

# Little Stu Lands Whopper of Pact After Pay Hassle

By DOUG BROWN

MIAMI, Fla.

It seemed to concern Stu Miller not one whit that he was more than two weeks behind the other Oriole pitchers in conditioning when he finally checked into camp.

The stubborn relief pitcher ended a two-week holdout, easily the longest in the modern history of the club, when he agreed in a telephone conversation with President Lee MacPhail to a contract calling for an estimated \$33,000, plus an attendance bonus clause.

"I'm satisfied and Lee's satisfied," Miller said when he arrived here from his home in San Carlos, Calif. Stu seemed to be smiling rather grimly, though, and didn't sound terribly convincing.

Miller was believed to be demanding \$37,000, a raise of \$7,000 over last year. While MacPhail was delighted with Miller's 1963 performance, he felt that a salary of \$37,000 simply was too high for a relief pitcher.

"Stu was concerned with the size of the raise," MacPhail explained. "I was more concerned with his total salary."

"With the possible exception of Roy Face, I'm quite sure Miller is getting more than any relief pitcher in the majors. I know he's getting more than any other pitcher on our staff."

MacPhail said he had decided to let the thing drag on for about two weeks after spring training began and then to issue Miller an ultimatum if he didn't give in. By that, MacPhail meant the club's offer would decrease if Stu continued to hold out.

"Miller realized that further delay would hurt him and the club," MacPhail said. "I hope he will work hard to make up for lost time."

Although stamina isn't too important in Miller's case, since he works only an inning or so at a time during the season, he still will have to adhere to the same training regimen as the rest of the pitchers down here.

Stu is well aware he's 36 years old. Despite this, plus the fact he hadn't been working out at home while his teammates were working up a sweat



Stu Miller

## Injury Hoodoo Hits Pappas Again

MIAMI, Fla.—Oriole pitcher Milt Pappas is beginning to think he'll never emerge from a spring training camp unscathed.

In 1962, it was appendicitis. Last year, it was a recurrence of an old knee injury. Then, during a base-running drill here on March 9, Pappas turned his left ankle when he stepped on the edge of a bag.

"If this stuff doesn't stop, I may go back to Athens," said the young man who was christened Miltiades Stergios Papastedgios.

The injury was not believed to be serious, however. After a day or two of rest, he was expected to be able to resume working out.

here, he dismissed the matter with a shrug, as if to say, "Nothing to worry about."

"Can't work out in all that snow in California," he said. Then he burst out laughing.

Did it concern him that he was more than two weeks behind the other pitchers in conditioning, with less than five weeks of training left?

"You kidding?" he said.

He may know from experience that all will be well. From his confident air, one got the impression that all he'd have to do to prepare for opening day was run around the field a few times and stretch his neck once or twice so as not to get a kink when employing the disconcerting head fake on his change-up pitch.

Miller certainly deserved whatever raise he did get. He was the American League's premier player last year with 31 points (26 saves, five wins). For that performance, he was hailed as the Orioles' most valuable player.

**Bird Seed:** George Brunet is experimenting with a knuckleball. . . . Ponderous Boog Powell has grown a half inch, to 6-4½, in the past year. Consequently, he wasn't overly concerned when he checked in at 250 pounds, considerably over his 1963 playing weight. . . . Ex-Manager Billy Hitchcock, now the Orioles' field co-ordinator, left for the Birds' minor league training base at Thomasville, Ga., after spending a week here. . . . Manager Hank Bauer doesn't plan to use lefty reliever Harvey Haddix against any A. L. clubs during the exhibitions. The idea is not to let hitters he will be facing during the season become accustomed to his style. Haddix was acquired from the Pirates during the off season.

## Mexico City Ducats Cost 30c to \$1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—The Mets found admission prices in Mexico City far below the major league scale.

Tickets for the Mets' series ranged from a low of 30 cents to a top of \$1. There also were 60-cent and 80-cent sections.

The Mexico City management, however, insisted that money

could be made with big attendances.

The Mets drew 60,000 for their three games, only 12,000 under absolute capacity.

All reserved seats, however, were sold out for the series.

The Mets received a reported \$7,500 guarantee, in addition to expenses.

# Bauer Taps Looie for Extra Job As Take-Charge Guy on Infield

By DOUG BROWN

MIAMI, Fla.

Luis Aparicio, starting his second season as an Oriole and his ninth in the majors, will have a added responsibility thrust on him this year.

Manager Hank Bauer wants his little Venezuelan shortstop to take over the infield. Not to become merely the holler guy, understand. That would be unique—a holler guy with a Spanish accent.

At Bauer's request, Coach Billy Hunter talked over the new duties with Aparicio. "We want Looie to study the situation and keep the others alert to it," Hunter explained. "He's also the one who will steady the pitchers."

"He's the logical one to do it. He plays every day, he's a veteran and Brooks Robinson wants no part of it. Looie was a veteran last year, too, but he was new to the club."

"The added responsibility may be just the thing to make him an even more exceptional player than he



Luis Aparicio

already is. He'll think more, be conscious of team effort as well as his own.

"Back when I was playing under Bobby Bragan at Fort Worth, he gave me the same job. I had the best year of my life."

## Second Fiddle to Fox in Chi

Aparicio told Hunter he'd be glad to accept the responsibility. "When I was in Chicago, I wasn't supposed to take charge," Looie said. "See, we had Nellie Fox. He had 12, 15 years in big leagues."

It's Hunter's opinion that Aparicio is one of the keys, if not the key, to the Orioles' pennant chances.

"He does so many things well," Hunter said. "Run, field, throw, bunt. If Phil Rizzuto could hit .300 and help the Yankees win pennants, why not Looie?"

"In ability, at least, he's a better player than Rizzuto ever was."

Hunter and Bauer also have spoken to Aparicio about trying to get on base more often by bunting and wangling walks. Looie beat out only 12 bunts last year and ranked sixth on the club with 36 walks.

## Met Junket

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4-4 in the seventh. But in the bottom half of the inning, Miguel Fernandez, the Reds' left fielder, stroked a two-run single off Larry Bearnarth to settle the game.

In this game, the Mets had their first experience with Mexican crowd reaction.

The fans either cheered or jeered or whistled or stamped their feet from first pitch to last. There was no let-up. They are most rabid and with them there's no half-measure, a hometown player is either hero or bum.

The Mets insisted, though, it didn't disturb them.

"It was nothing new for us," one player pointed out. "We have practically the same thing at home. They're not much different than our own fans. Maybe our fans don't whistle, but they make almost as much noise."

One thing didn't impress the Mets—the way photographers were all over the place during the game. This included the playing field. On a couple of occasions, the lensmen were on the diamond even before a play could be completed.

## No Limits for Photogs

In the National League, this is taboo. Photogs must be in the stands. But in Mexico City, there are no limits.

The second game of the series, on Saturday night, March 7, found the Mets pitted against the Mexico City Tigers, with a crowd of 18,000 on hand.

This time the Mets had no trouble, breaking away from the barrier with a three-run rally and coasting to a 7-1 victory.

Tracy Stallard, the starter, pitched five scoreless innings and southpaw Steve Dillon followed with three more blanks. The Tigers scored their lone run off rookie Jerry Hinsley, who was rather shaky.

But the 18-year-old righthander from Las Cruces, N. M., ended the game with a flourish, striking out the last batter with the bases loaded.

Previously, the Mets had unleashed a 12-hit attack, with George Altman leading the way.

The former Cardinals' outfielder drove in four runs with a two-run single, an inside-the-park homer and a sacrifice fly.

Amado Samuel, Billy Haas, Dick Smith and Jesse Gonder were others who contributed two hits apiece in the game. Samuel also homered.

The rubber match was played at 11:30 on the morning of Sunday, March 8, again with 18,000 looking on. It didn't come easy for the Mets, although they eventually prevailed by 9-4 against a combined team of Tigers and Reds.

The invaders trailed until the sixth

## Edna Lost Travel Permit; Home Flight Delayed Hour

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Edna Stengel, Casey's charming wife, had considerable difficulty getting out of Mexico after the Mets' week-end series there.

Mrs. Stengel had misplaced her tourist permit and immigration officials refused to let her through.

After an hour of explaining and discussion, the authorities relented with the proviso that Mrs. Stengel sign a waiver.

Only then did the Florida-bound jetliner take off with the Mets.

Another problem developed in Miami when pitchers Tracy Stallard and Jerry Hinsley couldn't find their health certificates. This was quickly solved, however, when the players showed their inoculations to United States immigration officers.

inning when a two-run pinch-single by Jesse Gonder tied matters up at 4-all.

In the seventh, Bob Taylor singled to break the tie and put the Mets ahead, 5-4. Then in the eighth, with two out, Frank Thomas unloaded a grand-slam homer to give the final count its false look of a runaway.

Mets' fielding in the series was on the horrendous side. They committed a total of 12 errors, six in the finale alone. In that one, they made a boo-boo in each of the first six innings, which must be some sort of record.

## Altman Swings Hot HR Bat

However, there were some bright spots, especially Altman's batting. George hit another homer in the Sunday game.

Then there were fine pitching performances by rookie Dick Selma and Dick Gardner, in addition to the efforts by Stallard and Dillon.

Selma was the only pitcher to get into two games. Casey used the 20-year-old righthander from Fresno, Calif., for one inning on Friday and for two to wind up Sunday's affair. He blanked the opposition in each of his appearances.

With the series over, Stengel went looking for new worlds to conquer.

"How about Japan or the Philippines," he shouted. "We win in Mexico. We're world champions."

The Mets' traveling party, totaling 46, had a good time away from the games as well.

There was entertaining at homes for the Casey Stengels and President and Mrs. George Weiss, as well as for Mr. and Mrs. Herb Walker, who represented the club's board of directors.

Many of the others took guided tours around the city, finding the trips educational and entertaining.

In brief, a good time was had by all.



Frank Thomas

## Juggling Suits Frank--Just So He's in Lineup

By BARNEY KREMENKO

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

Frank Thomas apparently was serious when he said during the winter that he wanted to make 1964 a big year and was ready and willing to put in all the work needed to make it possible.

There hasn't been a more diligent or determined athlete in the Mets' camp. At 35, he is behaving more like a rookie than a grizzled veteran.

It doesn't matter to the Pittsburgh-born clouter whether he plays first base, third base or in left field.

"I don't care where they put me," he insisted. "It won't bother my hitting and, after all, that's the main reason I'm in the lineup. I'll play anywhere the manager thinks it will help him most."

One of the surprises of the Mexican trip was Casey Stengel's assigning Thomas to third. It was a totally unexpected development even for Frankie boy.

"I had no idea Casey had that in mind," Thomas asserted. "But I've played the position before and so it didn't worry me at all."

Before the week-end with the Latins was over, Thomas was patrolling left field and the switch back didn't disturb him either.

"As I said before, it's all the same

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