



The Team That Time Won't Forget: The 1951 New York Giants (SABR Digital Library) (Volume 32)

Bill Nowlin

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Foreword by Monte Irvin Because of Bobby Thomson's dramatic "Shot Heard 'Round the World" in the bottom of the ninth of the decisive playoff game against the Brooklyn Dodgers, the team will forever be in baseball public's consciousness. But of course there is much more to the story of that famous team than a dramatic home run (albeit the most famous and probably the most dramatic home run in baseball history) and sign stealing. After all, the team started the year 2-12 and found itself 13 games out of first place with a little more than six weeks left in the season. They soon peeled off 16 wins in a row and went 37-7 down the stretch to force the famous playoff. The '51 Giants did win 97 games other than the game everyone remembers. The team is also of historic significance because of its role in the integration of baseball. It was the year Willie Mays first showed his brilliance to major-league audiences, in late May joining black teammates Monte Irvin, Hank Thompson, and Ray Noble. At the time, the Dodgers and Giants had most of the smattering of African-American players in the big leagues, and it is no surprise that those two teams battled down to the wire for the National League pennant. Fueled by Giants manager Leo Durocher, who had previously managed the Dodgers, the two teams simply did not like each other and they showed it. Beanballs, flashing spikes, and brawls and near brawls were the order of the day. It is, of course, a rivalry that endures today, with both clubs having moved to the West Coast in 1958. For any number of reasons, the '51 Giants truly are the team that time won't forget. It is the aim of this book to assure that to be true by providing an in depth look at and future resource about that historic team. Includes a foreword by Giants outfielder Monte Irvin, as well as biographies of players George Bamberger, Roger Bowman, Al Corwin, Alvin Dark, Al Gettel, Red Hardy, Clint Hartung, Jim Hearn, Monte Irvin, Larry Jansen, Sheldon Jones, Spider Jorgensen, Monte Kennedy, Alex Konikowski, Dave Koslo, Jack Kramer, Whitey Lockman, Jack Lohrke, Sal Maglie, Jack Maguire, Willie Mays, Don Mueller, Ray Noble, Earl Rapp, Bill Rigney, Hank Schenz, George Spencer, Eddie Stanky, Hank Thompson, Bobby Thomson, Wes Westrum, Davey Williams, Artie Wilson, and Sal Yvars, manager Leo Durocher, coaches Freddie Fitzsimmons, Herman Franks, and Frank Shellenback, broadcasters Russ Hodges and Ernie Harwell, and team owner Horace Stoneham. Also included are chapters on the Polo Grounds, recaps of notable games, the integration of the Giants, sign-stealing, the 1951 All Star Game, World Series, and more. Contributors: Alan Cohen, Alexander Edelman, Andy Sturgill, Armand Peterson, Bill Johnson, Bo Carter, Brian McKenna, C. Paul Rogers III, Charles F. Faber, Clayton Trutor, Curt Smith, Dan Fields, David H. Lippman, David W. Smith, Don Harrison, Dr. Lawrence Hogan, Eric Aron, Greg Erion, Gregory H. Wolf, James E. Elfers, James Forr, Janice A. Petherchak, Jeff Findley, Jeffrey Marlett, Jimmy Keenan, Joe Phillips, John T. Saccoman, Judith Testa, Lyle Spatz, Mark S. Sternman, Matt Bohn, Maurice Bouchard, Monte Irvin, Nicholas Diunte, Peter M. Gordon, Rick Swaine, Rob Garratt and Steve Treder, Rob Neyer, Rory Costello, Scott Ferkovich, Skip Nipper, Stew Thornley, Terry Bohn, Thomas Ayers, Tom Hawthorn.

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