

JIM MURRAY Williams New Breed Manager



By JIM MURRAY
Special to The Union

He looks more like a stagecoach robber than a baseball executive. The moustache bristles, the eyes are smoldering. He looks at you as if he dared you to go for your gun. If he came through the swinging doors to a frontier saloon, a hush would fall over the place and the town coward would scuttle out the back door for the sheriff.

Richard Hirshfeld Williams is the first and, so far, the only big league manager to wear a moustache. He has the intensity of a man climbing a sheer mountain. He gives the appearance it is always high noon and he is walking down the main street with his hands near his pistols watching for any sign of bushwhackers.

In a game, he is a bundle of restless energy. He chews gum so rapidly you'd think he would wear his teeth out. He never sits. He crouches — like a leopard waiting for the slow approach of fresh meat. The first sign of wavering on the part of his pitcher, he explodes from the dugout. He is somber, serious. He sees nothing funny about baseball. It is World War III, it is "circle the wagons, they're out there. I can hear the drums!" You would think his ulcer had an ulcer.

He is the most successful manager in the modern history of the game (if you throw out the Yankees who were not a team, they were a monopoly). Williams did not prove himself with one team of superstars, he proved it with two teams which were all too ordinary. One team finished ninth the year before he put it in the World Series. The other team was so wracked with dissension the prevailing opinion was it needed a referee, not a manager.

In five years of managing, his teams won two World Series, three pennants and one division championship. He has restored much of the lustre to the art of managing which has come to be regarded about as demanding as being a night watchman since the days of John McGraw and Connie Mack. Prior to Williams, it had come to be thought of as just a kind of complicated babysitting or zoo-keeping. So contemptuous was baseball of the craft that a general manager, Frank Lane, once derisively traded managers as if they were clubhouse boys. John McGraw would have flattened him.

Dick Williams was a journeyman ballplayer better known for his tongue than his bat. He became a great bench jockey, probably because he spent so much time there. On the old Brooklyn Dodgers, he recalls, the late Charlie Dressen "used to call me in from the bullpen to pinch-yell for him." When Charlie was either on-notice from the umpires or his vocal chords were worn raw, Williams used to take up the slack. "Westlake, is that a real bat or does it ALWAYS just hit the ball back to the pitcher?" Dick would holler.

Williams got to the majors as a manager after only two years of minor league managing. They gave him the 1967 Boston Red Sox, who were inclined to treat the game more as if it were polo, and they played it only if it didn't interfere with their stock market dabbling or their heavy social schedule.

Williams ran the franchise as if it were a hell-ship, beginning with stripping the epaulets off the team's "captain" and Hall of Fame candidate, Carl Yastrzemski. The Red Sox won the pennant because they didn't dare not to.

But those tactics only work when you win. When his star pitcher went from a Cy Young Award to a spiral fracture in a skiing accident, not even Williams could win with a pitching staff which had more gophers in it than San Bernardino County.

At Oakland, the problem was more subtle. Williams went from a permissive owner, Tom Yawkey of the Red Sox, who was like a father who encourages his sons to be playboys, to Charlie Finley, who treated his players more like nod-carriers.

One of Williams' first acts was curious. In the crew-cut world of baseball, at the time, the locker rooms looked more like a Prussian barracks than a part of 1971 America. Baseball has always been one gigantic razor blade commercial.

Williams went to the commissioner for permission for his players to wear hair on their chins. To understand this landmark move, you have to know that, back in 1935, a marginal player named Frenchy Bordagaray showed up at third base one day in Brooklyn wearing a handlebar moustache. Baseball needed smelling salts. The commissioner told him either the moustache went or he did.

But Williams' whole Oakland team needed moustache cups when the owner posted \$300 for anyone who grew whisker's Day. They looked more like a posse than a ballclub, the hairiest team since Abner Doubleday's. They didn't shave but they hit.

Dick Williams has now been handed a test even John McGraw would want to think over. There's nothing about the California Angels that long hair and wax moustaches can fix. They are a dispirited crew even their managers used to joke about.

Williams doesn't want to make them laugh, he wants to make them win. If he can do that, he can restore managing to a prestige it hasn't enjoyed since the days McGraw was "Little Napoleon" and Connie Mack was "The Grand Old Man of Baseball" and the guy in the dugout wasn't just a guy who made out lineup cards and turned off the showers after everybody went home.

McClain, Parks Power Action to 9-4 Victory

Jim McClain and Gary Parks knocked in three runs apiece to power Action to a 9-4 victory over Century in the Tri-County Baseball League Tuesday night at Blunt Park.

A scheduled game between Paper City and the Chicopee Falls Tigers at Holyoke was postponed because of wet grounds.

McClain and Parks each clouted two-run homers. McClain's wallop came in the first inning. Parks connected in the fifth.

Action rapped nine hits off two Century pitchers and the victory lifted the team from sixth to fifth in the standings.

Oparowski Repeats In Cross Country

Paul Oparowski was a repeat winner in the weekly two-mile cross country race sponsored by the Springfield Parks and Rec Dept. Placing second was Dan Dillon, followed by Ken Wilson, Russ Ellsworth and Jim Dillon.

Oparowski's time of 11:08 was the fastest of the season. There were 25 in the field.

Red Sox Throw It Away, 7-5

BOSTON (UPI) — A throwing error by catcher Tim Blackwell in the ninth inning Tuesday let in two runs to give the Detroit Tigers a 7-5 win over the American League East-leading Boston Red Sox.

Blackwell attempted to pick Jim Northrup off third base with two down in the inning after Al Kaline's two-run homer earlier in the frame had tied the game. The throw sailed into left field, allowing Northrup, who had doubled and moved to third on Aurelio Rodriguez' fly ball, to score along with Ben Oglivie, who reached on a walk.

The Red Sox had taken a 5-3 lead in the seventh inning on a three-run homer by Cecil Cooper into the rightfield bullpen. The blast capped a four-run rally which chased starter Joe Coleman. Rick Miller singled in the first run of the inning.

John Hiller, who is leading the major leagues in relief victories, picked up his 13th win of the season against seven losses.

Detroit's first run came in the second inning on consecutive singles by Bill Freehan, Jim Nettles and

Jerry Moses. The Red Sox evened it in the third when Doug Griffin walked, moved to second on Blackwell's bunt and scored on Miller's double to center.

The Tigers made it 3-1 in the fourth when Rodriguez and Ed Brinkman singled and starter Reggie Cleveland hit Mickey Stanley to load the bases. Gary Sutherland's single to left scored Rodriguez and Brinkman.

Brewers Sweep Yanks

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Kevin Kobel hurled a three-hit shutout and Dave May

single in the only run he needed to give the Milwaukee Brewers a 4-0 win over the New York Yankees in the second game and a sweep of their two-night doubleheader Tuesday night.

The Brewers won the first game 3-2 on Mike Hegan's twoout single in the bottom of the 10th.

The doubleheader victory moved the Brewers into fourth place in the American League East, just 3 1/2 games behind the division-leading Boston Red Sox.

The only hits off Kobel were singles in the fourth,

fifth, seventh and ninth innings. Not one Yankee got beyond first base off the 20-year-old rookie lefthander.

Indians 8, Orioles 6
BALTIMORE (UPI) — John Lowenstein drove across three runs with his sixth home run and a key single in a five-run seventh inning Tuesday night when the Cleveland Indians pummeled the Baltimore Orioles 8-6.

After Tom McCraw walked in the third inning, Lowenstein homered off losing pitcher Mike Cuellar, 13-7. Two Oriole singles, the Indians' third double play and

a Paul Blair home run in the fifth inning tied it at 2-2.

Cleveland sent nine men to the plate in the seventh, chasing Cuellar. McCraw scratched an infield single and took second on a throwing error. After Dave Duncan walked, first baseman Boog Powell dropped a pickoff throw, allowing McCraw to advance to third base.

The Indians scored an insurance run in the ninth when Duffy doubled against reliever Doyle Alexander, scoring on George Hendrick's single.

Twins 7, Royals 3

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Home runs by Harmon Killebrew and Larry Hise and three errors in the second inning by Kansas City shortstop Fred Patek helped the Minnesota Twins to a 7-3 victory over the Royals Tuesday night.

Minnesota's Joe Decker scattered 11 hits, raising his record to 11-9.

Killebrew opened the second inning with a double off the top of the left field fence and Patek booted successive ground balls by Hise and Eric Soderholm, allowing Killebrew to score. After Glenn Borgmann's RBI single, Patek mishandled a tough chance hit over second base by Minnesota's Rod Carew, allowing the third run of the inning to score.

Kansas City got back two runs in the third inning on run-scoring singles by Vada Pinson and Cookie Rojas.

But in the bottom of the third, Killebrew led off with his ninth home run of the season and No. 555 of his career, then Hise followed with his 16th of the year. Both came off losing pitcher Paul Splitteroff, 10-11.

THE SPRINGFIELD UNION SPORTS

26 + Springfield, Mass., Wednesday, July 31, 1974



(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Tigers' catcher Jerry Moses goes all the way to second base to put tag on Rick Miller of the Red Sox in third inning Tuesday night in Boston. Play started when Cecil Cooper broke for second on a 3-2 pitch. Miller, who was on second, started for third. Tigers' Ed Brinkman is in background.

Belts Two Homers, Triple Smith Lifts Cards, 4-3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Reggie Smith belted a pair of home runs, including a two-run shot in the eighth inning, and drove in all four St. Louis runs in the Cardinals' 4-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies Tuesday night.

The victory moved the Cardinals to within one game of first-place Philadelphia in the National League East.

St. Louis picked up a first-inning run with two out when Phillies' starter Jim Lonborg walked Bake McBride, who stole second and scored on Smith's triple to right. The Phillies tied it in the second when Del Unser tripled and scored on a passed ball charged to catcher Ted Simmons.

With one out in the sixth, Smith belted a Lonborg delivery over the 408-foot sign in right for his 14th home run of the season.

The Phils moved ahead 3-2 with a pair of runs in the seventh. The Phils loaded the bases on singles by Jay Johnstone and Tony Taylor around a walk to Tommy Hutton. Dave Cash then looped a two-run single to center.

Expos 4, Cubs 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Mike Jorgensen's two-run single in the 10th inning carried the Montreal Expos past the Chicago Cubs 4-3 Tuesday.

Montreal loaded the bases off Cubs' starter Rick Reuschel in the 10th when Ron Hunt was hit by a pitch and Willie Davis and Larry Lintz walked, Davis intentionally. Oscar Zamora relieved Reuschel and promptly surrendered

Jorgensen's line single to right field.

Chicago picked up a run in the 10th on a triple by Jerry Morales and an infield out.

The Cubs tied it at 2-2 in the seventh when Andy Thornton drew a leadoff walk, was sacrificed to second by Rick Monday and scored on a single by Morales.

Astros 8, Reds 4
CINCINNATI (UPI) — Cliff Johnson and Cesar Cedeño hit homers and Lee May pounded out two doubles and drove home three runs to lead the Houston Astros to an 8-4 victory over the Cincinnati Reds Tuesday night.

Don Wilson picked up his seventh victory against eight losses yielding five hits including homers by Johnny Bench and Tony Perez. Bench's homer, his 19th of

the season, came after a first-inning double to Joe Morgan. Perez' homer was also his 19th of the year.

Mets, Pirates Split
NEW YORK (UPI) — Ed Kranepool's three-run homer in the sixth inning and Cleon Jones' run-scoring double in the eighth lifted the New York Mets to a come-from-behind 4-3 triumph over Pittsburgh Tuesday night in the nightcap of their doubleheader after the Pirates won the opener 6-0 on Jim Rooker's five-hitter.

Jones, booted in the fourth inning when he let Riche Hebner's fly ball drop in for an error that scored Manny Sanguillen, who had doubted in two runs, doubled in the game-winning run in the eighth after Jerry Grote singled.

Giants 6, Braves 3

ATLANTA (UPI) — Chris Speier stroked a three-run double—his fourth hit of the game—off relief pitcher Danny Frisella in the 12th inning Tuesday night to give the San Francisco Giants a 6-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Steve Ontiveros walked with one out, Gary Thomasson hit a single and Ed Goodson walked to load the bases. Frisella managed to get Gary Matthews to bounce into a force out at home plate for the second out, but Speier sent a line drive to the base of the fence in left-center field and three runs scored. Pinch-hitter Dave Kingman tied the game 3-3 by leading off the ninth inning with a home run into the Atlanta bullpen.

Owners, Players Convene With Little Progress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representatives of the National Football League's 26 club owners and the striking NFL Players Association met with chief federal mediator W.J. Usery Jr. Tuesday with little visible progress toward ending the month-long strike.

Usery met for 30 minutes with both the players and owners in one room, then spent the next three hours talking separately with the two groups.

After that, he again brought the two sides together.

During breaks, neither side would comment on the negotiations, although a spokesman for the owners said the players had not made any new proposals, a move that was to have been a prerequisite for resuming the talks that broke off nine days ago.

"It's too early to say how it will go," Usery said before the meeting began. "We're hopeful but there are a lot of issues to negotiate."

John Thompson, executive director of the owners' bargaining agent, the NFL Management Council, added: "As far as we're concerned, we're still as far apart as we were March 16 (when negotiations began), so we'll wait and see what the players have to offer."

A statement issued Monday by Bill Curry of the Houston Oilers, president of the

Players Association, said: "We sincerely believe that, at this time, a settlement can be reached...We are looking forward to the meeting with the NFLMC and hope that once and for all we can solve our differences."

Usery conferred with the owners' representatives for nearly two hours Tuesday morning, a meeting similar to one Monday with player representatives.

Both meetings were devoted primarily to procedural questions and "how we can get started," Usery said.

The focal point of the strike is what the players have termed "freedom issues," such as their demands that the option and reserve clauses and the com-

pensation rule created by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle be eliminated and that players be given the right to approve or veto trades.

The strike began July 1 and, since then, Players Association members have picketed the league's 26 training camps. Both sides have recently claimed victories of sorts.

The owners have noted that well over 200 veterans, more than 60 of them starters, already have crossed picket lines and reported to camp.

The Players Association has countered by pointing out that, according to its count, more than 1,200 veterans are still on strike and that the union is as strong as it has ever been.

Shula Raps Swift In Verbal War

MIAMI (AP) — Miami Dolphins' Coach Don Shula publicly attacked Doug Swift Tuesday after Swift, the Dolphins' player representative in the National Football League strike, called veterans in training camp "scabs" and said he hoped the Dolphins lose their first exhibition game Saturday against Cincinnati.

"I hope the Bengals beat them like a gong," the Miami Herald quoted Swift as saying. "It's a scab team and it's only an exhibition anyway, remember?"

"When you see that in black and white...it's pretty hard to stomach," said Shula. "I never thought this would get down to a name-calling contest because of the respect our veteran football players have for each other."

"But now Swift resorted to this...calling people names who have helped put \$70,000 in playoff money in his pocket the last four years. Nobody's rapping him for being outside that gate (picketing)."

"I expect Swift to respect the people who made a decision to come to camp."

Shula said he hoped the defending NFL champions would be able to regroup after the strike without hostility.

He said he was especially upset by Swift's remarks because Swift got his start when the veterans were out on strike in 1970.

Swift, a linebacker out of Amherst College, entered the Dolphins' training camp and earned a spot on the roster after he was cut by Montreal of the Canadian Football League in 1970.

"That's why I think Ed Garvey was wrong for criticizing Norm Van Brocklin for trading Ken Reaves," said Shula.

Garvey is the NFL Players' Association executive director and Reaves was Atlanta's player representative to the NFLPA until he was traded recently.

"He's criticizing Van Brocklin," Shula said, "and Keating's threatening to put our player representative in the WFL that same week."

Shula also said that the Dolphins have offered Swift a five-year contract, more than doubling his 1973 salary each year, without success.

Cowboys Lose Pugh, Wright To WFL Team

DALLAS (AP) — Defensive tackle Jethro Pugh, a mainstay on Dallas Cowboys' National Football League championship teams, said Tuesday he signed with the World Football League because he believes it is on solid ground.

"I was treated first class," said the 10-year veteran who will join the Birmingham Americans in 1976. "From what I've seen, it's amazing what they have accomplished in just a year."

Rayfield Wright, an all-pro offensive tackle, also signed with the Americans. Pugh said Wright would join the team in 1977.

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