

Homebody **Tenace** Spurns Speaking Offers

By **BOB HERTZEL**

LUCASVILLE, O.—Somehow you expected it to be a national monument, sort of like the home Abe Lincoln lived in.

At least, you expected a plaque on the door. You know, "George Washington slept here." But no, nothing like that.

It was merely "the last trailer on the right," just like **Gene Tenace** said it was. Here it was, home to the World Series hero of 1972—**Gene Tenace** of the Oakland Athletics—and it didn't even have his name on the mailbox.

As you pulled up, there was the man himself. He was just coming out the door . . . Taking out the Christmas tree. It could have been anyone, anywhere in rural, Midwestern America.

IN FACT, THE only tipoff that this was **Gene Tenace's** place was that shiny, new 1973 Dodge Charger sitting in the drive, the one he was given as the MVP of the Series.

It isn't that Lucasville, a dot on the map 10 miles north of Portsmouth, didn't do anything for its best known citizen.

Until **Tenace** came along, the town was known only as the site of the newest, most progressive state penitentiary in America. Now, it houses **Gene Tenace**, and as its way of saying thanks, Lucasville gave **Tenace** a night.

They got Tom Hedrick, the Cincinnati Reds' television announcer, to come up and emcee it and they presented **Tenace** with a beautiful plaque.

"THEY'RE ALSO naming the field I used to play on as a kid after me," **Tenace** explained as he swept the Christmas tree needles off the front walk. "There'll be a monument in center field and they're getting an American flag from the capitol building to fly there."

Into the trailer went **Tenace** and out came his wife, Linda, complaining that she hadn't had time to clean up and "would you like some coffee, but don't take it black. Not my coffee."

Just typical America. Wife, two kids—2½-year-old Stacey and Merinda, 10 months—and a dog called Lance, seven months old, a golden retriever scared of human beings. Success certainly hadn't changed **Gene Tenace**.

"It could have," he said as he sat and rocked in his living room. "I had opportunities . . . speaking engagements, television appear-



THE TENACE family at home. **Gene** holds daughter Stacey, two years old, and his wife, Linda, has Merinda, 10 months, on her lap. The dog, Lance, is a young golden retriever.

ances. But I wouldn't let it.

"I LIKE BEING home with the family. You know, if you accept all those engagements, you're away all the time and I'm away enough as it is with baseball.

"The money, it was good but I can sacrifice money for my family. Money just isn't that important to me. My main goal is happiness," he said.

Not even that car sitting in the driveway was going to spoil things for **Tenace**, who already had turned down a chance to pick up \$10,000 for an appearance in Las Vegas.

No, **Tenace** plans to trade that car for a jeep. Hunting is his game and a jeep is something he's always wanted to get him where the hunting is good.

"BESIDE, I HAVE a chance to win another car in the Lifesaver of the Year contest," he said, noting that he was named Lifesaver of

the Month for October.

"I also can win the Hickok belt," he added, "but what am I going to do with a \$10,000 diamond-studded belt? Put cartridges in it and wear it hunting?"

No, the kid who was born Fiore **Gene Tenace** and who is called "Steamboat" or just "Boat" by his wife hasn't let things go to his head.

Oh, yeah, the trailer's gonna go. He's buying a house in Oakland and will move in during spring training. But that's something he thought about for a long time and comes not as a symbol of success but of security.

"The Series gave me security," he began. "Before the Series there was talk of trading either me or Dave Duncan. After the Series, I figured I'd be staying a while."

INSTEAD, IT WAS Mike Epstein who got traded and now **Gene** has been told he's the A's regular first baseman.

The winter of **Tenace's** content has been fun. He's been working on his father-in-law's Christmas tree farm and hunting . . . just about every day.

"I even went out New Year's Day," he recalled. "Missed that first football game."

No, it's the same old **Gene Tenace** who's been running around Lucasville this winter, but he's noticed a difference in the people around him.

"I developed a lot more friends around here than I used to have," he grinned.

AND MRS. **TENACE** has noticed a difference, too.

"I go to cash a check and they see our name on it. 'Not THE **Gene Tenace**?' they say. Usually I'm dressed in slacks and a sweater. They look at me like they think I must be the maid. They seem to expect diamonds and mink," she said.

Tenace is dressed casually, ready to work around the house. He still has the mustache that has become the trademark of the A's.

Charlie Finley, the Athletics' flamboyant owner, is credited with inducing his players to grow mustaches. That, **Tenace** points out, is only partially true.

"I think it really started with Reggie Jackson," he recalled. "He was the only one on the club with a mustache. I think Finley wanted to get him to shave it off. Knowing Reggie's a bit of an individual, he figured if he got a few others to grow mustaches Reggie would shave his.

"HE SAID HE'D give \$300 to anyone growing a mustache and he held that Mustache Day promotion. Well, just about everyone grew one. Cash like that can come in mighty handy.

"And when we got the mustaches we started winning. We didn't dare take 'em off."

That, however, is just one of the good things Finley has done, according to **Tenace**. You don't knock the boss to this young Oakland player.

"He's been good for baseball," said **Tenace**. "He's amazing. He puts a whole lot into the game. If it takes money, he'll spend it. And those night World Series games, they were his idea and it was great to play in them."

Money and Finley go hand in hand. His World Series rings for the A's are going to be the most extravagant ever designed, complete with a full carat diamond. And the wives are getting a charm with a half-carat diamond.

THEN THERE were those bonuses that Finley passed out. **Tenace** got his, \$5,000, after hitting home runs in his first two World Series at-bats, a feat never before accomplished.

"I was talking to some newspapermen when he walked up and whispered in my ear," **Tenace** explained. "They wanted to know what he said but I told him I'd rather not have it in the paper.

"I guess he wanted it in the paper, though, because he let it slip to the press."

Tenace admitted that these bonuses "did cause some jealousy on the team" but when you're champion of the world, you don't complain.

Tenace feels kind of sorry for his owner in that Oakland's attendance has been terrible no matter what Finley tried.

"I WOULDN'T be surprised, if we don't draw this year, to find Finley going to New Orleans," said **Tenace**.

Sitting there with **Tenace**, it was only natural that the talk should swing to the World Series, in which he hit four HRs and drove in nine of Oakland's 16 runs, including the first and last in the seventh game.

"We were sitting in the back of the bus on the way to Riverfront Stadium for the first game when Darold Knowles predicted either me or George Hendricks would win the car," recalled **Tenace**. "Funny thing was, I thought Hendricks would win it. He was filling in for our super star, Reggie Jackson, and I thought he'd have a great Series."

Then came game No. 1. The A's had heard all the remarks from the Reds about Pittsburgh being the best team in baseball and the World Series being over and the American League being inferior.

Did this inspire Oakland? "NAH, YOU HEAR that talk all year long," said **Tenace**. "They did a lot of talking, all right, but not too much playing."

Tenace recalls that first game. "I was kneeling in the on-deck circle, just before my first at-bat. I looked up and saw those 53,000 people and realized 60,000,000 more were watching on television. 'I'm here,' I said to myself. Funny the way your mind works at times like that."

Homer No. 1 came as a shock. Homer No. 2 . . . well, that had a story.

"I just stood there and looked at it. I knew it was gone but it kept coming back toward the foul line. I wasn't sure if it would be fair or foul. Then I figured I'd better start running. If that ball had hit the fence they'd have thrown me out at first base and that would have been mighty embarrassing."

THE HOMERS, though, weren't the most memorable hits for **Tenace**. The best were the two he got in the final-game victory, the first hitting the seam in the AstroTurf and bouncing over Denis Menke's head.

"That was the only bad hop in the entire Series," laughed **Tenace**. "You can tell from that what kind of Series it was for me."

While that was the high point, the low point came after game No. 6 when the Reds stole everything but **Tenace's** wallet on their way to an 8-1 victory. What's more, a threat on **Tenace's** life had been made by phone and a man was arrested outside the park carrying a gun.

"I guess the guy wanted to have some target practice," grinned **Tenace**. "You know, it's amazing what some people try to do."

Tenace wasn't as disappointed after that loss as you might suspect.

"THEY WEREN'T stealing on me," he stated. "Blue Moon Odom was the only pitcher who paid any attention to their runners. The Reds had been stealing all year.

"Joe Morgan had 58 and Bobby Tolan had 42. There must be some weak arms in the National League."

One of those weak arms, however, doesn't belong to Johnny Bench, who has what **Tenace** called "the greatest arm I ever saw."

Speaking of Bench brought back memories of the trick play Oakland used to get Bench, striking him out on a 3-and-2 pitch after pretending to want him walked intentionally.

"He walked past me after that pitch and said, 'Why me?'" **Tenace** smiled.

TENACE ADMITTED he was shocked when Manager Dick Williams went to the mound and explained the play.

"I'd never seen it before," said **Tenace**. "I was more concerned about getting back down and catching the ball than about Rollie Fingers throwing a strike. That would have been something, having the pitch be strike three and me missing it, letting him get on base."

But in the 1972 World Series, nothing got past **Gene Tenace**.



THE 1972 WORLD SERIES hero, decked out in a black hat instead of the A's green and gold headgear, gets ready for an afternoon spin around Lucasville, O.

A Fluke? Tenace's HR Bat Is for Real!

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—He exploded onto the national sports scene last October.

His first two times up in the World Series, he homered. Before it all was over and the Athletics had tensed their way to the world championship of baseball, he had two more homers and nine runs batted in, eight more than any other player on his team, or for that matter, his more famous counterpart on the Reds, Johnny Bench.

Whatever happened to Fury Gene Tenace?

Well, to paraphrase an old one-liner about W. C. Fields, Tenace is alive and sober in Oakland.

IN FACT, SO FAR this season, he's proved to be more genuine than the team itself. That might be somewhat of a surprise.

After all, the compact, muscular catcher hit only five homers and batted .235 as a part-time player last year for the A's before catching fire in the Series.

Then, during the winter, Charlie Finley dealt away A's home-run leader Mike Epstein to the Rangers and announced that Tenace would become his first baseman. Finley also predicted that Tenace could hit 35 homers this season.

The pressure was on. But Tenace didn't seem to feel it. At the beginning of May, he was hitting .300 and leading the American League with eight homers.

"I don't worry about pressure," Tenace said. "What I did in the World Series is something I've just got to forget and put out of my mind entirely."

"THE WORLD SERIES was last year. This is this year. Of course, there are times when I can't help myself and I think back to it. I'm sure with the way things are going with the team now, a lot of guys think back to the Series."

As the official, car-winning hero of the 1972 World Series, the 26-year-old Tenace hasn't exactly been deluged with endorsements or offers for personal appearances.

He remains an affable, small-town young man, as pleasant and sincere a person as he was before nationwide television made him a recognized sports star. About the only special request he's made since then is for a change of number from 38 to his high school 18. Granted.

Actually, he doesn't need any more of a reminder of what the Series meant to him than the words, "Tenace 3," written daily on the A's lineup card.

"I don't think I'd be playing regularly here if it hadn't been for the World Series," Tenace said.

"YOU DON'T KNOW what a great feeling it is to come to the park every day and know you're going to play. All I ever wanted was the opportunity to play every day and now I've got that opportunity."

"It's just a completely different feeling knowing I'm going to be in the lineup instead of on the bench for maybe half a game and then in there maybe pinch-hitting."

"I never knew what to do with myself on game days, whether to rest or go swimming

or something. Now I get my rest."

Tenace always has been agreeable and cooperative. He started out as an infielder in 1965 and moved to the outfield when it was decided that would be better for him. But the A's were well-stocked with outfielders and Gene wasn't making the world forget about Tris Speaker.

IN 1968, HE SHIFTED to catcher and immediately made the Carolina League All-Star team.

Because Dave Duncan was in the Marine Reserves in 1969, Tenace began making monthly weekend appearances with the big club. Hank Bauer, then the A's manager, liked Tenace's swing so much, he tried to keep him in the majors.

"I remember the first three pitchers I faced when I was called up," Tenace said. "First there was Sam McDowell when he still was throwing good for the Indians. He collared me. Then Luis Tiant. I got a single off him for my first major league hit."

"Then there was Denny McLain, who'd won 30 games the year before for the Tigers. He collared me. Then there was Earl Wilson. I hit my first major league home run off him in Tiger Stadium."

THEN CAME 1970, the mental turning point for Tenace. Duncan went away for a month of reserve summer camp duty and Tenace stepped in. During the last month of

the season, Gene hit .305 with seven homers and 20 RBIs.

"That's when I knew I could hit up here," Tenace said. "I had that good month and I caught Vida Blue's no-hitter."

Duncan had put the blast on Finley near the end of the '70 campaign and some felt that marked the end of the line for the big catcher. But Dick Williams took over as manager and quickly patched up the situation.

Nevertheless, Tenace managed to emerge later in the season to catch both Blue's and Catfish Hunter's 20th victories. He hit .274 with seven homers and 25 RBIs in 179 at-bats.

Before the 1972 season, Williams laid down some qualifications for his starting catcher to fulfill during spring training. Tenace met every one, but Duncan opened the season behind the plate.

THE TWO CATCHERS alternated for a few games, then Duncan took over with a home-run spree. Tenace patiently bided his time, although he wasn't happy about it.

"I don't want to go through this one more season," Tenace said one day. "If I can't play, I want to be traded."

Two or three times, Tenace went into the manager's office to ask for more playing time.

"Even when he wasn't playing," Williams

remembered. "Geno didn't moan or gripe. He's always had a great attitude. When he came into to see me, he just wanted to say that he wanted a chance to get in there a little more."

TENACE FINALLY got his chance one month from the end of the season when Duncan went into a slump that Williams thought also affected his catching. Tenace didn't set the world on fire, but the A's regained their division lead with him behind the plate.

When the season ended, Finley said a sore right shoulder Tenace had played with made it impossible for him to catch at the start of the season. Hence, the trade of Epstein.

When Duncan was holding out this spring, however, Finley announced that Tenace's shoulder had healed and he could catch. And catch Tenace did for a few exhibition games, which didn't please him because he wanted to learn his new position.

When the A's sent Duncan to the Indians along with George Hendrick, Tenace returned to first base. He's looked more comfortable there with every passing day.

"I feel good playing at first base," Tenace admitted. "It was just a matter of getting out there and playing the position."

"THE ONLY THING that's bothered me is getting over to the bag fast enough. I'll have to work on that. The infielders want to get rid of the ball as fast as they can and I want to be over there so they don't have to wait to make their throws."

But no one is worried about Tenace's fielding. It's his bat that does the loudest talking.

"It's too early to say I'm surprised by his hitting so far," said his roommate, Sal Bando. "He's capable of hitting over 20 homers and .280 with 80 ribbies."

"We haven't been bothered by a lot of phone calls to the room. There hasn't been the same sort of concentrated media as there was in the Series."

"At the Series, they always expect someone like Johnny Bench to do something big because everybody knows he can do it. That puts the pressure on him because he tries so hard. Guys like Geno, who're capable of doing it without many writers knowing about it, can go about their business without the pressure of being bothered."

WILLIAMS CALLS ANY homers Tenace hits "a plus because you don't consider him a home-run hitter. He's a line-drive hitter." Tenace just laughs at comparisons with sluggers such as Richie Allen, Henry Aaron and Bench.

"Those guys will get their 40," Tenace said. "I'll take what I can get."

"But I'll tell you something. Ever since that last month in 1970, I've known I can hit up here. I've always had the confidence I could hit. As long as I'm in the lineup, I'm going to produce."

Tenace thought about that for a moment as if a little embarrassed when he said it. "Well," he said "that's the way I feel."



Gene Tenace . . . He Doesn't Look Back.

New Rule, New Role: Johnson Enjoying Both

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—"Deron Johnson is the designated hitter we've been looking for," said A's Manager Dick Williams.

In the first four games with the A's after coming over from the Phils, the 33-year-old veteran was 8-for-19, or .421, with seven runs batted in.

"I guess I'm sort of getting used to it," Johnson said about his new role with the new rule. "It seems I'm coming up to bat every inning here and there are men on base."

"I didn't see much of that with the Phils. It's fun."

IT TOOK A short time for the righthanded slugger to adjust. He reported to his new club in Cleveland and started heading for the outfield when batting practice started.

"Hey, Deron," coach Irv Noren yelled, "regulars hit first here."

The first time he came up, Johnson singled in two runs. It wasn't much of a hit—the soft liner barely made it past a drawn-in infield—

but it was a lot more than what was happening with the A's before he arrived.

Johnson was stranded on second and waited there momentarily.

"I EXPECTED someone to

come out with my mitt," said Johnson, now a first baseman by fielding trade. "I just kept looking for someone to throw my helmet, too. Then I realized I could take it to the dugout myself."

Billy C. to Have Knee Surgery

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—Athletics' outfielder Billy Conigliaro went on the disabled list May 8 in order to have an operation on his right knee to repair damaged inner cartilage.

Billy C., obtained in a delayed-action swap with the Brewers for Ollie Brown, began the season as the A's regular center fielder and was hitting .295. He said he hurt himself sliding into second base April 21 in a game against the Angels in Oakland.

"Hopefully, he can pinch-hit sometime between July 1 and July 15," Manager Dick Williams said, "and be available full-time in August."

Conigliaro said that the operation "will take a load off my mind. I couldn't play in the field with this knee and there was no use limping around out there."

"The doctor in Oakland says I'll be out for two months," Conigliaro said. "The doctor in Boston says one month. I think it will be more like five weeks but, of course, I've never been through this type of thing before."

"I talked to a couple of guys. They said if you're the designated hitter, you've got to do more running before games. Normally, you can keep in pretty good shape just running to and from your position."

Johnson said he would like to play in the field on occasion just to keep his hand in, but that seemed unlikely unless something happened to either league home-run leader Gene Tenace or catcher Ray Fosse. If Fosse were injured, then Tenace would catch.

DERON'S DEBUT almost was overshadowed by Williams' latest innovation in musical second basemen, a ploy that sprung last year from the fervid mind of Owner Charlie Finley.

Before the game, a few of the A's Latin-American players gathered around the lineup posted in the clubhouse.

"Hey, Marky! Look at this!" one of them shouted to Gonzalo Mar-

quez. "What's this?" Marquez said. "This some sort of a joke. Where's the skipper?"

Marquez was listed as batting in the No. 2 spot and playing second base. Marquez is a lefthanded first baseman. Visions of him trying to make the double-play pivot danced in a few minds.

WHAT WILLIAMS had in mind was to bat Marquez and then send Dick Green out to play second base. Then he would pinch-hit for Green and send Dal Maxvill out to play second, then pinch-hit for Maxvill and end up with Ted Kubiak at second base.

"Of course, you can do this only on the road," Williams explained. "I first saw this used by Bobby Bragan when I was in the Texas League (1948 through 1950). And I used it in the minors when I was at Toronto in 1966."

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American Association

Batting, Pitching Records

Compiled by William J. Weiss

BATTING						PITCHING						
Player—Club	AB.	H.	HR.	RBI.	Pct.	Pitcher—Club	G.	IP.	SO.	W.	L.	ERA.
Donnelly, Denver, c	6	3	0	0	.500	Duffalo, Okla City	4	6	4	1	0	0.00
Tenace, Iowa, c	45	21	5	18	.467	Finafrock, Evan	2	6	4	0	0	0.00
de la Hoz, Ind, inf	18	8	1	5	.444	Fowler, Denver	3	5	0	0	0	0.00
Chiles, Okla City, of	46	19	0	5	.413	R. Peterson, Evan	1	2	0	0	0	0.00
Howard, Okla City, c	22	9	2	5	.409	Rustek, Evan	2	1	0	0	0	0.00
Suarez, Wichita, c	55	22	2	13	.400	Handrahan, Iowa	2	1	0	0	0	0.00
Reynolds, Iowa, of	55	22	1	14	.400	Colbert, Wichita	5	14	11	3	0	0.64
Clark, Iowa, 3b	23	9	0	3	.391	Reuss, Tulsa	3	24	21	1	1	0.75
Green, Omaha, of	18	7	0	0	.389	Almonte, Okla City	6	11	13	1	1	0.82
John Mason, OC, of-1b	35	13	1	5	.371	Womack, Ind	5	10	8	1	1	0.90
Thomas, Tulsa, of	57	21	1	11	.368	Estelle, Evan	2	15	4	1	0	1.20
Billings, Denver, c	22	8	0	3	.364	Walters, Denver	3	7	1	1	0	1.29
Spriggs, Omaha, of	22	8	1	1	.364	Blue, Iowa	1	7	14	1	0	1.29
Cedeno, Okla City, of	72	26	2	17	.361	M. Lachemann, Iowa	7	17	10	3	1	1.59
Sorrell, Omaha, 3b	36	13	0	5	.361	Marshall, OC	7	11	10	1	1	1.64
Marquez, Iowa, 1b	50	18	0	9	.360	Bogle, Iowa	3	10	4	1	0	1.80
McNulty, Iowa, of	26	9	2	7	.346	Gebhard, Evan	4	5	4	0	0	1.80
Pitts, Tulsa, 3b	62	21	2	9	.339	Borbon, Ind	6	14	12	1	1	1.93
Geiger, Okla City, of	36	12	2	8	.333	Hamende, Ind	5	9	3	0	0	2.00
R. Lachemann, Iowa, 1b	9	3	0	1	.333	Blyleven, Evan	2	9	13	0	0	2.00
Duffy, Ind, ss	43	14	2	8	.326	J. Ellis, Tulsa	3	22	15	2	2	2.05
Patterson, Denver, of	38	12	0	2	.316	Burgmeier, Omaha	6	13	8	2	2	2.08
Don Anderson, Ind, 1b	39	12	0	2	.308	O'Riley, Omaha	2	13	7	0	0	2.08
Armstrong, Ind, 2b	36	11	0	4	.306	Carlos, Denver	3	17	11	1	1	2.12
Torres, OC, ss	66	20	0	7	.303	Parker, Tulsa	3	25	21	1	1	2.16
Rico, Omaha, of-3b	33	10	3	8	.303	Farmer, Wichita	3	24	11	1	1	2.25
Melendez, Tulsa, of	63	19	1	11	.300	Tidrow, Wichita	4	26	24	2	1	2.42
Harrison, Omaha, 1b	40	12	2	8	.300	Harrelson, Ind	3	16	10	1	0	2.81
Smith, Denver, of	45	13	2	7	.289	Hinsley, Wichita	3	19	15	1	1	2.84
Scheinblum, Wichita, of	52	15	1	8	.288	Haydel, Evansville	3	21	16	2	1	3.00
Camilli, Wichita, ss	56	16	0	3	.286	Mingori, Wichita	7	12	10	0	1	3.00
Nordberg, Evans, 1b	21	6	0	1	.286	Jones, Omaha	4	6	4	0	1	3.00
Demeter, Tulsa, of	7	2	0	3	.286	Olivo, Iowa	3	3	4	2	0	3.00
Gotay, Okla City, 2b	57	16	2	11	.281	Blasingame, OC	4	25	19	2	1	3.24
Look, Evansville, c	25	7	0	3	.280	Talbot, Iowa	3	22	16	0	0	3.27
Jim Mason, Den, ss	43	12	1	7	.279	Miller, Wichita	6	11	14	0	0	3.27
Hill, Evansville, of	43	12	0	6	.279	Zachary, Omaha	3	19	15	1	1	3.32
Carruthers, Wich, 1b	54	15	0	7	.278	Morris, Evan	3	16	13	1	1	3.38
Crawford, Ind, of	54	15	0	7	.278	Osteen, Iowa	4	21	15	1	0	3.43
Glover, Evansville, 2b	47	13	1	4	.277	S. Ellis, Tulsa	3	15	5	0	0	3.60
D. Thompson, Evan, ss	40	11	0	4	.275	Shifflett, Evan	4	10	5	0	3	3.60
Swanson, Ind, of	48	13	1	10	.271	Allen, Wichita	7	12	5	0	1	3.75
Chambliss, Wichita, of	67	18	0	3	.269	Rohr, Wichita	4	21	14	1	3	3.86
G. Sprague, Tulsa, 3b	26	7	0	7	.269	Bakenhaster, Tulsa	4	7	3	0	1	3.86
Brooks, Iowa, of	56	15	1	5	.268	Blackmon, Denver	7	9	4	0	1	4.00
Simon, Okla City, of	41	11	0	4	.268	Cram, Omaha	3	15	12	0	3	4.20
Coulter, Tulsa, 2b	45	12	0	5	.267	Wilcox, Ind	4	16	15	2	0	4.50
Breeden, Ind, c	15	4	0	1	.267	Spittorff, Omaha	2	12	5	1	0	4.50
Driscoll, Iowa, 3b-2b	61	16	1	7	.262	Dillman, Tulsa	4	4	3	0	0	4.50
Powell, Evansville, of	23	6	1	3	.261	G. Baker, Evansville	1	2	3	0	0	4.50
Batista, Okla City, 1b	58	15	1	8	.259	Semera, Tulsa	1	2	0	0	0	4.50
Peterson, Wichita, of	43	11	4	4	.256	Guinn, Okla City	6	15	22	0	1	4.80
Kennedy, Tulsa, ss	32	8	0	2	.250	Montgomery, Oma	2	11	14	0	0	4.91
Brumley, Okla City, c	32	8	0	5	.250	E. Sprague, Iowa	3	20	10	1	0	4.95
Skrable, Omaha, of	32	8	0	6	.250	Bailey, Okla City	6	14	16	1	0	5.14
Gonzalez, Wichita, 2b	65	16	0	6	.246	Burchart, Wichita	5	12	6	1	0	5.25
Lowenstein, Wich, of	61	15	2	7	.246	Pizarro, Iowa	3	22	20	2	1	5.32
Jimenez, Denver, of	45	11	1	8	.244	Geishert, Ind	3	20	17	1	1	5.40
LaRussa, Iowa, 2b	33	8	0	1	.242	McCool, Tulsa	4	10	11	1	1	5.40
Guindon, Tulsa, 1b	58	14	1	10	.241	Stickels, Iowa	5	5	2	1	0	5.40
Nettles, Evansville, of	29	7	1	5	.241	Spinks, Okla City	4	24	28	1	2	5.68
Rios, Omaha, ss	29	7	0	3	.241	Cleveland, Tulsa	4	27	17	2	2	5.67
Murphy, Tulsa, c	25	6	0	1	.240	Grimsley, Ind	3	14	10	0	1	5.79
Mashore, Ind, of	51	12	1	4	.235	G. Woodson, Den	6	15	9	0	2	6.00
Healy, Omaha, c	26	6	0	3	.231	Miles, Denver	3	12	10	1	1	6.00
Grieve, Denver, of	31	7	2	5	.226	Monteagudo, Oma	4	6	4	1	0	6.00
Norton, Iowa, of	18	4	1	1	.222	Hudgins, Omaha	3	3	0	0	1	6.00
Morales, Iowa, c	9	2	1	2	.222	House, Ind	7	5	0	1	1	6.43
Northeast, Omaha, of	41	9	1	4	.220	Watkins, Okla City	4	19	16	1	2	6.63
Plummer, Ind, c	32	7	0	5	.219	Ritter, Denver	4	5	6	0	1	7.20
Burroughs, Den, 3b-1b	37	8	1	6	.216	Osinski, Okla City	3	5	2	1	0	7.20
Olerud, Tulsa, c	38	8	0	11	.211	Rittwage, Wichita	3	11	6	0	1	8.18
Vasser, Evansville, of	19	4	1	2	.211	Brown, Denver	4	12	4	0	1	9.00
Lind, Okla City, 3b	53	11	0	4	.208	Kuhn, Denver	6	10	8	0	0	9.00
Dwain Anderson, Ia, ss	48	10	2	8	.208	Schaeffer, OC	2	7	4	0	0	9.00
Bevacqua, Ind, of	35	7	3	5	.200	Welsch, Ind	4	5	4	0	1	9.00
Nen, Denver, 1b	20	4	0	2	.200	Noriega, Ind	3	5	4	1	0	9.00
Coggins, Wichita, 3b	20	4	0	0	.200	Seminoff, Tulsa	4	3	2	1	0	9.00
F. Baker, Wichita, of	37	7	0	1	.189	Schneider, Tulsa	4	3	3	0	2	9.00
Beckner, Evansville, 3b	37	7	0	2	.189	M. Thompson, Den	4	9	5	0	1	11.00
Theobald, Denver, inf	16	3	0	0	.188	Law, Denver	3	9	9	0	2	11.00
Ragland, Den, 2b-3b	38	7	0	3	.184	R. Woodson, Evan	3	7	9	0	1	11.36
Nash, Evan, 1b-of	38	7	0	3	.184	Wright, Omaha	3	4	1	0	0	13.50
Hense, Denver, 3b	22	4	0	1	.182	Dukes, Denver	1	3	1	0	1	15.00
Wolff, Tulsa, of	11	2	0	0	.182	Evan, Okla City	1	1	0	0	0	27.00
Sevcik, Evansville, c	11	2	0	3	.182							
Roos, Omaha, ss	17	3	0	1	.176							
Nossek, Tulsa, of	57	10	0	6	.175							
McKenzie, Evan, inf	6	1	0	0	.167							
DaVanon, Tulsa, ss	61	10	0	1	.164							
Scruggs, Wichita, of	13	2	0	0	.154							
Castle, Denver, 1b	35	5	1	6	.143							
McMillan, Omaha, inf	16	2	0	0	.125							
Sullivan, Omaha, c	17	2	0	2	.118							
Lewis, Iowa, of	10	1	0	1	.100							
Sims, Okla City, of	11	1	0	0	.091							
Kernek, Ind, 1b	12	1	0	0	.083							
Harris, Omaha, inf	15	1	0	0	.067							
Isaac, Wichita, c	1	0	0	0	.000							



Ted Simmons

Simmons Back—Oilers End Six-Game Nosedive

TULSA, Okla. — "I don't know how long we'll have him; two weeks, three or a month," said Tulsa Manager Warren Spahn, "but Ted Simmons provides that winning spark. He'll be an example to the rest of the club."

Ticketed to join the parent Cardinals as soon as he's played his way into shape, the Oilers catcher left little doubt May 9 that the wait in St. Louis wouldn't be a long one.

Released from Army duty 10 days earlier and a new bridegroom, Simmons apparently is one of those athletes who can laugh at the spring training routine.

He started Tulsa on the way to a 5-1 victory over Omaha—a win which snapped a six-game losing streak by the Oilers—by rapping a single and driving in a run in his first plate appearance.

Simmons added a second hit, stole a base, scored two runs and caught a flawless game for winning pitcher Reggie Cleveland, who went the distance for his third victory.

Tenace the Menace Keys Iowa Oaks' Sturdy Getaway

By BILL BRYSON

DES MOINES, Ia.—Gene Tenace hit like fury in the Iowa Oaks' early American Association surge, and that meant he was living up to his name.

The 23-year-old catcher, heir apparent to the No. 1 job with Oakland in a year or two, was christened Fury Gene Tenace.

The converted infielder prefers his middle name, but the front handle was more appropriate to the violence that marked his .472 average in the Oaks' breakaway to 12 victories in 14 starts.

Gene led the Association with five homers and 18 RBIs at that point.

After his .319 and 20 home runs in just 89 games at Birmingham (Southern) last season, Tenace was beginning another big stride in his ambition to be the best Italian catcher since Yogi Berra.

Tenace Is Padres' New \$1.25 Million Belter

By PHIL COLLIER

SAN DIEGO—The Padres figure they improved themselves about half a run per game when they signed free agent Gene Tenace, to a six-year contract for an estimated \$1,250,000.

"If he drives in runs, it will help a lot," said lefthander Randy Jones, the 22-game winner who often suffered last season because the Padres were next-to-last in the National League in runs scored.

"Over the past four years, Gene has averaged almost 25 homers and 80 runs batted in with the A's," noted club President Buzzie Bavasi, who negotiated the deal for Tenace through his agent, Jerry Kapstein.

"NOBODY ON OUR club at present can match that type of power output. We felt getting more firepower into our lineup was a must and this should go a long way toward solving that problem."

Tenace was the third of six players the Padres selected in the re-entry draft, but he was the one Padre Owner Ray Kroc wanted most.

"What Kroc wants, Kroc gets," said Bavasi, who went after outfielder Reggie Jackson and second baseman Bobby Grich after closing the deal for Tenace.

"I WANTED Tenace because he is a fine team player and he is versatile—if he isn't catching he could play first base or left field," Kroc said of the 30-year-old righthanded hitter who was the first American Leaguer to cross over to the Na-

tional as a result of the re-entry draft.

The Padres had been trying to strengthen themselves behind the plate since their birth in 1969. Tenace was the only catcher in the re-entry draft and he was the first player to be removed from the list after being selected by the maximum 12 teams.

One team that sought him, Kansas City, was upset over not being able to talk to Tenace before he signed with San Diego. Joe Burke, the Royals' general manager, said he thought Tenace was not interested in Kansas City because he knew that team wanted him to catch.

TENACE SAID, in rebuttal, that he is willing to catch every day if that is the wish of San Diego Manager John McNamara.

"I'm sure they will want me to catch as often as possible," said the man who will replace Fred Kendall as the Padres' No. 1 receiver. "I played for Mac before and I respect him."

"San Diego is a beautiful area and I'm impressed with the facilities there. It is a first-class club. I'm not making any predictions about what I'll do, but I promise the fans of San Diego that when I put on a uniform, I'll give 110 percent."

Tenace said he looks forward to spring training and to trying his luck against National League pitching.

"It's a fast-ball pitchers' league, I guess, and I'm a fast-ball hitter," he said.

THE PADRES ARE counting on Tenace to take some of the pressure off such younger hitters as first baseman Mike Ivie, second baseman Mike Champion, shortstop Bill Almon, left fielder Jerry Turner and right fielder Dave Winfield. If the season started tomorrow, all probably would be in the starting lineup.

"Gene is a tremendous clutch hitter," McNamara said. "He has good power, but he also is disciplined, he's not a wild swinger." As evidence, Tenace has averaged 98 walks a year for the last four seasons.

"Nobody is going to tell you that Tenace is a great defensive catcher," said Bob Fontaine, the director of player personnel, "but he will do a good job for us and we're very pleased to have him."

WITH THE addition of Tenace, the Padres are overloaded from the right side of the plate, but Bavasi doesn't mind.

"We've had trouble against left-handed pitchers in the past. The league is loaded with good ones," he reasoned.

Padres' Pickups: Tenace was to come here in late November to sign a contract as the Padres' highest-salaried performer and to meet the media. . . . Randy Jones is responding well to surgery on his pitching arm. The damaged nerve seems to be improving and he has been bird hunting in San Diego County's uplands. . . . The Padres are said to have received trade inquiries involving relievers Butch Metzger and Dave Tomlin.



Gene Tenace . . . Swat for San Diego

Veeck Unveils Bob Lemon as White Sox Manager

By RICHARD DOZER

CHICAGO—His scheduled spinal operation only three days away, Bill Veeck had a natural setting to shield himself from reporters who might have spilled the beans. It was strictly "no visitors" in his room at Illinois Masonic Hospital—a perfect set-up for sneaking in a guest one night.

Veeck's nocturnal visitor was Robert Granville Lemon, an old pal whom Veeck was to announce the following day as the man to manage his White Sox in 1977.

Lemon said it was a lot like sneaking around to avoid Manager

Lou Boudreau back in 1948, the year Lemon won 20 games for the first time in his illustrious 13-year pitching career with the Indians. They won a pennant that year, too. Veeck then was the owner of the club.

Lemon won two games in the World Series and for Veeck it was the greatest year at the box office that he—and indeed the entire American League—ever had experienced. The Indians drew 2,620,627, a league record that still stands.

SO THE WHITE Sox, who were the A.L. doormat this year and

barely drew 900,000 people despite all Veeck's promotions, are hoping a little of the nostalgia will rub off on their 1977 product.

After spending what showman Veeck called "a riotous evening taking pills," Lemon and his new boss made preparations to surprise the media the following afternoon, November 16. And presto—without a leak anywhere—the White Sox had a new manager, succeeding Paul Richards.

According to Veeck, Richards voluntarily stepped aside and will assume duties as a "consultant."

Lemon, 56 years old and freshly

inducted into the Hall of Fame, appeared alongside Veeck, who wore a bathrobe from which his wooden leg protruded as he sat comfortably in a wheelchair, looking and acting far more robust than many had expected. The scene was a wide corridor one floor below his hospital room.

Caught up in the excitement of the occasion, Lemon found himself saying, "On paper we (the White Sox) have a helluva ball club."

He said he liked the strong young arms on the pitching staff, had words of optimism centered around "young bodies" on the in-

field, later identified as Bucky Dent and Kevin Bell, and hoped the club could get a couple of free agents to "scare the hell out of somebody."

Lemon, who won 207 major league games for the Indians and lost only 128, first managed at Hawaii (Pacific Coast) in 1964. After spending two years at Seattle and winning the PCL pennant in 1966, he took over as manager of the Royals in June, 1970. He brought them up from fifth to third, then finished second and fourth the next two years before being let out.

VEECK HAD hoped he could supply Lemon with a beefed-up roster on the day of the signing. But his early efforts to land one of the blue-ribbon free agents were in vain. Nonetheless, he kept on trying and had the biggest list of any major league club to choose from: 18 in the original count.

"Bob is entitled to some tools (players) that we didn't give Paul last season," Veeck declared, indicating that trades would be the next alternative.

Sox Notes: It seemed clear that the White Sox had sought to sign Chuck Tanner before their former field leader signed with the Pirates. A group of stockholders, polled a few weeks earlier at a meeting, voted 17-0 "yes" when asked if they'd like to reacquire Tanner. Hemond's first inquiry on Lemon came the day Tanner signed with the Pirates. . . . Minnie Minoso was the only coach Veeck promised would be back. Speculation indicated that Larry Doby might join the staff. . . . The White Sox have a stadium club in the planning stages. It is to be built above a third base side entrance in the area that once housed the home club's locker rooms.

A Stacked Deck, Says Peters of Free-Agent Derby

By JIM HENNEMAN

BALTIMORE—As the re-entry system became a fact of baseball life, the early returns contained no surprises for General Manager Hank Peters, who admitted the Orioles could be one of many teams left out in the cold.

"It's going exactly the way it had been predicted," said Peters, showing just a trace of bitterness. "The players are going to the cities that have the appeal and to clubs willing to spend money freely."

"THAT'S EXACTLY what we figured would happen, and those who kept insisting it wouldn't work out that way were just talking a bunch of garbage."

Peters was clearly disturbed when the signings of Bill Campbell, Don Baylor and Gene Tenace showed almost total lack of restraint on the part of some clubs.

"I'm not extremely optimistic," Peters confessed when asked what the Orioles' chances were of landing any of the top free agents.

"We're still going to hang in there, though," he quickly added. "We've got a lot of good proposals out and, who knows, maybe some of them are better than anything else that's been offered."

But Peters didn't sound optimistic and it seemed obvious that he believed his fears of three months ago were fast becoming reality.

"WE'RE NOT GOING to destroy the basic principles that we've established in competing for these players," said Peters. "We'll do the same for them that we'll do to keep our present players."

Peters seemed mostly disturbed over the manner in which some negotiations have been carried out.

"What bothers me is that there can be no collusion between the clubs, but the players are able to play one offer off against another. The situation is such that you don't know who, or what, you are bidding against."

There's no guarantee you're not bidding against a phantom

offer and in some cases you could even be bidding against yourself."

The last statement is apparently a reference to the manner in which Jerry Kapstein was conducting negotiations for his 10 clients who went through the re-entry draft. Reportedly, Kapstein requested sealed bids from all clubs interested in his clients, and then notified those still in the running.

"AFTER THE INITIAL contact," Peters said, referring to his dealings with Kapstein, "each club had seven days to submit a written proposal, which we did on the seven players we had drafted."

"Jerry then got back in touch with us and said he was getting close to doing business on Baylor, Tenace and Bert Campaneris. He asked if we wanted to change our proposal. My first reaction is that nobody has told me what was wrong with our first proposal."

"I'm sure Jerry is negotiating the way he feels is best for his clients, but it seems like there

should be a better way. How do I know, for instance, whether my proposal is already the best that's been received? If I change it, I might be competing against myself, against an offer that doesn't exist, or I might just be making another offer that can be used to drive the price up."

PETERS INDICATED that he didn't change his original proposal in either instance and, if he sticks to that pattern, the chances of the Orioles landing any of Kapstein's clients appear slim.

"I'm sure that Jerry is trying to be fair, both to his clients and the clubs involved," said Peters. "It's just the procedure I object to."

"If there are going to be written proposals, it would seem to make sense to just pick the one you like best."

Peters was hoping the Orioles would come in for their share of the free-agent pie. But he didn't seem to be counting on it.

Tenace Qualifying As Good Receiver With Furious Bat

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND, Calif.—Everyone worried what would happen to the high-riding Athletics when catcher Dave Duncan went away for two weeks of Marine Reserve duty this summer.

But Fury Gene Tenace didn't let anyone worry for long.

On one 13-game trip, the catcher they call Gene went 17-for-34 with 11 RBIs.

The runaway A's increased their American League West Division lead from 10 to 14½ games during that span.

No A's pitcher complained about how he was being handled.

"A good handler of pitchers," Joe Garagiola once said, "is a catcher who hits .300."

Tenace came off the road batting .322. Nosy reporters began to ask Manager Dick Williams what would happen when Duncan and his .245 average came back. Williams replied that it would take Duncan a little time to get back in shape.

When spring training opened this season under new Manager Williams, he said he considered the catching spot a defensive position.

Started in Bullpen

"Even if I had done the job during spring training," Tenace recalled, "I wouldn't have been the catcher this year. Williams said he wasn't concerned about hitting, that he just wanted a guy to handle pitchers. That kind of put Geno off in the bullpen."

"I feel I can handle pitchers. I always felt I could handle them. All I needed was the opportunity to prove it."

It was Tenace who took the catcher's job away from Duncan last year. Frank Fernandez, who started off the 1970 season as the A's No. 1 man behind the plate, gave way to Tenace, who proceeded to bat .305. But Duncan began this season as No. 1 and caught the games that shot the A's into first place in the West Division.

Tenace's defensive qualifications were questioned because he was converted to catcher from the out-



Gene Tenace

field only three years ago.

"The A's already had Reggie Jackson and Rick Monday and a lot of good outfielders, so I didn't see much future out there," Tenace said. "I signed as a shortstop. I once played all nine positions in one game in the minors. But if I didn't want to be a utilityman, I had to learn one position."

Dandy Double Play

An indication of how much Tenace has learned came August 3 when he helped turn a single into a double play. The Royals' Lou Piniella tried to score from second on a single by Chuck Harrison. Tenace took the throw from left fielder Angel Mangual just as Piniella reached the plate. Tenace was spun completely around when Piniella hit him with a double-forearm blow. But Gene held the ball and recovered in time to throw Harrison out trying for second.

On that same trip, Tenace opened in left field against the Orioles in an effort to get more hitting into the lineup.

"I feel I can hit in the majors," the 24-year-old Tenace said. "I feel I can play here as far as defense as a catcher goes. It's just a matter of getting confidence."

"I feel I could play in the outfield and catch up here right now."

By the way, Tenace caught Vida Blue quite often in the minors the past two years and was behind the plate when Blue hurled a no-hitter against the Twins last September.

The problem of what to do with Gene when Duncan returned from reserve duty was a happy one for Williams. Tenace frankly saw Duncan's tour of duty as a golden opportunity.

Waited for Chance

"I just was lying in the weeds," said Tenace, who'd caught only 12 games before Duncan departed. "I had to go out and do a good job. I feel fortunate that the opportunity came up and I could do the catching and come through."

"It's not up to me to decide who'll play. That's No. 23's (Williams') decision. But if I do my job and he takes me out, then I think he'll be making a mistake. But it's his decision."

A's Acorns: Catfish Hunter has developed into the No. 1 hitting pitcher in the majors as his .350-plus batting average attests. . . . The A's plan giving season ticket purchasers options to buy five playoff and World Series tickets for both this year and next was widely misunderstood. Many fans thought the only way to get tickets to the post-season series was to buy season tickets, which isn't the case because the plan is limited to 5,000 participants. . . . Outfielder Angel Mangual was shaken up sliding into second base in one of those everyday force plays and stayed home during the first two games of a following trip. . . . A press conference was called in Boston to tell the world that, contrary to certain newspaper accounts, Vida Blue does own his gift-Cadillac and Owner Charlie Finley doesn't. Williams and Blue were at the unusual conference in person; Finley in spirit. . . . Mudcat Grant was bought back from the Pirates for the wavier price and earned his first save for the A's this year his first day on the job with 3½ innings of excellent relief against the Red Sox. Infielder Tony LaRussa, who was sent to Iowa to make room for Grant, was sold to Braves. . . . Catcher Frank Fernandez passed his four-year mark in the majors while on the disabled list with a dislocated finger.

Ross Newhan



Peter O'Malley Waiting

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—"Laugh-In" Artie Johnson could say it more emphatically. The situation in the National League West Division is very interesting.

It goes beyond the struggle between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the mere fact that the Dodgers have rallied from a deficit that once was 10½ games.

The Dodgers have problems that several weeks ago Peter O'Malley felt he knew how to cope with.

He knew he would have to make a winter trade for one of his most celebrated players, that he would have to contemplate a change in front-office personnel.

A division title might change all that, might obscure the divisions within.

The player suddenly would be a winner, the front-office man an executive of the year for acquiring the player over the objections of the field manager.

Very interesting, indeed.

Gene Autry seems determined to make Jim Fregosi the next manager of the Angels.

It was late last season that Autry said he would like to see Fregosi become the team's player-manager.

Now, it has been learned, Fregosi has been told the job is his if he wants it in 1972.

Jim Seems Willing

The offer was not definitive, but Autry and Fregosi huddled during the latter's recent tenure on the disabled list, the shortstop being told that all he has to do is call.

Fregosi has said previously that he is not interested in being a player-manager, that each job is tough enough on its own, that he wants to manage only when his playing career is over.

He still holds those sentiments, but they are not stated with the conviction of other summers.

One gathers that Fregosi, 30, might now be willing to take on the assignment provided he is given the final say on his coaches and a hand in making trades.

That, of course, might force the ouster of General Manager Dick Walsh, who is believed to have four years left on his contract.

During a recent radio interview with Buddy Blattner in Kansas City, Fregosi rapped Walsh for failing to support Manager Lefty Phillips in what were almost daily confrontations with Alex Johnson.

Walsh in the Middle

Walsh does not forget easily and it is doubtful he could work with Fregosi. It is also doubtful that Autry would fire a man who would have to be paid for another four years.

Meanwhile, they play the waiting game with Phillips, who undoubtedly will be rehired if the Angels overcome the turmoil to finish second.

Johnny Sain was talking about Vida Blue.

"The book of baseball is full of 21-year-old pitchers who won a flock of games," said the pitching coach of the White Sox, the man who is acknowledged as baseball's premier pitching coach.

"Now," continued Sain, "it becomes a matter of how Vida handles pressure, tension, consistency."

"The men I think of who handled pressure are Sandy Koufax, Warren Spahn, Bob Gibson and Whitey Ford. If Vida can handle all that goes on surrounding the game, then he has the stuff to rank with the people I mentioned."

Bill Grabarkewitz, the Dodger infielder who has been disabled for much of 1971 because of a sore arm, believes he is entitled to a raise.

"I was told," said Grabby, smiling, "that if I cut down on my strikeouts, I'd get a big raise. You can't strike out when you don't play."



Jim Fregosi

Angels' President Robert Reynolds now believes that baseball definitely will realign by 1973.

"We finally seem ready to make something happen," said Reynolds, returning from the August owners' meeting.

The realignment, he said, would be on a geographical basis, saving every club in baseball "at least \$100,000 a year."

Divisional Arrangement

"The Angels," said Reynolds, "have been looking forward to this for some time."

Naturally, they will be in a league or division that includes the Dodgers, Giants, A's, Padres and Astros.

Harmon Killebrew never would say it publicly, but he is quite embarrassed by the childish dialogue quoted ridiculously by the author of the book, "Harmon Killebrew, Baseball's Superstar."

I must split my vote in the American League Manager of the Year balloting, supporting both Bob Lemon of the Royals and Chuck Tanner of the White Sox, each of whom has brought a measure of excitement to the nondescript American League West.

The latest to voice a complaint to me that baseball is too slow was Bobby Fischer, the 28-year-old U. S. chess champion who was a prodigy of 14 when he won his first U. S. title.

Fischer seemed a little embarrassed when we reminded him that he often spends five hours playing one game of chess.

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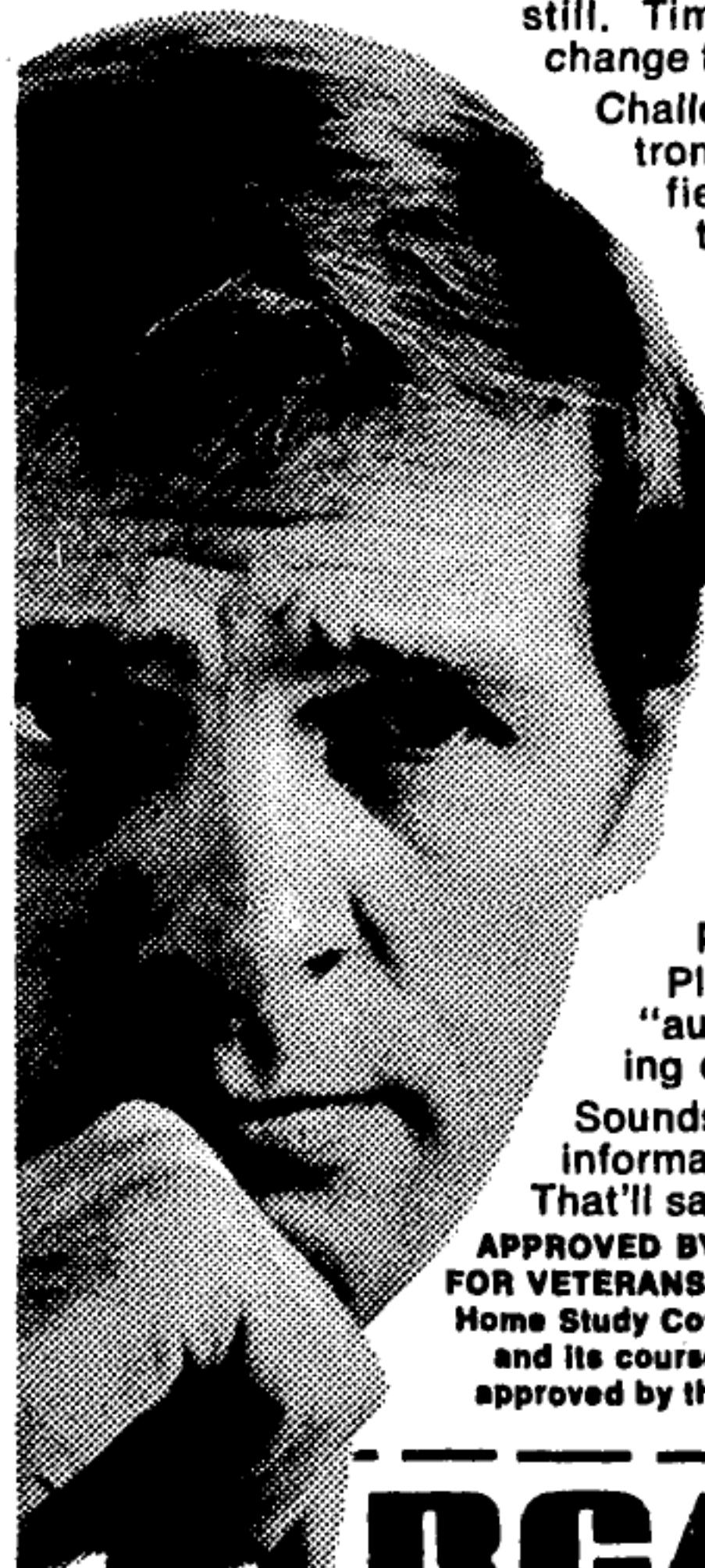
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FIRST GAME

A's Open With Fury in Tenace's Bat

By **LOWELL REIDENBAUGH**
Managing Editor

CINCINNATI, O. — Years ago, growing up in Russelton, Pa., the young son of the Tenacci clan was a confirmed Yankee fan.

The allegiance may have been from the rich Italian heritage of Lazzeri, Crosetti, DiMaggio, Rizzuto, Berra and Raschi with the New York club.

Or maybe it was because the Yankees operated a farm club at nearby Butler, Pa.

Whatever the reason, the teen-age loyalty exploded one day when a Yankee scout, sizing up the youngster's prospects as a major leaguer, declared, "No chance."

Subsequently, the youngster was signed as a shortstop by Danny Carnevale, a scout for the Kansas City Athletics. The bonus was less than \$10,000.

On October 14, the Yankees, who lived by the home run in their heyday as perennial champions, would have welcomed the one-time reject with open arms.

His first name is Fury ("probably because my father's name was Fiore"). And an altogether appropriate name it is for one who engraved his name indelibly on World Series pages.

The Tenacci clan Americanized its name long ago, the one-time shortstop is now a catcher and the Kansas City franchise now operates out of Oakland, where this year, with Fury **Gene Tenace** their regular

catcher the last two months of the season, the A's became the first West Coast club to win an American League championship.

The **Tenace** statistics for the season are not especially inspiring. In 82 games, most of them after he replaced Dave Duncan as full-time catcher, **Gene** batted .225 with five homers and 32 runs batted in.

In the five-game championship series with Detroit, he collected only one hit in 17 at-bats. That solitary safety, however, drove home George Hendrick with the deciding run in the final game.

As hero candidates go, **Gene** Tenace was among the least likely. But baseball history is bright with unlikely heroes and, on that score, **Gene** had qualifications.

When Reggie Jackson slid home with the first run in the clincher against Detroit, he damaged his left leg so severely that he was scratched from further competition.

Replacement for Jackson

If the A's were to make a respectable showing in the 69th World Series, somebody would have to furnish the sock laid dormant by Jackson's injury.

Who but **Tenace**?

On his first two at-bats, Tenace, four days past his 26th birthday, propelled Gary Nolan pitches over the left field fence, driving in all the Oakland runs as the A's upset the heavily favored Reds, 3-2.

On eight previous occasions, a player homered on his initial plate appearance in the World Series... players like Dusty Rhodes, Elston Howard, Roger Maris, Don Mincher, Brooks Robinson, Jose Santiago, Mickey Lolich and Don Buford.

None was able to repeat, however, until **Gene Tenace** accomplished the feat before a record crowd of 52,918 in Riverfront Stadium. Among the spectators were "about 15" of **Gene's** relatives from Lucasville, O., 100 miles up the Ohio River where **Tenace** now makes his home.

The two homers were the first such accomplishment in a Series game since Rico Petrocelli of the Red Sox turned the trick in the sixth 1967 game against the Cardinals at Fenway Park. But no one ever had homered in his first two World Series at-bats.

Hard Man to Hit

Tenace picked on no patsy for his home runs. In compiling a 15-5 record for the National League champions, Nolan allowed more than one home run in only two games and no batter cuffed him for more than one round-tripper during the season.

Tenace unloaded his first homer in the second inning. With two out, Hendrick, who was Jackson's substitute, walked and came home when **Tenace** whacked a high fast ball over the left field fence, staking Ken Holtzman to a 2-0 lead.

The Reds retrieved one run in their half of the inning and threatened to rip the game asunder when Johnny Bench and Tony Perez singled and Denis Menke walked with none out.

The situation at this point was in sharp contrast to conditions when Holtzman last pitched in Riverfront Stadium. On that occasion, June 3, 1971, the lefthander, then a member of the Cubs, hurled a no-hitter, beating Nolan on an unearned run.

The imminent danger did not ruffle the A's 19-game winner. He retired Cesar Geronimo on a pop fly, got Dave Concepcion to roll into a forceout, Bench scoring, and then struck out Nolan.

The Reds knotted the count in the fourth after Bench walked. Perez



WORLD SERIES BATS were delivered to Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium. Examining the shipment of Louisville Sluggers with

the Reds' Joe Morgan (second from left) are Hillerich & Bradsby's Rex Bradley (left), Pee Wee Reese and Bill Vallery.

singled, giving the first baseman one more hit than he registered in the five-game 1970 Series against Baltimore. Bench took third and scored when Menke grounded into a forceout.

The deadlock was short-lived. With one out in the fifth, **Tenace**, who once played every position in a minor league game as a gate gimmick and "drew a couple hundred fans," teed off again.

Nolan Hangs Curve

Nolan, who was burned by a fast ball earlier, tried to curve the batter, but the pitch hung ("like a feather," said Nolan) and **Tenace** pulled it down the left field line.

As the ball headed for the seats, **Tenace** stood transfixed at the plate. "I wasn't showing off," said Tenace, known since childhood as "Steamboat" because somebody decided he was clumsy. "I just wasn't sure the ball would stay fair and I wanted to help it all I could."

Gene's contributions did not terminate with his second home run. In the seventh inning, after Concepcion opened with a single, **Tenace** called for a pitchout and nailed the speedster on an attempted steal.

Umpire Mel Steiner's call brought a brief squawk from the Reds. "The replay," snorted Manager Sparky Anderson, "showed that Bert Campaneris did not tag him."

"The umpire said he tagged me on the shoulder, but I didn't feel it," said Concepcion.

In the third inning, the Reds lost another base-runner when Holtzman picked Bobby Tolan off base.

"We had agreed," said Holtzman, "that any time one of the Reds' first three batters got on base, we'd make several throws over there to keep 'em close."

"Tolan broke when I raised my arms and we got him."

Holtzman, tagged for five of the Reds' seven hits, failed to retire a batter in the sixth inning.

After Bench drilled a leadoff double, Manager Dick Williams went to his bullpen, where Rollie Fingers had been warming up off and on since the second inning.

"I wanted a fresh arm," explained

Williams. "I wanted a pitcher who could make the batters hit the ball on the ground."

Righthanded Fingers, who saved 21 games in 65 appearances, followed orders in spirit, if not to the letter. He fanned both Perez and Menke and got Geronimo on a fly to left field.

Fingers, in turn, encountered trouble in the seventh inning, which Concepcion opened with a single, only to be nipped attempting to steal.

With two out, Pete Rose walked and Williams summoned Vida Blue, the Cy Young Award winner of 1971, who slipped to a 6-10 mark this year following a long salary hassle with Owner Charlie Finley.

Vida Saves Victory

Blue walked Joe Morgan before retiring Tolan on a pop foul to Tenace.

Vida breezed through the eighth inning, but yielded a single to pinch-hitter Hal McRae leading off the ninth. A sacrifice and infield out moved the potential tying run to third base with switch-hitting Rose at the plate.

"I was hoping for a curve that I could bunt," said Rose. "But he fed me fast balls."

Pete bunted one pitch foul before grounding out to second base to end the game.

Analyzing the Cincinnati defeat, Rose said:

"The A's pitchers kept me, Morgan and Tolan from hitting, with the exception of Tolan's single. As a result, Johnny Bench led off an inning four times and his single, double and walk did not move anybody around."

"When Bench and Perez get two hits apiece, we should score some runs, but only if Bobby, Joe and I get on base. That's the way we won all year."

In the lively Oakland clubhouse, Finley, resplendent in a Kelly green jacket, inched his way through a cluster of newsmen in front of Tenace's locker.

While flash bulbs popped, Finley

whispered into **Gene's** ear, drawing a smile from the soft-spoken catcher.

"What was the message, Charlie?" a bystander asked.

"You gotta ask **Gene**."

"What did he tell you, **Gene**?"

"You gotta ask Mr. Finley."

"He'll get a substantial raise retroactive to the start of the season," confided the owner, a fast man with a bonus.

Best guesses were that the catcher's record performance would be worth about \$5,000 on top of his \$20,000 salary.

Series Slants

WILLIAMS SEES MORE RUNS

Manager Dick Williams of the Athletics predicted that the World Series would produce more runs than the playoffs. He noted that scoring was down in the Oakland park "because it's larger than Cincy's and there is more wind resistance there."

"It didn't take our guys long to get used to the artificial turf," said Athletics' infielder Dal Maxvill. "Fellows like Campy Campaneris and Sal Bando like it because of the true bounces and because the ball gets to them faster."

Commenting on the hitting of Allan Lewis, activated for the Series to replace injured Reggie Jackson, Athletics' Manager Dick Williams said, "He's a switch-hitter. He batted .300 last year, .150 lefthanded and .150 righthanded."

The series presented a sharp contrast in hair styles. The Athletics, paid \$300 each by Owner Charlie Finley to grow beards, present an array of mustaches, long hair and heavy sideburns. The Reds have a strict rule barring long hair and mustaches. Cincinnati Manager Sparky Anderson said the players could go to court if they want to, but the rule stands. "Millions of kids watch these games on television and the players can be a great influence on those kids," Anderson said.

(Continued on Page 8, Column 3)

Tenacious

Oakland	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Campaneris, ss	3	0	2	2	3	0
Rudi, lf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Alou, rf	3	0	0	1	0	0
Epstein, 1b	3	0	0	6	1	0
cLewis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hegan, 1b	0	0	0	2	0	0
Bando, 3b	4	0	0	0	3	0
Hendrick, cf	2	1	0	2	0	0
Tenace, c	3	2	2	7	2	0
Green, 2b	2	0	0	3	1	0
bMarquez	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kubiak, 2b	0	0	0	1	2	0
Holtzman, p	2	0	0	0	1	0
Fingers, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	3	4	27	13	0

Cincinnati	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Rose, lf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Morgan, 2b	3	0	0	5	5	0
Tolan, cf	4	0	1	2	0	0
Bench, c	3	2	2	1	2	0
Perez, 1b	4	0	2	10	0	0
Menke, 3b	3	0	0	2	2	0
Geronimo, rf	3	0	0	3	0	0
dMcRae	1	0	1	0	0	0
eFoster	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concepcion, ss	2	0	1	1	1	0
Nolan, p	2	0	0	0	1	0
Borbon, p	0	0	0	0	1	0
Carroll, p	0	0	0	0	1	0
aUhlender	1	0	0	0	0	0
fFavier	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	2	7	27	13	0

Oakland	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cincinnati	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

Oakland	IP.	H.	R.	ER.	BB.	SO.
Holtzman (W)	5*	5	2	2	3	3
Fingers	1 2/3	1	0	0	1	3
Blue (Save)	2 2/3	1	0	0	1	1

Cincinnati	IP.	H.	R.	ER.	BB.	SO.
Nolan (L)	6	4	3	3	2	0
Borbon	1	0	0	0	0	1
Carroll	2	0	0	0	2	1

*Pitched to one batter in sixth.

Bases on balls—Off Holtzman 3 (Menke, Bench, Concepcion), off Fingers 1 (Rose), off Blue 1 (Morgan), off Nolan 2 (Hendrick, Alou), off Carroll 2 (Blue, Epstein).

Strikeouts—By Holtzman 3 (Nolan 2, Morgan), by Fingers 3 (Perez, Menke, Uhlender); by Blue 1 (Menke), by Carroll 1 (Bando).

aStruck out for Borbon in seventh. bPopped out for Green in eighth. cRan for Epstein in ninth. dSingled for Geronimo in ninth. eRan for McRae in ninth. fGrounded out for Carroll in ninth. Runs batted in—Tenace 3, Concepcion, Menke. Two-base hit—Bench. Home runs—Tenace 2. Sacrifice hits—Campaneris, Concepcion. Caught stealing—Campaneris, Tolan, Concepcion, Lewis. Double play—Morgan and Perez. Wild pitch—Blue. Left on bases—Oakland 2, Cincinnati 8. Umpires—Pelekoudas (NL) plate, Honochick (AL) first base, Steiner (NL) second base, Umont (AL) third base, Engel (NL) left field, Haller (AL) right field. Time—2:18. Attendance—52,918.

Lighter Stick Helped Tenace Enhance His Slugging Image

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—Gene Tenace, the All-Star first baseman for the American League, out-homered every other catcher in the majors this year.

Catchers? Well, Tenace is a catcher. Last year, he was a first baseman for the A's and that's where his name appeared on the computerized All-Star Game ballot.

Of course, the fans could care less what kind of glove Tenace wears. It's his bat that counts.

"I think the public realizes what I'm doing more than the media," Tenace said. "On our ball club, it's tough to get publicity with the great athletes we have."

Not to mention the great mouths. Actually, Tenace can talk with the best of them. Ask him a question, out pops an honest answer.

HE CAN ALSO speak with his bat, as he's been trying to prove the past three years by becoming one of the most consistent sluggers in the game.

Fury Gene finished with 29 homers this season; he hit 26 last year, and 24 in 1973. This was his best power season. He also drove in 89 runs, a personal high.

During the month of September, Tenace was unstoppable. He hit nine homers, drove in 28 runs and raised his average 26 points to .256.

"I didn't believe I could do as well offensively because I caught so much more," Tenace said. "On the whole, I would have to say I'm really satisfied with the way things turned out. I was happy with the way I caught because I threw out more runners than ever before. Of course, I caught more than ever before."

"But on this ball club, it's tough to throw out runners because none of our pitchers have a good move toward first. I try to remind them to throw over there. It's tough trying to throw out a guy when he's got a 50-foot jump toward second base."

Tenace hopes that things go as

well at contract time. Although he had good power numbers last year, his .211 batting average worked against him. Before going into arbitration, he settled with owner Charlie Finley for \$51,000.

"I'm not concerned about my records, but I am concerned about more pay," said Tenace. "I hope I don't have to go into arbitration and battle my neck off. I just hope the owner realizes my value to the ball club."

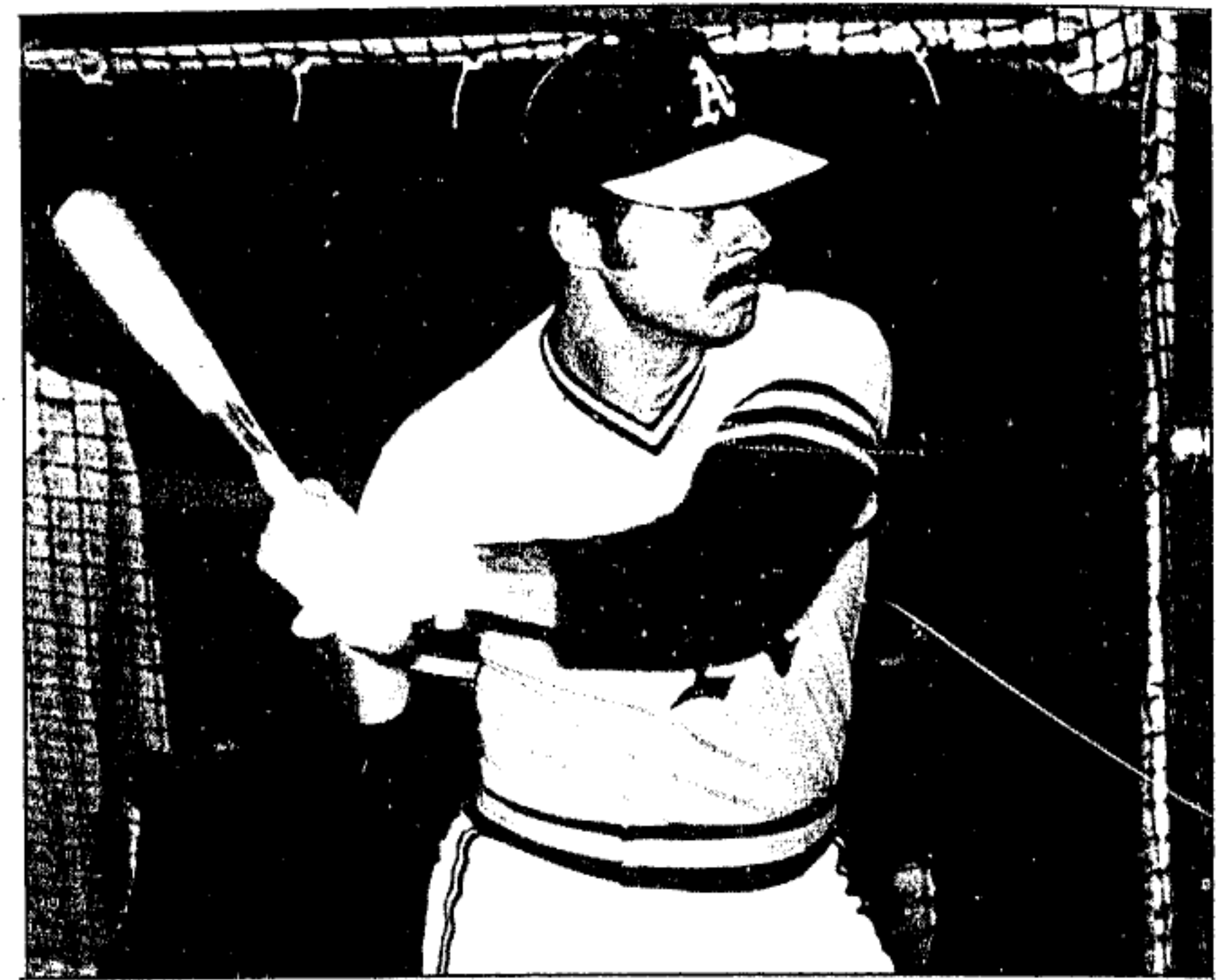
"I played both positions this year accurately. And I played as many games as anyone on the club."

TENACE appeared in 158 games. Second baseman Phil Garner and third baseman Sal Bando played in 160. Bando, by the way, is Tenace's close friend and road trip roommate.

While in Boston at the end of August, both Bando and Tenace changed bats. Bando went for a Claudell Washington model, which is heavier with a thicker handle. Tenace went the other way, shifting to one of Reggie Jackson's lighter bats with a thinner handle.

It worked for both. Bando drove his average to .229 a jump of 29 points, and homered six times in the final month.

Earlier in the season, Tenace suggested that Bando could change his luck if the two put their bats together. Tenace struck out three times in a game at Tigers Stadium. The next game, Tenace



Gene Tenace . . . Wants Paycheck Recognition

made Bando put his bats in his own spot in the rack.

A's Acorns: According to the pitchers, Finley didn't plan to hand out any bonus for the four-way no-hitter against the Angels in the last game on the regular season. . . . Former A's manager Dick Williams, whose last-place team suffered the final indignity, said, "That puts the icing on the cake." Coach Grover Resinger, who also used to be in the A's organization, leaned over to amend, "It was the candle. And it was lit." . . . Resinger received a huge photo of Claudell Washington mounted on an impressive piece of redwood burl as a gift from the A's outfielder. Washington gives Resinger credit for making him into a ballplayer

when Grover managed at Coos Bay (Northwest) in 1972. . . . The Ray Fosses are parents for the first time. A girl, named Nicole Rae. . . . It looked like Old Timers Day when former A's pitchers George Lauzerique, Chuck Dobson and Ed Sprague walked into the A's clubhouse on the final Saturday of the season. . . . Lauzerique and Sprague, the latter still active with the Brewers, are in business together selling team autographs on brass plates. . . . Billy Williams says next year could be his last, depending on how well he performs. The A's were more happy with him this year than he was with his .244 batting average, by far the lowest of his superb 15-year career in the bigs.

Moose Gives Buccos an Eyeful

(Continued From Page 20)

"The way he threw in September proved to us that he hasn't lost his stuff," the Pirates' manager said.

Pittburgers: Timmy Murtaugh may be closer to becoming his father's successor than people think. Timmy, who is 30 and a former minor league catcher, will manage at Charleston this year. That's the Buccs' No. 1 farm club. Timmy managed at Shreveport in the Texas League last season.

The Pirates, for the first time

since they played their first full season at Three Rivers Stadium in 1971, increased their home attendance. They had been going downhill steadily since drawing 1.5 million in 1971. They finished with 1,270,000 this year, an increase of 160,000. Club brass feels the team would have hit 1.4 million with a better break in the summer weather. The Pirates just don't draw in April and May and there has been talk that Brown will schedule more day games during the first two months of the 1976 season.

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Ugh! A Year Tigers Want to Forget

By JIM HAWKINS

DETROIT—Jim Campbell sat in the press box at Milwaukee County Stadium, silently watching the end of what may well have been the worst season in Tiger history. The Tigers, appropriately enough, were on the wrong end of a shut-out.

"It was a fitting end to a lousy year," admitted the glum Tiger G.M. when it finally was all over. "It was unbelievable," he said, shaking his head. "I would have bet anything, I would have bet my life, it wouldn't be this bad."

But bad hardly seemed a strong enough adjective to describe the boondoggle that was the 1975 season for the Tigers.

MASQUERADING as major leaguers, they managed to lose more games, one way or another, than any Tiger team since 1952. In three-quarters of a century, only one team of Tigers was more unsuccessful. And if the Tigers hadn't had three games canceled because of rain, they might have been all alone in the record books.

On offense . . . on defense . . . the hitters . . . the pitchers—everyone did what he could to make it the worst club in the big leagues.

They made more errors than any Tiger team since '44. The pitchers' earned-run average was the highest since '53.

They scored fewer runs, stole fewer bases and drew fewer walks than anyone else in the American League.

When it really meant something, the Tigers couldn't even fail with distinction. Confronted with the chance to make history by losing more consecutive games than any A. L. club ever, they choked in the clutch as Ray Bare blanked the Angels on two hits to halt their los-

ing streak at 19.

ALL SPRING Ralph Houk admonished the critical media to "wait until the bell rings."

When the bell rang, it tolled a death knell for the Tigers.

Not right away, though. In case you have forgotten, the Tigers actually were in first place for a few giddy days back in April. And believe it or not, they actually won nine in a row in early July.

Yet that same team could win only six times during the entire month of August and five during September. The Tigers lost 47 of their final 58 games. That's the kind of season it was.

It was a season in which Willie Horton stayed healthy for a change—and John Hiller and Mickey Stanley got hurt instead.

It was a season in which the Tigers were supposed to start stealing bases with abandon—and wound up running even fewer times than they did last year.

IT WAS A season in which Mickey Lolich broke the major league mark for career strikeouts by a lefthander and the Tiger club standard for career wins by a southpaw. At the same time, Lolich nearly became the first Tiger pitcher to lose 20 or more games in two years in succession.

It was a season that started with Nate Colbert at first base and Danny Meyer entrenched in left field—and ended with Meyer at first, Ben Oglivie in left, and Colbert in Montreal.

That's the kind of year it was. That's the kind of team it was.

Pinch-Hitting King Brown Will Serve as Tiger Scout

By JIM HAWKINS

DETROIT—It was, perhaps, only fitting and proper that the most prolific pinch-hitting career in American League history should end with Gates Brown sitting on the Tiger bench.

After all, it was from there that Gates gained his fame.

Brown, whose success as a substitute hitter is unsurpassed in A.L. annals, retired following the most unproductive summer of his career—and was hired by the Tigers as a full-time scout.

A Tiger since 1963, when he homered in his first big league at-bat—as a pinch hitter, of course—Brown was one of five veteran players

honored at the club's recent recognition day.

He bowed out with a league record 107 pinch-hits—only six of which occurred this season. Only Smoky Burgess, Jerry Lynch and Red Lucas—all of whom performed in the National League—ever collected more.

Brown also holds the A. L. record for pinch-hit homers with 16 and collected what is believed to be a club-record 18 pinch-hits during the Tigers' drive to the 1968 world championship.

In addition to his scouting assignments, Brown also will work with the Tiger farm players next

Catcher **Tenace** Can Drive a Hard Bargain

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—Gene Tenace has almost a scout's knowledge of the needs of other clubs in one position.

"I check out the box scores," Tenace disclosed. "I know what clubs need catching. There are about 12 to 14 clubs."

Tenace comes by his knowledge

out of self-interest. As the last of the unsigned major league catchers, he appreciates his bargaining position.

He doesn't think that his present employer, A's Owner Charlie Finley, will re-sign him.

"RIGHT NOW, I'd have to say no," said Tenace about Finley's

chances. "Unless he comes up with an ungodly figure and a no-trade and no-cut contract. I don't see him doing that."

In the three seasons prior to this one, Tenace averaged 159 games played and 26 homers a year. That's what makes him so attractive to other clubs.

The tough 29-year-old will fall short of his norm this season because he sat out six weeks with an injury suffered trying to steal a base. Not many clubs are as speed-crazy as the A's.

"I just want to go where people appreciate me," said Tenace about his future home in baseball. "I want to be treated like a professional. I've been underpaid ever since I've been here."

"IT'S DEPRESSING to see what other catchers are making. But it has to be encouraging, being the only unsigned catcher."

Tenace's unique position came about when the Red Sox brought Carlton Fisk to terms on August 8. Both catchers, by the way, are represented by agent Jerry Kapstein.

Originally, Kapstein and Tenace asked for either a one-year or a three-year contract. The one-year contract proposal was for \$100,000. The three-year contract would have paid \$85,000, \$105,000 and \$130,000, with a \$7,500 bonus if named the league's Most Valuable Player. There also were no-cut, no-trade clauses to be included.

Instead, Finley offered a \$14,000 raise to \$65,000 and then cut Tenace the full 20 percent to \$40,800.

NOW THE PRICE of Tenace has gone up. To what amount, nobody knows because Kapstein and Tenace won't say for strategic purposes. They don't want to name a price. They'd rather prospective employers do that.

"I'm totally relaxed right now," said Tenace during a hot bat

streak in August. "I hope to stay healthy until the end of the season. I'm not concerned about next season, or this winter, right now."

Tenace's main hope is that the A's remain in the race.

"If we get eliminated, I know Charlie would bring somebody up from the minors and sit us down," Tenace said, referring to himself and the five other unsigned A's.

IT WILL TAKE a lot of money to keep Tenace in the fold, but one selling point for Finley might be the retention of Chuck Tanner as manager.

"We're not quitters on this team," said Tenace. "We still think we can win it. We've got the optimism that Chuck Tanner instills in us. It makes us think we can win it. It's a pleasure to play

for the man."

A's Acorns: Billy Williams was ejected from a game for the first time in his 17-year career when Umpire Bill Kunkel thumbed him on August 16. Kunkel called strike three on Williams when the player wouldn't get in the batter's box after arguing over the first two called strikes. Afterward, Tanner told Bob Fishel of the American League office, who happened to watch the game in Milwaukee, that the A's didn't want the Lou DiMuro crew to work any more of their games. The Indians made the same request earlier in the season.

Utilityman Cesar Tovar was taken off the disabled list after he complained to Marvin Miller, executive director of the Major League Players' Association. Tovar broke a bone in his right wrist on May 31 and recovered about a month later. To make room for Tovar, runner Larry Lintz was optioned to Tucson (Pacific Coast). That led to an angry shouting match in the clubhouse between Lintz and Tanner.

Claudell Washington didn't take care of a spike wound, a team spokesman said, and had to be hospitalized with an infected ankle in Milwaukee. . . . Sportswriters Betty Cuniberti of the San Francisco Chronicle and Stephanie Salter of the San Francisco Examiner are allowed in Tanner's clubhouse office in the Coliseum. They also want to conduct interviews in the players' clubhouse, but haven't so far. Allison Hock, another female sportswriter for the Examiner, also has reported a couple of games. Forgive us, Gloria Steinem, but all three women are attractive. . . . When reliever Jim Todd pitched to two batters on August 17, it marked his first action in 24 days. Todd had turned the bullpen into the doghouse.

Singleton's Once-Dead Bat Now Buries Rivals

By JIM HENNEMAN

BALTIMORE—It's been a long struggle, and he's had to perform in the shadow of Lee May and Reggie Jackson, but Ken Singleton gradually has pulled himself back to respectability.

While the "Lee and Reggie Show" has captured most of the attention as the Orioles make their annual belated bid for a division title, Singleton quietly has become the club's most consistent hitter. So steady has been his progress, in fact, that the switch-hitting outfielder is a definite threat to lead the Orioles in hitting.

That hardly would rank as an upset, because he did it last year with a .300 average. He won't reach that station this year, but if he maintains the pace he's set the last three months, he'll be in the neighborhood.

ON JUNE 2, Singleton was hitting a paltry .185—and he already was on the rise. It was an embarrassing stretch that brought back some amusing boyhood memories for Singleton.

"When I was a kid, every Sunday my father and I used to get the paper and look at the averages to see who was the 'strongest' hitter in the league—the guy on the bottom who was holding up everybody else.

"Somehow I never quite pictured myself in that spot," he said at the time, "but I've been there the last couple of weeks and it's been kind of embarrassing.

"But," he promised, "before it's all over, I'll be up there where I belong."

It wasn't just an idle comment. Since shedding his "strong man" tag, Singleton's climb has been as steady as it has been unspectacular.

He had hitting streaks of 11, 10 and eight games, connected safely in 23 of 26, and was hitting at a .311 clip as the final week of August approached.

SINGLETON'S overall average climbed to .261, putting him within 10 points of team leader Mark Belanger. Even more significant was the fact that as a lefthanded hitter, which is about 75 percent of the time, he is rolling at a .286 clip.



Ken Singleton

"It's hard to explain why my average is so low righthanded (.192)," Singleton said. "In the past, I've generally hit about the same from both sides."

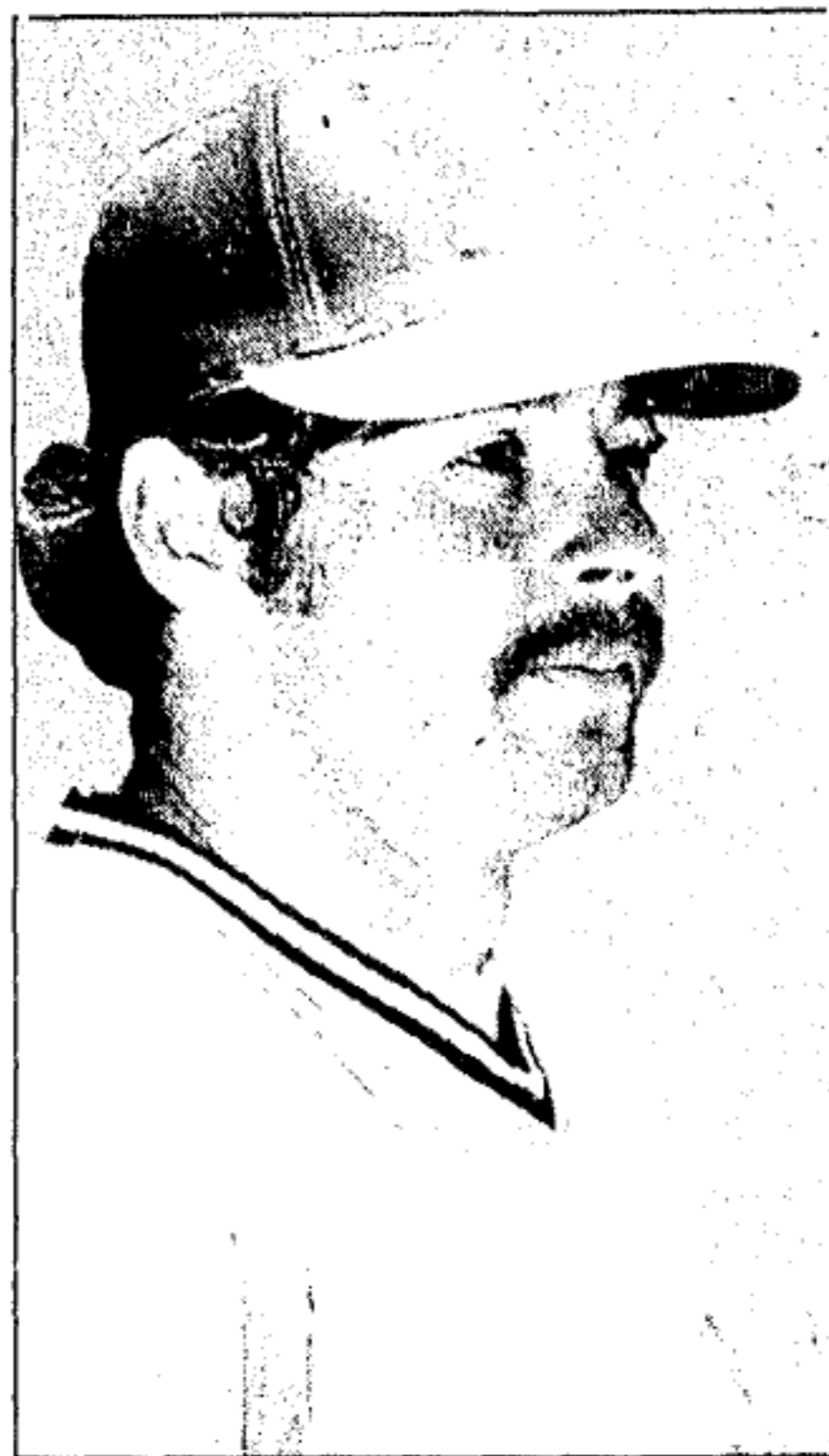
Part of the reason, undoubtedly, is that the Orioles have been a predominantly righthanded-hitting team both years that Singleton has been in Baltimore, and thus he hasn't seen much lefthanded pitching. "It seems like we go long stretches without seeing any lefthanders, and then you run into guys like Frank Tanana, Vida Blue, Bill Travers and Sparky Lyle and it's not easy to help your average against those guys."

SINGLETON'S steady rise was in tune with the Orioles' attempt to get back in the East Division race. Despite the fact that they were nine games behind the Yankees in the loss column, the Orioles continued to base some hope on the fact that they have five games left with the leaders, a team they had beaten six straight times, and seven out of 10.

But that kind of domination is too much to expect over a team that has the pitching strength, and overall depth, that the Yankees possess.

"I'd like to get within five games and see what we could do," said Jackson. "It would be good for enthusiasm and excitement—although I don't imagine the Yankees feel that way."

Oriole Notes: Jackson and May were playing leapfrog for the club lead in home runs and runs batted in. The first baseman held slender leads in both departments, 22-21 in homers and 75-72 in RBIs. Both were close enough to challenge the league leaders in each department. . . . When the Orioles beat the White Sox in a doubleheader August 14, a wild brawl developed in the seventh inning of the nightcap when Jackson went to the mound after Clay Carroll. Jackson had homered in each game, with his grand-slam providing a 6-5 win in the second contest. He was hit by a pitch after his homer in the opener, and was irritated when Ken Brett pitched him tight in the following game. When he hit his grand-slam off Brett, Jackson yelled and gestured every step of the way around the bases. On his next at-bat, Jackson spun to the ground when Carroll's first pitch was in the area of his chin. On the next serve from Carroll, Jackson, who had been hit in the face by a pitch from Dock Ellis July 27, let his bat go and then started for the mound. He was intercepted by catcher Jim Essian, who applied a bear hug that took Jackson to the ground. At least four separate battles broke out and the brawl raged for 10 minutes before order was restored. Jackson and Lamar Johnson were the only players ejected.



Gene Tenace

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