

Baseball Replay Guides And More

4 New Guides – All with Comprehensive Transactions

2006	1971	1958	1949
<p>For the third straight season, the American League produced a “miracle” pennant winner. But this time the surprising Detroit Tigers could not beat the St. Louis Cardinals, who avenged a 1968 World Series loss to Detroit.</p> <p>Fans of the New York Mets will want to replay the team with baseball’s best record and give its star-studded lineup a healthy Pedro Martinez and Cliff Floyd in the post-season.</p> <p>The ‘06 campaign was a highlight reel: Monster seasons by Carlos Beltran, David Ortiz, Ryan Howard, Albert Pujols and Lance Berkman. A 40-40 season by Alfonso Soriano. Joe Mauer led the majors with a .347 average and became the first catcher to lead the AL in batting.</p> <p>Johan Santana won a pitching Triple Crown and we saw an unprecedented parade of star rookie pitchers (Justin Verlander, Jered Weaver, Francisco Liriano, Jonathon Papelbon, Matt Cain and a quartet from the Florida Marlins).</p>	<p>The latest in Strat-O-Matic’s historic seasons was the first of SOM’s seasons ever produced in Advanced format. Now it’s in Super Advanced format with e-ratings, supplemental stealing, ballpark effects and other features not available 35 years ago.</p> <p>The season had great hitting and pitching by many of the game’s brightest stars at their best.</p> <p>Four 20-game winners (Jim Palmer, Mike Cuellar, Pat Dobson, Dave McNally) led Baltimore to its third straight AL pennant. Pittsburgh won the World Series with the great Roberto Clemente (.341) and Willie Stargell (.295-48-125).</p> <p>Hank Aaron hit a career-high 47 HR (and .327 with 118 RBIs), Joe Torre hit .363. Rookie Vida Blue (24-8, 1.82) led Oakland to a division title and to the edge of a dynasty, the best of 14 pitchers who won 20 or more games, including Mickey Lolich (25) and Hall of Famers Ferguson Jenkins (24), Catfish Hunter (21), Steve Carlton (20) and Tom Seaver (20).</p>	<p>By adding 1958, we now have Replay Guides available for every season from 1953-1971. This one features a Yankees-Braves World Series rematch and the last New York championship of the pre-expansion era.</p> <p>In ‘58, the Dodgers began life in LA and the Giants in San Francisco. Ernie Banks (.304-47-129) won the first of his two consecutive MVP awards. Richie Ashburn hit .350, Willie Mays .347, Stan Musial .337.</p> <p>The Braves had Hank Aaron (.326, 30 HR), Wes Covington (.330 and 24 HR in 294 AB) and Eddie Mathews (31 HR) and pitchers Warren Spahn (22 wins) and Lew Burdette (20).</p> <p>In New York, Mickey Mantle (.304, 42 HR, 129 walks) led eight Yankees with double-figure HR and Bob Turley won 21 games.</p> <p>Boston had MVP Jackie Jensen (.286-35-122) and batting champ Ted Williams (.328, 26 HR). The AL also had such sluggers as Rocky Colavito (.303-41-113), Bob Cerv (.305-38-104) and Roy Sievers (.295-39-108).</p>	<p>The season brought to life in the book <i>Summer of ‘49</i> had two pennant races decided by a single game on the final day.</p> <p>The Dodgers won in extra innings on the final day to beat out St. Louis. Jackie Robinson (.342-16-124, 38 doubles, 12 triples, 37 steals) won the batting crown and MVP. Stan Musial was right behind (.337-36-123, 41 doubles, 13 triples).</p> <p>Ted Williams (.343-43-159, .650 slugging) missed the Triple Crown by a fraction of a batting point to George Kell, and his Red Sox dropped the final two games of the season in New York to finish behind the Yankees and Joe DiMaggio (who, after missing the first half of the season, roared back to hit .346).</p> <p>Somehow the Red Sox, with Vern Stephens (.290-39-159), Bobby Doerr (.309-18-109), Mel Parnell (25-7, 2.78) and Ellis Kinder (23-6) could not overcome rookie manager Casey Stengel, Vic Raschi (21-10) and Joe Page (13 wins, 27 saves, 2.60 ERA).</p>

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