

Billy Williams: Not Much Talk, Just a Loud Bat

By JEROME HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.—Manager Leo Durocher, who is one of Billy Williams' big boosters, calls him "my silent man." The Cub outfielder doesn't fight it, and admits he doesn't say too much—at that. But then Williams added, almost in self-defense, "I don't know, I do some talking. But what else do I have to say?"

Williams, as Durocher has discovered, operates on the theory that the time to speak is when there is something to say. Hence, Williams seldom says much, and is probably the least-quoted and perhaps the least publicized of any of the National League's top sluggers.

Here in Chicago, for example, Williams doesn't get half the newspaper lineage that is awarded to such Cub stars as Ron Santo and Ernie Banks, who follow him in the batting order. But Williams isn't complaining, and, of course, neither is Manager Durocher.

"All I know about him," said Durocher, "is that he does his job. And he does it every day."

Williams has been doing the job every day since June, 1963, and, as a result, has become baseball's reigning "Iron Man." Including games of August 18, Sweet Billy had played in 782 consecutive National League games, an all-time major league record for outfielders.

Steady Play Tiring

Williams says he never thinks about this record and didn't even know that he now ranks eighth on the all-time list of major league "Iron Men." The only National leaguer ahead of him is Stan Musial, who holds the league record of playing in 895 consecutive games.

"Playing every day," Williams admitted, "takes a lot of wear-and-tear on your body." He says he begins to get that tired feeling in late July and August. He admits, if he did have an occasional day or two of rest, "I might come back stronger."

Williams recalled that he replaced Bobby Will in June, 1963, when he began his "iron-man" streak. "Will was going good, but he couldn't play. He had a bad back. You know, he never did get back into the lineup."

It isn't likely, of course, that the same thing would happen to Williams since he is easily one of the



Phil Regan

Regan Guilty? Bruins Raging At Pelekoudas

By JEROME HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.—Veteran National League umpire Chris Pelekoudas, in what was believed to be an unprecedented action, charged a pitcher with throwing illegal pitches and said he determined this after watching the ball break.

Pelekoudas ruled that Phil Regan, star reliever for the Cubs, was guilty of three illegal pitches in the last three innings in the first game of the August 18 double-header against the Reds.

On all three occasions, Pelekoudas, who was working the plate, changed the ball-strike count and charged Regan with a ball.

Outfielder Alex Johnson was the first beneficiary of Pelekoudas' action. With a count of one ball, two strikes, Johnson hit a ground foul. Pelekoudas said the pitch was illegal and made the count two balls and two strikes.

Johnson then hit a fly ball to center field. Johnny Uppham made the catch, but Pelekoudas nullified the out, again claiming Regan had thrown an illegal pitch. The count was adjusted to three balls and two strikes. Johnson grounded out on the next pitch.

Rose Gets New Chance

Pelekoudas also disqualified a missed third-strike swing by Pete Rose in the ninth inning. Pelekoudas motioned him back and ruled that the pitch was illegal. Rose then singled.

Pelekoudas' ruling touched off what was probably the biggest Wrigley Field rhubarb in more than a decade. Many of the fans in the near-capacity crowd of 30,942 booed the umpires and some of them threw debris on the field.

Manager Leo Durocher, outfielder Lou Spangler and catcher Randy Hundley were ejected.

The Cubs to a man were boiling. Vice-President John Holland immediately announced he was requesting an official hearing from the National League office.

Pelekoudas, an umpire for 20 years, said: "We umpires talked this over some time ago. We decided, 'When we see it, this is how we're going to handle it.'"

Prior to charging Regan with the illegal pitches, the umpires inspected the pitcher's cap and forehead for "foreign substances."

"I could feel the Vaseline on the inner lining of Regan's cap," Pelekoudas said.

N. L. President Warren Giles entered the picture on August 20 when he came to Chicago and quizzed Regan, Durocher and Holland. Giles later informed the press that Regan told him he had used no foreign substance on the ball and "I believe him."

Giles said Pelekoudas had based his suspicion of tampering purely on the flight of the ball. The N. L. prexy cited the difficulties an umpire faces in such situations, but indicated that in the future, the umps would need stronger evidence than Pelekoudas had if they hope to get a conviction.

Banks Recalls Facing Paige in Batting Drills

CHICAGO, Ill.—Ernie Banks, the veteran Cub first baseman, says he's looking forward to the day (or night) when he'll be batting against Satchel Paige.

Banks said he never faced Paige during a regular game, but that he did hit against him once in batting practice.

This was in 1950 when Banks was a 19-year-old shortstop with the Kansas City Monarchs in the old Negro American League.

"It was in Des Moines, Ia.," Banks recalled. "I don't remember all the details. Only that it was an exhibition game and Satch kept telling me where his pitches were going to be."

league's established sluggers. Even in the so-called year of the pitcher, Williams is batting a strong .280, is leading the Cubs in RBIs and has slammed 21 homers.

Williams had his best streak at the plate during the Cubs' recent surge to second place. He had one stretch in which he slugged five homers in five games.

"He's some player," Durocher said several times during Williams' hot streak. "He does the job and never says a word."

Williams, however, isn't as quiet as everyone tries to make him out to be.

He is an astute and knowledgeable hitter and only recently proved it by helping lift Ron Santo out of a long slump.

Santo was watching movies of himself at the plate before a game against the Cardinals and was trying to determine what he was doing wrong.

Billy Offers Advice

Williams was feeling "tired" and decided he wouldn't take batting practice that day. So Billy sat down next to Santo and watched the movies.

Afterwards, Williams gave Santo some advice. He told him he had too much body movement in his swing and that he should concentrate "on seeing the ball."

Santo went out and led the Cubs to a 10-3 win over the Cardinals with a single, double, homer and two walks in five trips.

So, obviously, there are times when Billy does speak. But first he must have something to say.

Bruin Briefs: The Cubs have been making quite a few roster changes. Within the space of two days, they brought up catcher Randy Bobb from San Antonio of the Texas League and pitcher Archie Reynolds from Tacoma of the Pacific Coast League. They replaced catcher John Felske and pitcher Gary Ross. Both were sent to Tacoma. . . . Ed Bouchee, former Cub first baseman, was a clubhouse visitor here during the Cardinal series. He looks fine. . . . Center fielder Adolfo Phillips hurt his back when he crashed into the wall while trying for Roger Maris' long drive and was sidelined for several days. . . . The Cubs' two losses to the Cardinals August 14 and 15 marked the first time since the All-Star break they had lost two games in a row. . . . Outfielder Jim Hickman suffered a jammed thumb and bruises when hit by a pitch August 16.



Billy Williams

If Cubs Will Only Earn Some Cash, They'll Get Lights

By DAVID CONDON

CHICAGO, Ill.—Philip K. Wrigley, the 73-year-old owner of the Cubs, is beginning to see the lights.

He wants the arcs for Wrigley Field, last outpost of strictly daytime baseball. But the big man in the Cubs' lair makes it emphatic he is making no reversal of his traditional stand against night games. If anything, one may judge that baseball's elder statesman is more sold on daytime competition than ever before.

"I'm living for the day when the Cubs may make enough money to put in lights. I hope we make the money for many improvements," Wrigley said the other day. He emphasized: "I don't want lights for night baseball—I want them so we can finish late afternoon games. I also want lights to help the Chicago Bears on those winter days."

The Bears are Wrigley Field tenants during the pro football season, and visibility often is poor in the second half of home games.

Many fans unfamiliar with Wrigley and the Cub organization will scoff at Wrigley's dream of the Cubs making enough money to put in lights. Make enough money? They'll point out that with Wrigley's chewing gum fortune, and his western real estate holdings, he can look at Fort Knox as a petty cash box. But Wrigley's a sound businessman who never has believed in pumping outside money into his baseball enterprise.

Wrigley always has contended that baseball should and could pay its own way, and that's the way the Cubs have operated. Few fans realize that at one time the Cubs owned lights and had made preparations to install them, but then Pearl Harbor happened and the lights went to war. Inflation since has put the cost of lights beyond reach because, since the end of World War II, the Chicagoans haven't enjoyed any bonanzas at the box office.

Contender Will Pack Them In

The Cubs opened a home stand against the Cardinals on August 12, and followed with a series against Cincinnati. From Monday through Sunday, they drew 183,325 paying customers into Wrigley Field. After Wrigley had noted attendances of 30,693 and 35,198 for the first two games with the Cardinals, he observed: "There's one personal satisfaction. The crowds at Wrigley Field have justified my firm belief that a contending team doesn't need night baseball."

"The Cubs have done so much research to prove that a city the size of Chicago has many thousands of people who have time off in the daylight hours. Aside from the race track, there is no place for the sport fan in this group to enjoy himself, except baseball."

He talked with Wrigley when the Cubs were in second place solidly. There was no hint of the tailspin that was to victimize them later in the week. They just had won two from the Cardinals, and a very happy P. K. said:

"The manager gets all the credit. I've known Leo Durocher for many years, and he has proved to be the leader we needed. For a long while, we felt the Cubs had the nucleus of a good team, but our players lacked a field leader."

Wrigley Proposal Jolted Holland

"When I suggested to John Holland (the general manager) that we go after Durocher, Holland was the most surprised person in the world. But we got Leo, and he has done the job."

"Leo has taken a bunch of individual stars and made them pull together as a team. That's very difficult for a baseball manager to accomplish, and I'll tell you why."

"When a team is down, the players realize that they are going nowhere as a team. So each player's natural instinct is to improve his own individual status. If the team cannot stand out, he plays to stand out as an individual."

Wrigley revealed why he is absent from the ball park when the rest of Chicago has been standing in line to watch the Cubs play:

"I have to see the games on television. I've been so wrapped up in this team, and so anxious about it, for so many years, that sitting out in the ball park was a burden I couldn't take. Frankly, I just get too nervous sitting out there."

The Cubs' sudden surge caused a flurry in the sale of a few hundred shares of stock not owned by Wrigley, and the price skyrocketed to \$520 per share.

"I know I'm not going to be around forever," Wrigley said, "so I've tried to build up a good management team. I have a fine man in John Holland."

Reminded that some fans didn't consider that Holland had the "oomph" of general managers of the Bill Veeck and Frank Lane caliber, Wrigley said:

"I judge a baseball man more by what my associates in the game think than by what the fans demand."



P. K. WRIGLEY