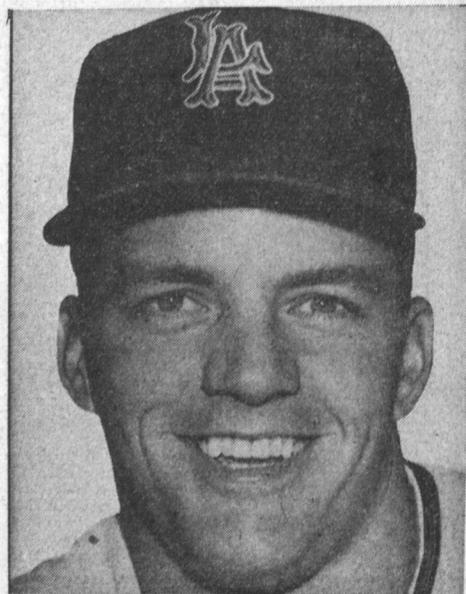


# Thomas, McBride, Hunt Eye Rookie Awards



LEE THOMAS

## Embryonic LA Club Hopeful in 1st Season

Most experts now agree that for a club which wasn't supposed to do anything in its maiden season in the American League, the Los Angeles Angels have done quite well for themselves.

In fact, they not only have performed better on the field than they thought, originally, but the experts agree that General Manager Fred Haney and Manager Bill Rigney have whipped together a club which has a fine future, boasting a host of outstanding youngsters.

Messrs. Haney and Rigney realized early in the campaign that their hopes for eventual success in the American League lied not only with the talented youngsters they drafted from the A.L. clubs last December in Boston, but also with any prospects they might acquire via trade and the waiver route as the season progressed.

Their plan of attack has proven to be right-as-right-can-be. Such youngsters as George Thomas, (23), Leon Wagner (27), Jim Donohue (22), Ron Moeller (22), Ell Grba (26) and Albie Pearson (26) form the nucleus of an Angel team which has caused and will continue to cause plenty of trouble in the American League this year.

However, three of the young aces who have zoomed into prominence this year are a pair of Kens—McBride and Hunt—both of whom are original members of the first edition of the Angels and Lee Thomas, acquired from the Yankees on May 8th.

Their performances this year have been most satisfying to the Angel brass. McBride's tremendous pitching earned for him a berth on the American League All-Star team at San Francisco. Hunt's timely home run hitting has put him in a position to tie, or possibly break the A.L.'s 31-homer rookie mark set by Ted Williams in 1939. Thomas, for whom a great future is predicted by many experts, has proven that he "can swing a bat." He has an easy, fluid motion and since playing regularly with the Angels, Lee has proven that he is a definite star of the future and one of this year's leading rookies.

All three Angels are outstanding candidates for "Rookie of the Year" honors in 1961. The American League has come up with one of its finest rookie crops in recent seasons—but McBride, Hunt and Lee Thomas rank right up near the top.

Their competition for rookie honors will probably come from Detroit's fine young infielders, Steve Boros and Jake Wood, Kansas City's shortstop Dick Howser, New York righthander Roland Sheldon, Washington's Ed Hobaugh and Joe McClain, Boston's Don Schwall and several others.

McBride, 25-year old righthander, has been among the Major League leaders in ERA all season, being under 3.00. He has hurled one three-hitter (a 9-0 shutout over Cleveland for his and the Angels' first shutout), three five-hitters and three seven-hitters. He has hurled more than half of the complete games thrown by Angel pitchers this season. McBride also has had one three-game winning streak

## Art Fowler Top Fireman

The baseball takes funny bounces and no player in the game is better qualified to talk about bouncing than Art Fowler of the Los Angeles Angels.

The relief ace of the Angels, who is now established as one of the top firemen in baseball, has done the entire diamond circuit. He has run the gamut of minor league ball and has pitched successfully in major leagues.

Since returning to the majors with the Angels on May 27th, Art has established himself as a solid pitcher. "I can work every day, if necessary." And he virtually has worked daily.

Fowler is one of the most respected bullpen artists in the league. A 39-year old native of Converse, S.C. (he still resides there), Art has been well-nigh unbeatable.

In one spell this year encompassing 16 games, Art has given just one earned run in 21-2/3 innings. That one run was a ninth-inning homer by the Yankees' Bill Skowron which beat the Angels.

For Fowler, this return to the major leagues is something he never thought would happen. At 39, few players ever come back—but he has and in a big way.

A veteran of 17 years in professional baseball, Fowler is thought of by the opposition as a junkball pitcher. There is nothing further from truth. He has a "hummer," which has surprised most of the Angels' opponents no end.

Art says that "my fast ball is as good now as it has ever been." He is such a master at his trade that he sets up a batter as pretty as anyone. Just when the batter least expects it, in comes "The Hummer."

Art was the eighth deal swung by General Manager Fred Haney. It is one of his best. For Fowler not only has been virtually unscathed-upon as a reliever, but he is unbeatable. Both of his losses came in starting roles, soon after joining Los Angeles.

Hunt, in-and-out of the lineup earlier this year, has taken over the Angels center-field job as though he intends to keep it for many years. His home runs have been timely and the remarkable part about his first 19 round-trippers is the fact that only four of them have come off southpaws. In addition to leading the club in homers, he's also the RBI, doubles and total base leader.

The 27-year old Hunt, touted by his former manager, Casey Stengel, as a fine prospect, boasts a strong throwing arm and is fleet of foot. His defensive play has improved to where he has become a steady and oft-times sensational centerfielder.

Lee Thomas has played right field in the main for the Angels, but lately has been seen in left field also. Bill Rigney has toyed with the idea of possibly shifting him to first base. This would not be a strange position to the 25-year old slugger, as he played the initial there with Binghamton in the Eastern League for 120 games.

While the voting for "Rookie of the Year" honors is a couple of months away, it can be said that the Angels 1961 season has been most successful in the development of such youngsters as Lee and George Thomas, and the two Kens—McBride and Hunt—who loom to be among the top rookies in the American League this season.

Army Pvt. Timothy S. Wayt, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newell E. Wayt, 813 Arlington, Torrance, recently arrived in Germany and is now a member of the eighth Infantry Division.

Wayt is a light-vehicle driver in the 16th Company of the division's 20th Transportation Battalion in Gonsenheim.



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