

NATIONAL LEAGUE PENNANT CONTENDERS

Meet The Atlanta Braves

By LEE WALBURN

You think General Carter felt overwhelmed by those Indians. Imagine how National League pitchers felt having to face the Atlanta (see Milwaukee) Braves.

The Braves led the National League in average runs scored, total bases, doubles and runs batted in. They were second in hits and home runs.

On the other side of the fence, the Braves possess some of the most imposing young pitchers in baseball.

Following is a thumbnail sketch of each of the Atlanta Braves who are scheduled to play here in 1965.

HANK AARON - Hammerin' Hank Aaron will go down as one of the best hitters in National League history. In 1963 he led in five different categories - RBI, total bases, run scored, slugging percentage and home runs.

SANDY ALOMAR - The Braves are testing Alomar at shortstop and second base. He is rated one of the finest defensive players in the organization.

FELIPE ALOU - The Braves gave up front line pitching to acquire Alou from the Giants. Injuries have kept the investment from being a big payoff.

TONY CLONINGER - The Cardinals in 1963 signaled the beginning of the end of their long-standing reign as the center fielder.

ED BAILEY - Ed Bailey adds punch from the left side of the plate and when he's there, Joe Torre will switch to first base.

MIKE DE LA HOZ - Atlanta fans will remember Mike De La Hoz as the third baseman for the 1962 Jacksonville Suns.

WADE BLASINGAME - Wade Blasingame was only 23 years old when he pitched his first major league game.

DAVE ELLERS - A relief specialist, Ellers spent most of the 1964 season performing in the bullpen of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

WALKER - The Braves' hitting instructor, is also a former Atlanta manager. He is well qualified to teach hitting.

WYATT - In his seventh year as pitching coach of the Braves, one of the longest tenures in the majors.

Ken Silvera, former Yankee, White Sox and Phillies catcher, is bullpen coach.



Hank Aaron



Sandy Alomar



Felipe Alou



Ed Bailey



Tony Cloninger



Mike de la Hoz



Ed Blasingame



Dave Ellers



Walker



Wyatt



Ken Silvera



Hank Aaron

Back in 1959, in the Sally League, Lemaster finished 19 major league seasons.

EDDIE MATHEWS - Only six men in major league history have hit more home runs than the Braves' Eddie Mathews.

WARREN SPANH - There are those who contend that Warren Spahn is the greatest left-handed pitcher who ever lived.

LEE MAYE - Lee Maye has been called the most improved player in the National League.

BOB SADOWSKI - Bob Sadowski is a familiar name to Atlanta. One of the most polished pitchers to grace Ponce de Leon Park.

BOB TIETJENAUER - An ex-Cracker, Bob Tietjenauer is one of the most baffling knuckleballers in baseball.

JOE TORRE - Joe Torre, brother of former Atlanta first baseman Frank Torre.

GENE OLIVER - When you think of Gene Oliver you think of power. In eight years of pro ball he has averaged 24 home runs per year.

HANK FISCHER - Parham's don't come much faster than the one thrown by Hank Fischer, a young right-hander.

DENVER LEMASTER - They call Denver Lemaster "The new Warren Spahn."

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WOODY WOODWARD - The Braves feel they hit the jackpot when they signed Woody Woodward.

EDDIE LED - Eddie Led the league twice in homers, 47 and 46.

BOBBY BRAGAN: BORN WINNER

Braves Skipper Came Hard Way, Proves He's Tough Guy to Beat

By JOHN LOGUE

Nineteen Thirty Five was a heckuva year for the Shiraz, Ala. Buckhead Mills baseball team.

The incumbent manager of the Atlanta Braves, Robert Randall "Bobby" Bragan, alternated between a "skin" infield and a Johnson Grass outfield.

And who was on the mound Wednesdays and Sundays? "Lum" Luman Harris, that's who.

In case you aren't up on your baseball genetics, Lum Harris is the new manager of the Houston Colts.

There "ain't" but 28 men managing in the major leagues - and that's counting a head coach in Chicago - and no less than two of them got their elementary education with the Buckhead Mills boys of Shiraz.

THE PHILADELPHIA Phillies signed him in 1937 and he didn't take but three years getting into the big time.

The next three years he played his second base in Philadelphia where he was known more for his battle than his bat.

Brooklyn liked him and him and he hit .267 (spent 1945-46 in military service) and .194 and .167 before returning to the major leagues at Fort Worth, Hollywood and Spokane.

He and Fort Worth finished second and fourth and second and then he managed the Milwaukee Braves to the Pacific Coast pennant in 1954.

He finished second and third there the next two years and in 1956 made his major league debut as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

THE MAN was willing but the flesh was weak in Pittsburgh where the Pirates finished seventh, Cleveland called and Bragan brought the Indians into mid-season sixth in 1958.

He finished seventh in his 1959 Spokane team was fifth and in 1960 Bragan turned his talents to coaching for the Dodgers and then to coaching for the Houston Colts.

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He finished seventh in his 1993 Toronto team was fifth and in 1994 Bragan turned his talents to coaching for the Dodgers and then to coaching for the Houston Colts.

BRAVES' ASSISTANTS DIXIE IN CHARACTER

It was almost as if the Milwaukee Braves were destined for Dixie when they hired their present coaching staff.

Dixie Walker is from Birmingham, Jo Jo White, now a resident of Sacramento, Calif., is from down the road at Red Oak, Ga.

Walker, the Braves' hitting instructor, is also a former Atlanta manager. He is well qualified to teach hitting.

Wyatt is in his seventh year as pitching coach of the Braves, one of the longest tenures in the majors.

Ken Silvera, former Yankee, White Sox and Phillies catcher, is bullpen coach.

Braves Boast Three of Game's Greatest Stars

By LEE WALBURN

These are stars... and then there are super stars. The Braves have three of the latter.

Few teams can boast three active all-time greats like Warren Spahn, Eddie Mathews and Hank Aaron.

Immortality has already been reserved for the names of Spahn, Although he didn't win his first major league game until he was 25.

Spahn has won more games pitched than any other pitcher in the history of baseball.

in history. He had only to strike out 91 batters in 1964 to break Christy Mathewson's National League mark of 2,505 for a career.

SPAHN HAS led the National League in complete games nine times, victories eight times; innings pitched and won-lost percentage twice. In addition, he has won four World Series games and an all-star contest. He has hit more home runs and strikeouts than any pitcher in League history.

Once considered a poor fielder, Mathews was named the third base position until he became adept enough to lead the league in putouts twice. In addition, he has led the league in fielding three times.

He has a lifetime major league batting average of .286 and six times has driven in 100 or more runs.

EDDIE LED the league twice in homers, 47 and 46.

perished by a National League player. He captured five individual titles, leading the league in RBI (136), total bases (330), runs scored (121), slugging percentage (.386) and tied for most home runs (44). If that wasn't enough, he stole 21 bases, second only to Matty Wilk's 40.

Aaron has one of the strongest throwing arms in baseball. He has led the league in right fielders in fielding three times. At 230, his lifetime average is the highest of any active major league player.

Remarkably durable, he has played in 150 games in 13 consecutive seasons. He has played in 43 consecutive all-star games.

In 1963 he had one of the greatest seasons ever experienced by a National League player.

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