

Klu's Bruising Belts Provide Shot in Arm for Pale Hose Attack

First Sacker Swings Bat as He Did at Best With Reds; Club Held Back by Starters' Inability to Go Route

By JERRY HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.



Al Lopez

When the White Sox made the Roy Sievers deal this past spring, they did so at considerable sacrifice. They gave up Catcher Earl Battey, Rookie First Baseman Don Mincher and a bundle of cash estimated at \$150,000. Still, the Sox swung the deal primarily because they wanted insurance for Ted Kluszewski at first base. The winter-time thinking of the front office—which also extended into spring training—was that Klu's back could act up at any time, sending him to the bench and possibly even sidelining him for the entire season.

That was the line of thought so one can readily understand the pleasant surprise here when Klu suddenly began hitting like the Klu of old. Even Bill Veeck probably had to rub his eyes when he read the paper on the morning of May 23 for there was Klu leading the majors with a .406 batting average.

Where was Sievers? On the bench where he has been pinch-hitting. And it appears now that Sievers could be gathering splinters for some time though Manager Al Lopez probably will start him when the club is in Boston and in Kansas City. This is because of the short left field fence at both of these parks, a comparatively easy target for Sievers, who can still hit the long ball.

Staley, at 39, Shows Lots of Go-Go on Slab

By JERRY HOLTZMAN
CHICAGO, Ill.

Gerry Staley, that old gentleman of the White Sox bull pen, gained the distinction of being the first American League pitcher to win five games this season—despite the obvious disadvantage of appearing only in relief.

Fireman Staley, at dusk on May 21, had already beaten the Yankees twice and the Athletics, Tigers and Red Sox. Moreover, he also had one save (against



Gerry Staley

the Senators) and had been scored upon in only two of his 12 appearances, giving him an 0.67 earned-run average for 26 and two-third innings.

During the Sox' recent home stand, he picked up two wins in a four-day period from May 18 to May 21. First, he hurled four finishing innings against the Red Sox, presiding at a 6 to 5 triumph, and three days later concluded with two scoreless rounds as the Hose beat the Yankees, 9 to 8.

Gerry Ranks With Best

White Sox Manager Al Lopez says Staley compares with any of the great firemen of the past and explains that the veteran righthander is simply uncanny when it comes to making a batter hit the ball on the ground.

"He's got a natural sinker," said Lopez, "and there just aren't many hitters in this league who can lift it up.

"The sinker—plus his excellent control—that's what makes him so effective."

Sal Maglie, himself a standout pitcher and now the pitching coach of the Red Sox, recently said that Staley should be able to continue as an effective relief hurler for three or four more years. American League batters please note.

However, the story of the White Sox these past few weeks has been the story of Kluszewski. It was Klu who led the Chicagoans during an eight-game home stand and it was Klu who was becoming the team's big RBI man. In one three-game span, for example, Klu drove in eight runs with two homers, three doubles and four singles.

Tagged Ford for Homer

He had his first big day against Whitey Ford and the Yankees on May 20 when the Sox defeated the Bombers, 5 to 3. Klu drove in four of these runs, getting a two-run homer off Ford in the third and coming through with a two-run single off Reliever Ryne Duren in the eighth.

The homer was Klu's first of the year and fourth in White Sox uniform, his previous three coming against the Dodgers in the '59 World's Series.

The next day, also against the Bombers, Klu got three hits, including an RBI double. Obviously, this was the Klu of old and he continued proving it in a May 22 double-header against the Senators when he collected six hits in seven trips, driving in four runs and scoring four more himself.

In the first game, he got a single, double and homer which chased Camilo Pascual. Then he came back in the nightcap and had three more hits in three official trips, a double and two singles at the expense of Pedro Ramos.

Said a pleased Manager Lopez:

"The guy is amazing. He's swinging the bat real good. Everything he hits is a line drive."

Actually, Lopez has maintained from the very beginning that Klu would be his first baseman in 1960.

Hose Well Stocked at First; Lollar Keeps Glove Handy

CHICAGO, Ill.—If there's any position on the White Sox that Manager Al Lopez doesn't have to worry about, it's first base.

First of all there's Ted Kluszewski holding down the bag in capable style and Roy Sievers on a standby basis if anything goes wrong. As an ace in the hole, Lopez has Sherm Lollar, his class catcher.

Lollar played in 140 games last season, 25 at first base.

"I've still got my first baseman's glove," Sherm said, "but I don't think I'll need it."

Sherm, meanwhile, continues to be a key factor in the White Sox success. He steadies the pitchers and bats in runs when they are needed most.

"We'd be in a helluva shape without him," says Lopez.

Dizzy's Dissertation on Drizzle Puts Sizzle Under Veeck Collar

By DAN DANIEL



BILL VEECK
... No Laughing

CHICAGO, Ill.—Whether a TV baseball commentator, as a guest of the home club, has the right to editorialize on the policies of that organization and criticize its judgment in starting a game in adverse circumstances became an issue at Comiskey Park on Saturday, May 21. The issue involved Bill Veeck for the White Sox and Dizzy Dean of the CBS Game of the Week telecast.

The contest was scheduled to start at 1:30 p. m. (CDT), but because of rain it had to be delayed for an hour. The weather bureau and the airport said it would rain on and off until 4, and then begin to clear. They were off by a matter of more than an hour.

It was Saturday, it was Ladies' Day, and the White Sox figured they had the Yankees on the hook, and would make it ten straight at home—which they did in an oft-halted but ultimately finished battle, 9 to 8. Elapsed time, five hours and 38 minutes. Playing time, three hours and eight minutes.

The telecast was halted three times by rain, by a cut-in for three innings in Cleveland, and by a cut-in for the Preakness in Maryland. At 6:30, with the score tied at 8 to 8, CBS cut it off the air.

Diz Blasts Burrhead and Umps

Dean berated Veeck for having started the game and criticized the umpiring team of Ed Hurley, senior arbiter; John Flaherty at the plate, and Bob Stewart and Hank Soar for not calling the game, especially during a break of one hour, 18 minutes.

After that long wait, the outfield was soaked and the affair became rather precarious for the outfielders. I have seen games postponed in much better

circumstances. However, it was Veeck's judgment that the game should be played and it was the umpires' judgment that it should be carried on to a nine-inning finish and so Dean was left holding the bag.

After the contest, in the Bards' Room, Dizzy, now calm, stuck out his hand for Veeck to shake in a gesture of "Let us have peace." Bill refused and said, "Oh, no. I can't laugh this off. I got wires from all over the country. The Denver Post heard you and called me up to find out what the trouble was."



DIZZY DEAN
... Off Base

Spielers Actually Employed by Clubs

Veeck went on to expostulate that it was not the province of a television commentator to blast management, especially in the matter of starting a game in dubious conditions.

It would appear that Dean went off the reservation. A baseball writer has a traditional right to blast the club management, if he finds valid reasons. But this prerogative has not been conceded to TV and radio broadcasters, who, working for companies holding commercial contracts with ball clubs, actually are in the employ of these clubs while the telecasts or broadcasts are in progress.

The incident may be closed, and then again, Veeck may refuse to condone Dizzy's action.

It would be well to forget—but to make Dean study the rules.

Editor's Note: Later, after most of the newspapermen—Daniel among them—had left for the plane to Kansas City, Veeck cooled off and both were swapping jokes.

Chisox Socker



Ted Kluszewski

Even after the Sievers deal, Lopez said that Sievers was acquired mainly to add muscle to the bench and as insurance for both Klu at first base and Minnie Minoso in left field.

The fact that Klu has been doing so well helped perk up the entire club and the Chicagoans responded with four successive victories, starting on May 17 when they opened their first extended home stand of the season.

This gave them a flawless 10-0 record at home, enabling them to tie the modern major league record set by the 1951 Yankees for the most home victories from the start of a season.

Hose Fall From Lead

However, then the Sox went into a four-game slumber losing a pair to the Senators and another pair to the Orioles. The losses to the Orioles knocked them out of first place, the first time since May 8 that the Hose either weren't tied or in undisputed possession of first place.

This skid was due mainly to ineffective work from the starting pitchers, though it must be noted that Billy Pierce worked seven good innings against the Senators on May 22 but was outdueled by Pedro Ramos, who went the distance, scattering nine hits for a 3 to 2 triumph.

Bob Shaw and Dick Donovan, however, were kayoed in previous starts and Herb Score also was chased when the Orioles came to town for their first appearance of the season. Score was even wilder than usual and dished up seven walks in a three and two-third inning stay to absorb a 6 to 1 loss, his third defeat of the season.

Indeed, the main concern was that the club's starters still come around with consistently good performances, Pierce being the only exception. As an example, the Sox had only six route-gone performances to show for their first 31 games.

Sox Shorts: The Sox are ahead

New Feather in Nellie's Hat--700 Games in Row

By JERRY HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.

Nellie Fox, of the White Sox passed another milestone in his brilliant major league career on May 24 when he appeared in his 700th consecutive game.

He hasn't missed a game since August 5, 1955, when Marty Marion, then the Chicago manager, gave him a day of rest. If not for this one day of idleness, Fox' streak would have been at 976 games on May 24 when he stepped into the box against the Orioles' Steve Barber.

Fox, himself, isn't particularly impressed with his endurance record, saying: "That's what they pay me for—to play every day."

Still, he admitted, "It is kind of nice to have been able to play in 700 straight games. Helps, too, when you're in a slump because as long as you're in the lineup you've always a chance to break out with base-hits."

Fox said, also, that playing every day keeps him sharp and in good physical condition. He doesn't think his successive-game streak will necessarily shorten his career, disagreeing with the opinion once voiced by Frank Lane that Lou Gehrig might have been able to play longer had he not punished himself and played when he wasn't physically able.

Tips Chapeau to Trainer Ed Froelich

"The fellow who should get a lot of credit in this streak is our trainer," Fox said, referring to Ed Froelich. "The doc has helped me a lot of times over the years."

Fox said he came closest to missing a game during the early part of the 1958 season, suffering spike wounds and a badly bruised thigh at Kansas City when Bob Cerv barreled into him at second base breaking up a double play.

The next morning, Fox was limping badly and Manager Al Lopez was quite concerned, thinking Fox might have to be out of the lineup for about 10 days to two weeks.

Lopez told Sammy Esposito he would play second base instead of Fox. But Fox wasn't completely convinced he wouldn't be able to play so he asked Froelich if he would come to the park early and administer heat treatments on his thigh.

Fox was still on the table as the club took batting practice that night. But about 15 minutes before game-time, Nellie told Lopez he was ready. Lopez immediately called Esposito back into the dugout and Fox' streak remained intact.

The Sox didn't have any official celebration in recognition of Fox' 700th consecutive game. However, Lew Fonseca, director of the major league's motion picture bureau, presented him with a copy of the 1959 World's Series film.

of their 1959 pace at the gate and drew 270,220 paying customers for their first 11 home dates, an increase of 162,247 for the same number of dates last year. . . . Looie Aparicio is also ahead of his stolen base pace of '59 and had ten thefts in his first 11 tries. The only time he was thrown out was when he was caught at home on a squeeze play in which the batter failed to hit the ball. . . . Mike Garcia, who was given his release, has agreed to remain as a batting practice pitcher. . . . Washington's double-header

sweep of May 22 was quite an accomplishment considering that the Nats had lost 14 of their last 15 games with the Chicagoans. The White Sox players are almost unanimously agreed that the Senators are one of the most improved teams in the league. . . . Earl Torgeson continues as a remarkable pinch-hitter, reaching base nine times in his first 11 appearances as a pinch-swinger. He drew seven walks and also got a pair of singles, both of which drove in two runs.



Nellie Fox