

## *American League's Best Teams*

### *Chapter Six*

#### **Closing Out the 1<sup>st</sup> Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: What to Make of the 1946-50 Boston Red Sox**

In 1946, when virtually everybody was back from the war (including Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Joe Gordon, Charlie Keller, and Tommy Henrich of the Yankees), it was the Boston Red Sox, with their own stars returned from the war, who dominated the American League and seemed to have the makings of baseball's next dynastic team. The 1946 Red Sox, with 104 victories, won the pennant by 12 games over the defending World Series champion Detroit Tigers, and the Yankees were never a factor finishing third, 17 games behind Boston. Led by Ted Williams in left, Dom DiMaggio in center, Bobby Doerr at second, and Johnny Pesky at shortstop, and with Tex Hughson, Boo Ferriss, Mickey Harris, and Joe Dobson anchoring a solid starting rotation, the Red Sox looked to be the team to beat for years—especially since the Yankees, despite Joe DiMaggio and their returned veterans from the war, looked to be getting old kind of fast. And the Red Sox improved their team with the arrivals of catcher Birdie Tebbetts in a 1947 trade with the Tigers; power-hitting shortstop Vern Stephens in a trade with the Browns in 1948 (Pesky moving over to third); and Billy Goodman, who could play almost anywhere but started his Red Sox career at first base, as a rookie, also in 1948. While Ferriss and Hughson never again approached their 1946 success because of injuries—both would soon be out of major league baseball—and shoulder problems sidelined Harris, Boston's pitching was enhanced by the arrivals of lefty Mel Parnell and right-hander Ellis Kinder in 1948.

In “How Important Are Best Players to Achievement?”—Chapter Three on the NL side—I postulated that having “best players” is a necessary condition for “best teams,” but that alone may not be sufficient for significant accomplishment. The **1946 to 1950 Boston Red Sox** would certainly seem to embody this point. Of seven position players who were core regulars on this team for at least three of the five years, five were among the league's 10

best position players in the surrounding decade—Williams, Doerr, Stephens, Pesky, and DiMaggio—and Parnell was one of the league's five best pitchers. Williams and DiMaggio as two of three outfielders, Doerr at second base, Pesky as a multi-position regular (switching from short to third in 1948 to accommodate Stephens), and Parnell as one of five starting pitchers were the best at their positions in the American League during all or the majority of this Boston team's run; Stephens would have been at shortstop if not for Cleveland's Lou Boudreau (1944-48) and then New York's Phil Rizzuto (1949-53); and had I considered such a category, Kinder would have been the league's best multi-role pitcher, being converted from an excellent starter into the league's best relief pitcher in 1950.

With this core group of players, the 1946-50 Red Sox led the league in runs scored in four of the five years, and were second in 1947. Playing at Fenway Park, it is perhaps understandable that this team was not among the stingiest teams in the league in surrendering runs, but they gave up the third fewest runs in 1946 and 1948, and were fourth in 1949. Boston's pitching during these years was good, particularly with Parnell and Kinder as a formidable duo, just not deep—and that was a problem even with the imposing line-up the Red Sox had, particularly after the arrival of Stephens. Defensively, the Red Sox were certainly competent, usually among the teams with the fewest errors (they led the league with the least errors in 1946 and 1950). Their defensive efficiency in making outs on balls put into play, however, was never better than third best in the league (in 1948) and below the league average three times, which is consistent with the team's reputation even at the time of not being especially good in the field. They were certainly not up to the Yankees' standard—first or second in defensive efficiency every year from 1946 to 1950.

They could have been a dominant team, they maybe should have been a dominant team, but the fact remains: the 1946-50 Boston Red Sox won only the one pennant in 1946 (with Joe Cronin as manager), which would be their last for at least three baseball generations until 1967. Under new manager Joe McCarthy, who had such great success with the Yankees, Boston finished the 154-game schedule of the 1948 season in a tie with Cleveland but lost a one-game playoff and the pennant to the Cleveland Indians. This game was most notable for McCarthy's controversial decision to start an over-the-hill Denny Galehouse, who had made only 14 previous starts for the Red Sox, instead of Parnell or Kinder, neither of whom had pitched in the season-closing series against the Yankees. And in 1949, the Red Sox lost a classic pennant race to the Yankees on the last day of the season at Yankee Stadium, needing—and failing to get—only one victory against New York in either of the last two games that would have secured their entry to the World Series.

Boston's most fundamental problem was being behind the curve at a time when having a capable bullpen with a dedicated ace reliever was coming into vogue. Joe Page starred in that role for the 1947 and 1949 Yankees, playing an instrumental part in both pennants. Indeed, without Page and his 13 victories and 27 saves in relief, the Yankees would not have been in position to steal the pennant from the Red Sox on the final weekend of the 1949 season. And in 1948, the pitching staff of the pennant-winning Indians may have been headlined by starters Bob Feller and Bob Lemon, but Cleveland would not have finished the regular season in a dead heat with Boston, necessitating the one-game playoff, without the bullpen trio of Russ Christopher—who led the league with 17 saves—Eddie Kleiman, and Steve Gromek. That the Red Sox' bullpen was so inadequate may seem somewhat surprising since McCarthy, when he managed the Yankees, not only benefited from a strong relief corps, but specifically cultivated Johnny Murphy to be his "fireman" in the bullpen. It was not until McCarthy resigned as Boston manager early in the 1950 season that Ellis Kinder

was specifically designated the Red Sox' relief ace, a role at which he would be best in the league till the mid-1950s.

The 1946-50 Red Sox would seem to have had the best team in the league when you consider their core group of regulars, and they certainly were a dominant team offensively, yet their achievements were significantly less than would have been expected (even though they came painfully close to winning a second and third pennant during those years). Maybe it was because the pitching was not deep, and—until Kinder became the relief ace in 1950—the bullpen less than effective. (True enough.) Maybe it was because the team's offense was too one-dimensional, geared to the power game. (True enough.) Maybe it was because there was little quality depth behind the regular position players. (Also true enough.) Maybe it was because McCarthy had lost his edge. (Quite possibly true, it being that McCarthy was 61 years old when he took over in Boston.) Or maybe it was because—

—Of those damn Yankees! The **1946 to 1950 New York Yankees** were closing out the Joe DiMaggio era, and they did so with grit and determination. The return of their war veterans in 1946 was good only for a non-competitive third-place finish and the retirement (which turned out to be temporary) of a burned-out McCarthy as their manager. But the Yankees won the 1947 pennant by 12 games (Bucky Harris now the manager), with Boston finishing third, and in 1948 were in the thick of a three-team pennant race the entire last month of the season. Losing in Boston on the last two days of the regular season forced the Yankees to settle for the disappointment of third place and propelled the Red Sox into their one-game playoff with the Indians. New York's revenge came the next year when they beat Boston on the last two days of the season to win the 1949 pennant by a single game—a loss either day would have meant finishing in second place—and in 1950 the Yankees won the pennant by three games over Detroit. The 1946-50 Yankees were triumphant in all three World Series they played. The 1949 and 1950 championships were the start of something new and, as the first two years of Casey Stengel's twelve years at the Yankees' helm, are considered by me primarily as part of the 1949-53 Yankees that won five pennants and five World Series in five years.

But this is about the Yankees of 1946 to 1950. Except for the fact that the Yankees won three pennants and World Series to the Red Sox' one and none during this five-year period, the teams were remarkably comparable. They each won exactly 476 games during these five years. They even split 50/50 the 110 games they played against each other. The Red Sox had one more loss than the Yankees (298 to 297) because of that playoff game in 1948, which they lost. Both teams had one year in which they were not competitive—the Yankees finishing third, 17 games behind, in 1946, and the Red Sox finishing third, 14 games behind, in 1947. The Red Sox led the league in scoring four times, the Yankees did once (in 1947), but were second to Boston in 1948, 1949, and 1950.

If Boston's particular strength was scoring runs (although the Yankees were pretty good at that too), New York's biggest advantage over the Red Sox was pitching and defense. The Yankees led the league in fewest runs allowed in 1946 and 1947, and were second in giving up the least runs to Cleveland's superb pitching staff in each of the next three years. The Red Sox had Parnell and Kinder from 1948 to 1950, but the Yankees had more depth with Allie Reynolds—one of the league's five best pitchers from 1946 to 1952—Vic Raschi, and Eddie Lopat. Were it not for Parnell, Detroit's Hal Newhouser, and the Indians' brilliant duo of Bob Feller and Bob Lemon, (joined by Mike Garcia in 1949 and Early Wynn in 1950),

either Raschi or Lopat or (more likely) both would have joined their teammate Reynolds in the ranks of the five best pitchers in the league from 1948 to 1952, according to me. The Yankees also had the league's best relief pitcher during this period, Joe Page, whose years of greatness were regrettably few, in part because he was battling some of his own personal demons.

Meanwhile, Dom DiMaggio's older brother Joe (sorry, couldn't resist putting it that way) had legitimately great years in 1947 and 1948, and in 1949 a truly heroic one in which his in-season comebacks in June, from a debilitating spring bone spur on his heel, and in September, after a bout of pneumonia, seemed all at the expense of the Boston Red Sox. Shortstop Phil Rizzuto was the only Yankee other than DiMaggio to count among the AL's 10 best position players within the 10-year period enveloping the 1946-50 Yankees (and Red Sox). I say "to count," because the up-and-coming Yogi Berra was also among the league's 10 best from 1943 to 1952, but the three years that made for his five best consecutive seasons did not begin until 1950—the final year under consideration for this team—so I cannot in good conscience count him for this Yankee team. On the pitching side, Allie Reynolds was one of the league's five best pitchers in the surrounding decade, and Page the best reliever.

While it is safe to say, at least according to me, that Boston had more "best players" those five years than did New York, this advantage was not so great as to overcome the fact that the Yankees had all around better pitching, much better defense, more depth at the regular positions, and were better managed. Oh, and one other thing, the Yankees had winning records against the second- and third-place clubs in each of their pennant-winning seasons (although that includes an even-up 11-11 season series against Detroit in 1950), while the Red Sox in the three close pennant races they lost (1948, 1949, and 1950), won only one season series against the six other teams (two each year) competing for the pennant. And much as it hurts the Red Sox Nation to say this, Boston and New York may have each won 55 of the 110 games they played against each other those five years, but the Red Sox were 9-13 against the Yankees in both 1949 and 1950—more than the margins each year by which they lost out to New York for the American League pennant.

The Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees have the same combined achievement and dominance scores by my methodology for the years between 1946 and 1950. The Yankees' advantage in achievement—three pennants and three World Series triumphs to the Red Sox' one and none—is a significant card in favor of their being the better team. But it's worth remembering: the two teams won exactly the same number of games in the same period of time. But for a trifling few losses turned to wins—that's how close it was for both these teams—it could just as easily have been the 1946-50 Red Sox (1946, 1948, and 1949) with three pennants, and the 1946-50 Yankees with no more than two (1947 and 1950). And even 1950 might have gone Boston's way. If you therefore discount their actual achievements as being somewhat serendipitous, because a few breaks in Boston's favor could have meant three pennants instead of one (and perhaps short-circuited the Babe's curse), it could easily be said that the Red Sox were the better, more dominant team than the Yankees.

The Red Sox in fact scored significantly higher in the "dominance score" of my methodology, but this was entirely because of their league-leading run-production nearly all of those years. A close look at the runs scored versus runs allowed data, however, provides a more nuanced picture. Boston led the league in scoring four times, and New York finished second to the Red Sox twice. New York, however, allowed fewer runs every year than did

Boston, although with the advantage of Yankee Stadium being much more favorable for pitchers than Fenway Park. The Red Sox scored six percent more runs between 1946 and 1950 than the Yankees, but also gave up 14 percent more runs than their rivals in the Northeast Corridor. Looked at another way, the Yankees scored 33 percent more runs than their game opponents—outscored them by an average of 200 runs per year—while the Red Sox outscored theirs by a significantly smaller average of 167 runs per year, 23 percent more than their opponents.

The most significant difference between the two teams, therefore, according to my methodological approach was the quality of their core regulars. Indicative of the different way these two teams were constructed and managed, the core regulars of the 1946-50 Red Sox accounted for nearly 85 percent of the team's collective player value as represented by the wins above replacement (WAR) metric, while the Yankees' core regulars during those years accounted for only 58 percent. For the Yankees, it was not merely turnover of regulars—such as a different first baseman nearly every year—that accounts for this difference. Boston's core regulars were clearly far more important to the success of their team, but New York may have been ultimately more successful because they had vastly greater depth on the bench and the mound.

The Red Sox had five of their core regulars, including pitchers, who were the best at their position for all or the majority of the years under consideration; the Yankees had four. The Yankees also had four who were among the 10 best position players, five best starting pitchers, or the best reliever in the surrounding decade for both teams, but the Red Sox had six. The biggest difference, however, is in their core players with century legacies whose best consecutive years included at least three of those under consideration. Boston had Ted Williams and Mel Parnell. The Yankees had none. This requires some explanation, especially since both Joe DiMaggio and Yogi Berra were two of baseball's all-time greats. While DiMaggio's best consecutive years, using a player value of 5 wins above replacement as the baseline, extended through 1950, his player value from 1946 to 1950 barely—*barely*—merit him a first-half-century legacy, according to me, not a century legacy. And Berra's best consecutive years did not begin until 1950. Parnell may be considered a controversial choice as one of the American League's 30 best starting pitchers in history because he is not in the Hall of Fame, he won only 123 games while losing 75 in a career only ten years long, he was a twenty-game winner only twice (25-7 in 1949 and 21-8 in 1953), and in only six seasons did he pitch enough innings to qualify for the ERA title. From 1948 to 1953, however, Cleveland's Bob Lemon—who is in the Hall of Fame—was probably the only American League pitcher better than Parnell, and I believe an argument can be made in favor of Parnell being better than Lemon by virtue of him pitching at Fenway Park and Lemon in the more expansive Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

It is a very close call between them as to which was the better team, but, as to the competitive bottom line—

—Three pennants and three World Series championships for the New York Yankees between 1946 and 1950 are . . . well, two pennants and three World Series more than the Boston Red Sox won. It is very hard to go against that. However, it is also hard to argue that Boston did not have the superior team as far as its core regulars are concerned.

What this goes to show is how thin can be the difference between being one of the best teams as measured by accomplishment and being a team with many “best players” that falls short of that standard. How thin? After 154 games, had Boston beaten Cleveland in the 1948 playoff game, and out of 154 games, had Boston won either one of the last two games of the 1949 season against New York, the 1946-50 Red Sox would have had three pennants in five years. And that’s not even to mention 1950, when the Red Sox became the first major league team since the 1936 Yankees to score over 1,000 runs, won 94 games, and finished four back of the Yankees in a season that included the turmoil of a managerial change in June that was the final farewell for Joe McCarthy. (Under new manager Steve O’Neill, Boston had the best record in the American League—3½ games better than New York—from the day he took over till the end of the season.) With Ted Williams and Bobby Doerr and Johnny Pesky and Dom DiMaggio and Vern Stephens and Mel Parnell and Ellis Kinder, *that* team would certainly have been one of the American League’s five best teams in the first half of the twentieth century. *That* team—had they won three pennants in five years, and especially if they added a World Series triumph or two—would also have made a compelling case to be one of the AL’s eight best teams for the full century. To repeat the lesson: “best players” might be a necessary condition for “best teams,” but *that* is not in and of itself a sufficient condition.

In trying to determine what should count more heavily in determining which of these two was the better team—accomplishment (significant advantage to the Yankees) or who had the superior players as their core regulars (equally significant advantage to the Red Sox)—we should perhaps consider how much to weigh the outcome of pennant races that go down to the wire. In the case of the 1946-50 Red Sox, just one additional win in both 1948 and 1949 would have significantly ramped their achievement score from 18 to at least 22 (assuming the Babe’s “curse” would have precluded any World Series triumph), and the Yankees’ would have dropped to 24 by virtue of losing out in 1949, which would have resulted in a total best teams score advantage of 18 in favor of Boston, and there would then be no question as to which was the better team. As it is, according to my methodological approach, even with only one pennant in five years, compared to the Yankees’ three and three World Series trophies, the performance of the Red Sox core regulars during those years still gives Boston a best teams score ten points higher than New York’s.

A strong case can certainly be made that the 1946-50 Boston Red Sox were not as successful as they *should* have been given the quality of their core players. And it is certainly true that, with a deeper roster and better supporting players, the New York Yankees took advantage of their breaks and made their own opportunities, while the Red Sox were unable to exploit theirs. And, well, you have to come back to three pennants and three World Series championships for the Yankees between 1946 and 1950 being two pennants and three World Series better than the Red Sox. But with Williams, Doerr, Pesky, Dom DiMaggio, and Parnell in their prime for Boston, and for New York, Joe DiMaggio’s best years behind him and Berra’s (and Rizzuto’s) still ahead, I have to go with the counterintuitive judgment (when you look at their overall accomplishments) that the Boston Red Sox were actually the better team based on the performances of their core regulars. It’s a very close call, but I tilt toward the Red Sox because a different outcome of only one game in two different seasons could have given them three pennants—and then there would certainly be no debate as to which was the better team.

That’s according to me; you might feel differently, and I would have considerable sympathy for your view.

**2 BEST AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAMS, 1941-1950**

	<b>P-WS</b>	<b>W - L %</b>	<b>Ach</b>	<b>Dom</b>	<b>Play</b>	<b>Total</b>
Boston Red Sox, 1946-50	1 - 0	473-298 .613	18	30	29	77
New York Yankees, 1946-50	3 - 3	473-297 .614	28	20	19	67

P = Pennant    WS = World Series    Ach = Achievement Score  
 Dom = Dominance Factors Score    Play = Players Score    Total = Total Score

When I said earlier that had the 1946-50 Red Sox with Williams and his excellent teammates won three pennants instead of just the one I would surely consider them to have been one of the AL's five best teams in the first half-century, I implicitly acknowledged they were not better, in the Boston pantheon of best teams, than the 1912-18 Red Sox, who round out my top five for the best American League teams between 1901 and 1950. Notwithstanding, however, that *that* team won four pennants and four World Series in seven years, might not the argument I just made for the 1946-50 Red Sox being a better team than their contemporary rivals the Yankees apply to this comparison as well? After all, by my methodology, the dominance score for the 1912-18 Red Sox was only marginally better, and the 1946-50 Red Sox had a much higher players score, with an advantage in the number of core regulars who were the best at their position at the time or among the best position players and pitchers in the surrounding decade. Both Boston teams had only one player with a century legacy, but Ted Williams played all five years for the 1946-50 Red Sox while Tris Speaker was traded away after the first four years of the 1912-18 team's run. In this case, though, the fact that the earlier Boston team endured three close pennant races and won them all—including one in which the second-place Tigers also had 100 wins for the season—while the later Boston lost its three close pennant races settles it for me in favor of the 1912-18 Red Sox.

As for where the 1946-50 Yankees rank in the first 29 years of the Yankee dynasty—which won 17 pennants from 1921 through 1950—the team to compare them against would be the 1920-24 Yankees. The two teams had comparable best team scores across the board for achievement, dominance, and players. Neither team had a high players score, but the 1920-24 Yankees had Babe Ruth in the prime of his career; his player value in wins above replacement in these years alone establish him as the best player in the history of the American League. That said, however, the 1920-24 Yankees were all about Ruth; the Babe was the only core regular on that team, either position player or pitcher, to have been among the league's best in the surrounding decade based on best consecutive years. The 1946-50 Yankees, by contrast, had two position players, one starting pitcher, and their relief ace who fall in that category, according to me based on WAR. With each of their three pennants leading to World Series triumphs, compared to only one in three for the 1920-24 Yankees, I vote in favor of the 1946-50 Yankees as the better team.

## TRANSPARENCY ANNEX

### BOSTON RED SOX, 1946-1950

1 Pennant (1946)  
0 World Series Wins

#### ACHIEVEMENT

1 <sup>st</sup> place (x 3)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place (x 2)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place (x 1)	World Series (x 1)	Score
1 x 3 = 3	2 x 2 = 4	2 x 1 = 2	0	9

**ACHIEVEMENT SCORE** = 9 / 5 years x 10 = **18**

#### DOMINANCE

100 Wins	8 Games Ahead	AL1/Runs Scored	AL1/Fewest Runs Allowed	Score
1	1	4	0	6

**DOMINANCE SCORE** = 6 / 20 (4 x 5 seasons) x 100 = **30**

#### PLAYERS

CORE REGULARS	WAR 1946-50	BEST at POSITION	Decade 1943-52	1 <sup>st</sup> 1/2 20 <sup>th</sup> C	20 <sup>th</sup> C +
2B Bobby Doerr, 1938-51	23.4	1944-50	1944-49 (-1)	no	
SS Vern Stephens, 1948-52	15.7	s/o	1944-50	no	
SS-3B Johnny Pesky, 1942-51	21.7	1942-50 MPR	1946-51	no	
1B/OF Billy Goodman, 1948-56	5.6	no	no		
LF Ted Williams, 1939-60	44.6	1939-57	1946-51	yes	yes
CF Dom DiMaggio, 1940-52	19.3	1946-50	1946-50	no	
C Birdie Tebbetts, 1947-50	4.2	no	no		
P Mel Parnell, 1948-53	17.8	1948-53	1948-52	yes *	yes
P Joe Dobson, 1941-50	17.2	no	no		
SP-RP Ellis Kinder, 1948-55	11.7	no	no		
<b>TEAM WAR, 1946-50 = 214</b>	181.2				
Core WAR= 84.7 % of Team War 42.8 Av. Team WAR + 84.7 %	79.0 / 10 <b>7.9</b>	5.5 / 10 <b>5.5</b>	6 x 1 <b>6</b>	2 x 2 <b>4</b>	2 x 3 <b>6</b>

\* I have given Parnell a half-century legacy by virtue of his best consecutive years, which straddled 1950, counting towards his having a century-plus legacy..

**PLAYERS SCORE** = 7.9 (Base WAR) + 5.5 (Best at Position) + 16 (AL Best) = **29.4**

**NEW YORK YANKEES, 1946-1950**

3 Pennant (1947, 1949, 1950)  
3 World Series Wins (1947, 1949, 1950)

**ACHIEVEMENT**

1 <sup>st</sup> place (x 3)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place (x 2)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place (x 1)	World Series (x 1)	Score
3 x 3 = 9	0	2 x 1 = 2	3 x 1 = 3	14

**ACHIEVEMENT SCORE** = 14 / 5 years x 10 = **28**

**DOMINANCE**

100 Wins	8 Games Ahead	AL1/Runs Scored	AL1/Fewest Runs Allowed	Score
0	1	1	2	4

**DOMINANCE SCORE** = 4 / 20 (4 x 5 seasons) x 100 = **20**

**PLAYERS**

CORE REGULARS	WAR 1946-50	BEST at POSITION	Decade 1943-52	1 <sup>st</sup> 1/2 20 <sup>th</sup> C	20 <sup>th</sup> C +
3b-2B Snuffy Stirnweiss, 1944-48	8.8	no	no		
SS Phil Rizzuto, 1941-54	17.7	no	1947-52	no	
3B Billy Johnson, 1943-50	7.5	no	no		
CF Joe DiMaggio, 1936-51	28.7	1936-51	1946-50	yes *	*
RF Tommy Henrich, 1941-49	18.7	no	no		
C Yogi Berra, 1948-59	10.8	1948-59	no ^	^	^
P Allie Reynolds, 1947-54	12.6	1946-52	1947-52	no	
P Vic Raschi, 1948-53	10.7	no	no		
P Ed Lopat, 1948-54	9.6	no	no		
RP Joe Page, 1945-50	7.7	1945-49	1945-49	yes	no
<b>TEAM WAR, 1946-50 = 228.4</b>	132.8				
Core WAR= 58.1 % of Team War 45.7 Av. Team WAR + 58.1 %	72.3 / 10 <b>7.2</b>	4 / 10 <b>4</b>	4 x 1 <b>4</b>	1 x 2 <b>2</b>	0 <b>0</b>

\* DiMaggio's best consecutive years in the surrounding decade would merit him a half-century legacy for 1901-50, but not a full century legacy; DiMaggio's century-plus legacy is based primarily on his WAR from 1937 to 1942.

^ Berra was one of the 10 best position players in the surrounding decade, but this status does not count for this Yankee team because his standing is based primarily on his player value as represented by WAR from 1950 to 1952; Berra has a century-plus legacy for his best consecutive years from 1950 to 1956.

**PLAYERS SCORE** = 7.2 (Base WAR) + 4 (Best at Position) + 6 (AL Best) = **17.2**

**BEST PLAYERS IN SURROUNDING DECADE**

(based on best consecutive years, informed by wins above replacement)

<b>1946-50 RED SOX and 1946-50 YANKEES</b>		
<b>10 BEST AL POSITION PLAYERS, 1943-52</b>		
	<i>Ted Williams, OF, 1946-51, Bos</i>	
	<i>Joe DiMaggio, OF, 1946-50, NY</i>	
	Lou Boudreau, SS, 1943-48	
	<i>Bobby Doerr, 2B, 1944-49 (-1), Bos</i>	* Berra's standing among the 10 best players does not count for the 1946-50 Yankees because it is based primarily on his WAR from 1950 to 1952.
	<i>Vern Stephens, SS, 1944-50, Bos</i>	
	<i>Phil Rizzuto, SS, 1947-52, NY</i>	
	<i>Johnny Pesky, SS-3B, 1946-51, Bos</i>	
	<i>Dom DiMaggio, OF, 1946-50, Bos</i>	
	George Kell, 3B, 1946-50	
	Yogi Berra, C, 1948-52, NY *	
<b>5 BEST AL PITCHERS + BEST RELIEVER, 1943-52</b>		
	Hal Newhouser, 1944-49	
	Bob Lemon, 1948-52	
	<i>Mel Parnell, 1948-52, Bos</i>	
	Bob Feller, 1946-51	
	<i>Allie Reynolds, 1947-52, NY</i>	
	<i>Joe Page, 1945-49, NY</i>	

**BEST AT POSITION**

1B	York-----→Fain-----→Skowron-----→(60)
2B	(39) Gordon----→Doerr-----→Avila-----→Fox--→(60)
SS	Boudreau-----→Rizzuto-----\Carrasquel-----→
3B	Keltner-----→ Rosen-----→Yost-----→(59)
	Kell-----→
OF	(36) DiMaggio~~~~~→Mantle-----→(62)
OF	(39) Williams~~~~~→
OF	Keller-----\D.DiMaggio-----\Doby-----→Kaline----→(65)
MP	Pesky, SS-3B~~~~~→McDougald, IF-----→
C	Rosar-----→Berra-----→(59)
P	(34) Bridges----→Newhouser-----→Wynn-----→
P	(37) Feller~~~~~→Garcia-----→Lary-----→(61)
P	(39) E."D"Leonard-----→Reynolds-----→Pierce-----→
P	Trout-----→Parnell-----→Ford-----→(64)
P	Hughson~~~~~→Lemon-----→
RP	Page-----→Kinder-----→Staley→(60)
	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58