

Ted Williams In The All-Star Games, 1940-1960

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Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox was the last Major League player to accomplish the extraordinary feat of batting over .400. Leading the American League in hitting on six occasions and in slugging percentage nine times, Williams completed his remarkable career with a lifetime batting average of .344 and a slugging average of .634.

The purpose of this paper will be to analyze the performances of Williams in the various All-Star Games. Williams was first chosen to represent the American League in the 1940 All-Star Game at Sportsman's Park in Saint Louis. Altogether he was to participate in eighteen All-Star contests. Williams' final appearance was in the 1960 game at New York's Yankee Stadium.

Williams was the dominant figure in the All-Star Games of 1941, 1946, and 1949. In the 1941 contest at Briggs Stadium in Detroit he blasted a three-run home run with two outs in the ninth inning, thereby rescuing the American League from what seemed to be an inevitable defeat. At Fenway Park in Boston in 1946, Williams hit two singles and two home runs and drove in five runs, accounting for a display of offensive power that has never been equalled in the history of the All-Star Games. In the 1949 game at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field, Williams made a sensational catch in the outfield, abruptly ending a sustained National League rally and facilitating an ultimate American League triumph.

In his eighteen All-Star Games, Williams scored ten runs, drew nine bases on balls, collected fourteen hits, drove in twelve runs, and compiled a .304 batting average. Moreover, seven of his hits were for extra bases and his official All-Star slugging average was .652.

The American League was to vanquish the National League in eleven of the eighteen games in which Williams played. Williams' All-Star statistics were distinctly more impressive than the comparable figures of such illustrious contemporaries as Hank Greenburg, Joe DiMaggio, and Mickey Mantle. A thorough review of the evidence warrants the conclusion that Williams' All-Star record fairly accurately reflected his overall performance as an authentic superstar.