

A.L. East

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plays, that guy could be 12-2 this year."

"I'm not a pull hitter, but I've been pulling too many balls this year, and that's why I'm hitting into those double plays. One of the reasons is my hands are so quick and I'm too anxious at the plate. If I could only stay back and be patient, I've got to learn not to be too aggressive. Aggressive yes, over aggressive no."

"I'm getting myself out two of every four at-bats and to make it worse, I'm hitting into all those double plays."

In helping the Sox to a victory over the Detroit Tigers in Fenway, Rice tripled to right for one RBI and also homered into the Sox bullpen in right center.

"I just went with the pitch, which is what I should do all the time," he said. "But instead of hitting the ball where it's pitched, I'm trying to pull everything. It's only one game, but maybe it's a start."

Rice has always gone to John Pesky for hitting advice. This year he can only get it at home because Pesky is now a special assistant to General Manager Lou Gorman and doesn't travel anymore.

"When he's home we're always talking and I'm always reminding him to use the whole field," said Pesky. "He knows he should and he goes to the plate with the intention of doing it. But he's trying too hard to drive the ball. Because his hands are so quick, he's hitting a lot of balls on the ground. He's got to continually remind himself to wait and go with the pitch."

"I know that," Rice said. "My best years came when I went the other way with the pitch. I can't explain why I've been trying to pull the last couple of years, but I'm going to work hard on making the adjustment back to how I used to hit. If I do that, I know the production will come."

Sox Footnote: Righthander Steve Crawford was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a pulled back muscle and righthander Jim Dorsey was called up from Pawtucket (International). It was the second time Crawford had been disabled this year. Earlier he was out with a slight pull in the front of his elbow. . . . Roger Clemens missed three starts with a sore shoulder. . . . The hospitality room at Fenway Park has been named the Tommy McCarthy Room in honor of the popular press steward who died last year. Mrs. Jean Yawkey and Haywood Sullivan joined with Tommy's widow Helen and friends in dedicating the room. McCarthy was a 50-year employee of the club.

Tony Armas was in the hospital four days because of severe swelling in his left calf, caused by a muscle tear. . . . Mark Clear, who has been used sparingly in relief, joined Bruce Hurst in asking to be traded. . . . Boyd pitched his 10th complete game, a 9-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers. "You don't get The Can the second time around," he said, referring to a 9-3 defeat the Tigers had handed him a week earlier in Detroit. . . . After winning 14 of 15, the Sox dropped seven of nine, including back to back shutouts in Fenway at the hands of the Tigers.

The Sox were involved in their second bench-clearing brawl of the season in Toronto. The other occurred in Chicago in April. . . . Hurst and Bruce Kison yielded grand-slam home runs five days apart—Hurst to Detroit's Lance Parrish, Kison to Toronto's Ernie Whitt.

JOE GIULIOTTI



O's Open-Minded On Wiggins Deal

BALTIMORE—The talk had been rampant for so long that when the Baltimore Orioles finally acquired second baseman Alan Wiggins from the San Diego Padres, it was like old news.

The trade had been rumored for weeks and was reported to have been completed two days before the teams made an official announcement. In most quarters, it appeared that the Orioles had gambled uncharacteristically in going for Wiggins. It continued a trend that began last winter when they plunged heavily into the free agent market for the first time and signed Fred Lynn, Lee Lacy and Don Aase.

From a pure baseball standpoint, the addition of Wiggins made sense for the Orioles. "He should help us offensively where we needed it the most," said Manager Earl Weaver, alluding to the team's lack of speed.

Wiggins is coming off a drug rehabilitation program for the second time, a situation that led to his trade by the Padres and also complicated completion of the deal. Reportedly, the Padres, and Wiggins, will assume some responsibility for his \$2.8 million, four-year contract should he suffer a relapse.

Even though the Orioles were leading the majors in home runs this season and were close to the top in runs scored, they thought they needed an authentic leadoff hitter to give the lineup better balance. When Wiggins reports after a tuneup at Rochester (International), Lacy, who had been batting first, will move to the No. 2 spot that he prefers.

Reaction to the acquisition of Wiggins was favorable among the players, including incumbent second baseman Rich Dauer. "It will definitely help the team," said Dauer. "He's going to get on base for the big boys."

As for Wiggins' problems with cocaine, Dauer was sympathetic. "He's a fellow athlete. I don't see any problem with him being accepted."

Scott McGregor, the Orioles' player representative, had simi-



Alan Wiggins will exchange one minor league uniform for another when he checks in at Rochester for the Orioles.

lar feelings. "We have an open-minded team," said McGregor. "I don't know Wiggins, but if I put myself in his shoes, I'd want a second chance."

Dennis Martinez is one member of the Orioles who can relate to Wiggins' difficulties, and he seemed to think the two could help each other. "I did some bad things, so I know it's been rough on him," said Martinez, who went through an alcohol rehabilitation program. "I would definitely help him stay straight, and he would help me."

Coach Frank Robinson, who formerly managed the San Francisco Giants, is familiar with Wiggins' talents. "His biggest asset is his speed," said Robinson. "In that regard, he's a lot like Rickey Henderson. He can generate runs without anything else happening."

As a second baseman, the reports on Wiggins are only mediocre, but Robinson said the ex-outfielder showed considerable improvement in the 1984 season.

"He just started to play there last year, and the first time I saw him at second, I laughed," said Robinson. "But he came along, and by the end of the season he was making the plays."

To fully utilize Wiggins' potential it will be necessary for him to run at virtually every opportunity, something that has not been the Orioles' style. "Hitting in front of Lacy (the Orioles' only other legitimate base-stealing threat), I'll let him go," said Weaver.

Wiggins stole 70 bases in 91 tries last year, a percentage (.769) high enough to satisfy Weaver's generally conservative approach to base stealing.

At the time the trade was made, Wiggins was on a 20-day rehabilitation assignment to Las Vegas (Pacific Coast). He was transferred to Rochester, where he was expected to play for a week before joining the Orioles.

Bird Seed: In exchange for Wiggins, the Orioles sent veteran righthanded reliever Roy Lee Jackson from Rochester to Las Vegas. Jackson was 1-1, with two saves and a 3.00 earned-run average in 15 games with the Red Wings. . . . The Orioles had lost 12 of their last 18 games, including 11 in a row to the Red Sox, Tigers and Yankees, when the Wiggins trade was announced. Jim Dwyer had two homers and four runs batted in against the Yankees and two days later Lacy had a four-hit game, but the Orioles lost both times.

JIM HENNEMAN



Tanana Is Happy To Be Home at Last

DETROIT—The Detroit Tigers had traded for Walt Terrell during the off-season, and rookie Randy O'Neal was pitching well as a starter. But the club still needed a fifth starter.

The Tigers went after Cleveland's Bert Blyleven, came close, but didn't get him, and they were interested in the Pirates' John Candelaria. But the Tigers did not come away empty. They switched gears, altered their sights and landed native Detroit Frank Tanana instead, giving up minor league pitcher Duane James to Texas in return.

The trade finally brought Tanana home. In 1971, just out of Detroit Catholic Central High, Tanana had a reasonable hope the Tigers would select him in the June draft. He was still available when it came time for the Tigers, who picked 11th, to

make a choice.

"It was my dream to pitch for Detroit," he said. "I didn't grow up too far away from Tiger Stadium, and that's where I wanted to play."

The Tigers drafted shortstop Tom Veryzer instead. Two picks later, Tanana went to the California Angels, the team for which he led the American League in strikeouts with 269 in 1975 and in earned-run average with a 2.54 mark in 1977. That was back when Tanana's fastball was among the best in baseball, however. He averaged 245 strikeouts for three years, but he hasn't come close since.

The pitcher the Tigers acquired June 20 is a far different commodity than the youngster they passed up 14 years ago. His fastball is gone, but so is the fast lane in which Tanana lived. Now he's a family man, who tries to get by—and often does—on finesse, just as he did in his first start for the Tigers, a 3-1 victory over New York June 23.

Tanana entered that game on the heels of a 2-7 start for the Rangers. He had given up 15 home runs in 77½ innings with Texas, but the Tigers were interested—especially for a minor leaguer. The Tigers' rotation had been without an established lefthanded starter since Dan Schatzeder was traded for Larry Herndon following the 1981 season. And not since Howard Bailey in 1983 had the Tigers even won a game with a lefthanded starter. But Tanana pitched seven shutout innings in winning his first start for Detroit. He gave up eight hits, but he survived.

"I can see already what kind of pitcher he's going to be," said Manager Sparky Anderson. "You have to get him quick and early, or he's on his way. Once he gets in the groove, you're in trouble."

Said Anderson of Tanana's acquisition: "It's nothing but a can't-lose move for us. We were short a starter and didn't have a lefthander, so now we have both. He could be a heckuva find for quite a while. I'm talking four or five years down the line—especially if you spare him the wear and tear. Starting him 22 or 23 times a year, I can see Tanana as a big help."

"If I had to leave Texas, there's not a place I'd rather go than back home," Tanana said. "It's going to be a real treat for my family."

Tiger Tales: Jack Morris pitched his first shutout ever at Fenway Park, blanking the Red Sox, 3-0, on June 25. . . . The Tigers became the second team in the A.L. to reach one million in attendance this season. California was the first. . . . Only two of Darrell Evans' 30 home runs since joining the Tigers have come off lefthanders. . . . Veteran infielder Doug Flynn was signed as a free agent. . . . Rookie Chris Pittaro was sent to Nashville (American Association). . . . Herndon has started wearing glasses during batting practice, but he hasn't worn them in a game yet.

TOM GAGE



Whitt Directs Ire At Red Sox' Kison

TORONTO—The tempers of the Toronto Blue Jays and the Boston Red Sox, which began heating up during a series at Fenway Park a week earlier, finally erupted into a bench-clearing brawl in Toronto June 23.

The spark that lit the fuse was provided when Red Sox pitcher Bruce Kison hit George Bell on the shoulder with a pitch. Bell charged the mound and kicked at Kison, then tagged catcher Rich Gedman with two punches.

Players from both benches charged onto the field. It took nine minutes for order to be restored. Bell was ejected from the game by plate umpire Derryl Cousins, and both benches were warned about further retaliation.

The most obvious casualty was Jays coach John Sullivan, who had charged into the fray to tackle Kison. He received turf burns on his face, and first baseman Bill Buckner of the Red Sox admitted kicking Sullivan in an attempt to get him to release Kison.

"(Kison) is known for that stuff. He has hit a bunch of our guys before," said Jays Manager Bobby Cox.

Kison remained in the game. But two innings later he walked the bases full, and Ernie Whitt cleared them with the first grand slam of his career. When Whitt reached first, he raised his right hand in triumph. After passing second, he shouted at Kison the rest of the trip.

"It was nice," Whitt said. "He kind of lit a fire under me. I was glad to get at him. It's the best way to take care of a matter like that. For a man to have that type of control and throw behind my head, I would say he was throwing at me."

The last time a Jays player had charged the mound was last September, when Willie Upshaw went after Dennis Rasmussen of the New York Yankees after being hit by a pitch. The altercation resulted in a three-game suspension for both.

Although Bell was hit, shortstop Tony Fernandez has been giving the Red Sox the most trouble. Fernandez went 8-for-13 in Boston, where the Red Sox swept a four-game series June 13-16, then went 8-for-14 against the Bosox at Exhibition Stadium, raising his average to .309. He had a homer and drove in all three runs for the Jays June 22, their only loss of the series.

Jays Chatter: Righthander Jim Clancy evened his record at 4-4 by checking the Brewers on six hits in a 7-1 win June 25. . . . Lloyd Moseby, who had only two hits in his previous 22 at-bats, had three singles and stole two bases in leading the Jays to a

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