

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.

Freehan Feeling Rosy Over Black And Blue Marks

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.

Bill Freehan can tell by counting his bruises that American League pitchers think more highly of him this year.

"Nobody throws at a .230 hitter," observed the muscular Detroit catcher when someone asked why he was hit by eight pitches in the first 30 games.

Along with the time he was hit, **Freehan** had some near-misses as he stimulated the Tigers with a productive bat.

There was the night **Freehan** was struck above the right knee while kneeling in the on-deck circle. Fortunately, the screaming shot at close range from Norm Cash's bat struck **Freehan** a glancing blow.

Bill remained in the game and the next thing he knew Mel Stottlemyre had knocked him down with a high, inside pitch in combat with the Yankees. **Freehan** evened the score in the best known way. He smacked a home run off Stottlemyre to win the game.

Last July, **Freehan** entered the All-Star Game with an output of eight home runs. This year, he reached the production figure nearly two months ahead of schedule when he belted No. 8 in his eighty-ninth at-bat.

"I always did think I should hit 20 to 30 home runs a year," declared **Freehan**, shrugging off his top count of 18 in 1964. "The Lord gave me more ability with the bat than I've shown the last couple of years."

The rise in power production is reflected in **Freehan's** RBI surge. **Bill** had to settle for 46 RBIs last year and only 43 the year before. He averaged slightly more than four a week in the new season, meaning that he can become a 100-RBI man if he keeps it up.

.234 Hitter Last Year

Freehan became a hit batsman only three times in 1966 while batting .234 for the second successive year.

"I'm standing closer to the plate with my new stance," **Bill** ventured. "I guess I don't move too fast out of there. I also got hit a lot the year I batted .300."

It turned out that for the full season in 1964, the count was eight hit by pitches. The rate has been stepped up.

Manager Mayo Smith regards it essential to keep **Freehan** from growing weary in the hot months.

"Catching every day gets to be tough," the manager said. "You hate to take **Freehan's** bat out of the lineup. But we'll give him some rest here and there. He won't catch many double-headers."

Jim Price, the \$50,000 April acquisition from the Pirates, is the No. 2 man behind **Freehan**.

Smith uses a lineup switch with **Freehan** and Norm Cash. The manager puts **Freehan** in the No. 6 spot against lefthanders and No. 7 against righthanders. The situation is reversed for Cash.

Good Niche for RBIs

"This is quite a spot to drive in runs," said **Freehan**, noting that he usually had Don Wert, Dick McAuliffe, Al Kaline, Willie Horton and Jim Northrup hitting ahead of him.

On certain days, he could add the name of Cash.

Detroit is thankful for the rugged individualism that **Freehan** puts into each game. One day against the Yankees, Jake Gibbs took an outfield throw and seemingly had **Freehan** retired at the plate.

Bill came in head-first and belted Gibbs pretty hard. Jake is an old football man from Mississippi himself, but **Freehan** had too much size and crunch going for him.

"How would you like to have Bernie deViveiros see that head first slide?" someone asked, aware that deViveiros teaches the bent-



BILL FREEHAN, an all-out performer, belly-whoppers across the plate, dislodging

the ball from the grasp of catcher Jake Gibbs in the May 20 game with the Yankees.

leg slide to all Detroit players. "Maybe Bernie wouldn't like it," replied **Freehan**, "but Bump Elliott would."

Elliott is football coach at the University of Michigan, where **Freehan** was a robust two-way end before signing with the Tigers for \$100,000.

"That was the best forearm block I've thrown in a long time," said **Freehan**, reflecting on the Gibbs incident.

Moses Enjoys Bill's Surge

Batting coach Wally Moses gets plenty of satisfaction from the **Freehan** comeback at the plate. Moses frowned last March in Florida when Gene Mauch observed that "Freehan's bat doesn't seem to be quick enough for a .300 hitter."

"Bill's bat was a little lazy then," said Moses. "But it's quick now."

Moses doesn't disclose trade secrets and he declines to get into the **Freehan** case in detail.

"The big thing is that **Bill** knows what to do now," said Moses.

The meaning of **Freehan's** new contribution to the Tigers is not lost by anyone. Pitching coach John Sain was talking about Mickey Lolich's job in becoming Detroit's first five-game winner.

"Mickey has an ace in the hole," said Sain, with a nod to **Freehan**. "I mean that big catcher."

Tiger Tales: Dick McAuliffe is gaining a reputation as a first-inning home-run hitter. He belted two of them as the leadoff man in games, adding an inside-the-park shot off Al Downing in the first against the Yankees.

Denny McLain has won five straight from New York as the latest Yankee killer. "It's nothing special," said Denny. "My three best clubs seem to be the Yankees, White Sox and Twins." . . . Jim Northrup was the sixth and last Tiger to hit a grand-slam last year as Detroit ranked No. 1 in the major leagues. But Northrup got the pole position this year by hitting one off Barry Moore in Washington.

Al Kaline threw out young Steve Whitaker trying to go from first to third on a single and Frank Lane cracked: "When Mayo Smith was scouting for the Yankees, he forgot to tell them Kaline can throw."

. . . Earl Wilson insisted on going to the bull pen the following night after the Senators knocked him out in the third inning. Mayo Smith doesn't want his starters out there and talked Earl out of it. . . . Someone asked Mickey Lolich what winning 20 games would mean to him personally. "It would help pay for my new home," replied Mickey.

Old Dark Magic Got Kaycee in Its Spell

By JOE MCGUFF

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

Al Dark has a well-justified reputation as a daring and inventive manager, but never have his talents been more evident than they are this season.

Dark is operating with a nine-man pitching staff and a youthful team that lacks power. Despite his problems, he has manipulated his personnel so expertly that the A's have a chance to become the first Kansas City team ever to finish in the first division.

Kansas City fans saw one of Dark's bold strategy moves pay off in a victory over the White Sox, May 20.

The White Sox had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the third. The A's filled the bases when Dennis Higgins hit Danny Cater on the head, walked Dick Green and hit Sal Bando on the left hip. Higgins and his manager, Eddie Stanky, were ejected by umpire Jim Odom.

When the furor subsided, Bruce Howard, a righthanded pitcher, took over for the White Sox. Dark sent Jim Gosger, a lefthander, up to bat for righthanded Joe Nosssek. Gosger popped out. Undismayed, Dark next called on Tim Talton, a lefthanded batter generally regarded as his best pinch-hitter. Talton batted for Phil Roof, a righthanded hitter, and singled off Howard's glove to drive in a run.

Repoz Comes Through

The next scheduled batter was Catfish Hunter, the pitcher. Hunter had pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the second and then had given up three runs in the third. Dark, going all the way, sent Roger Repoz up to bat for Hunter. Repoz lined a single to left, scoring two runs.

Paul Lindblad became the Kansas City pitcher and stopped the Sox on one run and four hits over the final six innings.

Pinch-hitting in the early innings has become commonplace with the A's. Dark had used pinch-hitters as early as the first inning and several times has called on them in the third inning. The strategy has not always been as successful as it was against the White Sox, but, overall, it is producing results.

"The way our club is made up, we have to take advantage of scoring opportunities whenever we get



Al Dark

them," Dark said. "If we pass up an opportunity in the third inning we might not get another."

"We have 16 players on our club (exclusive of pitchers). There are only two or three I won't maneuver with. Our players understand why we are doing this and one reason we have been successful is that they are so cooperative. I just can't say enough for them."

Dark said his decisions on whether to pinch-hit for pitchers early in a game will be dictated largely by the condition of his bull pen.

Bull Pen Holds Key

"When our bull pen is rested, I can make the moves I need to make," Dark said. "If our bull pen has been overworked, then we'll have to be more conservative."

To date, there are only four players in Dark's lineup that he has not pinch-hit for. They are Campy Campaneris, Rick Monday, Danny Cater and Dick Green.

In addition to making early and frequent use of pinch-hitters, Dark is doing a great deal of platooning. Against righthanded pitching he normally uses Ramon Webster at first, moves Cater to left field and starts Gosger or Repoz

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Willie Horton

Horton Hurtin' --But Bludgeon Never Healthier

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.

Two years ago, Willie Horton stroked six long home runs in 13 at-bats.

His Tiger teammates thought they'd never see anything like it again.

You just can't underestimate Willie. The Detroit outfielder with the powerful batting stroke didn't lose anything when he missed nearly a month with a sore left leg.

Manager Mayo Smith stationed Horton in the No. 4 spot in the lineup behind Al Kaline with devastating results.

In one stretch, Willie smacked four home runs in ten at-bats. He had two home runs in a game at Boston and duplicated the feat at Washington.

Then he shot a line drive over the left field screen at Tiger Stadium.

The shot left the fans buzzing. It never seemed high enough in its flight to clear the ten-foot barrier.

Leg Is No Worse

"I feel good about hitting again," said Horton. "My leg doesn't seem much better, but I guess I should be thankful it isn't any worse."

Horton pulled a muscle in his left calf running to first base in the last week of the Grapefruit League in Florida.

Horton's raw power at the plate makes him a popular figure at Tiger Stadium.

But Willie isn't satisfied just to be a hitter.

He didn't look good on a wind-blown fly in the last visit to Boston and it fell in for a scratch double.

"I don't like to do that," said Horton, with intense pride in his defensive skill. "I should have caught it."

Another important side of Horton is that hits and home runs mean nothing to him while the Tigers are losing.

"There's nothing left when you don't win," said Horton severely. He means it.

Cubs Groom Newman for Bullpen Duty

By JEROME HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill. — Suddenly, it's beginning to appear that the Cubs may have an improved bullpen this season.

Manager Leo Durocher has uncovered several promising rookie pitchers this spring, the most fascinating of whom appears to be Ray Newman, a tall, gangling fellow who has been bouncing around the minor leagues since 1964.

Newman has not once won more than five games in any season. Nonetheless, he could be a big help to the Cubs in their 1971 pennant push and he has the potential to emerge as the new king of the Chicago bullpen. All that Newman must do is keep

firing his fast ball, which is rated excellent to outstanding, keep it down and throw it for strikes. However, it won't be that easy because, to succeed, Newman must overcome his control problems.

Actually, the rookie has made outstanding progress in this area and doesn't appear to be nearly as erratic as he was in the past. There was the time when he was averaging almost one walk for each inning pitched, but lately it's been only one pass for every two rounds of toil.

An Assist for Martin

Newman's control has improved to the point where he is pleasantly wild and said credit for this improvement should go to Fred Martin, the Cubs' long-time minor league pitching instructor.

Martin talked Newman into discarding a high-kick windup which he had been using since high school. Newman's windup was almost identical to that used by Juan Marichal. Said Newman, "I even kicked my foot higher than he did."

With Martin's help, Newman now pitches with a rocking motion and without a windup.

He used this delivery for the entire 1970 season, which he split between San Antonio (Texas) and Tacoma (Pacific Coast). The result was only 37 walks and 77 strikeouts in 84 innings.

Last year, for the first time, Newman also was used exclusively in relief.

This decision was made by the Chicago office and Newman couldn't be more grateful. "It's easier on me mentally and physically," he explained. "And I've got the type of arm for relief. I can throw every day."

There was still another important reason why the Cubs decided to put Newman in the bullpen. This was because he simply couldn't sleep on the nights before he was to start. Explained John Holland, the Cubs' front-office boss, "I've never seen or heard of anyone who got so nervous."

Worried by New Jobs

Newman admitting he's unusually high-strung, said, "I really get jacked up before a ball game." However, he said he eventually does settle down. The nervousness is bad only when he's breaking into a new league.

"Once I realize I can pitch in a class of competition, I'm okay," Newman said. "My trouble is when I move up from one league to another. I'm just full of anxieties."

Moving from Triple A to the majors is, of course, the biggest leap of all and the Cubs have been careful in advising Newman he should simply stay loose and fire away. They have told him he doesn't have to be perfect and hit the corners with every pitch.

This was Newman's third time in spring training with the Cubs and, in the past, he always was among the first players to be cut. He also figured to go in an early squad cut this season, especially after a poor, one-inning performance against Oakland March 9.

Off to a Bad Start

It was Newman's first outing of the spring and he gave up four runs, two of them earned, and four walks and had to go through the entire lineup before he was able to get three outs. Newman didn't make another appearance until March 20 and the impression was that he was being given another look primarily because the other young lefthanders in camp also were quite ineffective.

"When they told me I was pitching, I figured I was gone," Newman explained. "I figured I was in the minor leagues and it wouldn't make any difference what I did. So I just went out there and tried to blow the ball in."

A strange and wonderful thing happened. As he was blowing the ball in, Newman found himself in his best groove. His rhythm and timing were perfect. The A's, in four innings, reached him for only two hits and one walk.

Durocher used Newman again three days later and this time had him go five innings against the Giants. Again, Newman was wonderfully effective. He struck out four, issued only two passes and allowed only one baserunner as far as second.

Job Still Uncertain

Whether or not Newman will make the Cub varsity still is not known, but it certainly appears he has the savvy and, better yet, a superior fast ball that should make him an effective major league reliever. If he makes it, there could be a lot of smiles at Wrigley Field this summer.

Bruin Briefs: Needless to say, the Cubs were saddened by the death of Verlon (Rube) Walker, who succumbed after a long illness. Rube was a long-time Cub organization man and had been with the Bruins as a major league coach for the last 11 years. He was to have been the pitching coach this season. Mel Wright, who pitched for the Cubs briefly, was chosen to succeed him.

... Lew Fonseca, recently hired as a batting coach, already has had good success with outfielder Johnny Callison. Callison was hitting .185 before Fonseca began helping him and almost immediately Johnny went on a big tear of eight hits in 10 trips, including two homers and five doubles. ... The following players were sent back to the minor league camp for reassignment: pitchers Dean Burk, Larry Gura, Jim Dunegan, Ron Jones and James Newman and infielder Pat Bouque.

Leo to Let Banks Decide When He Wants to Quit

CHICAGO, Ill.—Cub Manager Leo Durocher says he will not suggest retirement to Ernie Banks and insisted that if and when the veteran decides to quit as an active player, "it will be his decision and not mine."

Said Durocher: "So far as I'm concerned, he can play as long as he wants to. I'm not going to have to decide for him."

Durocher made these statements after he was questioned by newsmen who were asking for a clarification on Banks' status as an active player.

It has been quite obvious that Banks, because of advancing age and injuries, can no longer be expected to continue as a front-line player.

Because of this, Durocher was asked if Banks had to "make the club" or if he "automatically had a spot on the club."

"He's on the team," Durocher replied. "I'm not going to dismiss him."

Durocher said, however, that Chicago fans shouldn't expect Banks to do much more than serve as a pinch-batter.

"Maybe there will be times when he'll play a game or two," Leo said, "but we'll use him primarily as a pinch-hitter."

The 40-year-old Banks has been troubled by injuries and appeared in only nine of the Cubs' first 21 exhibition games. Though he has slowed up considerably, he still has shown good ability at the plate.



Jerome Holtzman

Indians Have Nobody To Go To Now

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—I still think the Indians made a big mistake in having Manager Al Dark handle contract negotiations with his players. What I don't like about it is this: ordinarily, if a player has a salary grievance before, during or after he has signed, he can go to his manager, tell his tale of woe, and expect the manager to intercede on his behalf. But the way it is now, the Cleveland players don't have anyone to go to with their complaints.

Speaking of the Indians, Eddie Uhas, the Tribe's publicist, has been providing spring training statistics only on weekends, which is when the Indians broadcast their games back home. That wasn't very thoughtful of you, Eddie. I would think the Cleveland writers would be entitled to a daily stat sheet. Now please be nice and don't fight.

Dee Fondy, the ex-Cub first baseman who is now a special assignment scout for the Mets, has his own way of getting into shape for spring training. He goes into his backyard and sits on a 2x8 plank for a half hour, then an hour, gradually building himself up so he can take a three-hour ball game in stride.

Fondy, of course, is comparatively new at this scouting game and can take a tip from Tom Greenwade, the long-time Yankee scout. Greenwade carries a seat cushion wherever he goes, which reminds me that Greenwade will be honored on the night of May 30 in St. Louis, when the Cardinals are playing Atlanta. The citizens of Springfield, Mo., will be there en masse and are expected to present him with a lot of goodies.

Greenwade is 66 and signed Mickey Mantle, plus dozens of other players. The other day, he was asked what he did this past off-season and he said, "Nothing but hunt and fish." ... Kenny Holtzman, the Cub southpaw, has a good sense of humor. When someone told him he might succeed the Cardinals' Bob Gibson as the National League's best pitcher, Kenny replied: "When that happens, I'm going to write a book and call it 'From Matzo Balls to Glory.'"

While everyone sits and sweats in Tucson, Indians' announcer Bob Neal watches the Indians in his air-conditioned radio booth. That's what I call living. ... John McHale, president of the Expos, is among the walking wounded. He injured his hand while playing handball and may have to miss the opener at the Montreal Athletic Club, where he is one of the defending doubles champions.

Charlie Grimm Likes Arizona

The San Diego Padres have been trying to pry loose Willie Crawford from the Dodgers. The Dodgers were ready, but demanded a good lefthanded pitcher in return. ... Charlie Grimm, a three-time manager of the Cubs and now an honorary vice-president with the Bruins, plans to sell his Wisconsin manse and says he's going to move to Arizona and live there the year 'round.

My vote for the Most Improved Cub goes to Charlie Shriver, the publicity man. If Charlie keeps it up, he might rank with Bob Fishel of the Yankees and Ed Short (when he was with the White Sox) on my all-time P. R. team. ... I keep reading how bad the economy is, and how things are especially bad in Seattle and I have to think it's a good thing the American League allowed Bill Daley and the Sorianos to sell. If they had stayed in Seattle, they could have lost two or three more million—just for this year.

How about a doff of the skimmer to Whitey Wietelmann, the San Diego coach. Believe it or not—and I believe it—Whitey has had each of his pitchers lay down 2,000 bunts this spring. He made 'em do the same thing last year and it paid off big. Though last in the West, the Padres were second in the N. L. in sacrifice bunts and Pat Dobson set a league record for the most successful sacrifice bunts by a pitcher.

The Cubs—who in comparison hardly bunt at all—tried something new this year. In bunting practice, they worked on pushing the ball past the on-rushing fielders and claim this is the best way to do it nowadays because of the artificial turf and fast grass. ... Things you can learn reading the spring training press books: The Cubs are 184½ games behind the Giants since the Jints moved to San Francisco in 1958.

Here's a tip for kid pitchers from Cleveland's Sam McDowell: don't lift weights. Said Sam: "It'll bind you up. Your muscles have to really stretch to throw a good fast ball." McDowell also says that kids with the good fast ball shouldn't worry about the other pitches. They can pick them up later.

Experience Is Lacking

With Emmett Ashford retired, baseball is without a black umpire at the major league level and they tell me Commissioner Bowie Kuhn is pushing hard for Archie Williams and Harold Vann. N. L. President Chub Feeney had 'em both up for spring training, but the trouble is that Williams has only had two years of Organized Baseball experience and Vann only one.

I realize that the Haywood Spencer case is of serious concern to pro football and pro basketball, but I think baseball can learn something from it, too. Maybe the baseball lords finally will wake up and discard the college rule which was put in four or five years ago to maintain amicable relations with the NCAA.

I just don't understand what the colleges do for baseball. Nothing, so far as I can see, and I can't understand why a potential ballplayer who is enrolled in college can't be offered a contract by a major league club until his class graduates. It's inconsistent, too, because it doesn't apply to junior colleges.

Almost every scout I've spoken to would like to see the college rule eliminated. Some baseball executives insist that the colleges are somewhat of a farm system for baseball, but I don't buy this—especially when considering that in each of the last two years only four college players were among the 24 first-round draft choices.

Let's have another doff of the chapeau to Chuck Tanner, the new White Sox manager. My Chicago colleagues tell me that Tanner asked them to submit (in a sealed envelope) periodic lists of the 25 players he should take home with him. He's asked for three lists, one on March 15, another on March 28, and another on April 4. Now that's what I call good public relations.

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