

On This Date

May 25, 1951



New York Giants' manager Leo Durocher, left, chats with Willie Mays, right, his rookie outfielder, before the game with the Philadelphia Phillies.

On May 25, 1951, New York Giants outfielder Willie Mays makes his major league debut against the Philadelphia Phillies. In a match-up of native Alabamians, Mays strikes out looking in the 1st inning against right-hander Bubba Church. The 20-year-old centerfielder is 0-for-5 in the Giants' 8-5 win before 21,082 in Shibe Park.

Mays is hitting an American Association-leading .477 for the Minneapolis Millers with eight home runs and 30 RBIs in 35 games when his contract is purchased by the Giants on May 24. Giants' manager Leo Durocher says that he will install his rookie phenom in centerfield, moving Bobby Thomson over to left.

In his first seven games with the Giants, Mays is 1-for-26 (.039) with his lone hit a home run off of Warren Spahn on May 28. Mays will total 18 home runs off of Spahn, the most against any pitcher in Mays' 23-year career.

New York	abr h a	Phila'phia	abr h a
Stanky 2b	4 1 3 2	Waitkus 1b	5 1 4 0
Lockman 1b	5 0 2 0	Ashburn cf	4 0 0 0
Mays cf	5 0 0 0	Sisler lf	5 0 1 0
Thompson 3b	3 2 0 3	Ennis rf	3 0 0 1
Westrum c	2 1 2 1	W. Jones 3b	3 0 0 2
Irvin rf	5 1 0 0	Hamner ss	4 2 1 3
Dark ss	5 1 4 3	Seminick c	4 0 0 0
Thomson lf	4 2 1 0	Goliat 2b	4 2 1 2
Hearn p	2 0 0 2	Church p	3 0 1 0
a-Mueller	1 0 0 0	Miller p	0 0 0 0
Spencer p	0 0 0 0	Konstanty p	0 0 0 0
b-Jorgensen	1 0 0 0	c-Whitman	1 0 0 0
S. Jones p	0 0 0 0		

Totals 37 8 12 11 | Totals 36 5 8 10

a—Fouled out for Hearn in 7th.

b—Flied out for Spencer in 8th.

c—Flied out for Konstanty in 9th.

New York	010	100	150—8
Philadelphia	120	002	000—5

E: Lockman 2. Stanky. Dark. Ennis, Hamner. RBI: Sisler. Hamner. Goliat, Waitkus. Dark 2. Westrum. Lockman 3. Thomson. 2B: Stanky. Lockman. Waitkus. 3B: Sisler. HR: Hamner. Goliat. Westrum. S: Ashburn. DP: Goliat. Hamnera and Waitkus: Ennis and Church: Konstanty and Waitkus. Left: New York 8. Philadelphia 7. B: Church 4. Konstanty 2. Hearn 2. SO: Church 5. Hearn 1. Jones 1. HO: Hearn 7 in 6 innings; Spencer 0 in 1; Jones 1 in 2; Church 9 in 7. Miller 2 in 1-3; Konstanty 1 in 1 2-3. Winner: Spencer (2-1). Loser: Miller (1-1). Attendance 21,082.