

Some Tough Questions for Tribe Skipper Dark

By RUSSELL SCHNEIDER

TUCSON, Ariz. — Everything that has passed is history, including both the happy and unhappy developments of 1970, and here in the desert proving grounds, Indians' Manager Alvin Dark is starting anew.

Despite a minimum of vacancies in the starting lineup, there are nevertheless many questions to be answered and problems to be solved.

Between now and April 4, when the Indians head north for Detroit and the American League opener, Dark must decide if Buddy Bradford should play center field daily or continue to be platooned with Ted Uhlaender, and who will join Sam McDowell and Steve Hargan in the starting pitching rotation.

But you're not being cynical if you wonder—as do most observers in this 25th anniversary of the Tribe training in Tucson—about some other things relating to last season. In 1970, the Indians faltered badly at the beginning, but finished strong and in fifth place in the A. L. East.

Those questions that must be answered include the following:

Can Ken Harrelson come all the way back from his broken leg and provide righthanded power?

Fosse Injury Prone

Was Ray Fosse's development for real, can he pick up where he left off when he suffered a third annual broken finger last September 3, and will he be able to avoid injury this season?

Was Roy Foster only a one-year flash when he won the 1970 Rookie Award of THE SPORTING NEWS?

Can Jack Heidemann improve enough as a hitter to go with his outstanding defensive ability, or will it be necessary to shuffle Eddie Leon between second base and shortstop?

Is Graig Nettles as good in the field as he showed last year, when he won the All-Star Fielding award among third basemen in the A. L., and can he raise his batting average without sacrificing power?

Will Vada Pinson be able to do it all again, or will his resentment toward management rob him of effectiveness?

Ditto for McDowell.

Will John Lowenstein live up to advance notices and thus make it possible to trade Larry Brown?

Or must Dark placate Brown, who

publicly has stated he wants to go elsewhere?

Will Hargan continue his outstanding pitching as he did the latter half of last season when his record was 10-1 and he was the best pitcher in the A. L.?

Can Dennis Higgins regain the form that made him one of the league's best relievers prior to last season?

Will Ray Lamb, who was splendid in the bullpen for the Dodgers, do it again this season, or will somebody else emerge to help shore up one of the Tribe's major weaknesses?

And how about the starting pitching rotation behind McDowell and Hargan?

Six Starter Candidates

That latter question is currently the most burning issue in Dark's mind as he continues to examine six candidates in the Cactus League.

Those candidates include Alan Foster and Lamb, who came in the trade for Duke Sims, Mike Paul, Rich Hand, Jim Rittwage and Rick Austin.

Dark says he'll decide on his bullpen after he sorts out the starting pitchers.

But how soon these problems are solved will determine whether the Indians continue to show the improvement they did last year.

Tribe Tidbits: Uhlaender and Lowenstein were swinging the hottest Cleveland bats after the first seven games. Uhlaender hit for the cycle in a 10-9, 11-inning victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on March 12.

Frank Lane of the Brewers is believed to be offering catcher-outfielder-first baseman Pete Koegel for Brown, but the Indians continue to resist.

Dark, Harrelson and Fosse were recent guests on Dick Enberg's "Sports Challenge" TV show. It was taped for viewing later.

Rookie Frank Baker's bid for major league employment was hurt when he suffered a kidney infection during the second week of the Cactus League season.

Dark rates the caliber of the Japanese Lotte Orions somewhere between Double A and Triple A. The Indians beat the Orions in their first meeting, 2-0. Brown finally ended his holdout, accepting a contract believed to call for \$30,000. "I'm here because I have to be, not because I want to be," said the unhappy infielder when he reported at Tucson.

Dale Mitchell, a star of the Indians in the 1940s and early 1950s, was a visitor. Rookie Mark Ballinger continued to be the best pitcher in camp, followed closely by Rick Austin. Steve Dunning arrived on March 10, after completing his six-month active duty in the Marine Corps, and tried to catch up.

Sam McDowell was fined \$100 for reckless driving by the Tucson police and Dark nailed him for another \$250 for breaking curfew. A dust storm in Yuma, Ariz., forced cancellation of the game between the Indians and San Diego Padres on March 13.



Ken Harrelson . . . Indians Need His Righthanded Power.



Yes, Carty Is on 1971 All-Star Ballot

By JACK LANG

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The St. Louis Cardinals will have two second basemen on the major league All-Star Ballot this year. The Phillies, Expos, Dodgers, Giants and Padres will have none.

If you're selecting three outfielders for the American League dream team, you have four Detroit flychasers to choose from.

Rico Carty, who was hitting .400 at the time, was not on the ballots when they were released last year.

This year he's listed even though he has a broken leg.

Bobby Tolan, another player walking around with his leg in a cast, also will appear on the National League ballot.

Voters this year won't have to worry about how to spell Billy Grabarkewitz' name when they fill out their ballots.

Billy had to be a write-in candidate last year. Most baseball fans couldn't pronounce his name, much less spell it.

Grabby's on the ballot this year, but he's listed as a third baseman. The Dodgers intend to play him at second base.

Poll in January

These are just a few of the oddities gleaned at a March 11 press conference here at which Commissioner Bowie Kuhn and his radio-TV sponsors of the All-Star Game made public the names which will appear on this year's ballots. Another conference was held simul-

taneously in Fort Lauderdale, with the commissioner himself present at that one.

In an effort to avoid controversy such as he encountered last year when stars like Al Kaline and Carty were omitted from the ballot, Kuhn polled his panel in mid-January.

Kuhn also increased from six to eight the number of candidates at each position.

In the outfield, the electorate has a choice of 24 players and need select only three.

There will be space for write-in candidates again. That's about the only way any rookie will make the team. No rookies appear on the ballots, which were completed in January. It's the only way some veterans will make it, too.

Bill Mazeroski of Pittsburgh, an eight-time fielding award winner at second base, failed to make the ballot. Ditto for Ernie Banks, the all-time Cub great.

Voting by Special Panel

A special panel of 144 baseball writers, broadcasters, managers, general managers and players was polled to select the players.

Commissioner Kuhn is proud of the fact that there is a 33 percent increase in the number of names on the ballots.

Of course, the selectors were picking names off last year's performances.

Although the size of the computer-card ballot will remain basically the same, more space was provided to include more names.

According to the Gillette company, which is underwriting the cost of the printing and distribution of the ballots, 2,034,724 votes were cast in the 1970 election. They claim that 45 percent included write-in candidates. The write-in choices, totaling 2,560,000 names, were hand-tabulated.

Although all ballots are tabulated by computer, the box for write-in candidates automatically "kicks" the card out of the computer and these ballots are hand-counted.

This year's All-Star Game will be played in Detroit's Tiger Stadium on Tuesday night, July 13. Balloting for the game will begin

May 28 and extend through June 30. Periodic results of the voting will be announced before the final team is revealed.

Although there are discrepancies at some positions, each of the 24 major league clubs has at least two players on the ballots.

The Tigers led all other clubs with nine nominees.

The world champion Baltimore Orioles and the Pittsburgh Pirates are next with eight apiece. The Milwaukee Brewers have the fewest candidates, two.

The nominees for the 1971 All-Star Game are:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

First Base: Norm Cash, Danny Carter, Mike Epstein, Don Mincher, Bob Oliver, Boog Powell, George Scott, Jim Spencer.

Second Base: Sandy Alomar, Mike Andrews, Rod Carew, Horace Clarke, Dick Green, Dave Johnson, Eddie Leon, Dick McAuliffe.

Shortstop: Luis Aparicio, Mark Belanger, Ed Brinkman, Bert Campaneris, Leo Cardenas, Jim Fregosi, Jack Heidemann, Gene Michael.

Third Base: Sal Bando, Tommy Harper, Harmon Killebrew, Ken McMullen, Graig Nettles, Rico Petrocelli, Brooks Robinson, Aurelio Rodriguez.

Catcher: Paul Casanova, Ray Fosse, Bill Freehan, Elrod Hendricks, Ed Herrmann, George Mitterwald, Thurman Munson, Phil Roof.

Outfield: Felipe Alou, Paul Blair, Don Buford, Tony Conigliaro, Roy Foster, Frank Howard, Willie Horton, Reggie Jackson, Alex Johnson, Al Kaline, Carlos May, Rick Monday, Bobby Murcer, Jim Northrup, Tony Oliva, Amos Otis, Lou Piniella, Vada Pinson, Frank Robinson, Reggie Smith, Mickey Stanley, Cesar Tovar, Roy White, Carl Yastrzemski.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

First Base: Orlando Cepeda, Donn Clendenon, Nate Colbert, Ron Fairly, Lee May, Willie McCovey, Wes Parker, Bob Robertson.

Second Base: Glenn Beckert, Ken Boswell, Dave Cash, Tommy Helms, Julian Javier, Felix Millan, Joe Morgan, Ted Sizemore.

Shortstop: Gene Alley, Larry Bowa, Bud Harrelson, Don Kessinger, Dal Maxvill, Denis Menke, Maury Wills, Bobby Wine.

Third Base: Clete Boyer, Billy Grabarkewitz, Richie Hebner, Don Money, Tony Perez, Doug Rader, Ron Santo, Joe Torre.

Catcher: John Bateman, Johnny Bench, Dick Dietz, Jerry Grote, Tom Haller, Randy Hundley, Tim Lincecum, Manny Sanguillen.

Outfield: Hank Aaron, Tommie Agee, Richie Allen, Matty Alou, Bobby Bonds, Lou Brock, Ollie Brown, Bernie Carbo, Rico Carty, Roberto Clemente, Willie Davis, Clarence Gaston, Ken Henderson, Jim Hickman, Cleon Jones, Willie Mays, Al Oliver, Joe Pepitone, Pete Rose, Willie Star-gell, Rusty Staub, Bobby Tolan, Billy Williams, Jimmy Wynn.



Ray Fosse

O'Malley Suggests 4-Club Divisions

VERO BEACH, Fla.—Walter O'Malley, who helped remake baseball's geography by moving the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, now has a new proposal to change the major league map.

The chairman of the board of the Dodgers disclosed that he has suggested a realignment of the leagues so that each would have three four-club divisions, instead of the present pair of six-club groupings.

O'Malley made the proposal in letters to Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, President Joe Cronin of the American League and President Chub Feeney of the National League.

"When we originally expanded to 24 teams, the logical step would have been to go to three leagues," O'Malley said.

"But that was impossible. There is too much tradition involved in the American and National leagues.

You simply couldn't tell an old-time club that it was now going to be part of a new, third league.

"Instead, we divided each league into two divisions. Now I think we should take another step. We should try to keep each team in the race as long as possible.

"I don't see how anyone—the fans or the clubs—could object to that."

O'Malley's proposed realignment would divide the clubs as follows:

National League East—Montreal, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York; Central—Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Atlanta; West—Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Houston.

American League East—Baltimore, New York, Boston and Washington; Central—Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and Milwaukee; West—California, Oakland, Minnesota and Kansas City.