



An eye injury two years ago nearly ended his career.

pitcher is no good if he walks all the enemy batters. For a while, Herb threatened to do just that. In 1953, pitching for the Reading, Pa., club in the Eastern League, he walked 126 men in 98 innings, for an average of 12 per nine-inning game. But in 1954, at Indianapolis, the Indians' top farm club, he suddenly found the touch. He won 22 games and lost only five as he struck out the awesome total of 330 batters and walked only 140 in 251 innings of pitching. He was ready for his shot at the big time.

Herb's 16 victories in 1955 and 20 in 1956 showed exactly how ready he was. Then Lady Luck turned her back on him again in '57 and he was at the crisis of his career. He had plenty of people rooting for him—his mother; his young wife Nancy, whom he had married two months after the accident; his pal Rocky Colavito; the fans and the sports-writers; and even Gil McDougald, who had suffered bitter remorse ever since the ball had crashed off his bat into Herb's eye.

Rocky, Cleveland's newest slugging hero, was a big help to Herb. The two boys had been together at Reading and Indianapolis, and they became inseparable. Rocky worked out with Herb, and even more important, encouraged him constantly. In the Spring of 1958, during one of their sessions in Tucson, Ariz., Herb became convinced that Rocky was deliberately trying to hit the ball away from him to help him regain his confidence.

"Come on," he jeered, "this isn't doing me any good. You get a cigar if you hit me!"

When the inflamed elbow and his resultant retirement ruined that season for him, Herb turned to 1959 with new determination. As the season began, he pitched well in one game and badly in another. Then he was sent against the Yankees on Saturday, May 2, just about two years since the day he had been hit. Gil McDougald was still in there swinging for the Yanks, along with Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, and the rest of Casey Stengel's wrecking crew. Baseball men in every city paused to watch, and wonder. Did Score still have it? He had it, and then some! Pitching with all his old-time speed and skill, Herb struck out 13 Yankee hitters, gave only six hits in working the complete game, and won handily, 5-2.

One game doesn't make a season, but that particular game meant a lot to Herb Score. It meant that he still had his stuff. Even more important, it may have meant that the luck of Herb Score is improving.

It's about time it did.



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