

# Family Celebrates Yank Deal for **Randolph**

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—Christmas came early to 360 Dumont Avenue in what is known as the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. It came with a telephone call to the home of **Willie** and Minnie **Randolph** about three weeks before Christmas.

The news was good. **Willie** and Minnie's oldest child, **Willie**, Jr., had been traded by the Pirates to the Yankees.

Lamar **Randolph**, the third of five **Randolph** children, will not soon forget the day, and the joy that telephone call brought to the **Randolph** home. Santa, himself, couldn't have done more.

"EVERYBODY WAS glad **Willie** was traded," said Lamar, who is 17 and a senior at Samuel J. Tilden High. Lamar is also a first baseman on the baseball team with professional aspirations of his own. He's six feet tall and everybody calls him Shorty. Shorty?

"I got that name when I was little," Shorty explained. "Then I started growing and it was too late to change the name."

The reason everybody was so glad **Willie** was traded should be obvious. He was born and raised in Brooklyn and now he'll be playing in the Bronx and his friends and family will get a chance to see him play.

There are five children in the **Randolph** family. **Willie**, 21, is the oldest. Then comes Terry, 20, a junior at American International College and a safety on the football team who already has been contacted by two NFL clubs. Shorty, 17, a baseball, football and basketball player at Tilden High, is next. Then Debbie, 14, and Timmy, 11.

THE DAY OF the trade, Shorty recalls, the telephone never stopped ringing. Friends and well-wishers kept calling to express

their joy. Even Dutch Deutsch, who signed **Willie** for the Pirates, called to wish the young man luck.

"**Willie** called that night from Venezuela, where he's playing winter ball," Shorty reported. "He was very happy about the trade. He said he hoped it meant he'd get a chance to play more next year."

Shorty said he had been hearing the rumors that the Pirates would trade his big brother since the World Series. The whole family had heard it.

"But we thought it was just talk," Shorty said. "We didn't think it would happen."

When it did happen, there was joy on Dumont Avenue.

"I USED TO BE a Met fan and, of course, a Pirate fan," Shorty said. "Now I'm a Yankee fan. I expect **Willie** to play a lot for them. I expect him to be Rookie of the Year."

The youngster's pride was understandable. So was the pride of **Willie Randolph**, Sr., when he went to work the day after the trade on the construction site in Brooklyn.

"The guys on his job," Shorty



**Willie Randolph**

said, "used to kid him about **Willie**. They used to say they didn't see much about **Willie** in the papers. Dad tried to explain to them it was because he was in Pittsburgh and because he was playing behind Rennie Stennett. They're going to see a lot about **Willie** in the papers, now."

They already have.

**Yankee Doodles:** Gabe Paul promises a decision on the team's pitching coach soon. . . . Roy White is working in group sales with the club's ticket department. . . . Dock Ellis visited with Gabe Paul before Christmas and reiterated his joy at being traded to New York, promising to win 15 games. . . . So unprepared was Bobby Bonds for the trade, he had come to New York a week before to be checked out by the doc and did several radio and television shows, boosting the Yankees' chances for '76.

# Red Sox Rejoicing... Medics Okay Rico to Play

By PETER GAMMONS

BOSTON—Boston fans can forget about all those deals the Red Sox might try to make to offset the loss of Rico Petrocelli. Rico has his doctors' clearance to play in 1976, so third base once again is in capable hands.

General Manager Dick O'Connell said he had expected all along that Petrocelli would be able to return, but doubt had persisted in some minds. Rico was beamed by Milwaukee's Jim Slaton in September, 1974. The effects weren't evident until last August, when he had to leave the team in the midst of a trip because of severe headaches.

All last season Petrocelli struggled with eyeglasses to help his vision and was bothered by headaches. Until August, he never realized it all stemmed from an inner ear imbalance caused by the beaming.

HE TOOK medication which allowed him to return to action in September and through the World Series, but received no assurance about 1976 until mid-December.

Rico said that if he had to play with medication, he couldn't play, but a December examination showed his equilibrium is restored and he will be able to play in '76. That is the best news in Boston since the Red Sox acquired Fergu-

son Jenkins.

Rico is not going to hit .297 with 40 homers as he did in 1969, but for what Boston needs, he is perfect. He has become one of the game's best defensive third basemen. He is remarkably consistent, and in terms of starting the double play and getting rid of the ball, only Brooks Robinson is Rico's peer.

Petrocelli is not the power hitter he once was, but like Sal Bando, his value is not measured in his average. Like Bando, he makes his hits count. Look at what he did after he returned last season. The first night, September 3, he made one superb defensive play and knocked in the tying run as the Red

Sox scored a 10-inning, 3-2 victory over Baltimore and Jim Palmer, one of the biggest games of the season.

RICO KNOCKED in 17 runs in September, had key hits in games two and three of the playoffs, then hit .308 in the World Series, all the while not making an error.

His return means that 24-year-old Butch Hobson, his heir-apparent, can be worked in slowly. Petrocelli may be a 110-130 game-a-year player now, which is one opportunity for Hobson.

O'Connell has expressed concern about the righthanded designated hitter spot. So the kid from Alabama, reputed to be a power

hitter, could get 80 games under his belt, one way or another.

But Hobson is a secondary concern right now. What is important to the Red Sox is that Petrocelli, at age 32, does not have to retire.

The Notebook: O'Connell said he is disappointed at failing to land a little more righthanded bench power at the winter meetings. He offered catcher Tim Blackwell and reliever Diego Segui to Montreal for Bob Bailey, but the Expos traded him instead to Cincinnati for pitcher Clay Kirby. . . . Jim Burton spoke at religious revivals in the South before going to Puerto Rico. . . . The Red Sox, who never have had much truck with player

agents, expect to be doing business with at least one this winter. Jerry Kapstein represents Fred Lynn, Rick Burleson and Carlton Fisk.

Bill Lee, recently elected the alternate player representative of the American League, agrees with Major League Players Association Director Marvin Miller that there is almost no chance of a strike. . . . Whose record did Lee tie by winning 17 games three consecutive years? Answer: Wild Bill Donovan, Brooklyn and Detroit, 1902-04. . . . Ramifications of the Catfish Hunter decision a year ago: His contract enabled Jenkins to price himself right into the Boston market.

# Moves by Padres Make Frisella a Happy Fella

By PHIL COLLIER

SAN DIEGO—In Danny Frisella's view, the Padres presented San Diego pitchers a fitting Christmas present in December when they acquired third baseman Doug Rader in a trade with Houston.

A forklift specialist who gets batters to hit the ball on the ground, Frisella was a victim last season of a San Diego defense that finished last in the National League in fielding percentages.

Though the 29-year-old righthander compiled a 3.12 earned-run average and notched nine saves, he lost six of his seven decisions. In addition to their fielding deficiencies, the Padres also were last in the N.L. in batting, runs scored and homers.

Now, during leisure hours at his new home here, Frisella writes out lineups for next season and is comforted to pencil in center fielder **Willie** Davis as the third man in the order and Rader as No. 6. The Padres obtained Davis in a recent trade with St. Louis.

"WE'VE HELPED our defense, our speed and our hitting," Frisella reasoned. "We can put a pretty tough lineup on the field."

After suffering for six seasons because of a weak bullpen, the Padres greatly improved their relief pitching in 1975. Frisella, acquired a year ago in the trade that sent outfielder Cito Gaston to Atlanta, teamed with Bill Greif, Dave Tomlin and Rich Folkers to carry most of the bullpen load.

"I felt like I pitched well," said Frisella, who set a career high with 65 relief stints. That was only 13 fewer appearances than he logged with Atlanta in 1973 and 1974, when he had arm problems.

Greif, who was in 59 games, had a 4-6 record, a 3.88 ERA and tied

Frisella for the club high in saves (9).

LEFTHANDERS Tomlin and Folkers also were busy. Tomlin was in 67 games, tops on the staff. He was 4-2 with one save and a 3.25 ERA. Folkers, obtained from St. Louis in a trade a year ago, was in

45 games (30 of them in relief), had a 6-11 record, no saves and a 4.18 ERA.

The Padres, who had been last in the majors in pitching in 1974, finished fifth in the N.L. and eighth in the majors in 1975. The improvement would have been even more dramatic, Frisella feels, if the Padres hadn't made what he regards as a tactical error.

In June, they lost righthander Alan Foster for the rest of the season with a shoulder problem.

"WHEN ALAN left, we went six weeks with only nine pitchers and it put a burden on the entire staff," Frisella said.

Now the Padres are thinking of returning Greif to the starting rotation to replace young righthander Joe McIntosh, who went to Houston in the Rader trade. If Greif starts, even greater pressure will be put on Frisella as the club's No. 1 righthander in short relief.

"I like to pitch a lot, that doesn't bother me," said the 6-0, 195-pounder who pitched frequently last season while trying to overcome a pulled hamstring high in his left thigh.

"We had a few players who haven't learned to play with pain."

It cheers the Padres that Frisella was more effective the second half of the season (five saves and a 3.00 ERA) than he was in the first

(Continued on Page 35, Column 1)



**Rico Petrocelli**



**Danny Frisella . . . 'A Pretty Tough Lineup'**



# Yankees Adopting 3-R Plan: Rivers, Randolph—and Runs

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—Whoosh! There goes Willie Randolph.

Whoosh! There goes Mickey Rivers.

That, if you didn't realize it, was the Yankees. The New York Yankees. The new New York Yankees.

Miller Huggins had Murderers' Row. Billy Martin will have Thieves Tier, a newly altered face for the Yankees, changed drastically by two trades made 2½ hours apart at the winter meetings.

In one, the Yankees parted with slugger and super star Bobby Bonds to obtain pitcher Ed Figueroa and super swindler Mickey Rivers. In another, they moved pitcher Doc Medich to Pittsburgh and got back pitchers Dock Ellis and Ken Brett and rookie phenom Willie Randolph, another potential second-story man.

RIVERS WAS the base-stealing champion of the American League, swiping 70 in 84 attempts.

"He could steal 100 for us," Martin said enthusiastically.

An interesting prospect, especially if Randolph lives up to his base-stealing potential and Roy White and Elliott Maddox get the green light. Are 200 steals out of the question?

But who will hit the ball out of the ballpark with Bonds gone?

"It's not home runs that count," insisted Yankee President Gabe Paul, the architect of all this ma-

neuvering. "It's run production that counts. I think we'll score more runs without the home runs than we did last season. We were seventh in runs scored. That's not good enough."

IN FIGUEROA, the Yankees get a 27-year-old righthander who was 16-13 with the last-place Angels and who was fifth in the league with a 2.90 ERA. He also was 3-0 against the division-leading Red Sox, a stat that did not go unnoticed in the Yankees' contemplation of the deal.

The addition of Figueroa also gives the Yankees a starting staff that shapes up with Catfish Hunter, Figueroa, Rudy May, Dock Ellis, Ken Brett and Tippy Martinez, with Larry Gura, Dick Tidrow, Dave Pagan, Ron Guidry and Sparky Lyle.

The disposal of Doc Medich was contingent on the acquisition of Figueroa to replace him. Both won 16, Medich losing that many, Figueroa losing three fewer, so that exchange rates as a stand-off.

BETWEEN THEM, Brett and Ellis won 17 games last season, one more than Medich. But there is some question about Brett's arm and Ellis' motivation. The Yankees scouted Brett for the final month of the season and are convinced his arm is sound. He won 35 games over the last three years, an average of about 12 victories, for

which the Yankees would settle.

Ellis has not pitched in his 1971 form when he won 19, although he still has excellent equipment. A change of scenery, the desire to prove the Pirates wrong, a new league and the admission that "I'd love to play for Billy Martin" and "I'd love to play in New York" might be the motivation Ellis needs. If he is motivated to 15 wins, the Yankees would be happy.

The key man for the Yankees in the Pirate deal, however, is young Randolph, a 21-year-old second baseman from Brooklyn and one of the top prospects in the minor leagues last season.

"He could be the next outstanding infielder in the major leagues," said Pirate G. M. Joe Brown, the man who traded him away. "He makes the double play better than any second baseman I've seen since Bill Mazeroski. The Yankees benefited from our duplication of position (Rennie Stennett is their regular second baseman), which made Randolph available."

ACCORDING to Gabe Paul, "We had seven reports on Randolph, and I can't remember seeing such glowing reports on a young player. All seven rated him a chance to be an outstanding major leaguer and there was not one dissenting vote."

Pat Gillick, in charge of player development for the Yankees, has long been a Randolph fan and



Mickey Rivers



Willie Randolph

spent 10 days watching the youngster in the Venezuelan Winter League. His heart palpitating, Gillick raved over Randolph's attitude, his makeup, his leadership, his desire, his range and his bat. In one game, Randolph hit four triples against a team managed by the Yankees' Syracuse manager, Bobby Cox.

What about 1976?

Gillick estimates Randolph can hit "between .260 and .280, hit eight to 10 homers and steal 25 to 30 bases."

Randolph... White... Maddox... Rivers.

WHOOOOSH!

Yankee Doodles: The Yanks used the supplementary draft to claim Tom Robson from the Rangers' Spokane club. The 6-3, 29-year-

old righthanded slugger is a candidate for pinch-hitter and designated hitter. In nine seasons, he hit 197 homers in the minor leagues, none in the majors. . . . Mike Ferraro was formally named manager of the Yankees' Fort Lauderdale club in the Florida State League, moving up from Oneonta, where he will be replaced by veteran Ed Napoleon. . . . There was no announcement on a pitching coach to succeed Whitey Ford as Billy Martin continues to hold out for Art Fowler and Gabe Paul continues to insist on Bob Lemon. Camilo Pascual may be a compromise choice. . . . Former Yankee pitcher Pedro Ramos was at the winter meetings promoting the "Pedro Ramos Cigar, a Big League Cigar."

## Bucs Bank on Young Doc Medich to Cure Hill Ills

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH—A prize catch?

Perhaps so. George (Doc) Medich is a quality pitcher. But he also was a .500 pitcher last season. The Pirates don't feel they made a deal for a .500 pitcher. They feel they received quality, a man capable of winning 15 or more games.

The Yankees feel they got two and possibly three men who can help them. If all three help the Yankees, they never will regret it.

The three are: Willie Randolph, a 21-year-old second baseman, highly regarded by most scouts; Ken Brett, 27, a lefthanded pitcher who, when he doesn't have arm problems, is a winner, and who, even with arm trouble, won 22 games in two seasons with the Pirates, and Dock Ellis, whose potential at age 30 remains a mystery.

ELLIS, 8-9 LAST season, was destined for a new club ever since he told Danny Murtaugh in a clubhouse meeting last August, that he didn't respect him as a manager, a statement that earned Dock a \$2,000 fine and suspension for insubordination.

"It was a high price to pay in players," said General Manager Joe Brown. "But the price is always high when you obtain a pitcher of Medich's caliber."

When Brown arrived for the winter meetings on December 7, he had no idea that he could land Medich.

"The Yankees started talking to us about Randolph at the World Series," Brown said. "Other clubs asked about him, too. He might have been the most sought after

player at the meetings."

Brown said Randolph, who played briefly with the Pirates after being brought up from Charleston (International) in late July, was a "duplication of talent" with the Pirates.

It meant that with Rennie Stennett at second base, there was no room for Randolph.

THE YANKEES wouldn't think of dealing Medich for Randolph even up. The Pirates offered a two-for-one deal, adding Ellis.

The Yankees wanted Brett. "Without Brett included, we probably couldn't have made the deal," Brown said. "I hated to lose him."

Surprisingly, Brown went one step further about Ellis.

Speaking seriously, Brown said:



Joe Brown

"I feel like I traded away a member of our family. I mean it. Ellis has been with us for so many years (eight) and was part of the Pirate family."

Now Medich, who some day will be a practicing doctor, comes back home. He grew up in Aliquippa, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh and is a grad of Pitt's medical school. There has been talk that Medich, who is 27, might retire from baseball at an early age and become a practicing doctor.

"WE'LL RUN that risk," Brown said. "I don't think young doctors earn six-figure salaries like some young athletes."

Medich is on his way to becoming a \$100,000 pitcher. He probably is past the halfway mark now.

He moved up fast financially because he produced on the field. He was 14-9 as a rookie in 1973 and 19-15 in 1974. His 16-16 season was considered an off-year, especially since he was almost invincible in spring training.

"Remember," Brown said, "he wasn't always pitching for a good club."

MEDICH IS no newcomer to the mound at Three Rivers Stadium. He pitched in batting practice for the Pirates in April and May in 1972 while going to med school.

He was a Yankees farmhand, given permission to report to his team in West Haven, Conn., so he could continue with his studies.

At West Haven, Medich was 11-3 and gained a quick promotion to the Yankees.

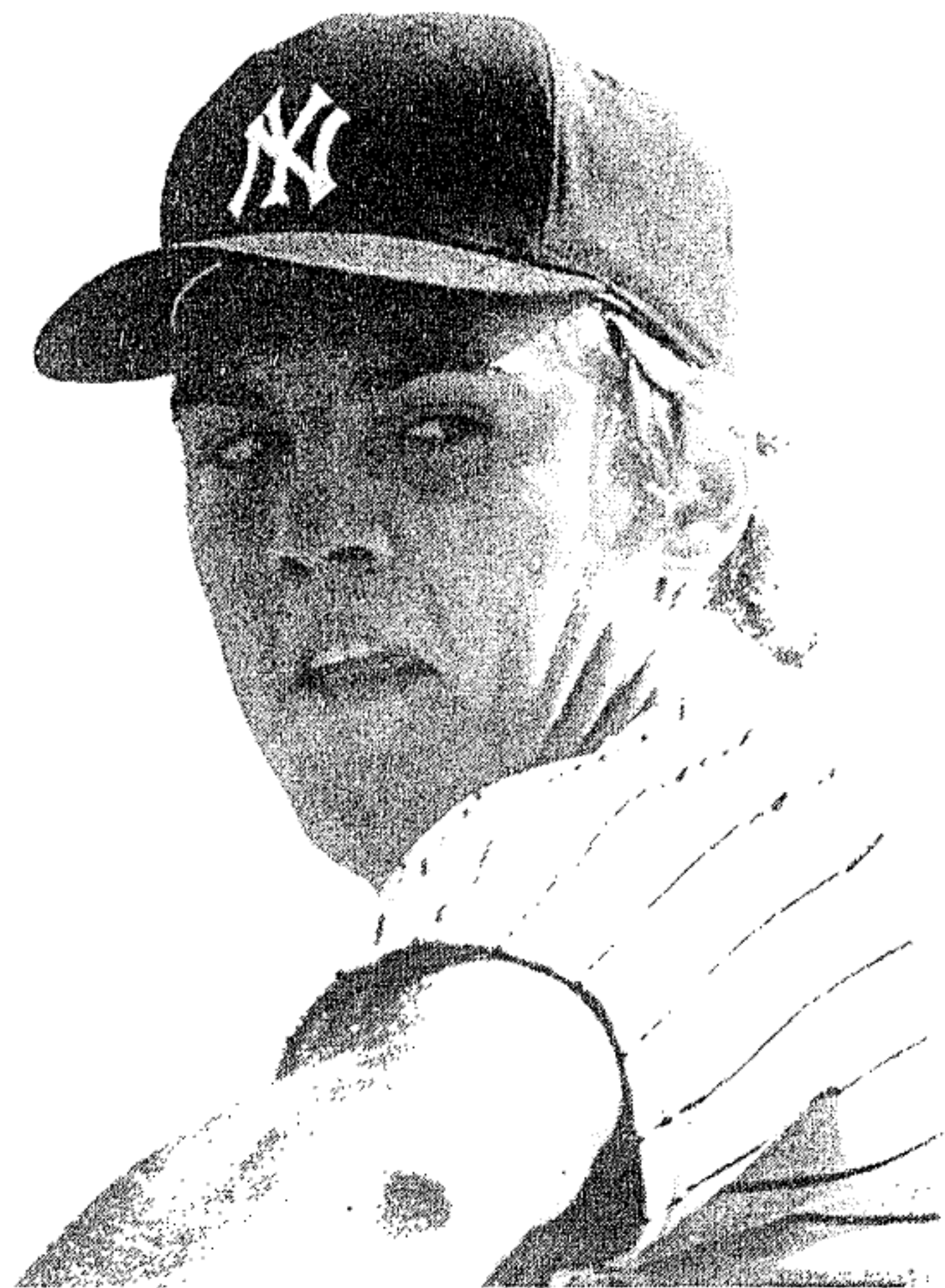
The doctor has proved a good pitcher. He was an untouchable

Yankee two years ago.

A prize catch? Time will tell.

Pittsburghers: The Al Oliver-for-Amos Otis deal with the Royals fizzled when veteran infielder Cookie Rojas, invoking the five-and-10

rule, refused to join the Pirates. The Pirates wanted Rojas as a utility infielder. . . . Most Pirate fans were glad the deal fell through because Oliver is considered one of the game's outstanding hitters.



Doc Medich . . . More Than a .500 Hurler?



# Tigers Sing Sad Bye-Bye to Bird, So What's New?

By JIM HAWKINS

DETROIT—For the third time in the past 14 months, the Tigers again have good reason to be concerned about the health of the pitcher they call the Franchise, Mark Fidrych.

The Bird, who appeared to have recovered completely from the tendinitis which sidelined him for the final three months last summer, suffered a relapse in his third start April 17. His shoulder stiffened and he was forced to leave the game after only four innings.

The following Saturday, Fidrych again tried to pitch, but couldn't get loose in the bullpen and had to be scratched minutes before the Tigers took the field to play the Rangers in a nationally televised game.

ACCORDING TO Dr. David Mitchell, the orthopedic surgeon who examined Fidrych at Henry Ford Hospital the next day, The Bird is suffering from "inflammation" in his right shoulder.

Fidrych received a shot of cortisone in his shoulder and was given permission to accompany the Tigers on their two-week West Coast trip. But Ralph Houk, taking no chances, immediately canceled The Bird's next start.

Everyone involved readily admitted he had no idea how soon Fidrych would be able to pitch again.

"I don't think there's anything seriously wrong with him," said Houk, who nevertheless was worried even before The Bird failed to answer the bell April 22. "But we can't be sure. There's just no reason for his arm to be stiff now."

"WE'LL HAVE to play it by ear. But I'll tell you this much, I'm going to take it slow and easy with him. I'm not going to set him up to pitch again until I'm satisfied that he's throwing 100 percent."

"Naturally," added Houk, "you've got to be concerned any time you have to send your star pitcher to the doctor. There's no way of knowing if this is something that is



Mark Fidrych . . . Thrice-Told Tale

**"I'm going to take it slow and easy with him. I'm not going to set him up to pitch again until I'm satisfied that he's throwing 100 percent."**

**—Ralph Houk**

left over from last year's injury or not," the Tiger manager continued. "We just don't know."

"It's a peculiar situation. He was throwing the ball all right in his first two starts, then he began having trouble again. I don't know if this is something that is going to keep recurring or not."

ACCORDING TO Dr. Mitchell, the inflammation is "the same sort of thing" Fidrych had last summer.

"I expect him to get back," said Mitchell, choosing his words carefully. "I don't think it's terribly serious."

However, Mitchell declined to speculate on how long it might take The Bird to recover.

And there's no question but what the Tigers are considerably less formidable without their popular ace pitcher.

The Tigers had again begun to expect great things from The Bird when he opened the season with back-to-back complete-game victories, throwing the ball extremely hard in both games.

Immediately, rival teams all around the American League began calling Jim Campbell and Houk, inquiring when Fidrych was scheduled to pitch, and where, and asking if the Tigers' starting rotation couldn't possibly be rearranged to allow The Bird to appear in their park.

That's why the news that there is still something wrong with Fidrych's arm came as such a shock.

No pitcher is more important to the Tigers.

**Tiger Tales:** There were some 43 lefthanded pitchers employed in the American League at the start of the season, and by the time the Tigers finish their first tour around the league, they figure to have faced them all. There's something about the Tigers that seems to bring out the lefthanders on the other side. That something is Jason Thompson, Steve Kemp, Rusty Staub, Tim Corcoran and Milt May.

By winning four of their first five games, the Tigers got off to their best start since 1968. . . . Coach Jim Hegan, hospitalized after suffering a heart attack April 17, continues to improve at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

## Martin Casts Vote for Maturing Randolph

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—You see it in subtle ways, how he takes charge of pop flies in the infield, how he takes it upon himself more and more to visit with a pitcher in distress, how he elaborates more on his answers to the press, how he even initiates discussions.

Willie Randolph always had the talent, enormous talent. This year he has shown a new maturity, a stability, a confidence that comes with having two full major league seasons behind him.

None of it comes as any surprise to Manager Billy Martin or coach Gene Michael, who remain, as they have always been, Randolph's biggest boosters.

Perhaps Martin's apprecia-

tion of Randolph's talents are like those talents, subtle. Words may be left unspoken, but admiration is there and the most tangible evidence of it is in Martin's elevation of Randolph to the leadoff spot, where he has batted exclusively in the first three weeks of the season.

MARTIN clinically explained his reasons for dropping Mickey Rivers to the second spot, putting Randolph first.

"One reason is that Randolph draws more walks than Rivers," he pointed out, a thought corroborated by 1977 stats—Randolph walked 64 times, Rivers 18; Willie was on base 216 times, Mickey 206.

"A second reason," Martin continued, "is that Randolph will hit into more double plays than Rivers, who gets that extra step running from the right side of the plate."

Right again. Last year, Randolph rapped into 11 DPs, Rivers only two, tying a club record set by Mickey Mantle.

"ONE MORE THING," Martin pressed on, "if Randolph gets on base in front of Mickey, the first baseman has to play up on the bag to cut down Willie's lead. That gives Rivers a bigger hole on the right side to shoot through. I like having speed at the top of the order and, with Randolph and Rivers up there, I have two guys who can run, steal a base and make things happen."

Randolph likes it, too.

"I've always hit on the top of the order," he said. "First or second. I prefer hitting up there. You can do more things. I think the two most important things about being a leadoff man are getting on base and scoring runs. I'd like to score at least 100 runs this year and if I

can keep getting on base, I can do it and I will have a good chance of staying in the leadoff spot and helping the team."

That's a big thing with Willie—helping the team. You notice it in so many ways—cheering for his teammates when on base, giving himself up at bat to move a runner along, hanging in on the double play despite the threat of flying spikes and body blocks—all rare things in a young player.

And, incidentally, all things spotted by coach Michael.

"THE MORE I see him, the more I like him," said the former Yankee shortstop. "Not only his great tools, but the way he plays the game, the way he takes charge. He's a winner. He's always working, always trying to learn. and the more he learns, the better

he gets."

To corroborate Michael's points, there are more stats. In his second season last year, Randolph improved in every offensive category over his rookie year except RBIs (which remained the same at 40) and stolen bases (which dropped off from 37 to 13, largely because of a knee weakened by an off-season operation).

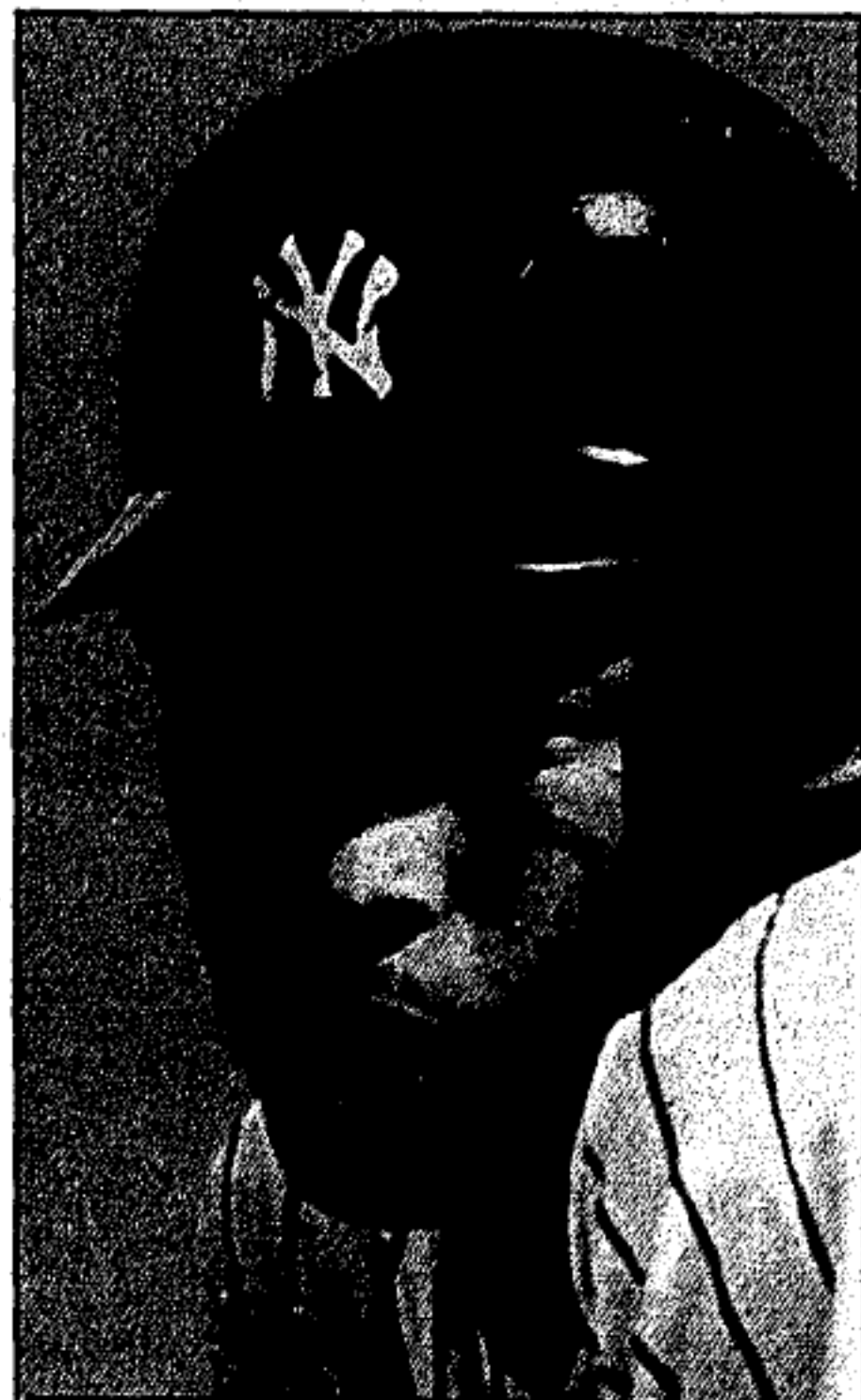
At 23, the future is limitless for Willie Randolph, who one day will take his place alongside Tony Lazzeri, Joe Gordon and Bobby Richards as all-time great Yankee second basemen.

**Yankee Doodles:** Hard-luck Mickey Klutts, who lost the starting shortstop job last year when he broke a bone in his left hand, broke a thumb while warming up a pitcher in the bullpen. He was replaced by Brian Doyle, younger brother of Denny Doyle. Brian has an identical twin, Blake, in the Orioles' farm system. "It's easy to tell us apart," said Brian. "I chew tobacco on the right side, he chews it on the left."

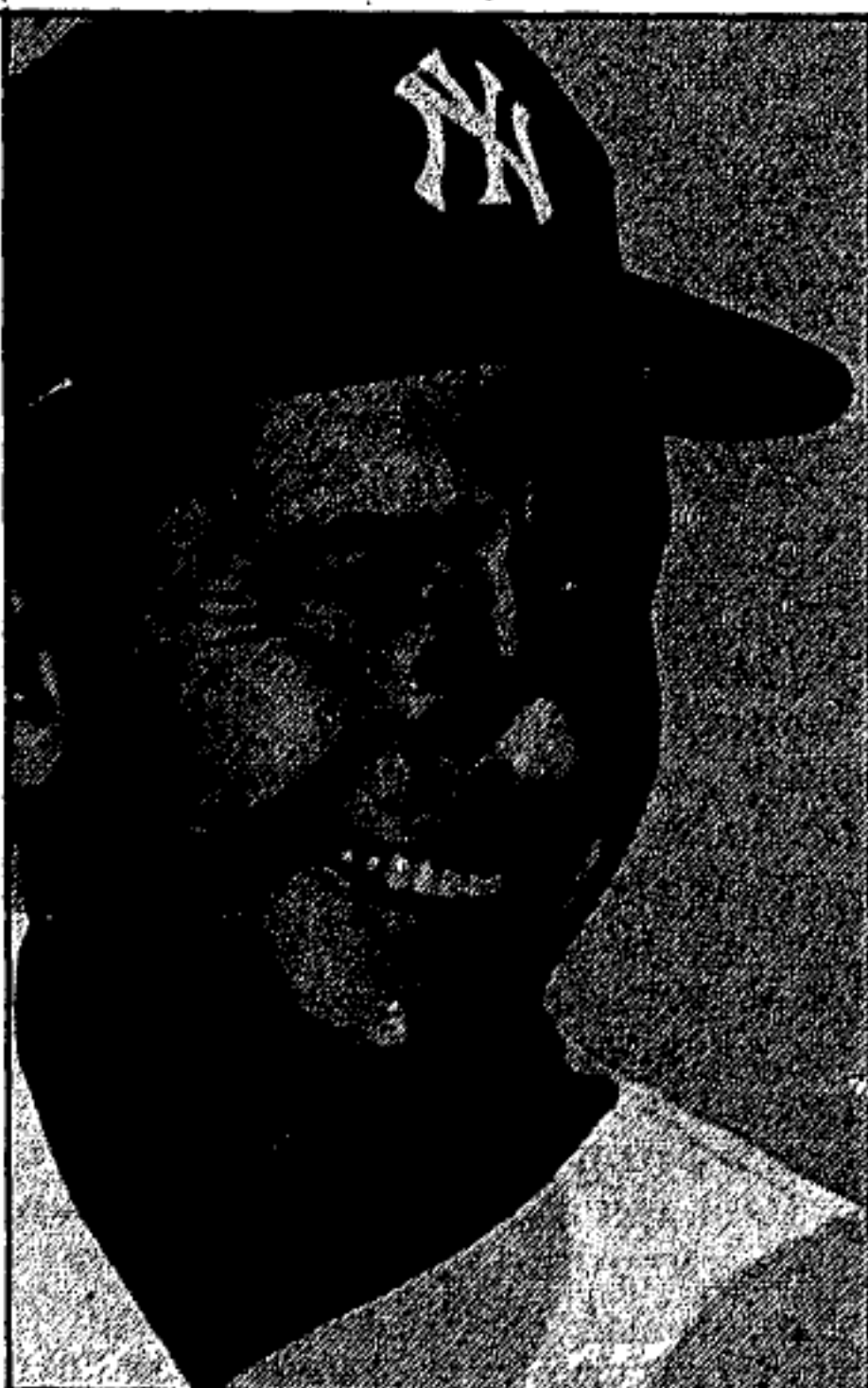
co on the right side, he chews it on the left."

Reggie Jackson is getting kudos for his defense. He saved one game with a great ninth-inning catch in Baltimore. In his first 16 games, Jackson made no errors (he made 13 last season) and was not removed in late innings for defense. He attributes his improvement to shagging 100-150 fly balls a day in spring training with help from Tacoma coach Ed Napoleon.

Called up from Tacoma, Jim Beattie won his first major league start in a matchup with Jim Palmer, although Sparkly Lyle almost blew a three-run lead in the ninth. Asked if he was worried about blowing the kid's first major league win, Lyle replied, "Hell, no. I was worried about losing my save!" . . . In his first five appearances, Lyle had two saves, two wins. . . . Jim Spencer hit career homer No. 100 off Palmer. His first? "That was off Bill Butler in Kansas City."



Willie Randolph



Billy Martin

## Tobacco-Chewing Casualty

NEW YORK—The art of tobacco chewing has long been the special province of major league baseball players. But there are indications it might be a dying art.

Pitching in Baltimore, tobacco-chewer Ron Guidry jumped high for a fifth-inning comeback by Rich Dauer and when he came down, he seemed in distress. It brought trainer Gene Monahan to the mound on the double, fearing this precious commodity had torn a muscle in his side while jumping. No such tragedy.

Guidry had swallowed some tobacco juice.

"I didn't keep my mouth closed," he explained. "When I grunted, the juice slipped down. I didn't gag, but when it went down so fast I got queasy in the stomach and got a headache when it got to me."

Guidry alerted Billy Martin, who replaced the lefthander in the eighth.

"I told Billy I didn't know where I'd be in the eighth and ninth, so he'd better take me out. The worst thing that could have happened to me was throw up right there on the mound on national television."

Phil Pepe



# Yankee Cast of Stars Headed by Randolph

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—Reggie Jackson grabs headlines with his home run bat, Ron Guidry with his strikeout smoke, Tommy John with his ground-ball sinker and Rich Gossage with his saves. What does that leave for Willie Randolph?

Nothing, except respect from his peers, his teammates and opponents as the New York Yankees' best all-round player, their steady man.

In the field, he is the glue of the infield, the middle man on double plays. At bat, he is the stage-setter for all that Yankee power that comes behind him.

The season was just a few days old when Harry Dalton, Milwaukee Brewers general manager, asked someone following the Yankees who their best player was.

"Willie Randolph," the man said.

"I agree," Dalton replied.

The operative word was "best." Not their most indispensable, not their ticket-seller, not their glamor guy. But for all components of offense, defense and catalyst, Randolph is the Yankee leader.

In an early-June streak in which the Yankees widened their lead and threatened a runaway in the American League East, it was the stage-setting of Randolph that sparked the surge. In one stretch, he reached base 15 consecutive times, taking over the league lead in on-base percentage from Milwaukee's Paul Molitor. Randolph has been among the league leaders all year in walks, runs scored, stolen bases and on-base percentage. Attribute this to Willie's elevation to the Yankees' leadoff position and credit that to two things—the departure of regular leadoff man Mickey Rivers and the arrival of Manager Dick Howser.

"I could see when Willie joined the club in 1976 that he'd be an ideal leadoff man," said Howser. "They had him batting seventh or eighth and I told him at the time he'd be a great leadoff hitter. He's ideal for that spot. He has a very small strike zone, he's patient at the plate and he has a good idea of the strike zone."

Randolph likes batting leadoff and knows his place in the Yankee scheme of things. His job is to provide good defense and to get on base for "the mashers, guys like Reggie Jackson, Graig Nettles, Bob Watson, Lou Piniella." His goals are 100 walks and 100 runs (last year he had 95 walks and 98 runs), a must in his leadoff spot. He'd also like to steal 50 bases. And Willie is happy to have been the Yankee leadoff man in every game he's started this season.

"I'd rather be in one spot regularly," he says. "It doesn't really matter where as long as I know when I get to the park where I'm hitting, although I prefer leadoff. I like to

think about it beforehand because the requirements for hitting first or second are so different."

Randolph had a slow start, which he attributed to a lack of hitting in spring training because of the mini-strike.

"But I still felt good when the season started," he said. "I was ready, but I think I put too much pressure on myself to get on base for the big guys because I think that's the key to our success. I was overanxious at the plate. I wasn't doing what I do best, staying back, relaxing at the plate. I was jumping out at the ball. After the first road trip, I just went back to basics. I relaxed at the plate and everything fell into place."

Because of the power in their lineup, the Yankees do not play a running game. Randolph is free to steal on his own, but he does not abuse the privilege and he has been among the league leaders in steals. With 17 in his first 60 games, he was close to a 50-steal pace, which he prizes.

His approach to stealing bases is somewhat different this year from what it was, Randolph says.

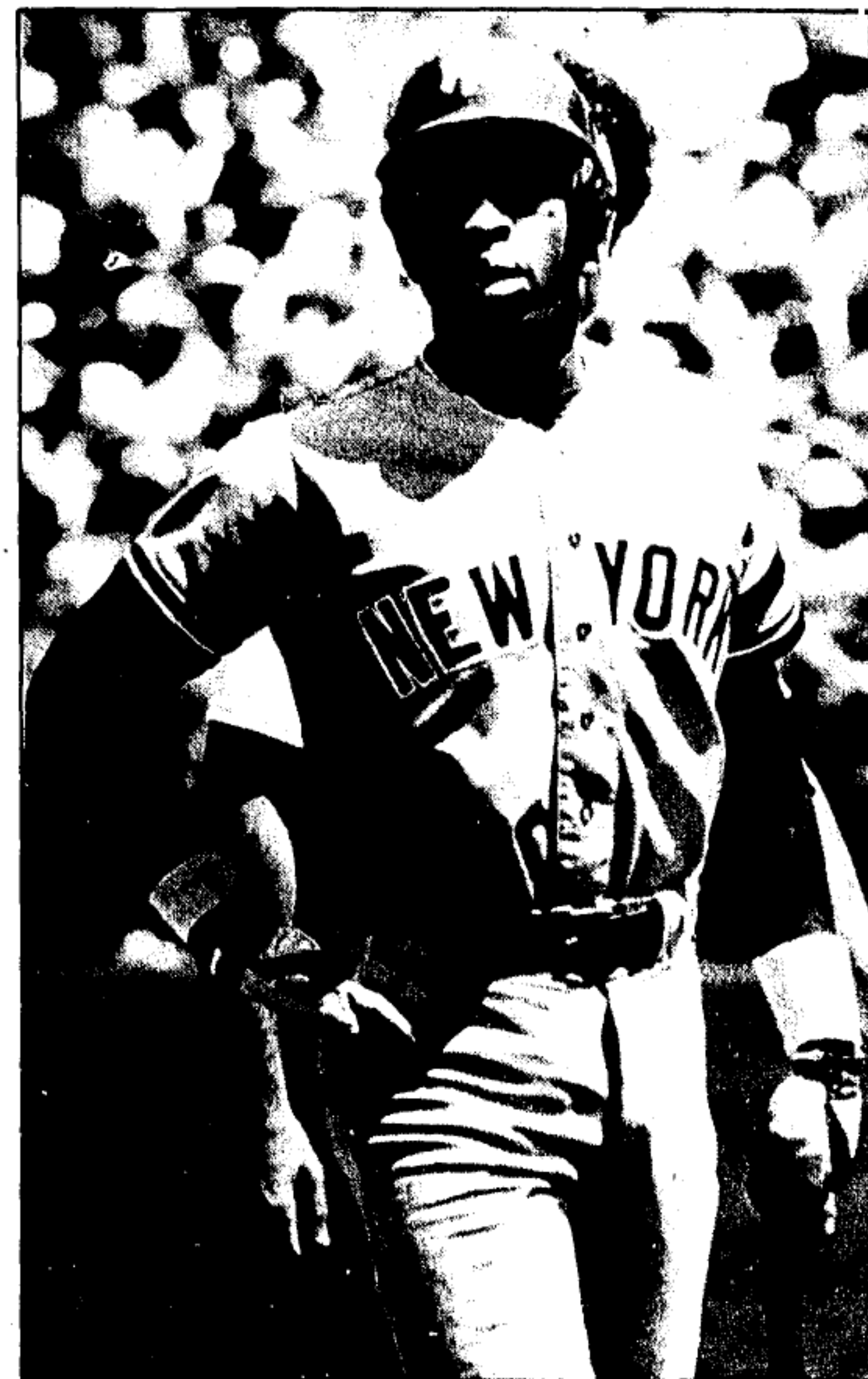
"The last few years I'd try to get out of the chute fast," he says. "I'd steal 19-for-19 or 17-for-17. But this year, I'm trying to conserve myself so I'll be stronger at the end."

He has come on in his four years as a Yankee, a 25-year-old who may have his best years ahead of him. He's matured to the point he is a leader on this team of veterans.

"I always tried to do that in the minor leagues," he says. "But when I came to the Yankees, there were so many veterans, I didn't want it to look like I was trying to push my weight around. Besides, a leader wasn't needed on this team. Now I feel more loose about taking charge and it's something I enjoy doing."

When they talk about Yankee tradition, it is always about catchers and center fielders. But there is also a strong tradition of outstanding second basemen: Tony Lazzeri, Joe Gordon, Bobby Richardson. And Willie Randolph deserves to be mentioned in the same breath with all of them.

**Yankee Doodles:** "Out of the outhouse and into the penthouse," said Paul Blair. He was talking about Bobby Murcer and Ed Figueroa, who made the move on the same day against the Oakland A's. Murcer had complained of infrequent use. He hit a two-run homer with two out and two strikes in the ninth inning to give the Yankees a 2-1 victory over the A's. It made a winner of Figueroa, who was starting for the first time since April 25. Figueroa, trying to come back from elbow surgery, had been demoted to the bullpen. Unhappy about it, he asked to be traded. Figgy got his chance when rookie Mike Griffin faltered as a starter and Figueroa regained his old spot. "He looks like a starting pitcher to me," said Howser. "I've always



Willie Randolph . . . The stage-setter.

believed he'd win some big games for us before this season ended."

Tom Underwood has gone from the cellar to the penthouse in his first year as a Yankee. He reeled off six straight victories to put his record at 7-3 (last year he was 9-16) and noted, "It's a lot different pitching here than it was pitching for Toronto." . . . Bucky Dent joined Ruppert Jones and Oscar Gamble on the disabled list when 10 stitches were required to close a cut in his wrist. To replace him, Brian Doyle, hero of the 1978 World Series, was recalled from Columbus (International). . . . First meeting of the Yanks and Billy Martin in Oakland went off without incident, although Randolph and Jackson were both knocked down by pitches in the first inning of the first game. Jackson answered with four homers in the series as the Yankees took three out of four.

## Catcher Nolan Leaves--A Braves Foulup?

By KEN PICKING

ATLANTA—Once again, Atlanta players were mystified by a puzzling maneuver executed by the Braves' front office.

When Biff Pocoroba was returned to the active roster June 10, it meant one of the Braves' three catchers—Bruce Benedict, Bill Nahorodny or Joe Nolan—had to go. Benedict clearly established himself as the best defensive receiver



Joe Nolan . . . Puzzling maneuver.

and Nahorodny had become a valuable righthanded pinch-hitter. That left Nolan, who rarely caught the past three seasons but was one of the best lefthanded hitters in the organization.

Nolan, with the Braves since 1975 when he was traded from the New York Mets, was informed by General Manager John Mullen that Mullen had attempted to trade him to any and all 26 teams in both leagues, without success. So the Braves decided to option Nolan to Richmond (International), where the personable, 29-year-old receiver had not played since 1976.

With five years of major league service, however, Nolan had a choice. He could refuse demotion and immediately be declared a free agent. After a day of consideration, Nolan decided to leave the Braves—a choice that Bob Horner, Gary Matthews and Jerry Royster wish they could make—and let his St. Louis agent, Richie Bry, test the market.

On the afternoon of June 12, Nolan informed Mullen he would accept free agency. Before midnight that night, Bry had arranged a deal with the Cincinnati Reds, desperate for reserve catching strength behind Johnny Bench. Nolan departed Atlanta in a flash, drove all night to St. Louis to meet the Reds for their game June 13 and signed before the first pitch.

"That goes to show what kind of organization the Braves are," Nolan said. "They said they did everything possible to trade me, but the first day we look around for a team, we find one. You hate to go away running down the old team, but they sure make you wonder what's going on in that front office. I feel very fortunate to get away."

Braves players were not shocked that Nolan was the catcher to go, but many were curious as to why the Braves were unable to receive even a prospect in return for the catcher.

"How can you let an established player go and get noth-

ing in return?" one Brave asked. "But then, something like that shouldn't surprise us. It was a typical move by the front office."

Nolan set an Atlanta pinch-hit record—since broken by both Mike Lum and Charlie Spikes—in 1977 and averaged a solid .280. His average slipped in the next two seasons, but the St. Louis native's hits were most productive. He drove in 22 runs on 49 hits in 1978 and 21 runs on 57 hits in 1979. In limited pinch-hitting appearances this season, Nolan averaged .273.

"Nolan can definitely help Cincinnati," said Atlanta Manager Bobby Cox. "It was too bad we had to let Joe go because he was an unselfish team player who was genuinely liked by everyone. It was just one of those tough baseball decisions that had to be made."

Atlanta came to Cincinnati's rescue once before for support behind Bench. The Reds acquired Vic Correll in 1978 and the veteran catcher proved to be a valuable reserve receiver.

**Wigwam Wisps:** If April and May were not enough, Chris Chambliss clearly established himself as the Braves' most worthy All-Star candidate during June. With a 4-for-5 day in his first appearance in St. Louis June 16 (good for five RBIs), the former New York Yankee boosted his average above .300 once again.

Tommy Boggs went the distance against the St. Louis Cardinals June 17 for his first complete game since a memorable two-hit shutout in Philadelphia in 1978. . . . As the June 15 trade deadline passed, the Braves were shopping for a leadoff hitter. . . . The Braves swept their first doubleheader of the season at home June 18 against Pittsburgh. Ex-Brave Eddie Solomon had a shutout for eight innings in the first game, but Nahorodny's three-run double off Kent Tekulve in the ninth lifted Atlanta to a thrilling 3-2 victory. The Braves won the nightcap, 5-4.







# Randolph Is Quick to Begin Paying Dividends to Yanks

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—It was in Hollywood, Fla., at baseball's winter meetings when the Yankees made two big trades in one day. The big one got all the attention—Bobby Bonds for Ed Figueroa and Mickey Rivers. The other one was the key.

They had sent Doc Medich to Pittsburgh for Ken Brett and his history of arm trouble, Dock Ellis and his history of just trouble, and Willie Randolph, who had no history at all.

Of all the names in the two trades, seven of them, Randolph's was the least known. But he was the prize catch as far as Yankees were concerned.

"WE HAD SEVEN reports on him," said Yankee President Gabe Paul, who engineered the deal and thus was the one who had to explain it, "and they were all sensational, anywhere from predicting Randolph would be a star to a super star."

"I never saw such sensational reports on a young player," said Manager Billy Martin.

So it can be assumed that, for all intents and purposes, Willie Randolph became the Yankees' regular second baseman on that December afternoon in Hollywood, Fla.

Frankly, the Yankees' investment was so heavy, their commitment so total, hardly anything Randolph did in spring training would have hurt his chances of winning the job.

BUT WILLIE RANDOLPH wasn't taking any chances. He batted over .300 in the spring, hitting the ball solidly and with authority. He roamed second base like a veteran, making all the plays, turning the double play with dispatch and ease.

He stole bases, ran well and, personally, fit in like the furniture. He's a confident young man, a pleasant young man. Cool instead of cocky; personable, not brash; affable, not phony.

He was the unanimous winner of the James Dawson Award and won a watch as the top rookie of the camp.

He won the respect of his teammates.

He won the admiration of the press.

He won the opening-day second base job.

"The kid is just great," said Martin, in tabbing him to open at second in Milwaukee on April 7. "There isn't anything he was asked to do that he didn't do."

RANDOLPH EARNED his job, it wasn't handed to him. He was pushed hard by the old pro, Sandy Alomar, who had an outstanding spring himself. Under ordinary circumstances, Alomar would have been the second baseman on opening day, and he would have deserved the job. But Randolph answered the challenge and earned the spot.

"I know I can play up here," said Randolph, who batted .339 at Charleston (International) last year.

And while others were saying they would be satisfied with an average of .250 or so and good defense, Randolph wasn't talking, but you know he was thinking of something more impressive.

Born in Brooklyn, but already planning to buy a home in New Jersey for himself, his wife and infant daughter, the rookie second baseman is one of five children and a former Brooklyn high school star.

AS THE SEASON OPENED, he never wavered in his confidence and in his belief in himself. Nothing bothered him. Well, that's not quite true because there was one thing bothering him.

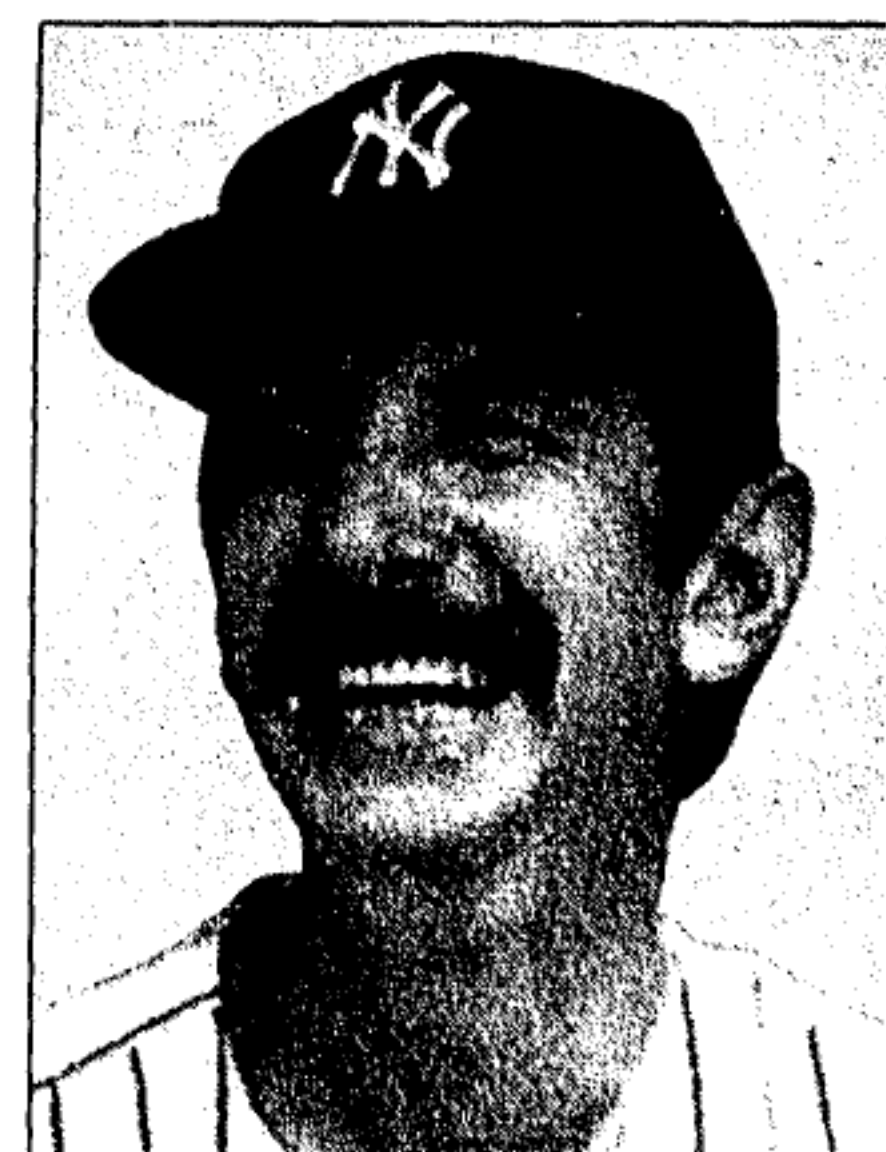
"Where am I going to get all the tickets I'll need this year?" he wondered.

Yankee Doodles: The saddest thing of the spring was the Yankees asking waivers on veteran Tommy Davis. The 37-year-old professional hitter was odd man out in a numbers game and had to be cut. A pity, because Tommy's presence added gobs of class to the Yankee

roster. . . . With Davis' departure, the Yankees took 10 pitchers north. . . . Elliott Maddox and Tom Robson opened the season on the disabled list. Maddox was left back in Florida to get his operation-scarred knee in shape. He was expected to join the club at the end of April, by which time one other player would have to be dropped. . . . Thurman Munson, who broke the index finger of his right hand and was unable to throw, did not catch one inning all spring.



Willie Randolph



Billy Martin

## How do you tell a kid he's been traded?

How do you explain to a .400 hitter that his Dad's been transferred to a different city? What can you say that will ease the pain of leaving his teammates behind?

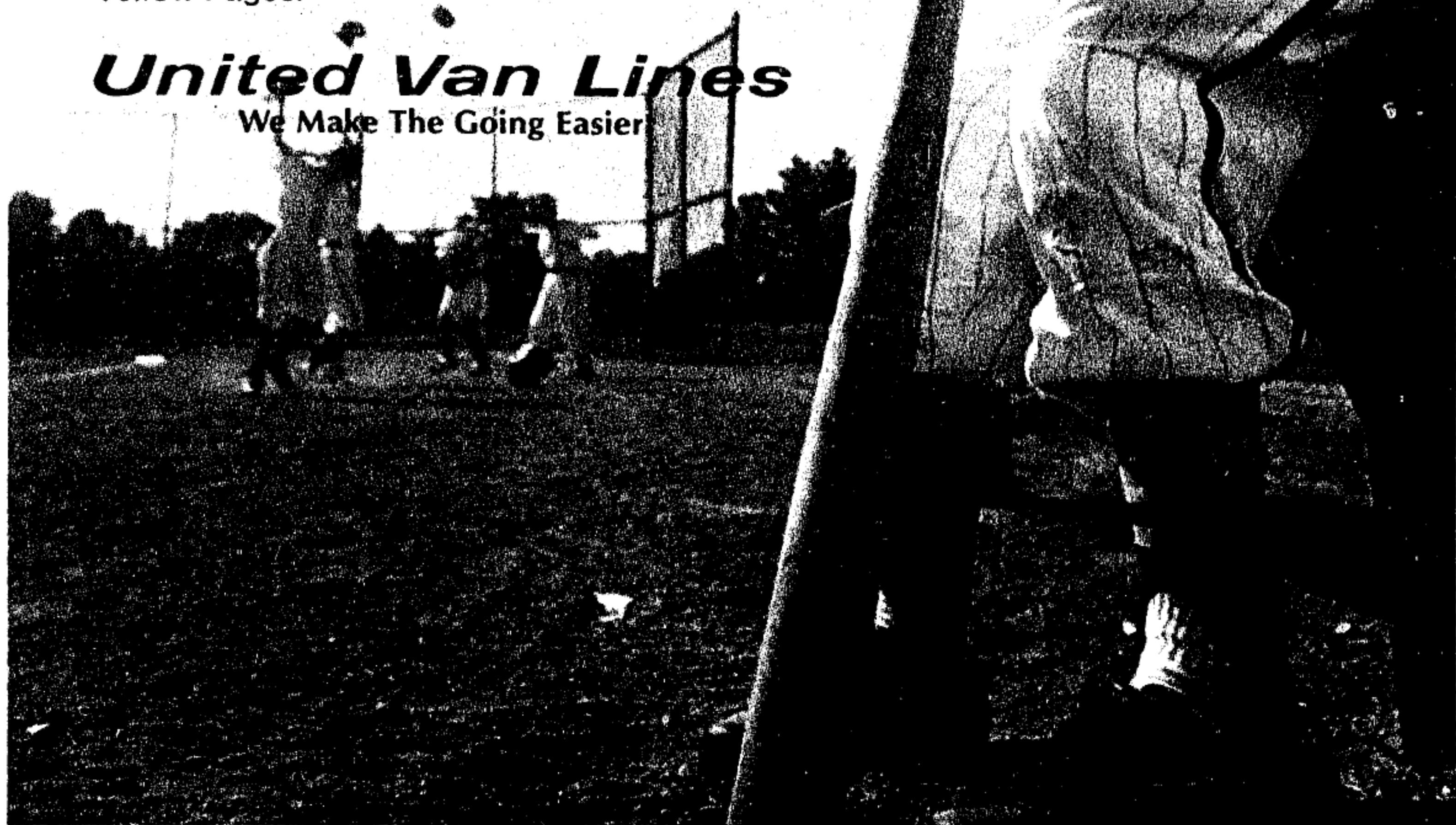
Sure, there'll be another team—maybe even better—in the city he's moving to. But for awhile at least, it won't be the same.

These are the heart-tugging moments that are so often a part of moving. And United Van Lines knows how important they are to you and your family.

That's why we do our very best to take the load off your mind . . . as well as your hands. We think you should have the time you need to spend with the people you care about most.

Your nearby United agent is waiting to help. Why not give him a call today? He's listed in the Yellow Pages.

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We Make The Going Easier



## Oscar's Afro Too Much for Barber

NEW YORK—If you think getting his huge afro trimmed was a traumatic experience for Oscar Gamble and his wife, Juanita, consider the barber who had to do the job on the Yankee outfielder.

A week after he was commissioned to handle the task, the Fort Lauderdale barber put the lock on his shop. He had retired.

Nobody could figure out exactly what happened. Was the \$30 fee he received so munificent a sum that it enabled him to retire? Or was the experience so shattering the barber promised he'd never give another haircut?



# Hough's Knuckler Almost Hit Proof

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—Dodger Manager Tommy Lasorda calls his crack relief pitcher, Charlie Hough, "my Hope Diamond."

And for a good many of his summers in the big leagues, whenever it came to talking about Charlie Hough, that's about all anyone did. Hope.

The reason was the uncertainty of his specialty, the knuckleball, a pitch so baffling that it fools everyone—the batter, the catcher, even the pitcher.

So far in 1977, however, there has been nothing uncertain about Hough.

HE WORKED IN 13 of the Dodgers' first 20 games, figuring prominently in nine of the 17 wins with three victories and six saves. In his first 28 innings, he allowed just five earned runs and had a 1.61 earned-run average.

There is a question, though, and that's just how often can he work?

"His arm aches and his back hurts," admitted Lasorda, "but he can pitch every day."

He might have to. It has been said that on days when Hough's knuckler isn't dancing, then nei-

ther will the Dodgers. That's because the rest of the bullpen—Al Downing, Mike Garman, Elias Sosa and Stan Wall—showed a combined ERA of 5.85 (13 earned runs, 19½ innings) through the Dodgers' first 21 games. Downing was the best of the rest with one run in 4½ innings.

Hough became No. 1 in the bullpen last June, even before the departure of Mike Marshall to Atlanta. He had the finest season of his seven in the majors, appearing in 77 games, winning 12 of 20 decisions and posting a 2.20 ERA.

THAT MIGHT be just a hint of what is yet to come.

Said Don Sutton: "He's going to break all of Marshall's records before he's through."

Hough has made gradual progress since his first taste of the big leagues in 1970. The two things he credits for his improvement are control and confidence.

"I didn't have any idea where the pitch was going when I started throwing it," he said. "That came with experience. As for confidence, I know now that if I louse up a game for some reason, I'm still

going to be back out there the next night."

Hough wasn't always a knuckleball pitcher. In fact, he wasn't always a pitcher. He started his professional career as a third baseman. It was Lasorda, then a manager in the club's minor league organization, who convinced him to try pitching.

LATER, AFTER hurting his arm, he tried the knuckleball, with the urging of Lasorda and scout Goldie Holt.

"Without a knuckleball," said the 29-year-old Hough, "I'd be punching tickets at Hialeah Race Track."

Interesting, in his first major league game, he got out of a jam by striking out Willie Stargell with the bases loaded. On a fast ball, yet.

In San Diego on April 26, he entered a game in the ninth inning with runners on first and second, no one out and the Dodgers leading, 4-1.

The batter was George Hendrick, a man to whom Hough never had pitched. He threw nothing but knucklers and got Hendrick on a pop-up. Next was Doug Rader, a

man he'd pitched to often, and he ended the game by getting Rader to ground into a double play—on a fast ball.

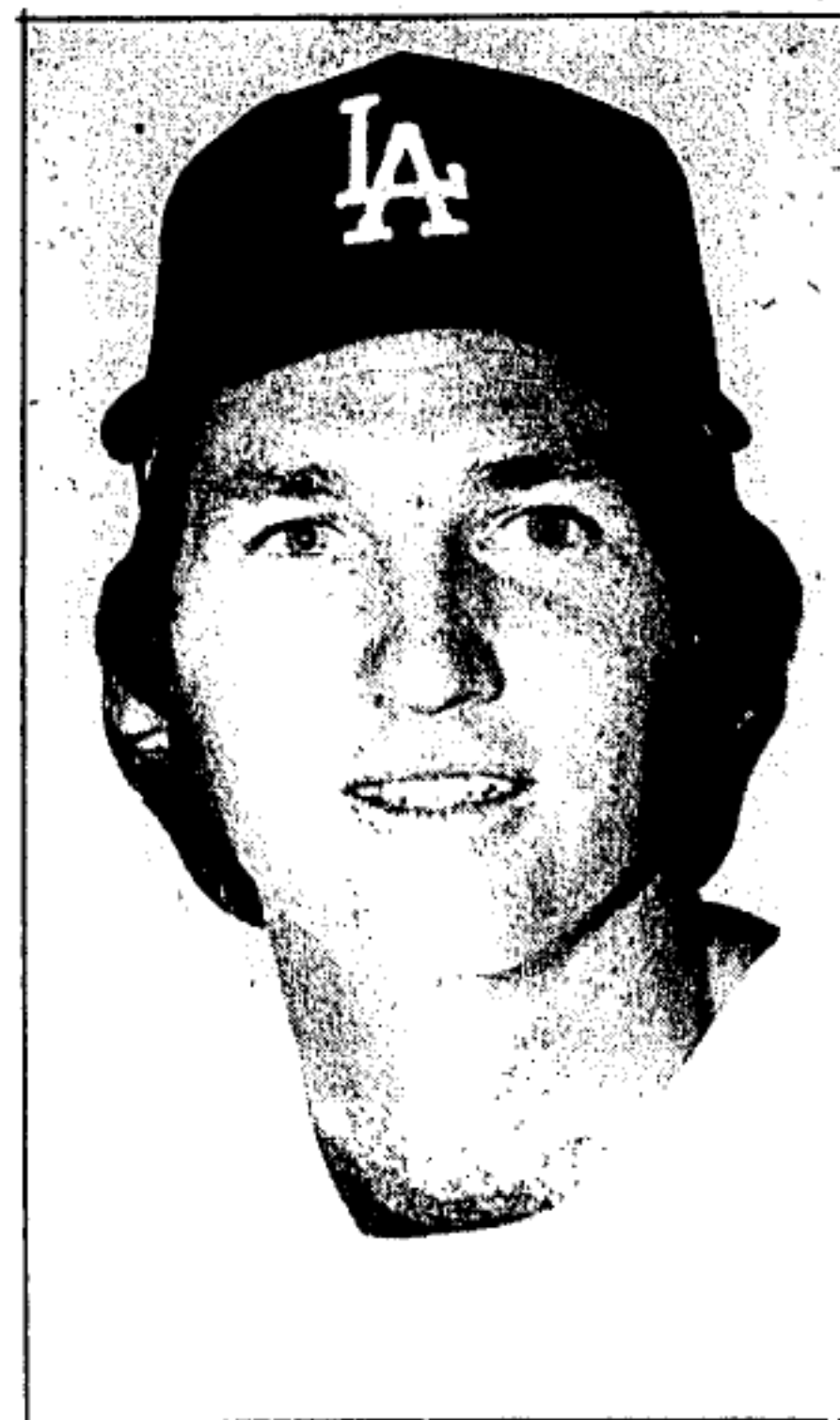
THREE NIGHTS later, in Dodger Stadium against the Expos, he appeared in the eighth inning with the Dodgers ahead, 2-0, runners on first and third, two out and Tony Perez—"the toughest hitter for me to get out"—at the plate.

He went to 1-and-1 on Perez, then tossed a knuckler high and inside that caught Tony's bat for a strike. He then caught Perez looking at strike three to get out of the inning and preserve the win for Tommy John.

"The biggest strike," said John "was the one that hit Perez' bat." Lasorda disagreed.

"The biggest strike," said the manager, "was the one Perez took with two strikes on him."

DODGER DOPE: The Expos ended the Dodgers' eight-game winning streak, 6-2, May 1. . . . The Dodgers still were batting .301 after their loss to Montreal. . . . The Dodgers won 15 of 18 games against the West. . . . Rick Monday and Montreal Manager Dick Williams had a shouting match in the fifth inning



Charlie Hough

May 1. Monday grounded out, but caught his spikes in the dirt as he started toward first. On one knee in the batter's box, he said Williams shouted obscenities at him from the dugout. Williams denied it. "I didn't like him when I played for him," snapped Monday, "and this only intensifies my feelings."

# Yanks Find Super Leadoff Hitter by Accident

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—It was a move made out of desperation. Eight defeats in their first 10 games had left the Yankees at the bottom of the A. L. East. All that talent, all those high salaries, and the Yankees were dead last.

Frustrated by the poor start, the lack of hitting, Manager Billy Martin turned to a trick he used to shake the Tigers out of a slump when he managed in Detroit. He put nine names in his hat and Reggie Jackson stuck in his hand and pulled out a lineup.

It might be mere coincidence that with his new lineup, Yankee bats began to light up, and they went on to win six straight, 10 of their next 11 games. They probably would have started to hit anyway.

WHAT IS MORE than just coincidence, what is a very fortunate accident, is that the first slip of paper Jackson pulled out of Billy Martin's hat had on it the name "Randolph."

That made Willie Randolph, normally the No. 8 hitter, the leadoff batter in Martin's hunch lineup. It might have made Willie Randolph the Yankee leadoff hitter for the rest of the season, and maybe for many seasons to come.

The statistics make it a very real possibility that Randolph might have replaced Mickey Rivers as the permanent Yankee leadoff man.

In his first 11 games at the top of the Yankee lineup, Randolph went to bat 53 times, 45 officially. He had 14 hits for a batting average of .311, also three doubles, one triple, one home run and six RBIs.

BUT THE STATS that make him so valuable as a leadoff man were 12 runs scored and an on-base percentage of .396, made possible by eight walks in 11 games. By startling contrast, Rivers walked only 12 times in 137 games all last season.

Randolph's patience at the plate, coupled with Rivers' tendency to slash away, makes it likely Randolph will remain on top and Rivers will drop down in the lineup. Mickey's RBI potential (he had 67 as a leadoff man last year) is another reason for the move, one which Randolph would welcome.

"I feel comfortable batting leadoff," Willie said. "I've always batted at the top of the order. I like it there. It's much easier to hit up there than it is at the bottom."

BESIDES BEING a patient hitter, Randolph has a good sense of his own strike zone for one so

young (22). He can bunt, he can steal (37 last year), he is a tough man to strike out and he can swing the bat.

Because of his good batting eye and the big bombers that follow him in the order, Randolph figures he will get better pitches to hit.

"The pitchers have to throw strikes," he reasoned. "They don't want to walk me with all those good hitters coming up."

Sometimes the determination not to walk a hitter makes a pitcher try too hard. That's when walks result. Also Randolph's ability to lay off bad pitches not only will increase his walk total, but also will give him a better selection of pitches to hit.

RANDOLPH'S offensive skills may be considered merely a

bonus. The Yankees wanted him mostly for defense and he has more than pleased them on that end, giving them the kind of second base play that merits comparison with all-time Yankee greats like Tony Lazzeri, Joe Gordon and Bobby Richardson.

His range and his ability to turn the double play and to hang in there in the face of flashing spikes stamp him as one of the great young second basemen in the game.

In a recent game against Seattle, Willie made a diving catch to take a hit away and turn it into a double play, the kind of play that could only be called miraculous.

"Aw," said Martin, an old second baseman of some reputation himself, "I would have been

standing in front of the ball."

In case you don't know Martin, he was only kidding.

YANKEE DOODLES: Catfish Hunter came off the disabled list and pitched vs. the Angels on May 4, the first day he was eligible. It was his first appearance since opening day. . . . Gabe Paul was released from the hospital and was recuperating at his home in Tampa. He did, however, manage to use the telephone to become involved in the deal that brought Mike Torrez to New York. Torrez was late reporting, missing one start and being the center of a mystery. He was home in Montreal, where his wife, Danielle, had suffered complications after birth of their first child, Iannique Michael John Torrez.

# Chisox' Big Park No Paradise for Zisk

By RICHARD DOZER

CHICAGO—Don't give Richie Zisk any of that business about home-field advantage. He doesn't take to that theory at all. As far as the new White Sox slugger is concerned, there's no place like the road.

Zisk and his fellow White Sox were back to open their first long home stand of the season on the weekend. When Cleveland came to town to get things started on Friday the 13th ("Anti-superstition night," Bill Veeck called it), Zisk was trying to clear his mind of more things than bad-luck omens.

He brought with him a .167 home batting average, born of six hits in 30 trips to the plate in cavernous Comiskey Park. Of his first 25 runs batted in, only four were at home. Of his first eight homers, only one came in Chicago.

"I CAN'T WAIT to get out of town," Zisk had said when the White Sox set out on a 10-game trip that started May 2 in Kansas City.

Little wonder. He was batting over .400 everywhere but home.

"Here we are—only about a month into the season, and I'm

mentally beat in this ball park already. I suppose it's psychological, but they take my strength away here. I showed them early that I hit the ball in all directions. I'm not just a pull hitter.

"I hit a ball the other day just to the right of center field. It's at least 400 feet, and it's a home run everywhere else. But it's caught here. I only know one other field that would contain it—O'Hare."

Zisk also went down the line and talked about homers he has hit in such parks as Toronto, Oakland and Detroit. At least three of them, he said, would have been caught in Chicago.

ALL OF WHICH doesn't exactly hasten Richie toward signing his White Sox contract. He had thought that Comiskey Park fences were to have been shortened in the alleys and in the prohibitive 445-foot depths of center.

But Owner Bill Veeck backed off on the advice of Manager Bob Lemon, who wants more room for his pitchers. Once established, the fences must remain the same for the season.

Zisk gave the Sox an 11th-hour "hint" before the home opener.

His first homer of the season in Toronto five days earlier barely cleared the 400-foot sign in dead center. In Chicago, it would have been an easy out.

The question becomes: will it be more expensive now than it would have been in spring training to sign Zisk? Neither he nor his agent, Jerry Kapstein, will tip their collective hand. But it has become clear that Comiskey Park is not going to be a Zisk favorite with its present contours.

IT HAS BEEN reported that he is asking at least a three-year pact at \$200,000 per. By now the price may have gone up. He appears headed straight for the re-entry draft. It may be assumed, however, that Veeck is too smart to let that happen. He has two ways to avoid it: sign him by June 15, or trade him to any of several American League teams which see him as the difference between a title and failure. June 15 is the trade deadline.

But Zisk has a warning to those who may wish to use him as a designated hitter. He insists that's not his role.

"I tried it a couple of times in (Continued on Page 22, Column 1)

# Fire Engine Replaces Limo for Sparky, Bride

NEW YORK—It was far and away the social event of the season, the wedding of Mary Fontaine Massey to Albert Walter Lyle, the celebrated relief pitcher of the Yankees, better known as Sparky.

After the ceremony at the Marble Collegiate Church in downtown Manhattan, the newlyweds stepped out into the street and discovered their limousine had been replaced by a 1936 fire engine.

The newlyweds and their wedding party rode on the fire engine to a reception at McTeague's, attended by Lyle's teammates and Yankee Owner George Steinbrenner.

"It's quite a surprise," practical joker Lyle said of the fire engine, "but frankly it's not as bad as I expected."

The following night, Lyle was back in the Yankee bullpen, where he resided as king with six saves and one victory in his first nine appearances.

PHIL PEPE



# Bucs Expecting Bids for Keystoner Randolph

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH—The decision belongs to Joe Brown and Danny Murtaugh. From now until the end of the winter meetings in early December, the Pirates' general manager and field manager will receive numerous offers for Willie Randolph.

Okay, you might say, who is Willie Randolph? Is he another Bill Mazeroski. Is he another Rennie Stennett?

Randolph is a 21-year-old second baseman who, rivals feel, has the ability to play regularly with most big league clubs.

RANDOLPH'S minor league credentials are impressive. His brief fling with the Pirates was not impressive, but nobody talks negatively about this young man who grew up in Brooklyn and learned how not to play baseball by watching the Mets of the early '60s.

Brown may not want to give up Randolph at any price. Then again, he might be willing to deal Randolph if the Pirates can obtain a good young pitcher. Not just any pitcher, but a pitcher with a big future, because Randolph is supposed to have a big future.

Here's what rival scouts and general managers say about Randolph: "Can make the double play pivot as well as any second baseman in the big leagues right now. . . . Steady fielder who should be able to hit .270 or higher in the big leagues and draw more than 60 walks a year."

IF RANDOLPH were a shortstop or third baseman, Brown probably would give no consideration to dealing him.

In Pittsburgh, Stennett has put a padlock on the second base position and he is only 24 years old. The

Pirates traded Dave Cash to the Phillies for pitcher Ken Brett two years ago to make room for Stennett as an every-day second baseman.

Murtaugh believes Randolph can play third base in the big leagues, but it's doubtful if he would be as valuable at third as he is at second, where he is considered outstanding.

In Randolph's lone start at third base in the last game of the season in St. Louis, he made three errors.

Randolph is unusual for a youngster. He is well grounded in the fundamentals of the game. There are some Pirates nearing 30 who still are short on fundamentals.

HERE ARE some guesses of the offers Brown will receive for Randolph, who batted only .164 (10-for-61) with the Bucs after leading the International League at Charles-

ton with a .338 mark before he was brought up in late July.

The Yankees may offer Sparky Lyle. The Giants might offer Jim Barr. The Braves might offer Carl Morton. The Royals might offer Amos Otis, or an outstanding pitching prospect.

A few years ago, the Pirates were in a similar situation with Milt May, a 20-year-old backup catcher to Manny Sanguillen.

May rusted on the bench in 1971 and '72. At the end of the 1973 season, Brown sent May to Houston in a swap for Jerry Reuss, who was the team's biggest winner (16 and 17 games) in each of the last two seasons.

IF RANDOLPH is with the Pirates next April, Murtaugh will have to make a decision. Should he return the youngster to Charleston where he can play every day, or

should Murtaugh keep him and let him sit behind Stennett, who plays in more than 150 games every year?

Meanwhile, Brown and Murtaugh will have an open ear to any offers for Randolph.

Pittsburghers: The Pirates plan to do more winter promoting than in past years. They picked up in their promoting last winter and a bigger promotion plan is in the works in the hopes of reaching 1.5 million in attendance next year. The Bucs hit 1.5 million in 1971—the first full season they played at Three Rivers Stadium. Their attendance this year was just under 1.3 million. . . . There's a rumor that Brown has decided to schedule some midweek day games next April and May. The Bucs don't draw well at night early in the season—even when they get a break in the weather



Jim Marshall

## Marshall Plan Calls for New Faces on Cub Hill

By RICHARD DOZER

CHICAGO—The bullpen, said Jim Marshall, "is our greatest need. But let's just call it pitching," he added in starting out his assessment of the 1975 Cubs and separating the good news from the bad.

"There can be no doubt that improvement of the pitching staff is our main goal. As a manager, I feel we must make a move . . . a major trade. We cannot stand still."

It wasn't that Marshall was completely disenchanted with his moundsmen. "Burris won 15 games and was coming on at the end," he noted. "Reuschel's record (11-17) was not indicative of the real him, and Stone was never the same after missing a month before the middle of the season."

THUS HE feels there is hope for Ray Burris, Rick Reuschel and Steve Stone.

"Bill Bonham, on the other hand, still has not achieved all he wants to," added Marshall.

And because the Cubs' brain-

trust has not found anything of extreme promise in the farm system, '76 spring training undoubtedly will find at least two new hurlers gained in trades.

John Curtis, the Cardinal lefthander, was among those being mentioned as a possible acquisition. But when the Cubs gave up Don Kessinger to the Redbirds for reliever Mike Garman, a righthander, one problem perhaps was solved.

The Cubs still have their eyes on Sparky Lyle, the Yankees' relief ace, who could be the lefthander they feel they sorely need.

With the trade of Kessinger, however, the Cubs might have blown their chances to nab Lyle.

TO UNDERSTAND how important it is for the Cubs to trade for pitching, one needs only to hear Marshall's critique of how well his hitters and fielders did—while the mound staff wound up worst of the 24 at 4.49. "We've got to get that figure under 4.00, even though our

park has a bearing on it," he said. Marshall's look at the pluses:

"I said in spring training that Bill Madlock would be a .300 hitter, but when he led the league with .354, that has to be a 50-point bonus," he said.

"I surely couldn't have dreamed that Manny Trillo would drive in 70 runs for us while playing so well at second base. He was just super."

"Kessinger had a good year and even hit 10 triples. And, in answer to a question I've been getting lately, yes, he still could have played shortstop for us. We didn't trade him just for the sake of making a deal."

"Andy Thornton came on so well at the last, I'd like to think he can start where he left off."

THORNTON, the first baseman, hit most of his 18 home runs in the last seven weeks of the season, belting five in one six-game stretch. He wound up batting .293 and is looked upon as the Cubs' next 30-or-more home run man.

Andy, weakened early by a wrist fracture, led the club this year.

Marshall looked upon Jose Cardenal's 34 stolen bases as "what we expected" and Jose's .317 batting average another bonus. He pointed out, too, that Jerry Morales' 91 runs batted in, which gave Jerry the club leadership two years running, "has made believers out of a lot of people—including us."

Getting a brief September look at Joe Wallis, rookie center fielder who batted .286 with five extra-base hits and played dazzling defense, was something else Marshall had not counted upon. Wallis is a switch hitter, but he's a natural lefthander, and that's the side from which he got all but one of his 16 hits.

Marshall and his staff intend to watch Wallis closely in the Arizona Instructional League to decide whether to turn him back into a 100 percent lefthander—and equally important: to see if he fits in their plans for '76.

## Watson, Johnson Figure in Astro Rebuilding Plans

By HARRY SHATTUCK

HOUSTON—Early speculation was that the Astros, bidding to improve on 1975's last-place finish, would trade either Bob Watson or Cliff Johnson, their top offensive performers.

General Manager Tal Smith said such is not the case.

"I don't feel we have to trade either man," Smith said. "Just the opposite, in fact. At the moment, I would consider Watson our No. 1 first baseman and Johnson our catcher."

"Both these men have big bats and you don't find those kind of bats easily," Smith continued. "And we need big bats. Barring a trading situation which would enable us to replace one of those bats, I think you'll find both men with us next year."

JOHNSON, seeing mostly part-time duty, led Houston in home runs with 20. Watson topped in RBIs with 85.

The problem is that both are best suited defensively to first base, and only one man can handle the position regularly.

Johnson doubles as a catcher, but has never spent a full season at that position. Bill Virdon, who became Astro manager August 19,

gave Johnson considerable late-year experience behind the plate, and the muscular Texan is playing winter ball in hopes of mastering the position.

If Johnson can make the grade at catcher, Milt May would seem to be a ripe possibility for trading as Smith and Virdon begin rebuilding the Astros.

May, the regular Houston catcher in 1974 and '75, disappointed both offensively and defensively last season. However, at 25 May still may have his best years ahead. And he has proven himself as a regular, something Johnson has yet to do (or have the chance to do).

SMITH CONSULTED frequently with other club officials during World Series activities, but no deals have been firmed yet.

Third baseman Doug Rader's name was mentioned frequently during the Series. The Houston captain had a subpar season offensively and was handicapped by ailing feet defensively.

Enos Cabell, a utility man acquired from Baltimore last winter, replaced Rader much of September and Smith said, "I don't think we absolutely have to find a new

third baseman. It may be that Cabell and Rader can play the position well for us next season."

A major problem on the infield is that second baseman Rob Andrews, shortstop Roger Metzger and third baseman Rader—all considered above average defensively—batted under .230 combined. A team often can survive

with one or even two infielders so unproductive at the plate. But three?

ANDREWS DID rally from below .200 to finish at .233 in his rookie year and Smith said, "I believe he can play defensively in the major leagues, but we just have to find out if he can hit."

Metzger is considered the backbone of the team by many Houston officials, and it is unlikely the club will part with its slick-fielding shortstop.

The outfield seems solid with Cesar Cedeno, Greg Gross and Wilbur Howard. All are young, hit for average and have good speed. The one problem is that only Cedeno among the three boasts power and he is not primarily a long ball threat.

That leaves pitching as Smith's No. 1 priority. "Pitching depth and quality: we've simply got to improve our pitching," the GM said, repeating statements heard often during Houston's disappointing season.

Astronotes: Roy Hofheinz, who lost control of his Astrodome empire in midseason because of



Bob Watson



Cliff Johnson



# Anderson Gets His Vindication

DETROIT—Outside the manager's office, the celebration was predictably raucous. The Detroit Tigers hadn't bathed in champagne in 12 years.

Sparkey Anderson watched more than participated. Dave Rozema and Jack Morris sprayed each other. Randy O'Neal, the rookie pitcher who won the American League East Division clincher in his first major-league start, was one of the first to be doused. Lance Parrish walked around more than an hour later, soaking with champagne but still wearing his shinguards, and Owner Tom Monaghan was drenched with a cooler of ice water.

That is how the Tigers celebrated their triumph—with 22 cases of champagne, plenty of noise and raw emotion.

"I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," said Darrell Evans. "What I really wanted to do was sit in the stands the last two innings so I could let everything go."

The quiet contentment of the championship belonged to Anderson. He couldn't avoid the spray of victory. In fact, he was the one bloodied casualty as an overexuberant Kirk Gibson cut him on the head during a dunking. But Anderson stayed on the fringe of the party as much as he could.

"They questioned me after Cincinnati," he said, "but no one will ever question me again. That's the most gratifying thought I can think of. Ever since I was fired, I've wanted to prove it was wrong. It's been burning inside. Now I'm satisfied. I've never been more satisfied with a season in my life."

The Tigers were hardly surprise winners in the East. By the end of May, they had a record 35-5 start and were well on their way. But Anderson found himself in an awkward position after the start, almost as if he had to justify what it meant for the Tigers and the rest of the pennant race.

"I don't know why we have to keep apologizing for it," he said. "All I hear is that if the Tigers hadn't gotten off to a 35-5 start, they wouldn't have won. I always thought the season lasted 162 games. Don't the first 40 count?"

The Tigers head into the playoffs with a healthy team, but a few dilemmas all the same. Alan Trammell was their only major ailment of the season (tendinitis in his shoulder), but he returned in mid-August, and his arm strength has increased steadily. Most of the questions pertained to pitching, the foremost being the postseason rotation. With three pitchers (Milt Wilcox, Dan Petry and Jack Morris) reaching 17 victories at virtually the same time, Anderson had his choice.

"We're going to wait awhile before deciding," he said. "It could be decided on their final outings."

With much of the early attention directed toward Morris and Petry, Wilcox was left alone to piece together his best season.

Morris was 10-1 by the first of June. Petry had 14 victories by the end of July, but both stalled for varying amounts of time. Morris went into the stretch feeling fit, but Petry had to be pulled from a scheduled start for the first time in three years because of a twinge in his shoulder.

That's why the Tigers went into their two potential division-clinching games with rookies on the mound. Roger Mason opened a series with a 7-3 victory over Milwaukee, but the magic number stood at one as Toronto avoided elimination by coming from behind against Boston.

But the next night, there were no surprise endings. If the Tigers won, the division title was theirs.

O'Neal, who was called up from Evansville after the American Association season ended, blanked the Brewers on four hits for seven innings. Willie Hernandez came on to post his 30th save in as many opportunities.

**Tiger Tales:** Since the All-Star break, Wilcox had the best record among Detroit starters at 9-1, but Juan Berenguer had the lowest earned-run average at 3.06. O'Neal was drafted five times before finally signing with Detroit. "I wanted to get close to my business degree (at the University of Florida) before signing," he said. "I can't depend on baseball all my life. I'd like to be a stockbroker." The ironic part of the Tigers' celebration was their postgame meal pizza, but not from the Domino's chain owned by Monaghan. Lou Whitaker contributed the first grand slam of his career the night before the Tigers clinched the division.

TOM GAGE



## Young Pitchers Could Sway Houk

BOSTON—Ralph Houk still hasn't decided whether he wants to return in 1985 as manager of the Boston Red Sox, but his three young righthanded pitchers could make the choice for him.

The performances over the last three months of Roger Clemens, Al Nipper and Oil Can Boyd have indicated that the future is bright for the Red Sox, and that could tip the scales in

favor of Houk returning for his fifth season.

Houk, 65, planned to sit down with the Red Sox management the last week of the season and try to make up his mind about 1985.

"I see no problem as far as the club is concerned in Ralph coming back," General Manager Lou Gorman said. "I think he wants to come back, but there may be personal reasons that would change his mind."

Houk retired after the 1978 season, when he guided the Detroit Tigers to an 86-76 record. Boredom set in, and he found he was miserable in his two years out of baseball. When the Red Sox offered him the managing job for 1981, he jumped at the chance to return to the big leagues.

When Houk left the Tigers, he left behind four 1978 rookies who would go on to become the nucleus of the 1984 American League East championship club—Alan Trammell, Lou Whitaker, Lance Parrish and Jack Morris.

This year, rookies Clemens and Nipper, plus the 24-year-old Boyd, have shown signs that they could carry the Red Sox to a pennant in the near future.

Clemens (9-4), now out of action with a slight muscle tear in his forearm, averaged almost nine strikeouts a game in his 20 starts. He was 6-0 after July 14.

Nipper, who didn't get into the starting rotation until June, was 10-5 overall and 9-2 since July 1. Boyd, after being sent to the minors when he struggled in April and May, has bounced back to raise his record to 11-10. He was 10-5 since June 20.

It's been many years since the Red Sox had three outstanding pitching prospects. Mike Brown is another young prospect, although he struggled this year while being in and out of the rotation and back and forth between the Red Sox and the minors.

Are the Red Sox on the verge of something big? Houk apparently thinks so, and that's why the Red Sox expect him to be back in 1985.

**Sox Footnotes:** The Sox equaled their 1983 victory total when they won No. 78 in New York on September 16. . . . Righthanded pitchers Rich Gale and Jim Dorsey (the Sox purchased his contract) and catcher Marc Sullivan were brought up from Pawtucket after that club won the International League championship. Gale got an immediate start against Toronto, and he picked up a victory by working five innings. Sullivan was behind the plate in New York and singled home Boston's fifth run in a 5-3 victory.

With two weeks remaining in the season, Jim Rice had 117 RBIs and a chance to lead the majors in that category. Tony Armas led the majors with 39 home runs and Dwight Evans was No. 1 with 116 runs scored. Rice finished with 11 RBIs for the year in Yankee Stadium. He drove in four runs in his New York finale. . . . With seven home games left, the Sox had a 38-36 record in Fenway Park and their attendance was down 93,000 from 1983, when they drew 1,782,285.

JOE GIULIOTTI



## Gantner Pondering Re-Entry Draft

MILWAUKEE—Looking at the statistics, Jim Gantner had a very good season.

The Milwaukee Brewers' second baseman looks at something else the standings.

"It was no fun at all," he said of a season in which the Brewers, American League champions two years ago, tumbled into last place. "From day one until now, when it's almost over with, it was no fun, especially when you know you're a better team than you've been showing. I think there's something missing. We were hurt by a lot of injuries, but I think there was one ingredient missing for us to finish this far under .500. I think it's something management will have to sit down and look at over the winter."

"You don't get this bad in one season without some reason. We did have some key players hurt, sure, but we aren't that bad, not in my opinion. I can see losing some key players and not winning the pennant, but not finishing this low. Something's not jelling."

What's missing? Is it Manager Rene Lachemann's fault?

"I don't want to comment on that," Gantner said. "That's not my job to decide. I expect some key trades over the winter. Maybe there's the ingredient we're missing. Maybe we could get it in a trade. I don't know, but we're missing something."

The Brewers could be missing Gantner next season, but that's not likely. He will be eligible for free agency at the end of the season and certainly would draw some interest in the re-entry draft.

The Brewers, however, don't want to lose the feisty infielder, and General Manager Harry Dalton said that he thought they were close to agreeing on a contract. Gantner agreed that they were closer to an agreement after Dalton agreed to some no-trade provisions, but he indicated that there was still a possibility of filing for free agency.

"I have to do that to protect myself," he said.

In a season that hasn't produced too many candidates, Gantner has been the Brewers' most valuable player. He has been their most consistent hitter all season and remains a key player in their defense. There are no statistics to show his

value as a player who doesn't know the meaning of the word quit, even when his team is 33½ games out of first place.

Still, his batting average, which had been around .300 all season, took a dip in the middle of September, falling below .290. The slide started right after he hit a game-winning home run in Baltimore.

Was he swinging for the fences?

"I don't think so," he said. "I'm just not swinging well right now. I'm swinging at bad pitches. I know it might look that way, but I'm not up there trying to hit home runs. A guy goes through four or five of these a year. You try not to let them go for any long period, then you're all right. Last year, I didn't hit well the last week. Maybe this year I'll finish the other way."

**Foaming Over:** Robin Yount, who regained a share of the team home-run lead with his 14th of the season, ended the season as the team's designated hitter. He did not play shortstop because of the shoulder problems that have bothered him since midseason. . . . Bob Gibson, a disappointment when he spent a little more than a month with the Brewers at midseason, made an impressive return after he was recalled in September. After losing to the Orioles despite pitching well at Baltimore, he beat them with a two-hit shutout in his second start.

Jim Kern, who spent the last half of the season with the Brewers' farm club in El Paso (Texas), was signed to a contract in mid-September and responded with two impressive outings. In his first outing, the Brewers clocked several fastballs at 94 mph. He didn't throw any slower than 90.

TOM FLAHERTY



## Randolph Could Be On Trading Block

NEW YORK—Of the numerous decisions facing the New York Yankees during the off-season, the situation involving second baseman Willie Randolph may be the most perplexing.

Randolph has been one of the few constants in the ever-changing Yankees scene during the past nine years. In fact, he's the senior Yankee in terms of continuous service. Ron Guidry spent parts of the 1975 and 1976 seasons in the minors, but Randolph, acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates in December of 1975, has been the regular second baseman since 1976.

Randolph has had an outstanding career with the Yankees and has established himself as one of the American League's best leadoff hitters. The Yankees realize that trading him would be a gamble, but there are certain factors which are being considered:

- Randolph will be 31 next season.
- The Yanks hope to trade for an established pitcher and an outfielder, and Randolph would be an attractive commodity.
- Randolph's trade value probably would diminish by next season. He has had a fine year, entering the final week with a batting average in the .290 range and ranking among the league leaders in on-base percentage.
- This could be the Yankees' last chance to trade him. After next season, he would have veto power over trades by virtue of having 10 years in the major leagues, the past five with the same team.

Those reasons, combined with the fine performance of second baseman Rex Hudler at Columbus (International), prompted rumors that Randolph would be traded during the winter. Hudler, 24, batted .292 for Columbus and is regarded as a defensive specialist.

"I've heard rumors for so many years about being traded that I don't listen to them anymore," said Randolph. "I've been a Yankee for a long time, and I'd like to stay. I hope the rumors are just rumors."

Randolph, whose current contract extends through the 1986 season, said he doesn't feel his best years are behind him.

"I've had a good year this year, and I know I have a lot of good years left," he said. "I've been around a long time, but I'm not old."

Randolph, whose arrival in 1976 played a role in the Yankees' first pennant since 1964, has been around for all the years of controversy. During his nine seasons, the Yankees have made nine managerial changes and had six different general managers. Randolph has had approximately 150 teammates, and he and Guidry are the only remaining players from 1978, the last time the Yankees won the World Series.

Randolph has played 125 or more games in all but one of his eight full seasons, excluding the strike-shortened 1981 season. He had a .272 career batting average entering this season.

According to scouts, Randolph has lost a little range at second base but still is regarded as an above-average second baseman, outstanding at making the double play and a fine leadoff hitter. If the Yankees make him available, there certainly would be interest among other teams. But Randolph is hoping that he isn't available.

**Yankee Doodles:** According to research by Yankees publicists, Dave Winfield and Don Mattingly headed into the final week of the season with a chance to become the first teammates in 47 years to bat .340 or higher, hit 20 or more homers and drive in 100 or more runs. In 1937, a pair of teammate combos—Yankees Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio and Cardinals Joe Medwick and Johnny Mize—achieved those levels.

(Continued on Page 30, Column 1)



(Continued From Page 17)

ciation), in the Texas Rangers' organization, to the Jays' Syracuse (International) farm club, then wound up in Toronto in mid-August of 1984 when Jim Acker went on the disabled list.

He had an 0-2 record for the Jays and amounted to an 11th man on a 10-man staff when the season ended, although he worked 21 innings and earned his first save in the major leagues. He had been 1-0 in 12 games with the Seattle Mariners late in the 1982 season, but did not get a save.

This spring, Musselman earned his spot on the roster by posting an earned-run average of 0.56 in 15 innings in Florida. He has become effective by adding a new pitch, a compromise between a forkball and a split-finger fastball.

"When I talked to Al Widmar (the Jays' pitching coach) at the end of last season, he suggested I work on an off-speed pitch," said the 30-year-old righthander, who had been primarily a fastball-slider pitcher.

He went to the Dominican Republic to play winter ball, but returned after a month with a tender elbow. Later, he joined the Barquisimeto team in Venezuela, where he perfected the new pitch.

"I worked on changing my grip on the ball with our pitching coach (Pablo Torrealba)," said Musselman. "The big thing was to throw it with the same arm action as a fastball, and to get an idea of what to expect."

"I call it a forkball. I don't push it as far back between my index and middle finger as I would with a split-finger pitch, but it's an off-speed pitch, and it has real good movement."

"When I went to spring training, I started using it the first day. I would throw it four or five times, then some fastballs, and then the forkball again."

As catcher Buck Martinez said, "He doesn't even have to throw it for a strike. He just has to show it to the batter."

Musselman said he wasn't worried about making the roster when he read about the Jays acquiring Bill Caudill and Gary Lavelle as stoppers in the bullpen.

"It showed me the Toronto organization wanted the best," he said. "I thought if I could get another pitch, I had a chance to make the club."

**Jays Chatter:** Switch-hitting shortstop Tony Fernandez was hitless righthanded until he collected two safeties in the Jays' final exhibition game. He finished with a .148 spring average.

**Willie Aikens** led the team with a .345 average, and shared the club lead in runs batted in with Jesse Barfield, each with 10. Damaso Garcia hit .333, and did not have a walk in 57 times at the plate. The Jays were 18-9-1 in spring training, the best record in the majors. They lost two of three games with Milwaukee at B.C. Place in Vancouver, drawing an announced 65,000 for those games under the dome. Last year, the B.C. series attracted more than 100,000.

Shortstop Manny Lee, 19, is the youngest player in team history to be on the opening-day roster. The opener in Kansas City marked the first time either Lee or outfielder Lou Thornton, 21, had been in a major league ball park. The Jays reached the 25-man roster limit by placing outfielder Ron Shepherd on the 15-day disabled list. He had a strained right elbow.

Mitch Webster, who had a .342 spring average, stayed on the roster. Both he and Shepherd are out of options. Jeff Burroughs, the Jays' designated hitter against left-handed pitching, paced the runaway to the dugout at Royals Stadium in Kansas City between at-bats in the season opener. "I can't sit down. I've got to stand up, walk around, and stretch," Burroughs said. "This is a great park because it has such a big runway. This and Anaheim are the two best in the league."

Dave Stieb, who led the American League in hit batsmen with 11 last season, plunked two in the 1985 opener. He hit Onix

Concepcion on the elbow with two out and one runner on base in the seventh inning. Willie Wilson followed with a two-run double that gave the Royals a 2-1 victory. Kevin Shanahan, better known as B.J. Birdy, the Jays' mascot, is an art student who has created a cartoon strip that is being carried by a Toronto newspaper. The strip is entitled "B.J. Birdy."

NEIL MacCARTL



## Randolph Playing With Painful Foot

NEW YORK—Second baseman Willie Randolph, whose performance is regarded as a key to the New York Yankees' chances, is resigned to playing with an aching foot and is trying to adopt a "grin and bear it" approach to the season.

Randolph is concerned about the condition of his right foot—recently determined to be a stress fracture of the ball of his foot—and is hoping it doesn't become something that will force him out of the lineup.

Randolph was one of the few Yankees regulars who didn't miss significant playing time during the team's injury-go-round exhibition season. But that may have been one of the most significant mistakes of the spring.

"All the time I was playing, I thought it was a bruise and I could play through it," said Randolph. "With about a week to go in spring training, it was diagnosed as a stress fracture. By that point, it was too late to do anything about it. If I had known earlier, I would have rested and it would have had a chance to get better. Rest is the only treatment, but the beginning of the season isn't a time to start resting."

Randolph's condition, and a knee injury to backup infielder Andre Robertson, led to an unexpected bonanza for Juan Bonilla. The former San Diego Padres second baseman, who missed the 1984 season after drug-related problems, was signed by the Yankees as a free agent in January. With a week to go in spring training, Bonilla was ticketed for Columbus (International). But then the decision was made to keep Bonilla as a backup, enabling Manager Yogi Berra to give Randolph more frequent rest.

During the final days of spring training, Bonilla kept telling reporters, "I'm still here, I'm still here." When he boarded the flight from Fort Lauderdale to Boston for the season opener, he said, "I'm still here and getting closer." And on opening day, he said, "I made it." Bonilla realizes, however, that he'll most likely be sent to Columbus when Robertson returns.

Randolph, meanwhile, has no intention of watching anybody else playing second base.

"The doctors told me I probably can't make the foot any worse by playing," Randolph said. "But as long as I keep playing, the chances are it won't get better. So I'm just going to deal with the pain. I've been putting pads in my spikes, and I might go to a rubber-spiked shoe because it won't hurt as much."

Randolph said the injury shouldn't affect his performance. "I'm aware of the pain, but I can still react on defense and still run the same," he said. "I might yell out every once in a while because it hurts, but I can deal with that. I'll just keep taking aspirin."

And as long as the pain remains bearable, he plans to play regularly. "I've worked too hard to start missing a bunch of games now," he said. "I know my teammates are counting on me. I'll just do what I have to do."

Randolph, who'll be 31 in July, is beginning his 10th season as the Yankees' second baseman, and he and pitcher Ron Guidry joke about which one is the senior member of the team. Randolph leads in continuous service, but Guidry, who spent parts of the 1975 and 1976 seasons in the minors, has four more days of total service.

"When I first came to the Yankees, we were winners every year," said Randolph, who in his first six seasons played on five American League East champs, four pennant winners and two World Series champions. "The last three years have been kind of disheartening, but I believe the team we have this year can win again. I want to be a part of it."

**Yankee Doodles:** The Yankees, searching for a left-handed power hitter, were interested in Seattle's Ken Phelps, but a trade seemed unlikely. Except for Don Mattingly, the highest home run total last season by a lefty hitter on the opening-day roster was seven (Ken Griffey and Mike Pagliarulo). The opening-day loss to Boston marked the fourth consecutive year the Yankees dropped the opener. They've won an opener once in the last eight years. Phil Niekro, the 46-year-old knuckleballer, has an 0-7 record in opening-day assignments. He pitched four innings against Boston, allowing five runs, five walks (two with the bases loaded) and two homers. Last year, he walked as many as five batters in a game once in 31 starts. He didn't allow his second homer until his 14th game and 94th inning.

Mattingly and Dave Winfield were hitless in the opener. Last season, they went hitless in the same game only 10 times, and the Yankees lost nine of the games. Scott Bradley received the James P. Dawson Award as the Yankees' outstanding rookie in spring training. Previous winners of the award, first presented in 1956, include Tony Kubek (1957), Tommy Tresh (1962), Roy White (1966), Randolph (1976) and Mattingly (1983). Bradley, who won a roster spot as a utility player, was used as a catcher, first baseman, third baseman and left fielder during

spring training. He may also see occasional action as a designated hitter against righthanded pitching. He won the International League batting title last season with a .335 average for Columbus.

As usual, the Yankees' roster showed a large turnover from last season. Twelve of the 25 opening-day players weren't with the team at the beginning of last season. Neither were three players who started the season on the disabled list—Robertson, Rickey Henderson and Marty Bystrom. Rookie Alfonso Pulido, the left-handed screwball specialist, was impressive in spring training and came close to making the team. Pulido, Mike Armstrong and Dale Murray were the candidates for the final pitching spot. Armstrong and Murray were consistently ineffective, but Murray's contract is guaranteed for \$625,000. Armstrong and Pulido were optioned to Columbus.

MOSS KLEIN



## Rotation Falls To Inspire Awe

CLEVELAND—Cleveland Indians Manager Pat Corrales didn't have to ponder the question for long.

"Yeah, I'd have to say that," Corrales said when asked if the Cleveland club he took over on July 31, 1983, was the worst with which he'd ever been associated. "Those guys didn't give a damn about winning or losing. They just wanted to be paid on the first and 15th."

"And that team (40-60 when Corrales replaced Mike Ferraro) had already reached its potential. In fact, it might have reached its potential a year or two earlier."

"We didn't have a bullpen. There were times when Larry Sorensen was the best pitcher I had. Sometimes I'd have to let Sorensen and Rick Sutcliffe lose games because they were better pitchers tired than what I had in the bullpen fresh. Of course, Bert Blyleven never pitched for me that year."

Blyleven (7-10 in '83) was injured much of the last two months of the season. Corrales' other starters were Sutcliffe (17-11), Sorensen (12-11), rookie Neal Heaton (11-7) and Len Barker (8-13), who was dealt to the Atlanta Braves three weeks after Corrales arrived.

What does all of that have to do with the state of the Indians in 1985? A rotation consisting of those five pitchers had the potential of being rock solid, an element the current Cleveland team is lacking.

Corrales is painfully aware of that. He also is prepared to neutralize this weakness with a bullpen in which he has placed his full confidence.

"We have two outstanding righthanders, Ernie Camacho and Tom Waddell, plus three lefthanders, Jamie Eastert, Ramon Romero and Dave Von Ohlen," Corrales said.

Unfortunately for Corrales, he doesn't have quite the same confidence in his starters. At the season's outset, Corrales ranked his starters in this order: Blyleven, Vern Ruhle, Don Schutze, Heaton and Rick Behenna. But he said, "The numbers don't really mean anything. Bert is No. 1, and the rest of them are just in the rotation. Every fifth day you know who is going to pitch, Blyleven, and I don't care whose turn it is. I might hear some complaints, but that's the way it's going to work."

But it didn't work in the season opener against world champion Detroit. Corrales was presented with a perfect set of circumstances to test his plan.

But the first snafu was created by Blyleven, who left with two outs in the fifth, trailing 3-1. "I'll take five or six good innings from the other guys, but Bert's going to have to go nine once in a while," Corrales had said earlier.

Yet all was not lost, because the Tribe got three runs off Jack Morris in the sixth to take a 4-3 lead. Meanwhile, Mike Jeffcoat and Waddell held the Tigers through the seventh.

In the eighth, Waddell permitted a one-out bloop single by Larry Herndon, and Corrales summoned Camacho, who issued a walk to Chet Lemon, a run-scoring single to Chris Pittaro and a game-winning sacrifice fly to Lou Whitaker.

"What hurts is that we outplayed them and didn't win—because of me," said Camacho.

Corrales was angry about one thing. "Without the walk, they don't score," he said. Nevertheless, Corrales' plan will not change merely because of one failure. At this juncture, he has few alternatives. What's more, Corrales has no desire to return to the dog days of 1983.

"If we still had those starters with the lineup we have now, we could really do some damage," he said. "But there was no way we could keep all those guys. We had to get some younger people with talent who wanted to play. The only way to do that was to make trades, and pitching was what we had to deal."

**Smoke Signals:** Trouble loomed for Cleveland's already fragile rotation when Behenna felt a twinge in his right shoulder, which was surgically repaired last May. Behenna was sent to Dr. James Andrews in Columbus, Ga., who performed the arthroscopic procedure on his rotator cuff in 1984. Although Andrews diagnosed the current injury as tendinitis, it was not known when Behenna could take his place in the rotation. His first scheduled start was to be April 20 against the New York Yankees. After hitting .221 last year and .164 in spring training, Tony Bernazard will not be handed sole possession of second base. Corrales said that Bernazard would start against righthanders and Mike Fischlin would play against lefties.

SHELDON OCKER

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The End Of The Skinny Body

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# Outlook Bleak For Vuckovich

SUN CITY, Ariz.—The Milwaukee Brewers' main concern this spring was supposed to be Rolie Fingers' arm. But the veteran reliever was making steady progress from the injury that sidelined him at the end of last season.

Meanwhile, the Brewers found that Pete Vuckovich's shoulder problems had been diagnosed as a tear in the rotator cuff. The 1982 Cy Young Award winner was examined in Los Angeles by Dr. Lewis Yocum. An arthrogram revealed the tear.

"They said it was a bad tear," said Manager Harvey Kuenn, shaking his head.

The Brewers were waiting for Dr. Paul Jacobs, their team physician, to examine Vuckovich, but they feared that surgery might be needed.

"I think it's likely," General Manager Harry Dalton said about surgery. "But we're not prepared to say until he's examined again. Our preference would be not to have surgery because the recovery time is slow. We'll just have to wait and see."

The Brewers also knew that no pitcher has made a strong successful return after rotator cuff surgery.

"They said it's a bad one," said Don Money. "I hope not. It could be curtains. Not that many guys have come back from that."

Vuckovich, however, has never been known to give up easily.

"They say no one has ever come back from it," Vuckovich said. "This could be the first. You never know."

Despite winning 18 games last year, Vuckovich had problems with his shoulder last September and lost his last two starts. He didn't win a game in the playoffs or World Series.

"At the end of the season, it felt fine," he said. "There wasn't any pain. Of course, I wasn't throwing then. I've ended the season in pain a lot of times before."

"I don't think this is something that happened last year. From what I understand, this has been going on a long time. It finally got to that point."

"As it turned out, maybe I should have gone (to surgery) four, five years ago. I've been pitching in pain for four or five years."

Vuckovich had pitched in one exhibition game before he had the shoulder examined.

"It was mentioned to me two weeks ago," he said about the examination. "It got to the point where I walked in and said, 'It's not responding the way I want it to.' I thought I would be able to work it out. It didn't turn out that way."

There was no way that the Brewers could know when their star righthander would be back. Dalton said that finding a replacement wasn't a panic situation, however.

"When you lose someone like Vuckovich, it's always a blow," said Dalton. "I'm very disappointed for Vukie. You hate to see this happen to him."

"I don't think there's any need for a trade. I think we have the answer right here in camp in Chuck Porter, Freddy Martinez, Tom Tellmann or Jim Slaton. We'll just look closer at them."

**Foaming Over:** Ben Oglivie was the hottest of the red-hot Brewers, who won eight of their first nine exhibition games. Oglivie, who played in six of the games, was batting .611 with four home runs and 10 RBIs. Roy Howell, unhappy in a part-time role, was still hoping for a trade. "I like to play," he said. "I'd like to play every day, but that's just the way it is. This is the job they want me to do, so that's what I'll have to do."

With the injury to Vuckovich, the Brewers had two straight Cy Young Award winners sidelined by arm injuries (Fingers was the first). When someone suggested that pitchers might be reluctant to accept the award in the future, Slaton said, "I'll take it. I'm willing to risk it."

TOM FLAHERTY



## Randolph a Pillar Of Yankee Quality

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—The time was March, 1976; the place was the New York Yankee manager's office at Fort Lauderdale Stadium. Billy Martin, who had replaced Bill Virdon as manager in August, 1975, was discussing the outlook for the upcoming season.

Martin said he liked Mickey Rivers, acquired from the California Angels, as a leadoff hitter, and Roy White was a perfect No. 2 hitter. Martin listed Thurman Munson, Chris Chambliss and Graig Nettles as productive RBI men.

He was a bit concerned about shortstop, planning to platoon Fred Stanley and Jim Mason, but was enthusiastic about the right field platoon of Lou Piniella and Oscar Gamble. The pitching, with Catfish Hunter, Ed Figueroa and Dock Ellis as starters and Sparky Lyle in the bullpen, pleased him.

Somebody asked Martin about the kid at second base, the

rookie. "That kid is going to be around for a long time," Martin said. "He doesn't say much, but don't let that fool you. He's not scared or nervous. He knows how good he is. Willie Randolph is going to be a star."

Now, seven years later, Martin is beginning his third term as Yankee manager. And he feels that Randolph, beginning his eighth season as the Yankee second baseman, has indeed become a star.

"I think Willie gets taken for granted on this team, even overlooked sometimes," Martin said. "But when I was managing Oakland, I looked at him as the motor of the Yankees."

Randolph, in fact, is the only Yankee who knows where he'll be playing and where he'll be batting in the lineup. Most positions remain wide-open contests and even those who know they'll be playing aren't sure of their roles.

But Martin has made one thing clear: Randolph will play second base and be the leadoff hitter. Martin decided that the day he took the job in January.

"Willie is a tough player, who plays the way I'd like everybody to play," Martin said. "He's a competitor. I remember when he first came here (in 1976). I liked him right off the bat. We had great reports on him, so I knew what to expect. But you have to see a guy for yourself. I watched him on the field that spring, the way he conducted himself, and I knew we'd be set at second base."

In the last six years, except for the strike-shortened 1981 season that played havoc with statistics, Randolph has been a model of consistency. His batting averages have ranged from .270 to .294; his runs scored have ranged from 85 to 99; his play at second base has usually been outstanding.

"It's almost hard to believe I've been around so long," said the 28-year-old Randolph. "A lot of things have happened. I know that, but to hear people say I'm a veteran... Me?"

Randolph vividly remembers that spring of '76 when he was a kid from Brooklyn trying to take his place among a group of veterans, a team which hadn't won a pennant in 12 years.

"I had talked to Willie Stargell after I was traded," said Randolph, who played in 30 games for Pittsburgh in 1975. "He told me, 'Just remember, you're a winner. Act like a winner. That second base job is yours.'"

Randolph didn't take anything for granted. With veteran Sandy Alomar around, he knew he had to show Martin he wasn't a frightened rookie.

"Billy didn't say much to me," Randolph remembers, "but I could tell he was always watching out for me. Every once in a while, he'd say something to encourage me. I knew he was an ex-second baseman and if he didn't like what he was seeing, he'd let me know about it."

"After the first few weeks of the camp, I got the feeling he had made up his mind I could do the job."

Yankee Doodles: Martin made a coaching change after the first week of exhibition games, tabbing Yogi Berra to replace Roy White as first base coach, with White assuming Yogi's duties of positioning fielders from the dugout. "It's no knock on Roy," Martin said, "but it's tough for a first-year coach to adjust to all the things I do. Yogi has experience."

Ron Guidry and Dale Murray combined on a no-hitter against Pittsburgh March 14 at Fort Lauderdale Stadium. Dave Parker was the only Pittsburgh baserunner, on an error by Randolph in the fifth inning. The 11-0 Yankee victory was the first game this season televised in the New York area. "People keep asking me what I've learned about getting along with George (Owner George Steinbrenner)," Martin said. "Well, I remember how he loves to win the exhibition games televised in New York. So I got everybody geared up for this one."

MOSS KLEIN



## Roenicke's Goal Is 500 At-Bats

MIAMI—Baltimore Orioles outfielder Gary Roenicke is coming off the best year of his career and figures it's about time he finds out what it's like to be an everyday player. As opening day draws closer, however, the powerful righthanded hitter is unsure how he will be used by Joe Altobelli, the new manager.

During contract negotiations, which ended with a compromise five minutes before an arbitration hearing, the Orioles admitted that it was difficult to gauge Roenicke's performance. "It's hard to project on Gary because he really hasn't been a regular player," said General Manager Hank Peters, explaining why the club was holding off on a multiyear contract offer for the 4½-year veteran, who had a .270 average, 21 homers and 74 runs batted in last season.

Roenicke logged career highs in seven different offensive categories, but to him the most significant was the number of at-bats (383). "I'd like to get 500 at-bats one year to see what I can do," he said midway through training camp. "I don't want to be a platoon player—it won't do the team any good and it won't do me any good."

Altobelli has said he doesn't want to break up the leftfield combination of Roenicke and John Lowenstein. Between them they hit 45 home runs last year, but it wasn't a case of straight platooning. "My idea of a platoon player is that of a righthanded hitter facing only lefthanded pitchers," said Roenicke, not eager to be restricted to such a role.

# Slur by a Voter Angers Rizzuto

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Phil Rizzuto was disappointed when he failed to gain election to the Hall of Fame March 10 but was more upset by a remark allegedly made by a member of the Veterans Committee.

According to a published report, an unnamed member of the group that votes on veterans said, "If Phil Rizzuto had been playing for any other team but the Yankees, he would have been just another ordinary shortstop."

"I've always been disappointed about not making it into the Hall of Fame," said Rizzuto, who has been a Yankee broadcaster since his retirement in 1956, "but I've never been mad before. I can't believe somebody on the committee would say something like that. If I find out who it is, he might have a fight on his hands—but I'll make sure I have Billy Martin with me."

Yankee Owner George Steinbrenner, who has been campaigning for Rizzuto's election in recent years, was angered by the published quote and issued a statement defending Rizzuto.

"I think there is a lot of professional jealousy about Rizzuto, just as there is about the Yankees," Steinbrenner said. "In so many ways, the Hall of Fame is a wonderful thing but sometimes it lacks credibility and this is one of those instances."

"One thing is sure—Rizzuto, Pee Wee Reese and Luis Aparicio sure as hell belong in the Hall of Fame. Maybe Yankee fans should boycott the Hall of Fame until the committee member who made that remark admits to it and then resigns—because until he does, it's the Hall of Shame to me."

MOSS KLEIN

"I'd rather face righthanders," he said, "and my statistics show I'm just as effective against them."

Roenicke noted that 13 of his 21 homers came off righthanded pitching, and a further study revealed that his home run ratio was one every 19 at-bats against both righthanders and southpaws.

With rookie John Shelby doing so well this spring, the Orioles are overloaded with outfielders. "I don't know what they're going to do, but they'll have to do something because we've got too many outfielders," said Roenicke, regarded as the Orioles' best defensive outfielder until Shelby gets established.

Last season Roenicke was used extensively at all three outfield positions and even played 10 games at first base when Eddie Murray was injured. He's used to moving around, but one of these years he would like to find a position he could call home.

"I don't mind playing all three (outfield positions)," he said, "but I would like to play one an entire year just to see what would happen."

The right field job is open, but Altobelli is giving Dan Ford first crack at it. If Ford does not reclaim the job he eventually lost late last season, then he either would become Lowenstein's platoon mate or be used in a deal. "I'd love to play right field every day," Roenicke said. "I think it would be good for us and good for me."

Roenicke hit 25 homers in 1978, but managed only 10 in 1980 and three in 1981.

"I've always hit home runs in streaks," he said, "but you like to be consistent and I think I was last year. I hit 270 for the season and more than that with runners in scoring position."

Roenicke's average with runners in scoring position was .330, third highest on the club. He also had the second highest slugging percentage (.499), the third highest on-base percentage (.392) and the best ratio of extra-base hits to at-bats.

Still, he has yet to shed the label of a part-time player, something he hopes to accomplish this year.

Bird Seed: Altobelli prefers to carry three catchers, and utility man Floyd Rayford projected himself into the picture by hitting two home runs in his first six at-bats this spring. Through 12 games, rookie Leo Hernandez had made only one error at third base and was holding his own with the bat. He seemed almost certain to be in the opening day lineup.

JIM HENNEMAN



## 'Old Dude' Cabell Is Left In Dark

LAKELAND, Fla.—There's no dude like the Old Dude. Enos Cabell is alive and well—and wondering what his role will be this year for the Detroit Tigers.

Tom Brookens and Howard Johnson are ahead of him at third base; Mike Ivie is the front-runner at first. Cabell fits in somewhere, but he's not sure where.

The uncertainty is new for Cabell. He's accustomed to being

(Continued on Page 44, Column 1)



## BASEBALL

BILL CONLIN

N.L. BEAT

## Lawless Showed Phils Carlton Was Finished

PHILADELPHIA—It was the most devastating pitch of Steve Carlton's career. The pieces are still fluttering to earth. It was a two-out slider to St. Louis Cardinals utility infielder Tom Lawless in the fifth inning June 21. Lawless, who was looking for his first run batted in of 1986, was batting against Carlton with runners on first and second. He hit a rocket that clattered off the fence in left. When outfielder Jeff Stone dribbled the carom, catcher Mike Heath came churning around third and scored after barreling into Darren Daulton at the plate.

How devastating? That pitch ended Carlton's 14-season career with the Phillies. The play at the plate that resulted from the pitch ended Daulton's season.

Even as the runners were churning around the bases, Phils Owner Bill Giles had decided that he either must induce Carlton to retire or hand him his release. It became a test of wills in which Carlton, insisting that he can still win in the majors, refused to retire during two meetings with Giles. So, on June 25, the Phillies' owner tearfully severed the \$1.1 million umbilical cord and said goodbye to a legend.

As Giles was meeting with the press in a strange conference at which neither Carlton nor any other uniformed member of the organization was present, Daulton was undergoing arthroscopic surgery at

nearby Methodist Hospital. Major ligament damage was discovered, and he will be lost for the rest of the season.

The Cardinals' luck was no better. What Manager Whitey Herzog needed least as his downtrodden defenders began to stir was another key injury. Naturally, he got one when first baseman Jack Clark suffered torn ligaments in his wrist. He'll be lost for at least 10 weeks. Ironically, the man Herzog recalled from Louisville (American Association) to replace Clark on the roster was journeyman Alan Knicely, who was released by the Phils in spring training and picked up by the Cardinals as a free agent. More irony: Ronn Reynolds, the former Mets catcher called up by the Phillies to replace Daulton, homered in his first at-bat. It was his first major league homer.

\* \* \*

Clubs have been getting around that \$100,000 bonus ceiling that is the unofficial maximum to be awarded June draft choices by paying big-league wages for minor league work. At least one first-round pick will earn \$50,000 in salary in addition to a \$100,000 bonus for playing half a season in Double A. And there's not a thing Commissioner Peter Ueberroth can do about it unless he wants to send Bo Jackson to Tampa Bay. Speaking of the best pure athlete to come into baseball

since Willie Mays, when will the National League stop living on its All-Star Game clippings and awake to the reality that the American League is beating it every which way but up? With next month's All-Star Game in the dingy Astrodome, pitching probably will prevail, just as it did two years ago in San Francisco and last year in Minnesota. Those A.L. mashers will give themselves hernias trying to hit long balls in a stadium in which the ball carries like the new tax bill goes over in a brokerage specializing in Individual Retirement Accounts.

Jackson isn't the first football star the Royals have landed by doing their homework better than anybody else. With his great speed, Willie Wilson projected as an N.L.-type turf player, à la Tim Lincecum. But all the N.L. clubs that worked him out before the draft were convinced the fleet kid from New Jersey was headed to the University of Maryland to play flanker. Undaunted, the Royals brought him to Kansas City for a workout, and he asked to meet some members of the National Football League's Chiefs, who were working out next door at Arrowhead Stadium. One of them was All-Pro linebacker Willie Lanier. Lanier told Wilson that if he wanted to be walking without a cane when he was 35, he should choose baseball.

Wilson's father informed the Royals

that Willie had changed his mind and would sign with them if the price was right. How much? An economical \$90,000. The same intelligent approach—letting Jackson mingle with the athletes in their clubhouse—won John Schuerholz the day. The beauty of it is that all the Royals can lose with their bold gamble is money. They still have their top three draft choices. If Jackson becomes a star, it will be like stealing. If he bombs, the club will suffer no slippage whatsoever, which is far more than the psychologically battered Tampa Bay Bucs can claim.

I swear I read somewhere that the Mets actually lost two in a row. Is that true? When the San Francisco Giants drew that roaring, joyous, soused crowd of 47,000 to watch them sweep the Houston Astros, I wonder how many fans complained about the wind, the cold, the parking and the high food prices? The great thing about a filled ball park is all you can see is people.

Gary Matthews swears he did nothing to backstab fired Cubs manager Jim Frey, and I believe him. Sarge is a world-class clubhouse lawyer who will call an owner and chew the fat every day if the guy will let him. Bill Giles did in Philadelphia, and similar rumors surfaced after Pat Corrales was fired. Matthews does a lot of rapping and complaining about his situation, but he is not a backstabber. Sarge just likes to talk to the boss.

MOSS KLEIN

A.L. BEAT

## The '86 Phenoms: Will They Be Lynns or Rices?

NEWARK, N.J.—Two developments this season, the rise of the Boston Red Sox and the number of impressive American League rookies, bring Fred Lynn to mind.

The last time the Red Sox won the pennant was 1975, when a pair of rookies, Lynn and Jim Rice, had sensational seasons. Rice, still with the Red Sox, has had a superb career and is nearing Hall of Fame credentials. But Lynn, the A.L. Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year in '75, has been a relative disappointment.

He has had a good career, but has rarely approached the elegance of his rookie season, when he achieved levels that any future Wally Joyner or Jose Canseco will find hard to surpass.

The obvious obstacle in Lynn's post-rookie seasons is a series of injuries. There have been whispers that he's slow to recover from ailments and that he surely would have had better numbers if he had remained with the Red Sox. At the time of his trade to California in January 1981, Lynn was a .352 hitter at Fenway Park, compared to his .280 mark away from Boston.

Compare Lynn's 1975 season with his last nine seasons, exclusive of strike-shortened 1981:

Year	G	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
1975	145	103	175	21	105	.331
76-85	132	75	141	21	79	.291

Lynn has been an above-average offensive player. When healthy, he is among the top center fielders. But he simply hasn't fulfilled the promise of his first season.

Only in 1979, when he batted .333 to lead the league and had 39 homers, 122 RBIs and 116 runs scored, did he flash his

rookie form. In the other years, with Boston through 1980, with California the next four seasons and for Baltimore last year, he never exceeded 23 homers, 86 RBIs or 89 runs. And he has played more than 142 games just twice, the last time in 1979.

This season, he has once again encountered a series of ailments. Through June, he had missed more than 25 percent of Baltimore's games. The Orioles, who had won 21 of 27 before Lynn was injured on June 5, proceeded to lose 10 of 13. "When Lynn got hurt, so did we," said Manager Earl Weaver. Unfortunately that has been the story too many times in Lynn's career.

\* \* \*

Oakland's Dave Kingman added an appropriate touch to his tasteless career when he had a gift-wrapped rat sent to beat writer Susan Fornoff. The subsequent \$3,500 fine levied by the A's was commendable, but not stern enough. The A's going nowhere would be wise to release Kingman before he infects youngsters such as Jose Canseco with his disturbed behavior. Imagine what Kingman would have done with his life if he hadn't had the ability to hit home runs.

When Ivan DeJesus was called up from Columbus (International) for a brief fling with the Yankees, he became the 25th shortstop the team has used during the 11-year reign of second baseman Willie Randolph. "Sometimes, I look over there and I'm not sure who I'm going to see," said Randolph, who has had four shortstop partners this season, including three in one game on several occasions. Ask most scouts to name the league's

five best starters right now and Baltimore's Storm Davis, despite a mediocre record, will be on nearly every list. If the Orioles can stay close, the combination of Davis and Mike Boddicker could be a force in the stretch drive. The Red Sox have a chance to win the division title in what's shaping up as a down year for the A.L. East. But the Sox need to make trades to help their injury-plagued pitching staff and to bolster their below-average bench and inadequate defense. If they don't, they won't win.

Keep an eye on Scott Bankhead, Kansas City's rookie righthander. "He's going to be one of the special ones," said Seattle's G.M. Dick Balderson, who played a role in signing Bankhead when he was with the Royals. If Toronto falls out of realistic contention, Doyle Alexander will be traded, most likely to Atlanta for a reunion with G.M. Bobby Cox. But as long as the Blue Jays are within striking distance, don't Doyle is still the effective dismiss.

\* \* \*

Don't be surprised if Dave Righetti, who succeeded Rich Gossage as the Yankees' bullpen ace in 1984, follows Gossage's footsteps in another manner—by making a free-agent escape from the bizarre kingdom of George Steinbrenner. Righetti, eligible to be a free agent after the 1987 season, has joined Dave Winfield at the top of Steinbrenner's illogical list of scapegoats and has become increasingly disturbed by the public criticism. He has also been quietly upset that the Yankees never offered to revise the incentive clauses in his contract after he agreed to jeopardize his career and go to the

bullpen. Righetti, among the most vital Yankees, is eighth on the team's salary rankings this season at \$747,500—which is \$12,500 less than Ed Whitson's salary.

The firing of Tony LaRussa as manager of the Chicago White Sox is simply the latest example of bad judgment on the part of team executives and owners. LaRussa, a quality manager and stand-up guy, was the victim of excessive front-office tinkering. Hawk Harrelson, the broadcaster-turned-executive, is a likable personality but may be out of his league in the upper-level offices. Cowardly Jerry Reinsdorf and Eddie Fournier operate as though they're trying to emulate Steinbrenner. LaRussa should receive other offers soon—possibly from Oakland, where Jackie Moore, another quality manager who was fired, was the victim of a starting series of pitching injuries.

When will owners learn to stick with good managers, instead of firing them for the sake of cosmetic change? It's tough enough these days for managers to establish authority. The players are the ones with long-term contracts and salaries that dwarf the manager's paychecks. In what other business is the supposed boss subservient to the employees?

The two best long-term organizations in the major leagues—the Dodgers and the Orioles—have made a practice of staying with managers. The Dodgers have had only two managers, Walt Alton and Tommy Lasorda, in the last 33 years, and they haven't fired a manager since Charley Dressen in 1953. The Orioles fired Joe Altobelli last year, their first dismissal since Earl Weaver replaced Hank Bauer in 1968.