

Dodgers Regain Versatility With Sizemore

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—In reobtaining **Ted Sizemore**, the Dodgers suddenly find themselves with their most versatile club in some time.

A regular for five summers in St. Louis, **Sizemore** now finds himself as a backup second baseman to Dave Lopes, the major league's base stealing champion in 1975.

But will he remain a backup?

"**HAVING Ted Sizemore** on our club gives us excellent protection in many positions," Vice-President Al Campanis said March 2, the day he dealt veteran outfielder Willie Crawford to the Cardinals for **Sizemore**.

"He was a catcher throughout his minor league career, but he's also played every position on the infield as well as the outfield in the majors.

"But that doesn't mean he doesn't have the opportunity to win a starting job with the club this season."

But what about Lopes?

THE POSSIBILITY remains that **Sizemore** could wind up back at second base—where he played for the Dodgers in 1969-70 before he was sent to the Cardinals in the deal for Dick Allen—with Lopes going to (a) the outfield or (b) shortstop.

"It's certainly a possibility," Campanis admitted, "but, right

now, we don't have any other trades in mind."

It is a fact that Lopes worked out extensively at shortstop during his stay in the Arizona Instructional League during the winter, although he played only 14 games at shortstop last season when Bill Russell was injured.

If **Sizemore** does play regularly, he'll be an excellent No. 2 batter in the lineup behind Lopes, who already has warned, "I'll be running with reckless abandon in 1976."

WHEN THE Cardinals' Lou Brock stole a modern record 118 bases in 1974, he said:

"You have to have the right man batting behind you. I do: **Ted Sizemore**."

In dealing Crawford, a onetime \$100,000 bonus player who was the "dean" of the club, the Dodgers now have traded away four outfielders since the end of the '75 season. They traded Jimmy Wynn, Tom Paciorek and Lee Lacy to the Braves in November to get Dusty Baker.

But they're hardly short of outfielders. Besides Baker, they have Bill Buckner to play left and Joe Ferguson and John Hale to platoon in right. And, of course, there's Lopes, who is probably the best outfielder on the club. He was a center fielder in the minors and

was asked to play 24 games in the Dodger outfield last summer.

IRONICALLY, **Sizemore's** best years in the majors were the two he played with the Dodgers.

In 1969, he opened the season at shortstop, was moved to second in June and wound up as the National League's Rookie of the Year. The next year he batted .306—his high for seven years in the majors—and then was traded to the Cardinals.

The Dodgers made room for **Sizemore** a day before the trade by

asking irrevocable waivers on veteran Ken McMullen. A regular with the Angels before he was traded back to the Dodgers, he was utilized strictly as a pinch-hitter the three seasons he played in Dodger Stadium.

Crawford played a dozen seasons with the Dodgers—longer than anyone else on the club—but never as a regular. His best seasons were 1973 and 1974, when he batted .295 each year while driving in 66 and 61 runs.

Dodger Dope: Dodger Stadium wasn't exactly deserted during the squabble between the owners and the players. In fact, the talent was impressive. Making television commercials at the Big O were Fred Lynn and Reggie Jackson. . . . With the signing of Al Downing and Rick Auerbach, the Dodgers had 31 players under contract. Yet to sign were Doug Rau, Ron Cey, Bill Buckner, Joe Ferguson, Tommy John, and, of course, Andy Messersmith.

Cards Set Up Two Outfields

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—The Cardinals may have some question marks about their essentially all-new infield, but their outfield certainly seems set, whether you talk about starters or backup men.

That situation stood out in bold relief after they dealt **Ted Sizemore** back to the Dodgers for outfielder Willie Crawford.

You start with the .300 outfield of Lou Brock, Bake McBride and Reggie Smith. And then you throw in a second outfield of Crawford, Mike Anderson and Luis Melendez, all of whom figure to see considerable action based on Brock's advanced years and McBride's and Smith's history of physical problems.

WITH SIZEMORE gone, the Cardinals will go into the 1976 season with newcomers at third base (Hector Cruz), first base (Keith Hernandez) and shortstop (Don Kessinger). Mike Tyson shifts from shortstop to his prime position, second base, where **Sizemore** had reigned for five seasons after he was acquired, along with Bob Stinson, for Dick Allen.

After the Redbirds found no takers in the American League for **Sizemore** during the interleague trading period, the 29-year-old infielder let it be known that he would be battling hard to regain starting status. A. L. clubs might well have been scared off by **Sizemore's** \$70,000-plus salary, especially after Ted's horrible 1975 season when he batted only .240.

Then **Sizemore**, on several visits to St. Louis, noted that he had heard the Dodgers were interested in him and then expressed the wish to return to Los Angeles, where he long has made his home.

Cards' General Manager Bing Devine said, "He (**Sizemore**) indicated that for personal reasons he thought it best to play close to his home in southern California. At the same time, we've been looking for another lefthanded hitter. Thus, we proposed a **Sizemore-for-Crawford** deal."

CRAWFORD, 29, was the senior member of the Dodgers in terms of consecutive service. Signed out of high school in Los Angeles for \$100,000 12 years ago, Crawford had starred in football and track as well as baseball. He never reached the potential the Dodgers saw for him, although he had his high moments, such as in 1974, when he helped L. A. win a pennant.

Platooned in right field the last few years, Crawford batted .295 in both 1973 and '74 before dipping to .263 last season. He has a career batting mark of .268. He smacked 14 homers in 1973, then 11 in '74 and nine last year.

Said Crawford, a pleasant young man, "I felt I was stereotyped in a position by the Dodgers with no

way to break it. I've never played every day in the majors, but I think I can play better than my statistics show. I don't know what the Cardinals want me to do, but I welcome the new atmosphere. The Cards always have seemed like a pretty relaxed club that works together. I hope to contribute to that."

Crawford added, "I've noticed that the Cardinals put guys on the field and they don't do too much platooning. If a guy gets hot, he plays."

THE DEPARTURE of **Sizemore** means that only four players who started the 1973 season with the Cardinals are still around. They are Brock, catcher **Ted Simmons**, Melendez and Tyson.

With the Birds still on the prowl for a righthanded reliever, it would not be surprising to see them put together a package that would include their surplus.

On other fronts: **Simmons**, who made about \$110,000 last season, indicated that he would shoot for \$175,000 for 1976 and acknowledged that the Birds had been talking in terms of a multi-year contract.

SLEEPY-EYED **Simmons** batted .332 with 18 homers and 100 runs batted in last season. He noted that he had caught at least 100 more games in the last four years than any other major leaguer. He acknowledged, too, that catching day in and day out had bothered him and said that if he

didn't get a chance to play first base or the outfield now and then, he just might have to take a few days off now and then.

Regarding pay, **Simmons** said, "I have to be a prudent businessman, but I'm not using the present situation as a vise to extract blood or life. And I do want to stay with the Cardinals."

Meanwhile, Brock signed for an estimated \$175,000 with Jim Toomey, the club's administrative vice-president.

Toomey noted that Lou had been talking eagerly, even though he is 36, of passing Ty Cobb's modern record of 892 stolen bases. Lou has 809.

ANOTHER UNSIGNED Bird, reliever Al Hrabosky, was really a "Mad" Hungarian.

He complained to the St. Louis County Council about a liquor license application in Mehlville, a St. Louis suburb where he lives. The applicant proposed to call his bar "The Mad Hungarian." That happens to be Hrabosky's nickname.

Said Al, "I believe that if such a liquor establishment were to be opened under the same name, the public would be led to believe that I was involved in the corporation. It is my true feeling that much determination and work have gone into establishing my nickname in baseball."

The bar-owner decided to call his place "The Happy Hungarian."



Ted Sizemore . . . Back to Second Base?



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Ted Sizemore . . . Warming Up to His Task.

Sizemore's Bat Sizzles, Cards Go on Win Binge

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — You can tell easily in the Cardinals' clubhouse whether a guy is going well. Such was the case with **Ted Sizemore** as the Redbirds finally said goodbye to the National League East basement and began creating some stir in June.

In the middle game of the Cards' early-June sweep in San Francisco, **Sizemore** took off as his single got past left fielder Ken Henderson in a three-run eighth inning against Juan Marichal. Third base coach Vern Benson tried to flag down **Sizemore**, who happened to be out by several yards.

The next day at batting practice, Lou Brock produced several flash cards. One said "**Sizemore**." The others read "STOP" and "GO." The idea was to flash those signs from the bench in case **Sizemore** couldn't or wouldn't use the frantic coach.

In the clubhouse, Bob Gibson watched disdainfully as **Sizemore** carefully wrapped his troublesome left knee.

"**Sizemore**, you've been with us a little over a year, and I've never seen you once when you didn't have some tape on you," Gibby said.

First Rate No. 2 Hitter

Sizemore had been so impressive doing his thing that coach Ken Boyer said, "Teddy just might be the best No. 2 hitter in the league now."

Boyer, who never has been known for going overboard without good reason, was sizing up **Sizemore** shortly after the Cardinals had won their fourth straight. The victory on June 8, which gave the Birds their longest win string of the season, went to reliever Diego Segui, who just had joined the club.

"**Sizemore's** always been a good hitter," Boyer said, "and he has been blending so well with Brock. And when Brock doesn't get on base, he can hit on his own and get something started."

Sizemore, who got off to a slow start and then was further handicapped by a bad knee, was hitting .271 when Boyer was talking.

"And Teddy has hit as many balls hard at somebody as anyone on our club," Boyer said.

Sizemore bounced back so well that he was the club's nominee for Player of the Week during the team's dreary May. But **Ted** really turned it on late that month and into June. He even hit a homer to win a game for Gibson.

Against his former club, the Dodg-

ers, on June 3, **Sizemore** singled, sending Brock to third with one out, but the Cardinals lost to Don Sutton, 1-0. In a victory over L.A. on June 4, **Ted's** double and walk were wasted.

Some Clutch Hits

Then in a three-game sweep over the Giants, **Sizemore** singled and drove in the first run and walked to touch off a three-run eighth in a 5-3 win. He tripled in the second run and hit a two-run single in a four-run ninth that iced a 6-0 win. And on June 8, his single ignited a five-run outburst in the eighth inning that turned a 4-1 deficit into a 6-4 triumph.

In the four straight wins, the late-striking Cardinals poured across 14 of their 21 runs in the eighth and ninth innings.

On top of his timely hitting, **Sizemore** was doing better than ever at second base. After the Giants' series, **Ted** had to sit out three games with a pulled hamstring.

In one stretch, **Sizemore** reached base 19 times in 32 plate appearances. He was hitting the ball all over again.

The big difference was a familiar one: concentration. That was Boyer's word. He stressed that even with a player with **Sizemore's** experience and bat control, regaining concentration at bat was not an easy thing.

A Wild Swinger

"You don't get it back in a minute, a day or even a week at times," Boyer said. "**Sizemore** suddenly had lost the strike zone. He was swinging at every pitch, over his head or in the dirt. We had him out for extra hitting and set up game situations. We had him think of hitting to right field or straightaway. And we had him bunt a lot."

Boyer noted that **Sizemore's** track record showed that he had excellent bat control.

"A lot of what **Sizemore** does doesn't show up in the box scores," Boyer said. "He knows how to play this game. You can see he's been well taught. The Dodgers and the Cardinals still are the two greatest organizations for teaching a kid how to play this game."

Oddly, even though the Cardinals were dragging bottom in the division race at the start of June, their pitchers were just about at the top in the majors in complete games. They had 20 route jobs by June 7.

Segui, who allowed only one hit

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You Can Bet Your Boots on Day To Shake Batting Slump in June

By IAN MacDONALD

MONTREAL, Que.—It's that time of year again for Charles Frederick Day.

It's hitting time for the Expos' hustling center fielder, who is better known as Boots.

The Expos hoped it was the real Day blossoming with the start of June.

Boots began hitting in the final days of May. But on May 31 the platooning center fielder had only 18 hits in 91 at-bats for a .198 average.

That was not much to shout about, though it was far from the worst of the Expo regulars. The interesting point is that Boots kept hitting and after the first week of June, he had lifted his average to .243.

On May 31, 1971, Day had 17 hits in 88 at-bats for an astonishingly similar .193 average. From June 1 of last year, Boots was some kind of a player. He appeared in 95 games and batted .311.

"I can't understand why this is," said the pride of Iliou, N. Y. "I didn't realize the statistics were so similar.

Fast Starter in Minors

"In the minors, I always used to start off fast. I'd hit .350 or .360 the first month and then settle down. I'd invariably hit one slump of maybe two weeks or so later, but that's all. I can't understand what's happened these last two years."

Last year there was a new style of hitting involved. Boots had taken to wearing contact lenses over the winter and was making better contact during winter ball.

"Then when I was going bad in May, they (Manager Gene Mauch and hitting coach Larry Doby) decided I had to make a change," Boots said. "I choked up on the bat

and started hitting everything to left field.

"It worked in more ways than one. I was getting hits and I was watching for certain types of pitches more. This year, I guess the other teams were wise to my style and they shifted a little.

"A few weeks ago when I was going bad, Gene said just swing where the pitch is, hit it where it is. I started hitting more to right and the defenses can't shift now. Maybe that's working. I haven't changed my grip."

Something was working because the hits were falling in. There was a game against Atlanta here in early June when Boots went 4-for-4. The following night, he had a single and sacrificed Ron Hunt, who had singled.

Chances for RBIs

"When Hunt and Day start getting on base like that," Mauch said, "then we give the three, four and five men some people to bat around. The hitting will come. It is most important that Day and Hunt do that job."

An interesting sideline to Boots' aroused hitting was that his fielding also improved. Day robbed Cesar Cedeno of a triple with a spectacular diving catch in center field which won a standing ovation.

Against the Braves, Day robbed hot-hitting Darrell Evans of an extra-base hit when he started late but hurtled his body forward at the last instant to make a sensational catch.

"That was my all-timer," Day said about Cedeno's drive. "I didn't think I had it after I had made the dive. I looked out toward the fence and then back to my glove and there it was."

Strike Damage Slight, Yawkey Feels

By LARRY CLAFLIN

BOSTON, Mass.—Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in his rookie year as President when Tom Yawkey bought the Red Sox in 1933.

During those four decades of ownership, Yawkey has spent millions of dollars on the purchase and development of players with only two pennants and no world championships for rewards. Yet he rarely complains in private and never in public.

Each June, when the weather in Boston finally gets warm, Yawkey arrives from his winter home in South Carolina and for the remainder of the season he sits on the roof at Fenway Park, watching his highly paid athletes perform.

Yawkey, considered one of the most generous owners in all of professional sports, was, of course, one of the victims of the players' strike last April. Like all owners, he lost a few dates. Attendance in Boston is down this year, due in part to the negative effect of the strike on the public.

Lesson to Be Learned

Yet, Yawkey took it in stride as he does most disappointments. He even showed an understanding of why the players struck, although he admitted concern for the welfare of the sport if there should be another strike.

"I believe that even when the players voted for a strike, half of them didn't realize what they were doing.

"Some good things come out of every lesson. I hope that both sides have learned that whatever the differences were, they can be ironed out. But the players didn't break

any laws, remember. They had the courage of their convictions and they are entitled to strike."

Yawkey said he feels the public is slightly disgruntled about the strike, but he does not believe it did any permanent damage.

Demands Too Heavy?

"I don't think public reaction will prove to be too serious unless it happens again," he said.

Yawkey is plainly worried about what effect continued demands of the players will have on the game.

"All we get are demands for higher salaries, more benefits, more meal money, more spring training allowances," he said.

"Yet when we ask for something, nothing seems to happen. They want to play only so many night games. They don't want to stop over in Detroit to make up for a rained-out game. They don't want to do a lot of things which are important for

the support of the game.

"They don't seem to have any idea of what it takes to pay the bills," Yawkey continued. "Someone should tell them that the bills have to be paid and that it takes an awful lot of money to break even for a season.

"I'm sure the players would be shocked like everyone else if they actually knew how many teams are not breaking even.

"I'm sure the owners are tired of giving in all the time. If the demands continue, there is no other recourse but to raise ticket prices."

A Generous Owner

Yawkey's warnings should, and probably will, make a few people think because of his reputation for generosity to his players.

The 69-year-old owner singled out Manager Eddie Kasko for praise and denied the Red Sox have made any overtures in the direction of Yankee Manager Ralph Houk.

"I would not permit tampering with another team's manager," he stated. "I almost called Mike Burke of the Yankees while I was in New York to tell him we had not approached Houk."

Yawkey said he was not concerned yet that the big trade with Milwaukee has not worked out too well yet. "You tell about a trade in the long run, not in a few weeks," he said. "Tommy Harper is going well. If Lew Krausse and Marty Pattin come along, the trade will look a lot different."

In his 40th year of Red Sox owner-

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Tom Yawkey