

Boyer Rides Top Perch as Birds Build

Kenny, Saved From Block, Repays Devine for Confidence

Card Captain Off to Torrid '60 Getaway

Star Third Sacker Whacks
Six Home Runs, Drives in
15 Tallies in 15 Contests

By RALPH RAY

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

When Fred Hutchinson was managing the Cardinals, he paid Kenton Lloyd Boyer this compliment, "Ken's the kind of kid you often wish you had a dozen of. That way you could play nine of them and have three on the bench, ready to step in and stir up things."

Shortly after succeeding Hutch as the Birds' pilot, Solly Hemus cracked, "If the club tries to get rid of Ken, it may as well get rid of me, too." Later Solly told a luncheon group that Boyer rated a million-dollar tag on today's market.

Hemus wasn't exaggerating. He had stressed during the off season that Boyer would have to carry a tremendous load for the Redbirds—at least until enough of the numerous farm prospects made the grade.

Delivers Under Pressure

Boyer, No. 1 man on the Cardinals, offensively and defensively, gave no indication that the pressure had affected him as the 1960 campaign got underway. During the season-opening five-game slump, he whacked two homers in losing causes against the Dodgers. When the club pitched tent at home for the first time, the million-dollar strongboy began leading his club as few other captains have.

In a three-game sweep over the Dodgers, the first time the Cardinals turned the trick against that club since 1955, Boyer blasted three homers and drove in nine runs. The next night he socked another long four-bagger to the scoreboard off Johnny Antonelli of the Giants, but Cardinal relief pitching buckled and the homer was wasted.

Boyer's tremendous start this season—six homers and 15 runs batted in in his first 15 games—indicated that the nimble third sacker hardly would turn into a self-satisfied fat cat. He was given a boost in salary from \$25,000 to \$35,000 when he quickly came to terms with General Manager Bing Devine for 1960.

Winner of Spink Award

Kenny, a six-one, 200-pounder, long has been grateful to Devine. When the standout from Alba, Mo., accepted the J. G. Taylor Spink Award as St. Louis' No. 1 baseball man during 1958, Boyer cited Der Bingle as one of three men who rated special thanks.

A .309 hitter during 1959, with 28 homers and 94 runs batted in, Ken delivered the winning hit in 14 games. Devine called his hot-corner star "one of the top five players in the National League on all-round ability."

An excellent fielder with a powerful arm, Boyer was named to THE SPORTING NEWS' All-Star fielding team for the second successive year. The team is picked by National League players for the Rawlings Gold Glove Award.

At the same time **Ken** was named the "Outstanding St. Louis Sports Figure" for 1959 by the B.P.O. Elks No. 9. The selection is made in a poll of sports writers and broadcasters in the Mound City area.

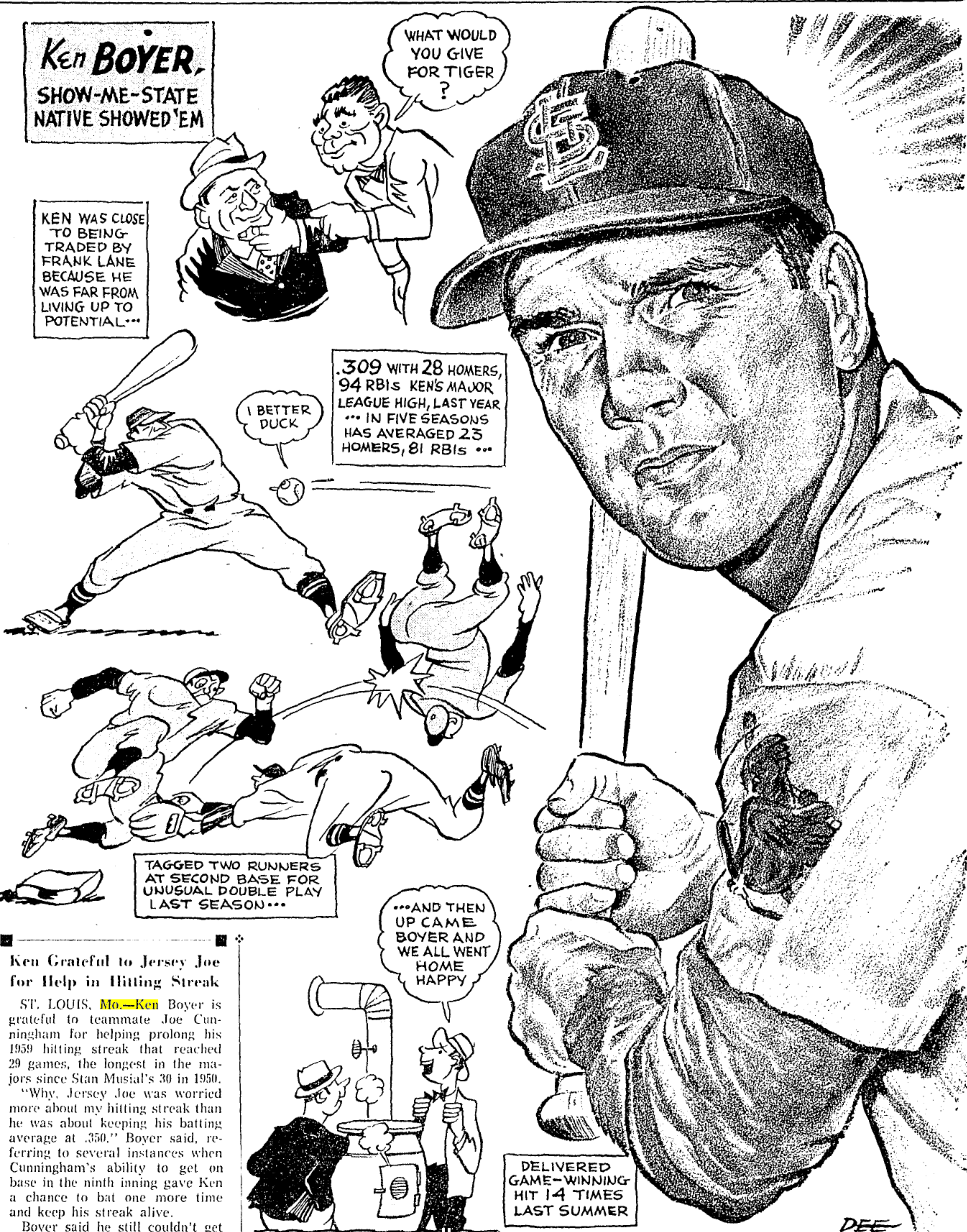
Why has Boyer suddenly begun to make such good use of the vast potential observers have seen in him since his promising rookie year of 1954?

Boyer, relaxing before a recent Cardinal game, put his big bat down and turned philosopher for a moment. "It's like Larry Jackson (his road

Hot Shot Houdini

...

at Hemus' Hot Hassock



Ken Grateful to Jersey Joe for Help in Hitting Streak

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Ken Boyer is grateful to teammate Joe Cunningham for helping prolong his 1959 hitting streak that reached 29 games, the longest in the majors since Stan Musial's 30 in 1950.

"Why, Jersey Joe was worried more about my hitting streak than he was about keeping his batting average at .350," Boyer said, referring to several instances when Cunningham's ability to get on base in the ninth inning gave Ken a chance to bat one more time and keep his streak alive.

Boyer said he still couldn't get over some of the pitches Cunningham took in order to coax a walk from Glen Hobbie in the ninth inning of the game in which Ken's string was snapped. Boyer grounded out on the extra time at bat provided by Smokey Joe.

roommate) always says," Boyer explained. "The longer you play, the more money you get; the more money you get, the more you like the game; the more you like the game, the better you play."

Boyer doesn't expect to earn enough money in the game to become a millionaire, but he reduces Philosopher Jackson's credo thusly: "You can concentrate on baseball a lot more if you don't have any family problems or financial worries."

"I feel that once he's settled in his own home with a wife and children, a ball player can do a better job,"

Boyer said. **Ken** has a lovely wife, Kathleen, three children, and has built a new home on a two-acre plot outside St. Louis. The man always has covered a lot of ground.

Experience, of course, has paid off for Boyer, too. Not only finding out more and more about the pitchers and how to play the hitters, he has learned to hit to right field, for example. Ken, after working hard on the project for five years, has been flattered by questions on opposite-field hitting from pull-hitters like Del Crandall and Eddie Mathews.

"This hitting to right goes back to 1955 when Harry Walker started me on it, repeatedly emphasizing its value," said Boyer. "It took a lot of practice. Then in '57, when I was having so much trouble, Al Dark really helped me. You know, telling someone to hit to right is one thing. Ac-

Boyer Led Birds in Battering Phils

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—As Ken Boyer went, so went the Cardinals. At least it was emphatically true in the Redbirds' games with the Phillies and Giants in '59.

With the third sacker battering Phillie pitching at a .408 clip with six homers and 17 RBIs, the Cardinals piled up a 15-7 season margin over the Quakers.

Against San Francisco, however, Boyer batted a miserly .221 with no homers, just five RBIs. So

what happened? The Giants took 16 out of 22 from the Birds.

Boyer hit just .241 against the Cubs but collected 21 RBIs, his top total against one club, off Bruin pitching. **Ken** was .360 against the Reds, .341 vs. the Braves, .325 vs. the Dodgers, .261 vs. the Pirates.

Ken cuffed lefties for .320 and 11 homers in 172 at-bats, righties for .304 and 17 homers in 391 at-bats. He was .317 at home, .302 away, .317 by day, .303 at night.

ually showing him how to do it is quite a few hits when he tries to hit to right, behind the runner. He also

Boyer is well aware that his tremendous speed enables him to leg out (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 1)

Cardinals Inked Four Boyers, Missed Cletis, But Eye 2 More

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

pointed out that he hit for power to the opposite field in 1959 more often than in any previous season.

As for his top-grade fielding, Boyer recalled that he hated third base when first assigned there in the minors. Shortstop had been his favorite position since his high school days.

Although careful to point out that quite a few persons along the line had a hand in his fielding development as well as in his progress as a hitter, Boyer made special mention of Dixie Walker, Stan Hack and Hutchinson.

Walker, an outfielder, showed Boyer different ways to make plays at third base and how to charge grounders when Dixie was managing Houston. It was Dixie who then also got Ken out of his sweeping-swing habit that he picked up in two years of Army service, and soon had him breaking his wrists again. Boyer temporarily had trouble hitting inside pitches.

"Hutch was a pitcher but he helped me to improve my third base work by impressing on me the importance of throwing accurately, even if more slowly," Boyer said.

Even though some observers feel that Boyer still hasn't achieved his full potential as an all-round star, partly because he isn't aggressive enough, the husky third sacker would be a most welcome addition to any team in the majors. His .309 followed a .307 season for 1958, .265 in '57, .306 in 1955 and .264 in his freshman campaign. In five Big-Time seasons up to 1960, he averaged 23 homers and 81 RBIs, in addition to playing a brilliant third base for the Cardinals year after year.

Appreciated Honor

Boyer, a humble man, appreciated the honor of being named the first Cardinal field captain since Red Schoendienst was with the club. Even when Frank Lane, as general manager of the Cardinals, became disgusted with Boyer, who tumbled as low as .142 at one point in 1957, Boyer commented that he could well understand it if he were traded.

There had been serious talk of sending Kenny to the Phillies for Richie Ashburn and Harvey Haddix, or to the Pirates, along with Willard Schmidt, for Frank Thomas and Gene Freese. Even Hutch, as fond as he was of Boyer, said he'd have thought it over.

When Boyer was signed by the new G. M., Devine, for the first time, Ken said of the reported Ashburn-Haddix deal, "I told my wife that if I'd have been the Cardinals, I'd have made that trade." Fortunately for Boyer, he got some four-leaf clovers from Bill Virdon's mother and pulled out of his tailspin.

To the Boyer clan and the neighbors back in Alba, Kenny would have seemed away out of place in a uniform that didn't include two Redbirds perched on a bat.

"We listened to all the Cardinals' games when I was a kid," said Ken.

"Why, we didn't know there was any other club. Each year the winners of our sandlot league would get a free trip to a Cardinal game. I guess I saw them play ten or 11 times before I signed a contract with them."

Fourth of 13 Children

The Boyer tribe has provided the Cardinals with a ready-made farm club in its southwestern Missouri area. Four of the seven Boyer boys signed with Redbird Scout Runt Marr. A fifth brother, Cletis, is a shortstop with the Yankees and two more boys are at home, just a few years away from reaching for some big bonus money.

Ken is the fourth eldest of the 13 children of Vern and Mabel Boyer. Cloyd, the oldest boy, was a promising pitcher for the Cardinals until his arm began acting up. He still is with Indianapolis of the American Association.

Cloyd, still living in Alba, always has been a great booster of Ken, and the Redbirds' third baseman is quick to reciprocate.

"I still contend that Cloyd would

Kline and Henry Head List of Hurlers Toughest on Ken

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Ken Boyer, a righthanded power hitter, didn't know where to begin when asked which pitchers gave him the most trouble last season.

"There are a lot of them," said the Cardinal third baseman, and he started with Don Drysdale, Don Cardwell, Glen Hobbie, Sam Jones and Ron Kline.

"That Kline gave me as much trouble as anyone," said Kenny, "and that Hobbie is real tough."

Kline, of course, is now a teammate of Boyer, coming to the Redbirds from the Pirates in a trade for Gino Cimoli.

How about the lefthanded pitchers?

"The toughest on righthanded batters like me has been Bill Henry, now with the Reds," Boyer said. "I used to hit Johnny Antonelli well and for power, but that was before last season."

have been a good hitter," Ken said. "In fact he still can hit. He never pitched until he signed a pro contract. He played shortstop, the outfield and first base. Even when he hurt his arm in 1951, he was only 26 and could have made the switch to some other position. I'm sure he would have been a tremendous hitter."

Brother Wayne, now a dentist in Kokomo, Ind., and the only other Boyer who has moved beyond a 30-mile radius of the old homestead, got as far as Columbus, Ga., in the Cardinal chain.

Lynn also played for Redbird farm clubs and is now attending Pittsburg (Kan.) State Teachers College with eyes on a coaching career.

How did the next Boyer boy, Cletis, manage to escape the Cardinals and sign with Kansas City for a bonus reported to be \$35,000?

It so happened that the Redbirds had another bonus shortstop on their hands, Dick Schofield, and preferred to devote their bonus dollars to a pitcher, who turned out to be Lindy McDaniel.

Otherwise, Cletis, now just 22, might be joining Ken in a rarity, a left field side of the infield made up of two brothers.

Cletis, dealt to the Yankees in 1957, has performed some shortstop heroics already for the Bombers. The youngster demonstrated power at bat with Richmond (International) the past two seasons.

Cletis Showed Ken

Did Ken teach Cletis much about playing the infield during the off season?

"Why, he showed ME plenty," said proud brother Ken. "What a basketball player he was, too! Made all-state twice. The kid has just about the greatest co-ordination I've ever seen in any player."

"We've got a couple more darn good baseball prospects at home yet," said a beaming Ken. "There's Ronnie, 15, and Leonard, 13."

To complete the record, the six Boyer sisters are named Juanita, Dolores, Pansy, Shirley, Barbara and Marcella. Their Missouri homes include: Neosho, Jasper, Webb City and Carthage. Ken's children are Susan, 7, David, 4, and Danny, 9 months.

Even though Pop Vern Boyer, a marble-cutter, had the nucleus for his own family team, he managed a different group of youths. Buford Cooper piloted the Boyer outfit against the Mantles, headed by the famed Mickey, in nearby Oklahoma. At times there have been five Boyers pitted against four Mantles.

Baseball didn't have to worry about much competition from football when Ken graduated from Alba High. Ken did a good job as a speedy fullback, but it was Alba's first year at the sport. But basketball competition, that was something else. Ken, a good shot who could have developed into a top play-maker with his speed and mobility, had offers from Missouri,

Bartered Beauties Giving Bing Big Bang as Birds Bounce Back

Card Curver



Ron Kline

Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and numerous other schools.

"The Yankees wanted to sign me pretty bad," Ken recalled, "but being from Missouri and having followed the Cardinals so long, I naturally leaned to the Redbirds."

Signed for the bonus limit of \$6,000, Ken was dispatched to Lebanon of the North Atlantic League.

"They made a pitcher out of me," said Ken. "I didn't know why. In a tryout in St. Louis, I threw just two strikes in one whole inning. I couldn't even stand on the rubber right. I still can't."

"But maybe it was because brother Cloyd was a pitcher. Maybe it was because I could throw hard. Anyway, I became a pitcher."

Wildness Ended Hill Career

Boyer laughs at his 5-1 pitching record that first season. "Had a lot of .300 hitters on the team," he explains. In 1950, Ken's pitching log dipped to 6 and 8. His wildness continued.

In the meantime, however, Ken's big bat was making some eyes pop. He swatted a solid .455 in 1949 with three homers in 33 at-bats. At Hamilton in the Pony League the following season, Manager Vedic Himsel put Boyer in the outfield and at third base when he wasn't pitching to make the most of his power. Ken responded with a .342 mark and 42 extra-base hits in 240 at-bats.

It was Himsel, incidentally, who converted Boyer to his best position, third base. The Hamilton third baseman had been released, so until the new hot-corner man showed up, Boyer was put to work at the position. He owned the job thereafter.

Although Ken disliked third base at the time, he has become an expert at the position that has vexed the Redbirds so often over the years. After two years out for service, including one year in Germany, Ken hit .319 and drove in 116 runs for the Houston (Texas) Buffs to earn quick promotion to the varsity.

Pushed Jabbo to Reds

So highly was he rated that the Redbirds sent hard-hitting Ray Jablonski to the Reds along with Gerry Staley in an ill-fated deal for Pitcher Frank Smith. Thus, Boyer was a regular before he played an inning in the Big Time.

His third-base play has been outstanding. He has a strong arm, can move quickly to his right or left and is a heady fielder. One of his best examples came in a game in 1959 when he cleverly tagged out two base-runners for a unique unassisted double play at second base.

He was brilliant, too, in the field in the 1956 All-Star Game, in which he contributed three hits. In the '59 All-Star contest at Pittsburgh it was his pinch-single that touched off the winning N. L. rally.

Although Boyer may have fallen short of the "Another Pie Traynor" billing accorded him in his rookie spring training camp, he has merited Hemus' million-dollar tag. And he has justified Hutchinson's words of praise. "He has terrific speed, a great arm, brute strength. There's nothing he can't do. He's the kind of player you dream about."

The only trouble is, the Cardinals don't have enough Boyers.

Spencer, Wagner, Sawatski, White and Kline Sparkle on Successful Home Stay

By JACK HERMAN
ST. LOUIS, Mo.

No one has come forward to predict a Los Angeles-type achievement for the Cardinals—seventh to first place—this year, but Redbird fans are beginning to realize that the club Bing Devine and Solly Hemus have assembled will raise enemy pitchers' blood pressures and earned-run ratings this summer.

Counted out by some of the faint-hearted partisans after they blew the first five starts, the battling Redbirds jumped into the pennant fight with both feet by slowing down Pittsburgh's runaway express. The surprising Buccos came to St. Louis, May 2, for a one-night stand carrying a nine-game winning streak in their duffel bags and threatening to break open the race.

Ron Kline, who used to draw his paychecks at Forbes Field, turned back his old comrades, 4 to 3, on a gritty seven-hitter and was aided and abetted by Shortstop Daryl Spencer. Both Kline and Spencer are members of the growing colony of players acquired by Devine over the trading counter.

The 43-year-old Devine is batting 1.000 in the Deal Department, although some insist he shouldn't have disposed of Sam Jones. In return for Toothpick Sam, however, Devine obtained talented Bill White, eight years Jones' junior and a dangerous batter. White can play in the outfield as well as a fancy first base.

Bing Tabbed "Junior Rickey" In fact, White, Spencer, Kline, Carl Sawatski and Leon Wagner have helped make Devine appear a junior Branch Rickey, for whom he worked as a publicity department assistant twenty years ago.

Everybody is zeroing in on Busch Stadium's fences and, although it isn't likely, the Cardinals have a fighting chance for the major league home-run record. The Cincinnati Reds clouted 221 circuit smashes four years ago to equal the mark established by Mel Ott's Giants in 1947.

Through the May 2 game with Pittsburgh, Hemus' backers had hit 24 homers, a pace, that if continued, would produce nearly 250 for the season. Spencer, batting an anemic .053 when he returned home from the season-opening West Coast tour, got well in a hurry.

The 30-year-old Kansan, acquired with Wagner from San Francisco for Don Blasingame, proceeded to belch five homers on the home stand and hit an even .500 (19 for 39). He also led the club in RBIs (12), but his most notable achievement came, May 2, against the league-leading Pirates when he drove in no one.

Spencer batted a perfect 4-for-4 against Harvey Haddix and Roy Face.

Jackson, in First Fireman Role, Tosses Five Ciphers

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Larry Jackson, who made only three relief appearances in 1959, while appearing in 40 games, filled his first fireman's role of the current campaign on May 4, when he worked five and two-thirds innings against the Phillies.

The Redbird righthander, who had been cuffed rather soundly in a start against the Cubs, three days earlier, when he yielded seven hits in six innings, scattered three safeties against the Phillies while shutting them out.

As a result of Larry's effective hurling, the Cards were able to come from behind and defeat the visitors, 5 to 3.

Brunette Sharon Kennedy Will Reign as Miss Redbird

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Sharon Kennedy, 18-year-old senior at Lindbergh High School here, will be installed as Miss Redbird of 1960 between games of the May 22 double-header with Cincinnati.

The Elizabeth Taylor-type brunette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Kennedy, 9311 Watson road, Crestwood, drew 3,321 votes from the opening-night crowd to edge two other finalists, Nancy Brooks of Collinsville, Ill., and Daisy Sue Laster of St. Louis.

The second and third-place finalists also will participate in the May 22 ceremonies at which Miss Kennedy will receive a jeweled Redbird pin. She'll represent the club in the "Miss St. Louis Press Photographers" contest,

including two doubles. One of the two-baggers set up the winning rally in the ninth inning to saddle Face with his second loss of the season. The victory, understandably satisfying to Kline since it came against his former associates, was pleasing to the Cards for another reason.

Shatter Haddix Hoodoo

Since he was traded by Frank Lane four years ago, Haddix has made life miserable for the Redbirds. He had trimmed them 12 times in 17 meetings, including a 5-1 log against them last year. He rubbed salt into the wound, May 2, with a run-producing double, then scored himself against Kline.

But then the Cards had their inning. And newcomers like White, Wagner, Spencer and Kline and Sawatski (he drew the tie-breaking base on balls) stood out front and center.

The Redbirds, flirting with the .500 brass ring following their 0-5 getaway, have demonstrated a commendable one-for-all, all-for-one spirit. Someone was always picking up somebody else. Wagner, for instance, smacked two homers off the Cubs, April 30, in a 5 to 4 victory, following White's 4-for-5 display and three RBIs the night before.

The April 29 contest, incidentally, catapulted the Cards into prominence as baseball's hardest-hitting club of the moment. They humiliated the Cubs with a ten-run, eighth-inning uprising that was the majors' biggest inning of the season. The Pirates matched it the next day at Cincinnati.

Lindy Brilliant as Reliever

Lindy McDaniel continued to pitch brilliantly in relief. Through the club's first 15 contests, the tall Oklahoman had appeared in eight games for a 13-inning span. He had not given up a run—earned or unearned—going into the Philadelphia series, May 4, and only five safeties. The rest of the second-line hurling, however, was nothing to write home about.

And then the injury jinx continued to handicap young Bob Miller. With a 2-0 record, he was the Birds' second leader. He had missed a month with a pulled back muscle, but rebounded to trim Los Angeles and the Cubs. Following his April 29 victory, he felt a shoulder stiffness that forced him to pass up his next regular starting assignment. And the clean-up slogger, Ken Boyer, also missed a game with the Cubs, the only contest the Cardinals lost in the series, by the way. But with Kline ready to take his regular turn, the pitching outlook began to look fair and warmer for Hemus & Company.

Redbird Chirps: The opposition had started nine lefthanders in 15 games against the Cardinals and only one, Frisco's Mike McCormick, had finished. . . . Only three pitchers, Don Drysdale, McCormick and Sam Jones, have come up with distance-punch efforts against the hard-hitting Redbirds. . . . The Cards belted seven homers in the Chicago series as they continued to flex their muscles. . . . Art Routzong, business manager of the Cardinals, became a father for the fifth time, May 4, when his wife, Valerie, gave birth to a son, later Arthur, at St. John's Hospital in St. Louis.

Curt Lamping Even Shinier Season Now That Demeter's Out

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

Stan Musial was a mere 26-year-old when Curt Simmons broke into the major leagues, but the onetime teen-age fireballer is in no hurry to follow The Man into retirement. "They're going to have to throw me out," Simmons said the other day in a timeout from some basketball shooting at his off-season home in suburban Philadelphia.

Simmons will be 35 in May, but he is looking ahead hopefully to the same pitching schedule Manager Johnny Keane assigned him last season. That would be just about every five days—with more frequent starts as needed, as was the case in the Cardinals' miraculous, but futile, chase of the Dodgers last fall.

Noting that he started 32 games, almost exactly one-fifth of the schedule, Simmons dusted off his familiar explanation: "I think any guy can do a better job with regular work, including the batters. That's as old as baseball. With regular work, you are sharper and usually you do a better job. Unfortunately, not everybody can get regular work."

Curt, who was 18 when he pitched his first big league triumph for the Phillies, looked back on 1963 as his best season ever. His earned-run average of 2.47, fifth best in the National League, was easily his big league peak. His ratio of walks to innings also was his best—48 passes, including three intentional, in 233 innings.

Peak Season in 1963

"Last season, I was as effective as I ever was before," Simmons said. "I might have had better stuff and struck out more guys some other years, but I was never sharper than I was in '63."

Curt's only better previous won-lost percentages came in 1950 when he was .680 on 17-8 for the pennant-winning Phillies, 1952 when he was .636 on 14-8, and 1960 when he again was .636, on 7-4 for the Cardinals.

A good sign that Simmons might well have plenty of oomph left in a left wing that once was considered washed up was his innings-worked total, 233. He had pitched more frames only in 1953 (238) and in 1954 (254), and his peak since then had been 212.

The former flame thrower has been changing speeds better than the world's best record-player. His weapon has been to keep the batters off stride.

Along with the remnants of his fast ball, Simmons relies on a slow curve and a fast one, plus a very effective screwball off his fast ball.

Elbow Injury Reappeared

"The scroogie isn't a hard one, like Warren Spahn's or Jack Baldschun's," Simmons said, apologetically.

Curt admitted that his left elbow, from which chips were removed in 1959, acted up late last season, but the old ailment didn't bother him once he got out on the mound.

"I had a few cortisone shots and the elbow was okay," said Curt, a 41-33 hurler since Redbird General Manager Bing Devine took him off the Phillies' hands for free.

Simmons has been a tough bargainer—he turned down Devine's first offer of a pay boost in January—but

Stan Now Man on the Go—Dinner Invites Pass 1,500

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—"I've taken over Joe Garagiola's title as champion of the winter circuit," quipped Stan Musial as he paused here between jaunts.

The Man's secretary, Shirley Auen, said piled-up invitations to Stan to speak at dinners had passed the 1,500 mark. The veep is booked almost solid till next fall, and he has offers of trips to South America, Japan (for the Olympics) and Europe.

Musial plans to take in the Kentucky Derby for the first time. He also has an offer from the Hambletonian.



Curt Simmons

has paid off Bing with ERA showings of 3.06, 3.12 and 3.55 before last season's 2.47.

Simmons' log would have been considerably shinier in 1963 if he had had any kind of luck against the champion Dodgers, whom he rates the team to beat in '64. In three of Curt's four starts against L. A., he hurled magnificently, but all he could show for his efforts was a 0-3 record.

Cards Hottied by L. A. Hurlers

The big reason: In the 36 innings Curt worked against the Dodgers, the Cardinals scored a grand total of one run behind him. The clever southpaw was 3-1 against the Phillies, bringing his career record against his former mates to 12-2.

Curt feels that he has at least one big advantage coming up in '64. He won't have to face Don Demeter, whom the Phillies dealt to the Tigers.

"Bobby Shantz and I were glad to see him go out of the league—he hit us good," Simmons said. Curt could have said ditto for Ray Sadecki.

As usual, Curt has been working out with Shantz, Stan Lopata, Richie Ashburn, Robin Roberts, Bobby Wine and a few others in the Philly area. He's at 200 pounds, only five over his pitching weight. He also keeps on the move as a public relations man for the Dairy Council. On that job, he makes the rounds of high schools and serves as an excellent walking advertisement of his topic—physical fitness.

Redbird Chirps: Dal Maxvill and his wife, Diana, became parents of their second child when Daniel Wayne weighed in at eight pounds, three ounces at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Granite City, Ill., January 26. Daniel's sister, Kathie, is 3. . . . Curt Simmons sized up the recent Giants-Braves deal this way: Milwaukee may well have shorted itself in pitching while San Francisco gave up what it appeared it could afford to. . . . Pitchers Ray Sadecki, Ray Washburn and Ed Cecil joined the signed list, January 27. The next day this quintet was announced as having agreed to terms: First baseman-outfielder Joff Long, infielder Phil Gagliano, pitchers Don Hagen and Rich Masterman and outfielder Bob Tolan.

Boyer, Redbirds' Mr. Big, No. 2 on Club Homer List

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

Kenton Lloyd Boyer, pausing after some strenuous calisthenics before turning to the basketball court, looked at statistics which showed he easily could move up to No. 2 in most Cardinal all-time offensive departments.

The trick, of course, is to keep from being traded—an occupational hazard that few Redbird standouts have been able to escape in the club's long history. Stan Musial, the No. 1 Cardinal in most categories, is a notable exception.

With no hotshot rookie infielder on the horizon, Boyer should be able to count on at least a couple more years as a wheelhorse of the Redbirds. The big guy, still regarded as the No. 1 all-around third baseman in the National League—and perhaps in the majors—will be 33 on May 20, but he has not shown any signs of caving in.

Boyer, a native Missourian who makes his home in a St. Louis suburb with his attractive wife, Kathleen, and their four children, is in no hurry to say good-bye to the Cardinals. And it's not just because he prefers to hit in Busch Stadium (and Connie Mack Stadium).

Realized Boyhood Ambition

"I hope I never have to leave St. Louis," Boyer said the other day. "Ever since I was six years old, all I wanted to do was play ball for the Cardinals."

Boyer always has been a realistic fellow, too. Long ago, he became fully aware of the fact that few men go through their entire careers playing for only one club. And when he came within a few hairs of being dealt in 1957, Ken said, "The way I was going, I wouldn't have blamed them if they had traded me."

Looking back, Bing Devine can give out with a few extra king-sized sighs for deciding to hold onto Boyer in one of his first acts after taking over as general manager in '57. Even should the Birds come up with another third baseman in the next year or so, Boyer would be most willing to lend a hand in the outfield—and that certainly would fill another long-standing need, a righthanded-hitting outfielder with sock.

"Since I was a kid, I've always liked the outfield," said Ken, who did a pretty good job of flychasing when pressed into service under Manager Fred Hutchinson in 1957. "I was just starting to get confidence playing in the outfield."

Boyer didn't want to jinx himself when he expressed the hope he would be able to continue playing the bulk of the schedule, as he had in his nine years in the Big Time.

Club All-Timer at Third

Rated the best third baseman to wear a Cardinal uniform since the club got off the ground 88 years ago, Boyer already is the No. 2 Redbird in home runs. By clubbing 24, his career average, for the third successive season, Ken brought his lifetime total of four-baggers to 218.

Musial, with 475, is far out of reach, but the Birds' No. 14 has a good shot at joining the 300-homer club, which is quite an exclusive group.

An important thing in Boyer's favor in his drive for lofty all-time totals is his durability. He has averaged 151 games a season, and his total of 1,361 games puts him seventh on the Cards' all-time list. He needs 460 games to pass the No. 2 man, Enos Slaughter. In at-bats, he also is seventh, 1,171 away from overtaking Red Schoendienst, runner-up to The Man.

With a personal career high of 111 RBIs last season, Boyer upped his total to 807, good for sixth place ahead of Frank Frisch (722) and 341 behind runner-up Slaughter.

Boyer owns 817 runs for seventh, 1,536 hits for eighth and 1,043 singles for eighth. To pass runner-up Schoendienst in singles, Ken must collect 456. To get past No. 2 man Rogers



KEN BOYER, who never slips out of shape, works out with the weights in the St. Louis University gymnasium.

Hornsby, Ken must score 273 more times and amass 575 more hits.

Boyer is sixth in long hits with 488, but Hornsby appears out of reach in second place with 703. Next come Slaughter with 647, Jim Bottomely with 644 and Joe Medwick with 610. Ken is No. 7 in total bases with 2,504.

The current third sacker's two-base hit total of 221 is 40 short of the No. 10 man's total (Marty Marion with 261). Boyer has only 49 triples, missing the top ten by 14.

Lengthy List for Stan

Musial holds the club lead in: games—3,026; at-bats—10,972; runs—1,949; hits—3,630; doubles—725; triples—177; home runs—475; runs batted in—1,951 (amazingly close to his run total); total bases—8,134; extra-base hits—1,377; and singles—2,253.

A late-season slump dropped Boyer's batting average to .285, slightly below his career mark of .291. However, the dip hardly is significant, for 1963 was the Year of the Pitcher in the National League, and Boyer's 111-RBI total hardly is something to sniff at.

What has been the biggest difference in the game since Boyer joined the Cardinals in 1955?

"The slider," he answered without hesitation. "When I broke in, the emphasis was on off-speed stuff—knuckleball, change-up and curve—but you could get your bat around on most of the pitchers."

"Few then threw the real good hard slider. Now there's Don Drysdale, Art Mahaffey, Juan Marichal, Larry Jackson, Roger Craig, Bob Friend, Jim Maloney, Jack Sanford and many others. You can't make a pitching staff any more without the good, hard slider."

Broglie Trying Slider

"About the only ones still throwing the big curve are Sandy Koufax, Tony Cloninger, Maloney, Denny Lemaster and Ernie Broglie. And even Broglie has gone more to the slider."

"When a man has both a good slider and a good sinker, a batter almost has to give him one of those pitches."

Expert glove man Boyer attributes the shrinkage of batting averages in part to improved gloves, and to the trend to swing away—for the fences.

Of the many things Boyer learned from his next-door neighbor in the clubhouse, Musial, Ken pointed to one

Ken Rates Himself as Lucky in Avoiding Serious Injury

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Ken Boyer,

knocking on wood, says he has been fortunate in avoiding serious physical handicaps. He bounced back after only a couple of days off last season following a bad spike wound in the knee.

"The injury slowed me down a while," said Ken, "especially in going to my right. For a while I couldn't let myself land on my knee going after a ball because the knee would be ripped open if I did."

that he considers "the real secret of Musial."

"Stan's idea was 'never worry,'" Boyer pointed out. "He used to say he felt that after he was held hitless one day, the other team's pitcher the next day would pay for it. And he'd make up his mind to get four hits. Cream always comes to the top."

Boyer doesn't have to make a big production of conditioning. He likes to keep loose with basketball following exercise sessions at St. Louis University under Walter (Doc) Eberhardt, the school's physical education director, who has been helping ball players get ready in the winter.

Opponent of Rest Periods

Team captain Boyer feels too many players are forced out, or rested too much, too early. He cites Musial as a prime example, pointing out that Stan began getting extra rest as far back as 1957.

"A lot of players make the mistake of letting it known that they're tired," Boyer said. "A manager can tell if you're tired. I'd die out there before I'd ask to come out."

"Being mentally tired, to me, always has seemed much worse than being physically tired. Dick Groat would like to be able to relax, but he worries a lot."

"Too many young kids get discouraged over physical errors, like plain errors in the field and strikeouts, but it's the mental errors they should worry about. Like throwing to the wrong base and base-running blunders. I feel a player should be told about mental mistakes."