

# Cards Do a Quick-Change Routine

By RICK HUMMEL

ST. LOUIS—"Who says you can't make deals?" rasped St. Louis Cardinals General Manager-Manager Whitey Herzog. Then, Herzog went out and easily laid claim to being Executive of the Week during baseball's winter meetings at Dallas.

In a space of 24 hours, Herzog lopped off 25 percent (10 players) of his 40-man roster in deals with the San Diego Padres and Chicago Cubs. Suddenly, the National League's worst bullpen had become the best with the acquisition of Rollie Fingers from San Diego and Bruce Sutter from the Cubs.

Herzog then moved Fingers to Milwaukee, along with pitcher Pete Vuckovich and catcher Ted Simmons, who'd demanded to be traded after Herzog had given free-agent catcher **Darrell Porter** \$3.5 million for five years.

That deal gave the Cardinals righthanded pitcher Lary Sorensen (12-10 last season), outfielder Sixto Lezcano (.229, 18 home runs), minor league outfielder David Green and lefthanded pitcher David LaPoint. The deal was concluded when the Brewers agreed to throw in an estimated \$750,000 demanded by agent Larue Harcourt before Simmons would waive his no-trade as a 10-year major leaguer who has spent the last five years with the same club.

"I've done my job as general manager," said Herzog. "Now if the manager doesn't screw it up. . . ."

The Cardinals' lineup will have Keith Hernandez at first base, Tom Herr at second, Garry Templeton at shortstop and Ken Oberkfell moving from second base to third. Lezcano will be in left field with Tony Scott and George Henderick remaining in center and right, respectively. **Porter** will do the catching.

The starting rotation will have Sorensen, Bob Forsch, Bob Shirley (acquired from San Diego) and rookie Andy Rincon. Heading up the bullpen will be Sutter, who had 28 saves with the Cubs, and 42-year-old Jim Kaat.

The proposed move of Simmons to first base and Her-



Bruce Sutter . . . Relief is on the way.

nandez to left field had drawn a negative reaction from both. They felt the team's defense would be weakened at two positions.

"You're taking a Gold Glove and putting him at a posi-

tion other than where he might win it," said Simmons of Hernandez. Simmons initially said that playing first base would be "just fine" with him, but he wondered if it would be "just fine" for Hernandez to play left. Later, Simmons, upon considering the possibilities, decided first base wasn't "just fine" and asked through agent Harcourt to be traded.

Harcourt also had been an integral factor in the trade that sent third baseman Ken Reitz, first baseman-outfielder Leon Durham and a player to be named (infielder Ty Waller) to the Cubs for Sutter. Reitz had a no-trade clause in his contract for this year and Harcourt asked for \$200,000 from the Cubs and Cardinals to give it up. He settled for \$150,000.

Herzog, commenting on the deal with the Brewers, said, "We would not have made the deal without Green (.291, 8 home runs and 67 RBIs with Holyoke of the Eastern League in 1979)."

The trade drew less than rave reviews throughout St. Louis and departing pitcher Vuckovich had a parting shot for the Cardinals.

"They say he (Simmons) can't catch," Vuckovich said. "That makes me laugh. They say they want more speed. But you don't have to run the way he hits them."

**Redbird Chirps:** The St. Louis baseball writers have decided to cancel their dinner, scheduled for January 14, because of the fees demanded by athletes who were asked to appear. It would have forced the price of the tickets much higher than the \$25 of last year. The dinner is scheduled to be resumed in January, 1982.

The Cardinals acquired 19-year-old catcher Bob Geren as the player to be named in the trade with San Diego. Geren hit .254 at Walla Walla (Northwest) and .287 at Reno (California). . . . In the annual draft of minor league players, the Cardinals chose outfielder-catcher Orlando Sanchez, who hit .307 at Oklahoma City (American Association), and outfielder Carlos Lopez, a former Oriole and Mariner who played at Mexico City in the Mexican League.

## Bull (Durham) Was the Key to Cubs Trade

By DAVE NIGHTINGALE

CHICAGO—He was vilified, not deified, in some segments of the local media, but Chicago Cubs executive Vice-President Bob Kennedy remained adamant.

"We're going to rebuild this team with young players who want to play the game," he said at the Dallas winter meetings.

And with that, he dealt premier reliever Bruce Sutter to the St. Louis Cardinals for two youngsters (Leon Durham and Ty Waller) and veteran third baseman Ken Reitz.

"Bruce Sutter might win a pennant for the Cardinals in 1981," Kennedy conceded, "but he, alone, wouldn't have been the difference . . . wouldn't have won the pennant for us."

Kennedy then packed off slugger Cliff Johnson to the Oakland's A's (Cliff had demanded a swap, his contractual right) for 20-year-old lefty Michael King, the No. 4 pick in the first round of the 1980 June amateur draft.

Continuing to deal, Kennedy sent outfielder Jerry Martin to the San Francisco Giants for second baseman Joe Strain and lefthanded pitcher Phil Nastu. The Cubs also gave up outfielder Jesus Figueroa and a player to be named later. The next order of business was to get outfielder Hector Cruz from Cincinnati for outfielder Mike Vail.

And Kennedy said he was willing to take any heat he might receive if he could get a Class AA pitching prospect

from the New York Mets for outfielder Dave Kingman. "Except I don't think the Mets will make the deal," he said. (He was right.)

Sutter, the 1979 National League Cy Young Award winner and the N. L. saves leader (28) last summer, took a \$700,000 salary with him when he left town—nearly twice what the Cubs will be paying Reitz, Durham, Waller and King next year.

The apple of Kennedy's eye in the St. Louis deal was the 23-year-old Durham. "The Bull was the key," he said.

"Kennedy is so much in love with Leon that he would have traded Sutter for Durham even up," another general manager insisted.

Durham batted .271 in 96 games with St. Louis last season but couldn't crack the starting lineup until Bobby Bonds hit the skids. Even so, Cardinals scout Fred McAlister declared: "The Cubs may have got the next (Dave) Parker. If this kid can't hit, especially in Wrigley Field, then I don't know who can."

Kennedy also said he expected a power increase from Reitz, who has a career homer average of eight per year, because of the short power alleys in the Walls of Ivy.

"When I was trying to persuade Reitz to join us, I told him that some of his long line drives in Busch Stadium would be homers in Chicago," Kennedy said.

Reitz needed convincing because his Cardinals contract, a five-year, \$1.4 million pact signed in 1980, contained a

no-trade clause. It took five days of negotiating with Reitz and his agent, Larue Harcourt, before the player waived the no-trade provision.

"I thought a move to Chicago would be good for Kenny," said Harcourt, "especially since the Cardinals were making it clear they weren't going to play him regularly in 1981. But I felt Kenny should receive extra compensation to accept the trade because he had taken less money a year ago in order to assure himself of stability."

Harcourt asked for a \$200,000 bonus; the Cubs and Cards offered half that. A compromise was reached at \$150,000, the Cubs and Cards each paying half.

Martin, who wanted a fat contract and had said he never would play again for the Cubs, swatted 42 home runs and drove in 146 runs in his two years in Chicago. He batted .227 with 23 homers and 73 RBIs last season.

Strain, 26, took over at second base for the Giants when Bill Madlock was traded to Pittsburgh in the 1979 season. Strain hit .286 in 77 games last season.

**Cubbyhole:** Former Cubs catcher Randy Hundley was named to manage the team's Iowa farm club (American Association), while ex-Toronto pilot Roy Hartsfield will direct the Midland (Texas) team and former White Sox infielder Rich Morales will be the skipper of the Class A Quad Cities (Midwest) team. Jim Napier becomes minor league pitching coach.

## Ultimatum by Cardinals Made Porter an Ex-Royal

By MIKE DeARMOND

KANSAS CITY—The S.S. Norway settled heavily as the bow of the great ship cleaved the waters of the Caribbean. It was late afternoon, or early evening, that most indefinable of times when the sun hurtles, albeit imperceptibly, toward the rim of the world.

**Darrell Porter**, quite frankly, cannot remember all the details of what transpired. There was, suddenly, a shadow over the sparkle of his honeymoon trip.

**Porter** remembers hanging up the telephone. He remembers digging into his pocket and feeding money into a dollar slot machine. He remembers losing \$32.

**Porter**, quite simply, didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He still doesn't.

That day, **Porter** told agent Frank Knisley he would accept terms on a contract that will pay him \$3.25 million over the next five years to play with the St. Louis Cardinals.

By accepting those terms, **Porter** severed his association with the Kansas City Royals and, in large part, with a city whose fans had suckled **Porter** through the most joyous

and trying period of his 28 years.

"At that point, I'd made up my mind that that was the best thing to do," **Porter** said. "It just hurt me inside that I'm leaving Kansas City."

"It doesn't hurt that I'm going to the Cardinals. It's just a very empty feeling in me, leaving a place I love so much." **Porter** was backed into a corner.

Whitey Herzog, former Royals manager now field boss and general manager of the Cardinals, did the pushing. Herzog pushed Knisley by offering the contract on a take-it-now-or-never basis. Knisley pushed **Porter**.

"I was having a nice, relaxing time until that moment," **Porter** remembered. "Then Frank told me that Whitey was withdrawing his offer, that we had to make a decision."

**Porter** protested.

"I told Frank, 'There's no possible way I could make that decision right now.'" He wanted to talk to Joe Burke and give the Royals an opportunity to match the offer.

Herzog kept pushing. Knisley called Burke, Royals vice-president and general manager. Burke said the Royals couldn't match the Cardinals' offer.

Knisley told **Porter** the Royals couldn't come close.

"There was too much difference," **Porter** said. "We asked Joe if he would match it and he said no. We asked him if he could come close and he said no."

**Porter** said simply, even sadly, that he had no choice.

"After '79 (**Porter** hit .291 for the Royals), I thought I might make some good bucks," **Porter** said. "I wasn't sure that would happen after this year (.249). I wasn't exactly confident."

"To tell the truth, I wasn't sure what would happen after this year. Considering the difference between what I was offered there (St. Louis) and here (K.C.), I would have been a fool not to go there."

"I quit being a fool when I went to The Meadows," **Porter** said, referring to the alcohol and drug treatment center in Wickenburg, Ariz., where he underwent therapy last spring.

**Royalties:** The Royals dipped into the free-agent market to sign former Baltimore first baseman Lee May. May will serve as pinch-hitter, designated hitter and backup first baseman to Willie Aikens.