

Somebody Up There Likes Lou, New Hall-Of-Famer

By Mike Rathet
Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Lou Boudreau, who had "angels on my shoulders" in 1948 when he led the Cleveland Indians to the world championship as a player-manager, was elected Tuesday to Baseball's Hall of Fame by the narrow margin of seven votes.

Boudreau, now a 52-year-old sportscaster in Chicago and the father-in-law of Detroit's unpre-

dictable Denny McLain, received 232 votes of the 300 votes cast by the Baseball Writers Association of America. That gave him seven more than the required 225.

And it made him the only player among the 48 on the ballot to amass the required votes for election.

Finishing a distant second was Ralph Kiner, the slugging Pittsburgh outfielder, with 167 votes,

followed by Gil Hodges, currently the manager of the world champion New York Mets, with 145.

Boudreau, who was bowling in Dalton, Ill., Monday night when a call came notifying him of his selection, flew to New York early Tuesday morning to be on hand personally when Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn announced his election.

"I've waited 12 years for this," Boudreau admitted, referring to

the fact that he has been eligible that long. "It's a dream. It's something you keep within yourself. You just keep hoping, but you never really say it to anyone."

The former Cleveland shortstop, who became a manager in 1942 at 24 and won a batting title in 1944, recalled that he almost didn't play for the Indians during 1948 — the year of his greatest achievements.

"That was my year," he said proudly. "It was like I had angels on my shoulders. You know in 1947 Veeck (owner Bill Veeck) tried to trade me to St. Louis. But the fans rebelled. We had a fan vote and the ballot was 4-1 in favor of keeping me in Cleveland."

"Veeck didn't think much of me as a manager and in those days neither did I. It's a lucky thing I could play shortstop."

Boudreau played shortstop and managed that year, doing both brilliantly. He hit .355, led the Indians to the American League pennant after a playoff with the Boston Red Sox, a World Series victory over the Boston Braves and then was named the AL's Most Valuable Player.

Boudreau's playing career lasted 15 years and while he fielded brilliantly he also compiled a .295 lifetime batting average. When

he took over the Indians in 1948 he became the youngest manager in major league history to handle a club for a full year.

He remained the Indians' manager until 1950 and also managed the Boston Red Sox from 1952 to 1954 and the Kansas City A's from 1955 to 1958. At that time he took a job as a sportscaster with WGN in Chicago and kept close to baseball through McLain the ace of the Detroit Tigers.



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