

Mike Callas

PRESS Sports

BIG BOY BILKO SIGNS ANGEL PACT WITH PRAYERS

Irv Kaze, the astute press secretary of the Los Angeles Angels informs this corner that Big Steve Bilko, darling of the old Angels and a flop as a major leaguer, signed his contract yesterday and as usual, Irv forgot to fill in the amount for the benefit of the press corps. A little calling here and there got the figures for us—around \$20,000.

Bilko is no surprise to the thousands of baseball fans in these parts. With the Angels of the old Pacific Coast League, he created sports headlines when major league baseball was still an unfulfilled desire. In '55 he belted 37 homers and came right back in '56 to threaten Tony Lazzeri's old mark of 60 with 55 round-trippers.

FAILS AS A MAJOR-LEAGUER

After Steve's barrage, the Majors beckoned and Bilko was sent to the Reds in Cincinnati. Midway through the season of '58 he was transposed to his old home town via sale to the Dodgers. Bavasi and O'Malley wanted him to back up aging Gil Hodges at first base. And also they wanted Steve to assure them of a better gate because of his popularity.

The ponderous Bilko played in 78 games with the Reds and Dodgers, seeing only limited service and as a result of time on the bench and major-league pitching, Steve hit only 11 homers and batted a disappointing .250. The Alston-led Dodgers were no longer in love with him; they sent him down to Spokane. In '59 he batted .305 and pumped 26 four-baggers. He was ready for the big time again. At Detroit he failed and at the close of the 1960 campaign the 32-year-old made the minors again.

When the American League added Los Angeles to its roster of clubs, Fred Haney grabbed him in the draft, possibly because Fred was envisioning the return of the faithful to Wrigley Field, site of the Bilko blasts of years gone by.

WILL PROBABLY FLOP AGAIN

Kaze tells us that Steve will leave his Nanticoke, Pa., home on Feb. 22 to come to Los Angeles before proceeding to Palm Springs for the opening of spring training on Feb. 24.

The Los Angeles public is very similar to that of other sports capitals around the country; they can remember Bilko's exploits and failures—but they are forgiving and want to see Steve make good. Your reporter is of the same emotion. Like anything else, once the mind takes over, you realize that Steve will flop again. He just can't hit the pitching.

It might be the same ball park that Steve once tore apart but the hurlers won't be throwing that minor-league pill. If Steve has any prayers in him, he might well exercise the right of all men as I know this reporter and thousands of fans are saying theirs to help the big and lovable guy.

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Eight Members Of Ball Club Not Yet Signed

Only eight members of the Los Angeles Dodgers remain to be signed to their 1961 contracts by General Manager E. J. (Buzzie) Bavasi—and he hopes to have them all in line before the Dodgers leave for Spring training next Sunday.

The contracts of Larry Sherry, star relief pitcher; John Roseboro, No. 1 catcher; Ron Fairly, outfield hopeful; and youngsters Al Norris and Tim Harkness brought the total of signed Dodgers to an even 30.

Buzzie is awaiting signatures of Roger Craig, Phil Ortega, Ed Rakow, Thad Tillotson and Rick Warren, pitchers; Bobby Aspromonte and Maury Wills, infielders; and Don Demeter, outfielder, to complete his list.

Hero of the 1959 pennant race and the World Series when he took part in all four Dodger victories over the Chicago White Sox, Sherry was given a whirl early last season as a starting pitcher. There is still some thought of adding him to the starters in 1961 if Rakow, Ed Palmquist or some other relief specialist shows enough in Spring training to assure sufficient support for Ed Roebuck.

ANKLE INJURY

An ankle injury last year, sustained when he tripped over a loose bat, set Sherry back for some time but he was his old self down the stretch. Before the All-Star intermission, Larry was a 6-7 performer but he won 8, lost 3 and was credited with four saves and a 2.58 ERA the second half of the season. His over-all record of 14 victories tied Stan Williams and Johnny Podres in the Dodgers' runner-up position for the season (behind Don Drysdale's 15 victories). Larry also had saves and his wins-and-save record of 21 was tops on the team.

In one stretch (July 19-August 22), Sherry worked 15 games, all in relief, allowed only six earned runs in 45 and one-third innings for an ERA of 1.19 and a 7-1 record (plus two saves). That was the Sherry of '59.

For the second straight season, Roseboro had a disappointing year at the plate, batting .213. He hit 333 as a pinch-hitter, however, and was a better hitter with men on bases than when they were empty. He led N.L. catchers in double plays (10) and for the third straight year was the stolen-base leader among major league catchers with seven thefts. The shorter fence in right field at the Coliseum in 1961 may be all that John needs to make a comeback at the plate. Since the Dodgers came here in 1958, Roseboro has hit only eight home runs at home compared with three times that many on the road. The new right field fence could be the difference.

FULL SEASON

In a much-needed full season in Triple-A baseball, Fairly batted .303, hit 34 doubles, 4 triples and 27 home runs, driving in an even 100 runs. The former USC star, who spent the 1959 season with the Dodgers, will be one of the spotlight outfield contenders this spring. Like Roseboro, Duke Snider, Willie Davis, Wally Moon and other left-handed hitters, he, too, will be anxious to test his power on the new Coliseum centerfield power alley. With Norm Larker hitting .323 last year, Frank Howard looming as a potential first baseman and Gil Hodges still available, Harkness, a young first baseman, will have a set of sizeable barriers to vault in order to make the club this year. But, off his record in Atlanta, he may be the surprise of spring training. With Rube Walker's Crackers last year, Tim, a stylish defensive player, hit .293, socked 28 homers and drove in 111 runs. One of his strong-

Dodger Farmhands Move to Twelve '61 Major Teams

There will be Los Angeles Dodger farmhands on twelve of the eighteen major league club Spring rosters when the teams move into their 1961 training maneuvers.

A total of thirty-one players who performed for Dodger minor league clubs last year will be vying for big league berths during the coming season.

This probably is some sort of record for one-year promotion of youngsters up the baseball ladder. Five of these players were in the Dodger system under option from other major league clubs but the remaining twenty-six all were Los Angeles property.

Eighteen of these players will be included in the roster of the L.A. club. Other major league teams which have "borrowed" from Fresno Thompson's system are the Washington Senators, Chicago White Sox, Baltimore Orioles, St. Louis Cardinals, Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Angels, Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Athletics, Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs and San Francisco Giants.

PENNANT WINNER

Spokane, pennant winner in the Pacific Coast League, graduated thirteen players to the majors. Men who played part or all of their 1960 season for the Indians included Willie Davis, Frank Howard, Ed Palmquist, Ed Rakow, Ron Fairly, Charlie Smith and Al Norris, all of whom will be with the Dodgers at Vero Beach; Ray Semproach, pitcher, headed for the Senators camp at Pompano Beach, Fla.; Tony Roig, moving up to the White Sox; Earl Robinson, sold to the Orioles; Mel Nelson, pitcher, owned by the Cardinals; Joe Pagliaroni, catcher, going to Florida with the Red Sox and Ed Sadowski, another catcher, who'll be training with the Angels at Palm Springs.

Here is the complete list of Dodger 1960 farmhands who'll be striving for major league jobs in 1961:

Willie Davis, OF, Dodgers; Ed Rakow, P, Dodgers; Ray Semproach, P, Senators; Tony Roig, 2B, White Sox; Frank Howard, OF, Dodgers; Earl Robinson, OF, Orioles; Mel Nelson, P, Cardinals; Joe Pagliaroni, C, Red Sox; Ed Sadowski, C, Angels; Al Norris, OF, Dodgers; Charles Smith, SS-3B, Dodgers; Ron Fairly, OF, Dodgers; Ed Palmquist, P, Dodgers; Jim Golden, OF, Dodgers; Leon Carmel, OF, Cardinals.

Bob Aspromonte, 3B-2B, Dodgers; Jim Donohue, P, Tigers; Rick Warren, P, Dodgers; Bill Kunkel, P, Athletics; Ray Webster, SS, Red Sox; Clarence Coleman, C, Phillies; Doug Camilli, C, Dodgers; Tim Harkness, 1B, Dodgers; Dick Traoweski, SS, Dodgers; Thad Tillotson, P, Dodgers; Mel Corbo, 1B, Dodgers; Phil Ortega, P, Dodgers; Willard Hunter, P, Dodgers; Ralph Plumlee, SS, Dodgers; Wayne Carlander, P, Cubs; Arlo Engel, OF, Giants.

est boosters is Hodges, who says of him: "This boy is going places in this game."

Norris, an all-around player capable of outfield and infield play, moved from St. Paul to Spokane last year when Howard came up to the Dodgers. He got off to a terrific start with the Indians when he hit six homers in 10 days—but his bat quieted after that and he finished the year with a .245 average.

Use classified. Call DA 5-1515

Ascot Hosts Cycle Races

Dick Dorresteyn, two-wheeled scorcher from upstate San Pablo, goes to the post the favorite in a program of TT motorcycle races this afternoon at Ascot Stadium, Gardena.

Competition starts at 2:15 p.m., practice laps at 12:30, and a field of more than 80 is entered for the 14-event steeplechase carnival.

Dorresteyn swept the field in last-month's races over the treacherous, twisting six-tenths of a mile course that includes a 10-foot steeplechase jump in front of the grandstand.

The Northern California star also won three straight races at Riverside in November, so is working on a victory skein of six in a row. He defends his brand-new Ascot 15-lap record of 13:04.01 as well as his 3-lap trophy dash record of 2:37.98, both set Jan. 15.

Against Dorresteyn will be such favorites as Jack Simmons, San Pedro; Eddie Kretz, Monterey Park; Clark White, Bakersfield; Dick Hammer, Lakewood; Skip Van Leeuwen, Bellflower; Jim Goldsmith, Long Beach; Johnny Gibson, Duarte, and many more.

Much of the attention will be focused on Van Leeuwen, who is still looking for his first win after going undefeated throughout 1960 as a novice. He got by Dorresteyn twice in a heat race last time out before he crashed into the infield barrier. A rematch is certain in the heat race, trophy dash or main event, possibly in all three.

All of Sunday's races will carry American Motorcycle Association points, which count towards the season championship, and the nation's high point TT rider title.

Dodger News

All-around staff... Dodgers' Board of Strategy, 1961 vintage, covers all baseball departments. Joe Becker was a catcher, Clay Bryant a pitcher, Walt Alston a first baseman, Leo Durocher an infielder and Pistol Pete Reiser an outfielder.

Grand-slam leaders... Dodgers of '60 tied Cincinnati for the National League lead in Grand Slam homers—six. Frank Howard hit two and Tommy Davis, Wally Moon, Norm Sherry and John Roseboro one each.

No Double-Trouble... Dodgers were only team in majors which did not suffer doubleheader defeats last season. They swept four and split three.

SNLL HOLDS TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the coming Little League baseball season by the Southwood National Little League will begin Saturday, Feb. 18, at 9 a.m. at the Anza Elementary School, 21400 Ellinwood Dr., in the Southwood area.

Tryouts conducted on this date will be for youngsters nine and ten years of age. The following Saturday, Feb. 25, tryouts will be conducted at the same time and place for the 11 and 12 year olds. The last tryouts will be on Saturday, March 4, for the eight year old boys.

This will allow the managers and coaches a period of six weeks to train and practice the boys and weld them into smooth-working teams before the opening game at Tibben Field on Saturday, April 22.

P.L. LEAGUE TO MEET

Tryout dates and plans for the coming season will be discussed at a general meeting of the Pacific-Riviera Pony Baseball League Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p. m. in the clubhouse at El Retiro Park.

All parents who have boys in the 13 and 14-year-old age bracket who intend to play the coming season are urged to attend.

PRESS Sports



LET'S GO

BOWLING

With Darlene Cope

There were many new faces as well as familiar ones at the ladies' class last Thursday afternoon at Gable House.

SCOTCH DOUBLES

Jerry Homel's class feature was the Scotch Doubles. In Scotch Doubles, you and your partner each bowl the same game, throwing alternate balls. For example, the first bowler would deliver and leave three pins. It would then be up to the partner to try and convert the spare.



GABLE HOUSE BOWL ASSOCIATION

The members of the Gable House Bowl Association had their kick-off meeting last Tuesday night at Gable. Pat O'Leary was the acting chairman of the meeting.

Purpose of this organization is to plan house activities such as bingo games, bowling tournaments and leagues, banquets and parties. Outside functions such as picnics and other family athletic activities will also be included.

The membership fee for the first year is \$15 per family. Then Gable issues you a \$15 bowling card, so actually there is no cost to you. The only other fee involved would be a personalized bowling shirt.

This group plans to start activities immediately. There is going to be a singles handicap bowling tournament Sunday, Feb. 19 at 1 o'clock. The association members and their families are eligible to compete for house trophies. Spectators and friends are welcome to come and watch and if interested in joining the association, Jerry Homel will be happy to give you literature and answer any questions you may have.

LEAGUE OF WEEK

The Sears Handicap League, which gathers every Tuesday evening at 6:30, is the "League of the Week." There are eight teams with five men on each.

Team 5 (The Enders) is in first place with 41 wins and 19 losses. The team members' averages are as follows: G. DeLuca, 158; A. Dell, 167; W. Wilson, 125; A. Glass, 145; and J. Saxton, 167.

Weekly honors are held by HS. J. Mignacca, 607, and HG. C. Houseman, 247. Season's high scores to date are: HS. D. Mead, 651, and HG. V. Trembley, 260.

The high scratch game, 247, and average, 178, are both held by A. Glover of team 7.

HOUSE NEWS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Don Gurnick on the birth of their fourth son Jan. 28. Little Wayne Robert Gurnick, 6 lbs. 6 1/2 ozs., bears a strong resemblance to his daddy.

Remember the 50 and Over free bowling class this morning at 10 o'clock. Ruth Caudle will be at Gable to welcome you and teach the fundamentals of this great sport.

Ten Events Stated Today

Three top drivers rate as favorites for Sunday afternoon's CJA Stock Car races at Gardena's Western Speedway. They are Jim Cook, Norwalk; "Wild" Bill Foster, San Fernando, and Arley-Scranton, Compton.

All three have main event wins this year, but have yet to score a second triumph. The trio also pilot the same make-car, Oldsmobile 88's.

Cook won the opening race of the season, then was leading the second race, when he blew a transmission, then in a race two weeks ago Cook finished second only a wheel behind. Cook is currently leading in the association point standings for 1961.

Other leading drivers who will race include Oren Prosser, San Fernando; Sam Stanley, Sylmar; Conny Burdett, Burbank; Dave Hubert, Huntington Park; Dick Cook, Maywood; Al Gileck, Inglewood; Lamarr Anderson, Manhattan Beach; Ray McKinley, Bell; Bruce Worrell, Long Beach.

SIGN-UP DAY CHANGED

Registration for the Torrance Central Little League has been changed from Feb. 15 and 16 to Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17, at Greenwood School.

Boys between 8 and 12 years of age should bring their parents and a birth certificate to the registration.

BLACK EYE

"There is no magic 'juice' in a beefsteak to heal a black eye. For treating a black eye the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness advises cold compresses as first aid.

Shrine Theater Is Fight Site

Unprecedented demand for tickets to the closed circuit, large-screen presentation of the Patterson-Johansson heavyweight championship fight Monday, March 13, has led to the addition of the Shrine Auditorium to those Los Angeles theaters offering the match as part of a nationwide hookup direct from Miami.

Since the Shrine will allow more Los Angelenos to see the bout, which will not be telecast on home TV, more than a million persons will see the fight on the large screens of theaters and auditoriums of the country, resulting in the largest gate in the history of boxing.

A special projector and a large screen are being set up in Shrine Auditorium to insure the audience a ringside closeup of the fight comparable to that being enjoyed in the \$100-a-seat charity presentation in Madison Square Gardens as well as those seeing the actual fight in Miami.

Ticket sales will be handled by Southern California Music Co. and by all Mutual agencies.

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