

(Continued From Page 35)

seven-hitter. Sonny Ruberto homered for the Indians with Jack Pierce connecting for the Triplets. . . . Denver downed Tulsa, 3-1, for the fourth straight time as the Bears extended their winning string to five. Skip Pitlock got relief from Steve Dunning and Rich Hinton as the Oiler losing streak reached six. Ken Bennett homered for the Bears. . . . Wichita clubbed Oklahoma City, 8-2, as Steve Swisher, Jerry Tabb and Duane Kuiper homered for the Aeros. Herb Hutson allowed five hits in the Aeros' sixth consecutive triumph and 89ers' fifth straight loss. . . . Omaha edged Iowa, 4-3, as Mark Littell and Norm Angelini combined for a seven-hitter. Mark Williams homered for the Royals. Mike Easler connected for the Oaks.

## TUESDAY, MAY 27

Oklahoma City 5, Iowa 3  
Evansville 8, Wichita 2

Oklahoma City won the battle of divisional cellar dwellers by defeating Iowa, 5-3. Tom Brennan, Barry Lersch and Jim Strickland combined for an eight-hitter to end a five-game 89er losing streak. The loss was the fifth straight for the Oaks. . . . Evansville topped Wichita, 8-2, on the fourth hurling of Craig Skok. Chuck Scrivener homered for the Triplets and Vic Harris connected for the Aeros, who fell for the first time in seven games. . . . Rain postponed the Omaha at Denver game.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Tulsa 7, Indianapolis 6 (12 inn.)  
Wichita 5, Evansville 0

Tulsa scored three runs in the ninth inning to tie Indianapolis, 5-5, and then added two tallies in the 12th on a double by Luis Alvarado and single by Jerry Mumphy. Hector Cruz had a crucial two-run single in the ninth when Mumphy also singled to tie the game. Mike Proly relieved for the victory. Junior Kennedy rapped three singles, a double and a triple for the Indians. . . . Wichita blanked Evansville, 5-0, on the nine-hit hurling of Eddie Solomon and Eddie Watt. . . . Rain postponed the Omaha at Denver and Iowa at Oklahoma City games.

## THURSDAY, MAY 29

Indianapolis 6, Tulsa 5  
Wichita 11, Evansville 7

Indianapolis moved to one game from East Division leader Evansville with a 6-5 victory over Tulsa. Mac Scarce got the triumph in relief when the Indians scored two runs in the seventh inning and one in the eighth. Dave Revering and Tom Spencer homered for the Tribe with Hector Cruz connecting for the Oilers. . . . Wichita clipped Evansville, 11-7, in a 23-hit affair. Willie Prall got the victory with relief from Paul Reuschel and Eddie Watt. . . . Rain postponed the Iowa at Oklahoma City game with snow preventing the Omaha at Denver contest.

## A. A. Atoms

### KOELLING RETIRES

The only four-term president of the American Association Baseball Writers retired June 1 when Lester Koelling, 70, stepped down after 48 years as a full-time staffer with the Indianapolis News. Koelling, who covered baseball most of his four-decade newspaper career, presided over the American Association Writers in 1945 and 1946, again in 1972 and 1973. He served 30 years as a correspondent for THE SPORTING NEWS.

Evansville outfielder Bob Molinaro, while not the league's fastest base runner, is proving among the most dangerous. After inducing run-scoring balks in two earlier games, Molinaro stole home May 18 to highlight the Triplets' 6-1 win over visiting Indianapolis. "He told me he was

going and I said, 'Go ahead,'" Manager Fred Hatfield said of Molinaro, who beat Indians' pitcher Tom Carroll in the fifth inning.

Omaha left fielder Rocky Craig made a diving catch in the seventh inning of the Royals' 4-1 victory over Iowa on May 18. The catch robbed pinch-hitter Don McLaughlin of an extra-base hit and prevented two runs from scoring. Craig explained: "I didn't think I had a chance of getting the ball on the fly. I was so psyched up because I got to play against a righthander. It just feels great to play."

### STORM FOLLOWS SELAK

Iowa newcomer Ron Selak was coasting with a four-hitter and a 6-1 lead over Indianapolis after eight innings on May 20, but said his arm tightened and he had to be removed by Manager Joe Sparks. The Indians responded with five runs in the ninth inning to tie the game and completed the 14-6 rout of five Oak relief pitchers with an eight-run 10th inning. "What could I do?" asked Sparks. "He's considered a valuable prospect and it didn't seem right to take a chance of damaging his arm." Indianapolis, which committed seven errors as Iowa built its early lead, collected nine hits and was aided by two boots and five bases on balls in the rally.

Omaha left fielder Rocky Craig suffered a gash above his left ear when he was struck by a pitch thrown by Iowa's Carlos Alfonso in the seventh inning of the Royals' 10-5 waltz on May 23. Craig was taken to a Des Moines hospital for observation, but was not expected to miss any games.

Evansville literally squeezed visiting Indianapolis May 17 in rebounding from a 3-0 deficit to an 11-3 triumph. Behind after 5½ innings, the Triplets took a 4-3 lead in the sixth on Chuck Scrivener's two-run double. Then John Gamble and Artie James delivered RBI squeeze-bunt singles in a seven-run eighth that assured an Evansville win and retention of first

### Tribe Skipper Changes Viewpoint on DH Rule

INDIANAPOLIS — There's nothing "negative" about Indianapolis playing its games without employing a designated hitter, according to Manager Vern Rapp.

"We look at it as a positive thing that allows everybody to be useful to the team," he said. "Particularly guys like Rawly Eastwick (pitcher), who went to Cincinnati. They can't say they haven't hit or bunted in two years."

Parent Cincinnati decreed in early April that its farm clubs would not use a designated hitter in 1975, and Rapp insists he concurs with the thinking, even though he didn't always think that way.

"I was a fan of the designated hitter at first, because I figured it would boost attendance. But I've changed my mind," said Rapp, the dean of American Association managers in his seventh year at Indianapolis.

"From the fans' standpoint, the DH is terrible. One of the great things about our game is simplicity. It allows the fan to think he can manage the club. The fan likes to say whether the manager should have taken the pitcher out, and he likes to guess who the pinch-hitter will be.

"Now he can't do those things."

Rapp makes one final point to those who criticize Cincinnati's decision:

"We're not here to develop minor leaguers."

place. Fernando Arroyo, who pitched seven innings before yielding to Ike Brookens, gained the win despite a single, double and two-run triple by Dave Revering. Bob Molinaro drove in three Triplets' runs.

### EASLER SWINGS LEVEL

Iowa designated-hitter Mike Easler slashed a three-run homer May 26 to prevent a shutout loss to Omaha in a 4-3 game. In noting his 2-for-4 performance, Easler commented: "I was trying to pull everything for a long time after I came down from Houston. Joe (Manager Sparks) pointed out that I was looping my swing upward. He got me swinging level and hitting straightaway. When you're making solid contact, the homers will come."

Gary Ignasiak, 25-year-old Evansville lefthander, scored his first American Association victory May 25 when the Triplets beat visiting Indianapolis, 6-3, in a game shortened to seven innings by rain. Ignasiak, who lost three Evansville decisions before returning to Montgomery (Southern) in 1974, lost one 1975 decision before holding the Indians to four hits and two earned runs.

Denver outfielders Ken Bennett and Fred Norton had just six RBIs between them in the first six weeks of the season, but drove in all of the Bears' runs in a 3-1 victory at Tulsa on May 26. Bennett hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Norton lashed a run-scoring single in the seventh inning.

### DUNNING HAS FAITH

Steve Dunning evened his record with a 2-0 shutout at Tulsa on May 23 and the Denver righthander admitted that there was quite a difference from 1970 when he joined Cleveland out of Stanford University. Said Dunning: "I now have faith in pitches other than my fast ball and feel that I can get them over the plate when I need to. Tulsa has a good hitting club and I wanted to keep them off stride by changing speeds as well as moving the ball around the plate." Denver Manager Loren Babe added: "He's not trying to blow the ball past everyone. Like so many young pitchers, he has to learn you can't live by fast balls alone."

Despite striking out 14 times against Iowa pitchers on May 22, Indianapolis batters smashed 12 hits and were aided by eight bases on balls in a 13-6 waltz.

Evansville's Triplets turned five double plays, allowed just one extra-base hit and lashed nine hits themselves in a May 28 home game against Wichita. So they lost, 5-0, because the Aeros collected 13 singles and turned three double plays to help Eddie Solomon and Eddie Watt to a combination shutout. Solomon survived nine singles and two infield errors, partly because he walked nobody. Watt, arriving with two runners aboard in the ninth, quickly retired the only three men he faced.

### UMPS GIVEN AID

The Triplets management and the Evansville area Tri-State Umpires Association came to the rescue May 25-26 when arbiters Ed Hudson, Mike Schirmer and Tom Romenesko learned their equipment had not arrived from Indianapolis. For the May 25 game against Indianapolis, the crew wore Triplets caps and road pants and gray T-shirts. Their strange outfits seen by 1,027 fans and duly reported in the press, the umpires were put in style May 26 when the Tri-State Umpires Association donated caps, pants and shirts . . . and a brush. Hudson, the plate umpire May 25, dusted it with a paint brush. "Don Labruzzo (Triplets' president) found the paint brush somewhere in the park," Romenesko reported. "We knew that morning where our equipment was. The clubhouse boy in Indianapolis forgot to ship it, and by then it was too late because of the Indianapolis 500 traffic. "Since we were going back to Indianapolis May 27, we decided not to have it shipped here for one day. We figured on wearing makeshift uniforms again until the local umpires' association came through."

Denver righthander Lloyd Allen upped his record to 6-1 with a 2-1 victory over Tulsa on May 25 and said he was on the "comeback trail." A 0-2 pitcher with the Chicago White Sox and 1-3 at Iowa in 1974, Allen pointed to his control and slider for his success. Said Allen: "It's amazing what you can accomplish when you learn to keep the ball down. You can't believe how bad I've been the last couple of years."

### HOLDSWORTH HELD

Righthander Fred Holdsworth, penciled in as Evansville's starter May 28 against visiting Wichita, was scratched 45 minutes before game time, when Detroit player development director Hoot Evers called to inform that Holdsworth would be included in a trade to be announced at 9 a. m. the next day. "I had listed Fred on the lineup card and he was just about to go to the bullpen to warm up," said Evansville Manager Fred Hatfield. "Hoot said not to pitch him, so I scratched his name off the card and put in Steve Grilli." Grilli pitched the first seven innings, allowing nine singles and three runs, in the Triplets' 5-0 loss.

Pete Vuckovich complained of a sore arm on May 22 at Denver and the sharp young righthander who had compiled a 5-1 early-season record was sent to Chicago for examination and treatment by the White Sox physician.

Beaten in its first three Evansville appearances, Indianapolis took out its frustration May 26 by dealing the Triplets a 9-1 pounding. Righthander Santo Alcala pitched a seven-hitter, his shutout bid spoiled by Jack Pierce's ninth homer, and was backed by a 10-hit attack that included Sonny

Ruberto's two-run homer, two-run doubles by Art DeFreites and Tom Spencer and Dave Revering's two-run single.

### HATFIELD POINTS TO HILL

"The team that keeps the best pitching will win it," Evansville Manager Fred Hatfield says of an Eastern Division pennant race that appears to be a two-way battle between the Triplets and Indianapolis. "It may boil down to who gets the most innings out of its starters, whose bullpen stays the freshest. Both teams have good pens, so we both stand a good chance to win any time we take a lead into the last three innings. We may have a little more depth in players, may be a little more versatile. We can do a little more when it comes to juggling lefthanded and righthanded hitters." "Evansville's the team to beat," said Vern Rapp. "They have that experience, and right now they're hitting better than we are. We really haven't been hitting."

Indianapolis pitcher Tom Carroll suffered his second 1-0 loss during May when he fell, 1-0, to Evansville on May 23. The Triplets scored their run in the third inning when Chuck Scrivener scored on Carroll's wild pitch. On May 6, Carroll was a 1-0 loser to Omaha.

The first meeting of Eastern contenders Indianapolis and Evansville saw the host Indians at no disadvantage without a designated hitter. Pitcher Joe Henderson, pinch-hitting for hurler Santo Alcala, triggered a three-run sixth inning with a double May 16 as the Indians erased a 4-1 deficit. Then Don Werner, a reserve catcher, delivered a ninth-inning pinch-single that scored Dave Revering for a 5-4 victory.

## GLANCING BACK in The Sporting News

1970 . . . 1960 . . . 1950 . . . 1925 . . . 1900

### 5 Years Ago

William Cahn, Nassau County district attorney, announced that a grand jury would hear testimony on the death of New York Ranger goaltender Terry Sawchuk. Sawchuk, who holds the NHL career record for most shutouts (103), died of internal injuries reportedly suffered as the result of a fight with teammate Ron Stewart.

Al Unser won the 54th running of the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of 155.749 miles per hour.

### 15 Years Ago

For the first time since the Chicago White Sox were organized 60 years ago, there is no longer a Comiskey in the front office of the Chicago American League club. Charles A. (Chuck) Comiskey, grandson and namesake of the founder of the club, resigned as vice-president with a brief letter to the club's attorney and secretary, Milton Cohen. There has been friction reported among the club's officers and principal stockholders.

Yankee General Manager George M. Weiss is taking bows for the off-season trade which brought outfielder Roger Maris to New York from Kansas City. Maris has blossomed into a real star in Yankee livery. For the club's first 41 games, he has a league-leading 15 homers, has driven in 37 runs and is sporting a handsome .336 batting average.

### 25 Years Ago

The Boston Red Sox broke six modern major league records as they destroyed the last-place St. Louis Browns, 29-4, in a game played at Fenway Park. Third baseman Johnny Pesky had five hits in seven times at bat, first baseman Walt Dropo and outfielder Ted Williams each had two homers and outfielder Al Zarilla had four doubles.

Major league scouts are drooling over Billy Hoef, 18-year-old lefthanded pitcher from Oshkosh (Wis.) High School. It is expected that the youngster will be able to command a bonus of at least \$40,000 when he graduates later this month.

### 50 Years Ago

Rookie first baseman Buster Gehrig, inserted into the New York Yankee lineup as a replacement for veteran Wally Pipp, is giving the club a boost. Gehrig has walloped five home runs and is beginning to play his position like a veteran. Gehrig could keep Pipp on the bench indefinitely.

The Philadelphia Athletics, trailing by a 15-4 count, scored 13 runs in the bottom of the eighth inning and defeated the Cleveland Indians, 17-15.

### 75 Years Ago

Something is rotten in Denmark. Despite the denials of Ned Hanlon, it looks like the Superbas will leave Brooklyn, probably to go to Washington. Attendance has been very disappointing this season, even though the team is champion of the National League. A move before the end of the season, however, seems unlikely. Alderman Charles H. Ebbets, who owns a small block of stock, is the only person lending Brooklyn flavor to the Brooklyn club. The other owners are outsiders.



# Dodgers Boost TV Games To 50 for Cool \$4 Million

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—For a good many years, the Los Angeles Dodgers' feeling about television was about the same as it was for, say, Juan Marichal. Bad news.

Their anti-TV policy eased only slightly the next several years when the Dodgers televised their games from San Francisco into southern California. But only from San Francisco.

Finally, in the early '70s, the Dodgers added Sunday road games to their television-schedule. Thus, TV fans learned there was more to the National League than the Giants and Dodgers.

In 1981 though, the Dodgers will embark upon by far their most ambitious TV venture yet. Fifty games including 46 regular-season games, will be televised by KTTV, Channel 11, the Dodgers' longtime TV outlet. No home games will be televised, except for 12 to be shown on ON-TV, a subscription outlet.

The reason is obvious. By more than doubling the number of televised games, the Dodgers' income from radio-TV will roughly double, from a reported \$2 million last year to an estimated \$4 million in 1981.

The Dodgers may be the most successful organization among the 26 major league clubs—they've drawn more than three million fans into Dodger Stadium two of the last three years—but they're feeling the dollar-pinch, too.

Besides adding tremendously to their TV slate, they're also increasing ticket prices for 1981. It's only the third increase in 24 years, but also the third in the last six.

From 1955 through 1975, Dodger Stadium ticket prices

remained unchanged, \$3.50 for box seats, \$2.50 for reserved, \$1.50 for general admission and 75 cents for kids. Last year prices were \$4.50, \$3.50, \$2 and \$1. For 1981, boxes jump \$1 to \$5.50, reserved 50 cents to \$4, general admission \$1 to \$2.50 and kids 50 cents to \$1.50, still among the lowest ticket prices in the National League.

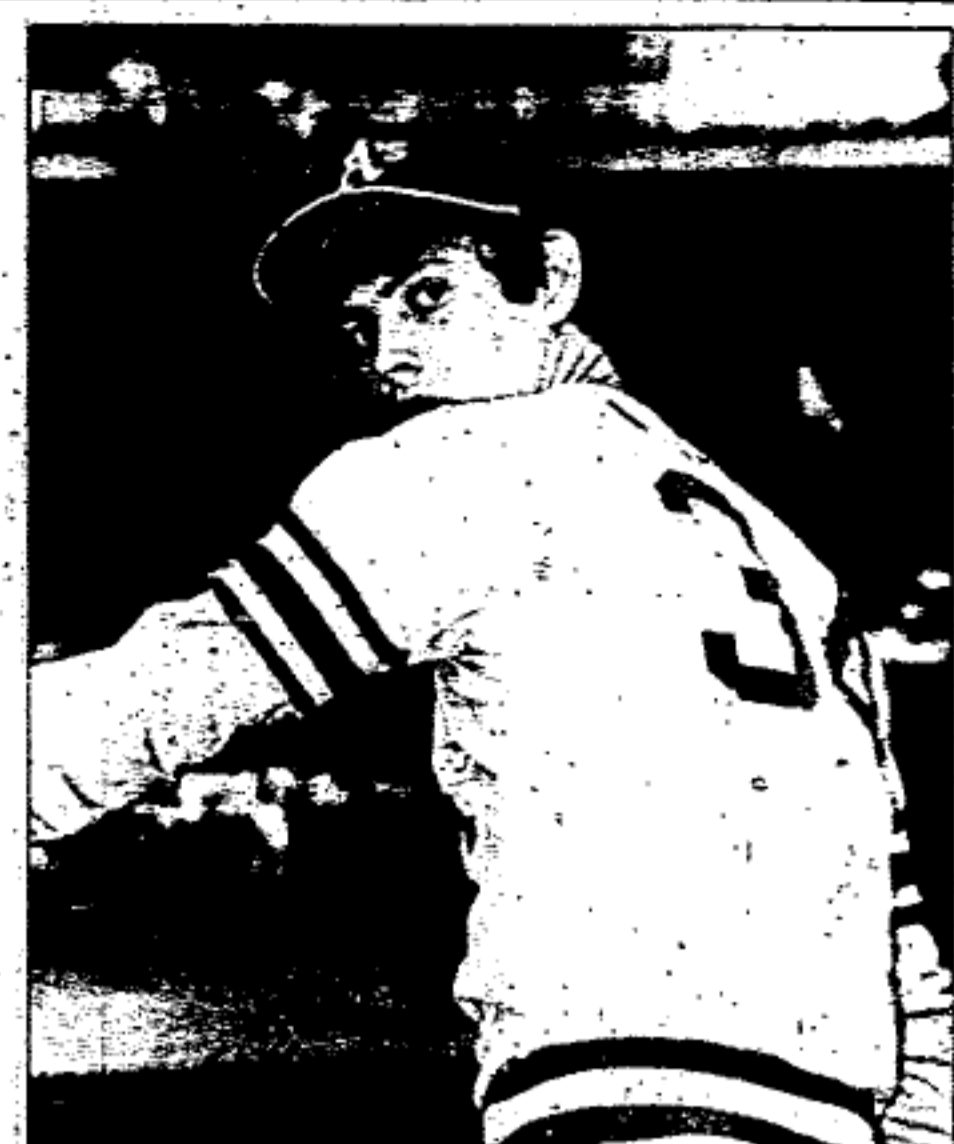
It is the television-package, though, that is a bonanza for Dodgers fans.

For one thing, they'll get Vin Scully for perhaps two dozen more games than they would otherwise. The popular announcer cut back drastically the last couple of years, limiting his Dodgers broadcasts to home games on radio and only those road games that were televised. Scully's schedule, where it does not conflict with his CBS-TV obligations, will be the same in '81—home radio and road TV—but with 24 more televised games than in 1980.

"What would appear to be every key road game will be televised," said Vice-President Fred Claire. That means most of the games from Cincinnati and from Houston will be on TV, when they do not conflict with ABC and NBC.

Joining Scully in the radio-TV booth will be Ross Porter and Jerry Doggett. And when Scully is not present, Porter and Doggett will handle the entire package—pre-game, play-by-play and post game shows.

**Dodger Dope:** The Dodgers have formally announced a change in starting times for home games (7:35 for mid-week night games, 7:05 for Saturday night games and 1:05 for Sunday afternoon games), although that actually was when they started the last couple of seasons—five minutes late.



Bob Lacey . . . Comfrey and tei fui.

## An Alternative For A's Lacey

By KIT STIER

OAKLAND—Before Bob Lacey takes the mound for the Oakland A's, it is likely he will pop a few ginseng tablets.

Wait. Before you call the narcotics agents, there is nothing wrong or illegal about Lacey's habit.

Lacey, who has spent most of the past four seasons in the A's bullpen, takes a lot of hazing from his teammates. He is the object of more than a few jokes. Yet he gets along with almost anyone while spinning along in his own orbit.

One thing Lacey is needed about is his use of herbs. Lacey won't deny that he has never used pep pills, but by using the herbs he thinks he has found an alternative.

The Indians and Chinese have been using herbs for centuries. So have some African tribes. Lacey thought he'd give herbs a chance, and now he swears by them.

What are some of the things Lacey takes to improve his circulation, stimulate his mind and clean out and build up his insides? Licorice root, liver pills, ginseng, papaya tabs, comfrey and tei fui.

"What it is," said Lacey, "is preventive medicine. I've been playing baseball for nine years. Ten years from now, I might be able to tack four more years onto my career. I'm looking for a long-range thing."

The 1979 season was Lacey's poorest in the majors'—two injuries limited him to 42 appearances, after pitching in 78 games in 1978. When he returned home to Arizona after the 1979 season, he was weak, his blood count had dropped, and he had been put on Butazolidin and another strong drug as treatment.

During the off-season he was put in touch with Judy Barber, an herbalist in Apache Junction, Ariz.

Most of the herbs Lacey takes are intended to keep his intestinal tract clean, build up his mineral content, and, most importantly, to improve his circulation.

He uses ginseng to stimulate his mind and tei fui to ease his aching muscles. A's pitcher Mike Norris also is interested in the use of herbs.

"All winter Lacey ate natural foods and took herbs to clean out his system," he said.

"Your body tries to get rid of sugars and starches but your intestines absorb them," said Lacey.

Lacey said diet is also important. He pointed to the usual clubhouse fare as an example of players' improper diet. In a 162-game season, a steady diet of junk food takes its toll.

Norris and Lacey swear by tei fui, a Chinese liniment.

"It's better than anything a trainer has," said Lacey. "It gives heat for about four or five hours. Rickey Henderson used it on his heel."

Norris formerly spent a lot of time on the trainer's table, but not any more. "I've found tei fui to be great," Norris said. "The last time I didn't have any, I lost."

And what does A's trainer Joe Romo have to say about tei fui?

"It's great if you've got a horse on the team," said Romo.

## Arbitration Worries Blue Jays

By NEIL MACCARL

TORONTO—The Toronto Blue Jays had only four players on their 34-man roster signed and, as they geared up for contract negotiations in mid-January, they faced the possibility of several arbitration cases.

Those on holdover deals are shortstop Alfredo Griffin, designated hitter Otto Velez, catching prospect Brian Milner and Brigham Young University basketball star Danny Ainge, who has opted for a baseball career.

"We are caught between the arbitrator's gavel and reality," said club President Peter Bavasi.

Those entitled to seek arbitration are first baseman John Mayberry, outfielders Barry Bonnell and Rick Bosetti, catcher Ernie Whitt and pitchers Jim Clancy, Jerry Garvin, Mike Barlow and Mike Willis.

Mayberry, coming off a season of 30 homers and 82 runs batted in, has just finished the fifth year of a five-year deal signed prior to the 1976 season.

The Jays who sought a ruling from the Player Relations Committee months ago and were advised that rather than being committed by the option year of his contract, Mayberry could request to go to arbitration. If the Jays were unwilling to accept arbitration, he could become a free agent immediately.

"We want him and we are talking long terms," said Bavasi. "But it is a greater problem than who's on first. The payrolls in our industry have accelerated 30 percent per year over the last four years. Ours has gone up at an

alarming rate, from \$850,000 in 1977 to over \$2 million last year for our 25-man roster. This is more than double the industry rate."

Third baseman Roy Howell took the Jays to arbitration last February and won. He was awarded \$133,000 for 1980 instead of the \$110,000 offered by the Jays. Howell signed recently with the Milwaukee Brewers as a free agent for \$350,000 a year over four years plus a \$200,000 signing bonus.

Mayberry, with more impressive numbers, likely will come even higher.

Then there is Clancy, the 25-year-old righthander who was among the American League's top pitchers last season.

The Jays' escalating costs are heightened by the fact that they sell tickets in Canadian money, but pay salaries and most expenses in U.S. dollars.

"It is like having two invisible free agents on the payroll," said Bavasi.

Jays Chatter, Elliott Wahle, administrator for player personnel, estimates that the Jays will deal with 20 agents in contract negotiations. Included are the Hendricks brothers, Alan, Randall and David, of Houston. They added outfielder Jorge Bell, drafted by Toronto at the winter meetings, to their stable, giving them a total of 10 Blue Jays.

Former Jays first baseman Doug Ault, demoted to the Syracuse (International) roster, is trying to make a deal with the Hanshin Tigers in Japan.

## More Posies in Easler's Bonnet

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH—As a platoon player in 1980, Mike Easler was the best at his trade. His statistics ranked with those of many regulars. It would seem that Easler has earned his chance to become an everyday left fielder with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

If he fails, he can resume his role as platoon man with Lee Lacy, who also had a big batting year but lacked Easler's impressive statistics.

Late last April, Easler was inserted into the lineup against the Montreal Expos. Willie Stargell and John Milner were hobbled and Manager Chuck Tanner needed an extra power man against righthander Scott Sanderson.

Even Tanner couldn't have expected what Easler would accomplish. He started with two homers off Sanderson and it was the beginning of a year in which Mike posted 21 homers, 74 RBIs and a .338 batting average.

Easler, 30, never has lacked confidence and he never gave up hope during his 10 years in the minor leagues.

"Baseball has been my life and I always lived with the hope that I'd get a break," Easler said. "Nothing has come easy and I never have looked for any shortcuts. I just knew that if a big league manager would stick with me long

enough I could produce for him."

Easler's achievements were recognized by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, which voted him a close winner over Jim Bibby for the Roberto Clemente Award.

Easler received notice of his honor while playing winter ball in Venezuela and he will be among the honorees at the 45th annual Dapper Dan banquet February 8.

Easler has presented a delightful problem to Tanner because the manager can't ignore Lacy, who batted .335 as a platoon man with Easler.

"There is no need for me to rush into any decision," Tanner said. "I just want Easler and Lacy to get in their at-bats during the exhibition games. There's plenty of time to decide in what direction we will go in left field."

**Pittsburghers:** Dave Parker, who had cartilage removed from his left knee in November, has started running to strengthen the knee. Parker weighs 250 pounds and expects to lose about 20 pounds before March 1. . . . A national magazine bum-rapped Omar Moreno recently when it called him Omar the Out-maker in the 1979 World Series against Baltimore. Moreno was 11-for-33, for a .333 average. Is that an out-maker?