

Phils set to leave basement?

By MARK SIMENSON
Assistant Sports Editor

If baseball limited its playing to once every four days, the best team in the major leagues would reside in Philadelphia and not Pittsburgh or Oakland.

Unfortunately for "Danny's Dream Machine," Bowie Kuhn would frown upon an abbreviated season. After all, you can't sell much beer and hot dogs in 40 games.

Last year when the Phillies established themselves as the worst team in the National League, they showed a propensity for winning when Steve Carlton took the mound. Carlton posted a 27-10 record, set a handful of records and won the Cy Young award as the league's best hurler.

The Franchise, a positive thinker who is shooting for 30 this year, was hit with the banquet circuit blues and a bronchial infection the first three weeks of spring training and is now showing some of his 1972 form. Carlton commands the Phillie staff that could cause manager Danny Ozark a few sleepless nights. In addition to Super Steve, the Phils plan to use 1967 Cy Young winner Jim Lonborg, picked up in an offseason trade with Milwaukee, and Wayne Twitchell as starters. The question marks are 19-year-old Larry Christenson and 22-year-old Larry Rutherford. Offseason wheeling and dealing by General Manager Paul Owens could add a few points to the Phils team batting average, which at .236 was ninth in the National League last year.



CARLTON

Cesar Tovar, too old for the Twins at 33, is versatile and can play wherever the Phils have a defensive weakness.

Owens then parted with some of the Carpenter fortune for utility infielder Jose Pagan. The 38-year old ex-Pirate will probably spell Tovar, who is at third until Mike Schmidt recovers from a shoulder injury. A rookie, Schmidt proved he was a power hitter and had won the third base job before his injury.

After several attempts to trade Deron Johnson failed, Ozark has penciled the veteran into his opening day lineup. Johnson missed most of last season with a nerve injury, but has recovered from the mysterious ailment and his power hitting will be a boost to the Phillies, who banged out 98 home runs last year. Only Montreal (91) and St. Louis (70) hit fewer.

There is a three way battle for the second base job. Denny Doyle, Terry Harmon and Tovar all have a chance to complete the double play combination with shortstop Larry Bowa. Whichever player swings the most potent bat will play, according to Ozark. A deal with Atlanta involving Harmon or Doyle for a Brave pitcher fell through and the Quakers now have an excess of good gloves in the infield.

Golden Glove winner Bowa is happy again. He signed a lucrative contract and then was steaming when the Phils had the nerve to draft a shortstop, Allan Bannister, as their number one pick in January's free agent draft. Bannister has been farmed out and Bowa is back at short where he is the best in the business.

Don Money played third as well as anybody, but he didn't hit very well. He was passed off to Milwaukee and Schmidt is the Phillies' third sacker of the future.

Catching the Philly pitching, if the balls aren't

hit somewhere, are rookie Bob Boone and Mike Ryan. Boone has an erratic arm and isn't familiar with the National League hitters, but is a better hitter than Ryan.

In 1971 Willie Montanez knocked out 30 homers and nearly earned Rookie of the Year honors. Last season he was in a sophomore slump and his four-bagger production slipped to 13. Montanez played well in spots and other times he had a "don't-give-a-damn" attitude.

With Spanish-speaking Tovar and Pagan on the team, Montanez will have someone to talk to. The Phils are hoping his bat will do a lot of talking also.

With Montanez switching to right field, center will be patrolled by Del Unser or Mike Anderson. Unser comes from Cleveland and Anderson hails from Eugene, Ore. where he played minor league ball a year ago.

Greg Luzinski may never win any awards for his fielding, but his home run swing is enough to make any pitcher squirm. Luzinski belted 18 homers last year as a rookie and is expected to surpass that mark this time around.

The outlook for the Phillies, who have been viewing the National League pennant races from the bargain basement for the last few years, is improved. A new owner, general manager, manager and a few new faces on the field may have brightened the Phillies' future.

Ozark thinks his team can battle the Pirates, Cubs and Cardinals for the National League East title. The least surprised by the statement was Carlton, who the Phils are counting on to have another super year.

"I'm glad he said it," Carlton said. "It takes some of the pressure off me. I thought I was the only guy who thinks we're that good."



AP wirephoto

Rodriguez throws arms skyward for victory and Clemente

Chi Chi gives title to Roberto

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Chi Chi Rodriguez, a little clown turned deadserious, thanked God and then dedicated his victory in the Greater Greensboro Open golf tournament to the late Roberto Clemente.

"I want to dedicate it to Roberto," Rodriguez said yesterday after his five-under-par 66 in the slop and goo of the Sedgewood Country Club course brought him the victory with a 267 total, 17 under par.

"I thought of him every putt I hit," Clemente, a Hall of Fame outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates, was killed in an airplane crash New Year's Eve. Both he and Rodriguez were born in Puerto Rico.

"I thank God for winning, for letting me win," Rodriguez said. "He gave me goose pimples out there when I chipped in on No. 8. He said to me, 'Now go on and win.'"

Bud Drinkers, can you figure this out?

Joe walked into a bar one day wanting to buy 4 quarts of Budweiser. His friends Bob and Fred were less thirsty and wanted to buy only 3 quarts each. This particular bar sold only Bud. on tap, and either in 3-quart pitchers or 5-quart pitchers. Using these pitchers as measures, pouring the Bud from one to the other, how did the bartender measure out exactly 3 quarts for Bob, 3 quarts for Fred, and 4 quarts for Joe?



ANSWER: First he filled a 5-quart pitcher. From that he filled Fred's 3-quart pitcher. Then he poured the remaining 2 quarts into Bob's pitcher. He filled up the 5-quart pitcher again and used it to top off Bob's pitcher, giving him 3 quarts and leaving Joe with 4; then he charged them all for quarts and labor and drank a 5-quart pitcher himself.

Penn State Vets Club Meeting

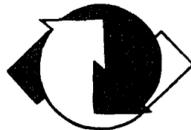
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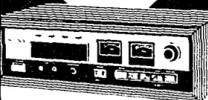
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