

# Tension in Phils Camp—Green, the Bull at Odds

By HAL BODLEY

CLEARWATER, Fla.—Greg Luzinski says he has no reason to sit down and talk to Dallas Green. Green says he doesn't feel it's up to him to confer with Luzinski.

In short, the relationship between the Philadelphia Phillies' left fielder and his manager should be one of the most interesting acts to watch during the early days of spring training.

As both headed here for the opening of the world champions' camp, neither was budging.

"I don't see any reason for me to get together with him," said Luzinski. "During the winter meetings he had a lot to say about me. I didn't say a word. Dallas made it sound like I was definitely traded. All I know is Ruly (Owner Ruly Carpenter) told me to be ready for spring training and that's the way I am approaching it."

"When Greg Luzinski played the kind of baseball he's capable of playing, he was in there," said Green. "But on the other hand, I didn't sit back and wait for him to get going. He has to come out of the chute this spring both mentally and physically. He can do it; I know he can."

Problems between Luzinski and Green surfaced last year shortly after Greg injured a knee in St. Louis just prior to the All-Star Game. He had surgery and did not return to left field until August 24. During his rehabilitation, he remained home and said he was tired of reading newspaper stories about Green blasting his players.

Later, after Green benched Luzinski frequently during the Phils' surge to their first world championship, the man they call the Bull openly criticized the manager. It continued during the baseball meetings when it appeared the 30-year-old Luzinski was likely to be traded.

Nearly 25 pounds overweight and injured most of 1979, Luzinski hit only 18 homers and slumped to a .252 average. During the off-season, he went on a strict diet, going from 238 to 215 pounds. He got in the best condition of his life and worked on his batting stroke, the quick, powerful stroke

that made him one of the most feared hitters in the league. His first time up in 1980, he hit a three-run homer against Montreal.

By June 14, Luzinski had 15 homers, had driven in 36 runs with a batting average slightly under .290. From that point on, a potentially great season became another disaster. He ended with a .228 average and only 19 homers, though he did get some big hits down the stretch.

Luzinski still is mentioned in trade rumors, but player personnel director Paul Owens says, "The offers are not as heavy as what you'd think for a hitter of his quality. I think one of the big reasons for that is he has a year to go on his contract. That's going to scare some of the teams off."

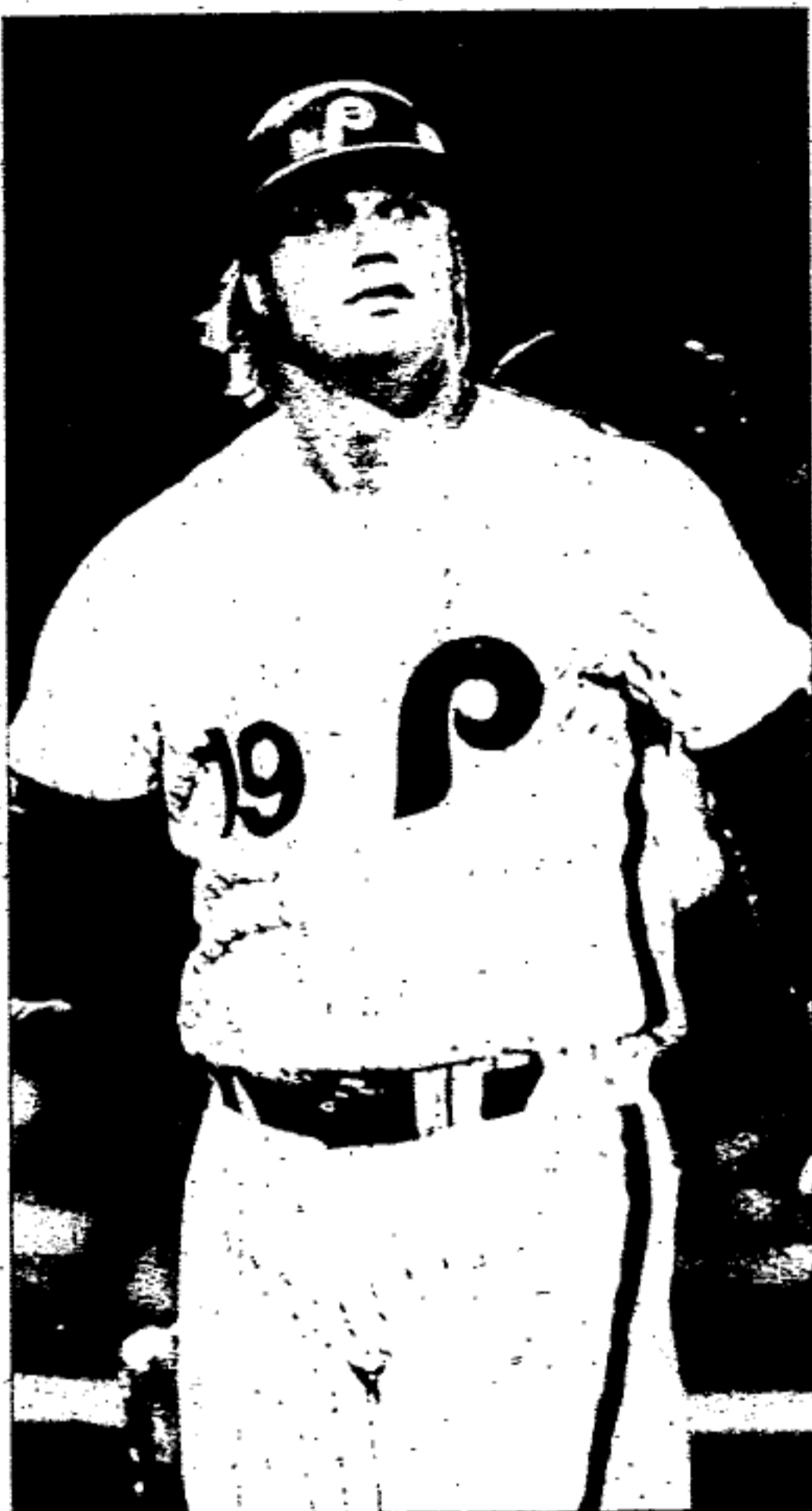
Owens and Carpenter both hope Luzinski and Green will break down and have a face-to-face session to clear the air.

"I talked to the Bull in Hawaii during the Super Teams competition and feel his attitude is pretty good now," said Owens. "His weight is down and he has been working out. I really feel both he and Dallas are being stubborn about this thing. I'll tell you one thing, if the Bull makes up his mind, he can help us. I think he can return to his old form; he's not that old."

That, basically, is what Green has been preaching.

"There wasn't a more dedicated player on the team during the first half," said the manager, "but then he started putting the weight back on and got hurt. As far as the Bull is concerned, a lot of us have let our hearts do our thinking for us. We have to start thinking with our heads. And I'm the first to admit, nobody has done more for the organization over the years than the Bull."

Phillies: Dave Montgomery, Phils director of sales, reports season-ticket sales have gone over 21,000. In 1980, the team sold 19,600. David Hartman, host of ABC-TV's "Good Morning America," is trying to arrange to work out for two weeks with the Phillies. Hartman was a first baseman at Duke University before he turned actor.



Greg Luzinski . . . Status questionable.

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