

# Spare-Part Kirkpatrick Now Vital Buc Cog

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH—The first thing Ed Kirkpatrick will admit is that he doesn't look like a ballplayer.

He is chunky. As a teen-ager in 1962, he was tagged with the nickname Spanky because he resembled the youngster featured in the Our Gang comedies.

He will be 30 years old on October 8 and he still is called Spanky because he still has a chubby face and a pleasant smile.

In five seasons with Kansas City, he played at least 113 games a season, yet when he was traded to the Pirates last December, he learned he was considered a utility player.

"IT'S JUST A phrase," he said. "I don't consider myself a utility player. How can anybody call me a utilityman when I've always played in more than 100 games in a season?"

He got the utility tag because he was a man for all positions with Kansas City. He caught. He played at first base and in the outfield.

During the first 70 games with the Pirates this year, Kirkpatrick truly was a utilityman. He didn't even get a chance to be a platoon player. The other Kaycee player who came to Pittsburgh in the swap for Nelson Briles was Kurt Bevacqua, a spare infielder. He was used even more sparingly by Danny Murtaugh and finally was shipped back to Kaycee, where he is appreciated more than in Pittsburgh.

KIRKPATRICK sat on the Pirate bench without complaint.

"I've never been a complainer and I don't plan to start now," he said.

In mid-July, the stocky lefthand-

ed hitter, who batted .263 with Kansas City last year, found himself an active Pirate.

He started to play at first and some in right and played in every game during the club's eight-game winning streak. That started the Pirates' drive to the top in the National League East.

Later, he became a platoon first baseman with Bob Robertson, who, despite a .230 average, was hitting a home run every 12 at-bats.

Kirkpatrick started 48 games and he failed to reach base in only eight of them. He is a unique Pirate as a batter. He is not a free swinger. He takes pitches. He drew 37 walks in 48 games and his on-base ratio was second only to Willie Stargell on the club.

KIRKPATRICK had the best

Buc record in getting bases on balls. He also drove in big runs.

With Robertson, he made first base a productive offensive spot. On defense, Kirkpatrick did the job, not in ordinary style, but very much above ordinary.

In one stretch, Spanky had a .409 on-base average. He hit over .340 for a long stretch.

Perhaps Kirkpatrick never will lose the utility tag in Pittsburgh. It might stick just like the nickname Spanky.

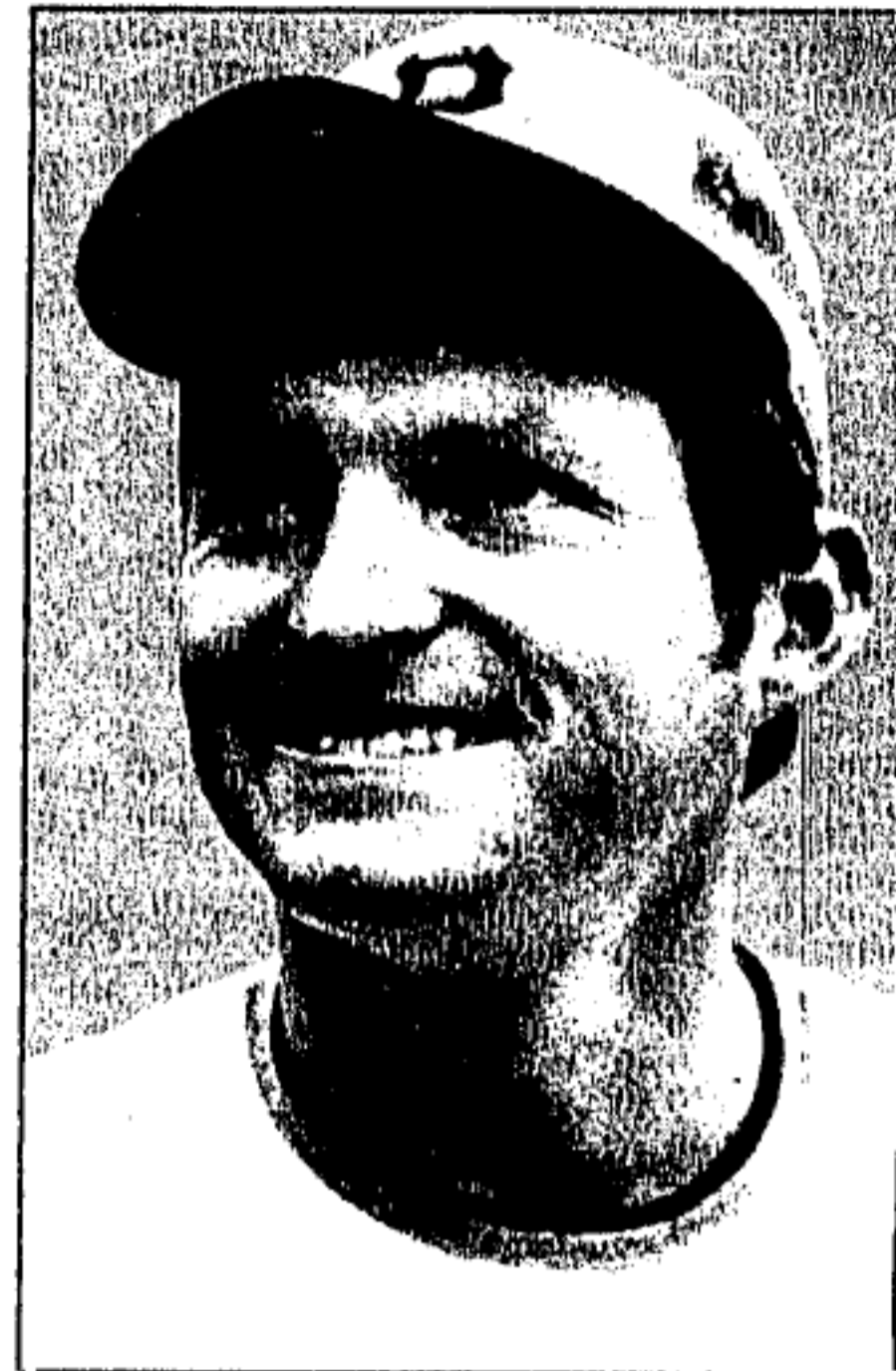
He doesn't worry about it. For the first time in his 11-year career, he has a chance to play with a pennant winner. If the Pirates make it, Kirkpatrick won't be a player who just came along for the ride.

He has shown the National League that he is a plus-big leaguer. The American Leaguers knew it all the time.

**Pittsburghers:** The Pirates' starting pitchers, who led the league in complete games, will end the season with the most route jobs since the 1965 staff, which had 49. . . . Ken Brett is considered the best hitter among the Buc pitchers, but Jim Rooker passed him in the hit department when he banged out his 23rd September 3. On the same date, Rooker got two hits in one inning vs. the Phils. . . . Dock Ellis'

eight-game winning streak was ended by the Dodgers September 1.

. . . The Pirates, who were 2-10 vs. the Dodgers last year, were 8-4 this season, beating them eight in a row after losing a three-game series in Los Angeles in June. . . . Rookie shortstop Frank Taveras and Mario Mendoza showed they can cut it in the big leagues.



Ed Kirkpatrick

## It's Redbird Moving Time, With Brock Showing Way

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—Talk about bringing up the reserves! A crowd gathered in a hurry in the Cardinals' clubhouse as the Redbirds went into the stretch drive of the National League East chase.

It's usually the custom to add a few veterans for a club's final push, but the Cardinals even dropped one—Tim McCarver, a star of three St. Louis pennant winners who had been serving as the No. 1 pinch-hitter and occasional fill-in behind the plate and at first base this season.

As the Cardinals parted with McCarver, who was hitting only .217, they brought up such Tulsa (American Association) products as first baseman Keith Hernandez, catcher Marc Hill, catcher Rich Billings, veteran outfielder Richie Scheinblum and two young outfielders, Larry Herndon and Jerry Mumphrey, from Arkansas.

Following these transactions, on the night of September 4, after the close of a three-game sweep over the Expos, the Birds obtained infielder Ron Hunt on waivers from the Montreal club.

So, Redbird fans had plenty of fresh faces to look at while centering their attention on two major developments: Lou Brock's relentless charge toward a modern one-season stolen base record and the Cardinals' fight for the East title.

**BROCK WAS ONE** of the few bright lights on the Birds' disastrous (4-8) last invasion of the N. L. West cities, swiping 16 bases in 21 tries to give him 29 steals for August. In the finale at San Francisco on September 1, he stole four bases (his career top, which he had reached twice before) to come home with a total of 98—just six short of Maury Wills' mark. Lou had 103 by September 8.

Despite Brock's heroics, some consistent hitting from Bake McBride and two victories by Lynn McGlothen and a few other pluses, the Cardinals came home from their horrid trip 1½ games behind the Pirates. When the Birds departed on that journey, they held 2½-game margins over both the Bucs and the Phillies.

The Cardinals were hopeful of resuming their winning ways against their Eastern rivals after finishing with a sub-par 32-40

against the West.

McCarver had been used much less than last season when he batted .266 upon his return to the Cardinals. This season, he had only 106 official at-bats and 11 runs batted in, five of which came on sacrifice flies. He had one extra-base hit, a triple, among his 23 safeties. On the plus side, indicating that he still has a sharp eye at 32, were his 22 walks as against six whiffs.

Bob Kennedy, the Cardinals' player personnel director who accompanied the club on the entire 12-game western swing, said of young catcher Hill, "We figure that if he plays, he should hit .215 or so (a reference to McCarver's mark), and he's an outstanding receiver."

**HILL, WHO HAD** been up with the Redbirds briefly earlier this season, batted .275 for Tulsa. He hit 14 homers, one triple, 14 doubles and drove in 57 runs.

**Hernandez,** a lefthanded batter with a classic stroke, already is regarded as a solid major leaguer defensively at first base. Manager Red Schoendienst wasted no time putting him to work. When the late-August series opened at Candlestick Park, there was Hernandez making his major league debut about 12 miles from his hometown of Millbrae.

Schoendienst decided to start Hernandez even though a successful southpaw, Mike Caldwell, then 12-3, was pitching for the Giants and Red was aware that Keith probably would be extra nervous breaking into the biggies before his home folks.

Hernandez admitted he was jit-



Lou Brock

tery during the series, but he came out of it with 3-for-10, including a double, and coaxed three walks. He also whiffed three times.

**HERNANDEZ GOT** the chance early because Joe Torre came up with a sore hand from sliding back into second base in the preceding series with San Diego.

"It was a dream come true, breaking into the major leagues in your hometown," said Hernandez, who is only 20. He recalled the many long hours of practice under the guidance of his father, John, a fireman who used to play first base in the Cardinals' chain.

"I must have spent \$50 on the telephone calling my parents, relatives and friends from Oklahoma City when I found out I was going up," Hernandez said.

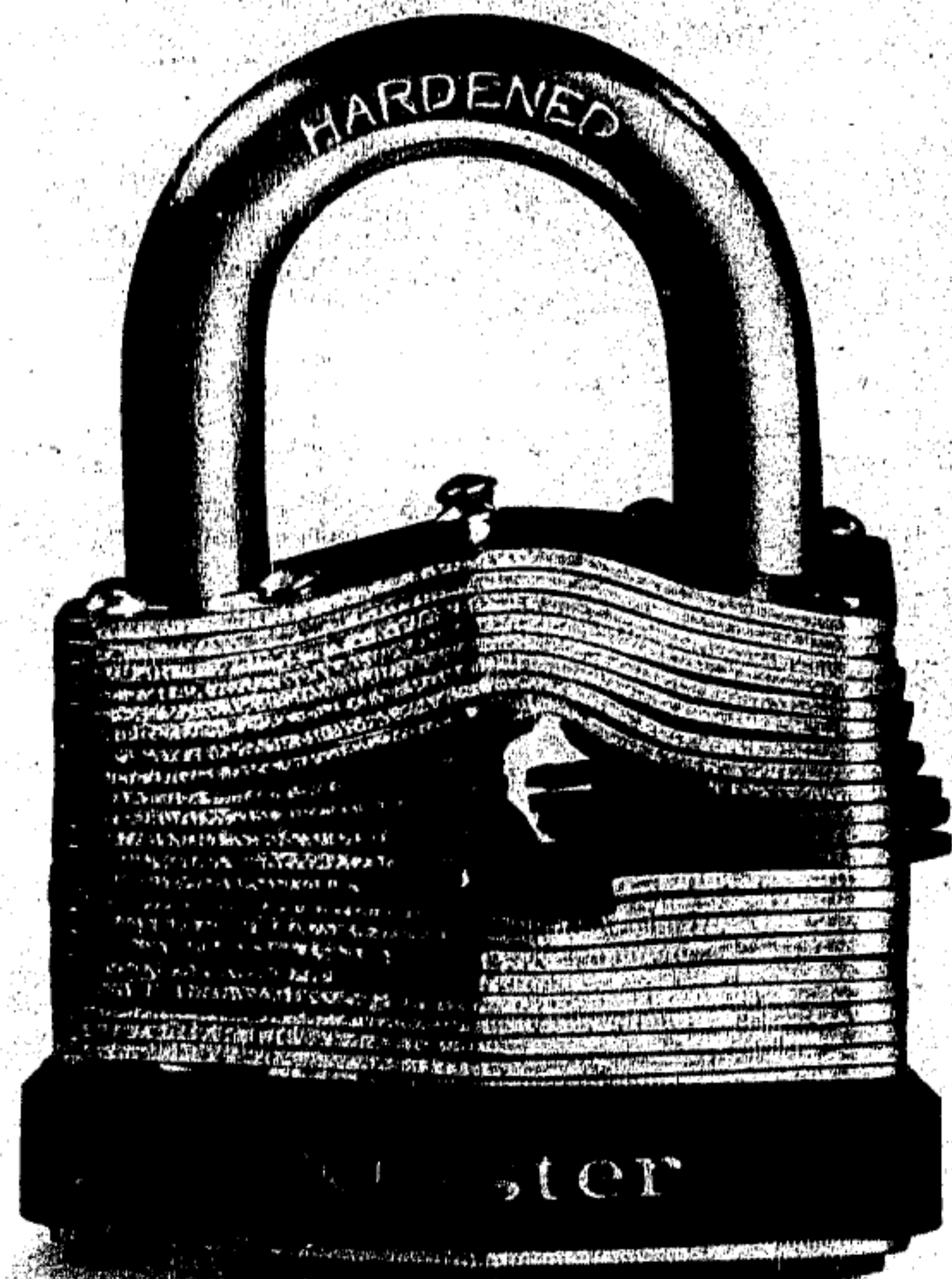
Although set back by a pre-season leg injury that required surgery, Hernandez came on strong at Tulsa. He hit .351 with 61 RBIs, 16 doubles, six triples and 14 homers in 353 official at-bats. He closed out his Tulsa season with a bang, going 3-for-3 against Charley Hudson, who happens to be a lefthander.

**SCHEINBLUM** and Billings had been picked up late in the season from other major league organizations. Scheinblum batted .265 for Tulsa, Billings .200. The Redbirds obviously were attracted by Scheinblum's lifetime .260 pinch-hitting average in the majors.

Speedsters Herndon and Mumphrey spent the season with Arkansas (Texas). Herndon led the Texas League in steals with 50 and batted .288. Mumphrey wound up with 40 thefts and a .291 mark.

**Redbird Chirps:** The Redbirds were understandably disappointed when they ran out of doubleheaders. Their sweep of the Expos-September 3 (in a makeup of a rainout the day before) gave them a 6-1-3 Mark in twinbills. Translated, that means 15 victories and five losses in 10 doubleheaders.

**Oddity Dept.:** The Cardinals' first one-hitter of the season was turned in by John Curtis in San Diego August 29 (Fred Kendall singled with two out in the eighth). Curtis had come from the Red Sox. The only Cardinals who hurled one-hitters last year were Rick Wise and Reggie Cleveland—and both landed with the Bosox.



### Tough under fire.

A high-powered rifle blasts a half-inch hole clear through a Master lock, and it still holds tight! A dramatic test of strength, filmed for TV. Documented in a brochure titled "Shoot-Out at Little Tujunga Canyon." Send for a copy. Free.

And remember, Master has a lock for most anything worth keeping. Even special locks for trailers, guns, bikes, and skis.

Now, who makes locks that can take a beating? Master Lock, sure as shootin'.



**Master Lock Company**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210  
World's Largest Padlock Manufacturers