November 15, 1951

Controversy

Gil McDougald of the New York Yankees and Willie Mays of the New York Giants are named the 1951 Rookies of the Year in their respective leagues in voting by the same 24-man committee of the Baseball Writers Association of America (three from each league city) that also selects the Most Valuable Player awards.

Where Mays is an overwhelming choice by the panel, McDougald's narrow 13-11 selection over Chicago's Minnie Minoso raises some eyebrows ... in earlier MVP voting by the *same voting panel*, Minoso was fourth in balloting with 120 points, while McDougald finishes a distant ninth with 63 points.

Thinks Minoso 'Rookie of Year'

Chicago, Nov. 15 (AP)—The baseball writer's selection of the Yankees' Gil McDougald as American League rookie of the year over Minnie Minoso of the White Sox prompted a we-wuz-robbed outburst tonight by Frank Lane.

The White Sox general manager declared:

"It begins to appear that you have o be on a pennant winner to capture he rookie award or the most valuable player honor. If that's the way they are picked both awards might as well be abandoned.

"McDougald is a good ball player. I don't want to take anything away from him. However, his record just didn't compare with Minoso's. As a matter of fact, he just barely topped the required 400 times at bat, with 402, while Minnie was at bat 530 times.

"Minnie led the league in triples, stolen bases and hit batsmen and was second in runs scored and doubles. He played six different positions. It wasn't his fault that he wasn't on a pennant winner. He's my rookie of the year regardless of how the baseball writers voted.

"Minoso, in my estimation, was the most valuable player in the league. It certainly wasn't Berra."

Yogi Berra, Yank catcher, previously was chosen most valuable player.

On the season, Minoso outhits McDougald, .326 to .306 and is named to the AL All-Star team while McDougald is not ... in addition, Minoso leads the American League in triples (14) and stolen bases (31) and scores 40 more runs than McDougald and has 13 more RBIs.

Both players are versatile, playing more than one position ... the 23-year-old McDougald plays third base (82 games) and second base (55) for the world champion Yankees ... the 25-year-old Minoso plays right field (43), left field (42), center field (2), third base (68) and shortstop (1) for the fourth-place White Sox.

"Tale of the Tape"

	Minoso	McDougald
Games	**138**	131
At Bats	**530**	473
Runs	**112**	72
Hits	**173**	123
2B	**34**	23
3B	**14**	4
HR	10	**14**
RBI	**76**	63
SB	**31**	14
Average	**.326**	.306
Slug%	**.500**	.488
OPS	**.922**	.884

A New York Associated Press story attempts to explain the panel's decision with the following rationale: "Gil was a most important clutch hitter in the important stretch series when Berra was slumping. Minoso's contribution was most spectacular in early season when the go-go-Sox were rambling alone in first place."

Let's take a closer look at this explanation.

During the season's final month of September, McDougald does hit a solid .313 and drives in 10 runs in 28 games, but Minoso also drives in 10 runs in 25 games and hits .347, hitting safely in all but three games ... three of McDougald's 10 RBIs do come in the Yankees' pennant-clinching doubleheader sweep of the Boston Red Sox on the second-to-last day of the season.

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