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Maris Blasts 61st Homer as Yanks Win Final Game [ARTICLE]

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Maris Blasts 61st Homer As Yanks Win Final Game

New York (P) — Roger Maris hit his 61st home run in the New York Yankees' last game Sunday, setting a major league record for a 162-game season in a 1-0 victory over Boston.

Under an edict of Commissioner Ford Frick, Babe Ruth's record of 60, set in 1927, still stands as the high for a 154-game season.

When Maris slammed a 2-0, fourth-inning pitch by Boston rookie Tracy Stallard into the lower stands in right field, a Yankee Stadium crowd of 23,154 broke into a frenzied ovation. After he tipped his hat and ducked into the dugout, Maris was pushed out on the field by his teammates to take two more bows.

Stallard, whose name will go into the record books as the man who threw up the 61st to Maris, threw outside to Maris on his first pitch in the fourth. The second ball was low in the dirt.

Then came a high pitch that Maris, swinging from his heels in a "sink or swim" effort, drove into the lower stands in right, far beyond the reach of Lu Clinton.

Maris hit his 59th Sept. 20 off Milt Pappas in Baltimore. He hit No. 60 Tuesday night off Baltimore's Jack Fisher. Then he took a day off. After Thursday's open date, he failed to hit a homer either Friday night or Saturday.

A recap showed he hit 49 homers off right-handed pitchers and 12 off southpaws.

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