

Oldtimers Find Year Filled With Releases

By JACK CUDDY
United Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (UP)—Maybe this is a boom year but don't try to sell that idea to a host of aging, arm-weary and foot-sore major leaguers who suddenly found themselves without jobs.

They knew the day they stepped into big league flannels for the first time that eventually they would hear the two words mumbled by all players—unconditionally released—but that didn't ease the blow any when it came.

So far this year, 23 players—16 from the American League and 7 from the National—have been dropped. Some found employment in the minors, others took non-playing jobs in baseball, and still others left the game for good. But as far as the "big top" was concerned it was the end of the trail.

They became free agents with permission to make deals for themselves with any team willing to gamble on a few more victories

in overfired pitching arms, a scattered base hit here and there from one time sluggers.

But for the troubled 23 the deal-making privilege didn't work. The record books have closed on their achievements and with the new bumper crop of rookies they soon will be all but forgotten.

Some, perhaps, were once brilliant enough to be bona fide candidates for the Hall of Fame. Others were All-Stars, World Series heroes, and veterans who shone for a time then faded like old score cards.

Put them altogether at their peak and, except for a few positions, they would comprise a mythical All-Star team to gladden the heart of any manager.

Most of the passing paraders were pitchers and at least two—Superchief Alie Reynolds of the Yankees and Prince Hal Newhouse, who hurled so superbly for the Tigers—could make the Hall of Fame. Ewell Blackwell, briefly meteoric for Cincinnati, before journeying on to the Yankees and Athletics, also might have been a candidate had not arm trouble shortened his career.

The other huriling heroes had their moments, too. Johnny Sain helped the Yankees win three pennants before moving on to Kansas City. There were relief ace Alpha Brantley of the Cardinals and finally the White Sox, spot pitching veteran Connie Marrero of Washington; Howie Fox of Cincy and Baltimore; Sid Hudson of the Red Sox; durable Larry Jansen and lefty Dave Koslo of the Giants, who finally wound up at Milwaukee, and Preacher Roe of the Dodgers with that sneaky spit ball.

There was only one catcher, Mickey Grasso, and he was a good workman in the pads even though he never set the world on fire at bat. The Giants released him after drafting him last fall out of the Cleveland organization.

Phil Cavaretta, who wound up his many years in Chicago with the White Sox after true stardom at first base with the Cubs, is another Hall of Fame candidate. Other All-Stars among the infielders include Johnny Pesky of Boston and Baltimore; fancy fielding Billy Cox of Brooklyn; Vern Stephens, a true slugger who finally quit with the White Sox; and Pete Suder, a dependable batter for the Athletics since 1941.

Two others had to quit prematurely. Davey Williams of the Giants because of his aching back, and Cass Michaels of the White Sox because of a bean ball that fractured his skull. Examinations Monday indicated there is an outside chance that Williams may be able to come back next season.

There were four outfielders, none great, but all veterans who stuck it out for a decade or more. The Phils let go Johnny Wyrostek, Milwaukee dropped George Meikovich, the White Sox cut loose Willard Marshall, and Baltimore said goodbye to Wally Westlake.

After the meeting, which he described as "one of the best we ever had," he said the trouble appeared to be an attempt to pitch "too fine." He was hopeful the meeting "may have relaxed them. It might have helped a bit."

With the pitching collapse has come a slump at the plate. Bill Virdon, rookie outfielder, has been the only consistent clutch hitter. He's batted in 9 of the 19 runs scored over the past five games.

Stan Musial, the club's No. 1 slugger, in the last 13 games has brought home only six runs.

Cards Headed For Low Spot In Loop Race

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals, staggering along with an undependable bullpen, have just a little batting punch, have just 48 games left to prevent what could be the club's worst National League finish since 1919.

Branch Rickey, as field manager that year, brought his club in seventh. Four Cardinal clubs have finished sixth since the World War I days, including Eddie Stanky's 1934 model, but none has hit the No. 7 spot.

The Cardinals and Harry (The Hat) Walker now stand with a 49-60 mark, 26 games off the pace and 3½ games behind sixth-place Cincinnati. And they've lost 10 of the last 15 games.

St. Louis, since including the 1919 finish, has been in the league's second division only nine times against 27 first-division berths.

Walker, who took over from the ousted Stanky during the current season, said today:

"Relief pitching has been the big problem. And it doesn't make any difference who's in there."

The Hat, after throwing seven pitchers into a losing cause against Philadelphia Sunday, held his hurling staff after school for 90 minutes with a closed-door conference.

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Kretlow Top PCL Pitcher

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Another ex-major leaguer is cruising along the comeback trail with Seattle in the Pacific Coast League.

Last season it was Tommy Byrne's, currently the American League's No. 1 pitcher with the New York Yankees, who regained his winning stride while hurling for the Rainiers. This year it's Lou Kretlow, castoff by Baltimore early in the season and signed by Seattle.

Kretlow won two more games for Seattle last week to boost his record to 11 wins against no defeats in the Coast League. That makes him the loop's winningest pitcher, topping last week's leaders, Don Euston of Los Angeles, and Al Lyons of Hollywood, both of whom lost. Euston has a 13-5 record and Lyons 10-4.

Averages of the top 10:
Name and club G B B O S W L Pct.
Kretlow, Sea 13 49 68 11 0 1.000
Watkins, Sac 6 8 7 2 0 1.000
Trimble, Hwd 27 35 44 5 1 .833
Schubert, Port 26 18 29 7 2 .778
Lyons, SD-Hwd 36 26 27 10 4 .714
Lyons, SD-Hwd 36 26 27 10 4 .714
Elliott, Port 24 12 43 5 2 .714
B. Wade, Hwd 12 22 37 7 3 .700
Munger, Hwd 27 45 92 16 7 .696
Oldham, Sea 26 66 42 9 4 .692

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Major League LEADERS

By UNITED PRESS
National League
Player & Club G. A. B. R. H. Pct.
Campbell, Bkn. 86 320 60 107 .334
Ashburn, Phila. 104 400 64 131 .328
Post, Cin. 111 441 85 140 .317
Snider, Bkn. 107 391 95 123 .313
Klusaski, Cin. 110 434 81 136 .313

American League
Kalline, Det. 105 425 96 149 .351
Kuenn, Det. 100 420 71 141 .329
Power, K.C. 103 421 67 134 .318
Smith, Cleve. 109 439 85 138 .314
Kell, Chicago 91 307 33 96 .313

Home Runs—Snider, Dodgers 38; Banks, Cubs 37; Klusaski, Redlegs 36; Mays, Giants 35; Matthews, Braves 35; Post, Redlegs 29.

Runs Batted In—Snider, Dodgers 109; Banks, Cubs 90; Emmis, Phillies 90; Jensen, Red Sox 88; Mays, Giants 86; Boone, Tigers 86.

Runs—Kalline, Tigers 90; Snider, Dodgers 93; Mantle, Yankees 90; Mays, Giants 85; Smith, Indians 85.

Hits—Kalline, Tigers 149; Kuenn, Tigers 141; Post, Redlegs 140; Smith, Indians 138; Bell, Redlegs 137.

Pitching—Newcombe, Dodgers 18-2; Byrne, Yankees 10-3; Donovan, White Sox 13-4; Erskine, Dodgers 10-4; Ford, Yankees 12-5.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rochester 7, Montreal 6
Buffalo 8, Toronto 5
Richmond 4, Columbus 3 (11 innings)

Syracuse 4-1, Havana 0-4
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
Denver 2, Louisville 1
Omaha 7, Indianapolis 9

Only games scheduled
TEXAS LEAGUE
Oklahoma City 3, Houston 2
San Antonio 9-3, Tulsa 3-6
Dallas 1, Beaumont 0

PIONEER LEAGUE
Great Falls 4, Idaho Falls 3
Pocatello 3, Billings 2 (11 innings)
Boise 5, Magic Valley 2

The first righthanded pitcher to shutout the Cleveland Indians this season was Connie Johnson of the White Sox on July 9.

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With the pitching collapse has come a slump at the plate. Bill Virdon, rookie outfielder, has been the only consistent clutch hitter. He's batted in 9 of the 19 runs scored over the past five games.

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Red Sox, NY Vie In Big Games

NEW YORK (AP)—Breathing fire and oozing confidence, the torrid Boston Red Sox storm into the Yankee Stadium tonight for the opener of a three-game series with the reeling New York Yankees.

In the past two months, the Sox have won 43 of their last 59 games for a fantastic .729 mark and have fought their way to within a game and a half of first place in the American League.

The Yanks, on the other hand, have won just 12 of their last 34 games for .353 mark.

"Right now our chances are as good as anyone's," chirped rookie Manager Pinky Higgins. "What we do will depend a great deal on our 12 remaining games with the Yanks. But the games mean a lot to the Yanks too."

Higgins indicated he would start Willard Nixon against Whitey Ford in the first game. Nixon is a natural, having beaten the Yanks in three of four tries.

Yanks Manager Casey Stengel will pitch Don Larsen tomorrow and Bob Turley Thursday. Higgins has not decided who will oppose them.

Stengel has nothing but worries. He's concerned over the club offense and went so far as to admit that this is the poorest club, so far as consistent hitting is concerned, that he's had since he took over in 1949.

"Ever since they beat us in that July 4 double-header, those Red Sox have been hot," observed Stengel gloomily. "They're getting pitching, hitting and fielding. Well, maybe we can cool them off in the same place."

SPORTS IN BRIEF
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI—Dow Finsterwald, Bedford Heights, Ohio, won the Queen City Open with a 73-69—129 total.

RACING
OCEANPORT, N. J. — Needles (\$15.60) upset unbeaten Decathlon and Polly's Jet in the \$37,850 Sapling Stakes at Monmouth Park.

CHICAGO — Swoon's Son (\$44) won his fourth straight by taking the \$19,175 George Woolf Memorial at Washington Park.

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HOME RUN—Johnny Kucks and Barbara Daum intend to bat 1,000 as a home team. The New York Yankees' recruit right-hand pitcher has become engaged to his high school sweetheart.

Hero Praise Nothing To 49er Grid Rookie

By HAL WOOD
United Press Sports Writer
MORAGA, Calif. (UP)—Hero headlines in San Francisco newspapers yesterday failed to turn the head of young George Maderos, the Cinderella kid and pride of Chico, Calif.

Maderos, a former all-around athlete at Chico State College, still has the same ambition he had when he first signed with the San Francisco Forty Niners football club a few months ago.

"The only thing I'm thinking about is making good on this club," he said as he relaxed at training quarters here. "No matter what the papers said, I still haven't made the team until the final cut has been made."

The soft-spoken star who stole the show from the veterans in the season's inaugural exhibition game, in which he saved a 7-6 victory for his club by blocking a field goal attempt in the final seconds, was awarded the game ball after the battle.

It was only the second time in the history of the Forty Niners, covering a spread of about 140 games, that a rookie ever has been awarded the game ball. The other was Charley Powell three years ago.

Maderos looked like the best defensive back on the field in his baptism of the professional game.

"He is a rookie playing like a veteran," said head coach Red Strader. "This boy loves competition. He is smart and he shows a lot of initiative. He thinks all the time."

Line coach Phil Bengston also is high in his praise of the rookie.

"He has wonderful coordination and the lack of weight won't hurt him at all," said Bengston.

The official roster lists Maderos at 187 pounds.

"I weighed 179 pounds after our final workout before the game on Sunday," said Maderos. "If the weather is hot, sometimes I weigh as low as 174 after a stiff scrimmage. But I usually enter a game around 180."

San Francisco Whips Suds; Twinks Win 4-1

By PETER HAYES
United Press Sports Writer

According to the song it's a shame if the home team doesn't win, so the Pacific Coast League put in a pretty sad evening Monday.

There were only two games but the visiting firemen took both of them. And everybody in the league except Portland and Seattle profited.

San Francisco reared up from the depths of last place and plastered the league leading Seattle.

Underhanded Moundsman Inked By Suds

SEATTLE (AP)—That "secret atomic pitch" Bob Fesler has used for years to bamboozle his opponents at softball soon may be baffling Pacific Coast League batters.

Or so the Seattle Rainiers are hoping.

Dewey Soriano, Seattle general manager, announced Tuesday the Rainiers have signed Fesler, for ten years one of the country's top softball pitchers, to a contract to pitch regulation baseball in the PCL.

The news release telling of the signing said Fesler, 35, not only will be pitching from the standard 60 feet, six inch mound, but will "PITCH UNDERHANDED IN EXACTLY THE SAME MANNER THAT HAS PUSHED HIM TO THE TOP RUNGS OF SOFTBALL."

Seattle first talked of signing Fesler after his exhibition at a recent Seattle-Sacramento game during which he fanned nine men who faced him.

Since then, Soriano said, Fesler has been working with Dick (Kewpie) Barrett, former Seattle pitching ace, and "has developed four pitches—a sinker, or drop ball; a screwball, which breaks in to righthanded batters, a tantalizing sweeping curve, and a breaking ball that he secretly refers to as his 'Atomic pitch.'"

But, according to the coaches and the fans, Maderos is a "can't miss" sure-shot for professional football stardom.

Oh, yes. And while Maderos is worrying about making the squad, Strader announced that the lad definitely will be a starter on the defensive team against Pittsburgh at Sacramento on Saturday night.

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