

Remy is Mr. Consistency for Rollicking Red Sox

By LARRY WHITESIDE

BOSTON—In the beginning, Jerry Remy would have settled for credibility. The hometown kid who came back to be the Red Sox second baseman had enough of a burden. Stardom could come later.

Well, it is three-quarters of a season later and, sure enough, the lefthanded-hitting Remy is everything the Red Sox wanted last winter when they traded promising pitcher Don Aase to California to get him. A recent 19-game hitting streak brought him national attention. But, in truth, he has been a model of consistency all year long.

"I KNOW I WON'T have as many stolen bases this year as I've had in the past," said Remy. "But I honestly feel this has been my best

overall season since I've been in baseball. I'm playing good defense and I'm hitting the ball pretty well. I think I've done everything they've asked of me."

There is no argument about Remy's contributions. He has been the Scoot of the Red Sox' now-famous Hoot and Scoot keystone combination. Hoot is, of course, shortstop Rick Burleson, whose .253 average is no true barometer of his skills, either.

"I don't know why people are surprised about Remy's hitting streak," said Red Sox Manager Don Zimmer. "He's been between .260 and .270 most of the year. He'll get his one-two hits a night."

ON JULY 28, Remy was hitting .261. By August 15, he was up to .272 and climbing. Remy had 20 stolen

bases, far short of the projected 40 he thought he might have. But when you're batting second and on base in front of Jim Rice, the tendency is to let things happen naturally.

Remy's fielding, while not the acrobatic style of his predecessor, Denny Doyle, has been steady. Last year, while batting .252 for the Angels, he made 19 errors, which is one of the reasons California decided to move him. Thus far, he's made only eight, and he's one of the prime reasons the Sox have been able to turn 118 double plays. Of course, it also helps to have Burleson making the pivot play with his cannon arm.

"THE ONLY time I was worried," said Remy, who grew up in nearby Fall River, "was during the first weeks of the season. We opened on the road and I made two errors in one game and I was sure when I got home I'd be booed. But I wasn't and, after a time, I seemed to relax. The fans and the guys have been very good. This is the first year I've played with the same shortstop for any real time in a season. Playing with an All-Star has got to help the way you play. It's been great."

And Remy has been good for the Red Sox. The next day in Cleveland, after the errors, he collected four singles in a 6-3 triumph. His bat has been steady ever since.

"I'm not doing anything differently," said Remy, who has worked closely all year with Red Sox bullpen coach Walt Hriniak. "I still try to go up there and make contact, like I did in spring training."

"I'M NOT A home-run hitter. My best shot still goes only 370. I leave the home runs to the big guys. But I hit the ball where it is pitched and try to hit line drives. Either I hit it hard on a line or on the ground. That's my best chance of getting a hit. When I get the ball up into the air, I'm in trouble."

Remy, however, does get one up in the air occasionally. On August 5, he slammed a home run down the line (310) into the right field seats in Milwaukee. Teammates, of course, greeted him with a Bronx cheer—those teammates who didn't pretend to faint.

"Yeah, they gave me a hard time," said Remy. "A home run is nice. But, to tell you the truth, I'd

rather chop it up for four singles."

But no single could have been nicer than the three-man homer Remy hit to beat the A's, 4-2, August 20.

ABOUT THE ONLY thing bad that has happened to Remy lately is the fact that his uniform, glove and other equipment disappeared when the club arrived in Anaheim for the start of a West Coast trip. Remy wound up wearing a pair of borrowed shoes, a spring training uniform, and played with Frank Duffy's glove.

"The thing that bugs me," said the 5-9 Remy, "is that some punk kid is running around the California playgrounds with my glove and my uniform."

But Bob Bailey thinks Remy should get his uniform back very quickly.

"We have at least one good clue," quipped Bailey. "We know

for sure the thief was a midget."

Sox Yarns: An injured wrist finally forced Carl Yastrzemski out of the lineup for several games. Jim Rice helped pick up the slack by hitting .543 in eight games (19-35) and regained his home-run touch.

Remy's streak overshadowed a 17-game surge by Burleson, who has returned from an injury at the All-Star break and hit at a .291 clip (25-86). . . . The Sox are overjoyed with the work of Bob Stanley (9-1, eight saves) who has had four victories and a save in his last six outings. "Right now," said Zimmer, "Stanley is a one-pitch pitcher (sinker). But he's improving his slider and once he gets that over, no telling how good he can be."

Seven straight losses haven't soured Zimmer on lefty Bill Lee (10-10). "He hasn't had any luck," Zimmer said.

Phillies Top 2 Million

Compiled By Craig Carter
(Through Games of August 20)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Club	Home Dates	1978 Attendance	1977 Attendance	Increase Decrease
Baltimore	51	842,634	857,795	- 15,161
Boston	55	1,643,146	1,533,075	+ 110,071
California	63	1,431,094	1,253,420	+ 177,674
Chicago	59	1,267,604	1,379,638	- 112,034
Cleveland	57	719,264	798,214	- 78,950
Detroit	55	1,350,022	1,172,858	+ 177,164
Kansas City	59	1,725,826	1,437,681	+ 288,145
Milwaukee	60	1,352,582	1,034,566	+ 318,016
Minnesota	53	652,871	805,492	- 152,621
New York	54	1,592,998	1,464,378	+ 128,620
Oakland	59	477,624	443,187	+ 34,437
Seattle	64	754,536	1,224,435	- 469,899
Texas	57	1,225,029	1,038,632	+ 186,397
Toronto	54	1,264,956	1,298,737	- 33,781
Totals	800	16,300,186	15,742,108	+ 558,078

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Club	Home Dates	1978 Attendance	1977 Attendance	Increase Decrease
Atlanta	53	743,255	689,799	+ 53,456
Chicago	59	1,305,036	1,227,592	+ 77,444
Cincinnati	55	1,929,779	1,895,647	+ 34,132
Houston	58	958,712	898,772	+ 59,940
Los Angeles	57	2,411,294	2,222,245	+ 189,049
Montreal	63	1,234,153	1,278,466	- 44,313
New York	60	883,386	1,001,754	- 118,368
Philadelphia	61	2,091,668	2,033,854	+ 57,814
Pittsburgh	54	719,742	984,903	- 265,161
St. Louis	62	1,092,903	1,379,253	- 286,350
San Diego	55	1,281,432	1,090,351	+ 191,081
San Francisco	54	1,334,960	566,324	+ 768,636
Totals	691	15,986,320	15,268,960	+ 717,360

NOTE: Totals based on attendance figures announced in box scores.

Jays Boast a 6-1 Log on Home Stand

By NEIL MacCARL

TORONTO—The Blue Jays wound up their most successful home stand ever by edging the Royals, 3-2 in 10 innings August 13. It was the Jays' sixth win in seven games, bettering a 6-2 home stay which concluded July 2.

The Jays' lone loss in the seven games was by 9-8 in 10 innings to the Royals in a game in which the Jays had led, 7-3, after four innings.

Veteran designated hitter Rico Carty hit three home runs, drove in six runs and set team records for both homers and RBIs in his farewell home stand with the Jays.

He was traded to Oakland August 15 before the Jays opened a four-game series in Milwaukee. The Jays obtained 35-year-old Willie Horton as a replacement, but more important, they also acquired Phil Huffman, a 20-year-old righthanded pitcher who had a 7-6 record with Vancouver in the Pacific Coast League this season. He joined the Jays' Syracuse farm in the International League.

Carty hit a game-winning, two-run homer, his 19th, in a 7-3 win over the White Sox August 10, giving him 66 RBIs, two more than the club record shared by Ron Fairly and Doug Ault. The next night he hit his 20th homer off Dennis Leonard of Kansas City, to set

the home-run mark. Fairly hit 19 last year for the Jays.

Blue Jay Jottings: Jesse Jefferson blanked the White Sox, 8-0, with a three hitter August 9, the second time this season he has shut out the Sox. . . . The following night, lefty Jerry Garvin started off with four scoreless innings against the Sox. Garvin, pitching in place of Dave Lemanczyk, was credited with the victory, his first since April 30 (101 days) and it was his first win at Exhibition Stadium since May 10, 1977. Rookie reliever Victor Cruz preserved the win the final two innings and picked up his eighth save. Cruz suffered his first major league defeat August 11 when Freddie Patek of the Royals got a two-out walk, stole second and scored on Clint Hurdle's single in the 10th inning.

Jim Clancy squared his record at 9-9 with a 5-2 win over Kansas City August 12, settling down after the first two innings and allowing only two more hits. Batterymate Rick Cerone had a run-scoring triple and his first homer at Exhibition Stadium with his parents, Aldo and Rosemary, from Newark, N. J., watching. . . . Outfielder Bob Bailor scored from second base as Otto Velez grounded out in the 10th inning for the winning run over the Royals, ending the home stand. Lefty Mike Willis got the win in relief, his first since May 16.

Torborg Erases Grin, Blasts Beefing Indians

By BOB SUDYK

CLEVELAND—Indians' Manager Jeff Torborg, long considered a mild-mannered Clark Kent, didn't step into a phone booth to change his "nice guy" image. Rather, he stepped into his office, where he chewed out pitcher Jim Kern and rookie Ted Cox.

After giving up a game-losing home run in Texas August 5, relief ace Kern suggested he would be better off calling all of his pitches since he knew himself better than anybody, including Torborg.

The manager called Kern on the carpet, disgusted that his pitcher would reveal the contents of a private meeting. "I told him he could call his own game then, but I'm withdrawing that now. If there is a key pitch in a tight situation, I'll decide," he said.

A few days later, a frustrated Cox, who is being tested in right field, remarked to the press that he would talk to Torborg about his future, "but I don't feel he would be honest with me." Cox was upset riding the bench.

Smoke curled from Torborg's cap again and he replied publicly, "I've had it. I've kept quiet before. I don't like players saying I lie to them. I won't keep quiet after character assassinations. All this is going to stop."

Smiling Jeff was frowning more during the dog days of the season, believing his good nature was being taken advantage of by several players as the Tribe continued to struggle some 10 games below .500.

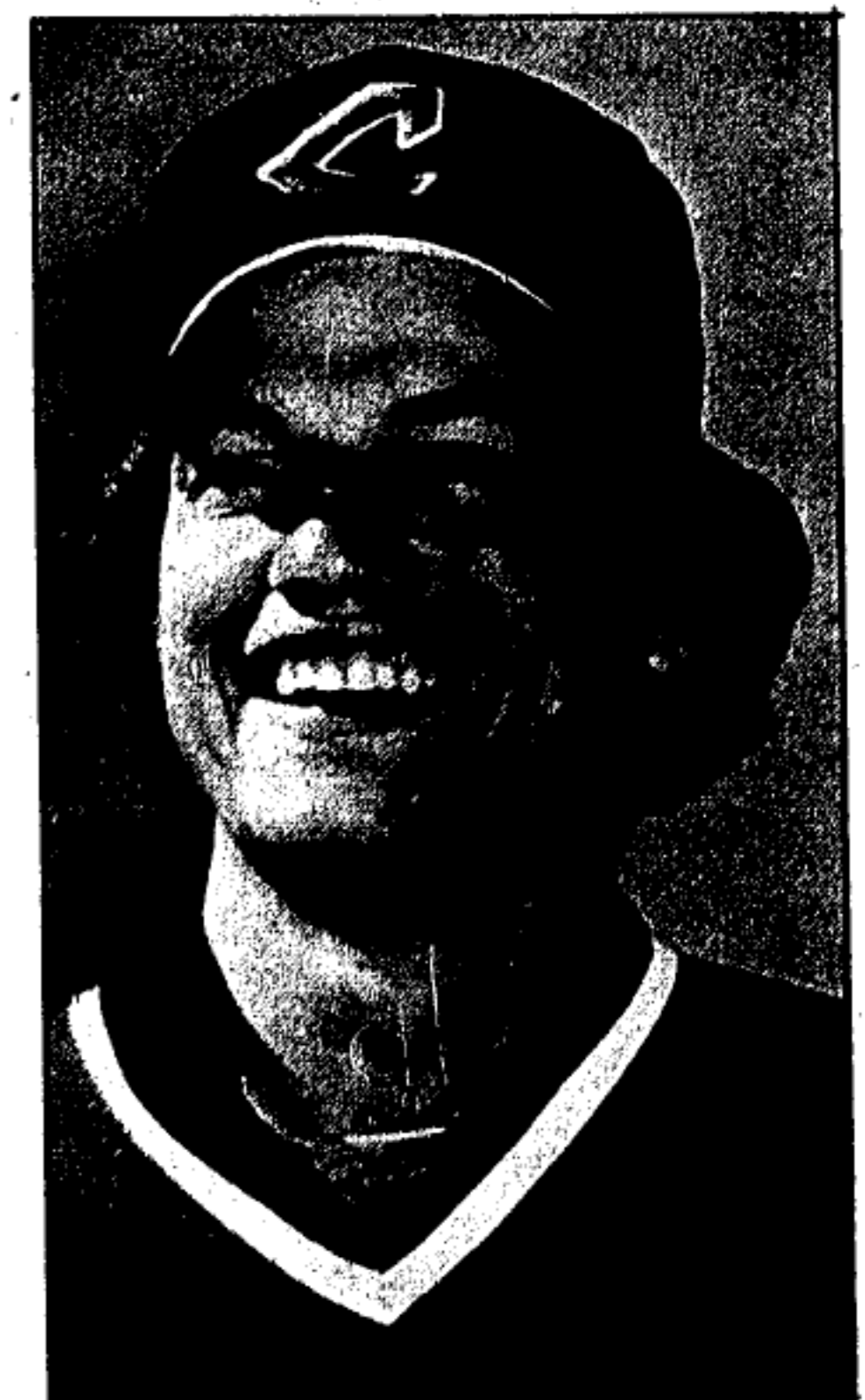
Tribe Tidbits: Indians' chief executive Gabe Paul fired a volley in defense of Torborg: "They got nerve getting on Jeff. Who is doing the losing? The great mouthpieces will be going. We'll get rid of the rotten apples." His reference was leveled at all the grumblers. . . . Paul believes the Tribe's strength is the infield, which he believes is the best in the league with glove and bat. In mid-August, the infield was hitting .280 and had driven in 181 runs. . . . Second baseman Duane Kuiper has cartilage damage in the right knee, requiring surgery.

Incidentally, Paul is having a professional arranger prepare a record with special lyrics to the tune, "Don't Blame Me," which he says he will play when players

seek him out for salary increases and renegotiation. "Each guy tells you it isn't his fault the club keeps losing. I'll just turn on the record and let him listen," said Paul. . . . Johnny Grubb and Bernie Carbo (seeking five-year, \$1 million pacts) can become free agents.

Pitcher Rick Waits provoked a near free-for-all when his first pitch sailed behind Bobby Bonds' head. It was in retaliation for a remark Bonds made when both teams were in adjoining docks waiting for separate flights out of the Dallas airport. Bonds suggested aloud that the Indians might be better off letting catcher Gary Alexander call the pitches. The Tribe had just lost two in succession on two-run homers with two out in the final innings.

The two losses in Texas started a tailspin which saw the Indians drop nine of their next 10 games. Paul said those two televised defeats in Texas would cost the club \$500,000 in box-office losses the rest of the year. . . . Kern recorded his 10th save August 14 to continue as the holder of the team high. . . . Alexander had fanned 134 times, remaining just two behind Bonds' pace when he set the major league record of 189 in 1970 with San Francisco.



Jim Kern