## Rookie Brown Ignites Angels

ANAHEIM—This season opened with a familiar theme for the California Angels. "They'd better win this year, because they're getting too old," sums it up.

Then the plot turned strange. Even as California maintained its American League West lead, a transition set in. Though hardly phasing out the old altogether, Manager John McNa-

mara began a youth movement.



The latest rookie to fill a vital role and offer hope for the future was outfielder Mike Brown. A 24-year-old disciple of weight lifting. Brown sat on the bench for a month following his recall from Edmonton (Pacific Coast). He got a start on May 27 They couldn't get him

out of the lineup.

"As long as he's hitting, he's playing," McNamara said as Brown took off on an eight-game hitting streak that lifted his average into the mid-.300s.

Brown took Brian Downing's place in the lineup, but with solid play, he may be taking Fred Lynn's place in the team's plans.

Lynn is playing out his option and, with the club refusing to renegotiate his expiring contract, is apparently ticketed for free agency. There's a misconception that Lynn came to the Angels as a free agent. Actually, he was acquired in trade (along with Steve Renko) in 1981, then was given a four-year, \$5.2 million contract.

If Brown continues to perform well as a right fielder, the Angels wouldn't be eager to heap more millions on the 32-year-old Lynn. Not with Gary Pettis in center and Downing, who tast winter signed a three-year pact, in left.

"Brown's play could affect our plans for next year," said McNamara. "We felt he had the potential to be a good player, and he's taking advantage of the opportunity."

Even as McNamara went to a platoon system. Brown was a fixture in right field. Against righthanders, Lynn returned to center. Against southpaws, he sat on the bench, usually keeping company with Rod Carew and Reggie Jackson.

Being platooned certainly depressed Lynn's numbers, which included only 15 RBIs entering June, and figured to hurt his free agency leverage.

"The platooning seems to be getting serious," he said, "but I just go along with the program. I like to play and I want to play every day. But I'm not concerned about the contract. The idea is to win and we've been winning with the moves."

Brown was an integral part of an early-June thrust which enabled the Angels to forge their widest lead of the season. Growing more comfortable with playing time, Brown began to flash the talent which had dazzled Edmonton for two years.

In 1983, he hit .354, with 22 homers and 106 RBIs, for the Trappers. He was on pace to repeat those numbers when the Angels beckoned him to their bench on May 3

"Sitting on the bench was difficult," he said. "I'm used to being the kind of player who never has to look at the lineup. In the minors, I knew I'd always be in right field and No. 4 in the lineup. I have to remind myself I'm still the same guy "

Brown became one of the Angels' most spirited cheerleaders, enlivening the dugout with clapping and encouragement. Such behavior reflected his glee at reaching a pinnacle he never expected.

Mike figured his baseball days ended with a San Jose prep career as a lightweight catcher. He enrolled at San Jose State, where he ran into a former high school teammate who talked him into trying out for the college team. It was a deflating experience. He was dwarfed by developed upper classmen.

Brown spent most of the next six months in the weight room, and next spring, his new physique earned him a scholarship. By 1980, he had progressed enough for California to take him in the seventh round of the draft.

Continuing to hit the weights religiously, Brown has filled his 6-2 frame with a build even Downing, baseball's leading body-builder, would envy.

Angels Angles: Geoff Zahn held the Chicago White Sox to four hits for eight innings in his comeback outing after missing over two weeks and three starts with a strained groin muscle.

... The Angels' 20-10 road record ranked second in the league to Detroit's 19-4.... Ten pitchers had started games, due partly to McNamara's juggling act to compensate for the lack of a regular fifth starter.

Luis Sanchez set a club record with five straight relief wins. Mark Clear ran off two four-game streaks in 1979. . . The changing emphasis of the Angels' attack was illustrated by the fact they hit only five homers during a 6-2 stretch.

Two weeks after being signed as a free agent, righthander Craig Swan went on the 15-day disabled list on June 6 with a recurrence of the triceps problem that had led to his release by the Mets. In another surprise, the Angels filled his spot by activating Bruce Kison, out since September because of disc surgery. Don Asse, totally recovered from 1982 elbow surgery, seemed next in line for a roster spot, but the club felt Kison better fit its immediate needs.

TOM SINGER



Things are clicking for Phillips in '84.



# Phillips Cashes In On Third Chance

OAKLAND—Baseball fans aren't likely to stuff Ali-Star ballot boxes with cards bearing Tony Phillips' name as a write-in at shortstop, but the Oakland A's are happy to have Phillips anchoring their infield these days.

Life is treating Phillips just fine. He's a starter, he's toying with a 300 batting average and, best of all, his home life is happy again.

"From day one of spring training he had a good attitude," said third base coach Clete Boyer. "He's a hard worker. He feels like he can handle it. I think he has changed a lot of people's minds, and not just on our club."

Before Donnie Hill was blacked out of the picture with an eye injury on May 2. Phillips was a backup at short and second. Since Hill's injury, Phillips has started all but one game at short. On a recent 1-8 trip to Baltimore, New York and Detroit, Phillips played so well that the A's gave Hill a plane ticket back to Tacoma, home of their Triple-A club.

Phillips isn't likely to ever win a Rawlings Gold Glove, but he's solid and is learning something new every day. Not bad for a guy Billy Martin banished to the minors after a 40-game trial in 1982.

"If I could get through that," Phillips said, "I can get through anything."

Last year wasn't much easier. Phillips played in 148 games for the A's, but his home life wasn't right. He was separated from his 2-year-old daughter and his girlfriend. The three are reunited now, and Phillips says his life is "more settled."

"I don't have any time for all the garbage I was doing last year," he said. "I'm not saying I was doing anything wrong, but I wasn't getting any rest."

"It's lonely up here, you know. In the minors I had somebody to share my success with. Last year I was lonely and I didn't have anyone to share my success with."

Obviously, Phillips, 25, has matured.

"Once you get to the big leagues you have the talent," he said. "The only thing that can take you away is yourself. You can be your own worst enemy. I'm just glad Oakland gave me the opportunity to adjust."

By the end of last year Hill had won the starting job at short. During the winter the A's signed veteran Joe Morgan to play second base. That left Phillips a utilityman.

Besides, the A's weren't sure Phillips had the arm to be an everyday shortstop. There was little else for him to do but work hard and hope for another opportunity.

"Almost from day one he has been more serious about the game than he was last year," Steve Boros said before he was canned as manager. Boros added that a Houston scout had raved about Phillips' arm. "He's choking up when he hits," Boros said approvingly. "He goes into the hole well, and he makes a point of throwing over the top."

Boros first saw Phillips in 1980, when both were in the Montreal organization. "He had a tendency to get excited and was a little hot-tempered." Boros recalled.

Phillips has worked hard on his defense, concentrating on making the routine play, something he admits he often hasn't done in the majors. At the plate, he finally has realized that power isn't his ticket to success.

The coaching staff emphasized all these things to Phillips last year, but they "just didn't click." A lot of things didn't click for Phillips last year.

"I guess because of my surroundings," he said. "The big leagues, wanting to do well and not really thinking about my mechanics. You get in kind of a daze busting your behind trying to impress people, and you forget what got you here."

A's Acorns: Morgan hit his 264th home run as a second base-

man on June 2, in Chicago off Al Jones. The blast tied him with Rogers Hornsby, the previous all-time home run leader among second basemen. The homer was the 266th of Morgan's career. He hit two while playing as an outfielder. ... Reliever Tom Burgmeier, due to come off the disabled list early in June, remained on the list with soreness behind his left shoulder. ... Dave Kingman, who suffered damage to ligaments in his left knee, did not accompany the A's on a trip to Chicago, Cleveland and Texas, but was expected to rejoin the team in mid-June after undergoing therapy with Dr. Richard Steadman, the man responsible for keeping the U.S. Ski Team schussing down the mountains of the world. A brace was being prepared for Vincenan.

Lary Sorensen lost eighth decisions in succession, the most consecutive defeats suffered by an A's starter since Matt Keough lost 14 in a row in 1979. . . . Reliever Bill Caudill earned his 12th save June 4 at Cleveland, the most saves by an A's reliever since Elias Sosa recorded 14 in 1978. . . . When the A's won two in a row in Cleveland it was the first time they'd won two straight away from home since their first two road games of the season in Seattle on April 16-17.

KIT STIER



## Eisenreich Again Says He is Retiring

TWIN CITIES—Jim Eisenreich's third attempt at a comeback with the Minnesota Twins ended officially on June 4, aithough it had seemed inevitable for weeks that Eisenreich was not going to be able to overcome a nervous disorder and resume a major-league career.

After several days of negotiations, Eisenreich announced his retirement and returned to his home in St. Cloud, Minn. Eisenreich had refused the Twins' request to return to the minor leagues on a 20-day rehabilitation program and had requested his release. A release would have obligated the Twins to pay Eisenreich for the remainder of the season and to surrender rights to him should he attempt a comeback in the future.

The Twins could have attempted to place Eisenreich on the disqualified list for refusing to accept assignment to the minor leagues. Instead, a compromise was reached: The Twins agreed to pay Eisenreich for the remainder of the season—if he was willing to request retirement.

"It is very much a long shot Jim will try professional baseball again," said Howard Fox, a Twins vice-president. "But this places him on the Twins' retired list."

For the Twins, the Eisenreich saga started in spring training of 1982, when he came in as a non-roster player from Class-A ball and won the job as Minnesota's center fielder. Eisenreich opened the season as one of the most promising rookies in the American League and was hitting above .300 when he first had to take himself out of a game on April 30 of that season because of the nervous disorder.

Before then, Eisenreich's disorder had manifested itself in twitches and other nervous habits. But he started suffering from hyperventilation during games and was forced out of the lineup in three consecutive games. That led to Eisenreich's first stay on the disabled list.

Eisenreich came back later that season, but the problem persisted, and he left the team on June 10. In 34 games that season, Eisenreich batted .303.

Eisenreich returned in spring training of 1983 and batted .400 in exhibition games. Again, he opened the season in center field for the Twins, but this time he lasted only two games before announcing he was retiring and returning to St. Cloud.

The retirement did not become official until the middle of June. Eisenreich had worked with several therapists and received various medications in an effort to beat the problem, and last August he started working with-St. Paul hypnotist Harvey Misel. The sessions with Misel were interrupted when Misel suffered a heart attack and, after Misel's recovery, Eisenreich did not return. "You're always more hopeful about success when it is your idea to stop," Misel said.

Eisenreich made another comeback in Florida this spring, opening with eight consecutive hits. Manager Billy Gardner said, "Jim's one of those guys with a magic bat."

Twins President Calvin Griffith was even less restrained. "A natural ball player like this might come along only once in a lifetime," Griffith said.

Eisenreich started to struggle at the plate late in the exhibition schedule, however, and was the regular in center field for only the season's first two games before being replaced by Darrell Brown. Then, on April 27, Eisenreich again went on the disabled list, this time for the purpose of finding out if a different medication might permit him to play.

(Continued on Page 13, Column 1)

## At Second or Third, Tony's First With A's

OAKLAND—Tony Phillips is on his way to becoming one of the premier second basemen in baseball. He also is valuable to the Oakland A's at third base, where he plays when the A's are facing a lefthander and Carney Lansford moves from third to replace first baseman Bruce Bochte

While Phillips has been steady on defense, he has exploded at bat. Last winter, the A's figured Phillips was their best leadoff candidate. It was a brilliant calculation

Through May 18, Phillips had a 342 batting average, 543 right-handed and 279 lefthanded. He was among the American League leaders in hits with 50, runs with 32 and on-base-percentage at 445.

On May 16, at Baltimore, he became the first Oakland A's player ever to hit for the cycle, going 5-for-5 with four runs batted in He homered in the first inning, singled in the second, doubled in the fourth, singled in the fifth and tripled in the eighth. In the three-game series with the Orioles, he was 10-for-13

"I was aware of it (the cycle), but it wasn't really on my mind," said Phillips "I'm 27 years old It's time for me I've always thought I was a pretty good player. But I had never shown what I think I'm capable of "

Phillips doesn't dwell on his day-to-day accomplishments. He is more interested in the big picture. He wants to win a berth in the All-Star Game and play in the World Series.

"What Tony has done has been awesome," said A's third base coach Bob Didier. "He has been the biggest plus in our lineup."

Didier reasoned that the A's, second in the American League



Tony Phillips

in runs scored, should have produced even more tallies

"Jose (Canseco) has been good, but if he and Kinger (Dave Kingman) were really on, they could be sitting on a lot of RBIs," said Didier. "Before Dwayne Murphy got hurt, he was out there on base a lot, too."

Phillips was to have been Oakland's second baseman last year, but he twice suffered fractures in his left foot and didn't join the A's until August

This spring, Manager Jackie Moore maintained that Phillips and Donnie Hill were waging a battle for the job at second. However, Moore also said he was grooming Phillips as his leadoff man, and how can you have a leadoff hitter who isn't in the line-up nearly every day? Phillips won the job easily.

Phillips has never achieved his goal of a 300 season in professional baseball, but this could be the year. He may do it easily

KIT STIER

### So Much for Noble Ideas

TWIN CITIES—Ray Miller had the best intentions when he took over as manager of the Minnesota Twins last June 23 Miller said that, in contrast to predecessor Billy Gardner, he would not publicly criticize his players.

Miller declared the Twins to be a "we" team, with no one player any more responsible for victory or defeat than his teammates.

Those noble ideas suffered when the Twins' pitching collapsed this season. The Twins were averaging 4.9 runs per game, yet fell 12 games below 500 on a trip to Baltimore, Milwaukee and Boston.

After a 7-6 loss in Milwaukee, a game in which the Twins allowed 26 baserunners, Miller went into a rage

"This club's pitching is horse manure." Miller said "If they don't get better, we'll get somebody else Six runs ought to be enough to win a ball game. The idea is to have a 1-2-3 inning from your pitcher once in a while

"If I was one of those guys (hitters). I'd want to punch somebody in the mouth."

Only two pitchers, starter Mike Smithson and newcomer Frank Pastore, had earned-run averages under 4.00. Through 39 games, the staff ERA was 5.27

On May 20, the Twins made their fifth pitching change when they acquired righthanded reliever Keith Atherton from Oakland for cash and a minor leaguer to be named. Roy Smith was sent to Toledo (International) to make room for Atherton

Miller and pitching coach Dick Such restructured the staff after relief ace Ron Davis blew a lead in the bottom of the ninth May 19 in Boston, walking Jim Rice with the bases loaded to force in the tying run and then hitting Marc Sullivan with a pitch to send home the winning run.

Davis and winless starter John Butcher (0-3 in eight starts) were demoted to long relief, where they were joined by Atherton Juan Agosto and Pastore became the short relievers.

Mark Portugal became the No 4 starter in the rotation with Smithson. Bert Blyleven and Frank Viola Miller said Roy Lee Jackson would be the No 5 starter when the Twins needed a fifth man.

We owe this club to do the



Mike Smithson

best we can." Miller said "We had to shake some things up I just can't sit here and not do anything. I refuse to allow this club to die. I believe in this club and these kids."

Miller also said he would call Davis' pitches for him. Davis had no choice. He was 1-4 with a 9.64 ERA and no saves in his last 12 appearances.

"It's not my part to be happy or unhappy. My part is to do the job." said Davis. "What can I say? With those numbers. I'm just lucky to have a job."

In the first game under the new order, the staff allowed 20 hits in a 17-7 loss to the Red Sox. The starter, Viola, threw only 14 pitches, giving up five hits and a walk, and did not retire a batter as Boston jumped to a 6-0 lead

PATRICK REUSSE

## No Quarrel From K.C.'s Demoted Quiz

KANSAS CITY—Dan Quisenberry, the American League saves leader each of the last four years, was informed May 18 that he no longer will be the Kansas City Royals' primary closer. He will share the role with Steve Farr and Buddy Black, and he will be used some in long relief.

The change marked the first time since 1981 ("I stunk then, too," he said) that Quisenberry had not been the Royals' No. 1 reliever. Quisenberry's job was redefined by Manager Dick Howser because of his ineffectiveness. In his last five outings before May 18, the reliever had allowed 12 hits and five earned runs in 5½ innings.

"There will be some adjustments I'll have to make," Quisenberry said. "I'm not used to coming out of games. I'll have to get used to tying my shoes earlier. If I pitch well, no matter what role I'm in, I want to contribute. The bullpen was getting claustrophobic. I've gotten a little looney waiting to get in games."

Quisenberry could not quarrel with his demotion.

"I don't think anyone can say what will happen now," Quisenberry said, "but I'm glad we talked so at least I'm prepared for what's going to happen. When I get the ball and get on a roll, I just hope to make his (Howser's) decision easier."

BOB NIGHTENGALE



ROYALS



Bret Saberhagen, the 1985 Cy Young Award winner, was 2-4 with a 3.76 earnedrun average for the

Kansas City Royals

after his first eight starts this season "I just need to go out there and win about 25 in a row. To me, it can't get any worse than it is right now," Saberhagen said Royals went more than a month without climbing above 500. The last time they were at that level was April 21, when they had a 7-6 record "We're finding out we can't live off the past," said center fielder Wilhe Wilson. "If we live off the past, we'll be in last place 1985 is gone It's history I don't know if some of the guys are living off 1985. or not, but it's frustrating to do so well last year and not be able to duplicate it this year. No one's going to roll over for us. We have to win ourselves "

Reliever Steve Farr, whose scoreless streak of 11½ innings was halted May 19 against Texas, was right in the middle of a brawl that began with Royals outfielder Rudy Law and Rangers third base-

man Steve Buechele shoving each other "You have to look for people who want to give cheap shots, and if that happens, you bury them." said Farr Two nights later, Law was hit in the back of the neck from a throw by Buechele while scoring from third Law, not injured, said "I thought, 'Oh man, he could have hit me in my leg, my booty, anywhere but my neck.' It got me numb all over I thought I was paralyzed for a second."

The Royals had scored two runs or less in 17 of 38 games when Manager Dick Howser said, "We're making it damn tough on our pitchers Some of these other pitchers are looking like Bob Feller to me."

The Royals traded reliever Mark Huismann to Seattle for catcher Terry Bell, who was on the Chattanooga (Southern) disabled list with a broken right thumb. Righthander Scott Bankhead was recalled from Omaha (American Association) to replace Huismann "Things weren't working out for me here." said Huismann, who had pitched only 1713 innings in 10 games "By the way I was being used, I knew something would happen. It was just a matter of time that I'd either get traded or sent down. I'm surprised at who they got I thought they probably could have got somebody of higher value, but it doesn't matter I'm just happy to go to a

The Royals' top four hitters— Wilson, George Brett, Frank White and Steve Balboni—went 0-for-16 against Texas May 21. It was the first time this season all four had been zeroed.

#### **TWINS**



Desperate for pitching help, Manager Ray Miller pressed his case for the Minnesota Twins to trade with Balti-

more for righthander Dennis Martinez, who would be a starter for the Twins Outfielder Mickey Hatcher ripped Miller after seeing that he wasn't in the lineup against Milwaukee southpaw Teddy Higuera. "He can stick that computer crap in his ear." Hatcher said. "According to his computer, I can't hit anyone in the league. If the other guys were hot and we were winning, that's one thing. But we're not and we're losing. What have I done to deserve this?" The answer was in Hatcher's statistics 9-for-62. Despite speculaa 145 average tion that Billy Martin would be brought in to replace Miller and hype sagging attendance. Twins officials denied they had been in con-



Kansas City's Rudy Law (right) prepares to throw a punch at Steve Buecheje as tempers flared during a close game May 19.



## ANAHEIM ANGELS

W-L: 73-63 Place: 2nd

# Finley's broken wrist slows stretch run

Initial X-rays were encouraging, showing no ligament or tendon damage in Chuck Finley's left wrist, but a magnetic resonance imaging test and a CAT scan revealed the devastating news Tuesday-Finley has a broken wrist bone and will be lost for the rest of the regular season. Finley's injury `came August 19, a day before catcher Todd Greene broke a bone in his right wrist and was declared out for the season. Pitchers Mark Langston and Mark Gubicza have missed most of the season with injuries, and closer Troy Percival sat out five weeks because of injury. Reliever Rich DeLucia has been out since July 19 because of an aneurysm in his shoulder, reliever Mike James sat out most of July be-

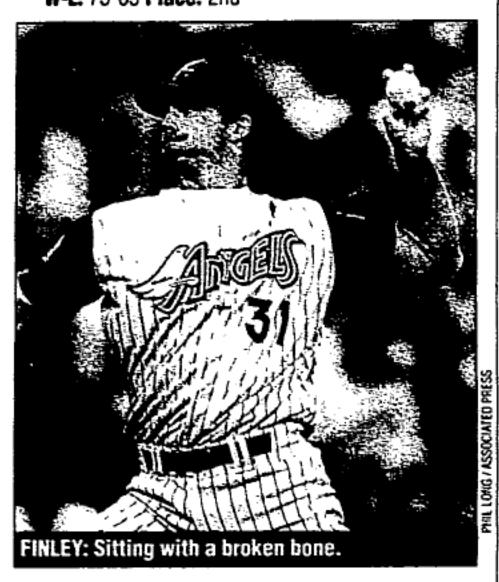
cause of an elbow injury and center fielder Jim Edmonds missed two weeks this month because of a lower back strain. "It's just another obstacle we have to conquer," shortstop Gary DiSarcina says. "I've been here six years, and this is the most resilient team I've been on. If any team can overcome the loss of Chuck Finley, it's this one."

Back and forth: Tony Phillips took a shot at team owner Walt Disney Co. and the players' association, accusing them of using him as a "pawn" and a "whipping boy" in their feud over whether baseball's drug policy needs to be reformed. Though Phillips, arrested on felony possession of cocaine charges August 10, was cleared by baseball doctors to play under an agreement to undergo random drug testing and outpatient counseling, the team suspended Phillips when he refused to enter a drug treatment center. The suspension was overturned and Phillips returned, but not without Disney and union officials exchanging rhetoric over which took a stronger moral stance against drug use. Phillips wants the bickering to end. "I put myself in this situation," Phillips says. "I'm taking a beating on it, but I caused it myself. It's not the union's or Disney's situation. It's mine." — MIKE DIGIOVANNA

#### Prospect Watch: JARROD WASHBURN, LHP

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Washburn was not expected to be recalled when rosters expanded Monday, but he has positioned himself for a possible run at the rotation in 1998. Washburn was 15-12 with a 4.80 ERA and a Texas League-leading 146 strikeouts for Class AA Midland.



## PLAYING HARDBALL

Tony Phillips was arrested on felony cocaine possession charges, but Luis Alicea got the burn deal. Because of Phillips' troubles, Alicea lost his job as the starting second baseman. Phillips' arrest forced the team to trade for leadoff batter Rickey Henderson and, upon Phillips' return after his suspension was overturned, the only place for him was at second. So out went Alicea, who had filled in for the injured Randy Velarde, hitting .255 with seven triples, 14 doubles and 32 RBIs.

For more on the ANGELS check out www.sportingnews.com/ baseball/teams/angels



## OAKLAND ATHLETICS

W-L: 53-83 Place: 4th

## Confident Tejada checks in at short

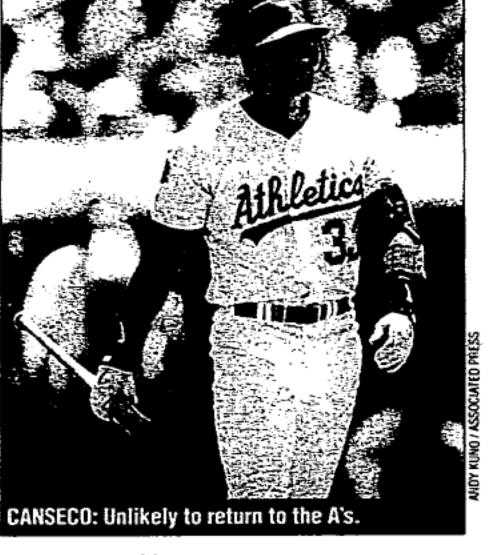
The future arrived last week when shortstop Miguel Tejada, the most heralded prospect in the organization and considered one of the top prospects in baseball, made his major league debut against the Yankees. Tejada was summoned from Class AA Huntsville after shortstop Tony Batista strained a quadriceps muscle and Rafael Bournigal couldn't shake a nagging hamstring injury. There was little doubt Tejada would be activated before the season ended. He and outfielder Ben Grieve easily are the best prospects in the system. Tejada, 21, who was batting .276 with 22 home runs and 97 RBIs in 127 games, will have the upper hand in competing for the starting job at shortstop next season. For his part,

Tejada, normally soft-spoken, didn't lack confidence upon his arrival. "I'm going to be the A's shortstop for 10 years, maybe more," he said. Those words had to bring a smile to general manager Sandy Alderson's face. Of course, Tejada still must harness his defense, as his 36 errors in the minors this season demonstrate.

Goodbye to Bash? Jose Canseco's back is aching again and another stint on the disabled list seems imminent. Thus, Canseco's chance of reaching 568 plate appearances this season-which would automatically trigger his \$4.5 million option next season-seems gone. Canseco instead will become a free agent and it's doubtful the club will try to re-sign him. It's also doubtful Canseco still can command a salary over \$2 million. ... Outfielder Brian Lesher, who was told he was auditioning for a spot on next season's roster, broke an 0-for-26 slump with a pair of singles August 26. His chances of sticking around next year are dwindling by the day. ... Eric Ludwick, a 6-5 righthander acquired from St. Louis in the Mark McGwire trade, made his American League debut last Thursday against the Dodgers. He surrendered seven runs (four earned) in 5% innings. -PEDRO GOMEZ



Stein, acquired in the McGwire trade, struck out 10 batters (8 IP, 6 H, 4 R) in a no-decision for Class AA Huntsville at Knoxville. After going 16-5 for Class A St. Petersburg in 1996, Stein is 11-9 this season—8-7 with Arkansas and 3-2 with Huntsville.



## PLAYING HARDBALL

Since being moved from closer to the primary setup role, Billy Taylor has been phenomenal. Just when it seemed Taylor would have little chance of returning to the A's next season, he is making a strong case for himself. The team's bullpen, one of the weakest in baseball, needs help. Even though Taylor is eligible for arbitration, there is a good chance the two sides can reach a contract agreement even before exchanging arbitration figures, much like Buddy Groom and the team did last winter.

For more on the ATHLETICS check out www.sportingnews.com/ baseball/teams/athletics

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(Continued From Page 16)



## Morgan Is Leading Battle at Second

PHOENIX—There is a battle going on in the Oakland A's camp for the starting job at second base. Unfortunately for Tony Phillips, Joe Morgan seems to have most of the tanks.

Manager Steve Boros says the 40-year-old Morgan can play four or five days a week. And if Donnie Hill, a youngster with 53 games in the majors, starts at shortstop, Morgan's experience and leadership capabilities give him the edge.

Yet management insists the job is open.

"Out of respect for Tony I think we've got to do it that way, and I'm sure foe understands that, too," Boros said. "The thing we don't know about Tony is if he is an everyday player in the big leagues. But even if he isn't that, I'd still want him on my ball club because of the things he can do. He is one of those kids who, every game he plays, does something to catch your attention . . . a fielding play, something with the bat, the way he runs the bases."

The trouble is, Morgan can do the same things. No matter what the outcome, Morgan doesn't believe there is any cause for Phillips to worry.

"First of all, be's going to be there a lot longer than I am," Morgan said. "We shouldn't be here to work as individuals. We are a team. The team is what is important. The individual thing you have to put aside and, if you don't, people won't remember you. You are a part of a team, and how the team goes reflects on you. If you don't do it for the team, you are not a good

player. You can't get away from that."

With those thoughts in mind, Morgan said he doesn't care what role he plays for the A's this year, a season that could be

his last as a player.

"If they want me to play, I'll play," Morgan said. "If they want me to cheer, I'll cheer. I'll do whatever I can to help the team the most."

Phillips, who led the team by playing in 148 games last year, spent most of his time at short, and there is an outside chance he'll play there this year if Hill's arm continues to cause him trouble. But the A's feel Phillips is a natural second baseman.

Phillips aspires to play every day this summer, but he realizes the road ahead is not easy.

"Play every day if that's possible," Phillips said when questioned about his goal for the season. "I figure this is my important year for establishing myself as a starter or utility player. I made the roster last year, but I didn't show enough to prove I am a starter."

Boros wants Phillips, a switch-hitter, to work on his hitting this spring. Phillips hit .201 against lefthanders last year and .275 against righthanders. His overall average was .248.

"I'm trying to get out of that open stance," Phillips said. "I couldn't do that last year because I had to make the team. I feel a little more confident now because there is no pressure to make the team."

Boros has been impressed with Phillips' attitude this year. Two years ago, when Billy Martin was manager, Phillips got shipped to the minors for showing up late at the park. The routine continued at times last year.

"I think he's matured a lot," Boros said. "He's getting to the park a lot earlier consistently."

Morgan, who hit .230 with 16 home runs for Philadelphia last year, knows there are limits to how effective he can be.

"I can play every day, but"I can play well for four or five days." Morgan said. "For three or four days I feel I can play as good as I ever could, but I need a day off. Over a long period, I can't do it. I'm realistic about it . . . a day off here, a day off there, and I'll be that much better a player."

Unfortunately for Phillips, it will be only during those days Morgan rests that be gets a chance to play. That is unless there is a sudden turn of events. But no matter what happens. Phillips plans to learn from Morgan.

"He doesn't know it," Phillips said, "but I've been watching every move he makes."

A's Acorns: Hill, who has had a sore right arm, had his problems compounded when he was hit on the elbow by a line drive in batting practice. The bruise would delay his progress yet another week or 10 days. . . . Two FBI agents visited the A's camp on March 12 to give an informational talk on drug abuse. gambling and organized crime. . . . If the A's decide not to keep pitcher Jeff Bettendorf on their roster this season, the New York Mets want him back. Oakland drafted the righthander off the Mets' Triple A roster this winter and must keep him in the big leagues unless a trade can be worked out. "The Mets have said no already," Boros said. "And I'm sure they would be more emphatic now that they've seen the line scores back there in St. Petersburg (Fla.)." . . . Pitcher Keith Atherton accepted a one-year contract worth \$52,500. He wanted \$75,000 from the A's. Every player but Bettendorf is now signed for 1984. . . . Outfielder Carlos Lezcano, who was in the Chicago Cubs' organization last year, had homers for his first three hits of the spring. . . . The A's made their first cuts of the spring on March 8, all involving non-roster players. Reassigned to the minors were pitchers Jeff Jones, Scott Dye, Mark Smith, Steve Ontiveros and Rick Rodriguez; infielder Dave Hudgens; and outfielder Jim Bennett. That left 46 players in camp. In Palm Springs, four A's-Rickey Headerson, Steve McCatty, Mike Heath and Bill Krueger-posed in swimsuits for Playgirl magazine. They were only test shots, but one of the four could wind up in an issue with baseball's sexiest players. . . . Minor-league outfielder Ron Harrison suffered a broken right wrist in a collision and will be out six weeks.

KIT STIER



## Royals Hope Morris Can Bypass Omaha

FORT MYERS, Fla.—John Morris, a.k.a. The Prospect, has a locker in the high-rent district of the Kansas City Royals' spring training clubbouse. It's in the same corner that is home to George Brett and John Wathan. More teiling, he wears No. 8. All the signs are pointing toward Kansas City.

is Morris in line for the right-field job? Can be make the jump from Double A to the major leagues? It's time for the Royals to decide.

If Willie Wilson wasn't under suspension, Morris would open the season at Omaha (American Association). But, with Pat Sheridan having to move to center field, the Royals need a right fielder.

"I really feel like I'm in a no-lose situation," Morris said. 
"Hopefully, I can make the major league club and contribute. 
But the worst that can happen is that things won't work out and 
I'll be at Omaha.

"If I get the chance, I think I could definitely help this club. Offensively, I'm a line-drive hitter. I could help them in that respect on AstroTurf. I feel I'm an aggressive baserunner. Although I may not have the greatest arm, I can hit the cutoff man and I can run balls down in the gap."

Morris, 23, a Seton Hall product whom the Royals selected in the first round of the June 1982 draft, is a legitimate candidate to open the season in Kansas City. He is regarded as the best prospect in the organization. So what if he has played in just 185 games as a professional?

Last year, Morris was the Southern League's premier player. His final numbers for Jacksonville were impressive: .288, 23 home runs, 92 runs batted in, 30 stolen bases.

"He'll be a millionaire in three or four years," said Grady Little, who last year managed Charlotte, Baltimore's Southern League affiliate. "His attitude goes with all the rest of him."

Morris' salutary attitude is one reason why the Royals might be willing to bring him along fast. He is confident, but not pretentious. He knows that boasting might rankle clubhouse veterans.

"You're a rookie, you come in here and keep your mouthclosed," Morris said. "You just go about your business. If you mind your own business in a very low-key manner you'll be all right.

"That's just me. That's just the way I grew up. In high school and college, I had ex-Marines as coaches. They put you in line. Even when you were going well, you kept a very low profile."

Even though he's getting a lot of attention this spring. Morris says the Royals aren't force-feeding him. He knows he's being considered only because Amos Otis and Jerry Martin are no longer with the club and Wilson is under suspension. Still, Morris must earn his spot.

"It's not his position, but we're certainly taking a good look at him," Manager Dick Howser said. "We want to see him play some more in game situations, against major league pitching.

"Is that pressure? I don't buy that. There's an opening here. We're looking for a right fielder. Pressure is when you're the seventh man in a six-man outfield situation."

If Morris requires more seasoning, right field will probably be shared by several players until Wilson returns. Veterans Lynn Jones, Jorge Orta and Leon Roberts have been impressive in camp. Other possible stopgaps are young Darryl Motley and Wathan.

Royalties: General Manager John Schuerholz was called to testify March 12 at hearings pertaining to the grievances filed by Wilson, Martin and Willie Alkens. The three 1983 Royals are appealing the one-year suspensions Commissioner Bowle Kuhn gave them after they pleaded guilty last November to drug-related charges. Arbitrator Richard Bloch must now render a decision on whether to uphold the suspensions. Rookie Mark Gubicza, a 6-6 righthander, pitched impressively in his first two spring outings.

Third baseman George Brett was hit in the face by a ground ball in an exhibition game against the Cardinals March 14. His front four teeth were pushed back. He underwent oral surgery and had his teeth wired. It's not a serious injury, and he is expected to play in the season opener April 2.

MIKE FISH



# McNamara Seeking a A Fifth Starter

MESA. Ariz.—Now that the Chicago White Sox boast the best five-man starting rotation in baseball history, as Chisox President Eddie Einborn claims, should the California Angels just forget their American League West title aspirations?

Midway through spring training, Manager John McNamara didn't have a fifth starter. He continued auditions for the role, amid rumors that the Angels would look to a trade for help.

There were many candidates in camp, led by Steve Brown, a 27-year-old righthander who is out of options. He deserved the chance after six seasons of ranking as the top winner in the Angels' minor-league system with a 70-52 record.

Brown received his first big-league exposure last June and left a lasting impression by blanking Texas on the final day of the season.

"What I did last year won't burt me, but peither did it secure anything for me. If I get the job, I'll have to earn it in camp," Brown said after his second exhibition outing.

A 6-5, 200-pounder who perhaps doesn't throw as hard as he should, Brown was getting his stiffest rookie competition from Ron Romanick, another righthander who pitched his way back into the team's plans last year.

The Angels had high hopes for Romanick, 23, following his 1981 pro debut with a 15-10 record in the California League, but they soured on him as he battled, mysterious arm problems the following year. However, he rebounded to post nine wins and 10 complete games at Nashua (Eastern) last year.

Ricky Steirer, who has spent parts of the past two seasons in Anaheim, was also in the battle. Steirer always has had trouble impressing people despite being a consistent winner. He gets batters out, but baseball people consider his stuff inferior.

"We've gotten him to drop lower on his delivery to help his sinker and maybe keep batters more honest," said McNamara. McNamara had one other option he preferred not to use. Jim Slaton, acquired in a winter deal from Milwaukee for outfleider Bobby Clark, stood by as a possible fifth starter

"But I'd rather keep him in the builpen as the long manmight as well have him keep doing what he's been successful with," said McNamara.

With the Brewers last year, Slaton was 14-6 and didn't make any starts for the first time in his 13-year career. As a spot starter the previous season, he was 10-6. Slaton could open the season in the rotation on a temporary basis, but McNamara wants a more permanent solution. The Angels are scheduled for only two off days during the first month, not affording much time for experimentation.

Angels Vice-President Buzzie Bavasi, eager for fresh blood on a veteran staff, is rooting for Brown or Romanick to make it. Despite this infatuation with youth, the Angels continued to explore the possibility of a deal.

"The ideal man would be a veteran National Leaguer who has done it in the past but still has something left," said General Manager Gene Mauch.

Rumors quickly surfaced about some pitchers who fit that description: Burt Hooton of the Dodgers, Pittsburgh's John Candelaria and Bob Forsch and Joaquin Andujar of St. Couis.

Bavasi admitted having had preliminary talks with each of those teams, but he insisted nothing would be done until the end of March, if at all. As if discovering a No. 5 starter wasn't enough of a problem, McNamara found himself fretting over the man he hoped would be No. 1.

Mike Witt's initial Cactus League start thoroughly disgusted McNamara. Witt was rocked for six hits and four runs in a three-inning stint against the Padres, ruining the good impression left by his 7-1 record in the Venezuelan Winter League.

"Maybe I expected too much from him since he had pitched winter ball," said McNamara. "But he made the same mistakes as last year; bad 0-and-2 pitches and shaking off the catcher too often."

Angels Angles: Rod Carew and Reggie Jackson finally made their spring debuts 10 games into Cactus League play. Both had minor injuries, Carew a strained calf muscle and Jackson a pulled hamstring. ... Vicente Romo was returned to the Mexico City Reds after being bombed for 11 hits and 11 runs in 4½ innings. ... Season-ticket sales soared above the 16,000 mark

Another rookie pitcher, reliever Curt Kaufman, seemed to clinch a builpen berth with his strong exhibition work. Daryl Sconiers agreed to a 1984 contract. Carew's absence enabled Sconiers to play regularly and prove the soundness of his knee, operated on during the winter. Rookie center fielder Gary Pettis stole three bases in the first seven exhibitions. The Angels had only one theft last spring in 27 games.

TOM SINGER

