

For seventh time

# Hunter on All-Star list

Catfish Hunter, the 3.75-million-dollar man, and two of his former teammates were picked by Oakland manager Alvin Dark Monday to round out an eight-man pitching staff for the American League All-Stars.

Hunter, who signed the multi-million dollar contract with the New York Yankees last New Year's Eve after being declared a free agent by an arbitrator, has managed an 11-8 record so far this season.

Other American League hurlers participating in the July 15 All-Star Game will be Rollie Fingers and Vida Blue of Oakland, Jim Kaat and Rich Gossage of Chicago, Nolan Ryan of California, Jim Palmer of Baltimore and Steve Busby of Kansas City.

Three of the eight pitchers performing in the classic in Milwaukee's County Stadium were

there last season when the National League won 7-2. Hunter, Busby and Fingers will be back to seek revenge.

This marks Hunter's seventh appearance as an AL All-Star. Hall of Famers Bob Feller of Cleveland and Whitey Ford of the Yankees are the only two pitchers who have been named to more AL teams, each being selected eight times.

Palmer, the 1973 Cy Young Award winner in the AL, battled back from an injury-marred 1974 season to receive his fourth All-Star selection. Currently, he is tied with Kaat for the most victories in the league with 13. The Oriole righthander has lost only five contests and sports an excellent ERA of 1.91.

Ryan, the AL's strikeout leader with 133, posted a record-tying fourth career no hitter this year to

tie Sandy Koufax. In recent weeks he has been bothered by an injury to his groin muscle. The fireballing righthander has a record of 10-7 with an ERA of 3.14.

Blue is trying to get back in the groove and is beginning to look like his old self again, as he's compiled a 12-6 record with a 3.10 ERA. Blue is in his second All-Star appearance.

Dark selected Kaat to go along with Blue as a one-night pitching staff of lefthanders. Kaat, known as the "comeback kid", is off to his best start ever with a 13-4 record and a 2.72 ERA. The 36-year-old Chicago pitcher will be playing his third All-Star Game.

Fingers and Gossage will handle the relief work for Dark. Fingers has done very well this season in the late innings with 10 saves, a 5-4 record and an ERA of 2.93.

This man is special.



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## Wimbledon victor praises Connors

Arthur Ashe, champion of the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, earlier this week said that Jimmy Connors, the victim of his onslaught in the finals, is still "the best tennis player in the world."

But describing Connors in other terms, he said the dethroned champion was a 23-year-old kid who has been misled by his manager.

Ashe, who defeated the favored Connors relentlessly in four sets in Saturday's Wimbledon final, again insisted that the championship was not a grudge match because the \$5 million suit filed by Connors two weeks ago.

He directed his criticism this time to Bill Riordan, Connors' manager.

"I don't really think Connors is doing it (filing the suit)," Ashe said upon arriving in Pittsburgh for a promotion. "I think it's his manager, Bill Riordan. A 23-year-old kid doesn't go around suing everybody."

He said Connors is "basically a nice guy," and said he would like to team up with him for the United States in the Davis Cup competi-

tion. "But he's being handled like a prize fighter," commented Ashe.

"If left to his own devices, I don't think he would be saying the things he's saying."

Ashe, the first black man to take the Wimbledon title, recalled conversation he had with Connors last week.

"Jimmy's locker was about two yards from mine," Ashe said. "One morning I said, 'Jimmy, why don't you and I and some of the other Davis Cup players, no lawyers, have a chat sometime?'"

"He said fine. But the next day, Riordan called us and said he would represent Connors in the meeting."

Ashe said the meeting was cancelled because, "you know what would have happened" if Riordan had taken part. He did not elaborate.

Connors firmly refused to play in the Davis Cup and Ashe said he and other tennis players have "bent over backwards" for Connors to no avail. He hinted it was Riordan who influenced Connors into refusing the acceptance of the peace gesture.

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