

Dodgers Bid Marshall Adieu Without a Kiss

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—In the winter of 1973, the Dodgers obtained Mike Marshall from the Expos in exchange for Willie Davis, then their highest-salaried player.

Less than three years later, after Marshall had won the Cy Young Award and helped pitch the Dodgers to the 1974 National League pennant, he was claimed for the \$20,000 waiver price by the Braves.

That wasn't the entire deal. The Dodgers also purchased the contracts of Lee Lacy and reliever Elias Sosa for an undisclosed amount of cash.

But it is clear that the transactions of June 23 were the result of the reported wishes of Dodger President Peter O'Malley, that is, to move the controversial Marshall.

"I DON'T KNOW the Dodgers' reasons," Marshall said after learning of the deal. "They measure talent in their own way and for their own reasons, none of which was conveyed to me."

"The only thing that's come down to me, second hand, is that the Michigan State thing was of great concern to them. But a ball club can trade any player any time it wants to. It's an aspect of the game you have to expect."

Marshall has a continuing battle running with officials at MSU over use of an athletic facility there. He was suing and, in turn, faces charges stemming from an arrest

over the winter. Twice Marshall left the club to return to Michigan, presumably with the Dodgers' blessing.

Marshall missed the last two months of the 1975 season because of an injury to his side but reported this spring that he was in excellent shape with no trace of injury.

THE 33-YEAR-OLD Marshall started well, winning three of four decisions and had a 2.47 earned-run average with eight saves in his first 22 appearances.

But then he encountered trouble, giving up 13 earned runs in his next eight appearances, covering 11 1/3 innings.

He maintained that he was pitching just as effectively in those eight games as he was earlier, just that the results weren't the same.

But Manager Walt Alston continually used Charlie Hough ahead of Marshall, who had pitched in only four games in June.

"I don't know this for a fact," Marshall said, "but I had the feeling that as long as I was doing well, there was nothing the Dodgers could do. But as soon as I stumbled I felt they began looking for ways to move me."

Hough said of the deal, "I see it one way as a vote of confidence. But it's probably more of the Dodgers being down on Mike than being wild about me."

ALSTON SAID his relationship with Marshall was "100 percent. I never had any problems with him. I used him when I thought he'd do the job and when I didn't think so I went to someone else."

In his 2 1/2 seasons with the Dodgers, Marshall had a 28-29 record and a 3.09 earned-run average.

Lacy, 24, returns to the Dodgers after less than three months in Atlanta. His immediate reaction was not one of elation.

"This will probably be my last season," he said. "I'm tired of all the hassles. I liked Atlanta. I had a regular job with the Braves and now I'm thrown back into the Dodgers' infield situation."

HIS ROLE, to begin with at least, will be just what it was before he was traded to the Braves, last winter along with Tom Paciorek, Jim Wynn and Jerry Royster

for Dusty Baker and Ed Goodson, that is, as a back-up to Dave Lopes at second base.

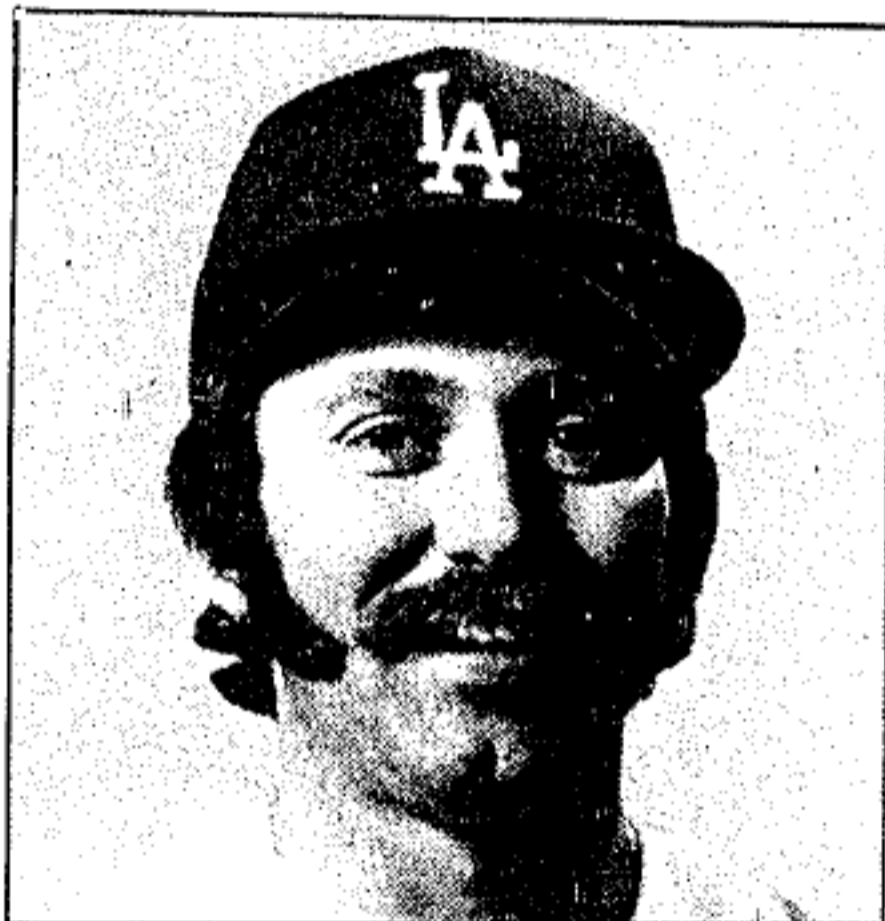
But Lopes has been in and out of the lineup because of various injuries and Ted Sizemore actually has played more than Lopes.

Sosa, 26, is playing with his fourth club and arrived with a 4-4 won-lost record and 5.40 ERA in 21 games.

The revamped Dodgers now have 10 players on their roster who weren't with the club at the start of the 1975 season—Baker, Henry Cruz, Goodson, Ellie Rodriguez, Sizemore, Reggie Smith, Danny Walton, Burt Hooton, Sosa and

Stan Wall—and that doesn't count Lacy, who was with the club last year and now comes back.

DODGER DOPE: Ted Sizemore was spiked in New York June 17, received five stitches in his left arm, and was spiked again four days later when he got another five stitches, this time in his left ankle. . . . Smith was batting only .218 when he joined the Dodgers. . . . Steve Yeager battled through an 0-for-16 slump. . . . In losing four straight one-run games to the Mets and Expos, the Dodgers scored six runs. . . . Reliever Charlie Hough, after winning his first seven decisions, lost three straight.



Mike Marshall

major deals

Braves—Asked waivers on pitcher Buzz Capra for purpose of optioning him to Richmond; acquired pitcher Mike Marshall on waivers from Dodgers; recalled pitcher Frank LaCorte from Richmond.

Brewers—Optioned outfielder Jim Rosario to Spokane; acquired catcher Art Kusnyer from same club.

Cardinals—Acquired outfielder Sam Mejias from Brewers, completing June 7 deal in which St. Louis sent pitcher Danny Friesella to Milwaukee. Mejias, who was on Spokane roster, was assigned to Tulsa.

Dodgers—Assigned outfielder Joe Simpson to Albuquerque; acquired pitcher Elias Sosa and infielder Lee Lacy from Braves.

Indians—Assigned first baseman-outfielder Doug Howard to Toledo.

Mets—Traded infielder Jack Heidemann to Brewers for pitcher Tom Deidel, who was on Pittsfield roster, and assigned him to Jackson.

Orioles—Assigned outfielder Royce Stillman outright to Rochester; acquired first baseman-outfielder Terry Crowley from same club.

Rangers—Recalled pitcher Mike Bacsik from Sacramento.

Twins—Assigned pitcher Joe Decker outright to Tacoma.

White Sox—Optioned outfielder Nyls Nyman to Iowa; recalled pitcher Chris Knapp from same club.

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'Cigar Store' Charge Creates Dodger Smoke

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—Mike Marshall says that at times the Dodgers' infielders "resemble four cigar store Indians."

The quote was in response to a question about what Marshall termed was a lack of aggressiveness.

No surprise, the cigar store suddenly came alive.

"He only makes himself look ridiculous," second baseman Dave Lopes snapped. "The last thing an athlete does is knock his own teammates. Everyone should be able to admit his own mistakes. Those who can't wind up in the nuthouse."

Marshall's charge came after he had been less than perfection for the sixth consecutive outing, giving up three runs on a hit and three walks in two-thirds of an inning on June 10 against the Phillies.

IN THE SIX appearances, Marshall had permitted 16 runs, 17 hits and six walks in 8½ innings, his ERA jumped to 4.50 and he was 0-2.

Prior to that, in 22 appearances, his ERA was 2.47 with three wins in four decisions and eight saves.

"I don't see any significant difference in the way I was pitching then and the way I'm pitching now," he said before leaving the club for two days, June 13-14, to re-

turn to Michigan State to continue his running battle with Michigan State officials.

"I haven't been able to pitch in a relaxed and comfortable fashion. It goes back to early May. We have won some games since then, but we haven't played with the same aggressiveness. I'm the type of guy who tries to do too much himself and that's exactly what I've been trying to do when I walk into a game and see no life, when I look around and see four infielders resembling cigar store Indians."

NONE OF THE infielders was enthralled with Marshall's remarks.

The next day shortstop Bill Russell singled twice and tripled and afterward snorted, "That was for the Indians!"

Interestingly, on June 13, Tommy John pitched his first complete game in more than two years and afterward talked at great length, praising the infield.

"As a sinkerball pitcher, I have to have a good infield and that's just what I've got," said John in sharp contrast to Marshall's assessment.

"The infield we have is very good defensively. It's the major reason why I'm pitching better with the Dodgers than I did with the White Sox."

Since coming to the Dodgers in 1972, John is a stunning 47-19.

"LOPES AND Russell have great range at second and short," said John. "Ron Cey is as steady as can be and Steve Garvey is simply a great athlete."

In John's 6-3 victory over the Expos on June 13, of the 27 putouts, 20 were produced on the infield. There was also a double play and for the fifth game in a row no infield errors.

Marshall said that all his troubles cannot be blamed on the infield, that part of it includes his problems at Michigan State.

"I'd be foolish to say that it hasn't been on my mind," he said. "Sure it is. This is very important to me. These people (at MSU) are messing with my life, my future, my education."

Early in the year, Marshall was working roughly every other day. With the emergence of Charlie Hough (7-1, 2.20 ERA through 24

games), it's considerably less.

"IT'S DIFFICULT to stay sharp," he said. "As to which of us is No. 1, you can't look at it that way. We are a team that must have good relief pitching. Charlie can't do it all himself and neither can I."

Each time Marshall is introduced at Dodger Stadium, he is booed unmercifully by the fans. It actually started in 1974, the year the Dodgers won the National League pennant and Marshall appeared in a record 106 games. It has continued to build.

"The boos don't bother me," he contended, "but I have to think that it bothers the other guys. It hurts the club. Instead of the crowd building enthusiasm, it's deadening it. It's tossing a wet blanket over any attempt to be aggressive."

DODGER DOPE: John's complete game on June 13 was his first since June 4, 1974, when he shut out the Pirates. . . . Manny Mota had to return home to the Dominican Republic June 13 to be with his wife, Margarita, who was ill. . . . The Dodgers were 14-5 against left-handed pitching through mid-June. The only lefties to beat them were San Diego's Randy Jones (twice) and Brent Strom, New York's Jon Matlack and Philadelphia's Tug McGraw. . . . The Dodgers hit the million mark in attendance on June 9, their 29th home date. . . . Steve Yeager and the former Gloria Gaione were married June 12 at Los Angeles City Hall. Mayor Tom Bradley served as Steve's best man. . . . Rick Rhoden hurled his fifth straight win without a loss June 12, beating Montreal, 4-3. He also hit his first major league homer in the game and was batting .321.

Reg Just What We Need, Say Dodgers

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—Al Campanis' year-long pursuit of St. Louis' Reggie Smith came to a successful conclusion just hours before the trading deadline June 15.

The Dodger vice-president landed the 31-year-old switch-hitting outfielder in exchange for catcher-outfielder Joe Ferguson and two minor league outfielders, Bobby Detherage and Fred Tisdale.

"It's the lefthanded power we need so desperately in our lineup," said Campanis.

ONE WHO AGREES is Sparky Anderson, manager of the Reds, the Dodgers' No. 1 rival.

"He definitely makes the Dodgers better," Sparky said. "He's a legitimate right fielder who can throw and run. And he gives the Dodgers an added dimension since their only lefthanded hitter had been Bill Buckner."

But Anderson maintains that Smith—or anyone else—isn't going to make that much difference.

"I'm not concerned with other people's trades," Sparky went on. "No one can put eight players on the field day after day like we can. Actually, we're get-

ting to the point where we're awesome.

"This is by far our best club. I don't know if we'll win it, but if we don't, it'll be my fault."

Ted Sizemore, a teammate of Smith for two summers in St. Louis, contends the Dodgers made a good deal in spite of Reggie's .218 batting average.

"FORGET THAT," said Sizemore. "He's a legitimate .300 hitter."

"He's a good baseball man, too. He has tremendous talent, has a great arm and he's got to help the club."

Walt Alston, the Dodgers' manager, said, "Ferguson did a fine job. But Smith figures to cover more ground and he hits with power. Yes, I think he'll help the club."

For the moment, though, all Alston could do was think about it. Smith was given permission to drive his family from St. Louis to Los Angeles and for five games Alston had to go with a makeshift lineup.

Without Ferguson to play right field, Bill Buckner moved from left to right and Manny Mota started for the first time all season June 16 at New York.

Cards Toss Hopes in Ferguson's Mitt

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—The way the Cardinals were faltering, you could be almost certain that Bing Devine would try to shake the dice a bit before the June 15 trading deadline. But the general manager probably surprised even himself a bit when he barely beat that deadline.

The eleventh-hour swap was somewhat surprising, too, in that the Cardinals, giving up Reggie Smith to the Dodgers, obtained a catcher, Joe Ferguson, when they already had a workhorse in Ted Simmons.

But Devine never was one to stand still when things were going badly. So, the immediate effect of the deal was to make Ferguson, still wearing his No. 13, the regular catcher with Simmons taking his once-potent bat to first base.

Ken Rudolph, who had been the only back-up catcher for Simmons, was still in the picture as Manager Red Schoendienst finally had some maneuverability for the catching position.

THE CARDINALS picked up two minor leaguers in the transaction. A Missourian, outfielder Bob Detherage of Springfield, was obtained for the Redbirds' Tulsa (American Association) club, and infielder Fred Tisdale was acquired for their St. Petersburg affiliate in the Florida State League.

Ferguson, a righthanded batter who was forced into considerable outfield play because of Steve Yeager's superior skills as a receiver, was hopeful that his batting would pick up with full-time catching duty. He has a good throwing arm, but he still disliked playing right

field.

Ferguson, a 29-year-old from San Francisco, was batting only .228 with the Dodgers. Three of his six homers, however, had come in three games at Busch Stadium, a park which he has liked to hit in for some time.

Ferguson hit 25 homers in 1973 and 16 the following season.

HOWEVER, the 1975 campaign was a lost one for Joe. Early in the season, he suffered a broken right arm when he got into a free-for-all with the Padres that began when San Diego pitcher Bill Greif hit

Willie Crawford, then also a Dodger, with a pitch. Ironically, Greif and Crawford also are Cardinals now.

Last season, Ferguson hit only .205. His career batting mark before this season was .247.

Smith also had been struggling this season. The 31-year-old outfielder-infielder was batting only .222. He was leading the club with eight homers. In Smith's two previous seasons with the Cardinals, he collected 42 home runs, 12 triples and 52 doubles while batting .309, then .302.

THE DODGERS had been after Smith since last summer. They pressed their search this season for a power-hitting lefthanded batter and got something of a bonus in that Smith is a switch-hitter.

Smith stressed that it was he who decided on the trade. He pointed out that "I didn't have to leave, and at first, when the Dodgers called me, I didn't think I wanted to go because it wasn't worth it for what they were offering."

Reggie's trade was contingent on his signing for 1976. The Dodgers came up with an offer of a two-year contract around midnight and that is when Smith agreed to terms.

A big factor in Reggie's agreeing to go to the Dodgers is the fact that he is from Los Angeles.

Asked if he felt that the Cardinals had been adequately compensated with Ferguson and two minor leaguers, Smith said, "Probably not. You've got a switch-hitter with power you're going to lose plus a .300 hitter and

100 RBIs. Still, they (the Cardinals) felt it was the best deal they could make."

SMITH DID note that the Cardinals appear to be overloaded with young outfielders. But, of course, Reggie still could do an adequate job at first base.

Ferguson said he liked the St. Louis humidity because "it helps me get loose."

How about playing the outfield?

"The outfield was the most boring thing in the world for me. I felt like a bump on a log out there. The outfield is for guys who are so damned fast that they have to be out there or guys who hit shots but can't do anything else. I don't consider myself in either category."

Simmons said, "I think I'm ready for it (first base). Sometimes I feel I'm dragging too much from catching so much."

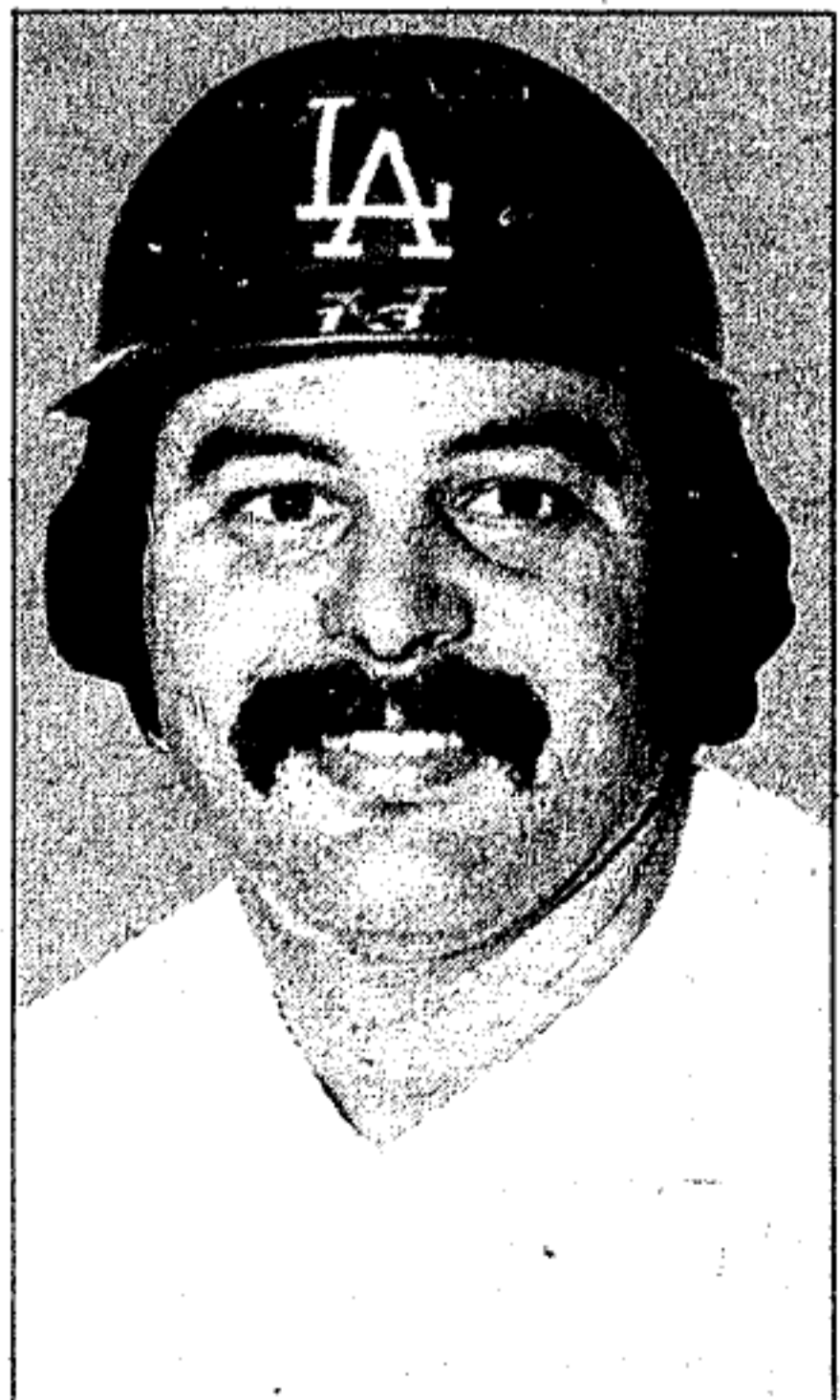
THE FOLLOWING day, Ted said he felt his catching had been more than adequate this season.

Simmons went so far as to say about his catching, "I've been as good as anybody this year. I can throw as well as anybody and I can block balls as well as anybody."

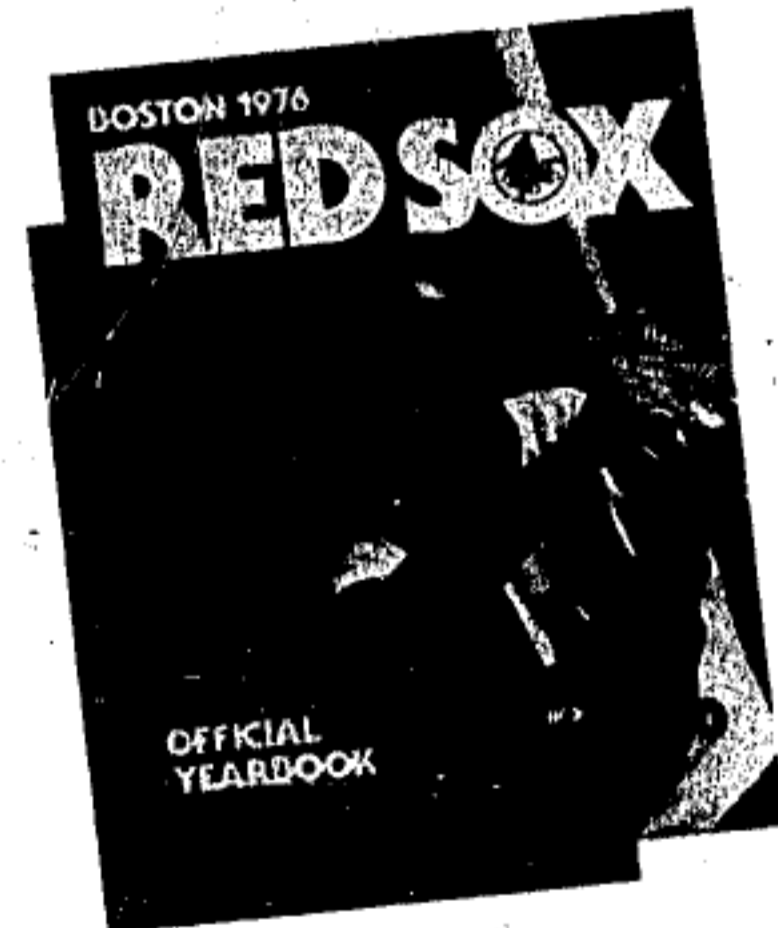
But, at least for the time being, Ferguson was the regular catcher and Simmons the regular first baseman.

Detherage last season stole 31 bases for the Dodgers' Waterbury club. He had been injured much of this season. He hit .311 at Bakersfield in 1974.

Tisdale was batting .284 at Bakersfield this year.




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