

Phils' Christenson still seeing 'red' over his Green season

By RALPH BERNSTEIN
AP Sports Writer

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Larry Christenson feels his overall unproductive 1981 season was the result of a vindictive manager.

The 6-4 Philadelphia Phillies right-hander still is incensed about being placed on the 21-day disabled list from Aug. 29 to Sept. 19.

"I had a slight groin pull that healed in three days," Christenson recalled during a full in spring training activities. "I threw well on the sideline, had no problem, and haven't felt it since. There was no need to put me on the disabled list."

Christenson said his problems with former manager Dallas Green peaked after he came off the disabled list.

"It was the night before I was supposed to go off the disabled list," Christenson recalled. "After about the fourth or fifth inning, I left, went home, because I was going to start the next day."

"Dallas Green came in after the game ... ranting and raving and asked, 'Where the heck is Christenson?' I was told I was going to start the next day, and starting pitchers usually go home anyway. It was routine."

Christenson said that when he came to the ball park the next day, Green wouldn't even talk to him. He said the manager turned his back on him. He said pitching coach Herm Starrette told him he wasn't starting, that he was in the bullpen.

"He (Green) put me in the bullpen more or less as punishment," Christenson said. "He was angry. He had said Christenson will never start a game for me as long as I (Green) live."

Christenson said that since the manager wouldn't talk to him he went to the front office to see general manager Paul Owens.

"I didn't go to Owens to pout and cry. I wanted to find out if I was going to be buried in the bullpen the rest of the season, and if Dallas Green was trying to ruin me. I always tried to get along with him. He never got along with me, I guess."

Christenson said he then went to the bullpen and pitched.

"I didn't have any qualms about it, but it never was the same. He (Green) always said he never held a grudge, but it was an example of one he didn't keep his word on."

Christenson said Green never even told him he was starting in one of the playoff games. The pitching coach did that. He pitched and the Phillies won, slicing Montreal's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-five series.

Christenson said he wasn't criticizing Green's managing. In fact, the pitcher said he thought Green did a pretty good job.

"But the way he handled things with the press, trying to run me into the ground as often as he could, saying things about me that weren't actually true ... So, where does Christenson go from here?"

The pitcher recounted his going into the ball park the next day, Green wouldn't even talk to him. He said the manager turned his back on him. He said pitching coach Herm Starrette told him he wasn't starting, that he was in the bullpen.

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point where he said he was leaving Philadelphia.

"Then the (other) teams started to come around, but they could not offer me anything because Philadelphia, I'm sure, managed to call other teams and tell them to back off, lay off."

How did he know that?

"We (he and his agent) just know that. Put it that way," Christenson said. "Because of certain timing of phone calls ... I'm not sure they made them, but it was the only way it could have been done."

Christenson said he telephoned former Phillies owner Ruly Carpenter and asked if it would be a good idea for the pitcher to go in and see Owens and Bill Giles, head of the group which purchased the club from Carpenter last fall.

"Carpenter advised me to go in and see Owens and Giles. I did and it resulted in a contract both sides could be happy with."

"I'm sure Carpenter told Owens and Giles about our talk," Christenson surmised.

"The important thing was that I found out they (the Phillies) really wanted me. And I told them I was willing to relieve or start, which ever way they wanted to use me. I prefer to start and they told me they wanted me as a starter."

How about the rap that he is a six- or seven-inning pitcher?

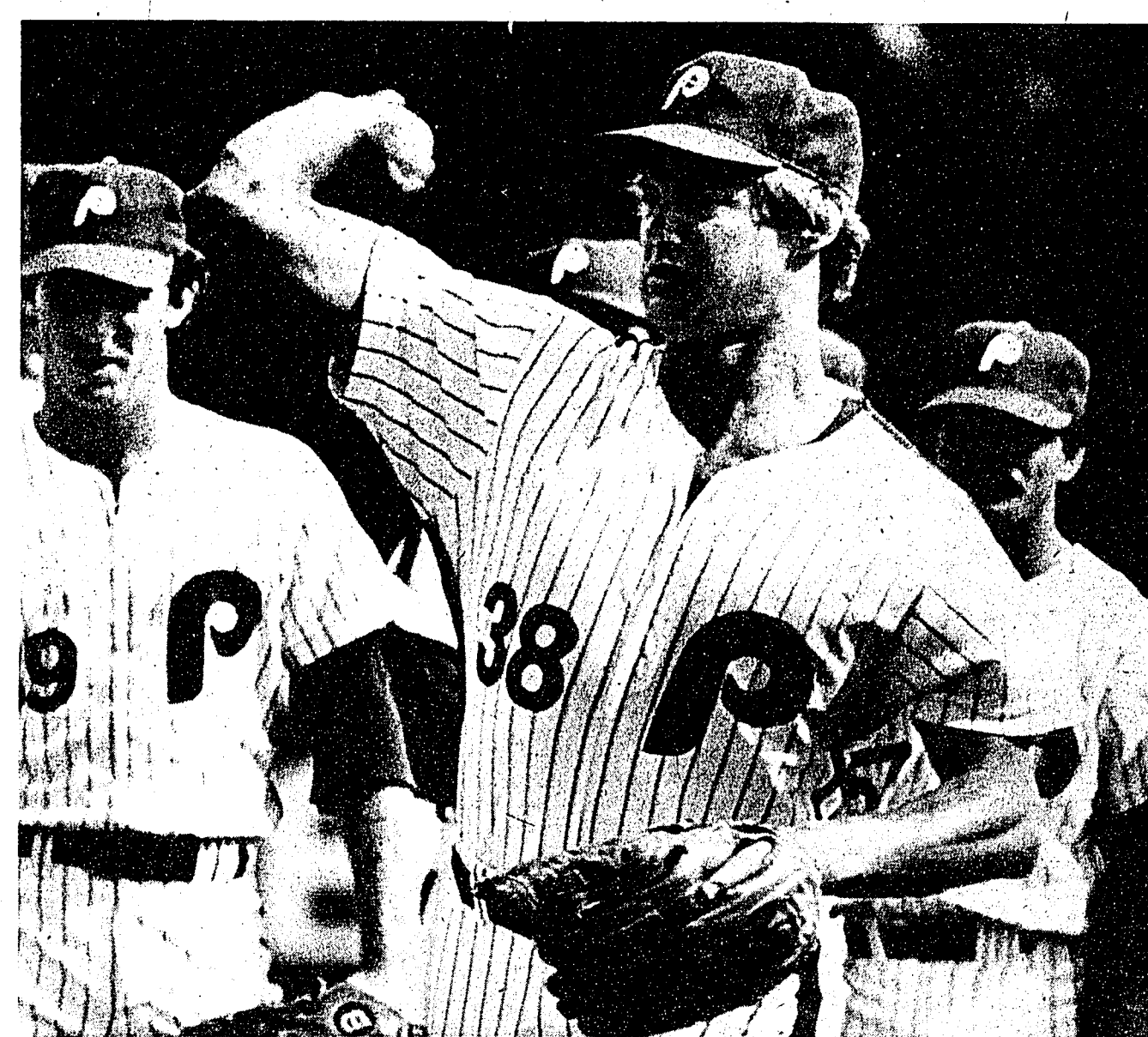
"That was Dallas' rap," Christenson replied.

"Like (teammate) Dick Ruthven said the other day, 'Complete games went out with dinosaurs.' Sure I went out there and tried to pitch nine innings. But I had a lot of injury problems (over the years), in Philadelphia," Christenson said.

Christenson said he didn't come close to signing with another team.

"With the collusion there was never an offer by any other club that was more than Philadelphia offered in the first place, and it was really ridiculous."

Christenson said it came down to the



Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Larry Christenson throws during a workout at the team's training camp in Clearwater, Fla. Christenson blames his poor 1981 on former Phillie manager, Dallas Green, who he claims was vindictive.

scoreboard

NBA

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------|------|--------|
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| y-Boston | 55 | 15 | 77.9 | |
| y-BKRB | 49 | 21 | 70.0 | 5 1/2 |
| Washington | 36 | 24 | 51.4 | 18 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 36 | 26 | 50.0 | 19 1/2 |
| New York | 30 | 41 | 42.3 | 25 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|------|------|--------|
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| x-Milwaukee | 48 | 23 | 67.6 | |
| Atlanta | 35 | 35 | 50.0 | 12 1/2 |
| Detroit | 34 | 27 | 47.9 | 14 |
| Indiana | 32 | 29 | 45.1 | 16 |
| Chicago | 29 | 41 | 41.4 | 18 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 15 | 65 | 21.4 | 32 1/2 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------|------|--------|
| Midwest Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| San Antonio | 44 | 27 | 62.0 | |
| Denver | 40 | 30 | 57.1 | 2 1/2 |
| Houston | 40 | 32 | 55.6 | 4 1/2 |
| Kansas City | 25 | 48 | 34.2 | 19 |
| Utah | 19 | 53 | 26.4 | 25 1/2 |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|------|------|--------|
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| Los Angeles | 48 | 23 | 67.6 | |
| Seattle | 46 | 24 | 65.7 | 1 1/2 |
| Golden State | 38 | 32 | 54.3 | 9 |
| Phoenix | 28 | 42 | 40.0 | 19 |
| Portland | 25 | 35 | 41.7 | 22 1/2 |
| San Diego | 16 | 55 | 22.2 | 32 |

NHL

| Wales Conference | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| Patrick Division | | | | |
| W | L | GP | PTS | |
| x-NY Islanders | 53 | 15 | 8 | 274 |
| y-NY Rangers | 38 | 26 | 13 | 204 |
| y-NYFB | 37 | 30 | 10 | 212 |
| y-PENGUINS | 29 | 36 | 12 | 202 |
| Washington | 24 | 41 | 12 | 208 |

| Adams Division | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| W | L | GP | PTS | |
| x-Montreal | 44 | 15 | 17 | 344 |
| y-Boston | 41 | 26 | 10 | 308 |
| y-Buffalo | 37 | 25 | 15 | 292 |
| y-Quebec | 31 | 29 | 16 | 333 |
| Hartford | 21 | 38 | 17 | 254 |

Exhibition Baseball

| Monday's Games | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PIRATES 10, New York (A) 5 | Cleveland 2, Houston 0 |
| Los Angeles 7, Minnesota 2 | Montreal 10, Toronto 2 |
| Chicago (A) 3, PHILLIES 2, 11 Inning | Boston 8, Detroit 0 |
| Milwaukee 9, San Francisco 6 | Seattle 7, San Diego 4 |
| Chicago (N) 5, Oakland 1 | Cleveland 3, California 3 |
| Baltimore vs. Atlanta, c.c., rain | |

| Yesterday's Games | |
|---|--|
| PIRATES vs. St. Louis at St. Petersburg, Fla. | Baltimore vs. PHILLIES at Clearwater, Fla. |
| New York (A) vs. Los Angeles at Vero Beach, Fla. | Montreal (SS) vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla. |
| New York (N) vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla. | Cincinnati vs. Kansas City at Fort Myers, Fla. |
| Boston vs. Chicago (A) at Sarasota, Fla. | Minnesota vs. Texas at Pompano Beach, Fla. |
| Montreal (SS) vs. University of Miami at Coral Gables, Fla. | |
| Seattle vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz. | California vs. Chicago (N) at Mesa, Ariz. |
| San Diego vs. Oakland at Phoenix, Ariz. | Milwaukee vs. Cleveland at Tucson, Ariz. |



Lefty Lasorda
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