

Phils Sink Outfield Bundle on Gamble

By ALLEN LEWIS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Manager Frank Lucchesi picked up a laminated plaque off a shelf in his locker during a late-season game in Montreal.

"As an ex-outfielder," a questioner had said to the Phillies' rookie pilot, "have there been times when your outfield defense this year exasperated you?"

"Read this," said Lucchesi, who held up the plaque on which were these words:

"Patience is the leading characteristic of great minds."—St. John Baptist de la Salle.

"Of course," Lucchesi said, "I don't have a great mind, but I do have patience. I have to have it."

"But to answer your question, that's absolutely right. Our outfield defense this season definitely has not been satisfactory, and that is putting it mildly."

"And," he added, "that's particularly true when you compare it with our infield defense, which I have to believe is among the very best in the major leagues."

Fewest Errors in N. L.

Despite making 13 errors in their last 11 games, the Phillies committed only 114, fewest in the National League and only 14 over the league record set by the 1958 Reds.

A total of 29 outfield errors was made and that's a high percentage. But it wasn't only errors that concerned Lucchesi about his outfield defense, and he planned to do something about that before next season.

Some of the work is being done in the Florida Instructional League this fall and more will be done next spring at the Clearwater (Fla.) training camp.

"I'd have to say that Oscar Gamble needs the most work," Lucchesi said, "and he's our No. 1 project in the instructional league."

"I guess the word that would best describe Oscar is crude. But he's just a kid. He's only 20 and he's played only about 1½ years in the minors. He's got a lot to learn yet."

"He throws to the wrong base, he goes back on balls he should come in on and things like that. But,

because of his inexperience, you have to show more patience with him than you do with any other player on the club."

Of course, Lucchesi has been disappointed with almost all of his outfielders this season—on both offense and defense—and he and General Manager John Quinn spent most of their spare moments at the World Series trying to drum up a trade that would beef up the club's outfield.

Infielders Led Way

"Your outfielders have to carry you on offense," Lucchesi said. "They have to bat in the runs for you, but the infielders—I'm talking about Deron (Johnson), Don (Money) and Tony (Taylor)—are the ones who did it for us this year."

"At least two of your outfielders, and maybe three, should carry the load. Any extra hitting your shortstop and second baseman do is a plus for your ball club."

"One guy who did a much better job than anybody expected was Ron Stone. He was a pleasant surprise and the injuries we had were a blessing in disguise as far as he was concerned. They gave

him a chance to play."

If Stone rated as the biggest outfield surprise, would Larry Hise rank as the biggest disappointment?

"He was the biggest puzzle," Lucchesi replied. "It's like you're playing with a puzzle and you're looking around for the pieces and you can't find them."

Hise, who finished with a .205 batting average after being below .200 for a great part of the season, is another prime project for special work with the instructional league team.

"He's not down there to play in ball games," Lucchesi said. "He's down there to try to solve his hitting problems."

Bedell Gets Pupil

"I think the best-qualified man to help down there is Howie Bedell, and he's been working with him."

"Maybe Bedell (Spartanburg manager last season) can help him because he can communicate pretty good with someone who wants to listen."

"Anybody who can go out two years in a row and hit over .300 the way Bedell did the two years I had him and never take batting practice must have some pretty good ideas about hitting."

"The two years I had him in the minors, he never took batting practice. He just didn't believe in it. That's one of the reasons I've always felt batting practice is overrated."

"Some way, we've got to get Larry started."

Phillie Fodder: One department in which the Phillies showed great improvement was in one-run decisions. They won 29 close games and lost 25. Last year, they won 20 and lost 26. . . . But the biggest gain was in extra-inning wins. In contrast to 1969's 3-8 overtime mark, the Phillies won 14 and lost nine this season, a tribute to the club's relief pitchers. . . . General Manager Quinn still has hopes of prying outfielder Jim Wynn loose from the Astros. . . . At the World Series, Quinn indicated third baseman Don Money, shortstop Larry Bowa and relievers Dick Selma and Joe Hoerner were the club's only "untouchables."



Oscar Gamble



LARRY BOWA, Phil shortstop, and his new bride, the former Sheeno Gibson, prepare to cut the cake following their wedding in the John Knox Presbyterian Church, Largo, Fla., October 17. The couple is honeymooning in Hawaii.

Royal Fans Reserve Judgment on Trade

By JOE MCGUFF

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—After General Manager Cedric Tallis acquired Lou Piniella, Bob Johnson and Amos Otis in trades, Royals' fans thought of him as Cedric the Great.

After he made his most recent four-man deal with the White Sox, he received a wire from a fan who addressed him as "Mr. Stupid." Such is the fate of the baseball trader.

Tallis' most recent deal resulted in the Royals acquiring Gail Hopkins and John Matias from the White Sox in exchange for outfielder Pat Kelly and pitcher Don O'Riley. Although Kelly did not play regularly for the Royals the latter part of last season, he was a popular figure with the fans and his departure caused some of them to grumble.

Tallis Is No Novice

Yet Tallis' record indicates that he knows what he is doing when he starts swapping players, so the majority of the public seemed willing to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

Kelly had a strange career with the Royals. He was acquired from the Twins in the American League expansion draft for \$175,000 and had an encouraging first year, even though the Royals found he was not well equipped to play center field and moved him to right.

Kelly opened the 1970 season with a flourish and it appeared he was on his way to a great season. On April 28, he was batting .375 and appeared to have his swing grooved. That night, he was taken out in the early innings by Charlie Metro, then manager of the club, for twice missing his cutoff man on throws from right field.

Metro stressed that Kelly was not in his doghouse and returned him to the lineup the next day, but the incident greatly distressed Kelly and thereafter his batting average declined steadily.

O'Riley, a relief pitcher, had

been up and down in the Royals' organization and last season it appeared the brass had more or less given up on him.

In return for Kelly and O'Riley, the Royals received two players who should give them greater depth and should be able to fill in at several positions.

Tallis said the Royals plan to use Hopkins as a first baseman, catcher and pinch-hitter. Matias plays at first base and in the outfield and also can be used as a pinch-hitter.

Gail Played Second Fiddle

Hopkins, a lefthanded batter, hit for high averages in the minors, but had never played regularly with the White Sox.

Hopkins batted 287 times in 1970. He had a .286 average with six homers and 29 RBIs.

Matias, a native of Hawaii, batted .314 at Tucson (Pacific Coast) in 1969. He batted 117 times for the White Sox in 1970. He had a .188 average with two homers.

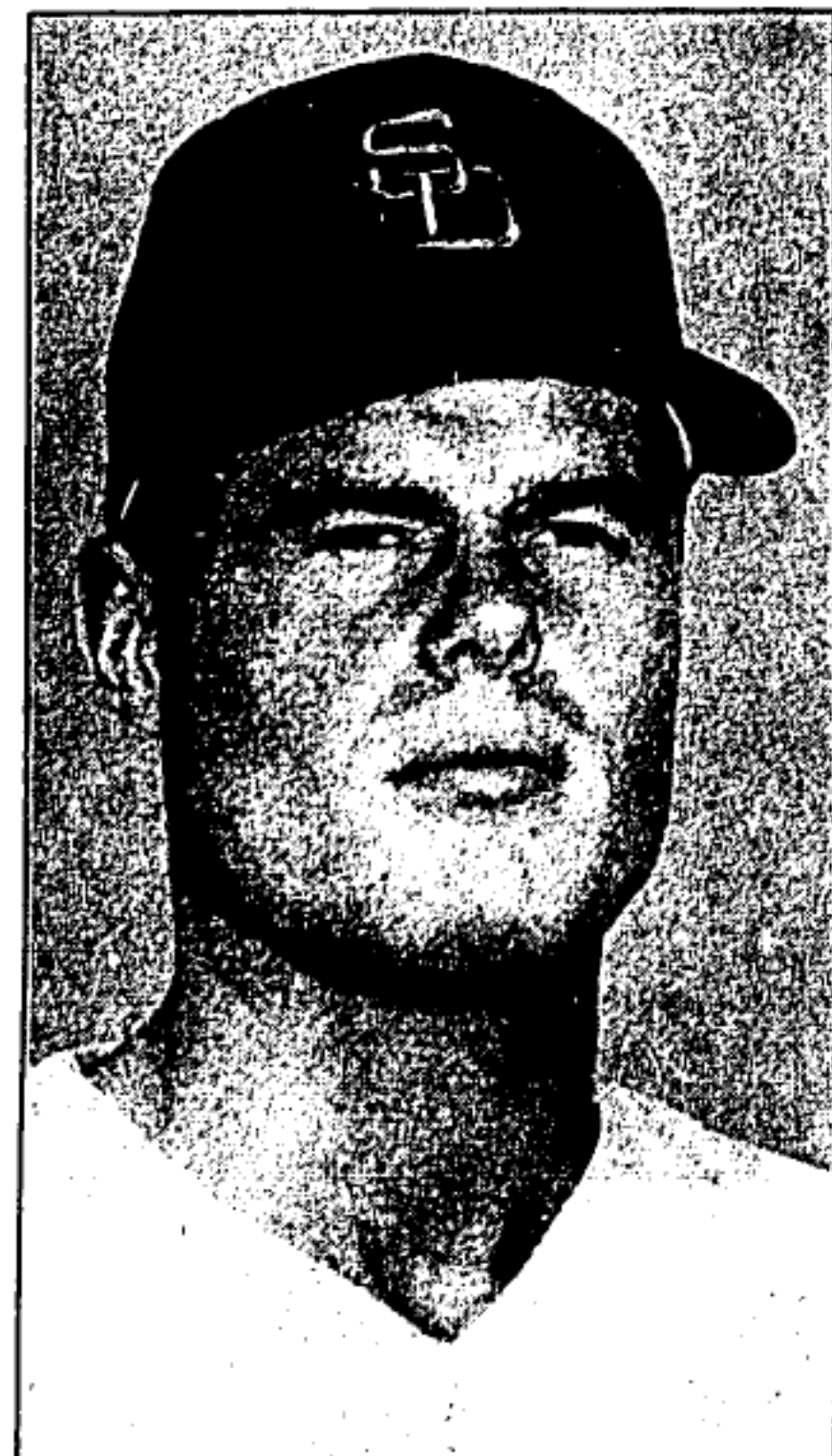
The Royals appear set in left field with Piniella and in center field with Otis. Thus Matias' main hope for a starting job would be in right field where he'll battle Joe Keough or Bob Oliver.

Royals' Notes: The Royals and the Kansas City Chiefs are expected to sign leases on their stadiums at the Truman Sports Complex the latter part of this month. One of the issues that delayed the completion of negotiations is pay television. . . . Kansas City's 196-day construction strike has been settled and work has resumed on the stadium. . . . The Royals have only two coaches left now that Joe Schultz has left to join the Tigers. The remaining coaches are Henry Dunlop and George Strickland. The Royals probably will sign a pitching coach in the near future. Galen Cisco, who was at Omaha (American Association) last season, is a leading candidate for the job.

Padres to Try 'Switch' on Campbell

By PAUL COUR

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — An experiment being conducted in Arizona this fall, if successful, could solve one of the Padres' pressing problems for the 1971 season.



Dave Campbell

Second baseman Dave Campbell, coming off a rookie season when he hit .219, is experimenting with hitting lefthanded in the Arizona Instructional League.

"If Campbell can become a switch-hitter, he could give us the leadoff man we lacked last season," said Leon Hamilton, the Padres' super scout who was instrumental in the acquisition of Campbell in a trade with Detroit last winter.

Too Many Strikeouts

The 28-year-old Campbell got off to a good start with the bat last season, but tailed off sharply in the last half. He tried to pull everything and wound up striking out 110 times.

Nate Colbert, who hit 38 home runs for the Padres the past season, thinks Campbell will be an improved hitter in '71.

"Look at Clarence Gaston," said Colbert. "He hit only .230 in his first season as a regular and this year he hit .318 with 29 homers and 93 runs batted in. Campbell could turn around and make the same kind of improvement as a hitter next season. He'll have a full year behind him and will know the pitchers better."

"I think he has a chance to be a .280 hitter and, if he can learn to switch-hit, it'll be a big thing in his favor."

Campbell led off or batted second for the Padres last season. Those two spots were troublesome for the Padres all year. Most of the time when Gaston, who hit third in the order, came up, there was nobody on base.

"One of the big reasons the Reds won the pennant," said Manager Preston Gomez, "was that their first and second hitters, Bobby Tolan and Pete Rose, were getting on base all the time ahead of their power hitters, Tony Perez, Johnny Bench and Lee May. That is something we lacked."

Possibility of Deal

The Reds' pitching demise in the World Series improves the Padres' chances to make a deal with the Rhinelanders.

The Big Red Machine has an infielder surplus and the Padres are in the market for a shortstop. Pitcher Pat Dobson, who won 14 games, might be the bait the Padres will dangle to land one.

"We talked to a lot of clubs at the Series," said General Manager Eddie Leishman, "and Dobson's name kept coming up in all our conversations."