

# APBA TURNS BACK THE CLOCK A QUARTER-CENTURY AND PRESENTS A Complete Baseball Card Set, Based on the 1949 Season! 1949: TWO GREAT PENNANT RACES—POWERFUL PRE-EXPANSION LINEUPS

1949 was a memorable year for baseball. Major League rosters had not yet been depleted by the conflict in Korea, and the quality of those rosters was not destined to be diluted by expansion for another 12 years. There were two pressure-packed pennant races, each decided by a single game, and many of the top performers of the '40's and '50's were in their baseball primes. 1949 was also the last "pre-APBA" season, as APBA began to issue regular card sets with the 1950 season.

In the National League the Brooklyn Dodgers, led by MVP Jackie Robinson, overtook the St. Louis Cardinals in the final week of play and clinched the flag on the very last day of the campaign with a ten-inning 9-7 victory over the third-place Phillies in Philadelphia. The peerless Robinson, in his third year in the majors, was the NL batting champion with a .342 mark, and he also drove in 124 runs and stole 37 bases. The powerhouse Dodger lineup also boasted names like Carl Furillo (.322), Roy Campanella, Duke Snider, Gil Hodges and Pee Wee Reese. The pitching staff was headed by Rookie-of-the-Year Don Newcombe (17-8), Preacher Roe (15-6) and Ralph Branca. For the Cards, Stan Musial and Enos Slaughter hit .338 and .336 respectively, and Musial added 36 homers and 123 RBI's to earn second place in the MVP balloting. The Redbirds had an outstanding double play combination in Red Schoendienst and Marty Marion, and the bulwarks of their pitching staff were lefties Howie Pollet (20-9) and Harry Brecheen.

The Whiz Kid Phillies surprised the experts with their best finish in 32 years, and their roster featured developing young stars like Del Ennis (.302, 25 HR, 110 RBI), Robin Roberts, Richie Ashburn and Willie Jones. The defending league champion Boston Braves slipped to fourth despite good years by Eddie Stanky and Al Dark, an impressive rookie season by Del Crandall and a consistently excellent mound performance by Warren Spahn, who led the league with 21 wins. The New York Giants, strong on paper, struggled home fifth although each of their regular outfielders — Whitey Lockman, Bobby Thomson and Willard Marshall — hit better than .300. Even the league's also-rans were not without some solid hitters. The Pirates' Ralph Kiner had an incredible year, hitting .310 while leading the league with 54 homers and 127 RBI's, and hard-hitting Wally Westlake batted behind him. Young Ted Kluszewski (.309) and veteran Harry Walker (.300) paced the Reds' attack, and even the lowly Cubs had some batting punch in the persons of Hank Sauer, Phil Cavarretta and Andy Pafko.

While the Dodgers were cementing their NL title in Philadelphia on the final day of the season, the Yankees were meeting the Red Sox head-to-head for the AL flag. Boston closed the year with a two-game series at Yankee Stadium and entered the series with a one-game lead over the Bombers, thus needing only one victory to nail down the pennant. The Sox never got it. They took a quick 4-0 lead in the first contest, but the Yanks came from behind to beat them on Johnny Lindell's eighth-inning homer and Joe Page's clutch relief pitching. Vic Raschi's 5-3 victory the following day, aided by Tommy Henrich's homer in the eighth, made the Yanks AL champs. Yogi Berra and the incomparable Joe DiMaggio, who hit .346 after missing the first half of the season with a heel injury, were key offensive figures for the New Yorkers down the stretch, and Raschi, Ed Lopat and Allie Reynolds were the mainstays of the pitching staff. The Red Sox failed to win despite a number of fantastic individual performances. MVP Ted Williams hit .343 with 43 homers, Vern Stephens hit .290 with 39 homers, and each of them drove in an almost un-

believable 159 runs. Mel Parnell and Ellis Kinder, the two top pitchers, had spectacular records (25-7 and 23-6 respectively), and a regular line-up including Bobby Doerr (.309), Dom DiMaggio (.307), Johnny Pesky (.306), Billy Goodman (.298) and Birdie Tebbets had no real weak spots.

The Indians, world champions in 1948, fell two spots in spite of their great pitching staff, which included Bob Lemon, Bob Feller, Mike Garcia, Early Wynn and Satchel Paige. The Indians received consistent hitting from Dale Mitchell (.317 with 23 triples), Larry Doby, Lou Boudreau and Mickey Vernon, but it wasn't enough for them to seriously challenge the Yankees or the Red Sox. Fine pitching from Hal Newhouser, Virgil Trucks and Fred Hutchinson, among others, carried Detroit into the first division. George Kell (whose .343 batting mark edged out Williams for the batting title by .0002) and Vic Werz (.304, 20 HR, 133 RBI) carried most of the Tigers' offensive load. The Philadelphia Athletics had a pitching staff featuring rookies Alex Kellner (20-12) and Bobby Shantz, and a strong infield anchored by firstbaseman Ferris Fain and shortstop Eddie Joost. The White Sox' lineup contained two .300-plus hitters — shortstop Luke Appling and secondbaseman Cass Michaels — and even the St. Louis Browns were a fairly potent offensive club with Rookie-of-the Year Roy Sievers (.306), Bob Dillinger (.324) and Jerry Priddy. The last-place Washington Senators had established pros in thirdbaseman Eddie Yost and firstbaseman Eddie Robinson.

## 16 TEAMS—320 PLAYERS

This is a standard APBA card set, with 20 player cards per team in 16 team envelopes. No XB's are available. Every player named above is included in this 1949 season card set, along with lesser-known (at the time) performers like Gene Mauch, Joe Garagiola, Danny Murtaugh, Buddy Blattner, Bill Rigney and Johnny Berardino. As has been the case with other complete season card sets, APBA will make NO REPRINTS of the 1949 season set once the initial supply is exhausted. The cards are being printed ONCE and in LIMITED QUANTITIES, SO BUY NOW!

## 1949 CARD SET—\$10.00

This special, extensively researched 1949 season baseball card set is priced at \$10.00 (\$10.60 in Penna., \$11.00 to all foreign purchasers). A lineup sheet is included with the card set. Should you wish to purchase a lineup sheet separately, the cost is 25c (27c to Penna. residents).

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