

# Wynn's Words of Wisdom to Ball Players on Money

Early Tells How He Saved Regularly, Worked in Winter for Extra Coin

By DAVE CONDON  
Of the Chicago Tribune  
CHICAGO, Ill.

How does a well-paid player handle his money? . . . What risks does he take? What mistakes does he make? What are his thoughts on investing? . . . Listen to Early Wynn, \$35,000 (estimated) per year White Sox pitcher, president of a heavy construction company, and paid-in-full owner of a \$40,000 Florida residence.

"My first major league pay was \$200 at Washington for the final month of the '39 season. I didn't return until '41, after playing at Charlotte and Springfield (Mass.), and after off-season employment as a department store clerk. . . . It was '43, I think when Washington paid me almost \$9,000, that I began supplementing my small bank account with systematic purchases of war bonds on the payroll plan. About this time I also started a \$10,000 annuity. . . . The annuity was a savings and life insurance protection for my son. My wife, you know, had been killed in an accident, so my mother and sister, as well as my son, lived with me.

## Works During Off Season

"Making good money, I realized my financial responsibilities. . . . In one war-time off season I drove a truck, transporting high explosives, averaging \$100 weekly. My thoughts were to save regularly a percentage of my baseball salary, and to meet winter expenses with outside work.

"When I entered military service, my savings program was temporarily stopped; service ate up my savings. But I kept the annuity and paid it up soon after the war. . . . I made a big mistake when I finally

## Has Know-How



EARLY WYNN . . . Successful on the diamond, successful in business.

forfeited my G. I. life insurance; at the time I believed my annuity and baseball's new pension plan were sufficient insurance. . . . I saved my money in a bank, or in bonds. No, not at a building and loan, or in the stock market. I knew nothing about stocks. . . . I settled for a bank's 1½ or 2 per cent because we all thought that the bottom would drop out of post-war prosperity. . . . Then, when baseball's pension plan started, I had security and decided to risk some savings. My first risks? Well, I made a few loans. At 6 per cent and secured by mortgages. These were loans recommended by my bank president. I never lost them. . . . I loaned one fellow more than \$7,000 to build a bakery on a highway lot. The contractor took the fellow's personal note. I took a first mortgage on everything. . . . Since then I've in-

## 'Sickening to Watch Some Bonus Players Spend, Thoughtless of Future'

creased the loan; the personal note has been paid and the security value risen to maybe \$40,000.

"Anyhow, with some savings, I looked for a business. . . . Heavy construction appealed to me, but I had to beg an owner to let me buy into that business. I'm president now, and the firm has grown. We clear land, dig canals, build roads. Our home construction company puts up houses, motels and apartments. . . . I should have entered business sooner, I would have learned the value of money earlier. . . . Another mistake was that I should have saved more. When I started saving, I put aside 20 per cent of the month's second paycheck because I always needed the first paycheck to get out of hock.

## Many Live 'Life of Riley'

"Every ball player should save systematically and earn extra money—maybe in winter ball—during the off season. Many young players make the mistake of loafing in the winter; they like expensive cars and life under the palms. . . . It's sickening, you know, to see some bonus player spend as though the bonus were a guarantee of a large salary for years to come. . . . I'd tell a young player to have a lawyer, or banker, examine proposed business deals. For every player who gets a windfall from some of these con men, 99 lose everything.

"A ball player needs a daily record of his expenses; so many are deductible on income tax if they can be proved. . . . Even more important, a daily record will emphasize how dangerously high his spending is. The first month I kept a daily expense record, I found I was too extravagant. . . . I came to realize that though a baseball player can afford some luxuries, he can't afford 'em too often."

# '58 Win-or-Quit Year, Says Robin; Has No New Pitch

Six-Time 20-Game Hurler Denies Sore-Arm Report; Accepts Slice to \$37,500

By ALLEN LEWIS  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

Robin Roberts, far and away the highest-paid player in the history of the Phillies, made a significant remark in the course of the press conference called to announce the pitcher's agreement to terms for his eleventh season with the club.

The six-time 20-game winner, who slumped to 19 victories in 1956 and ten in 1957, has been the subject of a great deal of speculation for more than two years. Has he lost his fast ball? Should he develop a new pitch? Why doesn't he change his mound style? Is he too stubborn to listen to advice? These are just some of the questions raised during the period about the righthander who was the unquestioned pitching star of the National League during his successful seasons.

While talking to the press at the formal signing, which took place in Owner Bob Carpenter's Connie Mack Stadium offices, Roberts said, "All the talking about my troubles will be over after this year. I've got to have the record this time or the talk will end."

The reference was clear. Even Roberts feels that, if he does not approach a return to normalcy in 1958, his days as a big league star will be over.

## No Alibis for Poor Season

Roberts, who was rather close-mouthed at times last season, talked about himself with unusual candor at the press conference. There was never the hint of an alibi for his poor season, strictly in character for the 31-year-old former Michigan State athlete.

"I have nothing new in mind, but I'm very anxious to get started," Robbie said.

"It's sort of like starting all over again as it was when I first came up. You get to thinking you know something about pitching, but then I guess you don't ever really know enough. "Of course, a lot of people talk about my fast ball going, but I don't believe it, and I mean that. I did hurt my arm in 1955 and I haven't been a consistent winner since, but last year I struck out 13 Cubs in one game and pitched some other good games, and you don't do that with a sore arm.

"In other years, I sometimes had troubles in the early innings, but then I'd get better later on. It seemed like last year for the first time it was just the reverse. I can remember so many games I lost in the late innings last year and the reason seems obvious—I must have been pressing.

## Club's Hitting Didn't Matter

"Some people bring up the fact that we had a weak-hitting club, but Jack (Sanford) won 19 games and lost only eight with the same club. I really don't think that matters. When I was winning, it didn't seem to have any effect.

"I didn't protect leads and I didn't win the close ones last year. And also I ran into a little temperament last year for the first time. I don't want to say that will never happen again because I never thought it could happen the first time. But if it does happen again, I just hope I'm able to handle it."

Roberts also revealed that, while he took a salary cut (an estimated slice of \$7,500 to \$37,000) in his basic contract, he can earn what he was paid for 1957 if he has a good year.

"I did take a cut," Robbie said, "but I'm still making good money and I'm doing what I want to do."

Then, turning to Carpenter, Roberts added, "And I think it's fair to add that I can make the same money if I have a good year."

Carpenter nodded assent, then declared:

"If Robbie has a good year, and I have every expectation that he will, he will get the same salary as in '57. As to what constitutes a good year, I'll let Robbie make the decision. I've always found him extremely fair in that regard and I'll abide by his decision."

Roberts said he did not know his present weight, but it was obvious he was in top shape, having engaged in daily conditioning workouts in gyms near his home.

One of the few who predicted the

## Ready for Decision



Robin Roberts

## Eagles Quit Mack Stadium; Phils Hurt Only Financially

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The parting of the ways between the Eagles and the Phillies was completely amicable. The National Football League Eagles announced recently they would move their home games next season from Connie Mack Stadium to spacious Franklin Field, owned by the University of Pennsylvania.

"We inherited a year-to-year agreement from the A's," said Phillies' Treasurer George Harrison, "and we never insisted on anything longer."

"While it's true we made a nice profit by having the Eagles as tenants," he added, "we also had some expenses we can eliminate. Resodding the field and erecting and dismantling the field seats cost us about \$15,000 a year."

Phils would be contenders last year, Roberts was optimistic about the club's chances in 1958. "The Phils are ready to go," he said. "We'd have really surprised last year if I had done the job. The young fellows certainly did a great job—they even surprised me—but we have some others with great potential." In that category he made specific mention of Pitcher Don Cardwell.

Roberts was the third Phil to sign for the coming season, following Stan Lopata and ex-Redleg Wally Post, who agreed to terms at a press conference the day before. Willie Jones followed Roberts into the fold, with the third baseman taking a sizable salary slice. Jones hit only 218 in 1957.

Phillies Fodder: Robin Roberts needs only one victory to equal the club record of 190, set by the great Grover Cleveland Alexander from 1911 through 1917. "The only time I ever saw Alexander," Roberts said, "was when he spoke at our grade school graduation. . . . Despite a \$12,500 decrease in the last two years, Roberts is still the second-highest paid pitcher in the National League. . . . Because the oldest of his three children, Robin, Jr., is in school, Roberts will not head South until February 26. . . . Wally Post took time off from a canners' convention in Atlantic City to visit Connie Mack Stadium and come to terms with General Manager Roy Hamey. He was given a slight raise to approximately \$20,000, and expressed himself as being extremely happy with his contract. . . . Hamey had a letter recently from Southpaw Pitcher Seth Morehead, stationed at Camp Chaffee, Ark. Seth reported he was in good physical shape and that his weight was down to 190. He assured Hamey he would report back to the Phils the day of his release after his six-month tour of duty in the reserves.

## Post Completely Recovered After Surgery, Doctor Says

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Outfielder Wally Post, traded by the Redlegs to the Phillies for Harvey Haddix in December, was pronounced completely recovered from his hernia operation when examined here by Dr. Thomas F. McTear, the Phils' team physician.

"He's 100 per cent okay and should be ready to go at full speed when spring training opens," Dr. McTear said.

## THE WYNN MILL

# Check the Facts!

By EARLY WYNN  
Chicago White Sox Pitcher  
(Reprinted from Cleveland News)  
NOKOMIS, Fla.

I've made an agreement with Chuck Comiskey, my new boss, that I would only write a column on special occasions. I'm sure that Chuck will agree with me that my visit to Cleveland the other day calls for a word of thanks to the Cleveland fans and writers who treated me so well at the recent Ribs and Roasts dinner.

It was good to get together with Bill Veeck, Jim Hegan, Herb Score, Mike Garcia, Mel Harder and the rest of the ball players who attended the dinner. We did a lot of ribbing ourselves at our table when we talked about next season's games between the Indians and White Sox.

But I found out one thing about ribbing. You have to be careful whose ears are flapping in the breeze when you're trying to say something with some humor in it.

## Explains Remark on Score

I spoke at a luncheon in Chicago a short time ago and, during the question period, somebody asked me about Herb Score's eyesight. I explained very carefully that I thought Score was going to be all right. That I had seen him throw the ball, toward the end of last season, and his arm seemed as good as ever. I also said that I knew Score was smart enough to rely only on the advice of his doctors and not on all those well-wishers who were trying to advise him.

Then, to insert a little humor into the situation I said, "Herb may not be able to see as well as he used to but that shouldn't bother Herb—It should bother the guys who have to bat against him!"

Well, one of your television tonsil artists jumped on his white horse in Cleveland and rode up and down my

## Understands



Herb Score

back for the poor taste in discussing Herb's eyesight, even though I was answering a direct question from a reporter at the time.

Naturally, this TV boy didn't tell the whole story, just the part that would make him look like the great defender of Herb Score in his home town.

Next day, one of the baseball writers who had heard this guy's telecast wrote a line in his notes, "Early Wynn threw a wild pitch in Chicago when he questioned Herb Score's eyesight."

I'll say this for the writer. When he finally got a chance to talk to me in Cleveland and heard the story com-

pletely, he apologized. In fact, just before I left Cleveland, he called again to say he was sorry.

Naturally, the TV hotshot didn't bother to call to check out the facts with me.

Oh, well, I had a long talk with Score at the dinner table that night and he and I understand each other perfectly, so I'm not going to let one guy's hot air spoil a swell visit.

Besides, I don't want any feud with Score. He throws too hard!

I want to say thanks to all the friends I talked to while I was in Cleveland and to thank especially the members of the Baseball Writers' Association for a swell time. Excuse me now while I wind up my gout bandage. See you next spring!

## Pirates, Cards Blocked Deal for Tigers to Buy Klu—Lane

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Pittsburgh and St. Louis blocked a deal that would have sent Ted Kluszewski to Detroit for \$50,000 last fall, General Manager Frank Lane of Cleveland revealed at the meetings here.

"While I was still with the Cardinals," Lane told newsmen, "Cincinnati tried to get waivers on Kluszewski to sell him to the Tigers, but the Pirates and I kept him in the National League by claiming him.

"Gabe Paul (Cincinnati general manager) told me the Tigers were ready to pay \$50,000 for Klu if the Reds could get waivers on him. I told Gabe it might be a gamble, but I couldn't let Kluszewski get out of the league. I would have paid \$10,000 (the waiver price) just to have him as a pinch-hitter."

The slugging first baseman, who was bothered with a back ailment last season, later went to the Pirates in exchange for Dee Fondy.