## Just How Good Were the 1927 Yankees?

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Any discussion of the 1927 baseball season must, unquestionably, begin with the New York Yankees. The Bronx Bombers led their league in hitting, slugging (by a staggering 75 points more than the Athletics' second-place figure) and earned run average (3.20 to the White Sox' second-best 3.91).

New York boasted the league leader in doubles (Lou Gehrig), the top two in triples (Earle Combs and Gehrig) and the top three in homers (Babe Ruth, Gehrig and Tony Lazzeri). Ruth and Gehrig finished 1-2, respectively, in runs, walks and slugging pct., while Ruth trailed only Gehrig in RBI and total bases.

As for the pitchers, Wilcy Moore, Waite Hoyt and Urban Shocker posted the three best ERA's in the American League, and Hoyt tied for the league lead in victories with Chicago's Ted Lyons. Hoyt, Shocker, Moore and Herb Pennock were the circuit's first four in winning pct.

Yankee domination of the AL in 1927 was very nearly complete and, not surprisingly, New York blew out Pittsburgh in a short 4-game World Series. Now you can match the 1927 Yankees against their American League contemporaries and also replay a heart-stopping National League pennant race with APBA.

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#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

## 1927

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

The Pirates outlasted the Cards (by 1½ games) and the Giants (by 2), clinching the pennant on the very last day of the season. The Bucs carried a team BA of .305 and claimed the league's batting champion in Paul Waner (.380). Other .300 hitters were brother Lloyd (.355), Pie Traynor (.342), Joe Harris (.326), Clyde Barnhart (.319), Kiki Cuyler (.309) and George Grantham (.305). The four-man pitching rotation of Carmen Hill, Lee Meadows, Ray Kremer and Vic Aldridge won 75 games among them.

St. Louis relied heavily on Jess Haines (24-10) and Pete Alexander (21-10). Jim Bottomley (.303, 19 HR, 124 RBI), Frank Frisch (.337, 48 SB) and Chick Hafey (.329, 18 HR) were the Cards' major offensive weapons.

Shaky pitching did in the Giants, whose excellent attack featured Rogers Hornsby (.361, 26 HR, 125 RBI) and Bill Terry (.326, 20 HR, 121 RBI), as well as George Harper (.331), Travis Jackson (.318), Fred Lindstrom (.306) and Edd Roush (.304).

The Cubs, early season leaders, had a 26-game winner in Charlie Root and a number of good bats—Hack Wilson (.318, 30 HR, 129 RBI), Riggs Stephenson (.344) and Charlie Grimm (.311) among them. The Reds had four solid starters in Red Lucas, Jake May, Dolf Luque and Eppa Rixey, but Bubbles Hargrave was their lone .300 hitter.

The NL's best pitching staff probably belonged to the Dodgers: Dazzy Vance, Jesse Petty and Jumbo Elliott were its main men. But Harvey Hendrick and Babe Herman were the only genuine offensive threats in the Bums' lineup. Outfielders Lance Richbourg and Eddie Brown and infielders Eddie Moore and Andy High hit .300 for the Braves, but spotty pitchiang plagued their club. The last-place Phillies' pitching was even worse, offsetting the efforts of a respectable offense with names like Cy Williams (30 HR), Fred Leach (.306), Russ Wrightstone (.306) and Fresco Thompson (.303).

The Yankees were a truly awesome club. They won 110 games, beating the second-place A's (a super team in their own right) by a whopping 19 games. Ruth, with his record 60 homers, 164 RBI and .356 BA, was followed in the lineup by Gehrig (.373, 47 HR, 175 RBI), an equally imposing lefthanded hitter. Combs hit .356, Bob Meusel .337 with 103 RBI, and Lazzeri .309 with 102 RBI. The combined records of Hoyt (22-7), Moore (19-7), Pennock (19-8) and Shocker (18-6) were simply remarkable.

Al Simmons led the Athletics with a .392 average, 15 HR and 108 RBI. The aging Ty Cobb (.357), young Mickey Cochrane (.338), Jimmy Dykes (.324), Sammy Hale (.313), Joe Boley (.311) and a very strong bench paced an explosive Philadelphia offense, and Lefty Grove (20-13) and Jack Quinn had fine seasons on the mound. Unfortunately, the Yankees were in the same league.

Goose Goslin (.334, 120 RBI), veteran Tris Speaker (.327) and Joe Judge (.308) were the heart of the third-place Senators' offense, and Hod Lisenbee (18-9) was the ace of the pitching staff. Facing the Tigers was no picnic for pitchers: Harry Heilmann, who hit .398 to win the batting title and drove in 120 runs, Fats Fothergill (.359, 114 RBI) and Charley Gehringer (.317) anchored a tough lineup. Earl Whitehill, however, was the only consistent pitcher for Detroit. Workhorses Lyons (22-14) and Tommy Thomas kept the White Sox competitive, and .300 hitters Bibb Falk, Alex Metzler and Bud Clancy provided some support.

The Indians had a hard-hitting infield (George Burns, Lew Fonseca, Joe Sewell and Johnny Hodapp) and outfielder Charlie Jamieson hit .309, but their pitching was weak. Pitchers for the Browns and Red Sox had little to brag about either, but the Brownies did have several proven hitters in George Sisler (.327, 27 SB), Bing Miller (.325), Ken Williams (.323, 17 HR) and Wally Schang (.319). Johnny Tobin was the Sox' only .300 hitter.