

Ron Hunt's Hustle Impresses New Boss

By IAN MacDONALD

MONTREAL, Que. — Ron Hunt writes off his National League record for being hit by pitched balls with an explanation that "my ability isn't that great."

"When you lack something, you make up for it in other ways. That helps get me on base more often."

Expos' coach Jerry Zimmerman swears there is another reason.

"He likes to get hit," said Zim, after Hunt's incredible performance in the batting cage prior to a recent game. "The pitching machine hit him three times. He just turned slightly and let the balls bounce off."

"It's amazing he doesn't get hit more," said outfielder Adolfo Phillips, who has been sidelined with a pulled muscle on his left side. "He stands so close to the plate. I used to do that—but no more. That hurts too much."

Hunt has been hit four times in exhibition play so far. With 14 hits in 33 at-bats, Hunt hit .424 through three weeks of exhibitions. Hunt reached first base 26 times in 45 trips to the plate. He had drawn eight walks.

Great Aggressive Hustle

As much as this uncanny knack owned by Hunt, the fiery second baseman's aggressive hustle and base-running have been even better than Manager Gene Mauch had hoped for.

"If someone doesn't want to take chances and if they don't like to get taken out at second base and if

they don't like to play the game hard like I like to play it, I think they ought to get out of baseball."

"If a player tries to cut me, though, I don't say anything to him—but I don't forget it, either."

Does the thought of retaliation ever enter his mind?

"It doesn't bother me. I expect them to come at me and it's all right as long as they don't come at me trying to spike me, because I'm going to do the same thing to them while trying to break up double plays and to get on base."

Not Too Many Friends

Reaction among opposition players to the hustling second baseman varies from respect to a feeling of detest.

"I don't imagine I've got too many friends, but that doesn't worry me," Ron announced.

So what is this hard-nosed competitor? A surly human being?

Ron and his wife, who have two children of their own, adopted a baby daughter last year who is part Navajo and part Apache Indian.

"They're the most deprived people in the world—and besides, I've got a little Cheyenne in me."

To retain as much Indian in the family as possible, the Hunts named their adopted daughter Suncere.

"That's Indian for Morning Star," said Hunt. "That was the name of the wife in the movie, 'Broken Arrow,' and I've never forgotten that name."

bunts and boots

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EGAN ON SWAT SPREE

Four straight extra-base hits by catcher Tom Egan—a homer and three doubles—powered the White Sox to their fourth consecutive triumph over the Yankees, 4-3, at Sarasota March 23.

When Al Oliver, Bob Robertson, Richie Zisk and Rich Hebner hit home runs in the Pirates' 7-4 decision over the Orioles at Bradenton March 23, they boosted Pittsburgh's spring training total to 22 round-trippers in 14 games.

Taking the mound for the first time since he pulled an elbow muscle early in March, Twins' righthander Luis Tiant limited the Braves to four hits and one earned run in four innings as the Twins bagged an 8-3 victory at Orlando March 23.

FOY'S BAT BOOMING

If third baseman Joe Foy's bat continues to boom, the Senators may overlook his problems afield. Foy, drafted from the Mets' organization last November, hit a solo homer and a two-run double in Washington's 4-2 triumph over the Expos at West Palm Beach March 23. Another off-season acquisition, righthander Gerry Janeski, pitched five scoreless innings for the Nats and was credited with the decision.

Outfielder Amos Otis of the Royals had stolen 33 consecutive bases, counting the 1970 season and exhibition games, before he was thrown out by Manny Sanguillen trying to steal second in the fifth inning of an 8-4 loss to the Pirates at Bradenton March 22.

Right fielder Reggie Jackson and catcher Dave Duncan provided the lone bright spots for the Athletics in a 10-7 shellacking at the hands of the Giants at Palm Springs March 24. Jackson caught Chris Speier's short fly in the third inning and doubled Bobby Heise, trying to score from third after the catch, with a rifle throw. Duncan hit a two-run homer and doubled as Oakland lost to San Francisco for the third time in four exhibition games.

HARRAH SPARKLES

Rookie shortstop Toby Harrah started a triple play and two double plays in the Senators' 4-2 triumph over the Royals at Fort Myers March 28. The triple play came in the last of the fourth inning, after winning pitcher Casey Cox hit Bob Oliver with a pitch and walked Ed Kirkpatrick. Cookie Rojas then lined to Harrah, who stepped on second base to double Oliver and threw to Mike Epstein at first before Kirkpatrick could get back to the bag.

Manager Billy Martin of the Tigers used 26 players, including eight pinch-hitters, and finally made off with a 5-4 victory over the Yankees in 11 innings at Lakeland March 22. The deciding blow was a two-run pinch-homer by Kevin Collins.

The Senators' Mike Epstein, still hoping to be traded so that he can play regularly, reached base six times in Washington's 6-5, 12-inning decision over the Royals at Pompano Beach, March 26. Epstein collected a homer, double and a single and walked three times.

BOSOX TRADE RUMOR

One of the hottest trade rumors at the close of spring training had the Red Sox peddling first baseman George Scott and at least two other players, plus cash, to the Senators for Frank Howard, who plays both left field and first base.

Angels' shortstop Jim Fregosi and second baseman Sandy Alomar missed games against the Giants at Palm Springs March 27 and 28. Fregosi, suffering from bronchitis, and Alomar, with a severe case of insect bites, were sent to Anaheim for treatment.

Umpire Switches in N. L.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Jerry Dale and Bruce Froemming, a couple of umpires who worked a full schedule of major league exhibition games in Florida this spring, have been added to the National League staff for the 1971 season, President Chub Feeney announced.

Froemming and Dale replace Frank Secory, retired, and Frank Dezelan, who will be optioned to a Triple-A league after one year in the National League.

Dale, 36, was born in Evansville, Ind., and now resides in Alhambra, Calif. Jerry is getting his big chance after seven years in the Pacific Coast League.

Dale broke into baseball in 1963 as an umpire in the Class C Pioneer League. He moved quickly to the PCL. Jerry holds a bachelor of science degree in education from California State Poly College.

Froemming, 31, a native of Milwaukee, Wis., umpired in the Nebraska State League in 1958 and worked his way up through several minor leagues to the Pacific Coast League in 1967.

Along the way, he officiated in various leagues, including the Northern League, Northwest circuit and the Texas League.

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SPORTSTAR Flashback QUIZ

By AL VADA

Here's a quiz designed to stimulate your recall of a baseball star from yesterday. Try it and see how well you do. If you score 9 or 10 correct answers, you are a flashback genius; 7 or 8 rates you as having an excellent memory; 5 or 6, a good one; 4, a fair power of recall. See inverted lines at bottom of Quiz for answers.

- Striking out a major league total of 2,396 batters, Sandy led the National League in strikeouts.
 - 2 times
 - 4 times
 - 6 times
- Sandy holds the record for the most no-hit games pitched, lifetime, with:
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
- He topped the National League with the lowest earned-run average:
 - 3 seasons in succession
 - 4 seasons in succession
 - 5 seasons in succession
- In his major league career he pitched:
 - 30 shutouts
 - 40 shutouts
 - 50 shutouts
- When Sandy posted 27 wins in 1966, he established the following record for lefthanded pitchers:
 - most games won in a N. L. season since 1900
 - most games won in a major league season since 1900
 - both of the above
- Koufax pitched in his first World Series in 1959 against the:
 - White Sox
 - Twins
 - Yankees
- Among other World Series records once held by Koufax, is the record for most strikeouts in a:
 - four-game series
 - single World Series game
 - both of the above
- His combined wins in his last two seasons in the majors total:
 - 44
 - 53
 - 58



Sandy Koufax

- Appearing in 397 games in the majors, Sandy posted a lifetime ERA of:
 - 2.76
 - 2.51
 - 2.01
- Named the National League Pitcher of the Year by THE SPORTING NEWS, four times, Sandy failed to win a Most Valuable Player Award. True or False?

ANSWERS: 1-b, 2-b, 3-c, 4-b, 5-a, 6-c, 7-c, 8-b, 9-a, 10-c

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