

Angels Have Hellcat, Rival Hitters Claim

By ROSS NEWHAN
LOS ANGELES, Calif.

Bob Rodgers, one of baseball's best defensive catchers, was sporting an ice pack on his left knee and staring incredulously at a writer. "How can you ask me how good his knuckleball is?" asked Rodgers, pointing toward the swelling knee. "That's how good it is," said Rodgers. "It's a dancer. It's good." The knuckleball is the property and, possibly, the salvation of 26-year-old Aubrey Gatewood or, as Joe Koppe proclaimed, "Hoyt Gatewood."

It had been fluttering about in the bull pen for several weeks and made its auspicious debut on September 10 when the intense righthander fanned five Senators in two and one-third innings. The next day, Gatewood pitched a hitless inning and one-third and Rigney observed:

"Not only does Gatewood have confidence in it, but so does the manager. This could add ten years to Aubrey's career. That's exactly what it did for Wilhelm."

There was further praise.

Better Than Hoyt?
"All the Washington hitters told me his knuckler is better than Wilhelm's," said Rodgers.

Said Woodie Held, who received a life when Rodgers was unable to net a third-strike butterfly:

"I thought Wilhelm belonged to Chicago."

Said Joe Adcock:
"It's going to make a winner out of him, a big winner."

So, while September may be the beginning of the end for the Angels, it apparently is just the end of the beginning for Gatewood—a mop-up man making sweeping changes in his future.

Until he knuckled under the Senators, Gatewood had made 38 brief appearances with a 3.69 ERA. When he left Washington, the ERA was down to 3.52 and he was in possession of his third win.

"I had been fooling around with the knuckleball for quite some time, but I didn't get serious with it until about two months ago," revealed Gatewood.

Needed Another Pitch

"After all," added Aubrey, "I was not doing too well with what I had and I felt something else was needed."

"What makes it so effective," said Rodgers, "is that Aubrey has a darn good fast ball and curve and he mixes in the knuckler with his other stuff."

Now, "what I had" is that much more effective.

"I'm throwing the knuckler about 75 or 80 per cent of the time and I intend to use it a lot more," said



Aubrey Gatewood

Gatewood. "I know I can throw it for a strike. You've seen that I have confidence enough to throw it with a runner on third."

Gatewood's knuckler has undoubtedly thrown a curve in Angel plans, which included casting the bachelor as trade bait this winter.

"Sure, this could be the start of a new career for me, but I hope it's with this club," said Gatewood. "I know that as long as I'm here, there is not much chance of starting, but I'll accept that as long as I can participate more than I have."

"The first thing I'm going to do is go to winter ball and really learn how to throw it. Then we'll see about next spring."

As for the Angels' bull pen next spring, Rigney may find relief in his own backyard. Gatewood's glimmering efforts have inspired similar stints by Jim Coates, 33, and Jack Sanford, 37.

Lee Beginning to Wobble

Suddenly, the Angels had more middle men than automobile row, and this came at a time when Bob Lee was feeling the strain of 64 appearances.

"We still may trade for help for the big man (Lee)," said Rigney. "but it does not seem so imperative now."

Coates was wearing a 1.80 ERA while Sanford apparently found his eye in the bull pen.

"I do not think that Sanford ever received the proper rest after his operation last winter," said Rigney.

"I want Jack to take it nice and easy this winter and prepare himself to be a relief pitcher. For two or three innings at a crack, he can be a great help to us."

Angel Angles: During the first week following his recall from Seattle, right fielder Spanky Kirkpatrick threw out two more runners advancing from first to third on singles. In his first 20 at-bats, he gathered six hits. . . . On the night Campy Campaneris played all nine positions, Kirkpatrick bowled over catcher Campaneris and nearly precipitated a riot. "They threw rocks, beer cans and even chicken bones," said Spanky. "What was I supposed to do, stop and let him tag me?"

. . . Said Joe Adcock: "If they ask me, I'll be back." . . . Having played 112 games, Adcock will equal his 119 of last season. . . . As of this writing, he was tied with Jim Fregosi and Willie Smith for club lead in homers with 14. . . . Adcock and other Angels had high praise for Jim Spencer, the first baseman drafted on top by the Angels in recent free-agent selections. . . . Spencer joined the Angels for pre-game drills in Washington. . . . Marcelino Lopez continued his rookie-of-the-year bid with a heartbreaking loss at Chicago on September 6. . . . He pitched six and two-thirds no-hit innings before yielding a scratch single. . . . That was the only Chicago hit until the ninth when a misjudged fly ball netted a run, and the White Sox won it in the tenth. "You can't pitch any better," said Rig.

Kindall

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he'd like you to be the first to know about it."

Within minutes, I reached Jerry. Sure enough, Mathews was right. Kindall did have a story to tell—his decision to sign with the Cubs the very next day at his home in Minneapolis. Less than 48 hours later, he reported to the Cubs and was in uniform ready to start earning the "something more than the \$25,000 bonus" the Wrigleys had paid him for signing.

Including two different stops in Fort Worth and one in Houston, Kindall's Cub career stretched through 1961. Then he left in one of those trades which the Cubs would like to forget: Kindall for pitcher Bobby Locke of the Indians. Locke didn't survive his first spring training stint with the Cubs and right now Kindall is one of the important cogs on Minnesota's soon-to-be-crowned American League champion Twins.

Swapped by Injuns

Jerry has been a Twin since mid-June of 1964, moving from Cleveland to Minnesota in a three-club deal involving five players. About this swap, Jerry said:

"I'd heard it was in the works, but I really never believed it until



Jerry Kindall

it was completed and announced. I'll always call it one of my luckier moves in baseball because it isn't too often a player gets a chance to play in his home city.

"Ever since the Twins moved to Minnesota, I had hoped I'd have a chance to play for them. Playing at home is the greatest thing possible for a player in the major leagues. It's simply wonderful," Jerry declared.

Outside of victories, what difference had Kindall discovered playing for the Twins compared with his tenure with the Cubs and Indians?

Now in his ninth major league season at the age of 30, Kindall said:

"This has been a tremendously exciting season, but really not totally unexpected. We felt this spring that we had a good, sound team, one capable of making a good run for the pennant."

Mincher Filled Big Shoes

"And while everybody talks about a team effort in connection with winning, this truly has been a team effort all the way. When Harmon Killebrew was hurt—and don't forget this was a tough loss—Don Mincher stepped in and did a great job."

"We also lost Camilo Pascual, and Jim Perry helped take up the slack with his outstanding pitching. Our bull pen has been great with fellows like Al Worthington, Johnny Klippstein, Bill Pleis and Dick Stigman. I shoulder to think what might have happened if we didn't have big Al, and I don't say that because he's my roommate on the road. He's been sensational."

"That is the way it's been going all season. While I enjoyed my association with the Cubs and Indians, we never had teams to compare with the Twins."

In his sizeup of the Twins, Jerry saved the best for last when he said:

"The two main keys to our success are Zoilo Versalles and Tony Oliva. They have been consistently great all year. You just can't give them too much credit and I never was

A Trip to Minors Leaves Hendley Sharp as Razor

By EDGAR MUNZEL
CHICAGO, Ill.

The dazzling glory of Sandy Koufax' fourth no-hitter, a perfect game against the Cubs on September 9, blinded almost everyone to the fact that his mound foe that night also hurled magnificently in a 1-0 loss.

But it wasn't overlooked by Head Coach Lou Klein and the rest of the Wrigley coaching board, because the pitcher involved was Bob Hendley, who had just returned from a brief sojourn in the farm system.

The performance of the 26-year-old southpaw, who permitted the Dodgers only one bloop hit, was of tremendous significance to the Cubs, because it provided convincing evidence that they have bolstered their slab corps with another starting pitcher.

And, in the process, it pointed up the value of minor league competition in hastening the development of a pitcher, or any other player for that matter.

Obtained From Giants

Hendley was acquired from the Giants on May 29 this year along with Ed Bailey and Harvey Kuenn in exchange for Dick Bertell and Len Gabrielson. The Cubs wanted Bob as another lefthanded starting hurler to go along with Dick Ellsworth.

However, Hendley couldn't get going. Finally, with a record of only 1-2 with the Cubs, Bob was farmed out to Salt Lake City (Coast) at the end of July.

"Bob was pretty unhappy about the whole thing when we sent him out," said Klein. "But now he realizes it was the best thing that could have happened to him."

"He couldn't get his curve over and he needed a chance to sharpen it and also improve his slip pitch. The only way for a pitcher to get better is to work regularly."

"Well, we couldn't call on him that often here with the Cubs when he was pitching well. The only possible way to give him the chance to work every fourth day was to send him out to the minors, and we did it by shipping him to Salt Lake City."

Seven Starts in PCL

Hendley was with Salt Lake City about a month and in that time started seven times. His record was 3-4, but Salt Lake City was deep in the second division.

"There is no doubt that getting the chance to work regularly out there was a big help to me," said Hendley. "Although coach Mel Harder worked a lot with me on the sidelines while I was with the Cubs, there simply is no substitute for game competition."

Hendley was recalled by the Cubs



Bob Hendley

on September 1 and the next day he beat the Cardinals, 5-3, with late-inning relief from Ted Abernathy. Bob allowed only six hits in seven and two-thirds innings.

One of the Cardinal runs was unearned and so was the one the Dodgers scored off Hendley for Koufax' 1-0 triumph. The next time Hendley and Koufax met, the Cubs got the best of the deal, grabbing a 2-1 decision. Therefore, Hendley really has allowed only three earned runs in his first three starts since returning from Salt Lake City.

"Off those performances, I'm sure that Hendley rates one of the starting berths behind the Big Three of Larry Jackson, Dick Ellsworth and Bob Buhl," said Klein. "In the fourth and fifth slots now are Hendley and Bill Faul."

"Actually, we're better off for pitching now than at any other time this season because Faul also was farmed out for a time with Salt Lake City before we recalled him in late June."

"In Faul's case, the extra competition helped, too."

Both Learned Plenty

"Since both Faul and Hendley came back better pitchers after being farmed out, perhaps some of the youngsters will learn something from it and not regard it as a discouraging setback whenever they are farmed out."

Hendley, now in his fifth season in the majors, never has crashed the big winning bracket. He's been a .500 pitcher.

Developed originally in the Braves' organization, Bob was 5-7 in 1961 after being called up from Louisville (American Association). In 1962, he was 11-13, then 9-9 and finally last year, with the Giants, his record was 10-11.

But it could be that Hendley now finally has found himself and is ready to burst into full stardom.

Bruin Briefs: Byron Browne and Don Young, two righthanded-hitting outfielders, made their debuts against Koufax in the perfect game. Browne hit the hardest ball of the night off Koufax, a liner to center. . . . Head Coach Lou Klein has been using his rookies wherever possible. . . . The Cubs drew a blank on their last week's trip, dropping all six games to the Astros, Dodgers and Giants. . . . It unbalanced the Cub road record a bit further with a season count of 30-45 as compared with 35-36 at home.

Cubs Dealt Jerry to Orioles But Waiver Rule Blocked It

CHICAGO, Ill. — When the Twins acquired Jerry Kindall in a three-team, five-player deal in June of 1964, outfielder Lennie Green figured in the swap.

This wasn't, however, the first time Kindall's name had been linked with Green. One spring, when the Cubs were seeking a center fielder (something they have been doing since the days of Andy Pafko), they traded Kindall to the Orioles for Green.

The deal was voided because the Orioles lacked American League waivers on Green at that time.

Eventually, Jerry was traded to the American League.

He went to Cleveland after the 1961 season.

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