



ROY FACE, longtime Pirate relief ace, shows fork ball grip to new Tiger teammate Denny McLain.

Buc Scribe Gives Bengals An Intimate Look at Face

By LES BIEDERMAN

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Dear Mayo Smith:

I don't have to tell you about the job Roy Face can do for you, but maybe some of your Tigers might like to hear of his prowess in the National League for 15 years. And perhaps this will refresh your memory, too.

Face is the last of a vanishing breed—the continually successful pitcher.

Don't let his 40 years fool you. He can still throw hard but, better yet, he still can fool 'em all—the sluggers and the Punch-and-Judy hitters.

And you'll never hear him complain about work. He likes it, the more the merrier.

The Tiger fans—and the Tigers who haven't seen him—will like the way he operates—the way he struts in from the bullpen, small of stature, but big of heart.

He walks in with fire in his eyes and anxious to get the job done. He grabs the ball, rubs it up, stares at the batter with the kind of a I-feel-sorry-for-you look.

There isn't an ounce of fear in his makeup and you'll soon find it out. He revels in tough situations.

Face appeared in 802 games for the Pirates in 15 years and I believe I saw him work every one of them. He had many memorable jobs, but there are a couple I fondly remember.

I saw him win 17 straight in relief in 1959 before he lost to the Dodgers at the Coliseum in September, when they scored two runs in the ninth inning.

But the best and quickest operations I ever saw him perform came against the Cubs and the Reds.

He came into the game against the Reds one time with men on first and second and none out, and three pitches later the inning ended.

Roy Picked Two Runners Off Base

Against the Reds, he had runners on first and second, none out and actually threw only one pitch to the batter. He picked off the guy on second, then picked off the guy on first and, on the only pitch he threw to the plate, the batter flied out.

We never associated Face with failure in this town. He won 100 games (93 in relief) in 15 years and he saved more than 200 others.

His own teammates always regarded him with a special kind of hero worship. He put much money in their pockets.

He brought tremendous prestige to the bullpen. He was the first relief pitcher to hit the \$40,000 salary bracket, and he made the job of a fireman somewhat glamorous.

Face is now a Pittsburgher. He married a Pittsburgh girl, his two daughters and son go to school here and he owns his own home. He works here in the offseason as a carpenter.

He walked out of Forbes Field the day he reported to the Tigers surrounded by fans who wanted his autographs. He was a genuine hero here for years.

"This has been my second home for 15 years," Face said as he looked around at Forbes Field. "I'm leaving a lot of memories here, but I'm taking quite a few with me."

If a relief pitcher can work the miracle for you, Mayo, Face can do the job. Your pennant fate is in good hands.

Pirate Scoreboard: Manny Jimenez was 0-for-12 as a pinch-hitter when he hit his first home run of the season against the Braves. . . . Ron Kline won four games in relief and saved one against the Braves before losing. . . . Tito Francona of the Braves, a Pittsburgh area resident, batted .333 against the Pirates. . . . Billy Graham's Crusade outdrew the Pirates five to one at nearby Pitt Stadium.

The Pirates have had some small crowds. Only 6,200 turned out on Labor Day for a double-header, lowest in many years for a holiday twin-bill. And just 3,000 attended the final night game with the Astros. . . . Matty Alou batted .440 and had 11 RBIs against the Astros.

Donn Clendenon's father died on Labor Day morning after a long illness. The Pirate first baseman played both games, then flew to Atlanta for the funeral. . . . Luke Walker did a terrific job of relief pitching while protecting Dock Ellis' 3-2 win over the Astros September 3. He came in with two on, two out in the eighth and fanned four batters.

It Looks Like Northrup Can Buy Cowboy Boots

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich. — Jim Northrup's spring ambition with the Tigers was related to a pair of \$100 cowboy boots.

"I hope I have the money for them in October," said Northrup six months ago in Lakeland, Fla.

Possibly a more serious factor in the new season was Northrup's desire to draw 550 to 600 at-bats for the Tigers. Clearly, what he wanted was a regular outfield job and not in-and-out platoon duty.

For all practical purposes, Northrup has been Detroit's right fielder in 1968. Al Kaline played there some early in the year with Northrup taking over center field.

But Kaline's broken hand, along with subsequent first-base duty, has opened right field for Northrup.

Performance figured in for the 28-year-old Northrup, whose silver flecks in his hair brought the clubhouse nickname of the Gray Fox.

Northrup saved his hottest batting spurt for the two-week period that sent the Tigers out of reach of the pursuing Orioles.

Kaline on Shelf

The Fox took over when Kaline went out with a pulled thigh muscle sustained in running out a double against Rocky Colavito in New York.

In the next two weeks, Northrup batted .400 and drove in the big runs in at least a half-dozen games. He lifted his average more than 20 points to near .250.

"I wish I had started a little earlier," he said, focusing on the .271 he batted for the Tigers last year.

The remarkable thing about Northrup is that he led the Tigers in RBIs most of the year. He pushed ahead of the pack with an eight-run spurge on June 24 in Cleveland.

This was the night Jim hit the two grand-slam home runs in successive innings, one off Eddie Fisher and the other off Bill Rohr.

In the turn into September, Northrup still ranked No. 1 in RBIs. He survived a one-night burst of five RBIs by Willie Horton.

"Another game like that and I'll be chasing Willie," said Northrup.

Northrup has always considered himself a sound candidate to bat .300 in the majors. He did it many times in the minor leagues and winter ball in his five-year advance to Tiger Stadium.

Jim Shoots for RBIs

Maybe it is significant that Northrup himself now thinks RBIs are more important than the average.

Northrup is on particularly close terms with Horton and Mickey Stanley. The three threaded their way through the Detroit farm system together. Mickey is Northrup's roommate on the road and both have been stimulated by Stanley's big RBI year.

It took four years in a Detroit uniform for Mickey to gather 57 RBIs, and now he's going to top that figure in one season.

Mickey and Jim have the greatest respect for Horton's power hitting. Horton, of course, had two years of 100 RBIs before falling back in 1967.

This year, Willie is having his best home-run year. In fact, when he smacked No. 32, Willie took over fifth place on the Detroit home-run list (season) behind Hank Greenberg (58), Rocky Colavito (45), Norm Cash (41) and Rudy York (35).

The curious part is that Horton's first 31 home runs came with



Jim Northrup . . . The Gray Fox Rolls Up the RBIs.

nobody on or one on. The 32nd blast was a three-run rap.

Northrup has thoroughly enjoyed the pennant race.

"These guys play together," he said. "This is the closest knit team I've ever been on."

Northrup is a hard-going competitor, a quality that attracted Detroit scouts in the first place. The tougher the game, the better his challenge.

Tigers Eye Redbirds

"The last Baltimore series in Detroit was a high spot for me," he said. "It does something for you when the whole team is up."

Constant focus on the pennant race doesn't prevent the Tigers from looking ahead to a World Series encounter with the Cardinals. Detroit's last game in the Grapefruit League was a victory over the Cardinals.

"We know we've got to keep those jackrabbits off the bases," ventured Northrup, referring to Lou Brock and Curt Flood.

Tiger Tales: Roy Face received a rude reception in the American League, giving up two run-scoring singles in his first two relief appearances for the Tigers. . . . Ray Oyler has become a switch-hitter with Manager Mayo Smith's approval. Oyler struck out and flied out in his first two at-bats as a lefthander. . . . Mickey Stanley's catch of Reggie Jackson's line drive off the center field wall at Oakland ranks with the best in Stanley's personal collection. . . . Earl Wilson smacked three home runs in a sequence of 12 times at bat. Earl was all-or-nothing, striking out six times in the stretch. . . . Don McMahon does football scouting in the fall for Al Davis, boss of the Oakland Raiders. "Al and I went to school together," said McMahon. . . . Scouting director Ed Katatlinas is pleased with the signing of Spencer Horn, 18-year-old shortstop from Ft. Cobb, Okla. "He's a big, strong boy," said Katatlinas. "Young shortstops have the best infield arms."

FREEHAN

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unrelated to physical skill.

"He has a positive frame of mind," said Sain.

Last April, at the annual Capuchin Charity Guild dinner at Cobo Hall, announcer Ernie Harwell captured the mood of the city with these lines:

"Super-star, a real he-man.

"That's our catcher, Bill Freehan."

Freehan considers himself a .270 hitter or better with good power. It was not purely coincidental that his hitting improved with the arrival of Mayo Smith and Wally Moses.

Bill had stumbled two years at bat, averaging .234.

"He has no pop with the bat at all," diagnosed Mayo. "Bill's front arm is dead. Go to work on him, Wally."

Strong, Silent Type

Moses did his work for two springs in Florida, along with summer refresher courses in Detroit and on the road.

Freehan is a strong man with considerable restraint. Earlier this year, Vince Desmond, Detroit promotional director, was struck on the head by a one-time serviceman who got onto the field at Tiger Stadium during a swearing-in ceremony for Army recruits.

Freehan ran from the Detroit bench and put an armlock on Desmond's assailant until police arrived. The man was as big as Freehan, but he didn't have a chance.

Two summers ago, in Kansas City, the Tigers and A's got into a knockdown incident and Freehan was among those hit by pitches.

"Freehan showed me something," said Al Dark, then Kansas City manager. "He could have started a fight or hollered at us. But he called to his bench: 'It was my fault,' and went to first base. He's a big man."

Bengals Feasting on Switch Of Northrup to Gateway Job

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.—Manager Billy Martin's switch of Jim Northrup to first base really is paying off for Detroit.

Spring skeptics who insisted Northrup's hitting would fall off in the move from the outfield don't have much to say. Jim batted .350 with eight RBIs in the first week in the new job.

"Keep that up and you'll finish up with 200 RBIs," someone said in jest.

"Too many," replied Northrup with a grin. "If I did that, they'd expect it every year."

If he maintains his spring surge, Northrup might be a contender for a spot on the All-Star squad. This possibility has special appeal because the July 13 All-Star Game will be played at Tiger Stadium, Northrup's park for the last six years. He has yet to be an All-Star.

Jim would have to make it as an extra man for the American Leaguers. He's on the All-Star ballot as an outfielder and now first base is becoming his primary position.

Jim might play the position as often as Norm Cash does. Cash, the oldest Detroit player at 36, missed the first week with a bad foot.

Martin isn't saying how he will manipulate his outfield. Billy started out with Willie Horton, Mickey Stanley and Al Kaline, left to right. Horton didn't hit the first week and Stanley similarly had a tough job getting started with the bat.

Hard-Hitting Swing Man

So Martin started juggling the lineup and Northrup found himself in center field. It's clear that Jim will play right field quite often when Kaline needs a few days off.

"Regardless of how I go," said Martin, "Northrup will be playing." Jim is a swing man who really can handle the bat.

His average dipped to .262 last year after he took a run at .300 and barely missed the summer before. That's when he settled for .295. Jim still thinks of himself as a .300 hitter.

A big factor for Northrup in the

new thrust is that he is resisting the urge to swing too hard.

"It didn't do me any good to overswing last year," Northrup reasoned. "I still get the distance if I hit the ball with an easier swing."

He became the distance champion in the Grapefruit League when he cleared fences in Clearwater and St. Petersburg.

The one in Clearwater went over the 450-foot barrier in dead center field.

The following day in St. Pete, Northrup poked one into the street over the right field fence and the ball struck a parked car at the new Hilton Hotel on the second bounce.

Northrup has adjusted quite easily to first base.

Using Kaline's Mitt

"I still don't have a glove of my own," he said. "I'm using Kaline's. The glove is stiff along the sides and doesn't get floppy."

Martin noticed that "Jim makes all the plays out there," ignoring the fact that not all ground balls were fielded cleanly.

"I tell our pitchers to get over to the base," said Northrup amiably.

"All I promise to do is knock the ball down."

This isn't an original philosophy in Detroit. The late Rudy York became the Detroit first baseman three decades ago when Hank Greenberg switched to the outfield.

York insisted he helped the Detroit pitchers stay in shape by making them run to first base on every ground ball to the right side of the infield.

"Better get over there," York warned, "because I just might not make it."

The record books still credit York with several firsts in assists by a first baseman.

York never moved too well at the position and Tom Meany's classic line rated him as "part Indian and part first baseman."

Agile for Big Guy

The Northrup bloodlines don't figure in this new phase of his career. Jim is an agile big man with reasonably good speed. If he remains at first base, he might make it easier on the pitchers before the year is over.

"My problem is being too much in a hurry," said Northrup. "Mac (Dick McAuliffe) is helping me a lot. He keeps yelling for me to take my time. Mac went through the same thing a few years ago when they moved him from shortstop to second base."

When Northrup is listed as an outfielder, he shores up the averages for the guys around him. Both he and McAuliffe got off well with the bat. Ed Brinkman and Aurelio



Jim Northrup . . . Versatile Glove, Loud Bat.

Rodriguez also came through with hits on the left side.

For the first week these four played every inning at the infield positions and combined to hit .312.

This is an abrupt change in Detroit where it usually is the thing to get punch from the outfield.

The league is stocked with top first basemen—Boog Powell, George Scott, Don Mincher and a few others, including part-timer Harmon Killebrew.

Wouldn't it be something if Northrup made the All-Star Game this summer in Detroit as a backup man who can handle the outfield as well as first base?

Tiger Tales: General Manager Jim Campbell didn't travel much with the club in last summer's decline. He started off the new season by going with the team to Baltimore and New York. . . . Tom Timmerman's first decision in the new season was a victory over the Orioles in relief. Fred Scherman picked up the save. "That gives the

bullpen two points," said Timmerman. . . . Willie Horton claims

Dave McNally threw at his head in the first Baltimore series, the ball hitting Willie on the arm. "If he tries again, I'll go out and whip him," said Horton. Billy Martin said there was "no doubt" that McNally

threw at Willie deliberately. . . . Cesar Gutierrez flied out in his first pinch-hitting appearance in two years at Detroit. Last year it was the other way when Cesar yielded

for a hitter 42 times. . . . Kevin Collins beat the Yankees with a pinch-hit homer in spring training to land a job in Detroit. Kevin tripled in his first pinch-hitting try in the regular season and again the

Yankees were the victims. . . . Mike Kilkenny didn't have a happy 26th birthday when the Orioles knocked him around in a start on Easter Sunday. . . . Concert pianist Eugene Istomin, long-time Tiger fan, showed up to watch his team

when the Tigers made their first trip to New York.



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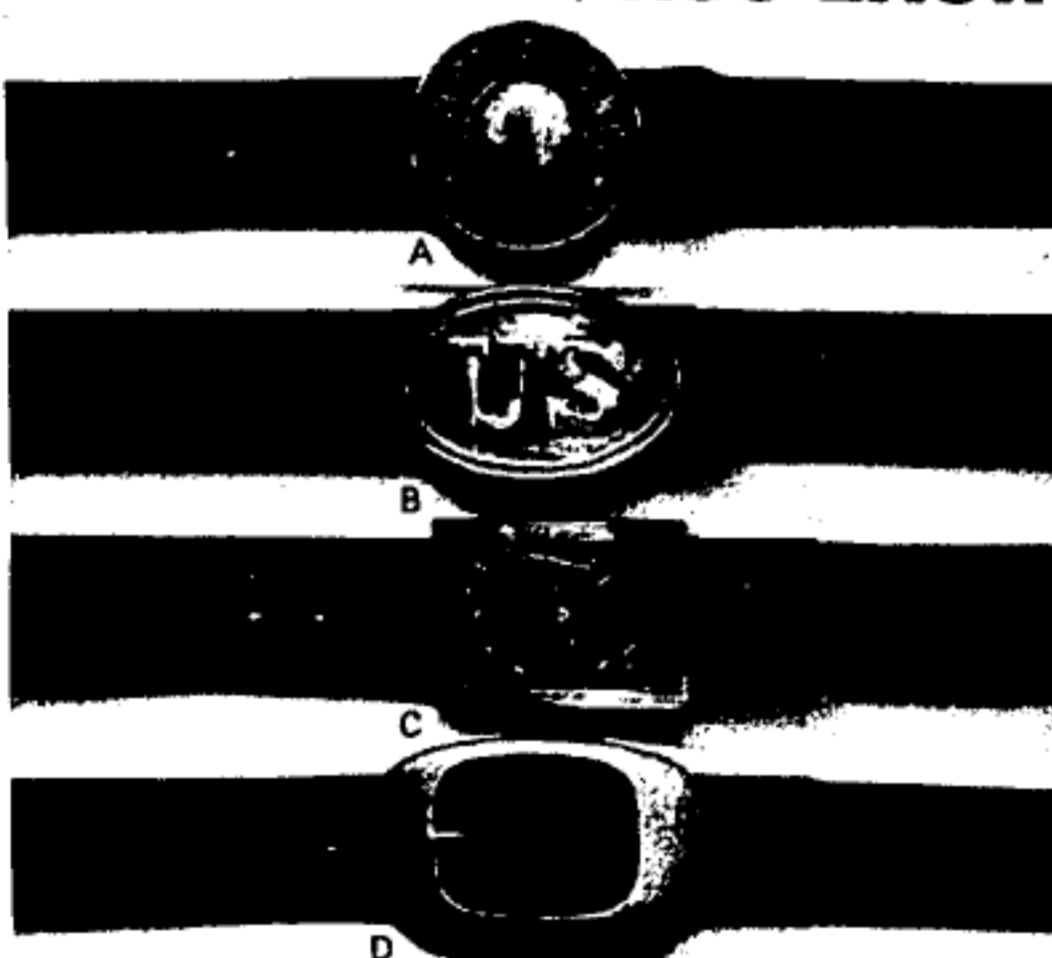
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By BOB ADDIE

(Continued From Page 14)

carries the kind of public relations glamor baseball sorely needs.

Rep. Torbert MacDonald (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Communications Subcommittee, thinks some of his colleagues are only looking for "instant headlines" when they scream about some sports being diverted to closed-circuit television. MacDonald, a one-time Harvard football captain who also was good enough as an outfielder to play with the Yankees' Triple-A Newark farm some years ago, says he does not anticipate any important sports events, such as the World Series and the Super Bowl (except in blacked-out areas), moving to closed-circuit TV or cable television.

The pro football schedules were out before the first buds and it seems that everybody is claiming that he's starting the season against the toughest opposition in the NFL.

For instance, the New England Patriots are quick to point out that six of their first seven games are against teams which were in the post-season playoffs last season.

On the other hand, let's look at Dallas, the National Conference champion, which starts with Buffalo, Philadelphia, Washington, New York Giants, New Orleans, Patriots and Chicago Bears.

Not one opponent was in the playoffs and the Giants were the only team with a winning record. It's almost a scandal.