

# Gentile's Big Bat Kayoes Hot-Head Label

## Fiery Jim Rebuilds Shattered Hopes as Baltimore Blaster

### Orioles Won Gamble With His Temper

Gateway Star First to Sock Grand Slam Home Runs in Two Consecutive Innings

By STEVE O'NEILL  
BALTIMORE, Md.

**Jim Gentile**, the Orioles' slugging first baseman, considered asking Manager Paul Richards to scratch his name from the lineup for the game with the Twins here, May 9. Luckily, he reconsidered, for it turned out to be the most triumphant day of Gentile's career.

"My knee was stiff and sore when I got up," he said. He had bruised his knee two days before when he crashed into the fence chasing a foul ball in Kansas City. "I really considered not playing, but when I got to the park and took batting practice, the knee felt much better."

The Twins can attest to that. In his first two times at bat, **Gentile** socked grand-slam homers to power the Orioles to a 13 to 5 victory.

**Jim** pulls no punches when he says, "I love to hit and in this game, you have got to hit to make money." After his record-breaking performance against the Twins, he may be on the way to the Cadillac class in a dramatic success story.

**Gentile** languished for eight long summers in the Dodgers' organization and appeared doomed to a career in the minors until the Orioles picked him up on a look-see basis in October, 1959.

#### Goes to Top of List

As a rookie last season, the six-foot, three-inch San Francisco product batted .292 in 138 games and showed his power with 21 homers. He drove in 98 runs. An indication of the heights that were ahead for the lefthanded hitter came on June 26, 1960, when **Gentile** tied a major league record by driving in seven runs in two consecutive innings with homers against the Athletics.

However, after his slugging show against the Twins, **Gentile's** name now stands alone as:

1. The only player in major league history to hit grand-slam homers in consecutive innings.
2. The only player in major league history to drive in eight runs in two straight innings.

**Gentile** started his plate pyrotechnics with a jackpot wallop off Pedro Ramos in the first inning and hit his second against Reliever Paul Giel in the next inning. **Jim** also accounted for a ninth RBI with a sacrifice fly in the eighth to wind up his big day.

In the Orioles' clubhouse at Metropolitan Stadium after the game, **Gentile** reacted calmly to his tremendous performance. "I was just trying to get a hit both times," he said. "I hate to leave men on base."

#### Played for Saints in '59

Over his locker, a big tinselled sign read, "Welcome Diamond **Jim**." It was put up by the clubhouse boy, who was with St. Paul (American Association) when **Gentile** played for the Saints in 1959. The nickname of "Diamond **Jim**" was pinned on **Gentile** because of the Dapper Dan care that he takes of his appearance before he goes out on the field.

The 26-year-old first baseman has undergone a switch in character since he joined the Orioles. He once was known as "the boy with the Vero Beach reputation," whose antics delighted the old pros of the Dodgers' organization while **Jim** vainly tried to nudge Gil Hodges off first base. With the Orioles last year, he was

Letting Off Steam

..

as Red-Hot Rapper

**Jim GENTILE**, HAVING WHIPPED THE TEMPER TANTRUMS THAT KEPT HIM IN THE MINORS FOR MANY YEARS, HAS TURNED INTO A GENUINE DIAMOND **JIM** FOR ORIOLES...



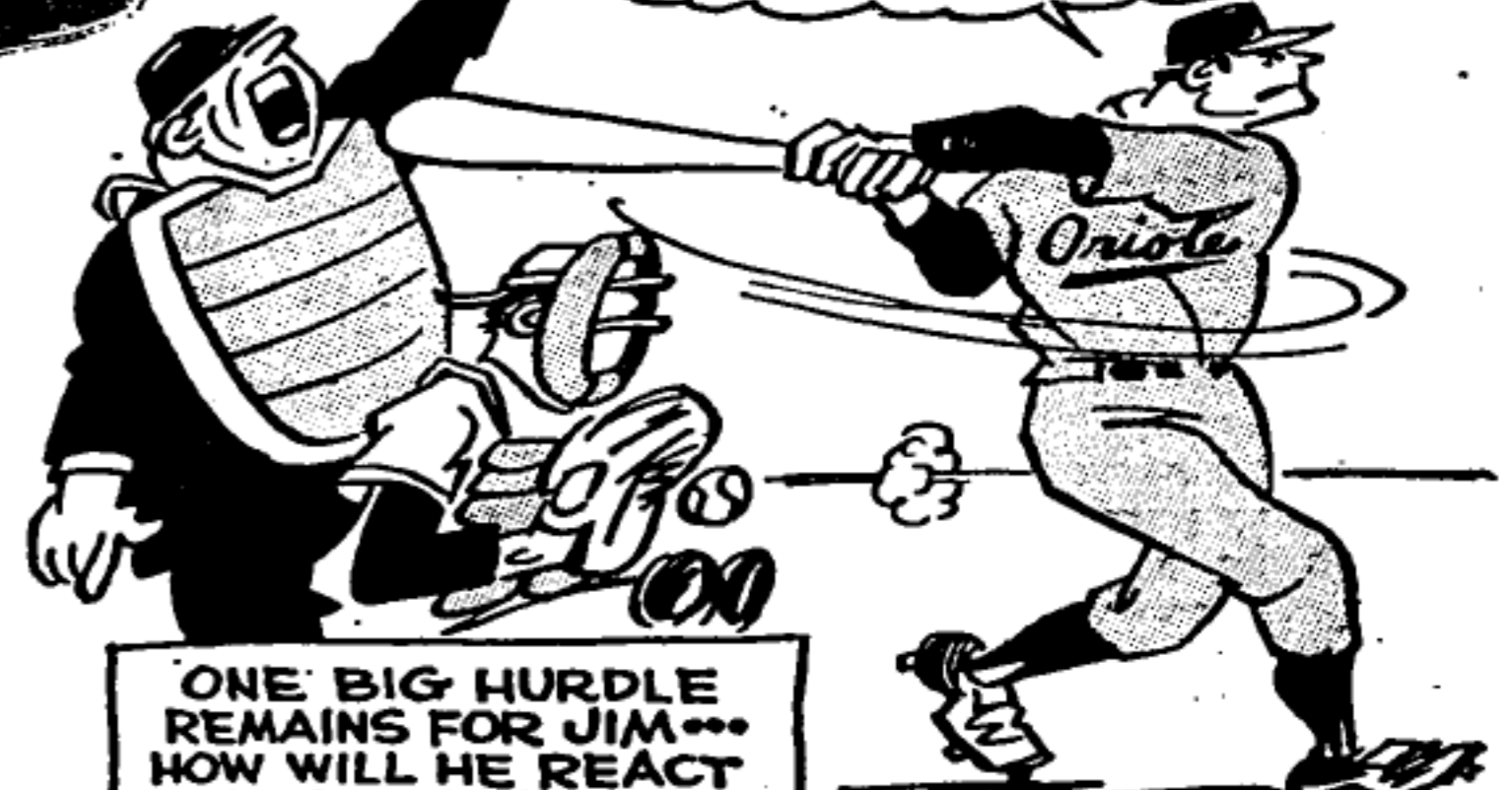
HE SUFFERED BIGGEST SHOCK OF LIFE IN '59 WHEN, PLACED ON WAIVERS BY DODGERS, HE WAS NOT CLAIMED BY ANY OF 15 OTHER MAJOR CLUBS...



STUR-IKE THREE

WHEN **JIM** GOES TO THE WATER COOLER NOW, IT'S FOR REFRESHMENT, NOT A TEMPER DISPLAY...

ONE-TWO-THREE...



ONE BIG HURDLE REMAINS FOR **JIM**... HOW WILL HE REACT WHEN GRIPPED BY HIS FIRST SLUMP?

YOU'RE THE PEARL IN OUR OYSTER, **JIM**



FORMER \$30,000 BONUS BEAUTY REWARDING PAUL RICHARDS' PATIENCE WITH SIZZLING BAT AND NIFTY GLOVE

#### Birds Offer Ready Market for Dodger Fringe Players

BALTIMORE, Md. — Los Angeles General Manager Buzze Bavasi is happy, "for both personal and business reasons" that **Jim Gentile** had a great year with the Orioles in 1960.

Since Baltimore took over the old St. Louis Browns' franchise for the 1954 season, the Dodgers have found a ready market in the Orioles for their so-called "fringe" players.

Prior to the **Gentile** transaction, Billy Loes, Preacher Roe, Ray Moore, Ken Lehman, Billy Cox, Irv Palca and Dick Williams all traded Dodger uniforms for Oriole garb.

a subdued individual, spending much of his time quietly alone in the locker room. Now he's a "holler guy" once more. He joins in the clubhouse

banter, frequently "getting on" his teammates with good-natured barbs and jests.

With it all, he is more relaxed and confident realizing, for the first time, that a major league job is his.

"If I'm going to worry every year about somebody beating me out of a job, I'll wind up in some sort of an institution," he candidly said.

Richards gave him the one thing he's always wanted—a chance. And, **Jim** hasn't forgotten it, either.

#### 30-G Bonus From Dodgers

Everyone knew, or so they now claim, that **Gentile** always had potential. Obviously, the Dodgers thought so as far back as 1952, when they gave "Diamond **Jim**" \$30,000 to sign a contract following his graduation from San Francisco's Sacred Heart High School.

Other major league organizations, notably the Red Sox and Yankees, likewise offered the free-swinging slugger sizeable bonuses.

But **Jim** cast his lot with the Dod-

#### Gene's Tip Convinced Jim to Cut Down on His Swing

BALTIMORE, Md.

**Jim Gentile** is convinced he must forget about trying to overpower the ball in the Orioles' home park, vast Memorial Stadium.

"Everywhere I've played before, I always tried to go for the long ball. Gene Woodling convinced me last year that it is far better to go for singles and doubles here.

"I'm trying to pattern myself after Gene and keep from swinging at bad pitches. But most of all, I'm not swinging as hard as I used to, and I try to keep from uppercutting the ball. My swing is level now, because all I want to do is meet the ball squarely."

gers in hopes that one day he would face the fact his chances of replacing rise to be Hodges' successor at first base. This was not to be. Hodges were diminishing.

Despite successful seasons in the Dodger system when he hammered 34, 34, 28, 40 and 25 homers in five consecutive years, **Gentile** gradually "I got to the point I was waiting for the day when the Dodgers had used all of their options," the brown-

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# Fireman Farrell Flashing Light on Dodger Flag Path

Fireballer Rushes to Rescue of Faltering Starter Two Times in First Four Tilts

By BOB HUNTER  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

It is the unwritten policy of the Dodgers to provide their talent through the best-stocked deep freeze in the game, but when they do make a deal, it usually has an impact on the championship and, quite often, the World's Series.

They have just acquired Dick Farrell from the Phils, and the big man they dealt for before that was Wally Moon, who helped deliver them a pennant in 1959, and was voted their most valuable player.

With Ed Roebuck sidelined with a sore arm, which he still is battling to overcome, the opposition was taking liberties with the Dodger bullpen. Consequently, when the Braves went through L. A. relievers twice in three games, Buzzie Bavasi finally agreed to give up two splendid young players in Charlie Smith and Don Demeter for Farrell.

Three hours after Milwaukee had plowed through five Los Angeles pitchers for a 10 to 6 victory on May 4, the Dodgers were in Pittsburgh. Within ten minutes, Walt Alston and Bavasi were on the phone, and the long-awaited deal was announced.

Half an hour before game time the next night, Farrell arrived at Forbes Field, and three hours later he had finished up for Johnny Podres, pitching one-hit ball for three innings and striking out five.

## Dick Elated Over Swap

"I would have run all the way from Cincinnati to get here tonight," said the ex-Phillie fireman, whom the Dodgers once tried to sign as an outfielder.

"When Gene Mauch came down to the bull pen during the game to tell me, he said a deal had been made and asked if I had any choice. 'Sure, the Dodgers,' I answered. 'They're going to win the pennant.'"

"I knew a deal was coming, and felt it would be either Milwaukee or Los Angeles."

Farrell got his baptism in his new uniform quickly because Podres popped a small muscle behind his left shoulder. Alston thought it would be as good a time as any for Dick to "get his feet wet," and he protected a shutout for a 10 to 0 win over the Pirates.

Three games later, in the first of a series against his old teammates at Connie Mack Stadium, May 8, Farrell was called in to relieve Stan Williams with the score tied at 3 to 3. He pitched four shutout rounds to receive credit for a ten-inning, 4 to 3 victory.

It was his third win of the season against one defeat. This time he struck out four, while allowing four hits.

## Turned Back Dodgers

One of his victories came at the expense of the Dodgers in Philadelphia's only triumph in the first series of the season in the Coliseum.

When Farrell joined the club, Stan Williams ribbed him:

"How are you going to feel if that one win knocks us out of the pennant and about \$10,000 apiece?"

Sandwiched between Farrell's impressive efforts in Pennsylvania was Larry Sherry's fourth save in relief of Sandy Koufax, May 7.

It was 4 to 2 for the Dodgers, and the Pirates had the tying runs on base with one out in the seventh when Sherry was summoned for the eleventh time in 24 games.

He struck out Pinch-Hitter Bob Skinner and got Smokey Burgess on a ground ball, then blanked the world's champions on two hits the remainder of the way to preserve the 4 to 2 victory.

It was Koufax' second victory. His earliest previous second victory came on May 16, 1957. Last year, the hard-throwing lefthander notched No. 2 (against eight losses) on June 15.

"Farrell will make Sherry that

## Rugged Reliever



Dick Farrell

much stronger," commented Alston. "Larry can't do it all, and he is more effective with a little rest."

However, both Ron Perranoski and Jim Golden have worked well in spots, and there is hope that Roebuck, who accompanied the team on the road, will continue to improve.

While the pitching became the No. 1 conversation piece with the acquisition of Farrell, the hitting was the big surprise.

The Dodgers continued to lead the majors in home runs, and their pinch-hitters were connecting for a .316 average, with 12 hits in 38 tries, and it was veteran Gil Hodges who was bombing lefthanders.

## Gil Raps Pinch-Homer

He almost won a game against Milwaukee, May 4, with a tenth-inning, pinch-homer off Carlton Willey, but when the bull pen couldn't hold the Braves, his heroics were wiped out in the bottom of the round.

Later, in Philadelphia, again in the tenth inning and again with the score tied on May 8, Hodges hit Chris Short's first pitch for a run-scoring double. This time Farrell made it stand up for a 4 to 3 victory.

**Line Drives:** Tommy and Willie Davis wielded hot bats on the road, running their hitting strings to seven and eight games. . . . When the Dodgers took the odd game in Pittsburgh, it was their first series victory in four tries against the "contenders." Previously they had lost to the Pirates, Giants and Braves. . . . Don Zimmer is the only man who has hit a homer off Dick Farrell in the Coliseum. . . . Los Angeles' six-game homer streak ended in Forbes Field, May 5, but the Dodgers chopped them up into 15 singles, doubles and triples for a 10 to 0 victory. . . . Johnny Podres, with Farrell finishing, became the sixth hurler to record four wins on May 5. He picked up No. 5 over the Phils, May 10. He has not lost in Pittsburgh since 1959. . . . When Joe Gibbon opened against the Dodgers, May 6, and the Pirates scored a 9 to 5 win, it was the fifth time in six starts by a southpaw that the opposition has defeated Los Angeles. . . . In this defeat, Wally Moon boosted his runs-batted-in total to 20, driving in four tallies with a double and a homer. The window breaker was No. 9, and his first to right field, landing in the upper deck of the grandstand. . . . The Dodgers have a fantastic liking for inning No. 7, having scored 32 runs in the lucky round through May 8. . . . Trainer Wayne Anderson had to switch the format and get first aid for himself after figuring in a minor cab collision in Pittsburgh. . . . Ron Fairly drew the biggest hand of any Dodger, May 7, when he stopped the game at Forbes Field in the ninth inning to boost a small boy from the playing field back into the center field bleachers.

## Bucs' Oldis Prevents Neal From Crashing Into Wall

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Charley Neal chased a foul fly off the bat of Roberto Clemente into the Pittsburgh bull pen, and has a sore jaw to show for his all-out effort.

"But that's better than having my head bashed in," said the Dodger second baseman. "I'm happy and thankful." And he rubbed his chin.

Just as Neal started to crash into the brick wall, Pirate Catcher Bob Oldis rushed to break his fall, and Neal's chin struck the Pittsburgh player's knee.

## 'Umps Refuse to Call Balks,' Smokey Says

'Runner Can't Take Chance, Hugs Base,' Claims Skipper

By HAROLD ROSENTHAL  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

A National League bulletin ordering its umpires to insist upon a definite stop in a pitcher's motion before delivering the ball has been ignored, Walt Alston, Dodger manager, charged here on May 9. Alston narrowly averted being thumbed from a game early by Augie Donatelli, the plate umpire, when Alston charged that the men in blue were failing to live up to the orders from Warren Giles, the league president, in connection with the balk move.

Alston declared that rival pitchers weren't the only malefactors. "I've got some boys on my club, too, who should have a balk called on their stop," he said. "I don't want any preferential treatment; I just want the umpires to call them the way Mr. Giles ordered."

According to Alston, who has been involved in a running argument with umpires for several seasons on this subject, he had been told, "We can't call them; the league office won't back us up."

"Well, they're being backed up now," advised the usually unruffled Dodger skipper, "and they're still not calling them. That's what I told Donatelli. I said, 'You can't blame this one on Giles.'"

## Fans Want Action

"You got to look at it in a lot of ways," said Alston. "People come out to see action. A runner gets on base, but he won't take a chance stealing. He knows that the pitcher can deceive him and not get called on it. And, don't forget, I'm not saying they're on every club except my own. I have them, too."

"So the runner just stands there waiting for the next batter to get a hit to move him up. And the people just sit there after paying their money. What kind of baseball action are they getting?"

Alston is pretty close to the subject of base-runners. He has some real flyers among the crop of upcoming Dodger stars. Conceivably, he'd like to have them operate under favorable circumstances.

"That isn't all," continued Alston. "In our league you can stick your fingers into your mouth, put them there right on the ball, right out in front of you. No one will call it. I know when Bob Friend was pitching in the All-Star Game and started to blow on his hand up close to his mouth, they made him stop it in a hurry. In our league, you can do it all night."



Walt Alston

# No Takers When Dodgers Put Jim on Waivers in '59

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

haired slugger revealed. "I was certain, in view of my minor league record as a hitter, that some other major league club would surely want me."

That day came for Gentile in the spring of 1959. Much to his surprise, when the Dodgers put his name on the waiver list, there were no takers. Not one major league club reasoned that Gentile was worth the gamble of the \$20,000 waiver price.

"That was the biggest shock of my life," Gentile admitted. "It was tough, believe me, to face it. I had been building my hopes on the day when the Dodgers would have to ask waivers. When it came, nobody wanted me."

"It's true 1958 was my worst season in the minors (he hit .249, with 18 home runs, and drove in 62 runs for Spokane, but I didn't want to believe that I was not wanted."

## Straight Talk From Fresco

"Fresco Thompson, the Dodgers' vice-president, laid it on the line. He told me I had better do something about my attitude, and quickly, if I ever wanted to play in the majors."

"He said, 'Here we paid you a \$30,000 bonus and even with your good over-all minor league record as a slugger, we can't get the \$20,000 waiver price for you.'"

Unclaimed by the majors, Jim's contract was sold to St. Paul (American Association). He might have quit then and there, but deep within him he believed he could play in the big leagues, if only given the chance.

"There's one thing that still bothers me. Some of the stories say that I 'failed' in three previous chances with the Dodgers," Jim said.

"I don't call 36 times at bat over a three-year period a real trial. That's how many times I went to bat in a Dodger's uniform. I don't hold a grudge against the Dodgers because I came to realize that I'd never replace Hodges."

"I just resent the idea that I 'failed.' I never had a chance before last year."

Jim credits Mel Jones, president of the St. Paul club, with helping to start the rebuilding of his shattered career last year.

## Told to Change Attitude

"He took me aside when I reported and said we were going to work together to change my attitude. He said I've have to stop 'kicking over water coolers' when things didn't go my way."

There were some troublesome moments at St. Paul, just as there had been at other stops in the Dodgers' system, but Gentile came to recognize that his foremost problem actually was himself.

Looking back over the years, Jim now can talk freely of his attitude which marked him among baseball people.

"When the Dodgers signed me, they said I might have gotten more than a \$30,000 bonus had my attitude been better," he admitted.

"There are other things, too. My grandmother used to give me everything I wanted as a kid. At least everything she could afford. For instance, she saw to it that I had a car when I was only a sophomore in high school."

At an early age, Jim discovered that many things in life came easily—cars, the ability to slug a baseball a country mile and \$30,000 bonuses.

In later years, he was to learn that

## Three Others Hit Jackpots

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Until Jim Gentile came along with his grand-slam homers in successive innings, only three players in the American League had hit two jackpot wallops in one game, although not back to back. The sluggers were Tony Lazzeri of the Yankees, 1936; Jim Tabor of the Red Sox, 1939, and Rudy York of the Red Sox, 1946. No one in the National League has accomplished the feat.

## Orioles Hoping They Landed Another Gentile in Robinson

BALTIMORE, Md.—The Orioles are hoping they plucked another Jim Gentile from the Los Angeles farm system when they bought Earl Robinson last December.

Signed to one of the largest bonuses in the history of the Dodger organization in 1958, the 24-year-old Robinson is a former star athlete at the University of California.

Paul Richards, badly in need of outfield help, has been bringing the righthanded-hitting Robinson along slowly, platooning him against southpaw pitching. This is the same tactic he used to establish Gentile's confidence.

Robinson, who batted .275 and hit 12 home runs for Spokane of the Pacific Coast League last year, is more than adequate on defense. He has fine speed and a powerful arm.

Earlier this spring, Richards envisioned another ex-Dodger, Chuck Essegian, as lending the long ball to the Oriole attack. Essegian, however, was dealt to Kansas City on April 12, along with Jerry Walker for Dick Williams and Dick Hall.

work, patience and self control were required to achieve other goals, such as wearing a major league uniform for more than token appearances.

Sold to the Orioles on a conditional basis for \$25,000 and two players in the winter of 1959, Jim welcomed the fresh start when he reported at Miami for spring training in March of '60. Still, the deal required that Baltimore make up its mind within 30 days after the season started.

## Off to Woeful Start

Reporting to the Orioles' camp, Jim developed a terrible case of "wooden hands" afield. At the bat, he seldom hit the ball squarely.

"It was terrible, yet I wanted to make the club so badly. I guess that was the trouble."

The old habit of blaming himself reappeared. Camp observers shook their heads and agreed, "It must be true what they say about Gentile." Few expected him to accompany the team north.

When the season opened, however, Paul Richards had nothing to lose by going along with Diamond Jim. Not even Paul suspected that his youthful Orioles would catch fire so early in the season.

Meanwhile, he had 30 days to look at Jim, and Richards elected to take his time.

On opening day, Gentile started a game-saving double play. The next day he banged out a pair of singles to drive in four runs.

Fearful lest he push Gentile too much, Richards knew Jim needed to acquire self-confidence. He used him against righthanded pitchers only, calling upon veteran Dropto to take over when lefties opposed the Birds.

## Platooning Paid Off

Gradually, as Gentile continued to assert himself, the Oriole manager sent Jim up against southpaws. But Dropto also was banging the ball at a merry clip, so that the platoon system paid dividends when either slugger was in the lineup.

There remains one test for Gentile to pass. He knows it will come and because of this hurdle, he refuses to think of himself as a major leaguer—yet.

How will he react when he slumps "real big" for the first time? Last year, he managed to escape all slumps, as his fine record clearly indicates.

His temper tantrums of past years frequently have been brought on by his failure to hit over prolonged periods. He battles himself in these periods of duress.

Thankful for the opportunity and faith which Richards has shown, Gentile is preparing for his final examination, which may never really come.

His newly-found self-control will be put to its severest test when and if that slump does occur.