

Pilot Lopat Sees 50-Victory Total By A's Big Three

By JOE MCGUFF

BRADENTON, Fla.

This is the time of year when fans and sports writers start looking around for potential 20-game winners on the home-team roster.

Managers tend to be a little more conservative in evaluating pitchers who have not yet established themselves as big winners in the majors. Being an old pitcher himself, Manager Ed Lopat of the Athletics may be even a little more conservative than most.

Lopat doesn't visualize any 20-game winners on his staff this season, but it is both interesting and significant that he believes he has three pitchers who may be able to account for 50 victories among them.

Lopat believes that Orlando Pena and Moe Drabowsky are capable of winning between 15 and 18 games apiece. He feels that Diego Segui should be able to post 12 to 15 victories.

Last season, these three had a combined record of 28-39. Drabowsky did not join the A's until late May, but Pena and Segui were with the club all season.

Obviously, a total of 50 victories from these three would represent quite an improvement, but Lopat does not believe that such an exception is out of line.

"The experience they gained last year should make all of them better pitchers," Lopat commented. "Pena should just be reaching his peak this season. He's 28 years old and he has been pitching since 1955. Drabowsky proved last season that his arm is sound again and Segui made a lot of improvement."

Pena played by Shiny Support Although Lopat didn't mention the point, it is also worth noting that Pena received little offensive support last season. His record was 12-20 but, like Roger Craig of the Mets, his record did not reflect the type of pitching he offered.

Pena had a 3.69 earned-run average, struck out 128 in 217 innings and walked only 53. There was one stretch during last season when the A's averaged only a little more than a run a game while he was on the mound.

Lopat regards Pena as the most polished pitcher on the staff, but he contends that there is still room for improvement. Basically, Lopat is dissatisfied with Pena's mental approach to pitching.

"There's no question but what Orlando has the stuff to be a consistent winner," Lopat explained. "When he gets in trouble, it's generally because of carelessness."

Tough When He Bears Down "When he goes out there and bears down for nine innings, there's hardly anyone in the league who can beat him. The trouble is that a lot of times he goes out there and gets a lead and then starts horsing around."

"Orlando is a good clutch pitcher. He's tough with men on base. That proves he can get the job done if he'll just bear down all the time."

It is Lopat's opinion that Drabowsky and Segui have the best fast balls of anyone on the staff and Lopat also feels that Drabowsky is almost as far advanced as Pena in the techniques of pitching.

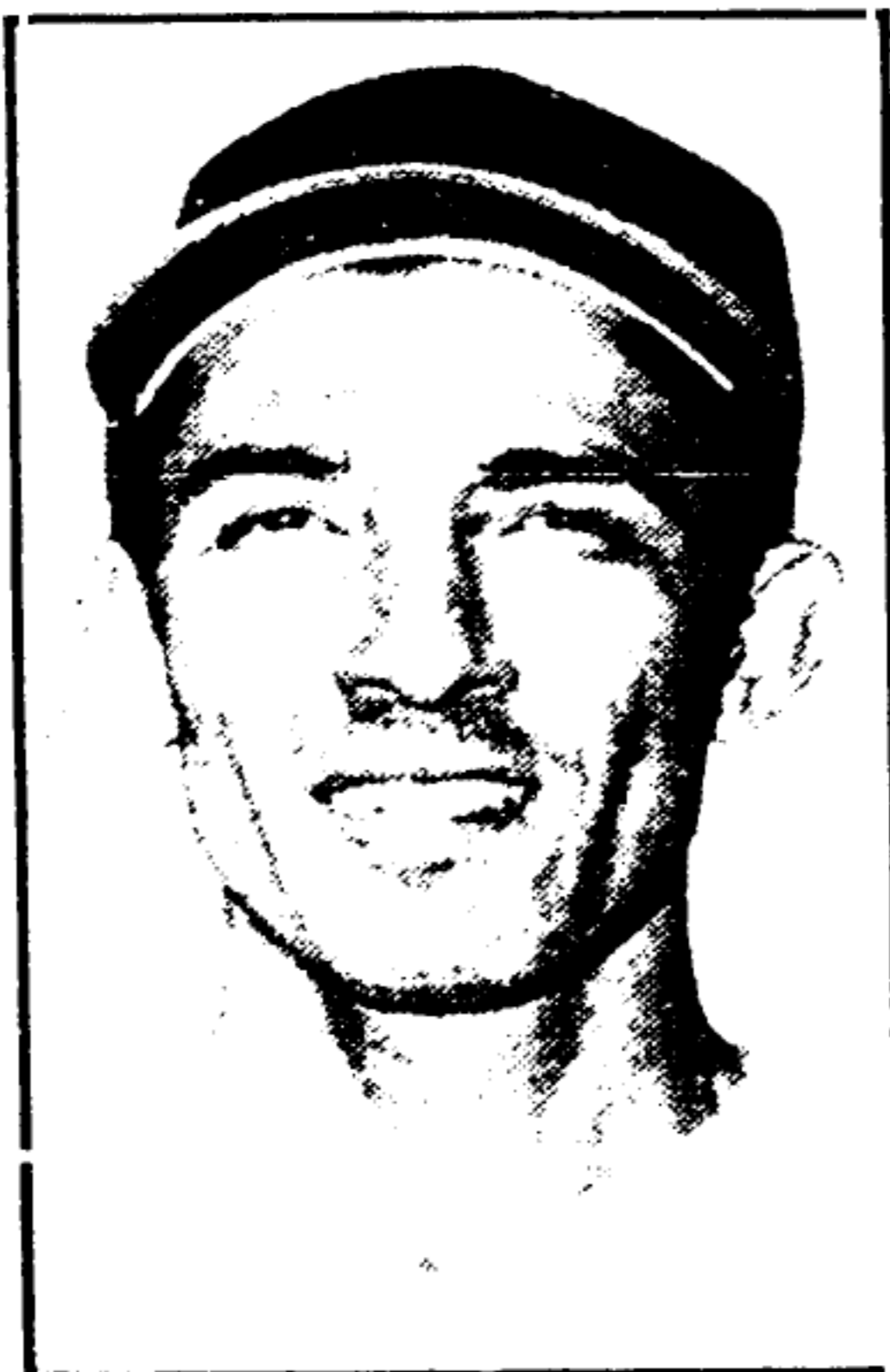
"Drabowsky's biggest problem is

Rocky Makes Up For Lost Time, Starts Socking HRs

BRADENTON, Fla.—Rocky Colavito, who was the last member of the A's squad to sign, reported to camp in excellent physical condition and started hitting home runs almost as soon as he stepped in the batting cage.

The big outfielder worked out for approximately a week before starting his first exhibition game.

Colavito regards being traded to the Athletics as a good break for him, although he added that he enjoyed playing in Detroit and had no hard feelings against anyone in the Tiger organization.



Orlando Pena

that he hasn't yet fully mastered any one pitch," Lopat said. "When I talk about fully mastering a pitch, I mean being able to throw it any time regardless of the count and know that you're going to get it over. You don't become a really good pitcher until you can do this."

"Segui is not as advanced as either Drabowsky or Pena, but he hasn't been pitching as long as they have. He still needs to sharpen up some of his pitches."

Runners Take Liberties

"He also needs to improve in holding men on. I'd say he improved about 30 to 40 per cent last year, but he still has a way to go."

John Wyatt, the A's late relief man last season, is regarded as one of the best relief pitchers in the league and Lopat believes he will be even better this year.

"John is working on a three-quarter curve ball to use against lefthanded hitters and he's also working on his change-up," Lopat said.

Athletic Addenda: The Athletics have signed a two-year radio and television contract with Station KCMO in Kansas City. Approximately 40 games will be telecast. The same announcers, Monte Moore and George Bryson return. Last year, Station WDAF carried the A's games. . . Dale Willie, who appeared to be recovering from a sore arm, aggravated the injury throwing on the sidelines and it's not known when he will be able to pitch again. He is believed to be suffering from tendonitis. . . Pete Lovrich, a rookie righthander, will report for military service, April 2. Lew Krausse, another young pitcher, has been called to take a physical. . . Tom Reynolds, an infielder who is being converted into an outfielder, was the early rookie sensation of the A's camp. Reynolds had six hits in seven trips in two intrasquad games, hit two homers and two doubles in two "B" games and had five hits in his first 19 trips in "A" games. Reynolds is starting only his second season in professional ball. Manager Ed Lopat believes the youngster may be able to make the A's roster in another year or two.

Finley Aiming at New Target-- Yankee Stadium's Short Lines

By OSCAR KAHAN
ST. LOUIS, Mo.

Charles O. Finley, neither bloody nor bowed after losing his stadium lease squabble with Kansas City, is preparing to do battle over another park—Yankee Stadium.

The owner of the Athletics contends that the short foul lines in New York give the Yankees an "unfair advantage" in home runs which they have exploited to dominate the American League.

"One does not have to be a genius to figure out why the Yankees have won 21 pennants in the past 28 years," Finley said in a telephone call from his insurance company's office in Chicago.

"All one has to do is study the facts and records and it becomes obvious. If something isn't done about it, the Yankees will win 21 more pennants in the next 28 years."

The figures cited by Finley show that the Yankees hit 2,143 home runs at Yankee Stadium in the past 28 years as compared with 1,345 for the visiting clubs, a Yankee advantage of 798 home runs, or 59 per cent.

In the same 28 years, they won 1,459 games at home and lost only 707, a 2-to-1 spread. On the road, their record for victories and defeats was a "less imposing" 1,240-918, which represents a 4-to-3 margin.

Takes Case to Cronin

"We owners in baseball," Finley asserted, "should take steps to force the Yankees to bring their stadium up to par with the other parks by requiring them to erect screens which will make their foul lines equivalent to 325 feet. This is the minimum distance established for new parks under baseball rules."

"I have sent President Joe Cronin a telegram, voicing my objections and requesting that the American League give serious consideration to the situation. I hope something can be done in time for the 1964 season."

At present, Yankee Stadium measures only 296 feet down the right field line, while the distance down the left field line is 301 feet.

"They've not only got these short foul lines," Finley said, "but out in right field, they've got this lower deck that extends out like a porch about 45 feet so that pop flies can drop in for home runs. The little fence that they've got there runs from 43 to 45 inches high. In left field, the screen

Girl at Bat

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

co-operative. He called them balls. "You're worse than the American League umpires," growled the pitcher.

Barber's next offering was a soft, rainbow lob—a change-of-pace. Swinging righthanded, the 22-year-old Miss Kruglinski bopped the baseball safely onto the grass behind first base near the foul line.

"Hey, that's a 'Texas-leaguer,'" chortled Chicky, a student of the game.

Steve Fires Hummers

Barber would have no more of this. She wanted to see his fast ball, did she? He fired three blazers across the outside—but high. The last dumped Orsino on the seat of his baseball playsuit.

Then, the Oriole southpaw announced the arrival of a slider—a sharp-breaking pitch which would have frayed the uniform letter, if Eleanor had been wearing any letters.

By this time, Chicky was three steps closer to the dugout, however. Both feet were in the bucket.

She dispatched a mental telegram, not a letter. Stop.

"Oh," Chicky exclaimed daintily, dropping the bat and reaching for her pad and pencil. "How can anybody hit that ball?"

"I was scared to death," Barber admitted afterward.



Charles O. Finley

starts off at 51 inches and tapers down to 43 inches."

Under Finley's proposal, the Yanks would be required to erect a screen 29 feet high in right field and 24 feet high in left field.

"Opposing teams coming into New York are beat psychologically before the game starts," the A's owner said. "The players are familiar with the Yankees' won-and-lost and home-run records in Yankee Stadium."

"The opposing pitchers realize that they have to try and prevent the Yankees from pulling the ball and they pitch differently there than they do in the other parks. They foul themselves up because they don't pitch that way every day."

"Hitters come in and see the short right field porch and try to park the ball there. This is almost impossible because the Yankee pitchers know how to pitch in their own park."

"House That Ruth Built"

Finley pointed out that Yankee Stadium originally was built to meet the specifications of Babe Ruth, the first and foremost of a long line of Yankee pull-hitters.

"I do not want to take anything away from the past and present Yankee stars," he said. "They would be great players in any park. I don't want to take anything away from their great managers and capable executives. I'm speaking of the over-all picture."

"As an owner, I'm very much concerned with the situation because it affects my attendance and the attendance of every club."

"Last year, the National League outdrew the American League by about two million. This margin will increase in the years to come if we owners in the American League don't wake up and do something about it."

"During the last several years, the only way to have a full house was to wait for the Yankees to arrive. No

Rules Balked Finley's Bid To Copy Yankee Distances

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Organized Ball's requirement on foul-line distances is covered in a note to Rule 1.04 of the official baseball code. Paragraph (a) of the note states:

"Any playing field constructed by a professional club after June 1, 1958, shall provide a minimum distance of 325 feet from home base to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on the right or left field foul line, and a minimum distance of 400 feet to the center field fence."

Charles O. Finley last year proposed cutting the distances at Kansas City to match the Yankee measurements of 296 feet in right field and 301 in left field. He was stopped by paragraph (b) of the rule, which says:

"No existing playing fields shall be remodeled in such manner as to reduce the distance from home plate to the foul poles and to center field below the minimum specified in paragraph (a) above."

The measurements at Kansas City's Municipal Stadium are 338 feet in right field and 331 in left.

"Actually, I'm not in favor of bringing my lines down because I don't think it makes a good game," Finley said. "But if they can't make the Yankees measure up, they ought to kill the rule."

other visiting club would fill your park. We now have arrived at the day when it becomes more and more difficult to fill our stadiums even with the Yankees.

"This is due to the fact that the fans are bored with watching the Yankees dominate the league year-in and year-out. They want to see the other teams win for a change. They want to see a close race during the entire season."

"This business of the last-place team finishing 30, 35, 40 and 45 games behind the pennant-winner is for the birds and does more to cause lack of interest in the American League than anything else."

Among other things, Finley pointed out that the Yankees have an edge over the other clubs financially.

"For example," he said, "in 1963, I sold the A's radio and television rights for \$250,000. The Yankees got \$1,500,000. That's bad enough, but it's even worse when they have the physical dimensions of their park going for them so that they have an unfair competitive advantage."

"The National League club owners are very aggressive and they work together as a team. I think it's about time we in the American League got our heads together and did what was best for the game."

"The Yankee domination is the worst thing that ever happened—and it can be ended overnight."

Bronx Bombers' Home Mark

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—At the request of Charles O. Finley, statistician Chris Roewe of THE SPORTING NEWS compiled figures for the Athletics' owner on the Yankees' victories and home runs at Yankee Stadium in the 28 years from 1936 through 1963. The figures follow:

Year	W.	L.	HR.	Opp. HR.	Year	W.	L.	HR.	Opp. HR.
1936	56	21	82	41	1951	56	22	72	43
1937	57	20	94	41	1952	49	28	64	48
1938	55	22	112	44	1953	50	27	64	39
1939	52	25	82	48	1954	54	23	68	42
1940	52	24	83	45	1955	52	25	89	44
1941	51	26	76	43	1956	49	28	88	48
1942	58	19	62	39	1957	48	29	60	51
1943	54	23	57	33	1958	44	33	78	62
1944	47	31	58	45	1959	40	37	63	45
1945	48	28	65	51	1960	55	22	92	52
1946	47	30	68	33	1961	65	16	112	59
1947	55	22	54	49	1962	50	30	92	67
1948	50	27	70	54	1963	58	22	88	55
1949	54	23	72	53					
1950	53	24	78	51					
					Totals	1,459	707	2,143	1,345