

# Rapid Reds to Challenge Dodgers' Sprinters



**THERE WILL** be speed to burn when Fred Hutchinson turns this quintet loose on the basepaths this season. The Cincinnati swifties are (left to right) —Tommy Harper, Vada Pinson, Pete Rose, Chico Ruiz and Frank Robinson. Rookie Ruiz led the Pacific Coast League in stolen bases last year.

## Speedy Ruiz Gives Cincy's Swifties New Theft Threat

By EARL LAWSON

TAMPA, Fla.

The Reds have corralled an array of speedsters who are enough to make a college track coach drool.

In fact, without too much urging, Manager Fred Hutchinson might be talked into challenging the Dodgers, the National League's self-proclaimed speed kings, to a foot race.

Vada Pinson, Frankie Robinson, Tommy Harper and Pete Rose are the holdover swifties from last year's Reds.

This year, they'll be joined by Chico Ruiz, who has led every league in which he has played in stolen bases the last five years.

The Cuban speedster swiped 50 bases to lead the Pacific Coast League last year. And there was a period of 40 days when a leg injury prevented him from attempting a theft.

Pinson was clocked going to first base in 3.3 seconds during his rookie year with the Reds back in 1959. And while he may have slowed down since then, it hasn't been noticeable.

During three of the five full seasons he has been playing with the Reds, Pinson has rapped out 200 or more hits. Twice his totals have led the league. And, in those five seasons, not once has he hit fewer than 31 doubles. Twice he led the league.

### Pinson Sets Path Pace

Last year, in addition to 37 doubles he pounded out a league high of 14 triples.

In his five full seasons with the Reds, Pinson also has stolen a total of 129 bases. That's an average of 26 per year.

Over those five years, his total undoubtedly would have been higher if not for the fact that the Reds have been predominately a power-hitting club.

Robinson doesn't boast Pinson's tremendous speed, but has unusually good base-running instincts.

Rare is the occasion when Robinson goes for the extra base and fails to make it. The 51 doubles he socked in 1962, tops in the league, stands as a club record.

And last year, his 26 thefts ranked second only to Pinson's 27 among Red players.

Harper, a rookie last year, repeatedly scored from first base on doubles. And he had Red fans blinking their eyes in disbelief the night last sum-

### Edwards Speedy for Size, Laughs Over Stolen Base

TAMPA, Fla.—When it comes to catchers, the Reds will match their Johnny Edwards against any first-string backstop in a foot race. Although John is fast for his 6-4 size, he has stolen only two bases during his major league career. He laughs about the first one.

"The count on the hitter was 3-and-1," he said, "but I thought it was 3-and-2. When the next pitch was a ball, I just walked down to second."

ers is the night when Skinner, as a member of the Pirates socked an inside-the-park homer off Bill Henry to left field at Crosley Field.

And that's quite a feat because the left field fence stands only 324 feet from home plate at the foul line.

Red shortstop Leo Cardenas isn't any Maury Wills when it comes to circling the bases, but it is a matter of record that he socked an inside-the-park homer at the Polo Grounds in New York last season.

Last year, the Dodgers swiped 124 bases to lead the National League. The Reds finished second with 92.

If he can win a regular berth in the lineup, Ruiz could be the man who'll enable the Reds to wrest the base-stealing title from the Dodgers.

Ruiz isn't the only rookie speedster in the Reds' camp this spring.

"I'm not so sure," said Dave Bristol, the San Diego manager, "that Ruiz is faster than Cesar Tovar."

Tovar, a Venezuelan, stands 5-9 and weighs about 155 pounds on a rainy day. Around the Reds' camp, he's known as Mighty Mouse.

It's not likely that Tovar will stick with the Reds this season since last year was his first in Triple-A ball.

"And," said Bristol, "it won't make me mad if the Reds decide to send him to San Diego."

"You know," said Bristol, "one year he stole 88 bases."

That was in 1961, when he batted .338 for the Reds' Geneva farm club in the New York-Pennsylvania League. He batted .329 for Rocky Mount in the Carolina League in 1962 and jumped to the Dallas-Ft. Worth club in the Pacific Coast League last year where he batted .297 and led the loop with 41 doubles.

## Hit to Right Field, Cardenas Ordered

By EARL LAWSON

TAMPA, Fla.

Big Ted Kluszewski, Cincinnati's former home-run king who's down here to tape interviews for his television show back home, strolled by the dugout at Lopez Field.

Leo Cardenas, the Reds' Cuban shortstop, his eyes glowing with envy, surveyed Klu's huge frame.

"Look at his wrists," exclaimed Cardenas with a tone of awe. "Why one of his fingers, it's as big as my leg."

Cardenas was exaggerating, of course, but not much. The spindly-legged Cuban weighs about 155 pounds after a heavy meal. But for a fellow his size, he can hit a ball quite a piece. This, though, is something the Reds' brass would just as soon he'd forget.

The Reds' board of strategy believes that Cardenas' tendency to attempt to pull all pitches to left field is the big reason why he dipped from .294 in 1962 to .235 last year.

### Leo Off to Good Start

So this spring they're attempting a "selling job" on him, the idea being to convince him that he should hit the ball to right field more.

The task figured to be a little easier after Cardenas rapped out three straight hits, all to the right of second, in the Reds' second Grapefruit League outing of the spring.

"I've been on Leo's back constantly to go to right field more," said Dick Sisler, the Reds' batting coach.

Sisler's getting help, too, from his fellow coach, Johnny Temple.

"Cardenas," pointed out Temple, "has a good right field stroke. I asked him whether he wanted to be a .290 batter hitting to right or a .230 batter hitting to left. There can be only one answer to that."

If Cardenas is looking for someone to teach him how to go to right field with a pitch, he can't ask for a better instructor than Temple.

The former star Red second base-

### Salerno Bounces Hutch—Then Clears Reds' Bench

TAMPA, Fla.—Reggie Otero, the Reds' Cuban coach, was needing Fred Hutchinson.

"I thought you were going to behave this season," ribbed Otero.

"All I said was, 'Keep your mind on your umpiring,'" protested the Red manager.

This was after Hutch was thumbed from the Red-Twin game, March 16, at Orlando, Fla., in the fifth inning by American League Umpire Al Salerno.

Shortly after chasing Hutch, Salerno gave John Flavin, the Reds' 21-year-old rookie lefty, the heave-ho.

It was then that Hutch argued loud and long.

"It was about how much time Larry Dovel was going to get to warm up," explained Hutch. "I said he wasn't going to start pitching until we said he was ready."

Dovel, a 24-year-old rookie right-hander, was the mound replacement for Flavin after he was banished by Salerno.

Minutes after Dovel began pitching, Salerno ordered all Red players not in the game to leave the bench and go to the bull pen.

Then, in the top of the sixth inning, he chased Johnny Temple out of the first-base coaching box.

"Salerno kept looking into the dugout," said Otero, "and all Johnny said was, 'Leave the guys alone.'"

"He (Salerno) just had a bad day," remarked Hutch none too sympathetically.

Hutch's brother, Dr. William Hutchinson of Seattle, who was here visiting the Red manager, watched the game from a seat near the dugout. Dr. Hutchinson supervised treatment of Fred's chest condition recently.

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