



EDDIE STANKY plants a kiss on the hand of his seven-year-old daughter Mary Ann during a news conference at which it was announced he had been deposed as **White Sox** pilot.

Stanky Exit and Lopez Return Double Shock for Chisox Fans

By EDGAR MUNZEL

CHICAGO, Ill. — Owner Arthur Allyn of the **White Sox** gave Chicago fans a double jolt in the way of surprises at high noon on July 12 when he discharged Eddie Stanky as manager and brought Al Lopez back for a second term to replace him.

First of all, nobody felt that Allyn would give up that quickly on Stanky, who not only was a personal favorite of his but had done a miraculous job of keeping the weak-hitting **White Sox** in the pennant race right down to the wire last year.

Secondly, nobody had any idea that Lopez would come out of retirement and return to managing. Al, who will be 60 next month, seemed to be enjoying his life of leisure with his wife at their beautiful bay-side home in Tampa after retiring as manager of the **White Sox** in the fall of 1965.

However, Al continued in the **White Sox** organization as vice-president. He functioned somewhat as a senior consultant and did considerable scouting and screening of players in the farm system.

Lopez frankly admitted that he enjoyed his retirement, punctuated occasionally with the little trips into the farm system, and he had no ambitions to get back into harness.

Al Shows Loyalty

"I wasn't sure he'd come back either," said Allyn. "But when we presented our situation to him, Al, like the fine gentleman and loyal employe that he is, agreed to fill the breach."

When Allyn made the announcement he stated that Lopez had agreed to return as manager for the rest of the year and through the 1969 season. This Lopez later disputed on the grounds that there was a slight misunderstanding.

"I told Arthur (Allyn) that I would fill in for the rest of this season with the understanding that a new manager would be hired over the winter," explained Lopez. "If they couldn't find the right man then, of course, I'd continue to serve next season."

"Really, I've been quite content away from managing. I've been playing golf five and six times a week down at Tampa and I've had a lot of fun making those little trips with Ray Berres to sort of break up the routine."

"And I must say that I've been approached by several different ball clubs offering me managing jobs. However, I've turned them all down, because I retired as manager of the **White Sox** on the friendliest possible terms with Allyn and Ed Short (general manager)."

Back Because of Crisis

"In other words, if I wanted to continue managing I would have stayed with the **White Sox**. I'm back as manager only because they need me and I owe them that loyalty. I plan to step out again when the crisis is over."

Stanky was signed to a three-year contract as manager of the **White Sox** December 14, 1965. Allyn twice gave him hearty endorsements. In August, 1966, he tore up Stanky's contract and extended it a year and last fall he gave Eddie a "well-done" salute by signing him to a new four-year pact.

And that now could cost the **White Sox** \$175,000 because Allyn said that he is ready to pay Stanky in full through 1971 on a contract estimated at \$50,000 per year.

Allyn announced that Stanky had

"resigned for the good of the ball club." Whether he "resigned" is strictly a matter of semantics. Technically, of course, in Allyn's explanation Stanky still is under contract to the organization but has been relieved of his duties as manager.

However, as Jimmie Dykes once put it so bluntly: "No manager, except one who is retiring or in bad health, ever resigns. He's fired."

Nevertheless, it is true that Stanky departed without the slightest rancor or bitterness.

Tears in Arthur's Eyes

"Mr. Allyn came out to see me at my hotel and told me with tears in his eyes that the time had come for a change in managers," said Stanky. "It came as a complete surprise to me."

"However, they've already dismissed a couple of managers who were in third place this year (Gene Mauch and Hank Bauer) and I was in ninth place. So maybe it should not be such a shock."

"Things just didn't work out for us in the way of deals and young players. But I was happy here and I wish the **White Sox** the best of luck."

Stanky, who returned to his home in Mobile with his family, has no immediate plans except that he wants to remain in baseball in some capacity.

"I know that my salary will be

paid through 1971 by Mr. Allyn," said Stanky. "But I don't want to go on a paid vacation for three and one-half years. I want to be working."

Stanky had not been offered a job within the **White Sox** organization but he might be in the future. Allyn said that everything had happened so fast that there was no time to discuss it.

Change Long Considered

Nevertheless, insofar as his own thoughts on the matter of a managerial change was concerned, Allyn admitted that he was considering it long before it actually happened.

Stanky finished fourth in the American League in his first season of 1966 and then fourth again last year in a mad scramble with the Red Sox, Twins and Tigers that went to the final weekend for a decision.

During the winter, deals were made that landed Tommy Davis of the Mets, a consistent .300-plus hitter, and also shortstop Luis Aparicio and Russ Snyder of the Orioles. By adding punch along with defense most observers felt the **White Sox** would be in the thick of the pennant fight again.

However, they ran into a brutal slump at the start of the season, lost their first ten games and

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Al Will Emphasize Speed and Defense

By EDGAR MUNZEL

CHICAGO, Ill. — When Al Lopez left the leisurely country club life in Tampa to resume the managerial reins of the **White Sox**, he took over a team that had sunk to its lowest level of the season—13 games under .500, in ninth place and 19½ games behind the league-leading Tigers.

In fact, it had the poorest mid-season mark (34-47) of any **White Sox** team in the 18 years since the energetic combine of Frank Lane and Paul Richards led them back into the first division.

Since the Senators were so far to the rear, Lopez had one consolation: the only way the **White Sox** could go was up. But what can he do? How can he get the **White Sox** moving again?

"There's only one thing to do and that's to stress defense, speed and pitching," said Lopez. "That's the way we won in 1959 and that's the way we kept in the pennant race in most of the other years I was with the **White Sox** as manager before."

"I believe the most important thing to keep in mind when you're managing the **White Sox** is that Comiskey Park isn't a hitter's ball park."

Too Big for Sluggers

"The long ball hitters, the home run sluggers just can't produce there. The dimensions are just too big and a good percentage of the time the wind is blowing in."

"The pitchers have the advantage in Comiskey Park and if you forget it and start going for those big swingers you're going to suffer."

This is exactly what happened to the **White Sox** after Bill Veeck bought them. The first year Veeck had the club it won the pennant in 1959. Sportshirt Bill promptly decided to beef up the attack and make it back-to-back pennants in 1960.

Veeck never did quite believe that 1959 pennant. What the **White Sox** needed was some "whackers", as he put it. He promptly went out and made some deals in which he landed Roy Sievers and Gene Freese among others.

White Sox speed and defense fell off in 1960 and they didn't win.

Last year after the **White Sox** reached the midway point and were scratching for runs while bouncing in and out of first place, there was a frantic search again for some "bombers." The **White Sox** picked up Rocky Colavito and Ken Boyer. They lost the pennant.

This year the **White Sox** picked up Tommy Davis and Leon Wag-

ner, two fellows who have power but little finesse in the outfield. Another deal landed Luis Aparicio who helped the defense at short, but it was weakened elsewhere.

Lopez is now going to try to point the **White Sox** back to that ideal of defense, speed and pitching. But it may take a while.

One other baseball policy Lopez believes in is a set lineup with a minimum of platooning. He's also going to work in that direction and he already has made one decision in that regard.

Ward Stays at Third

"Henceforth Pete Ward is going to be a third baseman," said Lopez. "He's been shifted around a lot (first base, left field and third) but I think he'll do a lot better if he just stays at one position."

"I'm going to go easy for a little while and just see how the players handle themselves. As for the pitchers they're in the hands of Ray Berres."

Ray, who stepped down as coach at the close of 1966 and became the minor league instructor in the **White Sox** system, has returned as Lopez' pitching coach.

Berres replaced Marv Grissom, who was shifted to a job as special assignment scout in his home area in California. Grover Reisinger, third base coach, resigned because he felt the new manager "should have the right to select his own coaches."

A successor to Reisinger will be hired later.

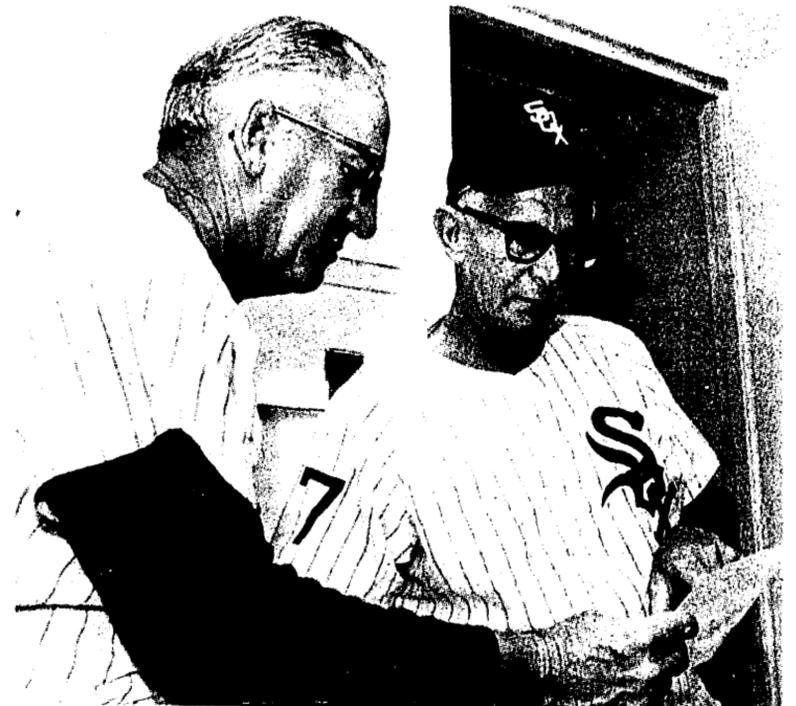
Lopez immediately brought a more relaxed atmosphere to the ball club when he eliminated some of Eddie Stanky's special rules. One of these was the banning of turtles in hotels and airports. They're in again.

Good News for Writers

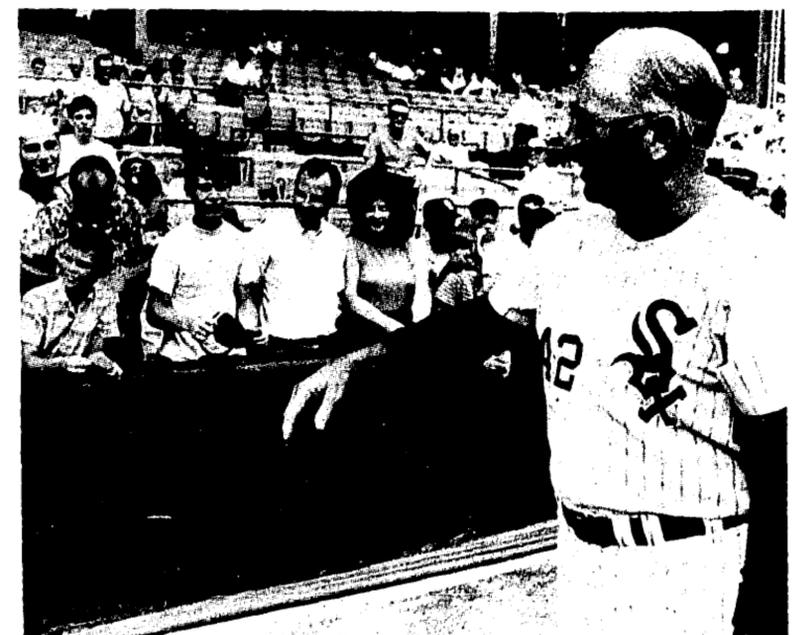
Another was the restoration of an open-door policy for newsmen, including the trainer's room, which had been made a sanctuary, even as it is on one or two other clubs. And there will be no cooling-off period as Leo Durocher has for 15 minutes after the game with the Cubs.

"Publicity is important to us," said Lopez. "Therefore, we should do everything possible to cooperate with the writers and the radio and TV men."

And everything worked out beautifully for him the first day. The **White Sox** ball park was swarming with newsmen and sportscasters for interviews and tapes. Then to climax it all, the **White Sox** swept their twin bill with Washington.



AL LOPEZ (left) confers with his old pal, Ray Berres, named **Chisox** pitching coach after Al's return as pilot.



COMISKEY PARK fans crowd the box seat wall to welcome back their long-time idol, Al Lopez.