May 6, 1919 Papa Bear was a Yankee

Future NFL Hall of Fame coach George Halas makes his major league baseball debut with the New York Yankees in a 3-2 loss to Philadelphia before 1,500 at the Athletics' Shibe Park ... a three-sport star at the University of Illinois, the 24-year-old Halas bats lead off against Philadelphia starter Scott Perry, collecting one hit in four at bats and making one put out in right field.



Signed by scout Bob Connery on December 18, 1918, Halas will play in 12 games for Yankees' manager Miller Huggins, finishing with two hits in 22 at bats for a Mendoza-like batting average of .091 ... he plays his final major league game against the Washington Senators on July 5.

MACKMEN WAL YANKS IN TENTH

First Home Athletics Take Game From New York, 3-2-Shannon's Singles in Tenth Brings Philadelphia Victory

Philadelphia, May 6.—Shannon's single in the tenth inning today gave Philadelphia its first home victory over New York 3 to 2. The Yankees made more than twice as many hits as the locals and had opportunities to score in nearly every inning, but generally they could not put the runn over. Perry was wild and not particularly effective but when things threatened the tightened up and except upon one occasion held the visitors safe. The score:

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Halaa, rf. ... 40 1 1 0 Kopp, lf. 4 0 0 1 0
Vick xx, rf. ... 10 0 0 0 The as, 35 3 0 1 2
Peckin has, 2 1 2 0 4 Roth, rf. ... 5 0 0 3 0
Pipp, lb. ... 3 0 110 1 Burns, lb. i 1 112 0
Parkt, 2b. ... 4 0 0 1 2 Witt, cf. ... i 1 12 0
Pratt, 2b. ... 4 0 0 1 2 Witt, cf. ... i 1 12 0
Pratt, 2b. ... 4 0 2 4 3 Shan'n, 2b 4 0 1 2 4
Lewis, lf. ... 4 1 1 4 0 Dugan, as, 3 0 0 2 1
Bodic, cf. ... 4 0 1 1 1 Perkins, c 0 0 0 0 2
Ruet, c. ... 5 0 0 7 2 Waiker, z 0 0 0 0 0
Thorles, p. 1 0 1 0 5 Dykes, zz. 0 1 0 0 0
Shawkey, p. 1 0 0 1 1 M'A'y, zz. 1 0 0 4 0
Totals, ... 34 2102910 Kinney, p. 1 0 0 0 0 PHILADELPHIA

On July 11, with the Yankees in second place 1 1/2 games behind the Chicago White Sox, Huggins announces that he is sending the switch-hitting Halas to the St. Paul Saints of the American (AA) Association.

Halas will complete the 1919 season with Saints, appearing in 39 games and hitting a respectable .274 (23-for-84) with a pair of doubles and one triple.

Halas is associated with the Chicago Bears and the NFL from their inception in 1920 until his death in 1983 .. Halas coaches the Bears for 40 seasons and his 318 regular-season wins and 324 total victories are NFL records until broken by Don Shula in 1993.