

# Whitaker Is Leading Man As Sparky Revises Script

By TOM GAGE

DETROIT—With Ron LeFlore saying au revoir, the Detroit **Tigers** starting lineup hardly will look the same next season. For that matter, neither will their outfield.

LeFlore will be leading off for the Montreal Expos while Lou Whitaker inherits the role in Detroit. As for LeFlore's old post in center field, Kirk Gibson and Dave Stegman are set for the job on a platoon basis if the **Tigers** don't make another deal before opening day.

"Whitaker can lead off," said Manager Sparky Anderson. "I've felt that all along. He gets on base and Alan Trammell has shown me he can be a good No. 2 hitter."

Making Whitaker his leadoff hitter is a move that Sparky tried for a time last season. The only problem it presented was the relocation of LeFlore. Anderson used him in various spots, including cleanup, but LeFlore soon displayed that his real worth was at leadoff.

"I'm putting him back there," Anderson said when he dumped the revised batting order last August. "But I guar-

antee you, it will be different next year. Whitaker will lead off."

Replacing LeFlore in the outfield might not be as easy. Stegman has had two trials with the **Tigers** and has shown good power, but he doesn't cover nearly as much ground as LeFlore. And Gibson, while improving rapidly, is unproven as a major leaguer.

But Gibson is the key to the new-look outfield.

"It all depends on Gibson," said Anderson, "and I think you have to realize my feelings about this guy. I happen to feel that he has a chance at being an outstanding young player."

Gibson was slated for right field before the LeFlore deal, but now Champ Summers and Lynn Jones are set as platooning right fielders.

"I had planned on playing right field," Gibson said. "I'm not saying I had the starting job, but I thought I had a pretty good shot."

"It's hard for me to believe that Detroit would trade someone as potent as Ronnie. I personally feel he is worth

whatever he's asking, but if the **Tigers** wanted to trade him, I guess that's their prerogative. Apparently they just couldn't sign him."

The departure of LeFlore, as well as the trade that sent Aurelio Rodriguez to the San Diego Padres, created other shortages for the **Tigers**.

They had gone to the winter meetings with the hope of bolstering their righthanded hitting, but instead they traded two righthanders. No wonder General Manager Jim Campbell was on the phone at the interleague trading deadline, trying to swing a deal for Bill Robinson of the Pittsburgh Pirates or Mike Vail of the Chicago Cubs.

**Tigers Notes:** One interesting possibility emerging from the LeFlore deal is that he will play out his option in Montreal and return to Detroit as a free agent, even if the **Tigers** don't make him the best offer. The amount of the **Tigers** offer is still open to speculation, but most sources claim that the speedy center fielder turned down a six-year, \$3 million pact. . . . Campbell tried hard to put together a package that would bring former Tiger Leon Roberts back to Detroit. The Seattle Mariners needed a third baseman, but were not that enamored with Rodriguez. . . . Predictably, the public sentiment in Detroit was overwhelmingly against trading LeFlore. Said one irate caller: "I've grown old waiting for the young team to win." . . . The **Tigers** left plenty of room for maneuvering. They are six players short of the 40-man roster limit.

# Sutter, Cubs Renegotiating—Amicably

By JOE GODDARD

CHICAGO—It will take time, lots of time. And it will require paper, reams of it.

But the time and expense will be worth it to all parties, including the fans, if Bruce Sutter and the Chicago Cubs renew their contract vows without having to visit the judge's chamber, the judge being an arbitrator.

Although Sutter, Cy Young Award winner with 37 saves (tying a National League record), has another year to go on his contract, he has the right to renegotiate it—and that's exactly what he is doing with the help of the team of

Jim Browner and Bill Gilhooley.

Perhaps the renegotiation process will take as long as Rick Reuschel's (he didn't sign until midway through last season). Perhaps the reworked pact will run as long as Reuschel's (31 pages).

Whatever, both sides have indicated the talks will not be conducted in a boxing ring, that neither is looking for a knockout.

"We have some differences, obviously. But we're not looking to go to arbitration," said Browner, whose real-life job is overseer of tennis and racquetball courts, including the Downtown Tennis Club just north of Chicago's Loop.

Cubs' General Manager Bob Kennedy said, simply, "I don't see any reason to be concerned."

Any concern, according to Browner, is the length of service rather than the salary. And he said he would not use the Cy Young Award as a negotiating weapon. "The wins (six), the earned-run average (2.23) and the saves (37) are more important than the award," Browner said.

Browner and Gilhooley, who played in the Detroit and Oakland organizations, also represent Ivan DeJesus, Dennis Lamp, Scot Thompson and Larry Biittner of the Cubs; Eric Soderholm of the Yankees; Geoff Zahn of the Twins and free agent Paul Reuschel.

Kennedy not only denied a firm offer for Sutter was made by the Phillies at the winter meetings, but indicated there wasn't enough talent on one team to consider trading him.

On the reported Phillies' offer of Greg Luzinski, who cut

his baseball teeth in the north suburbs of Chicago, Larry Christenson and Tug McGraw, Kennedy said it never progressed beyond "idle chatter."

On Sutter's worth, Kennedy said, "I don't think anybody has enough for him."

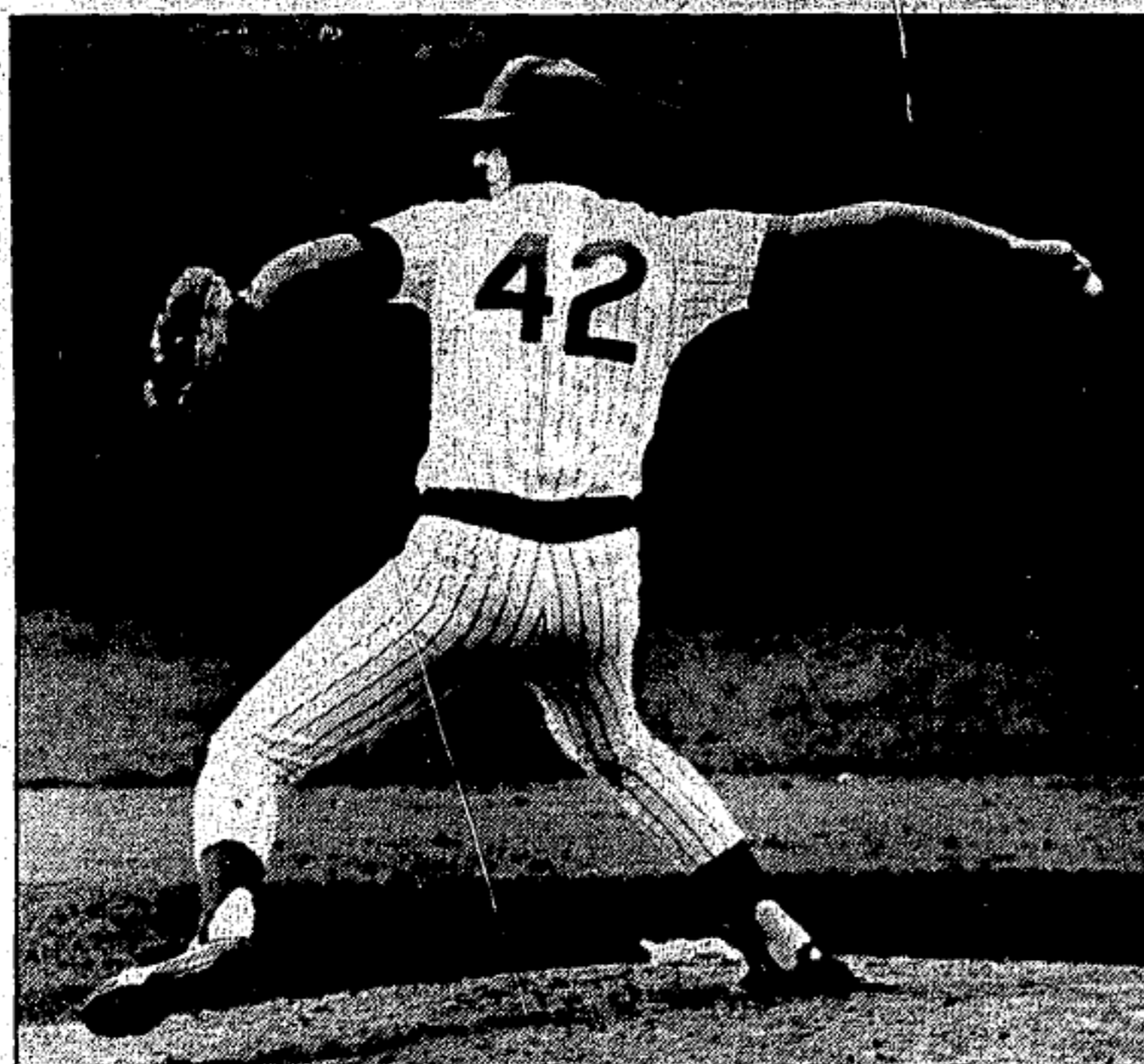
And Sutter? He wants to stay, but will go without an argument if he is traded. "That's baseball," he said.

If he is traded, what will the fans do with those T-shirts that read, "Only the Lord saves more than Sutter"?

**Cubs Notes:** A commissary is under development on Wrigley Field's second deck behind home plate. "We'll have better vendor service up there, too," said Kennedy.

. . . A stocking gift suggestion for Christmas: "Stuck On the Cubs," a paperback effort by insurance agent Richard Schwab (available mostly on Chicago newsstands). It's the hilarious compilation of lists and memories, appreciated more by longtime Cub fans than the players. Schwab is a few thousand copies shy of selling out his stock of 23,000.

Chicagoan William Carsley prepared a letter to the editor of a city newspaper congratulating Sutter on his Cy Young: "You have raised the practice of throwing a small, hard ball a distance of 60 feet, 6 inches to an art level." . . . A study of baseball statistics in the 1970s showed Dave Kingman sixth among home run hitters. With 48 last season, Kingman raised his decade total to 252. Willie Stargell of the Pirates led everyone with 296. . . . Sutter was around only the last half of the '70s, but ranked 10th in saves with 105. Rollie Fingers of the Padres and A's had 209.



Bruce Sutter . . . Worth the Time

# Mad Man Mauch Plotting More Misery for Scorers

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—Official scorers in the American League, beware! Gene Mauch is thinking, plotting, concocting his moves for 1980. This could mean writer's cramp for you.

You'll recall Mauch's first four years as the Twins' manager. He led the league in platooning. He was No. 1 in longest box scores.

Well, if you think a new decade will change him, forget it.

Why, four full months before opening day, he was mapping strategy that certainly would mean more work for you. Bring plenty of pencils to Twins' games next season. With erasers, thank you.

In discussing the upcoming campaign, Mauch revealed a platoon plan that could rank as the wildest in Minnesota's 20-year major league history.

"If we can put a first base glove on Mike Cabbage against righthanded pitchers, we keep our defense strong with John Castino at third base," Mauch said. "And we keep our strong lefthanded-hitting lineup. We scored a lot of runs with Cabbage in the lineup because a loaded lefthanded lineup is hard for a righthander to face."

Not bad so far. Cabbage, usually found at third base, moves to first occasionally while Castino becomes a regular.

What about Ron Jackson, last year's regular first baseman? Well, with Cabbage at first, Jackson would move to left field.

Continuing with that "loaded lefthanded lineup," Rob Wilfong would be at second base, Ken Landreaux in center field, Hosken Powell or Rick Sofield in right field and Danny Goodwin or Glenn Adams in the DH position.

Against lefthanded pitchers, Bobby Randall could be at second base, Dave Edwards in center field, Bombo Rivera in right and Landreaux in left. The DH might be Pete Mackanin, obtained from Philadelphia at the winter meetings.

These are starting lineups, of course. If opposing teams make pitching changes, the fun really begins.

Let's see, Jackson moves from left to first, Randall to second, Landreaux to left, well you get the idea.

Thankfully for scorers, catcher Butch Wynegar and shortstop Roy Smalley are switch-hitters.

Unless the Twins make some deals before the season begins, it appears you'll be able to tell the Minnesota players with a scorecard in 1980, but you may not be able to tell where they're playing.

**Twins Notes:** All minor league managers have been rehired: Cal Ermer at Toledo (International), Roy McMillan at Orlando (Southern), Tom Kelly at Visalia (California), Rick Stelmazek at Wisconsin Rapids (Midwest) and Fred Waters at Elizabethton (Appalachian). . . . The Twins were interested in the Oakland-to-Denver rumors. They open the 1980 campaign in Oakland. Or Denver? . . . Mauch on replacing Dave Goltz: "We can replace the Goltz of 1979 (14-13). We can't replace the Goltz of 1977 (20-11)."

## 1979 NFL OFFICIAL RECORD MANUAL



HARD-BOUND EDITION — 432 PAGES

The Official Source For:

- Complete 1978 Statistics
- Chronological History of NFL
- All-Time Player & Team Records
- Year by Year Past Standings
- Season & Championship Records
- Super Bowl Games & Records
- Hall of Fame Section
- Team vs. Team Records
- 1979 Schedule
- Plus Other Features

**\$7.95**

plus 80¢ postage

Sold on a 10-day money-back guarantee.

**ELIAS SPORTS BUREAU**  
500 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10036

# MAJOR LEAGUE FLASHES

## Madlock Goes on Report

Third baseman Bill Madlock of the Pirates faces a possible fine and suspension following an incident with home plate umpire Gerry Crawford in the fifth inning of Pittsburgh's 2-1 victory over the Expos in 10 innings May 1. The incident occurred after Madlock, batting with the bases filled, was called out on what he insisted was a checked swing. Bucs Manager Chuck Tanner rushed to the plate and pushed Madlock away after the third baseman nudged Crawford in the face with his glove. Crew Chief Doug Harvey, umpiring at first base, declined to comment until after the umpires submitted their report to the National League. Madlock was ejected.

■ The Mariners lost the services of righthander Mike Parrott for at least two weeks as the result of a severe groin bruise suffered April 30 when he was struck by a liner off the bat of the Twins' Roy Smalley.

## Homer Frustrates Falcone

A two-run homer by Luis Aguayo in the fifth inning, sending the Phillies on their way to a 2-1 triumph over the Mets May 1, took the edge off a record-tying performance by New York lefthander Pete Falcone. Falcone tied a modern major league record shared by four other pitchers when he struck out the first six Philadelphia batters he faced. He had eight strikeouts in his seven-inning stint. Sharing the record for Ks at the start of a game are John Hiller (Tigers, 1968), Ray Culp (Red Sox, 1970), Bert Blyleven (Twins, 1970) and Andy Messersmith (Dodgers, 1973).

■ Slugger Dave Parker, whose contract with the Pirates is said to be worth nearly \$1 million for each of the next four years and then give him additional security "until I'm 57," can't understand why the Cubs don't give Bruce Sutter the long-term pact the reliever wants. "If I were the Cub general manager, I'd try to keep him around as many years as I could," said Parker. "It's no treat hitting off Sutter." Sutter won a \$700,000 salary judgment at arbitration but said he would have been satisfied with a five-year contract at less than \$700,000 a season.

## Jenkins Foiled Again

The Indians chased Ferguson Jenkins with a four-run outburst in the fourth inning and went on to beat the Rangers, 7-4, as the Texas righthander failed for the fourth time in his bid for American League victory No. 100.

■ Pitching Coach Ray Miller, striding from the Memorial Stadium dugout to congratulate reliever Tim Stoddard after Baltimore's 7-4 victory over the Yankees April 30, was accosted by an unidentified fan who grabbed for Miller's cap. Punches were thrown and Miller was struck in

the mouth before police intervened. Police said the man was booked for assault and battery.

## More Sutter Trade Rumors

Cubs reliever Bruce Sutter wonders about rumors that he's headed for the Cardinals in a three-way trade that would send Braves third baseman Bob Horner to Chicago. "I'd still like to stay in Chicago," said Sutter, "but I've said all along that if I have to leave the Cubs, St. Louis is one of the teams I'd like to go to."

■ While fans are not knocking down the Oakland Coliseum gates to watch the A's, attendance is up and "6,000 people is a lot better than 2,000," says outfielder Mitchell Page who recalls one game last season with only 653 in the stands. In its first 10 games, Oakland drew 73,000, or one-fourth of last year's total attendance of 306,000.

## Astros Dazzle Redlegs

With a 9-3 victory over the Reds May 1, behind the knuckleball slants of righthander Joe Niekro, the Astros completed their first three-game series sweep at Riverfront Stadium since 1971. Houston took the opener, 3-0, behind Ken Forsch, and the second game, 5-1, behind J. R. Richard. Cincinnati managed only 13 hits and four runs in the series.

■ Outfielder Hosken Powell came to terms with the Twins April 28, leaving righthander Roger Erickson as the only unsigned player on the Minnesota roster. Powell signed a one-year contract, terms of which were not disclosed.

## Staub Goes on Shelf

Designated-hitter Rusty Staub was expected to be out of the Rangers' lineup for about 10 days after suffering a chip fracture of the ring finger when he jammed his left hand while sliding into second base April 30. Staub was the second-leading hitter in the American League, with a .412 average, when he was injured.

■ Expos reliever Elias Sosa had pitched 5½ scoreless innings in four appearances before the Pirates solved him in the 10th inning of their 5-4 victory April 29. Willie Stargell led off the 10th with a single and Matt Alexander, running for Stargell, scored on Bill Madlock's double down the left field line.

## Breakthrough by Padres

"You get in one of those streaks and you feel like you'll never, ever win again," said Padres Manager Jerry Coleman after San Diego edged the Braves, 2-1, April 30, and ended a seven-game losing streak. Reliever Bob Shirley finished after righthander Eric Rasmussen limited Atlanta to four hits over eight innings.

■ The Houston Astros stole five bases against Cincinnati rookie lefthander Charlie Leibrandt in a 3-0 victory April 29. "That's their game," said Leibrandt. "If you let them get a big lead, they're going to steal no matter who the catcher is."

## Hisle Plays Despite Pain

Fans who've seen Larry Hisle might think the shoulder injury that sidelined him last year has healed. However, the Brewers' outfielder applies a hot pack to his tender right shoulder between turns at bat and the injury receives daily attention in the training room. "It feels all right at the start, but after a few innings the cold weather gets to me," Hisle said. "But I'm a professional and a little discomfort is not going to stop me."

■ Catcher Rick Dempsey hit two home runs in a game for the first time in his major league career, but that wasn't enough to keep the Yankees from shading the Orioles, 4-3, April 29. Righthander Luis Tiant posted the 219th victory of his career with two innings of help from reliever Rudy May who was credited with his first save in six seasons.

## Bomback Feasts on Phillies

Rookie Mark Bomback of the Mets has earned his major league credentials at the expense of the Phillies. The 27-year-old righthander who bounced around the minor leagues for 10 years, notched a two-hit, 2-0 triumph over Philadelphia April 30 in his second career start. Eight days earlier, Bomback went seven innings and was credited with a 3-2 decision over the Phils.

■ During the first series between the Dodgers and Giants, San Francisco Coach Jim Lefebvre stayed away from his sparring partner, Los Angeles Manager Tommy Lasorda. Some of the Dodgers, however, couldn't resist needling Lefebvre about the celebrated television studio altercation in February. One player went a step further when he greeted Lefebvre with, "One punch? Great."



St. Louis telecaster Jay Randolph (left) listens as Dick Kaegel, managing editor of THE SPORTING NEWS, presents TSN's National League Player of the Year award to Keith Hernandez of the Cardinals. The presentation was made during a pregame TV show carried from Pittsburgh to St. Louis station KSDK.

## Brewers Display Power

"It was just a combination of some bad pitches by the Indians and catching us at the wrong time," said Brewers third baseman Sal Bando. Whatever the reason, Milwaukee unloaded seven home runs—one short of the major league single-game record—while routing Cleveland, 14-1, April 29, and ending a four-game losing streak. Ben Oglivie drove in five runs with two homers and Bando also hit a pair. Larry Hisle and Sixto Lezcano belted three-run homers and Paul Molitor added a solo shot. Seven clubs share the major league record of eight home runs in a game. The feat was accomplished most recently by the Expos against the Braves July 30, 1978.

## Cubs Lock Out Writers

The Cubs, with Manager Preston Gomez' blessing, imposed a 10-minute lockout on writers seeking post-game interviews. Gomez, however, said his office would be open to reporters immediately following the game.

■ "What's the big deal about leading off?" asks Tigers leadoff batter Lou Whitaker. "After the first inning, everybody becomes a leadoff man in every inning."

## Richard and Kingman Receive N. L. Awards

NEW YORK—The National League bestowed April honors on Cubs slugger Dave Kingman and hard-throwing righthander J. R. Richard of the Astros.

Kingman was voted Player of the Month after hitting .375 (18-for-48) with six homers and 16 runs batted in for the first month of the season.

Pitcher of the Month recognition went to Richard for his 3-0 record, including one shutout. Richard allowed six earned runs in four starts for a 1.80 earned-run average. He had 40 strikeouts in 30 innings.

## PRO TRANSACTIONS

### BASEBALL

Braves—Optioned outfielder Ed Miller to Richmond; reactivated infielder Bob Horner, who was on disqualified list.

Cardinals—Designated pitcher Darold Knowles for reassignment; optioned outfielder Jim Lentine to Springfield; acquired pitcher Jim Kaat on waivers from Yankees; signed pitcher Pedro Borbon as free agent.

Twins—Reactivated outfielder Dave Edwards.

### CLASS AAA

Charleston—Acquired catcher Fla Strawn and infielder Wayne Pinkerton from Tulsa.

Iowa—Acquired catcher Vito Lucarelli from Appleton.

Ogden—Acquired pitcher Frank Harris from West Haven; signed pitcher Johnny (Ike) Sutton as free agent; placed designated hitter Randy Elliott on disqualified list.

Oklahoma City—Assigned pitcher Marty Bystrom to Reading; activated infielder-outfielder Mike Anderson.

Omaha—Assigned infielder Frank McCann to Jacksonville; signed pitcher Rawly Eastwick as free agent.

Phoenix—Acquired Bob Brenly from Shreveport.

Richmond—Acquired outfielder Horace Speed from Savannah.

Salt Lake City—Acquired catcher Mark Nocchiolo from Salinas.

Spokane—Acquired catcher Dan Firova from San Jose; assigned pitcher R.J. Harrison to Lynn.

Springfield—Assigned outfielder Gene Dotson to Arkansas.

Wichita—Acquired utilityman Wayne Rohlfing from Quad Cities.

### FOOTBALL

Bengals—Signed tight end Mike Harris and center Blake Moore as free agents.

Chiefs—Exercised right of first refusal on cornerback Eric Harris who received an offer sheet from Saints.

Cowboys—Signed placekicker John Roveto as free agent.

Giants—Signed defensive backs Chet Moeller and Ron Meeks as free agents.

Saints—Signed quarterback Steve Ensminger as free agent.

For a wrap-up of draft-day trades, see page 50.

## The JOURNAL of MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHING STATISTICS 1980 EDITION

- Record of ALL STARTING and RELIEF Pitchers Performance (Innings Pitched, Earn Run Average, Won/Lost record) versus Each Club at HOME, AWAY and the Overall TOTAL.
- Dated STARTING Pitchers Performance (Innings Pitched, Hits Allowed, Earned Runs Allowed) and the SCORES of EACH GAME of EACH SERIES.
- TEAM Won/Lost record (versus left-handed and right-handed Starting Pitchers, Home/Away, Day/Night, on Natural and Artificial Turf and Doubleheaders in FIVE CATEGORIES).
- Won/Lost Record of Each TEAM in Games Started by Each Pitcher HOME and AWAY.
- FINAL Individual and Team Pitching Statistics.
- POST SEASON STATISTICS.



\$9.95



for 1st class postage and handling add \$1.00  
COLOSSAL PUBLICATIONS INC.  
801 York Mills Rd. • Suite 201 • Don Mills • Ontario  
Canada • M3B 1X7