

# 'Cigar Store' Charge Creates Dodger Smoke

By GORDON VERRELL

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

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

No surprise, the cigar store suddenly came alive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

games), it's considerably less.

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

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

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

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

## Reg Just What We Need, Say Dodgers

By GORDON VERRELL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ting to the point where we're awesome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Cards Toss Hopes in Ferguson's Mitt

By NEAL RUSSO

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

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

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

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

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

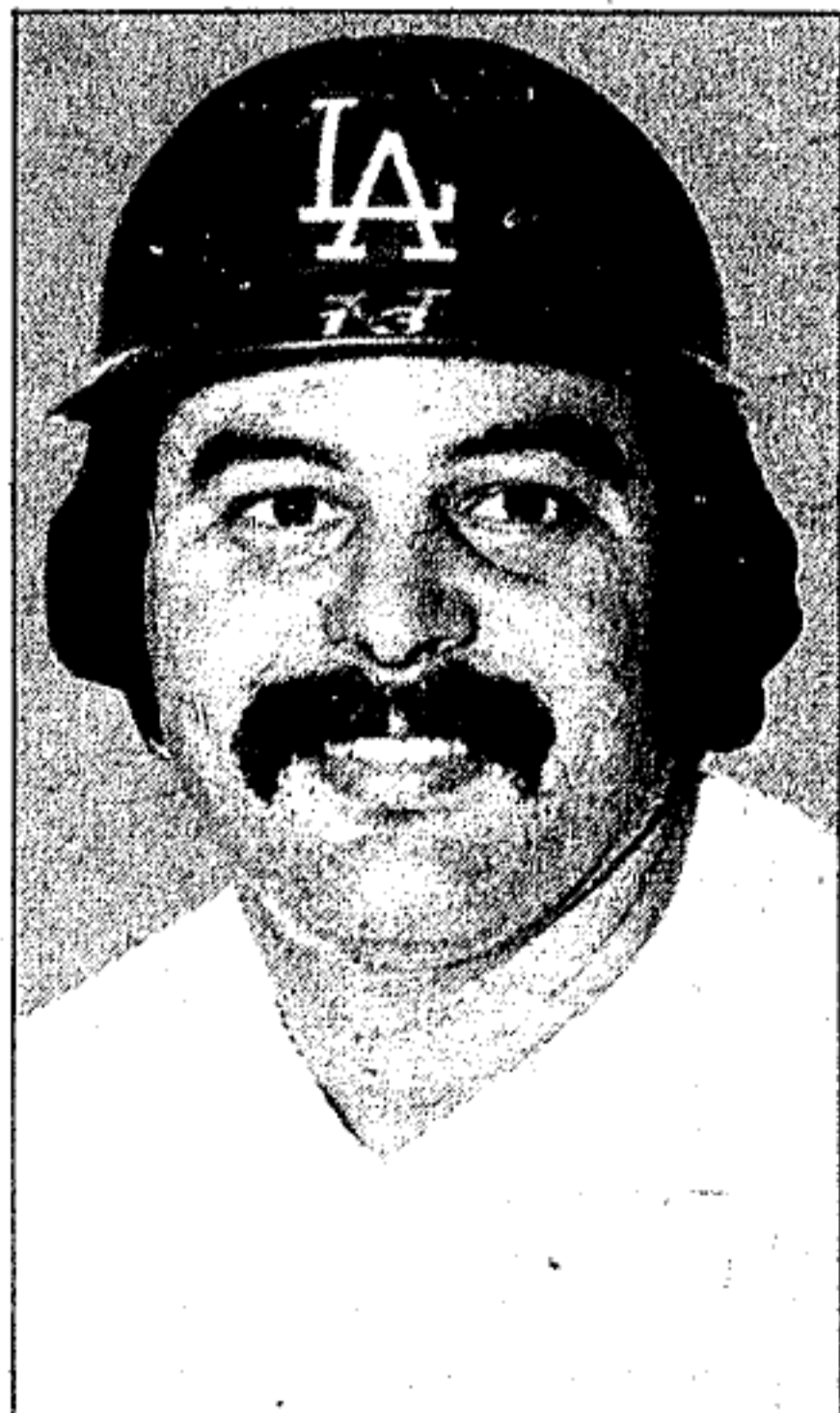
Ferguson, a righthanded batter who was forced into considerable outfield play because of Steve Yeager's superior skills as a receiver, was hopeful that his batting would pick up with full-time catching duty. He has a good throwing arm, but he still disliked playing right

field.

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

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

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



Joe Ferguson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How about playing the outfield?

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

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

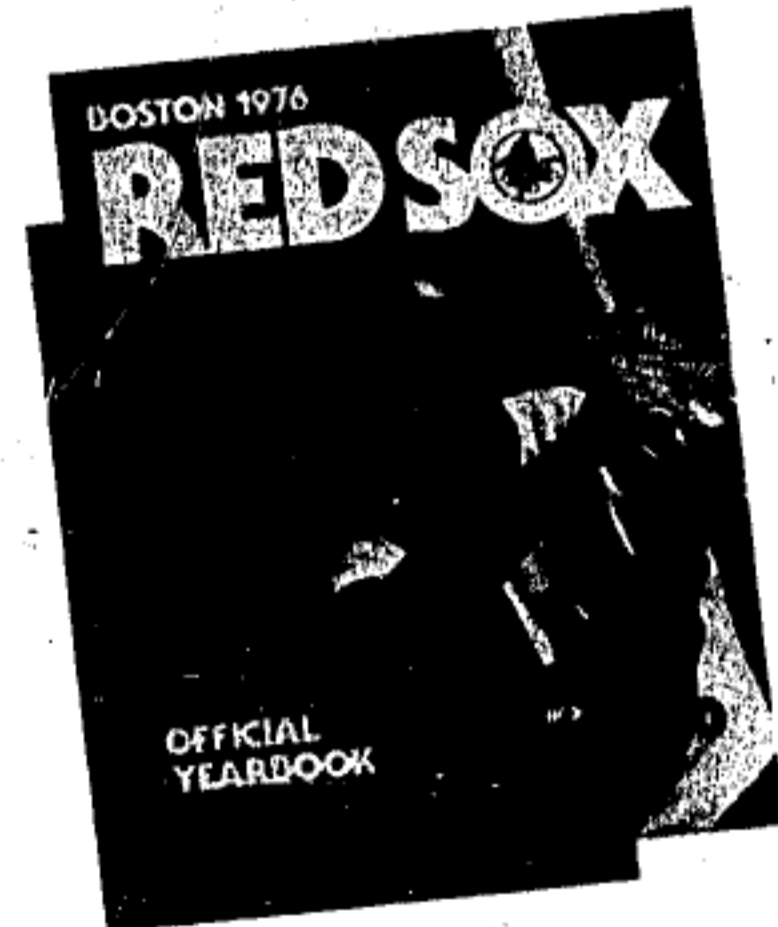
THE FOLLOWING day, Ted said he felt his catching had been more than adequate this season.

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

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

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


Tisdale was batting .284 at Bakersfield this year.



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