

Blue leaves Oakland camp

MESA, Ariz. — Charles O. Finley's ever-boiling Oakland A's prepared yesterday to face Minnesota in the season-opener Saturday with their scheduled ace starter Vida Blue AWOL troubled because he feels Finley has crossed him once too often.

The A's premier lefthander walked off at training camp Monday saying he was "fed up with the man." He said he was going home to Mansfield, La.

Blue left the hotel and headed for home Tuesday without saying any-

thing to club officials or anyone else. "I don't know," Blue answered when asked if he would show up for the opener Saturday.

The 27-year-old Cy Young Award winner claims Finley was not fair to him last year when he signed with the A's and the owner then tried to sell him to the New York Yankees for \$1.5 million in the celebrated showdown between Finley and Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn which Kuhn won by voiding the sale.

"I'm going home. I'm fed up with

the man. I just can't take this any longer," Blue said when he left after the morning workout.

He did take a couple of cartons of baseballs along with him.

Finley insisted when he heard about the walkout that he had no idea what was troubling his prize pitcher.

"I can't figure out why he would do that," Finley said. "I have no idea what he's upset about. I talked to him the other day for a few minutes. He answered the phone when I was calling my manager. He was

very cordial, very enthusiastic about the ball club."

A's manager, Jack McKeon, also claimed he had no indication Blue didn't want to play. "I talked to him this morning about how he was feeling," said McKeon after Blue's departure. "He said he was going to pitch batting practice tomorrow."

But it was obvious that Blue was unhappy about the season ahead with Oakland and Finley. He skipped an appointment on the mound against the Phoenix Giants last Friday, citing a cold as the reason.

In four spring starts, Blue has pitched 19 innings, allowing two earned runs on 12 hits for an earned-run-average of 0.95.

Blue is in the second year of a three-year contract. He claims Finley promised him last year he would not consider selling him to another club and the next day sold him to the Yankees, along with Joe Rudi and Rollie Fingers to the Boston Red Sox.

Rudi and Fingers played out their options and signed with the California Angels and San Diego Padres.

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