

Orioles Patch Leaking Flagship With Vet Dropto, Rookie Fisher

Pilot Paul Obtains Big Walt to Beef Up Birds' Wobbly Showing Against Lefties

By JIM ELLIS

IN MIDWEST WITH ORIOLES



Paul Richards

A concerned Paul Richards gave his Oriole brig a hard right rudder, hoping to keep clear of second-division shoals, as he steered through treacherous waters in Cleveland and Detroit on a brief but crucial Midwest cruise.

To put another righthanded hitter in the batting order against lefthanded pitchers, big Walt Dropto was acquired from Cincinnati on June 23 in an even-up waiver exchange that dispatched Whitey Lockman, a southpaw swatter, to the Reds.

The 35-year-old Dropto, a 220-pounder who hits an occasional long ball, was obtained to alternate at first base

New Knuckleball Scourge?

Orioles Sign Hoyt's Brother

BALTIMORE, Md.—There's another Wilhelm on the way!

The Orioles announced on June 22 they have signed another knuckleballing Wilhelm—Gary Cooper Wilhelm, by name, and a brother of Hoyt, the flutterballing scourge of the American League.

Cooper is 23 and just out of military service. The Birds watched him perform on the sidelines in Baltimore several days, then inked him to a contract and assigned him to Bluefield (W. Va.) of the Class D Appalachian League.

Cooper, according to Oriole brass, has a little more speed than Hoyt when the latter began his post-military climb, also at 23. His knuckler, though, isn't up to brother Hoyt's.

For that matter, it might be fair to ask, "Whose is?" ELLIS.

with Bob Boyd, who had slumped to .228. Like Lockman, Dropto is regarded as a good glove man.

"We need help against lefthanded pitching," said Richards. His low-scoring club, still last among the 16

MacPhail Brings Up Young

Fast-Baller From Miami; Options George Zuverink

in run production, had just dropped two straight at home to Kansas City and slipped into a third-place tie with Detroit.

When the Dropto-for-Lockman trade was made, Baltimore's record against lefthanded pitching was a wobbly 8-12, compared with 26-19 against righties.

As the Birds opened a series in Cleveland, they also welcomed aboard another young righthanded pitching recruit; 20-year-old Jack Fisher, who was recalled on June 21 from the Triple-A Miami (International) Marlins, with whom he posted an 8-4 record and a 3.06 earned-run mark.

General Manager Lee MacPhail announced Fisher's recall and, in turn, optioned veteran Reliever George Zuverink to Miami on a 24-hour recall basis. Zoove joined the Marlins in Buffalo, June 24.

Zuverink Wants Lots of Work

Zuverink, 32, admitted he needed lots of work. His "zinkerball," which once made him the premier fireman of the A. L., wasn't zinking. He had pitched just 13 innings, with a 4.15 ERA, and had been on the disabled list until May 22, because of shoulder stiffness.

"I still think I can help a big league club," said the tall Dutchman from Holland, Mich. "I need a chance to pitch myself back into form."

Fisher is a strong-armed lad with a good blend of fast balls, curves, sliders and change-ups. After authoring a 3 to 0, three-hit shutout over the Phils, and appearing in one regular-season relief stint against the Yankees, Jack was farmed out to Miami, where he reeled off six straight wins.

In 97½ innings with the Marlins, the husky 205-pounder struck out 71 men while walking 39. He had seven complete games among his dozen starting calls.

Harry Brecheen, astute Bird pitching coach, was asked in Miami, during the Baltimore spring training spin, which of the Flock's many young hurlers he rated with the highest potential. Brecheen replied: "I believe I'd have to say Fisher."

Fisher is the third 20-year-old righthander on the Oriole staff. He joined Milt Pappas, whose record was 6-3, and Jerry Walker, 4-3, in Richards' version of the old dictum that insists youth must be served.

Dropto followed, by only a week, the move that brought up Joe Taylor, 320-hitting righthanded swinger, from Vancouver (Coast). Taylor had supplanted Bob Hale, another lefty, on the Oriole squad.

Hale first announced he was retiring from the game, but later reconsidered and reported to the Charleston (American Association) Senators, to whom he had been assigned.

Dropto Only .105 for Reds

The jury is out on how much of a wallop the well-traveled Dropto will be able to inject into a sporadic Baltimore attack. The skyscraping vet was averaging a microscopic .105 in his early-season efforts for Cincinnati.

In 38 batting turns, Walt had connected for just two singles; one double and one homer, good for two runs batted in. Lockman's hitting credentials weren't much more impressive. He, too, claimed only two RBIs for the Flock, since his February waiver purchase from the San Francisco Giants.

In 28 games of playing second-fiddle to Boyd, interspersed with occasional fill-in roles at second base, Whitey culled 15 hits, including one homer and one double, in 69 at-bats, for a .217 mark.

Richards remembers Dropto as a "streak hitter" from the years The Moose from Moosup, Conn., spent in the A. L.

"Maybe he can get hot for us," hoped Oom Paul.

Bird Seed: The 9,002 clients who watched the A's Ned Garver homer and three-hit the Birds into submission, 7 to 0, on June 21, pushed Baltimore attendance to 490,179, a gain of 47,041 over the 32-date total a year ago. . . . When Bob Hale changed his mind about quitting the game, and decided to go to Charleston, G. M. Hillman Lyons of Charleston announced Second Baseman Al Paschal would be sent to the Birds' Amarillo (Texas) affiliate, but that Outfielder Bubba Morton would not go to Vancouver, as had been planned. . . . Hoyt Wilhelm lost his second straight, after his 9-0 beginning, when Kaycee pounced on him for 13 hits in eight innings of a 6 to 2 conquest, June 20. . . . Gus Triandos hit the 100th homer of his major league career with a 399-foot shot

Rookie Buzhardt Braces Wobbling Bruin Hill Corps

Climaxes Solid Performances With One-Hit Gem; 'Bull Pen Has Kept Us Alive,' Says Scheffing

By JERRY HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.

The Cubs' pitching staff, which had been getting rather wobbly as the season approached the half-way mark, received some unexpected support from John Buzhardt, the 22-year-old rookie righthander out of Prosperity, S. C.

Promoted to the starting rotation in Pittsburgh on June 7, Buzhardt responded with four straight solid performances, climaxed by a glittering one-hitter against the Phillies here on June 21, that concluded an otherwise unsuccessful home stand in which the Bruins won only five of twelve struggles.

Buzhardt, with a sinking fast ball as his primary weapon, faced 28 batters—one over the minimum. The only base-runners were Wally Post, who walked and was mopped up in a double play in the second, and Carl Sawatski, who lined a legitimate single to right with one out in the third inning. Buzhardt retired the last 20 batters in order, finishing with three strikeouts. It was a remarkable performance, particularly in view of the fact that he threw only 82 pitches. "I don't think he got more than five balls above the waist all day," said Pitching Coach Freddie Fitzsimmons.

It was Buzhardt's first big league shutout and the sixth blanking administered by the Bruins this season, one more than their entire 1958 total. Other shutouts had been registered by Glen Hobbie (two), Dave Hillman, Dick Drott, plus a combined whitewashing by Elmer Singleton, Bill Henry and Don Elston. Hobbie's first blanking was also a one-hitter, against the Cardinals, April 21.

"No Complaints" by Buzhardt

Stan Musial ruined Hobbie's no-hit bid with a seventh-inning double and Buzhardt, like Hobbie, had no regrets after his one-hitter. "He hit a good pitch, a low curve ball," Buzhardt said, referring to Sawatski's single. "I had him set up for the pitch. I have no complaints."

It was Buzhardt's fourth victory of the season and came at a rather opportune time since the Cubs' pitching, which had been very good at the season's start, had become quite shaky, especially during the last six weeks.

Bob Anderson, for example, hadn't finished any of his last 13 starts. Moe Drabowsky had gone the distance only once in 13 tries and Hobbie, the team's winningest pitcher with a 6-6 record, had suffered six straight knockouts when the club left here, June 23, for a brief six-game tour.

Commenting on his pitching, Cub Manager Bob Scheffing said: "They say that pitching is 75 per cent of a ball club. Well, then the way we've been going, I'd say that 50 per cent of our pitching effectiveness is in the bull pen. Guys like Don Elston, Bill Henry and Elmer Singleton have kept us alive."

Few Full-Distance Jobs

There is no questioning the value of the bull pen for even with Buzhardt's one-hit gem, the Wringleys had received only eight complete games. Aside from Hobbie—who is now being used both as a starter and middle reliever—none of the other Cub moundsmen had gone the distance more than once up to June 21.

Henry and Elston, just as last year, are virtually a perfect bull-pen tandem. Henry throws left and Elston right. Perhaps the best illustration of their effectiveness is to point out that, together, they figured in 19 of the Cubs' first 33 triumphs.

Elston had ten saves and four wins

off the A's Rip Coleman in Baltimore, June 19. . . . Ninety-nine of Gus' homers have been for the Orioles. The other one was for the Yankees, coming off Billy Hoef, then with Detroit but now an Oriole hurler. . . . Chico Carrasquel aggravated an old leg injury and turned his shortstop post back to Willy Miranda, shortly after driving in four runs with a homer and a single to beat Detroit, 7 to 6. Miranda responded by making a game-saving defensive play, preserving a 2 to 0 victory for Skinny Brown against Kansas City, June 19. This was one of Miranda's patented going-toward-third scoops. The Cuban Comet speared Joe DeMaestri's base-hit-labeled smash, and calmly threw home to cut off Frank House. . . . Manager Paul Richards finally admitted Miranda had vindicated himself for his tardiness in reporting (35 days late) to spring training. "We'll keep him around awhile," said Paul. "He saved us that time all right, with one of his old Barnum & Bailey plays."



John Buzhardt

Tony Taylor of Cubs Ruined Buzhardt's Cuban No-Hit Bid

CHICAGO, Ill.—Cub Rookie John Buzhardt, who stopped the Phils on a one-hitter, June 21, revealed that this actually was the third one-hitter of his four-year career in Organized Ball. His others were in the Pioneer League in 1956 and in the Cuban League last winter.

"There's the fellow who ruined my no-hitter in Cuba," Buzhardt said, laughing, and pointing to Cub Second Baseman Tony Taylor. "I pitched the one-hitter when I was with Havana," Buzhardt explained, "and it was against Almendares. Tony got the only hit for Almendares." HOLTZMAN.

and Henry five wins and five saves.

Henry has been the most effective of late and had one stretch of seven appearances without allowing a run. He had a 2.72 earned-run average, second only to Singleton who had a 1.74 ERA after 15 appearances. Elston was third in the ERA tables at 3.09.

With such dependables in the bull pen, Scheffing seldom hesitates in yanking a faltering starter. The Cub skipper, indeed, says the team's record of completions is misleading and that the Bruins probably would have twice as many complete contests if it were not for their extraordinary bull-pen crew.

Banks Boosts Mark at Home

The Cubs have picked up slightly in their hitting, too. Ernie Banks, the Wringleys' No. 1 muscleman, had 19 homers and 67 RBIs after the first 66 games.

He crashed six homers during the 12-game home stand, June 9-21, and upped his average to .311.

Banks' play in the field continues to be outstanding. In fact, he turned in two gems during Buzhardt's one-hitter. First, he made a sensational running catch of Gene Freese's foul fly along the box-seat railing halfway between third base and the left field wall and later came in fast for Dave Philley's slow chopper through the mound and threw him out.

Cub Chatter: David Eisenhower, grandson of the President, was a surprise guest of the management, June 21, the day Buzhardt pitched his one-hitter. . . . This may seem difficult to believe, but the Cubs—prior to their series at Cincinnati on June 23—had been at the .500 mark exactly 23 times this season. . . . Bob Anderson was temporarily demoted to the bull pen after the Philles kayoed him in one-third of an inning, June 19. . . . Immediately prior to Buzhardt's one-hitter, the Cubs had a genuine no-hit scare themselves when Robin Roberts went seven and one-third frames before Randy Jackson broke the spell with a topped roller to third base which he beat out for a single. This opened the gates and the Wringleys got three more hits before Robbie nailed the victory. . . . Sammy Taylor loves that Philadelphia pitching. Four of his first five 1959 homers were against the Philles. . . . Walt Moryn and his bride, the former Ruth Resnick, have purchased an acre home site in suburban Deerfield and expect to start building next spring. Moryn waited until the day after the June 15 trading deadline before consummating the sale. . . . Tony Taylor, who was hit in the face by a Ronnie Kline pitch on June 18, was back in the lineup the next day as a pinch-runner.

A's Frisky at Dish --But Power Droops

Return of Maris Expected to Take Up Some of Slack in Four-Base Production

By ERNEST MEHL

KANSAS CITY, Mo.



Roger Maris

The Athletics, as a team, have been setting the pace in the American League in the batting averages but they have fallen behind their previous seasons here in the important production of home runs.

One of the reasons for this has been the failure of Bob Cerv to match his 1958 output. Only in recent games has the husky Nebraskan started to swing with the same ferocity which made him a terror last year.

Another reason has been the month's loss of Roger Maris, who returned to the lineup against the Yankees as the A's began a home stand.

Maris had been taking batting practice at home while the club was in the East, with Dick Tomarek, recovering from an ailing arm, and Virgil Trucks, who is working for an automobile company here, dishing up the pitches.

Maris got back into action with a couple of doubles and a screaming line drive which was caught, indicating that the layoff had not dulled his batting eye, nor affected his swing.

Trucks Put Him on Right Track
"I feel a little strange," Maris commented before the game. Trucks tried to set him at ease. "You keep swinging as you have been against me and you've got nothing to worry about," Trucks said.

There is one other player who could strengthen the club in homers, once he acquires enough confidence in himself and has learned more about the pitches to swing against. He is young Kent Hadley, named by THE SPORTING NEWS before the start of this season as one of the brighter rookie prospects in the American League.

Hadley has been given more and more work by Manager Harry Craft and there is the belief that when he is thoroughly acclimated he can become one of the top first sackers in the circuit.

This youngster has some obvious assets. He is well-built, strong, looks the part of a first sacker, handles himself well, throws and runs well.

In his minor league novitiate, Hadley did not hit for an average but belted an impressive number of home runs. He hit one in Washington recently which was unusually far.