

Need More Piersalls

WE ALWAYS HAVE contended that baseball needs more colorful characters like Jimmy Piersall, here performing with the Cleveland Indians.

Of course, he goes to extremes with his many antics, but he keeps the fans excited even though he comes in for his share of booing.

Many label this veteran a showboat. He is that, but the way he has been hitting and fielding this year he can get away with a lot of stunts that others couldn't if they weren't delivering for their club.

We thought Piersall got a little out of line with his uncalled-for gestures Friday when he showed his disgust with the official scoring that cost him a base hit in the eighth inning.

THE SCORING on this particular play was the subject of most of the discussion in the Twins and Cleveland dressing rooms after the game.

We agreed with the official ruling on this particular play but most of the athletes didn't.

However, there was no legitimate excuse for Piersall to put on the demonstration he did before more than 17,000 fans. He had a right to protest, but his antics were a little out of line with conduct expected of players on the diamond.

He wouldn't be Piersall if he didn't cut up. That's the way he's built. He's always bantering with the fans when in the field or at bat. He's happy when he gets them mad enough to boo him. Then he bears down a little harder to make life miserable for the opposing club.

HIS VERBAL attack on Paul Richards when he wasn't picked for the American league All-Star team is typical of this outfielder. He's outspoken and isn't disturbed when he kicks up a fuss that gets space in the sport pages. He probably has no regrets for his tirade against the official scorer Friday, but he could have done it in a more gentlemanly manner.

An interesting piece about the Indians outfielder Jimmy Piersall, considered to be one of baseball's more colorful characters. The reference's to Friday's game is the July 21 game.

Clipped By:



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