

He Remembers Billy Before...

BY DAVE EDICK

Take it from Potsdam's Jack "Stretch" Phillips. He hit the nail right on the head last week when he predicted the controversial Billy Martin wouldn't stay away from baseball long.

Recounting his major league playing days and association with the New York Yankees while relaxing in the comfortable surroundings of the Elks Club lounge last Friday, Phillips shared his views of the continuing drama between the Yankees and Martin in the wake of last week's emotional splitting of the two. The personable Phillips, now the head baseball coach at Clarkson College, was himself a Yankee for a little more than two years between the 1947-49 seasons.

"I'll tell you, all Billy Martin has known just about all his life is baseball. Once you've gone along playing baseball every day and then coaching every day, you can't get it out of your system. It's at all possible, Billy will be back," Phillips said the day before the Yankees' bombshell announcement that Martin will, indeed, return as manager of the club in 1980.

"I was never that closely associated with Billy during my playing days (Martin came up from the minors in 1959 after Phillips had been sold to Pittsburgh a year earlier), but I got to know him pretty well through others. Billy played many years with Yogi Berra, of course, whom I had quite a good friendship with and still do.

"Personally, I was glad when they first made Billy the manager of the Yankees for several reasons. At the time I knew (Yankee owner) George Steinbrenner was looking for a real team-man, someone to carry on the idea of Yankee tradition. He certainly found all that in Martin. Billy was a fiery type as a player and he's been a fiery type as a manager. He's been involved in confrontations through his career. And I think he'll overcome this just as he's overcome the others," Phillips said.

Born in Clarence, N.Y., the 6-4, 193-pound Phillips later in his own career had more opportunities to come into contact with Martin when he was traded from Pittsburgh to the Detroit Tigers where he wound up his major league tenure, a span that was filled with many high points.

Always an above-average hitter for percentage, Phillips spent most of his nine-year major league career handling first base chores defensively. His best season with the bat came in 1955 with the Tigers when he hit .316 in 55 games. The following year, appearing in 67 games, he swatted a hefty .295. His overall major league average was a highly-respectable .285.

The one real low point, Phillips will tell you, came midway into the 1949 season when he was wearing Yankee pinstripes. Rolling along with a lofty .308 average in 45 games, the bubble suddenly burst when the immortal Joe DiMaggio returned to the roster after suffering a foot injury. The next thing Phillips knew, he was being notified he had been sold for \$50,000 to the Pirates.

"I have to say, it was quite a shock to me then coming when it did," Phillips recalled. "There I was going along real good and just starting to think about a solid future when the bottom dropped right out on me. At least that's what it felt like. Going from a first-place

Martin Sets Mark

For the record, newly-reappointed Yankee Manager Billy Martin has set a record of his own since first taking the club's leadership reins from Bill Virdon in 1975. Up to his temporary resignation last Monday, Martin had managed the Yankees in 471 games, the most games of any club he had previously managed.

Before joining the Yankees, Martin had managed for brief and tumultuous periods in Minnesota, Detroit and Texas. Behind the Yankees, he held his position with the Tigers for 454 games.

Martin's overall won-loss record as a manager is 761-604 for a .558 overall percentage. With New York, his managerial record is 279-192 (.592).

The winningest all-time Yankee manager was Joe McCarthy who managed many of the great Yankee legends, including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio. McCarthy managed from 1931 to 1946 in New York and finished with a .617 winning percentage.



JACK PHILLIPS-In his playing days with the Detroit Tigers.

team like the Yankees to a last-place team like the Pirates, which is what they were then, wasn't too appealing at that time.

"So I knew a little of how Martin was feeling when the bottom dropped out on him the other day. I guess it's a little ironic that it was the same team that it happened with to the both of us."

In truth, the move involving Phillips came at one of the toughest times for rookies hoping to crack the well-known Yankee lineup. Holding down first base was outstanding veteran Tommy Henrich while the outfield was firm with Hank Bauer in right, DiMaggio and Jim Cliff "Tiger" Mapes in center and Gene Woodling in left. Third base meanwhile, Phillips' second-favorite position, was being manned by a pair of whiz kids named Bobby "Doc" Brown and Billy "Bull" Johnson.

Somewhat demoralized, Phillips got into only 18 games the rest of the year in Pittsburgh, batting .232. An extra knock came at the end of the '49 season when the Yankees went on to win the World Series from the old Brooklyn Dodgers, four games to one, the first of five consecutive world championships for the "Bronx Bombers."

"Oh, it hurt, alright, to think about missing being a part of something like that," Phillips said. "You know, there's an old saying 'Once a Yankee, always a Yankee'. Well, that may not be as true today with all the players as it was, but that's the kind of atmosphere Billy Martin and I came up in. And you saw that attitude this week when Billy said 'Yankees don't throw stones' right after he resigned. The fact that he said that when he did says a lot about the man."

The continuous turmoil between Martin and the Yankee front office boiled over last Monday afternoon when, with tears streaming down his cheeks, the Yankee skipper announced his resignation in a Kansas City hotel. The resignation was brought about by highly-publicized critical remarks made by Martin of Steinbrenner and enigmatic star outfielder Reggie Jackson.

Coming just one day after Martin had been publicly supported by Steinbrenner in his suspension of Jackson for defying the manager's orders, Martin then told the newsmen, "I don't want to hurt the team for their chances for the pennant with all this undue publicity. I owe it to my health and mental well-being to resign at this time. And also, I am very sorry that there were things written about George (Steinbrenner). He did not deserve them... nor did I say them."

(Continued on page 19.)

Potsdam Holds Unbeaten Mark

The Potsdam soccer team kept alive its hopes to complete an unbeaten season with a 2-1 victory over Parishville and a 2-2 overtime tie with Madrid in a pair of away games last week.

The combination of the win and the tie with Madrid had gotten on the scoreboard with just five games remaining on the Summer Recreation League schedule. Potsdam currently holds down first place in the circuit's Eastern Division. Against Madrid last Wednesday, it was a showdown of league powers. Madrid, grouped in the Western Division, entered the game with an 8-1

record, its only loss coming at the hands of Potsdam in overtime earlier in the season.

Leading scorer Frank Signorelli struck first for Potsdam minutes after Madrid had gotten on the scoreboard with a goal early in the first period. Kennon Fisher assisted on the score.

Brian Lang then put Potsdam in front early in the second half after taking a pass from Joe Signorelli. But with just minutes remaining in the game, Brian Sharp again knotted the game at 2-2. The game remained a deadlock after two five-minute overtime periods.

Frank Signorelli's pair of goals was all Potsdam needed to get past division-opponent Parishville Sunday. Signorelli put Potsdam ahead 1-0 with a goal late in the first half and then tallied again midway into the second period after the

hosts had tied the contest at 1-1.

Fisher was credited with assists on both goals.

Signorelli's three goals last week gave him 11 on the season. Fisher is second with nine.

Last week's scores raised Potsdam's offensive output for the season to 44 goals while yielding only 13. Potsdam next takes on Hermon in an away game Wednesday night and is off with a bye Sunday. Potsdam travels to Gouverneur next Wednesday before returning home to host the Canton "A" team Sunday, Aug. 13, on the Potsdam State field.

sports

Netters Gain 2nd Round In Summer Tournament

Twenty-five entries advanced in early-round action of Potsdam's 7th Summer Tennis Tournament over the past week.

Advancing through opening-round play in the Men's Singles Division were: Robert Vilas over Fred Brouwer, 6-2, 6-1; Chris Angus over Charles Wiggins, 6-2, 6-4; Don Vigers over Gordon Jock, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; Fred Dupe over Richard Cryder, 6-0, 6-3; Nile Ekfelt over Ray Gosselin, 6-2, 6-3; Luther Gulick over Bruce Campbell, 6-0, 6-0; Terry Margosian over Dave Forsyth, 7-5, 7-6; and Dave Hazen over Paul Goodrow, 7-5, 6-3; Kevin Beyer advanced by default over Joel Merriman.

George Mina, Jerry Leek, Chris Fiore, Dave Jordan, Jerry Kruezer, Abby Slavin and Jeff Jorgenson were all given byes in the first round.

Ray Gosselin and Paul Goodrow, defending champions in the Men's Doubles Division, also enjoyed a bye in the opening round.

In first-round action in the Doubles Division, Vilas and Charles Jenkins defeated Brouwer and Gulick, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Dave Forsyth and Neal Sleszynski defeated Jock and Dave Hazen, 6-4, 6-1; Mark Serway and Jeff Loo defeated Bob and Anthony Lucic, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; and Dupe and Phil Markert defeated Terry and Levan Margosian, 6-2, 6-3.

Abby Slavin and George Mina were also scheduled to play Lyle Crofoot and Doug Holbert in a doubles match. Jeff Jorgenson and Jerry Leek advanced through a bye.

In the Women's Singles Division, Linda Barton downed Jennifer Knapp, 6-3, 6-0 and Sue Ekfelt defeated Fran Goodrow.

Chris Fiore beat Luther Gulick in a Senior Men's Singles match, 6-0, 6-4.

The final-round matches for all divisions are scheduled for Aug. 11-13.

Clark Returns From Yugoslavia

CANTON- St. Lawrence University wrestling coach John Clark has returned from a two-week clinic in Portoroz, Yugoslavia, where he was the U.S. representative at the World Conference on Wrestling, sponsored by the Federation International de Lutte Amateur.

Clark was selected by the Amateur Athletic Union as the U.S. representative and was also one of eight clinicians at the affair which included coaches from 50 nations.

Clark discussed training techniques used in the U.S. and techniques used in the initial exposure of American children to the sport of wrestling as his part of the clinic. Appearing at the clinic along with Clark were the Russian national coach and Shozo Sasahara, the Japanese

national coach and many time World Champion.

Clark will report on the clinic at the American Athletic Union convention in Texas this fall. His report will include technique films, books and lectures accumulated on his Yugoslavian trip.

The St. Lawrence coach has led the Saints to consistently-strong finishes in state and N.C.A.A. Division III intercollegiate competition.

Registration Scheduled

Registration for Potsdam Junior Football will be held at the Potsdam Junior High School in the gymnasium from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 5.

The program is open to boys 10-14 years old, who weigh from 75 to 120 pounds. Boys who signed up in their schools must also attend this registration. There is no registration fee.

The first practice is scheduled for Aug. 21, at 5:30 p.m. Players will meet on the bleachers on the football field for team assignments and equipment issue.

The next organizational meeting for the program is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 3, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Junior High School. All interested persons are asked to attend.

SUCP Schedules Gymnastics Camp

A girls' summer gymnastics program, open to girls 5-14 years-old, will be conducted at the State University College at Potsdam Aug. 14-18.

The course is designed for beginners through advanced gymnasts. Activities will include floor exercises along with work on the balance beam, uneven parallel bars and the trampoline.

The course will be taught by Lorraine Houk of Canton. A graduate of Canton High School and Keene State College in New Hampshire, Houk has coached gymnastics for the Canton gymnastics club and at Hogsburg.

More information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Continuing Education, 622 Raymond Hall, or calling 268-3197.

MORE SPORTS ON PAGE 19

Rugby Clash Scheduled For Fair

GOUVERNEUR- A rugby football game, the second ever played in St. Lawrence County, will be played between the Watertown Rugby Football Club and the Cornwall, Ont., Rugby Football Club at the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair here Sat., Aug. 12.

The game will start at noon in the infield at the fairgrounds. Admission to the game is free after paying admission at the gate.

Although most Americans are unfamiliar with the rugby-style of football, the European game provides exciting, fast-moving action any sports fan can appreciate. A contact sport that involves tackling, kicking and ball handling, the game is played with an oval ball that resembles an over-sized American football. With 15 players on each side, each player is able to tackle, run, pass and kick the ball. No blocking or protective padding is allowed.

Resembling American football in many ways, the action is more continuous with play being stopped only for penalties, the ball going out of bounds or after a score. Scoring in rugby also varies somewhat from American football. Four points are awarded for a "try" (touch-down), two points for a conversion kick, three points for a penalty kick (field goal) and three points for a drop kick through the posts.

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