



ROLLIE HEMSLEY... Bee boss in pensive mood

He Can Stop Hot Corner Traffic Bees May Have Yost's Replacement in Kordas

SPORTS

12-B

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By Bob Quincy

Charlotte News Sports Editor

Gomez Recalls The Day Rollie Was A Yankee



NERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.—Lefty Gomez, the one-time New York Yankee, came to visit a former teammate here yesterday and there's no need to say he and Rollie Hemsley spread it on thick.

Matter of fact, Rollie and Gomez talked so long the Hornets took extra batting practice before their scheduled intrasquad game, which resulted in a five-hour workout, longest of the camp.

Said Gomez: "I'll never forget when Hemsley joined the Yanks in 1942. We didn't know anything about it. All of our catchers were sick or injured, we were in bad shape.

"We're sitting on the bench and the public address announcer calls out the batter. Hemsley was catching. That's the first any of us knew he had joined the club. He hadn't played in some time and he had to go for a doubleheader.

Rollie said that was right. He had been released by Cincinnati and Joe McCarthy called him to assist the Bronx Bombers. Rollie made as much speed as he could. Joined on a moment's notice.

"And I'll never forget that he went about five for eight that first day of doubleheader play," said Gomez.

"McCarthy was yelling for him to stay off base, to rest up. Rollie would take a half-way cut and would roll a base hit. He couldn't miss."

Yankees Would Go Boom, Boom, Boom

Gomez, as usual, was on the podium. He has more talk than a loaded barroom and it doesn't take much to get on his switch.

"Those were the good days, back with the Yankees," sighed Lefty. "Do you realize that one year we had four players strike in more than 100 runs apiece."

"Babe Ruth used to come up to me before a game and ask if I was going to pitch. If I said yes, he'd say, 'Hold 'em to five, Lefty, and we'll win for you.'"

Ossie Bluege, the Washington director, said he knew the situation well. The Yanks were high living athletes that played hard both during and after hours.

"You said it," said Gomez. "Back in those days, I thought it was a \$25 fine to come in before midnight."

It used to burn me," said Ossie. "to have to play Ruth and that gang. Some days they would come to the park and you knew they were hung over badly. We'd say to ourselves that we'd get 'em for sure."

"Well, about the seventh inning we might have a two or three run lead and hope to have on. There is when they'd come back to life about four in the afternoon. Then boom, boom, and it was all over."

"Yeah," said Gomez, "playing for the Yanks, five runs was nothing in an inning. I later played for Boston and five runs was big for a week."

Lefty Says Rollie Right Guy For Bees

"REMEMBER," said Bluege to Gomez, "the day I had to tell you we no longer could use you at Washington."

"I'll say I do," answered Gomez. "You called me up to your room and were pacing up and down. You said, 'Lefty, I have something to tell you and I don't know how to say it.'"

"So I said, 'I'll say it for you; I'm fired.' How was that Ossie? I really called the shot didn't I?"

Gomez and Hemsley recalled how McCarthy, strictly baseball and one of the hardest hitters in history, wouldn't let any of his players smoke a pipe.

Said Rollie: "He contended the fellow who smokes a pipe is a contented fellow and he didn't want any contented players on his club."

After a lengthy session of reminiscence, Gomez took his leave and said he would come back for another visit in the future. Before he cranked his auto, he passed a compliment Rollie's way.

"There was a great catcher," said Lefty. "He was mechanically perfect and he could run and throw. I can think of only one couple, one being Mickey Cochrane, who were faster. He'll do a fine job for Charlotte."

Roomies Do Battle In Hornets' Game

By BOB QUINCY
Charlotte News Sports Editor

NERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.—Third base has been something of a jinx spot for the Charlotte Hornets over the past five years. Players have performed well on occasion, but none managed to go up.

Looking down the list of those who have matriolated, the names of Tommy Marino, Frank Colaninelli, Roy Dietzel and Des Charouras come to mind. None ever so much as challenged Rollie Yost as a possible successor.

Now comes Tommy Kordas. Is he the most promising of the lot?

Tommy comes from Chicago. He is a big list of 63 members and he stands 6-1. He'll step in front of a freight train if it means he can get up.

Says Tommy: "I want to play baseball."

So eager is he to make good, Rollie Hemsley took one look and said of his hot-corn candidate. "I'd like to send him to the big leagues."

Now it's up to Tommy, who has been hitting and fielding with success in early drills.

"I've just got a chance with the Hornets," said Kordas, "but they didn't think I was ready."

He had a pretty good year, batted .298 and played a pretty good third base.

"Now I think I'm capable of handling a job for the Hornets. I think I can hit Class A pitching and I can do a good job defensively."

Can Kordas shake the jinx, move up the ladder?

At the end of the day, Kordas and the Hornets are giving Tommy every chance to show he has the stuff.

Everyone in camp is beginning to battle. Even roommates are at each other's throat.

Take yesterday's incident between Red Foster and John O'Larr. John, the catcher, singled in the intrasquad game, won by 11-4 in a walkabout by the Chick Sages' contingent over the Joe Flyers, and moved down to second on a wild pitch. He had to slide into the bag and ripped his trousers.

Second sacker Foster looked at his roomie and said, "Here Johnny, if I'm bench you off, Step over here and I'll take a look at that rip."

John stepped off the bag and Foster tagged him out.

The Hornets play a moderate workout today—they get busy with the first exhibition game of the season against Chattanooga tomorrow afternoon.

Evilio Lopez, Bob Long and Bob Gotovac in mound action.

Hemsley asked if he was looking forward to seeing to Charlotte in three weeks.

"I certainly am," said Rollie. "Now that I've got a little help from Washington."

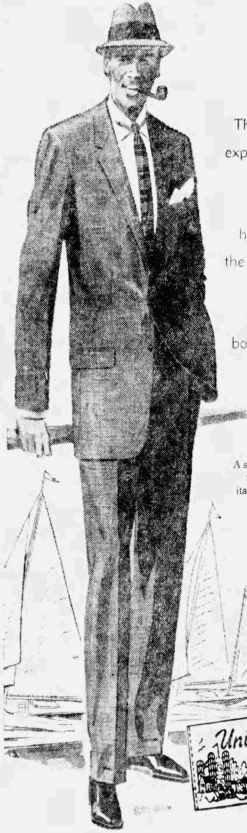
The Nats sent down Pitchers Ted Sadowski and Garland Shifflet. Catcher James Schuller, Infielder Gil Hooker and Outfielder Bill Allison to the Hornets yesterday. These five



TOMMY KORDAS will report tomorrow.

Still no homers to report. Alan Stone tripped in the intrasquad tiff, a blow to right field. He's a righthanded swinger.

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