

BASEBALL

Van Slyke Heats Up, Lets Go of Past

PITTSBURGH—Andy Van Slyke couldn't figure it out.

"It was driving me crazy," said the Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder. "One hit every game. No more. It must have been a month since I had a two-hit game."

He broke out June 26 against the Chicago Cubs when he homered, singled twice, drew a walk and made a throw to the plate to complete a double play and help save a 5-2 victory.

"You wish every night at the ball park was like that, but you know it can't be," said Van Slyke, who had collected 37 hits in his last 107 tries to lift his average to .283. He had 10 homers, 37 RBIs and 20 stolen bases.

He has come a long way from the confused young man who was packaged with catcher Mike LaValliere and pitcher Mike Dunne by the St. Louis Cardinals for catcher Tony Pena on April 1.

Traded to Pittsburgh? Why not Siberia? Or Candlestick Park?

He had a beautiful home in suburban St. Louis, the tulips he planted were about to come up and he had been playing in a baseball-crazy city. And then along came Pittsburgh.

"I guess I finally accepted the trade about the time I started swinging the bat well," said Van Slyke. "I just got to thinking that I had to make the best of the situation. I didn't want to go through the whole year the way it started. I could have made excuses, but



Andy Van Slyke impresses teammate Mike Diaz with his basketball skills during a rain delay.

I'm not that way."

"We talked," said Manager Jim Leyland. "He had a lot on his mind at first. He had to move his family out of a beautiful home. He was going to a club that was struggling to get out of last place. But he's a real quality person—and he happens to play the game pretty good."

"Andy could have packed it in early," said LaValliere. "He could have said 'Why did this happen to me?' and gone out and made ex-

cuses. He had a chance to get down on himself."

Instead, Van Slyke fought back and eventually realized that he was not going to wake up some morning and find out it all had been a bad dream.

"The attitude I took was that the Cardinals didn't want me anymore," he said.

"And, know what? I have to believe the Pirates got the better end of the deal."

BOB HERTZEL

Expos Patch Pitching

MONTREAL—Manager Buck Rodgers grudgingly accepted the fact that the Montreal Expos, forced to recycle their pitching, fell short of expectations in June.

On the eve of a stretch of 26 games with National League East teams, Rodgers asked his men to go at least 10-10. Instead, they were 12-13, with one game rained out in St. Louis.

"We were five games over .500 at the time (10-20)," Rodgers said, "and I wanted to be 10 over when we finished with the East."

"We didn't do that and we didn't gain ground in the standings. But we had to straighten out our pitching. I think we're going the right way."

"I'm satisfied but not closed. I wanted to do better."

On June 5, the third-place Expos were 7 1/2 games behind the first-place Cardinals. At the end of the month, they were 6 1/2 out.

Meanwhile, pitching coach Larry Beane was scrambling. "We knew this spring it was going to be a struggle, and it's been all of that," Beane said.

Floyd Youmans was put on the disabled list, primarily for disciplinary reasons, and told to get in

shape. Jay Tibbs was demoted to Indianapolis (American Association). Bob Sebra was banished to the bullpen.

All were back in Beane's good graces on July 1. Youmans met his prescribed weight, Tibbs was recalled and Sebra, returned to the rotation, had two brilliant complete-game efforts as he struck out 10 in a 4-1 victory over St. Louis and fanned 14 in a 1-0 loss to Chicago.

Denis Martinez, lost in the free-agent shuffle last winter, joined the Expos in June and won three starts.

In early June the Expos were still trying to replace relief ace Jeff Reardon with a committee of Tim Lincecum, Andy McGaffigan, Bob McClure and Randy St. Claire. By the end of the month, Jeff Parrott had been called up from Indianapolis and was the Expos' closer.

If this staff can't get the Expos closer to first place, Pascual Perez is waiting in Indianapolis. He was American Association pitcher of the week twice in June, indicating that he knows the way to Montreal.

IAN MACDONALD

Farm System Rescues Injury-Wracked Cubs

CHICAGO—The Chicago Cubs' farm system, directed by Gordon Goldsberry, Scott Reid and Bill Harford, was in evidence as rookies who were injury replacements kept the club buoyant in the last half of June.

Center fielder **Dave Martinez**, who had struggled as the No. 8 hitter, batted .353 his first two weeks as leadoff man in place of disabled Ryne Sandberg.

Les Lancaster replaced off-injured Scott Sanderson in the rotation. After two starts, he had his first major league victory and a 2.84 ERA.

Paul Nove hit .308 for the month as a utility infielder and then a replacement for Sandberg at second base.

Mike Brumley made just one error in two weeks at shortstop, taking the place of disabled Shawn Dunston, and he had three hits in one game.

Rafael Palmeiro had four extra-base blows among his first eight hits as platoon left fielder with Jerry Mumphrey.

Martinez was below .200 in mid-May. He didn't begin to hit until Sandberg was lost with stretched ankle ligaments.

"Leading off is what I like best," Martinez said. "I'm getting my hands around on the ball. (Coach) Billy Williams helped a lot with that."

In Lancaster's first two starts, he limited the Mets to one run in seven innings before a crowd of 42,000 at Shea Stadium, then beat the Expos in Montreal.

"I know it can be difficult going up and down—a change of scenery and all—but this kid has ice water in his veins," pitching coach Herm Starrette said. "He has four pitches and, as a rule,



Dave Martinez

can get them all over."

Starrette and Manager Gene Michael liked Lancaster in spring training.

"He's not in awe of anything or anyone," Michael said of the Texan, who was signed by Billy Capps as a free agent after leading Dallas Baptist to the NAIA World Series in 1985.

Sanderson's latest injury was a pulled groin muscle. He started the season on the disabled list with a shoulder problem.

"Scott has shown he can't take us too far into a game," Michael said. "He tears the bullpen up, and that scares me. You never know when you're going to get a two-inning job from him."

JOE GODDARD

Mathews' Backloggers Change-Up

ST. LOUIS—When St. Louis Cardinals coach Tony La Russa called back to Louisville (American Association) to sign the pitcher, he said, "I want to get the best pitcher in the league."

Mathews said he wasn't going forward again in 1987. After throwing two shutouts in Louisville, he was called by the Cardinals to be their first baseman since the season.

"I guess he changed his mind after he signed," said La Russa. "I was over Philadelphia on June 21."

"This bottom," Mathews said of his time at Louisville. "The only

thing to go on is that I was never called to pitch any more. The bottom was very bright when the last time you sign, I was only 19. The big league life and I wasn't working to become a pitcher."

Mathews, an 11-year veteran in a career in MLB, was observed during the season.

"The good thing is that I could have stayed here and continued to pitch like I was and had a nice career year," he said. "I came back wanting to do a certain type of pitcher."

Mathews talks on his change-up and usually gets in trouble when he tries to overpower his

pitch. "He's pitching like he has to

pitch, and that's why they're changing you and not wanting you around when you're not on the team."

When Mathews asked the first of three questions, he was asked if he would like to go down there and start pitching his change-up.

Mathews said he would like to go down there and start pitching his change-up.

Mathews was only 20 since his return to St. Louis but had a string of 10 straight scoreless innings and an ERA of 2.64 in his seven starts.

RICK HENNING

How Long Can James Hold Left Field?

PHILADELPHIA—With James James in the Philadelphia Phillies' lineup, it's a revolving door. If he's not there, Gary Matthews is the man to watch.

In James' first 10 games since the 1986 regular season, he hit .400 (11 for 27) with three home runs and seven runs batted in. In 1986, he was hitting .283 with an average of .283.

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know, they've got somebody else to pitch for them if I don't pitch."

"My goal is to play as long as I can. I'll pitch because if we win, we're going to get paid."

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missing," he said. "Also, being on base and creating the opportunities for runs. I accept it as a challenge. After going through difficult times, I know better times are ahead.

"I'll be 26 (March 12), and I'm on the uprise. I want to be considered a complete player."

His teammates already consider him that.

"He's an everyday player who combines power with speed," Gooden said. "If I'm on the other team, I have to plan my entire pitching game around him. That's the way I face the Phillies when (Mike) Schmidt's in the lineup. If he's not in the lineup, a pitcher feels like he's at an advantage going in.

"Without Darryl for an entire year, our chances of winning would diminish."

"It's amazing to me what Darryl's capable of doing," said Wally Backman. "He's capable of 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases. That's not easy. You need breaks. But he does have the ability."

"If Darryl's out of the lineup, we could get by for a few days," Mazzilli said. "But then it starts to affect how others in the lineup are pitched to. After a week, we'd miss him terribly."

"You know what's scary?" Backman asked. "He's capable of doing this for a long time, the next seven years at least."

And despite the efforts of a sometimes difficult New York press to trade Strawberry because of the controversies surrounding him, you can bet he'll be doing it for the Mets.

"I have no intention of trading Darryl Strawberry," General Manager Frank Cashen said emphatically. Case closed.

DAN CASTELLANO

MONTREAL EXPOS



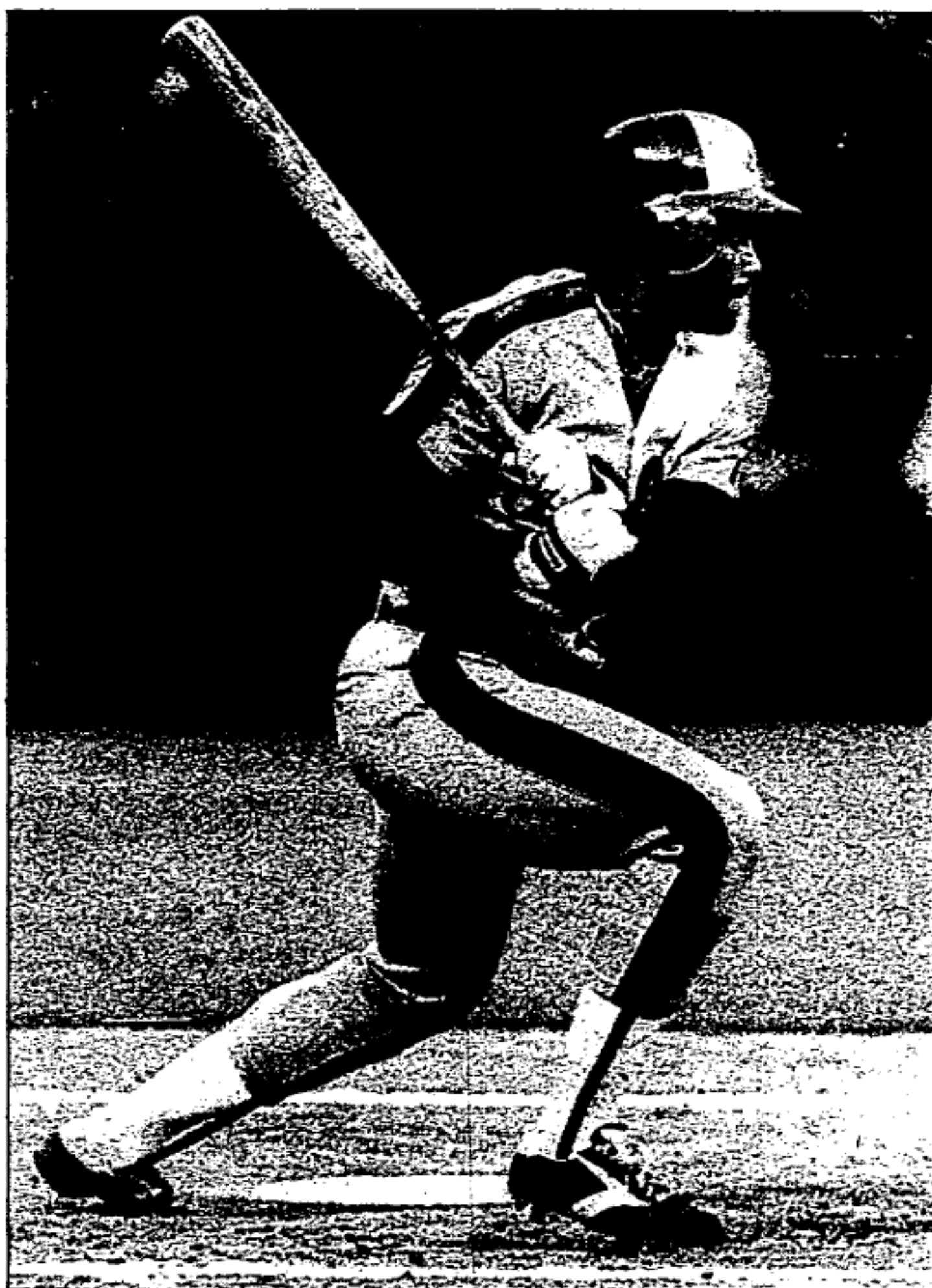
Tim Raines

Tim Raines makes the Montreal Expos click.

Arguably the best leadoff batter in baseball, Raines is the catalyst for Montreal's offense—the player the Expos could least afford to lose.

"Without him in the lineup, it takes our offense down a notch—more than that," said third baseman Tim Wallach. "When he's (on base) we get more good pitches to hit, and he keeps pressure on the defense. With the things he does, he puts us over the top. Instead of us being an average offensive team, he makes us an outstanding offensive team."

Although Raines missed spring training and all of April as an unsigned free agent a year ago, he still led the National League in runs scored with 123 and hit .330, just four points below his league-leading figure of 1986. Raines also



Arguably the best leadoff man in baseball, Tim Raines is the catalyst of the Expos' offense.

had 34 doubles, a career-high 18 home runs and 68 runs batted in. After stealing at least 70 bases in each of his first six seasons, Raines swiped 50 last year.

Wallach had 26 homers, 123 RBIs and a major league-leading 42 doubles last season, but he attributes much of his production to Raines' presence in the lineup.

"If Rock (Raines) hadn't been there, I don't know what I would have done," Wallach said. "Rock is the one who makes this team go. He was out there a lot when I was hitting. He gives everybody in the order confidence and makes it easier for everybody behind him."

Manager Buck Rodgers is reluctant to pick one man as being indispensable "because this is a team game. But he proved the spark for us last year. We were struggling to play .500 without him."

"Certainly one man makes a difference from time to time. Tim Raines is the kind of guy on our ball club who makes a difference. He's one man who makes more of a difference."

The Expos were 8-13 when Raines played his first game last year. In dramatic fashion at Shea Stadium May 2, Raines tripled, walked and singled twice before beating the Mets with a 10th-inning grand slam.

"He's the catalyst for our offense," Rodgers said. "He's a .300-plus hitter who's capable of stealing 75 bases a year with a high percentage. He gets the base on balls, and he's also got the ability to drive home runs. In the last couple of years, he's hit the long ball."

Despite his late start in 1987, Raines was named to the All-Star team for the seventh straight year. He then collected three hits in as many at-bats, including the game-

winning triple in the 13th inning, in being named Most Valuable Player of the All-Star Game at Oakland.

Although Raines stole only 50 bases last season, he tried to steal just 55 times.

What does Raines mean to the

Expos?

"Everything," said Hubie Brooks. "Offensively, he's the story. As he goes, we go. If he stops, we stop. His hitting has improved. His running is more disciplined. I've seen his confidence grow. I think his confidence is great, and it rubs off. His level of intensity has improved in the last couple of years. And he can put a game away for us if he has to."

Is the 28-year-old Raines the club's most indispensable player?

"There's no doubt in my mind," Brooks said.

"He's a multi-talented hitter and performer on the bases and at bat," Rodgers said. "But he's much better than adequate on defense. He's made himself a good defensive player. The only drawback is he doesn't have a rifle arm. He gets a good jump on the ball, and he's always in position to make the throw. He's learned how to play the game defensively with his limited throwing ability."

IAN McDONALD

PITTSBURGH PIRATES



Andy Van Slyke

One night during spring training Andy Van Slyke found himself on a

radio call-in show back to Pittsburgh when a caller reminded him of a comment St. Louis Manager Whitey Herzog had made when Van Slyke was with the Cardinals.

"With Andy Van Slyke, what you see is what you get," Herzog was quoted as saying.

"That was one of Whitey's famous quotes over the winter," Van Slyke said. "He called me a .260 or .270 hitter, a 60-RBI man."

The words ate their way into the back of Van Slyke's mind. He didn't find them particularly inspiring. But when the caller brought them up, Van Slyke smiled.

"I'm glad the caller called and reminded me of that, because I always did feel I could do better. All I needed was the chance," he said.

The chance was given him not by the Cardinals, but the Pittsburgh Pirates, who on April 1, 1987, traded their most popular player—Tony Pena—to St. Louis for Van Slyke, catcher Mike LaValliere and pitcher Mike Dunne.

LaValliere won a Rawlings Gold Glove, Dunne became THE SPORTING NEWS National League Rookie Pitcher of the Year and Van Slyke became, quite simply, the Pirates' most indispensable player.

"The Pirates knew I wasn't a one- or two-dimensional player," Van Slyke said. "Through the course of a game there's a lot of things I can do to help a team, even if it's just cutting a ball off in the gap to keep a guy from scoring from first and we win by one run."

It is difficult to imagine that the Pirates would be one of baseball's most improved teams if Van Slyke wasn't around.

Their No. 3 hitter and center fielder established career highs in every offensive category but walks (Continued on Page 28, Column 1)

Hop Aboard the Worth Power Cell ... and Hold On!



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N.L. EAST

(Continued From Page 25)

last season. He hit .293 with 21 homers, 36 doubles, 11 triples, 82 runs batted in and 34 stolen bases.

For the first time in his career he was a regular, had 500 at-bats and proved Herzog right: What you saw was a budding star.

"It seems like I was always put in that 'can't miss' category—unlimited potential," Van Slyke said. "What does that mean? Where do you peak out?"

"Then I'd start wondering: 'If I'm a 'can't miss' player, why am I being platooned?' I was always platooned with the Cardinals."

Van Slyke, 27, did not accept being traded happily. It was a traumatic experience, going from a pennant contender to a team that figured to linger in last place, playing before crowds of hundreds in Three Rivers Stadium.

Manager Jim Leyland started Van Slyke in right field, his position in St. Louis, and rested him against tough lefthanders.

Then, suddenly, Van Slyke accepted Pittsburgh, and the city accepted him.

"It was a combination of three things that happened within one

week," Van Slyke said. "First, I moved into my house in Pittsburgh. I could get into my own bed, watch my own TV. The first three and a half weeks of the season I stayed at the Vista Hotel. Then I moved to center field. I moved there the same night I moved my locker in the locker room. Those things all happened, and I felt at home."

He got hot at the plate and began playing center field as it hadn't been played in Pittsburgh in decades.

In fact, Van Slyke is disappointed that he did not win a Gold Glove, finishing behind San Diego's Tony Gwynn, Cincinnati's Eric Davis and the Cubs' Andre Dawson in the voting of managers and coaches.

"I played 157 games and made four errors. I don't know how many putouts I had, but I know I had more than Andre Dawson (Van Slyke had 328 and Dawson 271, Gwynn 298 and Davis 380). I don't know how many errors they had (Davis and Dawson had four apiece and Gwynn six), but I thought I should have won the Gold Glove," Van Slyke said.

The most encouraging thing is that, like Van Slyke, the Pirates are young and seemingly improving.

"I don't know what I can do," he

said. "As far as my average and home runs go, I need to improve. I'd like to hit .300, and I should be able to. If I stay aggressive defensively and on the bases, it will carry over to my hitting. If I can cut down on my strikeouts (122) and walk more, I see no reason why I couldn't steal 50 bases. I should drive in 100 runs, but RBI production is equivalent to the two guys in front of you."

BOB HERTZEL



On the subject of Juan Samuel's value to the Philadelphia Phillies,

veteran reliever Kent Tekulve had a quick answer.

"Sammy's an ability guy—capability, flexibility and durability," Tekulve said. "Because of his ability, he can bat anywhere in the lineup and do an efficient job. That gives the manager the flexibility to make a lineup work. He basically gives you every dimension offensively. He's got the great speed, he's a threat to go deep and his average is improving. But the biggest thing is that he plays hard every single day. He's always there."

Indeed, Samuel has played in 160 or more games in three of his four seasons with the Phils.

"I'd sure hate to think of him not being here," Manager Lee Ella said of the 27-year-old second baseman. "From an offensive standpoint, there's no question you'd have a void without him. As a manager there are times you want to sit him out a game so he can get a rest, but you almost have to fight him to do it. And, in the end, you give in because you know deep down that it'll be a struggle to replace him at the top of the lineup."

Perhaps the statistic that best illustrates Samuel's many talents is the "quadruple double." Last season he became the first player in

National League history to reach double figures in doubles, triples, home runs and stolen bases in each of his first four seasons. He established career highs with 28 homers, 100 runs batted in and 37 doubles.

Samuel also led the N.L. for the second time with 15 triples and stole 35 bases. In his career, he has averaged 102 runs scored per year.

"I think I can reach those numbers as long as I stay healthy," Samuel said. "It's not something I'm out there trying to do, but the numbers just sort of pop up because of the way I play. The part of the game I probably like best is running. I like stealing bases, and I love the three-base hit."

If he has his way, Phillies President Bill Giles will see to it that Samuel spends many more years in Philadelphia compiling impressive statistics—and money. The club avoided arbitration with its two-time All-Star by agreeing to a one-year pact worth a base salary of \$1.09 million, a raise of \$430,000.

"I never feel badly about giving out a big contract to a player who produces," Giles said, "and Sammy has produced the way we've hoped he would every year. We'd like to get him to sign a multi-year deal after the season. He just gets better and better. You have no doubt he'll

CHARTING THE N.L. EAST

| Predicted Finish | Manager | Top Newcomers | Statistical Pluses | Statistical Minuses | Comment |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1. NEW YORK METS 82-78/2nd in 1987. | Dave Johnson 888-288 in four years with the Mets. | The Mets traded Dwight Gooden to the Yankees to make room for rookie Kevin Stone in the rotation. Steve Carlton (3-10) and Greg Maddux (1-10) are expected to be the Mets' ace and closer, respectively. John Matlack (1-1) is expected to be the Mets' ace. | Dwight Gooden led the N.L. in strikeouts (122) and home runs (21). Kevin Stone led the N.L. in ERA (3.84) and strikeouts (122). Greg Maddux (29) and John Matlack (29) are expected to be the Mets' ace and closer, respectively. John Matlack (1-1) is expected to be the Mets' ace. | Dwight Gooden led the N.L. in strikeouts (122) and home runs (21). Kevin Stone led the N.L. in ERA (3.84) and strikeouts (122). Greg Maddux (29) and John Matlack (29) are expected to be the Mets' ace and closer, respectively. John Matlack (1-1) is expected to be the Mets' ace. | The Mets had the N.L. East's best record last season (82-78). They should be able to repeat that success. Dwight Gooden and Kevin Stone are expected to be the Mets' ace and closer, respectively. John Matlack (1-1) is expected to be the Mets' ace. |
| 2. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS 95-67/1st in 1987. | Whitey Herzog 627-519 in seven-plus years with the Cardinals; 1,086-916 overall. | Bob Horner has 215 major league homers, but he'll find the fences in Busch Stadium less inviting than in Atlanta's "Launching Pad" or the Japanese bandboxes in which he played last season. The Cards are excited about Jose DeLeon , who was acquired from the Sox, despite his 32-55 career record. | The Cards led the league in on-base percentage (.340) and fielding (.982) and had the best record on grass (26-16), artificial turf (69-51) and against lefties (32-23). Todd Worrell and Ken Dayley each had a 2.66 ERA. Vince Coleman not only stole 109 bases, but hit .289. Ozzie Smith , the world's best fielder, hit .303 and drove in 75 runs without a homer. | Willie McGee hit .248 with runners in scoring position. St. Louis averaged 5.8 runs in a 61-32 start. With Jack Clark being pitched around or injured, the norm was 3.9 the rest of the way. Clark , who had 35 homers and 106 RBIs and led the N.L. in walks (136), on-base percentage (.459) and slugging percentage (.587), is gone. No Cardinal won more than 11 games. | Clark spent three injury-plagued seasons in St. Louis. In the two in which he played 126 and 131 games, the Cards won the pennant. In the season in which he played only 65, they finished 28½ games behind. Still, Whitey Herzog should find a way to keep the Cards in a five-way fight for second place. But becoming the first N.L. team to repeat in a decade seems improbable. |
| 3. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES 80-82/3rd for 4th in 1987. | Lee Ella 51-50 in part of one year with the Phils; 178-208 overall. | Left fielder Phil Bradley , hit .297 with 101 runs scored, 36 doubles, 10 triples, 14 home runs, 64 walks and 40 stolen bases for Seattle last year. But his 119 strikeouts won't ignite rallies. Former Phillie Bob Gamble got lost in the shuffle at Wrigley Field, but the speedy center fielder still hit .317 in 93 games. | Steve Bedrosian , the National League Cy Young Award winner, saved 40 games—exactly half of the Phils' wins. Three-time MVP Mike Schmidt pounded 35 homers and drove in 113 runs. Juan Samuel is no longer a benchwarmer at second base, and he had an MVP-type season—38 homers, 100 RBIs, 35 stolen bases and a league-leading 15 triples. | A pitching staff that posted a 4.18 earned-run average and only 13 complete games puts too much of a burden on Bedrosian . The Phils dug themselves a deep hole by going 7-13 in April last year. Starting shortstop Steve Jeltz had more errors (14) than RBIs (12). Philadelphia's 16-26 record on grass fields was the worst for a National League East team in 1987. | Installing Bradley at the top of a lineup that also includes Bennett , Van Slyke , Schmidt and catcher Leslie Pierrelle means the Phils should score a lot of runs. There is little indication, however, that the Phils possess the necessary pitching to prevent other teams from doing the same. |
| 4. PITTSBURGH PIRATES 80-82/tied for 4th in 1987. | Jim Leyland 144-180 in two years with the Pirates. | Shortstop Felix Ferlin , who hit .250 in 88 at-bats last year after being promoted from Double A, has a chance to become a key figure in the Pirates' youth movement. The Bucs also have high hopes for catcher Mackey Sasser , but don't be surprised if they decide he needs to spend the year in the minors. | The Bucs tied for the N.L. lead with 13 shutouts. The players acquired from St. Louis for Tony Pena last spring made popular General Manager Syd Thrift look like a genius. Mike Dunne was 13-8 with a 3.03 ERA, catcher Mike LaValliere hit .300 and won a Gold Glove and outfielder Andy Van Slyke hit .293 with 21 homers, 82 RBIs and 34 steals. | Only two starting pitchers on the roster have as many as two years in the majors. One of them, Brian Fisher , had a 4.52 ERA last year. The other, Bob Kipper , was 5-9 with a 5.94 ERA. Pittsburgh was 5-9 in one-run games last season. The Pirates were 32-41 against southpaws. The Bucs had a 4.20 ERA in 1987. The Bucs haven't had a winning record since 1983. | Thrift and Manager Jim Leyland made great strides last year in directing the Pirates within one victory of a break-even season. That merely demonstrates, however, how far this young ball club still has to go. Expect a better team this year, even if the record doesn't show it. The Pirates could wind up as high as second—or take a step backward toward the cellar. |
| 5. CHICAGO CUBS 78-85/6th in 1987. | Doc Zisler First year with the Cubs; 628-609 overall. | The Cubs are banking heavily on young right-handers Carlos Sahelich , Al Leiter and veteran reliever Gene Gossage , all acquired via trades. Mark Grace , who hit .333 and drove in 101 runs as the Eastern League's MVP in '87, should have the brightest future, although he may not stick this year. | The Cubs blasted a league-leading 208 homers last season. Andre Dawson hit 48 homers and drove in 157 runs in capturing the N.L. MVP award in his first season in Chicago. Rick Sutcliffe won 18 games. The Cubs were 55-28 in night games last year and nine games below .500 in sunshine, a good omen for the inhabitants of soon-to-be-lighted Wrigley Field. | The Cubs were 37-55 against N.L. East rivals in 1987. Cubs hurlers posted a division-high 4.65 ERA, pitched a division-low five shutouts, threw a division-high 55 wild pitches and committed a league-leading 29 balks. Lee Smith , who saved 192 games in the last five seasons, is now with Boston. Keith Hernandez , who hit 27 homers last year, is now with the Padres. | Despite the heroics of Dawson and Sutcliffe , the Cubs still finished last in 1987, thanks to a 16-21 record from September 7 on. Doc Zisler could stay healthy for the entire year, look for the Cubs to stand a shot, particularly if the new regime of Jim Frey and Doc Zisler does its capable job of lighting a fire under the Cubs as they seem to be doing in lighting Wrigley Field. |
| 6. MONTREAL EXPOS 91-71/3rd in 1987. | Buck Rodgers 253-231 in three years with the Expos; 377-333 overall. | Shortstop Luis Rivera and second baseman Johnny Paredes each hit .312 at Indianapolis (American Association) last season, when they combined for 54 stolen bases. They are being counted on as the Expos' double-play combination of the future—and the present. | Montreal had the league's best record in both one-run games (28-14) and extra-inning games (12-1). Third baseman Tim Lincecum hit .298 with 26 homers and 123 RBIs. Tim Lincecum hit .330 and scored 123 runs. Right-handers Dennis Martinez and Pascual Perez , who have had problems with chemical abuse in the past, combined for an 18-4 record. | Rivera and Paredes have 32 major league at-bats between them. The four catchers on the Expos' spring roster combined to hit four homers in 1987. Willie Hubbs Brooks improve on his injury-plagued 72-RBI campaign now that he's an outfielder. Willie Andres Galarraga , who hit .305 with 90 RBIs last year, be sufficiently recovered from a thumb injury to contribute? | There is no greater testimony to Buck Rodgers' managing ability than the Expos' 91 victories in 1987. The club seems to have two many question marks up the middle to duplicate that feat again. And the impressive statistics in one-run and extra-inning games lends credence to the theory that the Expos did it with mirrors last year. |

PLAYER OF YEAR: Dwight Gooden, N.Y. Mets ROOKIE OF YEAR: Kevin Elster, New York Mets ALL-DIVISION TEAM: 1B—Keith Hernandez, New York Mets; 2B—Ryne Sandberg, Chicago Cubs; SS—Ozzie Smith, St. Louis; 3B—Mike Schmidt, Philadelphia; LF—Tim Lincecum, Montreal; CF—Andy Van Slyke, Pittsburgh; RF—Darryl Strawberry, New York Mets; C—Jody Davis, Chicago Cubs; RHP—Dwight Gooden, New York Mets; LHP—John Tudor, St. Louis. PROJECTED LEADERS: HR—Darryl Strawberry, New York Mets; RBI—Darryl Strawberry; BATTING—Tim Lincecum, Montreal; RUNS—Tim Lincecum; HITS—Tim Lincecum; SB—Vince Coleman, St. Louis; WINS—Dwight Gooden, New York Mets; ERA—Gooden; STRIKEOUTS—Gooden; SAVES—Todd Worrell, St. Louis.