

A Pinch of Pepper: Chatterbox Quilici Pepping Up Twins

By DICK GORDON

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

The Twins have a new second baseman. More important, at long last they have a "talk it up" infielder, their first such peppercorn since Billy Martin quit as an active player after the 1961 season.

He is Frank Quilici, who was called up from Minnesota's Denver (Coast) farm, July 18, to give Zoilo Versalles, the weary iron man, some much-needed rest at shortstop. Frank did that so efficiently, while Zoilo sat out two games for the first time this season, that it was also decided to give the 26-year-old rookie a chance at second base.



Frank Quilici

Here's what Manager Sam Mele had to say after Quilici's first five games at the keystone: "He gives us the chatter and some of the leadership we need in the infield. So far, he has hit good pitchers like Steve Barber (Baltimore) and Dean Chance (Angels). If he continues that way, he'll be our second baseman. It looks like he can do it all."

For his first week's work, Quilici was 9-for-35 at the plate, with three of his hits and a couple of walks coming at highly opportune times. In the field, he was errorless at both positions and participated in 11 double plays.

Those are the tangibles. But it was his intangible Martin-Eddie Stanky characteristics that stood out even more.

Frank Talks Constantly, Just Like Martin

"Quilici never shuts up," said Mele, who has been cognizant for some time of the Twins' need for a holler guy in the infield. That role has never been filled by players like Harmon Killebrew and Versalles, even though they possess far more natural ability than Quilici.

Martin did give the Twins that chatterbox type during the brief period in 1961 when he was a regular. But Billy was over the hill then and spent much of the time on the bench after he was acquired in a midseason trade. Since then, except when Bob Allison exerted his forceful leadership as a 1964 first baseman, the complaint about the Twins' infield acting "dead" has had a ring of truth.

Now, however, Martin can see his counterpart in Quilici. Like the Twins' coach, Quilici grew up in a big city. And he appears to have combined the aggressiveness of Chicago's South Side with maturity and poise acquired by working his way through Western Michigan University.

"I've always wanted to play major league baseball," he said right after his bat and glove sparked a Twins' victory. "I made up my mind when I got here I was just going to be me. Then if I have to go back to the minors, I'll know I gave it my best shot."

Right now, there seems small chance he'll return to Denver. "He's a battler," said Mele. "I noticed that when he bobbled a ground ball. Some rookies might have started scrambling. He just picked it up calmly and made the play."

Different From Bonus Boys—He Loves the Game

"You find one like him every ten years," said Martin. "He's not like so many of the bonus boys you see in baseball today. Quilici is the kind who plays because he loves the game."

In the field, he has only limited range, but Martin says he compensates by taking "short cuts" and learning how to play the hitters.

An added dividend was Rich Rollins' remark "that he keeps me loose." And the nervous Rollins would probably be the first to admit keeping him loose is a king-sized, as well as worthwhile, job.

Twin Tracks: Coach Hal Naragon completed his tour as acting manager while Sam Mele served out his suspension, leaving with a 4-2 record and the same three and one-half game league lead the Twins held when he took over. . . . Jim Perry finally suffered his first defeat of the year after seven victories. Perry, who was once on the trading block, then got a couple of chances in relief before finally being called on in desperation as a starter. He walked the winning run on base in the ninth in Baltimore's 3-2 victory, but wasn't around when it actually crossed the plate. . . . The Twins are now 11-1 against Boston this season, after their recent series sweep in Beantown. For two years against the Red Sox, the Twins boast a 24-6 record. . . . The club's hitting hasn't been robust since the All-Star break, but Fenway Park, as usual, remedied that. The Twins banged out 39 hits and 30 runs in the three games. . . . Tony Oliva went 5-for-6 in one game at Boston, with four of his hits of the scratch variety. . . . That raised the average of the 1964 A. L. batting champion to .299.

Bucs Likely to Switch Training Site

By SYDNEY MAGILL

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla.—A \$1.5 million bond issue is being prepared by this North Broward County city to provide facilities for luring the Pirates and their minor league clubs for spring training.

The city attorney expected to have the bond resolutions ready for final approval in early August. City officials said bonding houses can be expected to bid for the bonds since they are backed by cigarette and franchise revenues.

The funds would provide for a complex of four practice fields for the Pirates' minor league teams and a stadium which would seat 4,500 people. The stadium would be lighted for night games. The city would also construct dormitories for housing the players.

In conjunction with the bond issue, an organization of

fans is now raising \$100,000. The organization, Deerstad, would lease the facilities from the city for an amount equal to the annual payment of the bond debt.

The Pirates have said, if the facilities are provided, they would enter into a 30-year lease agreement with the city. Pirate official Joe O'Toole has been here conferring with local officials.

The Pirates' minor league teams, which have been training at Daytona Beach, would come here next spring for pre-season drills. The Pirates have another year to go on their contract with Ft. Myers and would come here in 1967.

Deerfield is located five miles north of Pompano Beach, where the Senators train, and 19 miles north of Ft. Lauderdale, spring home of the Yankees.

Feast or Famine, Never a Dull Moment for Corsairs' Curvers

By LES BIEDERMAN

PITTSBURGH, Pa.

Pirate pitchers had an unusual week. One obtained unexpected help from a broadcaster, another couldn't find home plate and a third pitched his second one-hitter in ten years, both at the same park.

Don Hoak, now a member of the Pirate broadcasting team, helped Vern Law break his four-game streak with a bit of advice.

Bob Veale became the first Pirate moundsman to win ten games, and it was a contest he'll not forget for a long time. And neither will Harry Walker. Veale thought somebody was moving home plate.

And to top it off, Bob Friend blanked the Cubs, 6-0, on a one-hitter, almost ten years after he first performed the feat against the same team in the same place: Wrigley Field.

Friend not only won his fifth game and pitched his thirty-fourth shut-out, but collected his first hit in 76 times at bat.

All of this entitled Friend to his first post-game press conference of the season.

The temperature was in the 90s and the humidity high when Friend pitched his masterpiece. He gave an infield hit to Don Landrum with one out in the fourth inning and that was it.

Friend, who is having his troubles this year, kidded with the writers, who gave him the "royal press conference" treatment.

Like Clock-Work

"Why all the excitement?" Friend asked, trying to keep a straight face. "I pitch one-hitters every ten years against the Cubs in Chicago."

Friend held the Cubs to one hit on September 7, 1955, when Frankie Baumholtz, who had good speed, outlegged a grounder to second base with one out in the eighth inning.

"I can still see that ball bouncing over the mound near second and Johnny O'Brien coming in for the quick throw," Friend remembered. "But Baumholtz beat it out."

The one-hitter on July 23 was similar. The base-hit came early—in the fourth inning—and Landrum stroked it to deep short. Gene Alley went to his right, knocked the ball down, didn't get a good grip on the ball and Landrum beat the throw.

Later, one of the Pirates entertained the ridiculous notion the scorer might change his decision and call it an error to give Friend the ersatz no-hitter. But even Friend quashed such a thought.

"If it was a hit in the fourth inning, it was a hit at the end of the game," Friend said. "I thought it was a hit and I'm grateful we won. No shortstop in the league throws him out on that play."

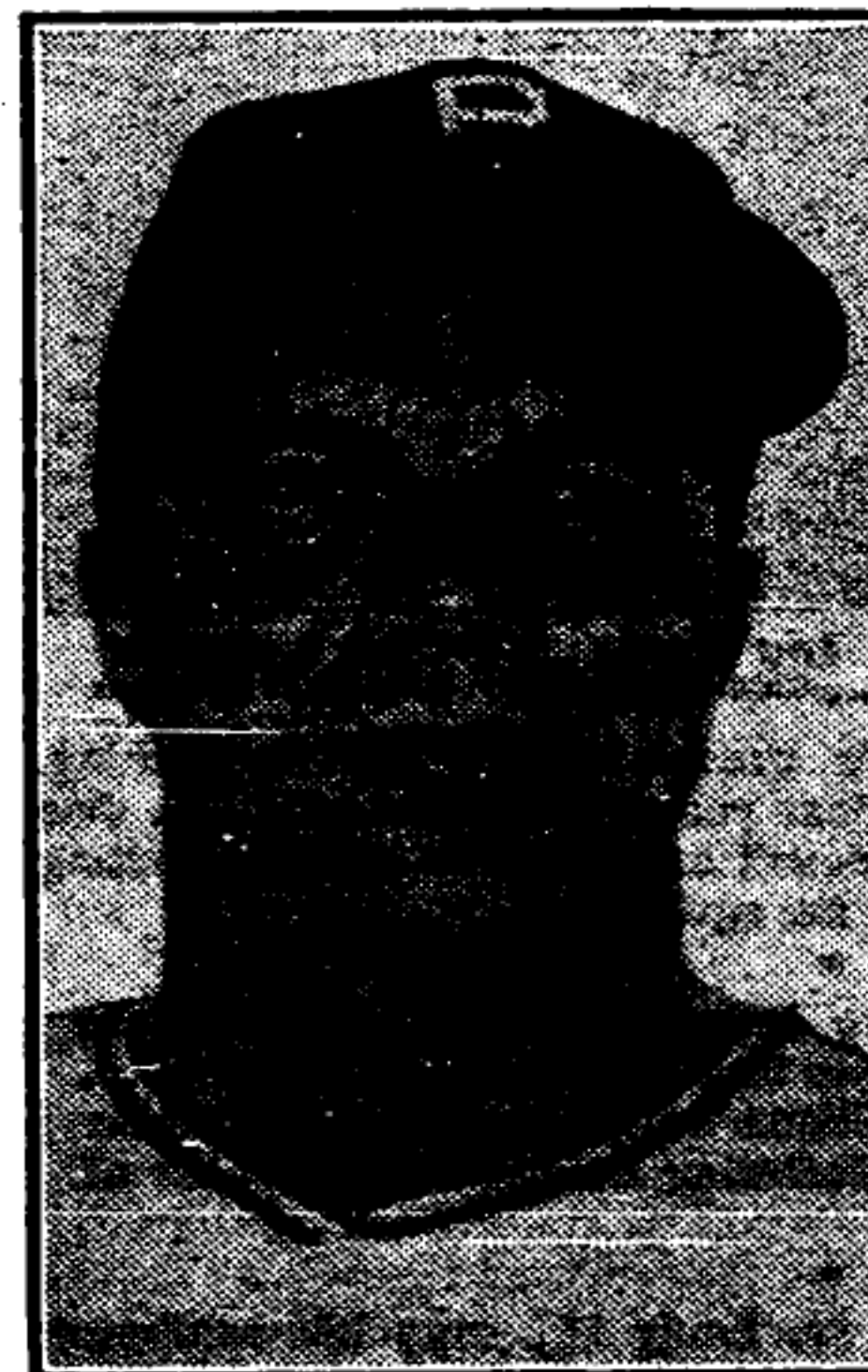
Bob Fires Slider

Friend came up with a slider that spelled the difference. Pitching Coach Clyde King taught it to him last spring, but it never really behaved until this game.

Friend singled his first time up against Dick Ellsworth, his first safety after 42 hitless trips in 1965 and 34 times in 1964. His last hit had been a single off Tony Cloninger, July 10, 1964.

Law, who started the season by losing five straight, then won eight in a row, was bogged down with four losses in succession when Hoak sat with him one night.

"You're not bringing your right



Bob Friend

arm back as far as you once did," Hoak told Law.

The next time Law pitched, he beat the Reds, 3-1, and it was a tremendous pitching demonstration.

"It was such a simple thing I'm surprised I didn't discover it myself," Law said with a laugh. "When I needed something extra, I was able to reach back and get it."

"Hoak always did help me with his bat and his glove when he was playing for us and he helped me over this rough spot, also."

It was in this same game that Law twice ran into outs on the bases.

The veteran hurler tried to score from first base on Bob Bailey's double and ran headlong into catcher John Edwards. Vern was out after both men hit the ground with a crunching noise.

A few innings later, Law dropped a pop single into short left but was out trying to stretch it and ended up with a fancy slide.

Tommy Harper, who surveyed Law's pitching and his base-running, commented: "He was out everywhere he went except on the mound."

Bob's Control Faulty

Veale walked the first four batters in Cincinnati, a rarity for him. He was strong, too strong, but eventually settled down.

The Pirates overcame the three first-inning runs for the Reds and gave Veale a 6-3 lead on Bailey's grand-slam and a solo homer by Roberto Clemente.

But Veale was in constant trouble from the fifth inning on. In all, he walked nine and tossed in two wild pitches. Add up the 11 hits he allowed and you get an idea why Walker is growing old before his time.

Veale left 13 runners stranded, two in each of the last five innings. Walker's bull pen has been unable to put out the fires recently and only after erratic Veale gave four hits and had the tying run at second in the ninth inning did Walker trust Al McBean with the ball for the final out.

Pirate Scoreboard: Roberto Clemente's wife has returned to Puerto Rico to give birth to their first child. . . . Don Cardwell lost to the Mets for the first time when Al Jackson decisioned him, 1-0. . . . The Pirates drew a surprisingly large crowd of 15,000 paid and 7,400 ladies for the one-night series with the

Bucs Break Up Two No-Hit Efforts in the Eighth Inning

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Within five days, the Pirates faced pitchers who were intent on pitching no-hitters. But both men failed.

Bob Sadowski, a Pittsburgh native, held the Bucs hitless until there was one away in the eighth inning, July 17, at Milwaukee. Then pinch-hitter Ossie Virgil stroked a clean single to center.

Sadowski almost lost everything in that eighth inning. He yielded four runs and the Pirates took a 4-3 lead, but the Braves overcame it with a ninth-inning rally.

The Pirates returned to Forbes Field, July 21, for a one-game stand with the Mets and Al Jackson held the Bucs hitless with one gone in the eighth inning. This time, Willie Stargell poked a clean single into left field. Jackson won, 1-0, ending a 10-game Met losing streak.

This was the longest hitless string any pitcher has fashioned at Forbes Field since Carl Hubbell lost a no-hit bid there with two gone in the eighth inning in 1939. There never has been a no-hitter pitched at Forbes Field since the park was dedicated, June 30, 1909.

Mets at Forbes Field. They gave away prizes, which explains the attendance. . . . Bob Bailey's grand-slam against Sammy Ellis in Cincinnati was the first of his major league career. He had five RBIs that afternoon, a sixth of his season total. . . . Jim Pagliaroni hit two homers in one game for the first time in his career at Chicago, July 23. His first four hits against the Cubs have been home runs. . . . Gene Alley came into Chicago with only three hits in 12 games. Then he got five safeties in two games and drove in four runs. . . . Pirates used four pitchers in one inning against the Cubs at Wrigley Field, July 25, and got out of the inning at the cost of only one run. . . . Roberto Clemente lined into a triple play in the nightcap at Chicago, July 25, and this was the first triple play against the Pirates since Clemente lined into the last one in 1963 at Forbes Field—against the Cubs. . . . Del Crandall's second home run in the thirteenth inning gave the Pirates a 3-2 decision over the Cubs in Chicago and enabled Vern Law to pick up his second win in 24 hours after pitching one and one-third innings of relief.

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