

Bosox Slumpers Feel Pilot's Wrath

By LARRY CLAFLIN

BOSTON, Mass.

It didn't take rookie Manager Dick Williams of the Red Sox long to put his foot down in his new job, and it didn't take Boston fans long to react favorably to the new manager's toughness.

After only six games (2-4 record) had been played by the Red Sox, Williams benched three of the men who opened the season for him and put three of his benchwarmers into the lineup. The results were on the positive side. The three men who came out of the dugout all played a hand in two straight wins in Boston over the Yankees.

First to feel the wrath of Williams was first baseman George Scott, who was so sensational in the early part of the 1966 season that he started the All-Star Game in St. Louis for the American League, though only a rookie. But, when Scott struck out nine times in his first five games, Williams reacted.

"George is going to the bench," Williams said. "At that strikeout pace, he'll fan almost 300 times. We can't have that."

Three Ordered to Diet

Scott and two other players were accused by Williams of being overweight and were ordered to go on diets. The others were third baseman Joe Foy (soon to join Scott on the bench) and pitcher Jose Santiago.

In the Scott case, Williams showed a singular toughness of mind which had some Boston newsmen criticizing him and others applauding his candidness.

Leaning on the cage in Yankee Stadium before the Red Sox went

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Mike Andrews



Dalton Jones

18 innings with the Yankees, Williams watched Scott swing in batting practice.

"Talking to George is like talking to cement," Williams said. "He won't listen. So, he's striking out because he's fishing for bad pitches again."

Oddly, Scott wound up spring training with a .333 average and had four straight hits in the final exhibition game. He was taking bad pitches. But, after a brief, six-game trial, Scott was hitting only .182 with no extra-base hits and no runs driven in.

Benching Wouldn't Hurt

"And he's not that red hot in the field either, so I won't be hurting us in that department by taking him out," Williams pointed out.

The next day—an off day in Chicago—Williams spotted Scott walking through the lobby of the Sheraton Chicago Hotel wearing a sweater instead of the coat that Williams requires his athletes to wear on the road.

"George, go upstairs and put on a coat," Williams told him. "You know the rules."

Later in the day, Williams asked Scott to come to his room. He informed the giant Mississippian that he was being benched. Presumably, he added some advice about waiting for a good pitch to hit.

The following day, the Red Sox played the White Sox and were beaten, 5-2, primarily because of

bad defense. Foy kicked away a grounder at third which handed Chicago two runs.

At second base, Reggie Smith was upended while attempting to complete a double play. And, in center field, Jose Tartabull failed to get a hit and his average plummeted to .136. Foy was hitting .083 at the time.

When the Red Sox returned to Boston, only to be rained out of a double-header with Washington, Williams ordered Foy to lose weight or pay a fine. At the same time, he announced that Dalton Jones was going to third base; Smith to his normal position of center field; and rookie Mike Andrews (his bad back improved) to second base.

When the Red Sox won two in succession with that lineup, Williams remarked: "They'll stay in there as long as we win."

He'll Never Get Me Out

Said Foy: "The next time I get in there, he'll never be able to bench me again. I'm not going to get my weight down to 205 like he wants. I'm going to get it down to 195."

Though it all, Williams proved he has the determination to bench anyone he feels is hurting his club. There can be no doubt that Foy, Scott and Tartabull were hurting the Red Sox at the time they were taken out of the lineup.

Williams suffered some criticism because of his frankness and his

Two Wins Over Yankees Make Rohr Hub Favorite

BOSTON, Mass. — The Yankees probably have seen quite enough of Billy Rohr, the rookie lefthander of the Red Sox.

Rohr shut out the Yankees on one hit in his first game in the majors, and beat them, 6-1, in his second start.

In both games, Elston Howard delivered the only damaging blow to the young Californian. Howard singled with two out in the ninth to ruin Rohr's bid for a no-hitter in New York. In Boston, in Rohr's second start, Howard drove in the only Yankee run with an eighth-inning single.

After his two impressive victories, which made him the new darling of Boston baseball fans, Rohr commented: "And I've always been a slow starter."

Rohr's Boston debut drew 25,965 fans to Fenway Park on a chilly night with rain forecast.

quickness to make changes. He was accused of making mistakes himself, and probably he did make a few during the first few games of the season when the Red Sox were in one tough game after another. But the fans seemed to like him. When he went to the mound to talk to pitchers or to the plate to argue with umpires, Williams was cheered by the fans in Fenway Park.

Either way, it didn't seem to bother Williams. He is anything but a stoic loser.

One player who was reacting well to the Williams style of managing was left fielder Carl Yastrzemski. Off to a sensational start both with the bat and with his glove, Yaz said:

"Dick Williams has a lot to do with it. I've never been in better shape in my life, and he's responsible. He made us all work hard."

Bosox Bunts: Carl Yastrzemski had a perfect game against the Yankees when Jose Santiago picked up his first win of the year in relief. Three-for-three gave Yaz a .572 mark against Yankee pitching in five games and a slugging percentage of 1.000 with 21 total bases in 21 trips. . . . Rico Petrocelli also continued to hit solidly. . . . The annual Cape Cod Day at Fenway Park was its usual success.

Bosox Get Fill of Cape Cod Ump

By LARRY CLAFLIN

BOSTON, Mass.

It was Cape Cod Day at Fenway Park, and John (Red) Flaherty seemed like the perfect choice to umpire behind the plate as the Red Sox played the Yankees, seeking a sweep over the Bombers. Flaherty lives in Falmouth, Mass., right in the heart of Cape Cod.

Before the game ended, with the Yankees winning, 7-5, Flaherty heard the boos of the 18,000 fans in the park and was forced to evict Boston Manager Dick Williams and left fielder Carl Yastrzemski after a controversial call.

The Red Sox were leading, 5-1, in the fifth when the Yankees took advantage of pitcher Darrell Brandon's wildness to get three runs home. With runners on first and third, Elston Howard came out of the dugout as a pinch-hitter.

Boston pitcher Jose Santiago, who relieved Brandon, threw a side-arm curve to Howard. The Red Sox thought it was strike three and so did the fans. Flaherty called it a ball, and Howard promptly doubled to right to score the tying and winning runs.

Soon, thereafter, Williams got the first heave-ho of his career in the majors. (He was ejected

four times last season in the International League.)

"Flaherty is an incompetent umpire," Williams said later. "It's the first time I've ever been thrown out of a game before I cussed the umpire."

Warming up to a heated subject, Williams added:

"If he calls a better game, he has no arguments. He takes the easy way out when he calls a game."

Yaz Involved in Rhubarb

Yastrzemski, who had been murdering Yankee pitching, came to bat in the bottom of the fifth and quickly got into a beef.

With a two-strike count, Yaz got the heave-ho also. Then the crowd really got on Flaherty.

"I didn't show him up or anything," Yastrzemski complained. "I said something to him about a strike he called on me."

It marked the second time Yastrzemski has been expelled in his career.

The next time they celebrate Cape Cod Day at Fenway, the Red Sox would just as soon have an umpire from California. Or maybe Cape Hatteras.



Rod Carew

TWINS

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worked on me since an intrasquad game to talk more out there. This has helped me relax. Vern Morgan, my manager at Wilson, had me doing it there, too. But I would stop when I lost my confidence."

After one game, Carew went up to Martin and asked:

"How are we going to get the double play with the pitcher pitching high?" Martin said it showed how much Carew was thinking: "You don't very often hear a rookie come out with something like that."

He's Quick Thinker

When one Twin pitcher stood staring at a Detroit pitcher after a wild pitch, Carew was the man in the infield who thought first. He outran everyone in trying to cover home plate.

"Carew has shown me a lot," said Mele, who had remained conservative all spring while watching Carew carefully. "I'm not positive just yet that he is ready to hit major league pitching, but he's better now than he was in spring training."

"He has hit the ball right at someone several times, and it hasn't hurt his confidence. That's a good sign."

"He's the only man we've got yelling in the infield. He yells on the bench, too, all the time. In fact, when he was so discouraged down in West Palm Beach, he still was yelling on the field. He felt bad in the lockerroom and that's the place to do it."

Shortly after beating Baltimore with a base-hit, Carew slammed his first major league homer in Detroit.

He had hit only two home runs in more than two seasons of minor league baseball.

Meanwhile, he played flawlessly in the field through early Twins' games.

Twin Killings: Owner Cal Griffith backed Manager Sam Mele all the way in Mele's disciplining of the Twins. "We're capable of playing better ball," Griffith said. . . . Jim Kaat, Dean Chance, Dave Boswell and Jim Grant—the Twins' stable of star starting pitchers—all failed to go as far as seven innings in their first round of starts. Meanwhile, the bull pen allowed only two runs in its first 20 innings. . . . Chance was the first to go nine innings when he beat Baltimore.

Zoilo Versalles hit safely in four of his first six times at bat with runners on second and third bases. . . . Harmon Killebrew slugged his first homer of the season on April 19—a year ago he hit No. 1 on May 1. . . . The Twins' 1-4 start matched 1963 as the worst since they started playing in Minnesota.