

Manager Billy Southworth of the Saint Louis Cardinals, 1942-1944

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Between 1942 and 1944 Manager Billy Southworth was to guide the Saint Louis Cardinals to three consecutive National League pennants. No Cardinal manager before or since has equalled this accomplishment, and only one other manager, the legendary John McGraw of the New York Giants, has ever presided over a team winning four successive National League pennants.

In 1942 Southworth's Cardinals, triumphing in 43 of their final 51 games, won the pennant on the final day of the regular season and compiled a won-lost record of 106-48 (.682). In 1943 and 1944 the Cardinals captured pennants with identical statistical records of 105-49.

From 1942 to 1944 Southworth won 316 games and experienced defeat 146 times. Over the three seasons Southworth won 64 more games than Bill McKechnie, whose Cincinnati Reds had led the National League in 1939 and 1940, and 68 more games than Leo Durocher, the 1941 pennant winning manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Southworth's feat of accumulating 100 or more victories in three successive years was a National League record which has remained intact until the present time.

In addition to his three pennants Southworth's Cardinals won world championships in 1942 and 1944. In the 1942 World Series the Cardinals defeated the New York Yankees in five games and in the 1944 "Trolley Car" World Series they vanquished the Saint Louis Browns in six games. Altogether Southworth won nine World Series games between 1942 and 1944.

In directing the Saint Louis Cardinals to three consecutive National League pennants Southworth was certainly deserving of recognition as one of baseball's most productive managers. Indeed Southworth's impressive won-lost record between 1942 and 1944 contributed to his overall success as the National League's foremost manager during the eventful decade of the 1940s.