

Wartime Baseball in Hawaii

1944: Here Come the Big Leaguers

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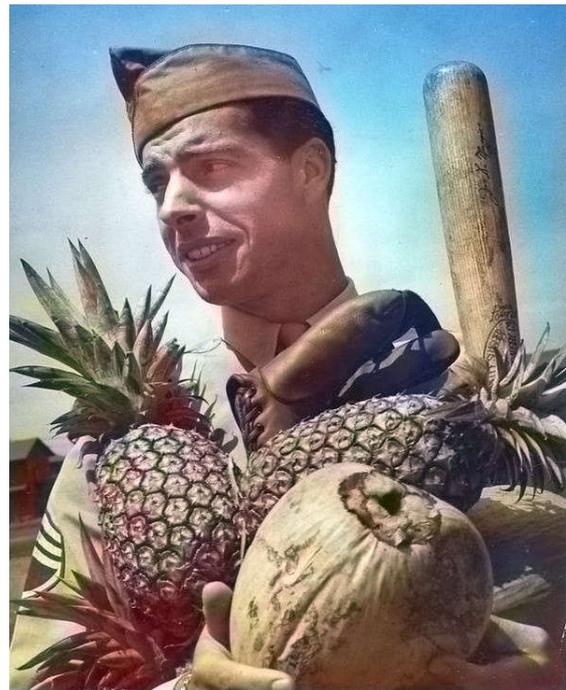
Upon starting this Hawaiian baseball adventure back in May of this year, I looked upon it as a welcome distraction from the coronavirus pandemic that was causing upheaval in our daily routines.

I realized that as I tackled each year (1941, 1942, 1943, etc.) the amount of baseball being played in Hawaii was increasing and each year required greater time to be researched thoroughly. That has certainly been the case with 1944 and will, no doubt, be the same for 1945. With around 40 former major leaguers in Hawaii in 1944, the standard of games increased, as did the number of leagues required to accommodate the passion for American servicemen to watch and play their beloved national pastime. On the following pages you'll learn about the players, the leagues, the games and pivotal moments in Hawaiian wartime baseball.

It must seem a tad strange that someone who is English-born and living in Scotland should take such a keen interest in, not only baseball – as it is a minority sport here – but in wartime baseball. One part of the puzzle is easy to explain as I've always had an interest in World War II history, but there is another link to this era of baseball that I have only recently been giving some thought to. I grew up in the 1970s, playing and following baseball in the suburbs of London, which, in itself, is not the norm, but that's another story. In the 1970s, we didn't have baseball on TV (other than a 30-minute World Series highlight show once a year), I couldn't put on the TV and see how my favorite team was doing and I was a long way from the nearest major league or minor ballpark. So, I followed the game through newspapers and the radio, much like they would have done in the 1940s. I would read every baseball-related word in the International Herald Tribune (even though it was related to games

played two days beforehand), and would listen to games on the radio, thanks to the Armed Forces Radio Network. Broadcast for the benefit of American servicemen in Europe, it was transmitted from an air base in Germany. Live baseball games came on air between midnight and 2am because of the time difference, and the signal was terribly weak, drifting in and out of clarity as it fought for space between classical music and German talk shows. Nevertheless, I clung to every opportunity I had to enjoy the game in a way that most young people of today's digital age could hardly begin to imagine. In a way that resembled an era that continues to fascinate me - baseball in wartime.

I hope you enjoy my overview of baseball in Hawaii in 1944. It's been a pleasure putting this newsletter together.



Gary Bedingfield

Don't forget to visit my websites!

www.baseballinwartime.com

www.baseballsgreatestsacrifice.com

Cover art: The cover art was created by my good friend Tim Godden and celebrates the date of the first game played by Joe DiMaggio in Hawaii. You can see more of Tim's baseball-inspired artwork here timgoddenillustrations.bigcartel.com
Twitter: @TJGodden Instagram: TJGodden

Wartime Baseball in Hawaii

1944: Here Come the Big Leaguers

In the campaigns of late 1943 and the first half of 1944, the Allies in the Pacific Theater had captured the Solomon, Gilbert and Marshall Islands, and the Papuan peninsula of New Guinea. While in the Mediterranean Theater, Allied forces slowly advanced through Italy and a massive build-up of troops and supplies was taking place in Great Britain in preparation for an invasion of mainland Europe.

By the start of the 1944 major league baseball season, around 340 big league players were in military service (60 had been drafted into service since the close of the 1943 season), plus more than 3,000 from the minors. The war had already claimed the lives of 53 minor league players; by the end of the year a further 53 names would be added to that list.

Just as it had in 1943, military baseball continued its expansion in Hawaii during 1944. Leagues in operation included the Schofield Barracks League, Central Pacific Area League, 14th Naval District League, Seabee League, Fort Hase League, Army Post & Service Command League, Pearl Harbor League and the Hourglass League, with military teams dominating both the Honolulu and Hawaii leagues.

Over 50 major league players were on Hawaiian soil at some point in 1944, including seven Hall of Famers, and while the Cardinals and Browns battled their way through the "Streetcar" World Series in St. Louis, a team of major league players assembled by the Navy – probably the most talent-laden team to play in 1944 – were dominating the Army on the ballfields of Hawaii.

Honolulu League

The 1944 Honolulu League season, which ran from January 31 to April 23, featured 20 teams in two divisions of 10. Returning from 1943 were the Hawaiian Air Depot (HAD) and the defending champions, Fort Shafter, with new additions Pearl Harbor Receiving Station, Camp Catlin Gators, Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons, Pearl Harbor Marines, 7th Army Air Force Fliers and two teams composed of black servicemen: Atkinson Athletic Club and the Red Sox.

The Pearl Harbor Marines got off to a strong start winning their first five games. Marine hurler Andy Steinbach beat the Mutual Telephone Company, 6-0, allowing two hits and striking out 13 on February 10, and defeated Atkinson Athletic Club, 5-3, scattering three hits

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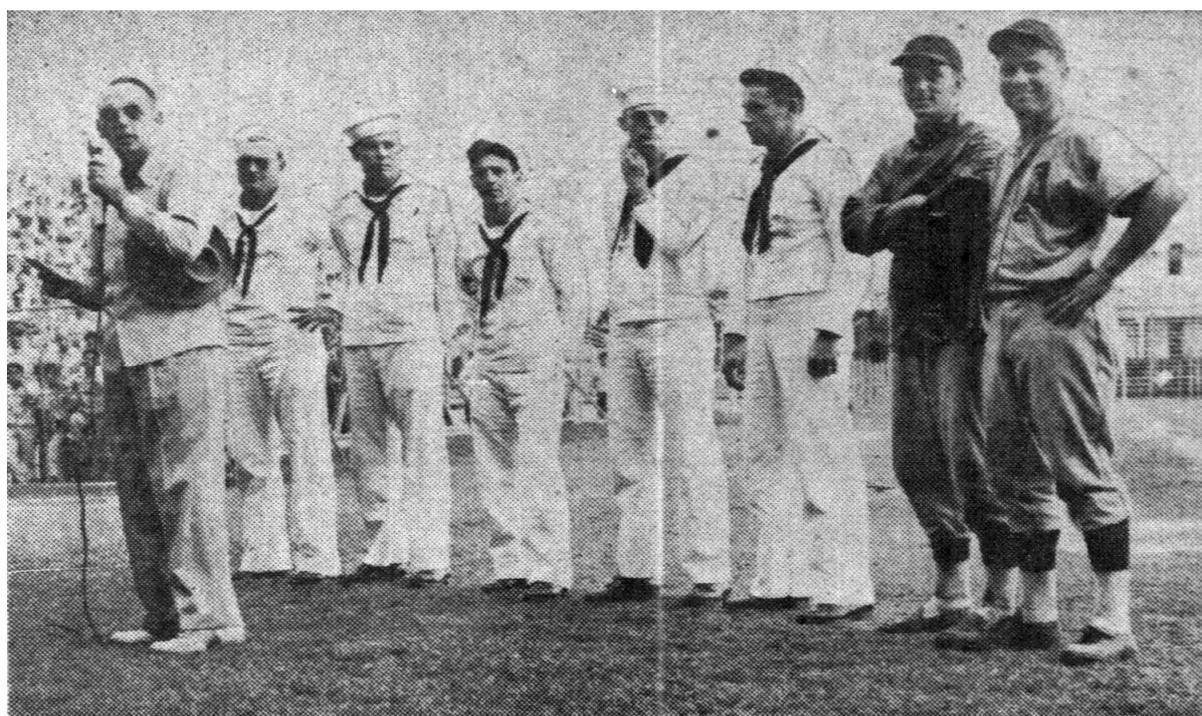
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while all three runs were unearned. Steinbach, from Chicago, Illinois, had won 15 games with the Wisconsin Rapids White Sox in 1941. On February 25, Tom Ferrick – a relief pitcher with the Cleveland Indians in 1942 – made his debut in Hawaii with the Camp Gatlin Gators, hurling a no-hitter to beat the Coast Guard Cutters, 5-0. A further two major leaguers appeared in Honolulu League play with the arrival of St. Louis Browns second baseman Johnny Lucadello and Detroit Tigers outfielder Barney McCosky, who made their debuts with the Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons on March 5. Brooklyn Dodgers relief ace Hugh Casey also joined the Aiea Naval Barracks team on April 16, and although the team finished in second place behind the Pearl Harbor Marines in regular season East Division play, it's no wonder they went on to clinch the Honolulu League Cronin Series with an outstanding 17-1 record, clinching the title with a 3-0 win over the Hawaiian Air Depot on April 23.



Major league arrivals being introduced to the crowd at a Honolulu League game on March 19, 1944. Announcer Joe Rose introduces, from left to right: Johnny Mize, Tom Ferrick, Eddie Pellagrini, Joe Grace, Marv Felderman, Barney McCosky and Johnny Lucadello

Top hitter in the league was Marine Corps first baseman Sam Mele, who would sign with the Boston Red Sox after the war and enjoy a 10-year major league career before managing the Minnesota Twins for seven years. Mele batted .358 with seven-year minor league veteran Ed Jabb in second place with a .341 average. Marine Corps workhorse Andy Steinbach led the pitchers with 11 wins against three losses, while minor leaguer Eddie Funk of the 7th Army Air Force led the ERA department at 1.24.

Honolulu League (regular season standings)

East Division

Pearl Harbor Marines	8	1	.889
Aiea Naval Barracks	7	2	.778
7 th Army Air Force	6	3	.667
Mutual Telephone Company	6	3	.667
Police	6	3	.667
Camp Catlin Gators (USMC)	4	5	.441
Coast Guard Cutters	4	5	.441
Atkinson Athletic Club	2	7	.222
Kalihi	1	8	.111
Tripler Army Medical Center	1	8	.111

West Division

Pearl Harbor Civilians	6	1	.857
Rainbows	7	2	.778
Fort Shafter	7	2	.778
Waikiki	7	2	.778
Hawaiian Air Depot	5	3	.625
CHA-3 Volunteers	4	5	.444
Engineers	3	5	.375
Pearl Harbor Receiving Station	2	7	.222
St. Louis Hospital	1	8	.111
Red Sox	1	8	.111

Honolulu League - Cronin Series (final standings)

Aiea Naval Barracks	17	1	.944
Pearl Harbor Marines	14	4	.776
7 th Army Air Force	10	7	.588
Mutual Telephone Company	8	8	.500
Rainbows	6	8	.420
Waikiki	6	9	.400
Pearl Harbor Civilians	5	9	.357
Hawaiian Air Depot	5	10	.333
Fort Shafter	4	10	.286
Police	3	10	.200

Hawaii League

The Hawaii League made an interesting announcement on April 17. Two Honolulu League teams – 7th AAF and Aiea Naval Barracks – applied to play in the league. The AAF were admitted but Aiea Naval Barracks' request was rejected. This was a somewhat surprising choice as the 7th AAF had only managed a third-place finish in the Honolulu League, while Aiea Naval Barracks had dominated all comers with a 17-1 record. Furthermore, the addition of the 7th AAF took the league from six teams to seven, an unusual number for a league to operate with. Could this have had anything to do with a certain Joltin' Joe who was rumored to be on his way to Hawaii to join the 7th AAF line-up?



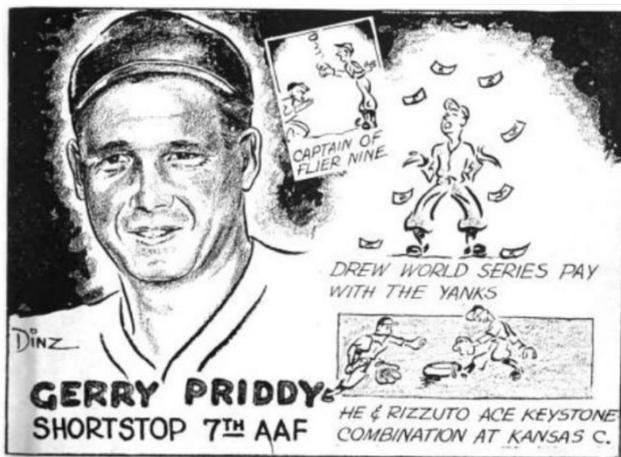
Walt Judnich

Playing its 20th season, the Hawaii League opened on May 7 with the Navy –represented by the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base and winners of the league the previous year – being the other military entrant. The season started well for the Navy with Walt Masterson hurling a 3-1 win over the Athletics before 12,000 fans at Honolulu Stadium. Two days later the 7th AAF made their league debut and defeated the Hawaiis, 1-0, on the four-hit pitching of Eddie Funk. The two military teams met for the first time in league competition on May 14, and Funk got the better of Masterson as the 7th AAF took the win, 6-4.

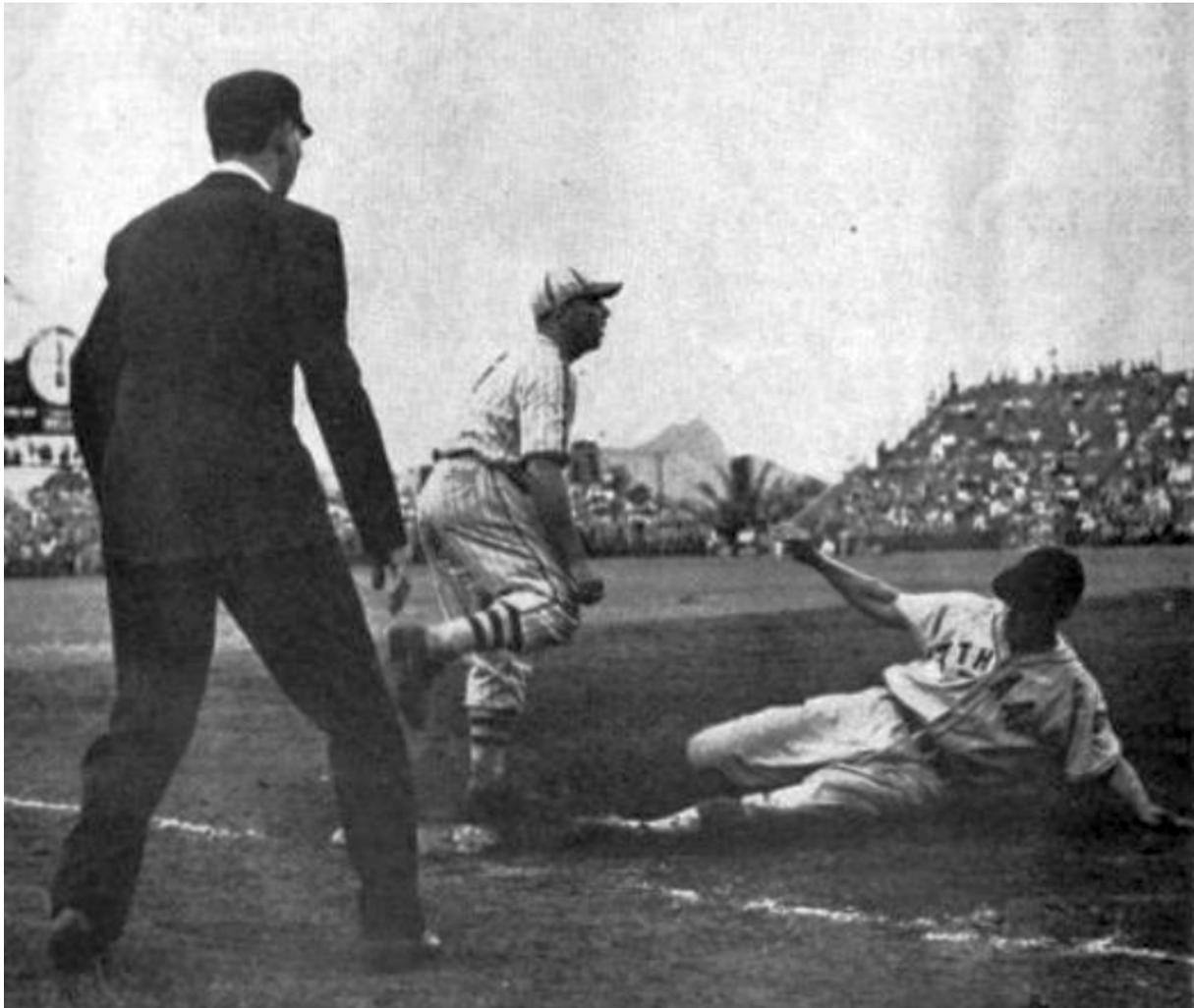
By the beginning of June, the Navy were leading the league with a 6-1 record, while the 7th AAF could only manage third place with a record of three wins and four losses. But things were about to change. The arrival of

many Army servicemen major league players in early June – led by Joe DiMaggio – would soon catapult the strength of the 7th AAF into the stratosphere. Among those joining the line-up in addition to DiMaggio were St. Louis Browns outfielder Walt Judnich, Washington Senators third baseman Dario Lodigiani, Cincinnati Reds outfielder Mike McCormick, Washington Senators second baseman Jerry Priddy and hard-hitting first baseman Ferris Fain of the Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals.

By June 27, the Navy led the league with a 12-2 record, while the 7th AAF remained in third place at 9-4. Sailors dominated the league leaders: Rankin Johnson of the Philadelphia Athletics was the league's leading pitcher, while the Athletics' Al Brancato was the top hitter, closely followed by 12-year post-war minor leaguer Mo Mozzali. DiMaggio, who led the home run department with five, would miss the majority of the season due to illness, but New York Yankees second baseman and future Hall of Famer, Joe Gordon, would help plug the offensive gap for the 7th AAF, while another Yankee and fellow Hall of Famer, Red Ruffing, would provide pitching depth.



The 7th AAF team went on a winning streak and moved into first place on July 16, with an 8-1 win over the Navy before a record-breaking crowd of 26,000 at Honolulu Stadium. By early August, Jerry Priddy of the Washington Senators was leading Hawaii League hitters with a .390 average and the 7th AAF had notched up 17 consecutive wins. On August 31, the 7th AAF clinched the Hawaii League title with an 8-1 win over the Tigers, that was helped by a grand slam from Ferris Fain. Their next target was to take the Hawaii League's Cartwright Series, which began on September 12 with the 7th AAF defeating the Hawaiis, 9-4. Two days later they pummeled the Braves, 13-1, with Walt Judnich of the St. Louis Browns hitting two home runs, two doubles and a single, while newly arrived Johnny Beazley, formerly of the St. Louis Cardinals, went six innings and allowed six hits. The next day, despite the Navy line-up being strengthened with the additions of Boston Red Sox outfielder Dom DiMaggio, New York Yankees shortstop Phil Rizzuto and Cincinnati Reds first baseman Eddie Shokes, the 7th AAF clinched the Cartwright Series title with a 7-5 win, thanks to a further two home runs from Judnich.



Bob Dillinger slides into third during Hawaii League game with the Braves

Hawaii League – Regular Season standings

	W	L	Pct.
7 th Army Air Force	31	4	.886
P.H. Sub Base	27	9	.750
Braves	20	15	.571
Hawaiis	15	21	.417
Tigers	14	22	.389
Athletics	9	27	.250
Wanderers	9	27	.250

Hawaii League - Cartwright Series standings

	W	L	Pct.
7 th Army Air Force	3	0	1.000
P.H. Sub Base	1	2	.333
Hawaiis	1	2	.333
Braves	1	2	.333





Figure 17th AAF - Hawaii League Champions 1944. Back row, left to right: Walt Judnich, Bill Leonard, Joe DiMaggio, Carl DeRose, Bill Schmidt, Al Lien, Tom Winsett, Lt. Col. Joseph D. Clarke, Frank Saul. Middle row: Jim Ashworth, Art Rawlinson, Don Schmidt, Rugger Ardizoia, Jerry Priddy, Mike McCormick, Hal Hairston, Hill, unknown, Ferris Fain. Front row: Bob Dillinger, Kerner Kohlmyer, John Shumbres, Eddie Funk, Charlie Silvera, batboy, Dario Lodigiani, Joe Gedzius, Ed Jabb, John Bialoworczyk, unknown

Joe DiMaggio

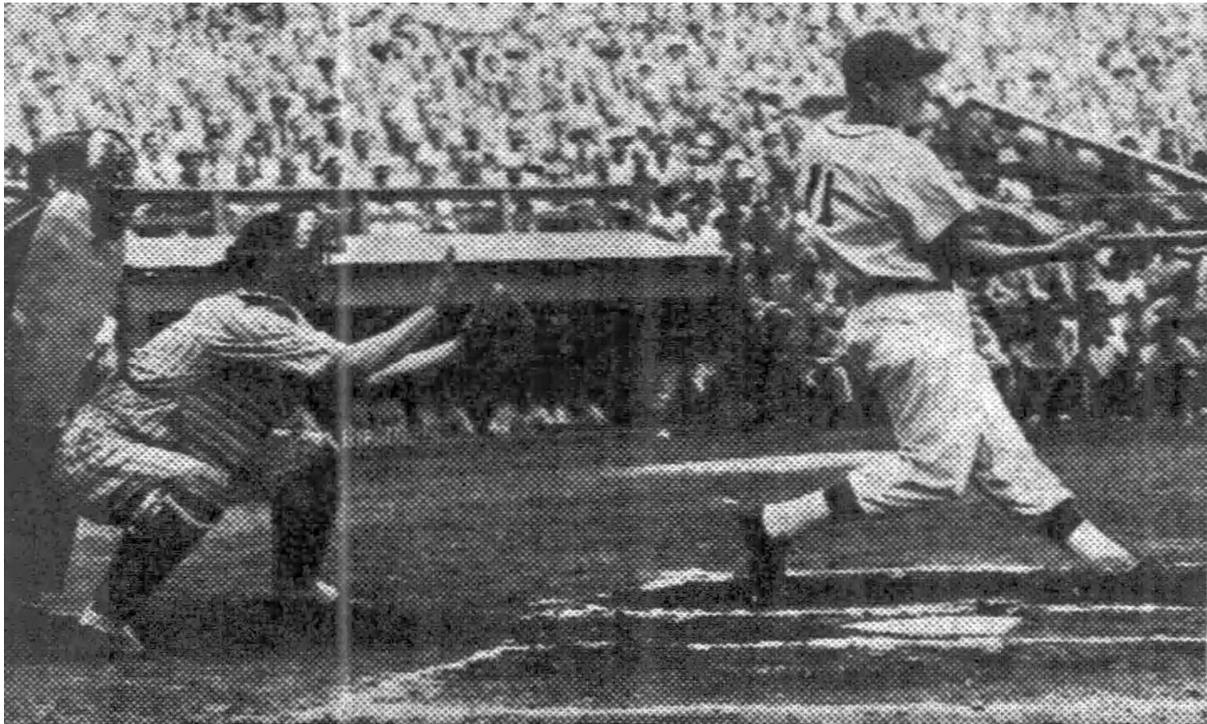
In the pantheon of superstars and future hall of famers playing baseball in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Joe DiMaggio tops the list. DiMaggio was a big-league star from the day he joined the Yankees in 1936. He was the American League MVP in 1939 and after setting one of the most enduring records in baseball by hitting in 56 consecutive games, he earned that accolade a second time in 1941. When he traded his \$43,750 salary, for \$50 a month as an Army enlisted man on February 17, 1943, the seven-time all-star was 28 years old and still at the height of his athletic powers. He was assigned to Special Services with the Army Air Force and reported for duty at Santa Ana Army Air Base in California. DiMaggio was naturally a big boost to the Santa Ana baseball team as they compiled an impressive record during the summer of 1943, including a winning streak of 20 straight games, with DiMaggio putting together a 27 consecutive game hitting streak.

In May 1944, Brigadier-General William J. Flood, chief of staff of the 7th Army Air Force, confirmed rumors that DiMaggio would soon be arriving in Hawaii. Along with Walt Judnich, Dario Lodigiani, Cincinnati Reds outfielder Mike McCormick, Jerry Priddy and Ferris Fain, DiMaggio arrived at the beginning of June. "With a little practice I should be ready for action," he told the Honolulu Advertiser.



DiMaggio receives his 7th Army Air Force shoulder patch from Brigadier General William J. Flood, chief of staff of the 7th AAF

DiMaggio wasted little time getting into uniform for the 7th Army Air Force ball team. On June 4, a record-breaking 21,000 fans filled Honolulu Stadium on a balmy Sunday afternoon to see Joltin' Joe's first Hawaii appearance and delighted in him hitting a 435-foot drive over the left field fence against the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base team. On June 9 – his second game – 15,000 fans attended Honolulu Stadium (the most to ever witness a night game in Hawaii) to witness the longest home run ever seen at the ballpark. DiMaggio slammed out a 450-foot drive over the left field bleachers, clear out of the park and into Dreier Manor, the St. Louis College alumni clubhouse on the opposite side of Isenberg Street.



DiMaggio's first home run in Hawaii on June 4, 1944

The following day, DiMaggio made his debut in a Central Pacific Area League game for the 7th Army Air Force before a capacity crowd of servicemen at Schofield Barracks. He delighted the troops with a second inning three-run homer in the 15-1 thrashing of the Wheeler Field Wingmen.

By mid-July, DiMaggio was leading the Hawaii League with five home runs and a .421 batting average, but he'd seen limited action during the month and was later admitted to hospital with a stomach ailment. DiMaggio had lost 25 pounds in weight and was back in California at the end of August. It was hoped he'd return to Hawaii in time for the Army-Navy World Series, and although he did return, he didn't make another appearance on the ballfield. By October 1943, he was in hospital in California. He never returned to Hawaii and was eventually medically discharged from military service in September 1945.

"Though he never came within a thousand miles of actual combat," wrote David Jones in *Joe DiMaggio: a biography*, "DiMaggio resented the war with an intensity equal to the most battle-scarred private. It had robbed him of the best years of his career. When he went into the Army, DiMaggio had been a 28-year-old superstar. By the time he was discharged from the service, he was nearly 31, divorced, underweight, malnourished, and bitter. Those three years, 1943 to 1945, would carve

a gaping hole in DiMaggio's career totals, creating an absence that would be felt like a missing limb."

Joe DiMaggio's statistics in Hawaii

Hawaii League

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
38	13	16	5	15	.421

Central Pacific Area League

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
35	13	12	3	13	.343

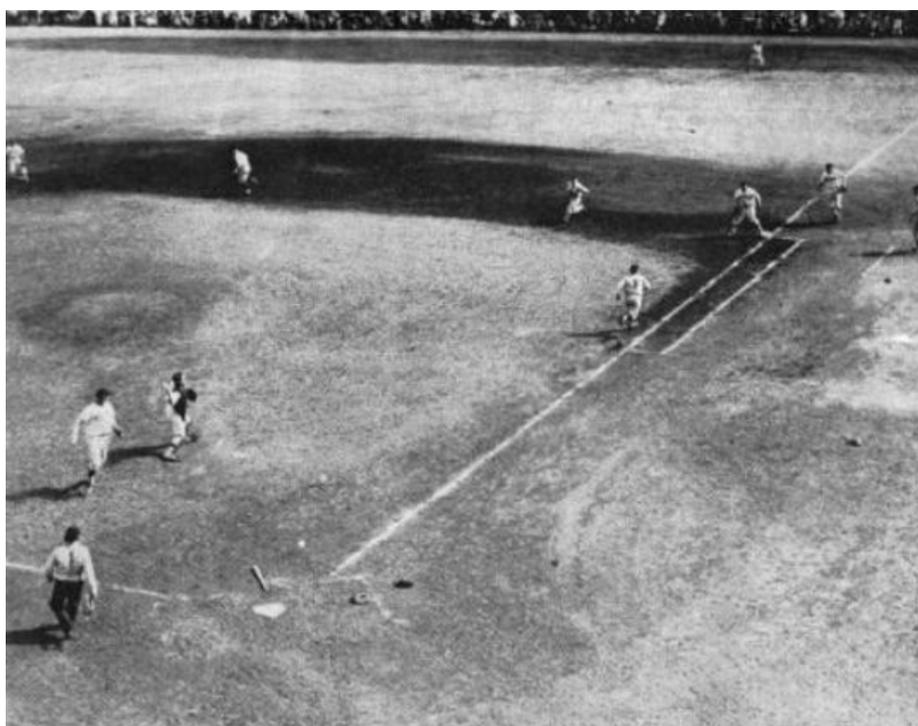
Central Pacific Area League

The Central Pacific Area (CPA) League, also known as the All-Service League, was a combined Army-Navy servicemen's league featuring the best teams on Oahu. The league ran from May 16 to August 29, with the best baseball talent competing for the championship. The Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons were managed by Barney McCosky of the Detroit Tigers and featured Johnny Lucadello of the St. Louis Browns and Vinnie Smith of the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Pearl Harbor Submarine Base Dolphins were managed by Walt Masterson of the Washington Senators and he had Al Brancato, Mo Mozzali, Joe Grace of the St. Louis Browns, Rankin Johnson, Red Anderson of the Washington Senators and Ken Sears of the New York Yankees in the line-up. The 7th Army Air Force Fliers were managed by seven-year major league veteran Tom



Winsett, with Dario Lodigiani, Ferris Fain, Bob Dillinger of the Toledo Mud Hens, Joe Gordon, Joe DiMaggio, Mike McCormick, Jerry Priddy, Don Lang and Rugger Ardizoia of the Kansas City Blues, Walt Judnich and Red Ruffing. Aiea Naval Hospital Hilltoppers included Pee Wee Reese of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Vern Olsen of the Chicago Cubs. The Schofield Barracks Redlanders had Sid Gautreaux (who'd played with the Dodgers in 1936 and 1937) and Negro Leaguer Frank "Wizard" Williams. The Wheeler Wingmen had Negro Leaguer Hal Hairston and minor leaguer Kernie Kohlmyer who would play in the Army-Navy World Series. The Kaneohe Klippers had Tom Ferrick of the Cleveland Indians, Johnny Mize of the New York Giants and Hugh Casey, while the South Sector Commandos had Negro Leaguer Sonny Boy Jefferies, Hawaii League veteran Wally Cyr and semi-pro Dick Molberg who would play in the Army-Navy World Series.

Opening day of the league saw Vice Admiral Robert H. Ghormley, commandant of the 14th Naval District, throwing out the first ball after talking about the value of baseball to the servicemen, followed by Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons beating the Wheeler Field Wingmen, 3-1. Early season highlights included Johnny Mize blasting two home runs for the Kaneohe Klippers to beat Aiea Naval Barracks, 6-2, on May 19, and Bob Harris of the Philadelphia Athletics hurling a 2-hitter for the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base to beat Wheeler Field, 4-0, on May 25. Joe DiMaggio made his first CPA League appearance with the 7th Army Air Force on June 10, and didn't disappoint the capacity crowd at Schofield Barracks, hitting a second-inning three-run homer in a 15-1 drubbing of Wheeler Field. The first half season concluded in late June with Aiea Naval Hospital and 7th Army Air Force tied for first place with records of 7-3. One-game playoff to decide the first half champion was played on June 28, with Jim Carlin of the Philadelphia Phillies, hitting a dramatic home run in the bottom of the ninth to win the game for the Naval Hospital.



Action during a 7th AAF/Pearl Harbor Submarine Base game at Hickam Field

For the second half of the season two teams were added to the league – the Redlanders from Schofield Barracks and the Commandos, representing the Army's South Sector. On paper, the 7th AAF Fliers seemed to be the team to beat but they suffered two early setbacks at the hands of veteran pitchers. On July 8, Leo Visintainer, a 31-year-old right-hander who had last pitched in the minors in 1935, led Aiea Naval Barracks to a 3-2 win over the Fliers on July 8. A week later, 34-year-old Boyd "Red" Biggers - who'd pitched in the minors from 1931 to 1935, and now did his pitching for the Schofield Redlanders - put a stain on Joe Gordon's debut with the Fliers by beating them, 8 to 4.

On August 23, Hal Hairston, who would pitch for the Negro League Homestead Grays after the war, hurled a one-hitter for Wheeler Field against the Kaneohe Klippers. He struck out 11 in the 6-0 win and had allowed just nine hits in the last four games he'd pitched, including a two-hitter. Hairston had originally played with the 7th AAF Fliers but had been sent, along with other players, to Wheeler Field upon

arrival of the major league stars as it was felt he wasn't needed. It was apparently upon the agreement that he would not be allowed to pitch against the 7th AAF in CPA games. This "agreement" came to a head in a Wheeler Field/7th AAF game on August 17, when, with the score tied, the bases loaded and two out, Hairston was sent to the mound to pitch to 7th AAF pinch-hitter Mike McCormick. However, Hairston was not allowed to pitch, as per the agreement, and George Brautovich had to return to the mound, promptly hitting McCormick to score the winning run. This decision did not sit well with the fans of the 7th AAF team. "The manager's action has detracted greatly from the 7th AAF's popularity and lowered them in the estimation of many of their service fans," Cpl. Richard W. Miller told the Honolulu Advertiser.



Dario Lodigiani of 7th AAF slides home. Marv Felderman of the Kaneohe Klippers is the catcher

On August 26, 7th AAFs Walt Judnich hit an incredible five successive home runs in a 30-2 rout of the Schofield Redlanders, two of them in the fourth inning. Bob Dillinger also hit two home runs in the fourth as 19 men went to bat and 15 runs scored. Three days later, 7th AAF clinched the CPA second-half title with a 3-2 win over Aiea Naval Barracks, thanks to a sixth inning homer from Judnich, his 14th of the season. Facing the first-half winners – Aiea Naval Hospital – in the best-of-three playoffs for the championship, 7th AAF beat the Hilltoppers, 11-3, behind the pitching of Al Lien of the San Francisco Seals on September 8, and clinched the championship the following day with a 6-2 win.

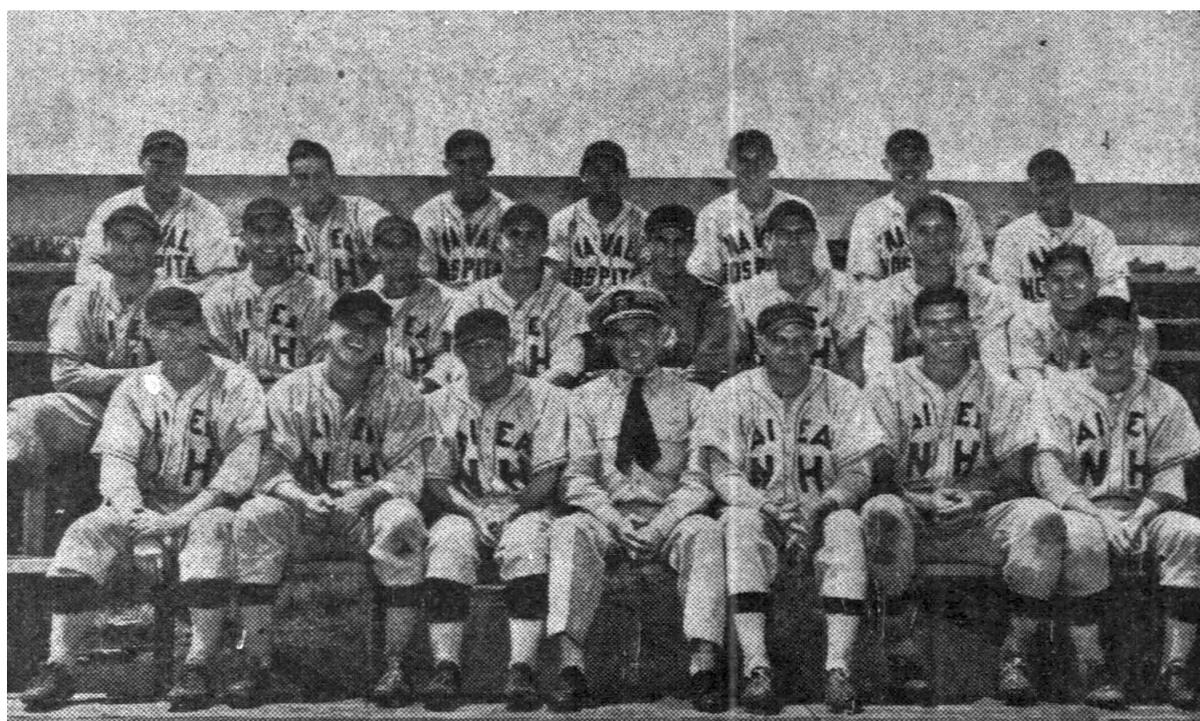
A total of 284 CPA games were played with an estimated 1,420,000 servicemen in attendance. Ferris Fain of the 7th AAF was the batting champion with a .385 average. Walt Judnich led the league with 14 home runs and tied with Jim Carlin with 35 RBIs. Vern Olsen led the pitchers with 15 wins. Wheeler Field, Schofield

Redlanders and South Sector Commandos, without the support of major league talent should be acknowledged for managing 26 wins against the star-studded line-ups of other teams.

CPA League (first half standings)

*Aiea Naval Hospital Hilltoppers	7	3	.700
7 th Army Air Force Fliers	7	3	.700
Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons	6	4	.600
Kaneohe NAS Klippers	6	4	.600
Pearl Harbor Submarine Base	3	7	.300
Wheeler Field Wingmen	1	9	.100

*Aiea Naval Hospital beat 7th AAF, 5-4, in one game playoff on June 28, for first half title.



Aiea Naval Hospital Hilltoppers. Front row, left to right: Stammerman, Vern Olsen, Newman, Captain Ceres, Templeton, George Dickey and Pee Wee Reese. Middle row: Craig, Ed Shokes, McAllister, Bob Lockwood, Max Patkin, Fabrizi, Spears and Dompier. Back row: Mayer, White, Fleagle, Cookus, C. Burton, F. Burton and Ferguson.

CPA League (second half standings)

*7 th Army Air Force Fliers	22	5	.815
Aiea Naval Hospital Hilltoppers	19	8	.704
Pearl Harbor Submarine Base	16	11	.593
Aiea Naval Barracks Maroons	15	13	.536
Kaneohe NAS Klippers	12	15	.444
Schofield Redlanders	9	18	.333
Wheeler Field Wingmen	9	19	.321
South Sector Commandos	8	19	.296

*Second half winners 7th AAF beat first half winners Aiea Naval Hospital, in best-of-three playoffs, 11-3 and 6-2, on September 8 and 9.



7th Army Air Force. Front row, left to right: Art Rawlinson, Jim Ashworth, Hal Hairston, Kerner Kohlmyer, Batboy, Dario Lodigiani, Charlie Silvera, Bob Dillinger and John Shumbres. Middle row: Ed Jabb, Joe Gedzius, John Bialoworzuk, Bill Leonard, Eli Yujnic, Ferris Fain, Mike McCormick and Eddie Funk. Back row: Tom Winsett, Lt. Col. Joseph D. Clarke, Frank Saul, Louis Hagen, Jerry Priddy, Walt Judnich, Al Lien, Rugger Ardizoia, Don Schmidt, Joe DiMaggio and Carl DeRose.

Official CPA All-Star team (chosen by league managers)

Vern Olsen (Hilltoppers)	Pitcher
Don Schmidt (Fliers)	Pitcher
Hugh Casey (Klippers)	Pitcher
Vinnie Smith (Maroons)	Catcher
Ferris Fain (Fliers)	First Base
Joe Gordon (Fliers)	Second Base
Bob Dillinger (Fliers)	Third Base
Pee Wee Reese (Hilltoppers)	Shortstop
Mike McCormick (Fliers)	Left Field
Barney McCosky (Maroons)	Center Field
Walt Judnich (Fliers)	Right Field
Tom Ferrick (Klippers)	Utility



14th Naval District League

The 14th Naval District League was an eight-team league representing Navy and Marine Corps personnel in Oahu. The league ran from May 17 to August 27, with the first half season concluding on July 4. The Base 8 Hospital Geneva Reds and Pearl Harbor Submarine Base B Team were early contenders for the title with both teams winning their first six games. Base 8 Hospital was managed by second baseman Ed Wodzicki, who'd played for the Portsmouth Cubs before the war. Hollywood Stars right-hander Russ Messerly did most of their pitching and future Boston Red Sox

catcher Ed McGah was behind the plate. The Submarine Base B team consisted of many of the players who had been with the team in 1943, but were unable to compete with the major leaguers who were playing for the Submarine Base team in the Central Pacific Area and Hawaii leagues. The star of the Submarine Base B team was first baseman Frank Hecklinger, who played for the New Bern Bears before the war. In hot pursuit of these teams were the Pearl Harbor Marines, the same team that finished second in the Honolulu League earlier in the year. Led by pitcher Andy Steinbach and first baseman Sam Mele, the Pearl Harbor Marines lost just two games to win the first-half title.

The second half of the season was a race for the title between the Pearl Harbor Marines and the Base 8 Hospital Geneva Reds, which was fittingly decided on the last day of the season. In a pitching duel between Russ Messerly of Base 8 and the Marines' Warren Revis (former outstanding high school pitcher from Virginia, Illinois), it was the Marines who triumphed and claimed the league title with a 1-0 win. Revis allowed two hits, struck out seven and scored the only run of the game.

14th Naval District League (first half standings)

Pearl Harbor Marines	12	2	.857
Pearl Harbor Submarine Base B	10	3	.769
Base 8 Hospital Geneva Reds	9	5	.642
Catlin Marines Raiders	9	5	.642
Pearl Harbor Volunteers	5	8	.385
Pearl Harbor Hospital	3	9	.250
Ewa Marines	3	11	.214
P.H. Receiving Stn/Ship Repair Unit	2	10	.166

*Ship Repair Unit took the place of Pearl Harbor Receiving Station in June.

14th Naval District League (second half standings)

Pearl Harbor Marines	11	3	.786
Base 8 Hospital Geneva Reds	10	4	.714
Catlin Marines Raiders	8	6	.571
Pearl Harbor Submarine Base B	8	6	.571
Pearl Harbor Volunteers	6	8	.429
Ewa Marines	6	8	.429
Ship Repair Unit	4	10	.286
Pearl Harbor Hospital	3	11	.214

14th Naval District League all-star selections

Russ Messerly (Base 8 Hospital)	Pitcher
Ed McGah (Base 8 Hospital)	Catcher
Nick Pesut (Catlin Marines)	First Base
Ed Wodzicki (Base 8 Hospital)	Second Base
Dale Case (Pearl Harbor Marines)	Third Base
John Andrews (Pearl Harbor Hospital)	Shortstop
Fred Chumley (Catlin Marines)	Left Field
Sam Mele (Pearl Harbor Marines)	Center Field
John Toth (Base 8 Hospital)	Right Field



Pearl Harbor Marines. Front row, left to right: Ed Puchleitner, Warren Revis, John Hickman, Charlie Meyers, Bill King and Herman Knesek. Middle row: J. W. Botts, D. Webster, D. L. Case, Andy Steinbach, W. J. Frazier and Harry Olds. Back row: Joseph Taylor, James Ramentol, Ray Fletcher, F. Wagner, James Brownlee and James Foucheaux

Schofield Barracks League

Competitive baseball at Schofield Barracks was played by 32 teams spread across four leagues named Trojan, Columbia, Ivy and Rainbow. The first round of play was completed at the end of May, with the Chemical Moguls clinching the Trojan League title, General Hospital Docs taking the Columbia League pennant, Ordnance Tarheels and Ordnance Braves tied for first place in the Ivy League and the Tank Destroyers gaining the top spot in the Rainbow League. The teams were then reorganized in three leagues for the second round of play – American, National and Western.

Play continued through late July, by which time nine teams had earned a place in the play-offs that were scheduled for September – Ordnance Tarheels, NSGH Medics, Engineer Chowhounds and Destroyers from the American League, Hospital Docs, Quartermaster Devils and Engineer Dragons from the National League, and Ordnance Packers and Engineer Bull Gang from the Western League. On September 29, defending 1943 champions, Ordnance Tarheels defeated the Tank Destroyers, 2-1, to retain the Schofield Barracks title. Leo Schirtzinger was the winning pitcher. He'd won 15 of 16 games and the last 10 in a row. From Columbus, Ohio, Schirtzinger had only played softball before arriving in Hawaii in 1942.

In June 1944, the 27th Infantry Division fought against Japanese forces on the island of Saipan. Among the troops involved in combat were a number of players who had participated in early season ball games at Schofield Barracks, including pitcher Al Strappazon, outfielders Martin "Nosey" Genovese and Art Young, catcher Kenny Graham – who had played for the Washington Red Birds before the war, Ed Loverich – a basketball and baseball star at the University of Washington, third baseman Caesar Romero – who played for the Newport Dodgers before military service, shortstop Al Baker and infielder Sparky Wilson, who was wounded in combat, earning the Purple Heart.

Schofield Barracks League (final standings)

American League

*Ordnance Battalion Tarheels	15	3	.833
*Engineer Chowhounds	13	5	.722
*NSGH Medics	13	5	.722
*Tank Destroyer Destroyers	12	6	.667
MP Battalion Tigers	10	8	.556
Ordnance Battalion Braves	9	9	.500
Tank Battalion Tankers	7	11	.389
Tank Battalion Trackers	6	12	.333
Field Artillery Battalion Cardinals	4	14	.222

National League

*General Hospital Docs	15	2	.882
*Quartermaster Battalion Devils	13	4	.765
+Chemical Company Monarchs	12	5	.706
*Engineer Battalion Dragons	11	6	.647
Artillery Moonshiners	9	8	.529
Chemical Company Moguls	6	11	.353
Quartermaster Company Senators	6	11	.353
Ordnance Battalion Nomads	4	13	.235

Western League

*Ordnance Battalion HQ Packers	16	2	.889
*Engineer Battalion Bull Gang	14	5	.737
Searchlight Battalion Skyliters	11	8	.579
Chemical Company Technicians	10	8	.556
Ordnance Company Bears	9	10	.474
Ordnance Wreckers	4	5	.444
Ordnance Company Seals	7	10	.412
HQ Detachment Carnelians	7	11	.389
Quartermaster Requisitions	4	15	.211
Engineer Battalion Diggers	3	16	.169

+Chemical Company Monarchs won a place in the post championship but were unable to compete.

*Nine teams qualified for the post championship. Ordnance Battalion Tarheels beat Tank Destroyer Destroyers, 2-1, to win the title.

Schofield Barracks League Player of the Year: Leo Schirtzinger of the Ordnance Tar Heels



Ordnance Battalion Tarheels. Front row, left to right: Starrett, Larsen, Halla, Chippy, Clark, Patafio, Frank Delise and Palinski. Back row: Lt. Zarski, Wuestenfield, Mike Kosciol, Black, Barkauskas, Leo Schirtzinger, Johnny Lorenc, Mazur, Lou Tepper, Baker, Captain Ribone.

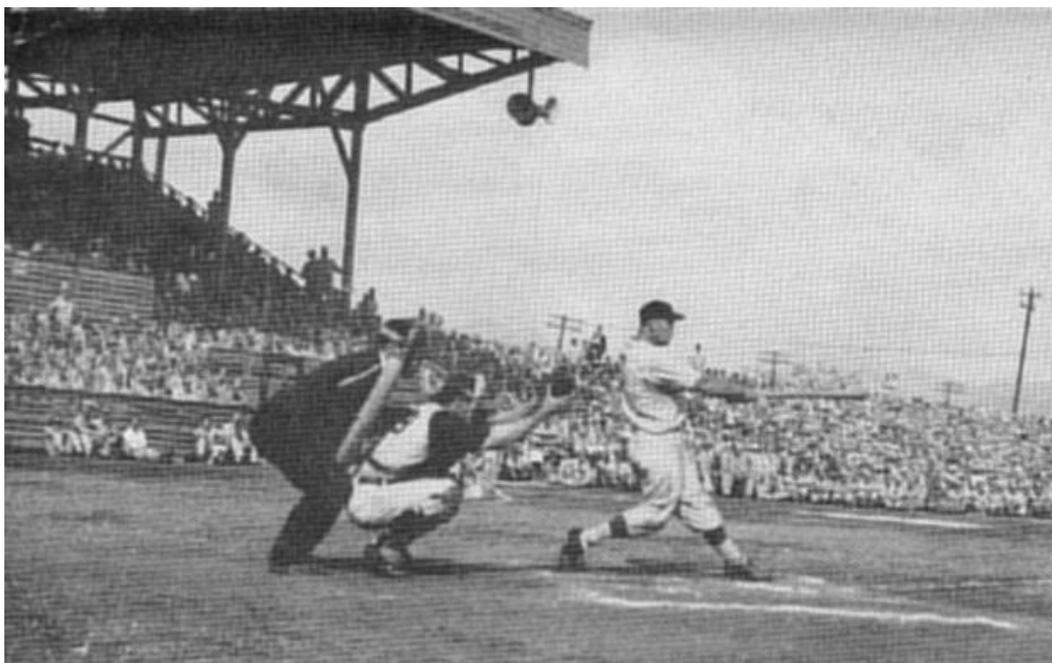
The Army-Navy World Series

With a buildup of Major League talent in Hawaii, a soldier-sailor clash on the ballfield was inevitable and dates for the Army-Navy Servicemen's World Series was announced at the beginning of August, with the best-of-seven series to open on September 22. It was also agreed that all seven games would be played even if the series were decided beforehand as the games would be a much sort after source of entertainment for servicemen in Hawaii. In fact, a further three games were added, making it a 10-game series.

Both teams had already added to the talent pool. Army players arriving in Hawaii included Joe DiMaggio, Joe Gordon, Red Ruffing, Walt Judnich, Bob Dillinger, Johnny Beazley, Dario Lodigiani, Jerry Priddy, Mike McCormick and Ferris Fain. However,

DiMaggio's participation was uncertain as he was in hospital at the time, Jerry Priddy was reassigned to the mainland just days after the dates were announced and Red Ruffing returned to the mainland in mid-September with a knee injury.

Meanwhile, the Navy pulled out all the stops and added Barney McCosky, Hugh Casey, Pee Wee Reese, Bob Harris, Vern Olsen, Joe Grace, George Dickey, Tom Ferrick, Ken Sears, Jack Hallett, Johnny Mize, Virgil Trucks, Schoolboy Rowe, Johnny Vander Meer, Johnny Lucadello and Ed Pellagrini. They even flew in Dom DiMaggio and Phil Rizzuto from Australia, and announced that Bill Dickey would manage the team.



Joe Grace batting during one of the Army-Navy World Series games

Official Army Roster

Experience	
Rugger Ardizoia (P)	Majors (1947)
Jim Ashworth (C)	Minors (1939 to 1947)
Johnny Beazley (P)	Majors (1941 to 1949)
Bill DeCarlo (C)	Minors (1938 to 1952)
Carl DeRose (P)	Minors (1942 to 1950)
Bob Dillinger (3B)	Majors (1946 to 1951)
*(HOF) Joe DiMaggio (OF)	Majors (1936 to 1951)
Hank Edwards (OF)	Majors (1941 to 1953)
Eddie Erault (P)	Majors (1947 to 1953)
Ferris Fain (1B)	Majors (1947 to 1955)
Eddie Funk (P)	Minors (1939 to 1940)
Sid Gautreaux (C)	Majors (1936 to 1937)
(HOF) Joe Gordon (SS/2B)	Majors (1938 to 1950)
Hal Hairston (P)	Negro Leagues (1946 to 1947)
Walt Judnich (OF)	Majors (1940 to 1949)
Kernie Kohlmyer (SS)	Minors (1938 to 1946)
Don Lang (OF)	Majors (1938 and 1948)
Bill Leonard (C)	Minors (1939 to 1949)
Al Lien (P)	Minors (1936 to 1954)
Dario Lodigiani (2B/3B)	Majors (1938 to 1946)
Mike McCormick (OF)	Majors (1940 to 1951)
Dick Molberg (P)	Semi-Pro from Homestead, PA
Bill Schmidt (P)	Majors (1934 to 1942)
Don D. Schmidt (P)	Minors (1946 to 1952)
Charlie Silvera (C)	Majors (1948 to 1957)
Lt. Tom Winsett (Mgr)	Majors (1930 to 1938)
Lt. Col. Joseph D. Clark (Coach)	From Los Angeles, CA
S/Sgt. John J. Shumbres (Coach)	From Scranton, PA

* Joe DiMaggio did not play in Army-Navy World Series. He was replaced on the roster by Bill DeCarlo.

Official Navy Roster

Experience	
Jim Adair (P)	Minors (1939 to 1940)
Arne "Red" Anderson (P)	Majors (1937 to 1941)
Norm Atkinson (C)	Semi-Pro
*John "Buck" Berry (OF)	University of Oregon
Tom Bishop (SS)	Semi-Pro
Al Brancato (3B)	Majors (1939 to 1945)
Jim Carlin (OF)	Majors (1941)
Hugh Casey (P)	Majors (1935 to 1949)
George "Skeets" Dickey (C)	Majors (1935 to 1947)
Dom DiMaggio (OF)	Majors (1940 to 1953)
Gordon Evans (OF)	Minors (1940 to 1948)
Hank Feimster (P)	Minors (1941 and 1946)
Marv Felderman (C)	Majors (1942)
Tom Ferrick (P)	Majors (1941 to 1952)
Joe Grace (OF)	Majors (1938 to 1947)
Jack Hallett (P)	Majors (1940 to 1948)
Bob Harris (P)	Majors (1938 to 1942)
Johnny Jeandron (2B)	Minors (1941 to 1953)
Rankin Johnson (P)	Majors (1941)
Johnny Lucadello (2B)	Majors (1938 to 1947)
Walt Masterson (P)	Majors (1939 to 1956)
Barney McCosky (OF)	Majors (1939 to 1953)
(HOF) Johnny Mize (1B)	Majors (1936 to 1953)
Mo Mozzali (OF)	Minors (1946 to 1958)
Vern Olsen (P)	Majors (1939 to 1946)
(HOF) Pee Wee Reese (SS)	Majors (1940 to 1958)
(HOF) Phil Rizzuto (SS)	Majors (1941 to 1956)
Sal Recca (3B)	Minors (1940 to 1948)
Schoolboy Rowe (P)	Majors (1933 to 1949)
Ken Sears (C)	Majors (1943 and 1946)
Oscar Sessions (P)	U.S. Navy
Eddie Shokes (1B)	Majors (1941 and 1946)
Vinnie Smith (C)	Majors (1941 and 1946)
Virgil Trucks (P)	Majors (1941 to 1958)
Johnny Vander Meer (P)	Majors (1937 to 1951)
(HOF) Lt. Bill Dickey (Mgr)	Majors (1928 to 1946)
Lt. Wes Schulmerich (Asst. Mgr)	Majors (1931 to 1934)
David Leibold (Batboy)	Unknown

*John Berry suffered a fatal heart attack on a basketball court in Inglewood, California in November 1949, aged just 30.

Game 1 – September 22, 1944 – Navy win 5-0 (Navy lead series 1-0)

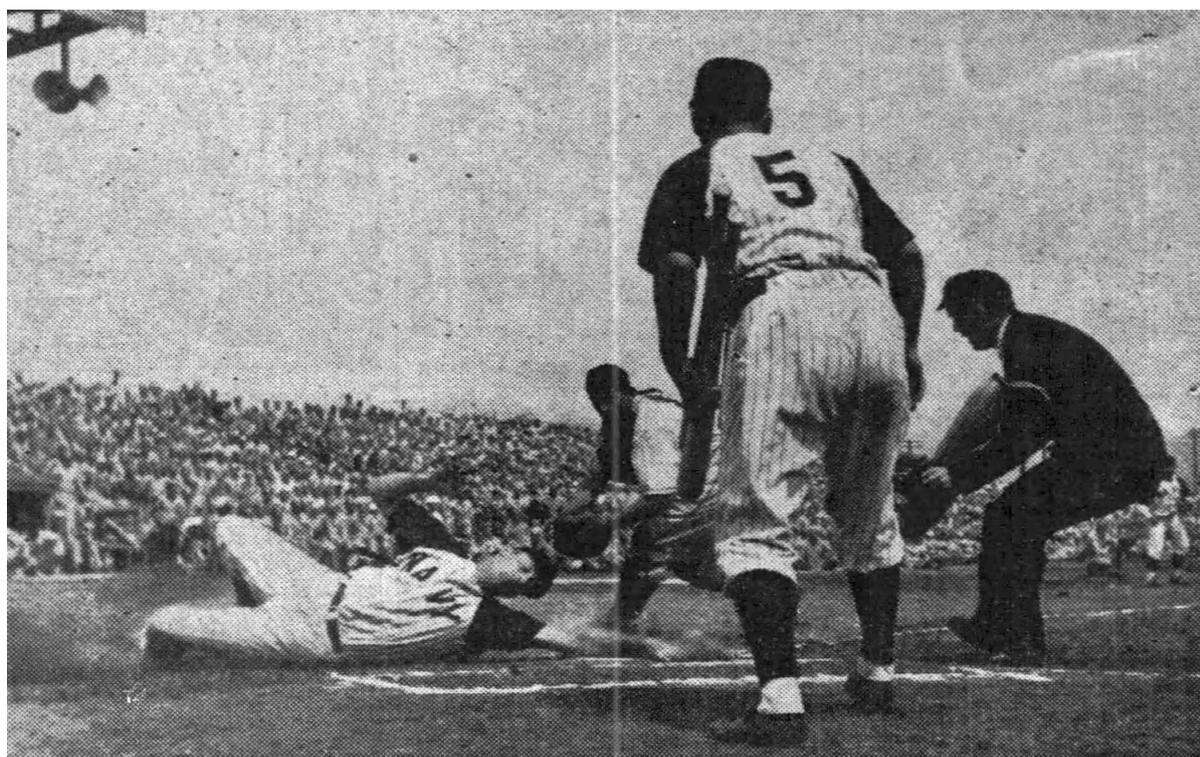
Virgil Trucks held the Army to just four hits and struck out six as the Navy convincingly took the first game of the series. Although Joe DiMaggio wasn't in the game, his brother Dom made sure the DiMaggio name was noticed with two hits and a spectacular defensive play racing deep to center to make a leaping catch of Ferris Fain's long drive. Johnny Beazley had been the Army's last-minute pitching replacement for Al Lien. Beazley walked eight over the seven innings he pitched, while Walt Judnich – who had been a powerhouse with the bat all summer – failed to hit a ball out of the infield. The only highlight from the Army was a Joe Gordon-led triple play. With Trucks on second and Phil Rizzuto at first, Grace hit a hard liner to Gordon who speared the ball, tagged second to putout Trucks and fired to first to catch Rizzuto.

Army	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	4	3			
Navy	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	x	-	5	10	1

Batteries: (Army) Beazley, D. Schmidt (8) and Silvera. (Navy) Trucks and Smith

Location: Furlong Field, Civilian Housing Area 3, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 20,000 Time: 2:36



Joe Grace scores the Navy's first run. Charlie Silvera is the catcher, umpire is Lt. Bob Austin and batter is Johnny Lucadello

Game 2 – September 23, 1944 – Navy win 8-2 (Navy lead series 2-0)

With the Navy nursing a delicate 3-2 lead going into the top of the ninth, Army hurler Al Lien allowed two runners and was replaced by Eddie Funk. Funk got Ken Sears – who was batting for Johnny Vander Meer – but walked Rizzuto to load the bases before Grace drove one over the right field barrier to put the game out of reach.

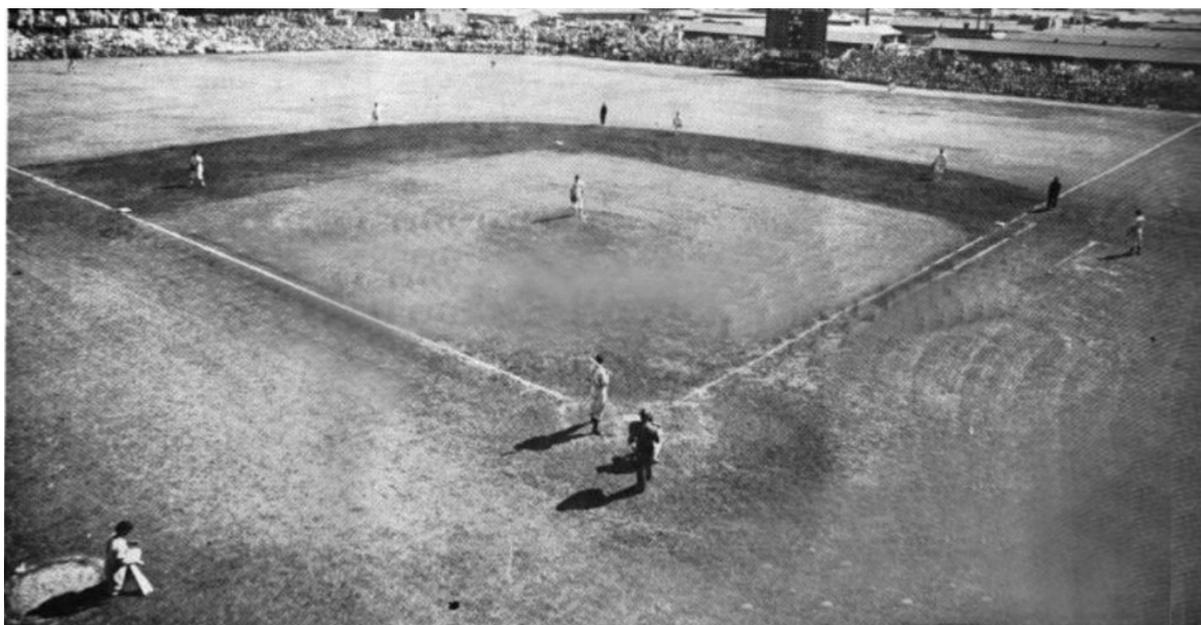
Navy 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 5 - 8 13 0

Army 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 2 7 2

Batteries: (Navy) Vander Meer, Casey (9) and Smith. (Army) Lien, Funk (9) and Leonard

Location: Hickam Field, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 12,000 Time: 1:50



Game 3 – September 25, 1944 – Navy win 4-3 in 12 innings (Navy lead series 3-0)

Tom Ferrick for the Navy and Don Schmidt for the Army had allowed three runs each after nine innings. Ferrick was relieved by Casey in the tenth, while Schmidt went the distance and gave up a 360-foot drive into the right field bleachers off the bat of Ken Sears in the twelfth inning.

Navy 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 - 4 6 1

Army 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 8 2

Batteries: (Navy) Ferrick, Casey (10) and Smith, Sears. (Army) D. Schmidt and Gautreaux, Silvera

Location: Redlander Field, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 14,500 Time: 2:30

Game 4 – September 27, 1944 – Navy win 10-5 to clinch series (Navy lead series 4-0)

A 10-5 victory over the Army gave the Navy a clean sweep in the Service World Series. Trucks started for the Navy and took the win with relief assistance from Schoolboy Rowe in the sixth. Hal Hairston, who would go on to pitch for the Homestead Grays and was the only black player on either squad, pitched the eighth inning for the Army. Other than a lead-off walk to Joe Grace he kept the Navy hitters quiet.

“They did it,” extolled Red McQueen in the Honolulu Advertiser, “[they] nailed down the service championship in four straight and now Bill Dickey’s Navy Stars are determined to take all seven games against the Army.”

Army 0 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 - 5 10 4

Navy 2 0 1 1 4 1 1 0 x -10 11 0

Batteries: (Army) Beazley, Erault (5), DeRose (6), Hairston (8) and Gautreaux. (Navy) Trucks, Rowe (6) and Smith

Location: Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 10,000 Time: 2:05

Game 5 – September 28, 1944 – Navy win 12-2 (Navy lead series 5-0)

The Navy made it five in a row with a 12-2 thrashing of the Army, scoring 10 runs off three pitchers in the fourth. Vander Meer allowed just five hits, struck out nine and was two-for-two at the plate.

Army 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 5 2

Navy 0 0 0 10 0 0 2 0 x - 12 10 0

Batteries: (Army) Lien, Molberg (4), Hairston (4), Ardizoia (7) and Silvera. (Navy) Vander Meer and Smith

Location: Furlong Field, Civilian Housing Area 3, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 16,000 Time: 2:25

Game 6 – September 30, 1944 – Navy win 6-4 (Navy lead series 6-0)

Navy manager Bill Dickey used 17 players, including himself as a pinch-hitter in overcoming the Army for the sixth straight time.

Navy 0 0 2 1 0 0 1 2 0 - 6 11 2

Army 1 0 2 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 4 9 1

Batteries: (Navy) Hallett, Masterson (4), Ferrick (7) and Smith. (Army) D. Schmidt and Gautreaux, Silvera (9)

Location: Hickam Field, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 12,000 Time: 2:10

Game 7 – October 1, 1944 – Army win 5-3 (Navy lead series 6-1)

The Army salvaged the seventh game of the series by defeating the Navy, 5 to 3. Lang, Dillinger and Fain homered for the Army.

Army 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 0 2 - 5 6 0

Navy 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 9 0

Batteries: (Army) DeRose, B. Schmidt (6) and DeCarlo. (Navy) Trucks and B. Dickey, Smith (2)

Location: Furlong Field, Civilian Housing Area 3, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 16,000 Time: 2:00

Three more games were played on the neighboring islands of Maui and Hawaii.

Game 8 – October 3, 1944 – Navy win 11-0 (Navy lead series 7-1)

In Maui, Jack Hallett hurled a three-hitter and the Navy hitters clubbed 11 runs off the combined efforts of Lien, Molberg, Hairston and Fain.

Army 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 3 1

Navy 4 3 1 1 0 1 0 1 x - 11 14 1

Batteries: (Army) Lien, Molberg, Hairston, Fain and Leonard. (Navy) Hallett and Smith, Felderman

Location: Fair Grounds, Kahului, Maui, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 10,000 Time: unknown

Game 9 – October 4, 1944 – Army win 6-5 (Navy lead series 7-2)

In the second game in Maui, the Navy squandered a 4-0 lead on the late-inning wildness of Vander Meer and sloppy fielding, giving the Army a walk-off victory as Joe Gordon raced home from second with the winning run on a low throw to first from Al Brancato.

Navy 0 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 - 5 10 5

Army 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 3 1 - 6 5 4

Batteries: (Navy) Vander Meer and Smith. (Army) Ardizoia, Funk (4), D. Schmidt (8) and Silvera.

Location: Fair Grounds, Kahului, Maui, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 10,000 Time: unknown

Game 10 – October 6, 1944 – 6-6 tie after 14 innings (Navy won series 7-2-1)

Before an estimated 7,500 servicemen and civilians, the largest crowd to ever witness a sporting event on the island of Hawaii, the Army and Navy teams battled to a 6-6 tie in a 14-inning game that was called due to darkness.

“Without a shadow of a doubt,” wrote Bert Nakaji in the Hilo Tribune-Herald, “it was the greatest exhibition of baseball ever played in our fair city and it paled to insignificance the battle royal of St. Louis in the current World Series.”

Navy 2 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 6 15 1

Army 2 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 6 10 1

Batteries: (Navy) Masterson, Ferrick (6), Casey (10) and Smith. (Army) D. Schmidt, Molberg (5) and Silvera.

Location: Hoolulu Park, Hilo, Hawaii, Hawaiian Islands

Attendance: 7,500 Time: unknown

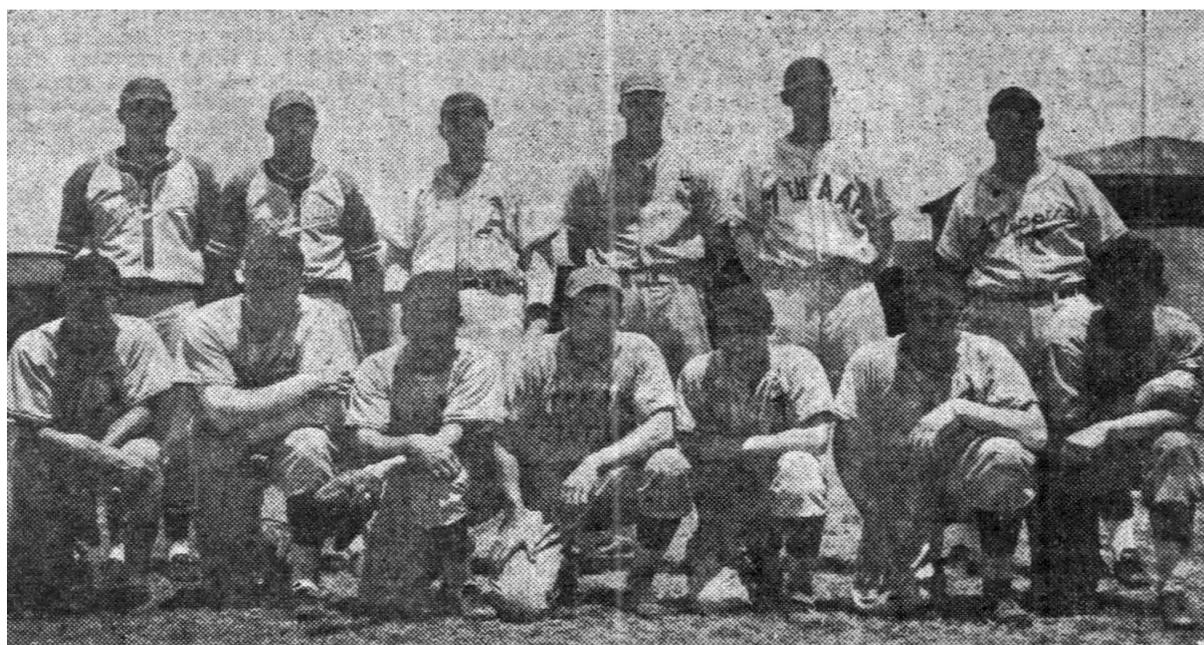
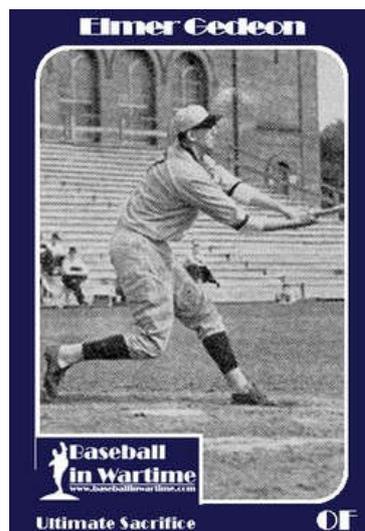
Notes on Hawaii game (October 6):

Phil Rizzuto and Dom DiMaggio did not participate in the Hawaii game as they were recalled to Australia. Two further games were played by the teams on Hawaii, but not against each other. On October 7, the Army team was beaten, 12-10, by the Red Wings, a locally-based service team. On October 8, the Navy team narrowly beat the Red Wings, 5-4, in 10 innings.

All-Star Games and other events

April 19 Major League All-Stars vs Pearl Harbor Submarine Base

On April 19, major league players serving with the Navy in Hawaii played their first organized game, taking on Pearl Harbor Submarine Base at Weaver Field. With a line-up that included Johnny Mize, Barney McCosky, Joe Grace and Hugh Casey, the major leaguers were too much for the submariners. With a hitting attack led by Johnny Mize (a homer, double and two singles), the major leaguers were triumphant, 9-3. A few hours after this game was played, more than 7,000 miles away, Captain Elmer Gedeon lifted the wheels of his Martin B-26 Marauder off the runway at Boreham Field in England. Gedeon, 27, had played five games for the Washington Senators in 1939, but that must have seemed a lifetime ago as he eased the plane into formation and checked that his six crew members were all okay. Gedeon was piloting one of 30 B-26s that were heading across the English Channel to France to bomb a Nazi V1 site that was being constructed near Bois d'Esquerdes. As Gedeon approached the target area he was met with accurate, heavy anti-aircraft fire. The sky was full of deadly puffs of black explosions that generated hundreds of pieces of jagged steel that could rip through his plane at any time. Gedeon had just dropped his bombs on the target when his plane took a direct hit under the cockpit. The cockpit immediately filled with flames and only the co-pilot, with his clothing alight, was able to escape the burning plane as it plummeted to the ground. Six crew members, including Elmer Gedeon, died in the crash. Gedeon was the first, and one of only two major leaguers who died in combat in World War II.



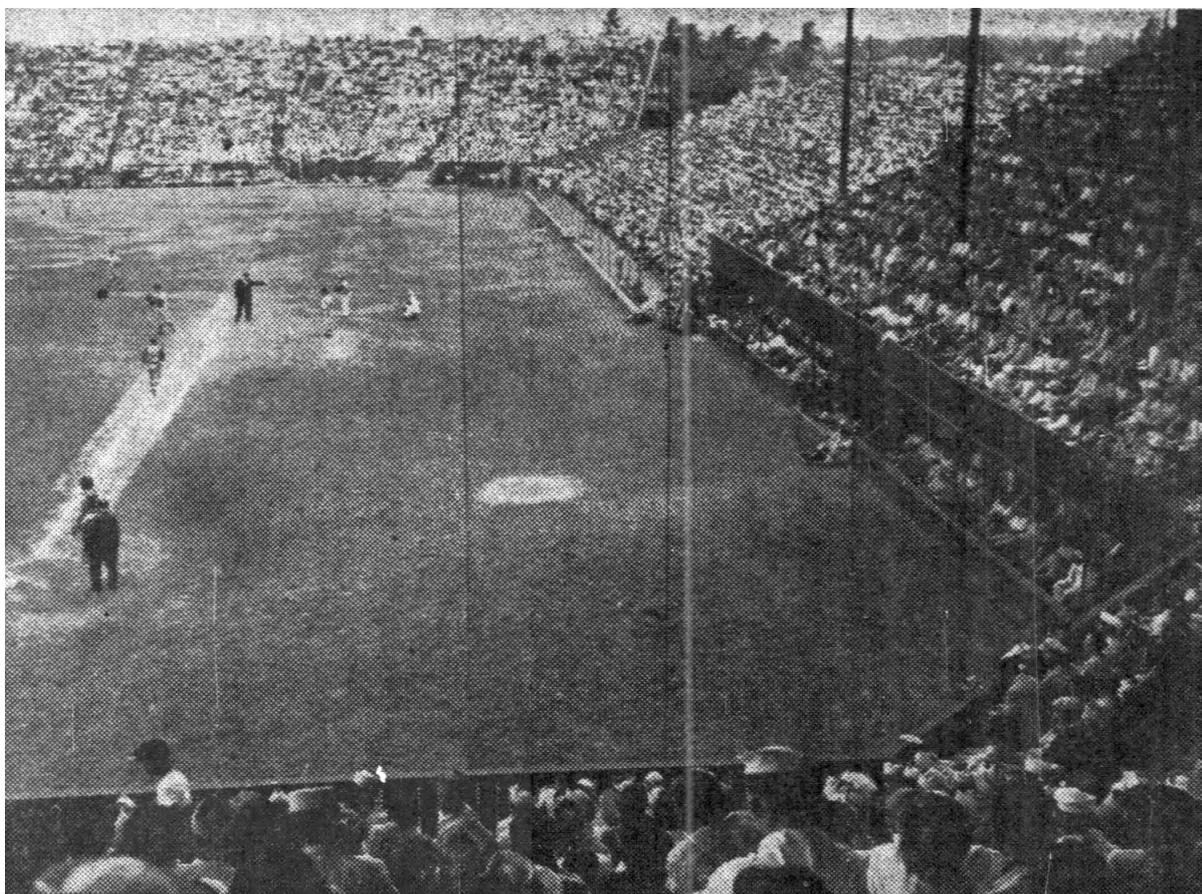
Major League All-Stars. Front row, left to right: Barney McCosky, Johnny Mize, Johnny Lucadello, Marv Felderman, Eddie Pellagrini, Hugh Casey and Vern Olsen. Back row: Tom Ferrick, Joe Grace, Bill Holland, George Dickey, Tom Winsett and Wes Schulmerich.

April 29 All-Star War Bond Game at Honolulu Stadium

On April 29, 1944, an estimated crowd of 20,000 paid \$650,000 in war bonds as the price of admission to see a team of major league stars take on an all-star team of players from the Hawaii League. What they got for their money was, "the greatest ballgame of the season," according to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. With a line-up that included future Hall of Famers Pee Wee Reese and Johnny Mize, the major league all-stars were always going to be a challenge for any team but no one expected the Hawaii Leaguers to keep the big leaguers in check until the twelfth inning. The Hawaii Leaguers had a little big league assistance in the form of future major leaguers Bob Usher and Sam Mele, and 1939 Washington Senators left-hander Bill Holland, but it was a local pitcher who finally faced the wrath of the big league bats. Leo Kasparovich, who was born in Honolulu and would go on to win 20 games with the Salt Lake City Bees in 1946, was hit for three runs with Joe Grace, Al Brancato and Johnny Lucadello doing the damage to win the game for the major leaguers, 4-2.

An estimated 75% of the attendees were servicemen. "It shows more than ever," said Loui Leong Hop of the Star-Bulletin, "that the appearance of big leaguers is wanted as a diversion and as a moral builder for the men who are close to the combat theater and who know it may be a long time before they have another chance to witness the national pastime."

In addition to the money raised in war bonds, an auction of autographed bats and balls brought another \$530,000, bring the total to over \$1 million. An autographed bat raised \$10,000, while a ball went for \$2,500.



April 30 14th Naval District Major League All-Stars vs Central Pacific Area Army All-Stars at Schofield Barracks

A day after being challenged by the Hawaii All-Stars over 12 innings, the Navy All-Stars, before a record-breaking crowd of 18,000 at Schofield Barracks, faced an all-star team of Army personnel based at Oahu. It was the first and only time in 1944 that an Army all-star baseball team was assembled in Oahu before the arrival of the big-league stars. The Navy easily disposed of the Army All-Stars, 9-0, scoring four runs in the first inning and three in the third. Johnny Lucadello and Tom Ferrick each got three hits for the winners. Cyr, Jeffries, Bailey and Kessler pitched for the Army. Winsett and Weatherbee each got two hits apiece.

"The Army ran in a squad of 23 players," wrote Captain K. S. Vandergriff in the Honolulu Advertiser, "not so much with the idea of being able to stop the Navy's steam roller but to give every one of the soldier players his chance to tell his grandchildren that he batted against some of baseball's all-time greats."

	Position	Unit	Experience
Tom Winsett	P	Hickam Field	Majors (1930 to 1938)
Kernie Kohlmyer	SS	Hickam Field	Minors (1938 to 1946)
Ed Jabb	OF	Hickam Field	Minors (1934 to 1940)
Joe Gedzius	2B	Hickam Field	Minors (1938 to 1948)
Sid Gautreaux	C	Schofield	Majors (1936 to 1937)
Frank Williams	1B	Schofield	Negro Leagues (1942 to 1946)
Reno Faoro	2B	Schofield	Minors (1940)
Willie Reyes	3B	Hourglass	Minors (1938 to 1951)
Glenn Weatherbee	OF	Hourglass	Minors (1938 to 1940)
*Ray Matera	C	Hourglass	From Syracuse, NY
Orville Baker	OF	Hourglass	Minors (1933 to 1935)
Warren Kessler	P	Hourglass	Unknown
Richard Bushong	2B	Wheeler Field	Unknown
Gordon Howerton	OF	Wheeler Field	Minors (1941 to 1946)
Bill Bailey	P	Wheeler Field	Unknown
Wally Cyr	P	Fort Shafter	Minors (1946)
Johnny Jurasits	C	Fort Shafter	Semi-pro from Nazareth, PA
Frank Powell	SS	Fort Shafter	Minors (1940 to 1947)
Sonny Boy Jeffries	P	Fort Armstrong	Negro Leagues (1940 to 1948)
Roy Beckett	3B	Bellows Field	From Champaign, IL
Otis "Red" Coates	OF	Bellows Field	Unknown
Walter Morris	OF	St. Louis Hospital	Unknown
Angelo Manno	1B	St. Louis Hospital	From New York, NY
Pete Condellone	Coach	Schofield	
William Filson	Asst Coach		
H. S. Bellows	Manager		
Lt. C. B. Clarkson	Off in Charge		

*Ray Matera, who was playing baseball with Big Cottonwood Civilian Conservation Corps in the Salt Lake City Farm Bureau League before the war, was later awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received in combat in the Pacific Theater.



Central Pacific Area Army All-Stars. Front row, left to right: Warren Kessler, Kerner Kohlmyer, Ray Matera, Glenn Weatherbee, Dick Bushong, Willie Reyes, Walt Morris and Angelo Manno. Middle row: Wally Cyr, Joe Gedzius, Orville Baker, Frank Powell, Frank Williams, Roy Beckett, Tom Winsett and Johnny Jurasits. Back row: Sid Gautreaux, Pete Condellone, Bill Bailey, Sonny Boy Jeffries, Gordon Howerton, Ed Jabb, Otis Coates and Reno Faoro.

7th AAF Fliers in the Big Island

In July 1944, the 7th Army Air Force Fliers travelled to the island of Hawaii to play two games against an all-star servicemen team (Defender All-Stars). According to the district special service office, who organized the games, the purpose was to give as many servicemen as possible the chance to see Joe DiMaggio, and they were fortunate as these were among the few games in which DiMaggio played in July.

On July 3, at Hoolulu Park in Hilo, with a crowd of 6,000, who lined both ends of the playing field from home plate to the 318-foot markers, the 7th AAF defeated the Defender All-Stars, 5-2, but only managed six hits off former minor leaguer George Babich, who kept DiMaggio hitless in four at-bats. In the second game, played on July 5, 7th AAF came away with a 5-0 win against Hawaii-born 36-year-old pitcher Roe Sarsuelo. DiMaggio had a crowd-pleasing run-scoring single in the third inning.



7th AAF players signing autographs after the game in Hilo.

Central Pacific Base Command Championship

The Central Pacific Base Command (CPBC) championship tournament was held at Schofield Barracks in October 1944, and was open to Army teams based in the Hawaiian Islands. As well as eleven teams from Oahu, there were teams representing Maui, Hawaii and Kauai.

The tournament ran from October 2 to October 8, and was won by the Medical Department All-Stars (a team consisting of players from St. Louis Hospital and two teams that competed in the Schofield Barracks leagues - NSGH Medics and the General Hospital Docs. The Medical Department All-Stars defeated Maui District All-Stars, 2-1, in a 12-inning contest.



Medical Department All-Stars. Front row, left to right: Lt. R.F. Reading, Raymond Hinkle, Cunningham, Brodnic, Hagler, Gomez, Logamarsino, Angelo Manno, Ed Maxey, Walter Morris and Murphy. Back row: Johnny DePew, Gamec, Murray, Gillaume, Paul Mariscal, Gibson, White, Gill, Montague, Scherrer, Furramalo and Captain Newman.

First Female Service Softball League in Hawaii

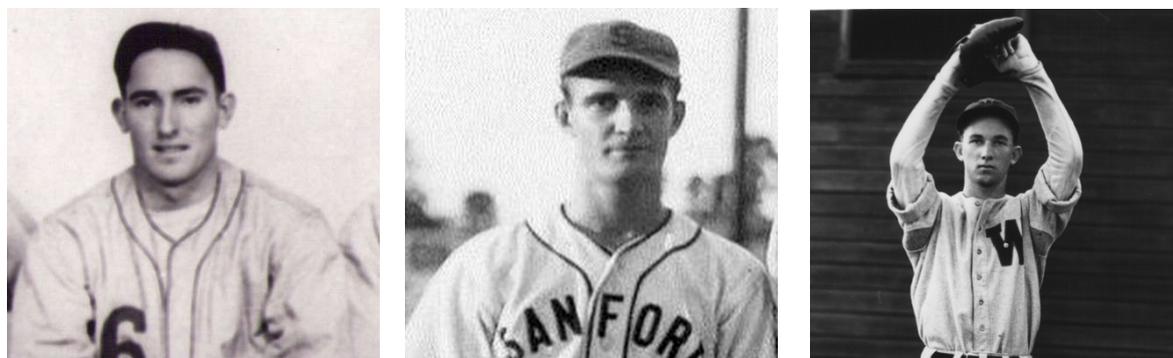
The All-Service Women's Softball League was the first female military softball league to be organized in Hawaii. The season ran from August to October and included the Base 8 Hospital Babes, Pearl Harbor Hospital, Aiea Heights Hospital Hilltopperettes, Hawaiian Air Depot Black Widows, Pearl Harbor Shop Wahines and the Stores House Kamaainas. Behind the pitching of Hattie Lovell and the hitting of Helen Kiili and Ruby Kelly, the Wahines not only attracted the largest crowd to see an athletic event at Aiea Receiving Barracks' Peterson Field, but clinched the league title with an undefeated season.



Pearl Harbor Shop Wahines. Front row, left to right: Cahrity Tsui, Kathrene Cordeiro, Betty Ewalani, Dolly Wong, Jewel Wedemeyer, Doreas Ah Yuen, Elizabeth Aweau and Anna Mertens. Back row: Philip Rios (coach), Christine Mendes, Honey Tsui, Ruby Kelly, Genevieve Ferreira, Hattie Lovell, Abey Cortez, Gladys Robelle, Agnes Wietz, Miriam Wong, Lillian de Mello and Katie Chan (manager)

Normandy Landings (D-Day) June 6, 1944

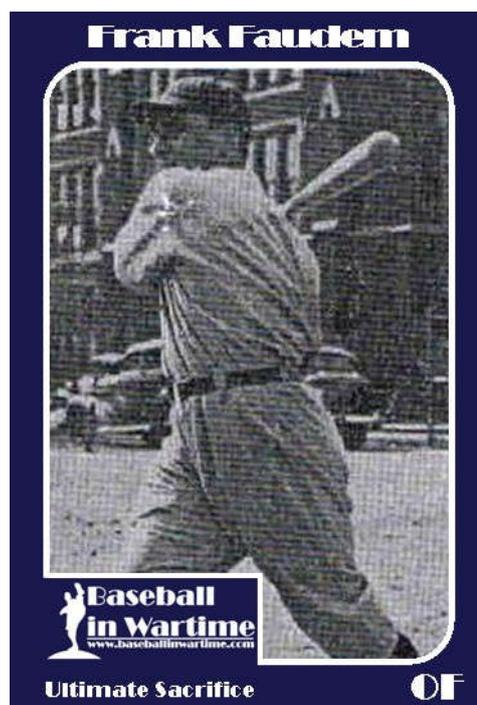
On the same that Johnny Lucadello hit a 400-foot home run to help Aiea Barracks defeat the Wheeler Wingmen in a CPA League game in Hawaii, nearly 16,000 Allied troops were landing on the beaches of Normandy, France. Aboard an LCS(S) rocket boat 300 yards offshore from Utah Beach that morning was Seaman Second Class Yogi Berra. Just 19 years old, Berra had played one season in the minors with the Norfolk Tars before being called to service. He would be back in baseball in 1946 for the first of 18 years as a Hall of Fame catcher in Yankee pinstripes. June 6, 1944, claimed the lives of three former professional ball players. Elmer Wright, a pitcher with Jackson of the Southeastern League in 1939, was the first to lose his life that day with the initial wave of troops to hit Omaha Beach. Joe Pinder, who hurled in the minors for seven years and won 17 games with Sanford of the Florida State League in 1939, also lost his life at Omaha Beach, but not before showing indomitable courage trying to rescue radio equipment, which earned him the Medal of Honor. Later in the day, Forrest "Lefty" Brewer, a 25-game winner with St. Augustine of the Florida State League in 1938, was killed in action while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division.



Elmer Wright, Joe Pinder and Lefty Brewer

Frank Faudem

Frank Faudem was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1921, and rose to fame in baseball and football at Central High School. The short, stocky left-hander, was a hard-hitting pitcher and outfielder, producing a .348 batting average as captain of the Central Trailblazers in 1939. In 1940, his senior year, he led the team with a .478 batting average, winning All-City honors. He signed with his hometown Detroit Tigers in October 1940, and joined the Fulton Tigers of the Class D Kitty League in 1941, batting .321 in 118 games. In 1942, he was again hitting .321 with Fulton when the league disbanded in June, and he joined the Winston-Salem Twins of the Class B Piedmont League for the remainder of the year, batting .260 in 68 games. Faudem was called to military service on January 18, 1943, assigned to the 77th Infantry Division, and sent to Hawaii in April 1944, where he trained in amphibious landings and jungle warfare.

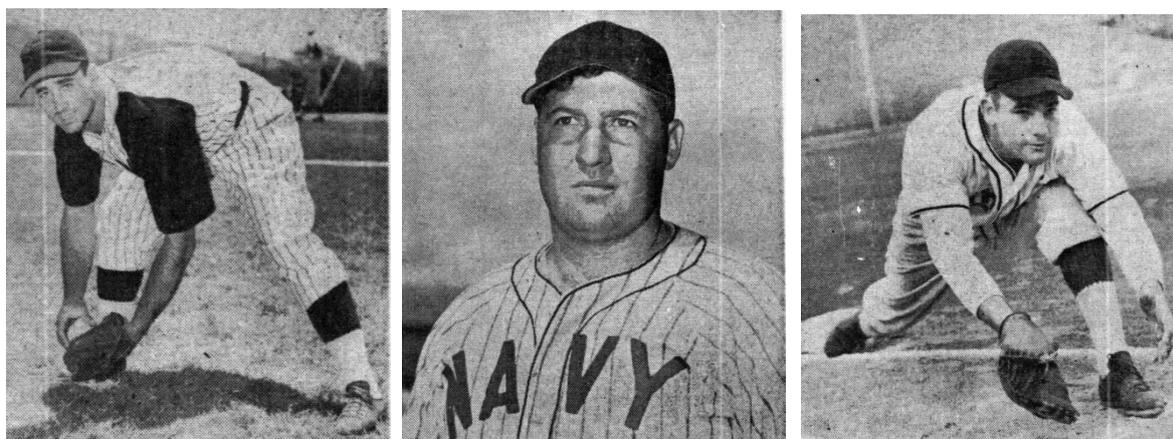


Not surprisingly, baseball was never far from the youngster's thoughts and when military commitments would allow, he made his way to Honolulu to pitch and play outfield for the Wanderers of the Hawaii League. His moment of glory came against the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base team on June 20, beating them, 3 to 2. Facing a line-up that included Al Brancato, Mo Mozzali and Joe Grace, Faudem allowed just four hits and struck out 10, as well as hitting an eighth-inning 330-foot homerun into the right-centerfield stands. It was the first time the Sub Base had been defeated by a non-military team and Faudem was described as "the toast of civilian ball clubs of the Hawaii League," and named "Star of the Week" by the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. "I'd rather play ball than anything else," he told Maxwell Herbert of the Star-Bulletin after the game, "and I want to make the big leagues if possible."

Lefty Faudem Hurls Nomads To Victory

Faudem's time in Hawaii was brief. On July 21, he made an assault landing on Guam with the 77th Infantry Division. At the beginning of December, he participated in the capture of the port of Ormoc, at Leyte, a province of the Philippines, and took part in a second landing on Leyte at the end of the month at Palompon. On January 12, 1945, on the second day of a three-day patrol to clear the Japanese out of the hills, and while he was setting up night defenses, a single bullet from a sniper abruptly ended the life of Private First Class Frank Faudem.

Upon hearing of his death, Wish Egan, the Detroit scout who'd signed Faudem in 1940, said, "You never saw a boy who wanted to get into the majors as much as Frankie."



Al Brancato, Hugh Casey and Ferris Fain

Players with Major League experience in Hawaii in 1944

Army/Army Air Force

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Teams in Hawaii</i>	<i>Years in Majors</i>
John Andre	P	7 th AAF	1955
Rugger Ardizoia	P	7 th AAF	1947
Johnny Beazley	P	7 th AAF	1941 to 1949
Bob Dillinger	3B	7 th AAF	1946 to 1951
(HOF) Joe DiMaggio	OF	7 th AAF	1936 to 1951
Hank Edwards	OF	13 th Repl Depot	1941 to 1953
Eddie Erault	P	13 th Repl Depot	1947 to 1953
Ferris Fain	1B	7 th AAF	1947 to 1955
Sid Gautreaux	C	Schofield Redlanders	1936 to 1937
(HOF) Joe Gordon	2B	7 th AAF	1938 to 1950
Walt Judnich	OF	7 th AAF	1940 to 1949
Don Lang	OF	7 th AAF	1938 to 1948
Dario Lodigiani	2B/3B	7 th AAF	1938 to 1946
Mike McCormick	OF	7 th AAF	1940 to 1951
Jerry Priddy	2B	7 th AAF	1941 to 1953
(HOF) Red Ruffing	P	7 th AAF	1924 to 1947
Don D. Schmidt	P	7 th AAF	1946 to 1952
Charlie Silvera	C	7 th AAF	1948 to 1957
Tom Winsett	OF	7 th AAF	1930 to 1938

Navy

Arne "Red" Anderson	P	PH Sub Base	1937 to 1941
Al Brancato	3B	PH Sub Base	1939 to 1945
Jim Carlin	OF	Aiea Hospital	1941
Hugh Casey	P	Kaneohe Klippers	1935 to 1949
(HOF) Bill Dickey	C	Navy All-Stars	1928 to 1946
George "Skeets" Dickey	C	Aiea Hospital	1935 to 1947
Dom DiMaggio	OF	Navy All-Stars	1940 to 1953
Marv Felderman	C	Kaneohe Klippers	1942
Tom Ferrick	P	Kaneohe Klippers	1941 to 1952
Joe Grace	OF	PH Sub Base	1938 to 1947
Jack Hallett	P	NAS Puunene, Maui	1940 to 1948
Bob Harris	P	PH Sub Base	1938 to 1942
Bill Holland	P	Aiea Barracks	1939
Rankin Johnson, Jr.	P	PH Sub Base	1941
Johnny Lucadello	2B	Aiea Barracks	1938 to 1947
Walt Masterson	P	PH Sub Base	1939 to 1956
Barney McCosky	OF	Aiea Barracks	1939 to 1953
Eddie McGah	C	Base 8 Hospital	1946 to 1947
(HOF) Johnny Mize	1B	Kaneohe Klippers	1936 to 1953
Vern Olsen	P	Aiea Hospital	1939 to 1946
Eddie Pellagrini	IF	Aiea Barracks	1946 to 1954
(HOF) Pee Wee Reese	SS	Aiea Hospital	1940 to 1958
(HOF) Phil Rizzuto	SS	Navy All-Stars	1941 to 1956
Schoolboy Rowe	P	Navy All-Stars	1933 to 1949
Wes Schulmerich	P	Kaneohe Klippers	1931 to 1934
Ken Sears	C	PH Sub Base	1943 to 1946
Eddie Shokes	1B	Aiea Hospital	1941 to 1946
Vinnie Smith	C	Aiea Barracks	1941 to 1946
Virgil Trucks	P	Navy All-Stars	1941 to 1958
Bob Usher	OF	Aiea Barracks	1946 to 1957
Johnny Vander Meer	P	Navy All-Stars	1937 to 1951

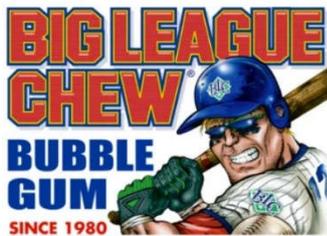
Marine Corps

Jim Davis	P	Catlin Marines	1954 to 1957
Sam Mele	OF/1B	PH Marines	1947 to 1956



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