

Nat Fans Filter Rumors; Short Seeks Shortstop

By MERRELL WHITTLESEY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The World Series ended in Baltimore, and 40 miles away the baseball fans of the nation's capital were busy trying to separate rumor from fact.

For facts, they know they have Denny McLain.

They also know the club has acquired the right to attempt to persuade Curt Flood to return to baseball by sending Greg Goossen to the Phillies' Eugene farm club.

They also know that the House District Committee reacted favorably to Owner Bob Short's plea for reduced rent in RFK Stadium.

For rumor, they read and hear the gossip that Short may move the club to Dallas or New Orleans.

There was a report of a shakeup in the farm system, but Short denied this. "Hal Keller will stay," he said of the farm director.

There was a note that Frank Robinson will be the next manager of the Senators. "There is no way next year," Short said, a statement that obviously did not rule out the future.

What's Their Offer

The Orioles' management was aware of the same note. The Birds would not stand in the way of Robinson managing in the majors, but would want compensation. "What do the Senators have to offer?" one of their officials asked.

Short said he would give \$1 million for Reggie Jackson, a fact, not a rumor, but he was safe.

Some unkind people in baseball claimed Short was attempting to upstage the World Series, although it certainly was not by having his manager present, because Ted Williams did not show up.

One major league executive asked how could Short pay the salaries of McLain and Flood, offer \$1 million for Jackson and still speak of bankruptcy?

Short maintains his next move is to get a shortstop to replace Ed Brinkman, and he hopes to accomplish this before the winter meetings in Los Angeles.

There were trade rumors, too. Short said Rick Reichardt will have



Bob Short and Ted Williams . . . They're in Market.

a new home, but he could not name it.

The Orioles said the Senators made a pitch for Dave Johnson and offered Darold Knowles, but the champions were not interested.

Short was disgusted at the Yankees' offer of Pete Ward, Bobby Mitchell and Bill Robinson for Mike Epstein.

The Senators were talking to the Reds about an infielder, possibly Dave Concepcion, with Knowles being offered as the bait.

Short was the easiest interview of the Series. The Senators' owner wears his thoughts on his sleeves. He tells anybody who interviews him everything he knows, and before the day is over he might contradict himself.

About the Senators' rumor of a move, he said he could not guarantee a Washington home for the ball club because if he goes bankrupt and the American League runs the team, it can move to the city of its choice.

If he has the team next year, he said, "I would like to stay in Washington."

When asked flatly "Will you stay in Washington?" Short said, "I can almost say positively."

The negotiations between Short and Flood may extend for weeks. Short may fly to Copenhagen or have Flood come here, but Flood has said from Denmark that he cannot sign a baseball contract unless his suit is settled.

Short used the terms "competitive and box office," in his deal for McLain and his bid for Flood.

Short's Ideal Lineup

Short's pitch brought about numerous press-room suggestions at the Series about Short's idea of an ideal team. It would include Richie Allen, Flood and Joe Pepitone in the outfield, Ken Harrelson at first base, Rod Carew at second and McLain and Dave Boswell pitching, plus authors Jim Bouton and Bill Freehan as a battery.

Nobody could think of a shortstop or third baseman colorful enough to make the ideal box-office team for the Senators.

Short said Dallas has a 29,000 capacity stadium rent free and could promise a radio-TV contract which would rank among the best in the majors, but he said he has not discussed a move to Dallas with anybody from that city.

Short and Williams are going to St. Petersburg to watch the Senators' team in the Florida Instructional League for a few days.

Short wants to see results here, and if he had his way, he admits he would start three or four of his bonus boys next season. It will not be a dull off season in Washington, but before long the fans will want to distinguish fact from fiction.

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Big Frank Resting Well After Emergency Surgery

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Frank Howard, slugging first baseman-outfielder of the Senators, was reported resting comfortably October 19 after undergoing an emergency operation for removal of his appendix.

The 6-7, 270-pound veteran of 13 major league seasons was stricken at his home in Green Bay, Wis., and was rushed by ambulance to St. Vincent's Hospital shortly after midnight October 18.

Doctors at the Green Bay hospital said Howard was doing well following the operation.

The 34-year-old Howard just had returned home after completing his sixth—and most productive season—in the Washington uniform.

Playing in 161 games, Howard belted 44 home runs and drove in 126 runs.

Brewers' Prime Trading Bait—Pattin and Harper

By LARRY WHITESIDE

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The Brewers' quest for talent in the trading market this winter will stress "quality for quality." If it sounds somewhat far-fetched to you—you are right. It is.

Milwaukee got to its tie for fourth place on two things—occasional flashes of brilliant pitching out of starters Marty Pattin, Lew Krausse, young Skip Lockwood and relief pitcher Ken Sanders and the best year ever out of Tommy Harper.

Like the buck, the Brewers' quality stops right there, and General Manager Milkes will be hard-pressed this winter to find a deal for a quality player without these names coming up.

The Brewers talked with several National League teams during the World Series. In almost every case, the price was too high. Milwaukee is willing to deal away a starting pitcher, but invariably other names crop up.

Relievers in Short Supply

"At this point, most of the talks have concerned starters," said Milkes the other day. "But several clubs also want our short relief men and we don't feel we can afford to make a deal like that."

"It's a matter of what you have coming up after you trade a key player. And our system hasn't reached the point where we have an abundance of good players to dig down and bring up."

"We're interested in making some deals, but we are going to insist on quality."

Pattin is probably the best trade bait the Brewers have, and though Harper, who batted .296 and hit 31

home runs, is for the moment entrenched, there is a growing suspicion that even he would be sent away if the price was right. It would not, however, make Manager Dave Bristol happy to lose either of these players.

Pattin had a 14-12 record last season, but posted a 2.86 earned-run average after June 15, when he had only a 3-7 record. He finished the year with a 3.40 mark

and led Milwaukee in strikeouts with 162.

Krausse, who wound up with a 13-18 mark and a 4.79 ERA, was the Brewers' most effective starter until the stretch, when he tired badly. Young Lockwood, a virtual rookie in his first full year as a starter, impressed enough people despite his record, 5-12 and 4.24. A veteran Pittsburgh scout called him the best arm on the Brew-

ers' staff, and he's only 24, too.

Sanders created much interest only because the appearance of his name among the ERA leaders came as a surprise. He had been tried and found wanting by both Boston and Oakland as a relief pitcher, and admittedly at one time threw a spitter with little or no success.

Lowest ERA in A. L.

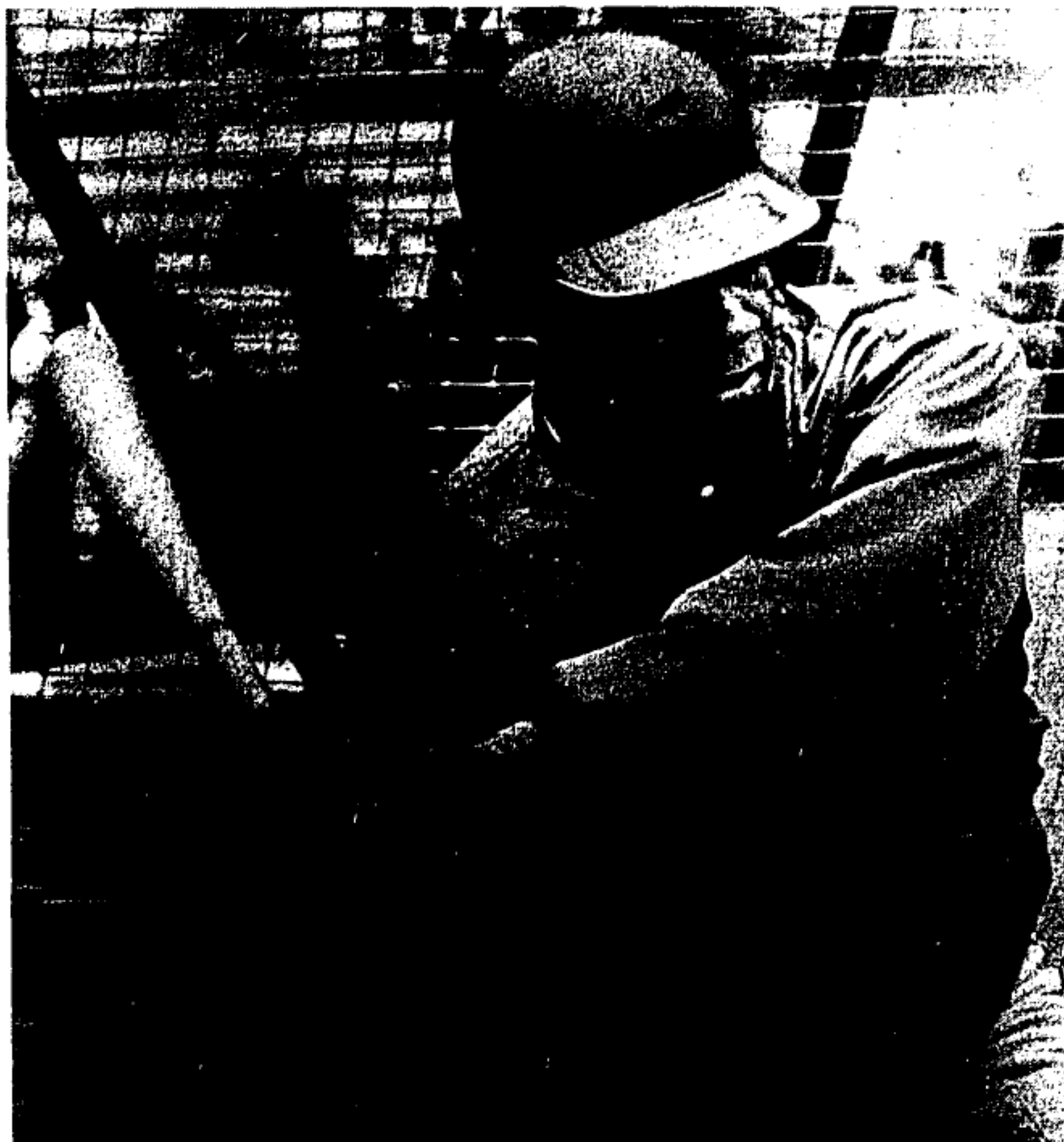
But this year he posted a club record of 13 saves, a 5-2 mark and a 1.76 earned-run average, best in the American League. However, he pitched only 92 innings and didn't qualify for the ERA title.

Atlanta is interested in peddling Orlando Cepeda, but with Pattin as the price tag. It may be too high.

Another trade possibility is one of the catchers, either Phil Roof or Jerry McNertney. Both are pull hitters and might fit well into Boston's cozy bullpen.

The Brewers already sent the Red Sox Bob Bolin, former San Francisco righthander, who has developed into their No. 1 bullpen ace, a deal that has made both clubs happy. Milwaukee received in exchange after the season Al Yates, an outfielder who hit .304 for Boston's Louisville (International) farm.

Milkes got excited recently about the purchase of first baseman George Kopacz, who once was the property of the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Braves, but last year played in the Pittsburgh Pirates' farm system at Columbus (International). With Columbus, he hit .314 and 29 home runs. But he is also 29 years old and must prove himself in combat first.



Tommy Harper . . . Possible Trading Pawn.

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