



Bob Moose . . . February Date

Bucs' Bob Moose Certain Arm Misery Is Behind Him

By CHARLEY FEENEY

PITTSBURGH—At age 27, when some pitchers still are trying to advance out of the minor leagues, Bob Moose is attempting a comeback in the big leagues.

Last May, there were some doubts that the Moose ever would pitch again. By September, he was back, pitching in batting practice for the Pirates. In October, he was pitching in the Florida Instructional League at Bradenton.

Moose's physical problems developed last May. He got off to a bad start and one night, after throwing in the bullpen, he returned to the clubhouse.

"TAKE A LOOK at my arm," Moose told trainer Tony Bartirome.

Bartirome looked at the arm and immediately sent for a doctor. Moose's arm was twice its normal size and was discolored. It developed he had a clot that prevented blood from flowing into the arm.

Moose was operated on the next day. He still wasn't out of the woods. A few weeks later, he underwent surgery again.

"I've been told that the second operation could have become serious if there had been complications," Moose said.

Now Moose can't wait for February to resume throwing.

"My arm feels better than it did before the operations," he said. "The doctor removed layers of scar tissue near the shoulder and my arm feels loose."

MOOSE, A PIRATE since September, 1967, when he joined them at age 19, has had a checkered big league career. His best year was 1969, when he was 14-3, including a no-hit, no-run game against the Mets. He has a 71-60 lifetime record. Early last season, he was 1-5 with a 7.50 ERA.

"I'm not blaming the poor pitching on my arm," Moose said. "But

I know that today the arm has a looseness that it hasn't had for some time. My ball was moving good in Florida."

Moose has been a versatile pitcher. He has both started and relieved. He would prefer to become a regular starter. But first he must convince Danny Murtaugh in spring training that he is capable of winning.

"I'm confident," Moose said. That's nothing new. The one thing that Moose never lacked was confidence.

Pittsburghers: The Pirates have become promotion-minded. A caravan of players and Murtaugh will tour various areas, spreading good will. The Pirates also have established a speakers' bureau and there has been a reduction in youth ticket prices for next season. Anyone 16 and under will be able to buy a youth ticket for 65 cents—a 35 cent reduction.

Interloop Deals Aid Redbird Hurlers

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—What do Lee May, Henry Aaron, Willie Davis, Ken Singleton, Bobby Bonds, Billy Williams and Nate Colbert have in common? The fact that all seven are making the switch from the National League to the American is only part of the answer.

The seven also were among the biggest nemeses of Cardinal pitchers for years. Don't be surprised if the Redbird pitchers send them Christmas cards, thanking them for getting out of their hair—at last.

The Stupendous Seven batted a composite .300 against the Cardinals last season (92 for 307). They also amassed 14 homers and 17 doubles and drove in 57 runs.

"GOOD RIDDANCE, Lee May!" say the St. Louis flingers. All the first basemen (as an Astro) did last season was batter the Birds at a .404 clip with five homers, three doubles and 12 RBIs. And there was longtime nemesis Aaron with a .353 average against St. Louis, plus three homers and three doubles and nine RBIs. Davis was .339 against the Birds with two doubles and 11 runs batted in.

Singleton hit a modest .259 against the Cards, but he hammered two homers and three doubles and sent home eight runs. Bonds, who was the No. 1 culprit against St. Louis a few years back, was down to .243 against them in '74. He had just one homer and three doubles, plus five RBIs.

Williams, for years one of the roughest of all hitters against Bob Gibson, hit only .238 against the Cardinals in '74, but he had two homers and two doubles among his 10 hits—and he chased home 11 runs, including several big ones late in the season as the Cubs helped do in the Cardinals.

COLBERT, A native St. Louisan who signed originally with the Redbirds, brought up the rear with just .226 and only one homer, one double and one RBI in 31 at-bats, but Nate had been a pesky gnat in the past.

Researcher Marty Hendin noted that the Sturdy Seven collected

one-seventh of the homers yielded by St. Louis pitchers. May hit only .255 against the rest of the league, Aaron only .258.

Probably no one has clipped Gibson for more key hits over the years than Williams and Ron Fairly. So Bob had to feel pleased over the Birds' acquisition of Fairly from the Expos.

The Birds hope Fairly will regain the pinch-hitting touch he displayed with the Expos in 1971-72. He hit .294, then .308 coming off the bench. But in the past two campaigns Fairly was only .100 as a pinch-hitter on 3-for-25 in 1973 and 1-for-15 last season.

FAIRLY AT long last will have

to give up his No. 6 uniform. The Cardinals put that one in mothballs after the '63 season when Stan Musial retired.

"There aren't enough hits left in it, anyway," said Fairly. "Not after Musial took 3,630 hits out of it and Al Kaline took another 3,000 out of it."

Fairly inherited No. 6 from Carl Furillo following Carl's retirement.

"They gave me No. 55 at first, and I felt like a linebacker," Fairly said.

Ron is in no hurry to retire. "That's because I still love the game," Fairly said. "Too many guys quit too early because they

lose interest in baseball."

Redbird Chirps: Ken Reitz' .974 led N. L. third basemen for the second time in his two seasons. . . . In a minor league swap, the Cardinals picked up first baseman John Young from the Tigers and gave up pitcher Ike Brookens. The Birds also obtained catcher Danny Breen for their Tulsa (American Association) club to complete the three-club deal with the Padres and Tigers involving Colbert and Ed Brinkman.

Aaron and Bill Virdon will share the Stockton award for special achievement at the St. Louis writers' dinner January 27. J. G. Taylor Spink awards as St. Louis base-



Ron Fairly

ball men of the year will go to Lou Brock, Al Hrabosky, Lynn McGlothen and Reggie Smith. Bake McBride will get the rookie award.

Twins Hope Promotions Cure Gate Sag

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—As you perhaps know by now, 1975 will be a crucial year for the Minnesota franchise. The Griffith family can't afford another financially disastrous season.

Indeed, considering that the Twins Metropolitan Stadium lease expires at the end of the '75 season, perhaps the same could be said for the entire area. In other words, if fans don't support the team next season, they may not have one to support in 1976.

Therefore, four members of the Minnesota organization will play important roles in 1975. We aren't referring to the likes of Rod Carew, Bert Blyleven or Bobby Darwin. The four key men don't wear uniforms, yet they are as important to the Twins' success as any super star on the team.

DON CASSIDY is the team's director of sales. Jack Blesi, Gil Lansdale and Tom Cronin are the club's salesmen. The team's success in 1975—in fact, the fate of the franchise—has been entrusted to them.

In short, their responsibility is to put people in the park. And to their

credit, they are attempting to insure success in that important area before the first shout of "Play ball!" is heard in April.

They already have arranged for more promotional days than in any other year of the franchise's history. Minnesota fans will be invited to participate in Jacket Day, Bat Day, Ball Day, Mug Night and Camera Day.

In addition to giving away jackets, bats and balls, the Twins will have three park and recreation days in which youngsters from playgrounds across the state will get in for \$1. Then there will be College Night, when college students will get in for a reduced price and fraternities will compete in such things as beer-keg rolling.

AS IN YEARS past, there will be a free clinic (and ball game) for about 10,000 youngsters and the seventh annual Campers Weekend will be held August 1-3.

But perhaps one of the best promotions of all will be Minnesota's first Old-Timers' Game. Here the likes of Vic Power, Zoilo Versalles, Lenny Green, Camilo Pascual and Rich Rollins will return and likely

compete against the Twins' 1975 edition.

In all, 15 special promotions have been scheduled and more are planned. And that total doesn't include special nights for groups like the Knights of Columbus, Shriners and Lions International.

"We've tried to look at other teams' successful promotions and determine what would appeal to our fans," Cassidy said. "We're leery of over-promoting; we don't want to get involved in things like nylon stocking night, for example."

"BUT THERE are many promotions, fun promotions, that haven't been tried in Minnesota. For instance, we're considering a baseball bingo night where you get a bingo card, fill it in according to the events of the game and win a prize or cash.

"We're also considering a cushion night and a tote-bag night, items the fans would take home to keep and constantly be reminded of the Twins."

Of course, such promotions are expensive. And to help defray the

costs, the Twins have involved some organizations as co-sponsors.

"I guess in promotions, the fear always is, 'Where do you stop?'" Cassidy said.

BUT IN Minnesota's situation, the club really doesn't have much to lose even if it overpromotes.

Last year attendance reached an all-time low of 662,401, and season tickets were at a low of 1,851. Obviously, fans weren't interested in paying to see a .500 team perform.

The Twins hope to be contenders in 1975. But Cassidy, Blesi, Lansdale and Cronin are working hard this winter to see to it that the turnstiles click, even if the team on the field doesn't.

And they hope to get off to a fast start in the financial league, too. Minnesota's largest opening-day crowd was 24,606 in 1961, when the Twins played their first game in Minnesota.

In an attempt to surpass that figure, the Twins hope to have a guest of honor throw out the first ball for next season's April 15 home opener—President Ford.