB** & 3-RBI **HR**; 9:**HR**

Honorable Mentions:
4/ 6:Harry Simpson(EL) 3-5, 3R, 7 RBI: GS, 2R HR, HR
4/ 6:Dick Sauer(SF) 3-5, 3R, 6 RBI: 3R HR, 2R HR, HR
4/26:Al Rosen(SF) 4-5, 3R, 5 RBI: 3 1B, GS
5/19:Richie Ashburn(CH) 6-6, R, RBI: 6 1B

** Overtime Games of the Period **

The longest games of Period 1 were a trio of 14-inning marathons. The first was between **North Adams** and **Albany**. After **North Adams** broke a scoreless tie in the 14th, **Albany's** **Mickey Mantle** did not waste any time, blasting a 2-run, game-winning, walk-off HR to win it for the **Avalanche**! The second one was between **Sioux Falls** and **Oakdale**. The **Fighting Sioux** took a 4-3 lead in the 14th on **Gil Hodges's** solo HR. The **Ravagers** went down 1-2-3 in the bottom half. The third one was between **Moosen** and **Cheticamp**. The **Squirrel** broke open the game when **Willie Jones** blasted a 3-run HR in the top of the 14th. The **Micmacs** did put runners on 1st & 2nd, but **Hal Brown** got **Hal Rice** to bounce in a game-winning GDP.

4/15/1952, NA52-AV52, Briggs Stadium

	123	456	789	012	34		R	H	E	LOB	DP
North Adams	000	000	000	000	01	-	1	10	0	15	1
Albany	000	000	000	000	02	-	2	7	3	7	4

5/10/1952, SF52-OK52, Wrigley Field

	123	456	789	012	34		R	H	E	LOB	DP
Sioux Falls	100	101	000	000	01	-	4	13	0	14	1
Oakdale	010	200	000	000	00	-	3	9	1	9	1

6/23/1952, MO52-CH52, Sportsman's Park (A)

	123	456	789	012	34		R	H	E	LOB	DP
Moosen	001	410	000	000	03	-	9	19	0	11	1
Cheticamp	100	300	101	000	00	-	6	14	2	14	2

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Up next ... Period 2 highlights!

Staff Columnist - *Biff Barnes Sr.*

Previous article:
http://tmlam.org/Rnews/1953_Period_3.pdf