

Milt May Odds-On Pick in Buc Future Book

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—When you hear baseball people talk about Milt May, you get the idea there should be an advance reservation for him in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown.

Milt May is a 20-year-old, left-handed-hitting catcher who enjoyed a solid season at Columbus in the International League, batting .280 with 21 homers and 87 runs batted in.

"Milt May," said International League President George Sisler, Jr., "is equal to Johnny Bench at the early stage of Bench's career."

Every-Day Catcher

"Milt May," said Joe Morgan, who managed him at Columbus, "is a tiger. Within two years, he will be an every-day catcher for the Pirates. He can do it all, hit with power and drive in runs, and his catching is something to see."

"Milt May," said Buc General Manager Joe Brown, "figures to

be one of our 25 players next year. The boy's progress has been amazing."

Bench, at 22, has established himself as the No. 1 catcher in the majors.

Before Bench came to the Reds to stick late in the 1967 season, he played in the International League at Buffalo.

"Watching May this year reminded me of the season Bench had at Buffalo," Sisler said. "They have that certain instinct that makes them stand out."

May was an 11th-round selection by the Bucs in the 1968 free-agent draft.

Brown realizes that May has yet to prove himself. The G. M. also frankly admitted that his raw rookie can't throw with Bench.

Is this a knock?
"Heck, no," Brown said. "Nobody can throw like Bench. It's as simple as that."

The Pirates already have an outstanding catcher in Manny Sanguillen, who batted .326—second only to Rico Carty.

Sanguillen is a workhorse.

How can May be expected to take Sanguillen's job?

"We don't expect May to become the No. 1 catcher right away," Brown said. "I just say I will be disappointed if May does not make our team next year."

Prelude to Trade

If Milt May makes it, it will pave the way for the departure via a trade of another May—first name Jerry—who was the backup catcher to Sanguillen last season.

Milt May has a big league background. His father is Pinky May, a one-time third baseman for the Phillies.

In 1966, Pinky May managed Peninsula in the Carolina League.

The catcher at Peninsula that year was a youngster named Johnny Bench.

"I remember Milt well," Johnny said during the World Series. "He

used to practice with us at Peninsula. He had a good swing when he was a kid. He had good actions."

When Milt first joined the Pirates' Bradenton farm in the Gulf Coast League, he was a big (six foot) skinny kid (about 165 pounds).

"He has grown into a 190-pounder," Brown said. "No fat."

When May joins the Pirates in spring training in early March, he figures to be in even better physical condition.

He just has begun a tour of duty with the Army Reserves.

"Milt will miss only the first couple of weeks of training," said Brown. "He will be there in plenty of time to make the team."

Pitt-Burgers: Joe Brown said he came close to making a deal involving four or five players. "The other club changed its mind," said the Buc G. M., who would not reveal the names of the players involved. . . . The Bucs plan to play



Milt May

three exhibition games in Panama City next March. . . . If Danny Murtaugh decides not to return as manager, coach Bill Virdon appears a cinch to replace him.

Kelly Injects Speed Into Sluggish Pale Hose

By EDGAR MUNZEL

CHICAGO, Ill.—The White Sox have taken the first step in their speed-up program for 1971 with the acquisition of Pat Kelly from Kansas City in a four-player deal.

However, both Personnel Director Roland Hemond and Manager Chuck Tanner, the new leadership combo, vow that this first step won't be the last. It's only the beginning of a determined drive to put go-go back into the White Sox.

"We're definitely planning on making more moves in that direction," said Hemond. "We have more deals in mind and we believe we have a good chance of completing some others before the winter is over."

The trade with Kansas City brought outfielder Kelly and right-handed pitcher Don O'Riley to the White Sox for a pair of first basemen — Gail Hopkins and Johnny Matias, both lefthanded batters.

"We traded away a good hitter in Hopkins and a fine prospect in Matias," said Tanner. "But it was a good deal for us because, first of all, we must get more speed and, secondly, we were overloaded with first basemen."

"Things got even more crowded around first base for us because

of shifting Carlos May from the outfield to take a crack at the job there.

"Carlos made it six first basemen and five of the six were lefthanded batters, with only Ossie Blanco swinging from the right side.

"Now, of course, we're down to just three lefties — May, Bobby Spence and Tommy McCraw. And May and McCraw both can switch back and forth to the outfield.

Kelly Slated for Left

"Nevertheless, if Carlos proves he can handle first base, after working there in winter ball and spring training, that will be his regular spot. This opens up left field, where I now plan on playing Kelly.

"Kelly will provide us with badly-needed speed," said Tanner, "and will give us a good leadoff man. That's something the White Sox haven't had for years.

"Luis Aparicio has the speed and is a great base runner, but he isn't the type who gets on base a lot. Looney has to hit his way on base and he did a fine job of that this year with his .313 average. But he doesn't draw the number of

walks expected of a leadoff man.

"Kelly drew 72 walks this year while hitting .235 in 136 games. Still, he stole 34 bases. In 1969, when Pat hit .264, he stole 40 bases.

"We believe that if we can get his batting average back where it was last year, Pat will be in the 40s in stolen bases every season. And that's going to make us a more exciting and a more dangerous club," Tanner said.

"Aparicio might fit in perfectly as the No. 2 man in the batting order," he continued. "After all, he's a good hit-and-run man and he always gets a piece of the ball. And starting out with two fellows who can run—like Kelly and Aparicio—you've got a good chance to score some runs with Carlos and Bill Melton coming up behind them.

Hidden Talent?

"I understand that Kelly isn't a polished outfielder. However, his arm is adequate for left field and he can overcome mistakes because of his speed.

"As for O'Riley (6-3, righthander), we'll have to see how he does. He was just fair at Omaha this year with 5-8, but had a good season in 1969 with 12-5. I'm told he's a bulldog type, which means he's always got a chance," Tanner said.

Hemond was elated over trade possibilities after conversations with other clubs during the World Series.

"I was very encouraged by the fact that so many other people approached us about our players," said Hemond. "It indicated to me that we have a lot more talent on the club than we are given credit for.

Aparicio, Naturally

"They asked about Tommy John, Joe Horlen, Wilbur Wood, Bill Melton, Carlos May, Ken Berry, Duane Josephson, Ed Herrmann and, naturally, Aparicio. Others, of course, also were named.

"I really was surprised because usually when you have a team that finished last, your phone never rings. I didn't have to do a lot of hustling," Hemond said. "Quite a few were coming to me."

Sox Yarns: Hemond and Tanner headed for Sarasota October 19 to watch the White Sox team in the Florida Instructional League. Both are eager to familiarize themselves with the young players in the White Sox organization. Tanner will re-

main there a full week while Hemond was to join Vice-President Stu Holcomb in Orlando for the general managers' meeting October 22-23. . . . Al Monchak, one of the new coaches hired by Tanner, also

is joining the others at Sarasota. Monchak is regarded as an outstanding instructor of infielders. His special assignment will be to work with Lee Richard, the White Sox' No. 1 draft choice last June.

Reds Still 'Best' to Anderson

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said the Reds' manager. "They were afraid they'd be sent home . . . afraid of what people would say."

Anderson always had the same bit of advice.

"If you do your best and it's still not good enough," said Sparky, "then you have no reason to be ashamed."

It's what Sparky told his younger brother some five years ago when he was going after his master's degree.

Message for Players

And it was what Anderson told his players after their loss to the Orioles.

Even while the Orioles were celebrating, Anderson insisted the Reds "were still the best team in baseball." But he had to be thinking of the team which won 70 of its first 100 games as a four-man pitching rotation of Wayne Simpson, Jim Merritt, Gary Nolan and Jim McGlothlin mowed down the opposition with monotonous regularity.

Simpson, sidelined when hemorrhaging developed in his right shoulder shortly after midseason, was a spectator during the Series. McGlothlin, plagued by injuries after beating Houston July 4 for his 11th victory against four losses, sat on the bench nursing a swollen right elbow as six Red pitchers

paraded to the mound that final day.

And the Merritt who started that fifth and final game of the Series wasn't the same lefthander who reeled off 10 victories the first two months of the season.

Jim Shuns Alibis

Still, Merritt, like Anderson, had refused to alibi even though he has nursed a sore elbow since he departed in the first inning of a September 8 game with the Giants in San Francisco.

"I felt real confident warming up," said Merritt later. "And when I got out there I had no pain, no stiffness. I've got no alibi. That's a good team I faced. It was a good team the whole Series. They just beat us."

"I'd hate to pitch in the American League with that team around," said relief pitcher Wayne Granger.

Granger was tagged for pitcher Dave McNally's grand-slammer in the third game of the Series. And in the fifth game he was rapped for five hits in two-thirds of an inning.

"That's the best-hitting club I've ever faced," said Granger.

Then, Granger nodded toward teammate Clay Corroll.

"Clay," said Wayne, "has to be Superman to have pitched the way he did against them."

Corroll, the last of the six Red pitchers who saw action in the final game of the Series, struck out two of the three batters he faced in the eighth inning.

It was the fourth appearance in the Series for the husky Red righthander.

Over a span of nine innings he didn't yield a run, struck out 11, issued only two walks and gave up only five hits.

"When I was sitting on the bench after the eighth inning," said Clay later, "I tried to lift my right arm and my shoulder was so sore I couldn't."

"I don't care now," he then added. "I've got all winter to rest."



Wayne Simpson

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