

## Rose looks forward to Phillies' camp

By MILTON RICHMAN  
UPI Sports Editor

You can tell just by looking at him, Pete Rose can't wait to put on his new peppermint pinstripes. He's so anxious; in fact, he had the Philadelphia Phillies send him one of their uniforms, then went to a photographer's studio in Cincinnati where he had a picture of himself taken in it. Anyone asking for an autograph now gets that signed scaled-down photo of him in his new Phillies' flannels.

Friday, he'll be putting them on to go to work. That's when instead of reporting to the Cincinnati Reds for spring training as he has done the past 16 years, he'll report to the Phillies for the first time. He's looking forward to the change.

"I'm not gonna play any different than I've played in the last 16 years," says Rose, who signed for \$3.3 million with the Phillies two months ago after becoming a free agent with the Reds. "I'm not gonna prove Cincinnati made a mistake by letting me go. All I'm gonna try to do is pay back (Philadelphia owner) Ruly Carpenter for confidence he had in me."

Rose shows some impatience with people who ask him what he really hopes to do for the Phillies. Since he made his reputation hustling everyone else and has always given maximum effort, actually, he doesn't see how he can possibly try any harder than he has in the past.

"With all the money I make now, I don't get my uniform any dirtier than I did when I was 9 years old," he says. "The only difference is another used to wash it. Now the club has it dry-cleaned. If I do anything at all differently today than I did as a kid, it's only that I shave more."

Almost from the moment he signed with the Phillies, the general assumption was that Rose automatically would become their new star. Mostly because they didn't have an old one.

"I may not be the team leader for Philadelphia," says Rose, who will be 35 in April. "It took me a lot of years to become that in Cincinnati. I think the reason there is no one leader with the Phillies is because most of them are pretty much the same age. The majority of them are in the 28-to-32 bracket and it's hard for a kid 28 to look up to someone only a couple of years older."

Reporting to a new club can be an unsettling experience for some players. Rose isn't worried about it too much because he knows that all the Phillies and has a close relationship with some. Besides, he remembers the first time he reported to the Reds in 1963 after that experience, anything else has to be an improvement. Rose came to spring training with the Reds as a second baseman and had a contract with Macon of the Sally League. Don Blasingame was the Reds' regular second baseman and was well-liked by the members of the team.

Most of the Reds players resented me," Rose says. "That was because they liked Blasingame so much. The only two fellows who were any time at all with me were Frank Robinson and Vada Pinson, member (Cincinnati newspaperman) Earl Lawson handing out a couple of papers to all the players asking them whether they thought I was the club or not. The only guy who voted yes was Don Blasingame. All the rest voted no."

When he finishes his four-year contract with the Phillies, Rose will be 42 and doesn't know whether he'll stay in baseball.

I used to think I'd like to manage but I'm not so sure anymore. Baseball players are too temperamental these days with those long-term contracts and all. With my personality, I don't know if I could do it. Especially if some young kid part-timer started telling me everything should be run."

## Wills working hard this season to make up for 'sophomore jinx'

United Press International  
PANAMA BEACH, Fla. —

It's always easier the second time around. That's what Wills found that out the way last season, but he also learned a very valuable lesson of life: never take anything for granted.

After a spectacular rookie season in which he batted .287 and named to several All-Rookie teams, the 26-year-old second baseman of the Texas Rangers fell to the dreaded "sophomore jinx" last year and was one of the reasons why the Rangers failed to live up to their preseason hopes.

In the record, Wills finished with a .250 batting average. But that was misleading. He was batting only as late as Sept. 4, and it took a week — after the Rangers had won out of the American League pennant race — for him to hit the .250 plateau.

It was as if a prize Texas steer only had developed hoof-disease.

There was no one to blame but myself, the kind of year I had last year, said Wills. "I learned a great lesson. You're never too good and you never get too high in a career of your specialty without being harder and harder."

You don't maintain that high level of proficiency, you're not going to have a very good year. I know you have to work real hard to get where you're going. My father (former baseball star Maury Wills) told me many years ago that hard work breeds success and it's true."

Well, if young Wills knew the answer, why didn't he heed his father's advice?

"It was in my mental approach," he says. "It's all in the mind. Skill is important but if you're not in the right frame of mind, you're not going to do it. I didn't make myself believe. I didn't work hard enough at making myself believe I could do it. I took a lot for granted and I didn't have the kind of year I wanted. So I'll work harder and hopefully have the kind of year I had my first year."

Wills thinks part of the problem for his poor mental approach last season could have something to do with the Rangers' terrible performance over the first half of the season. It's easier to get into the proper frame of mind to play when the team is playing well, he reasons.

"Whenever a team isn't going well, you have to give 110 percent concentration. I've always said that confidence and concentration are the two key words to a successful season for a ballplayer. When a team isn't showing that confidence and concentration, it's harder on you as a player."

But what will prevent Wills and the Rangers, as a whole, from falling into the same pattern this season? "You have to almost psyche yourself up, right from spring training," he says. "We've made some personnel changes that I think will help us. We've got some guys I think will blend together very well as a team, skill-wise and personality-wise."

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## Subpar weather conditions

# SMU defends title at Briarcrest

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Sports Staff

You take two days of a little cold and a lot of wind, add one nice day, mix it with the hilly, narrow fairways of Briarcrest Country Club and 14 women's golf teams and you come up with what was known as the fourth annual Texas A&M Invitational golf tournament.

And rising out of that strange concoction was the SMU Mustangs' women's team who took the team title for the third straight year despite all the hardships the weather provided throughout the three day tournament.

The University of Tulsa led the tournament after the first windy day of play and held on through the second day which was much nicer weather-wise. SMU went into the third day of the tournament one stroke behind Tulsa but by the end of the day, the Mustangs had taken the lead and won the tournament by 11 strokes.

"The tournament went about like we thought," said A&M coach Kitty Holley. "Tulsa and SMU are two of the best teams in the country and they both have a real good chance to win the national championship."

"We had some very good scores despite the weather. If someone could go out and shoot 74 in that wind, I wouldn't have believed them but Tulsa's Holly Hartley went out and did it."

Hartley ended up winning the medalist competition in dramatic fashion in a one hole playoff. She, along with SMU's Kyle O'Brien, ended regulation play tied for the lead but Hartley's birdie on the first playoff hole gave her the final victory. There was also a playoff for the third and fourth spots between Tulsa's Carolyn Hill and Lynn Cooke of Lamar. Hill birdied the first hole while Cooke took a bogie, thus giving Tulsa the first and third place medalists.

But the birdies didn't come for the Aggies. After the first day of play they were in seventh and remained there all three days. In fact, after the first day, the team rankings didn't change except for Tulsa and SMU switching places on the third day.

SMU won the tournament with a 934. Tulsa was second with 945 while the Aggies were seventh with 1003.

## Athletic injuries at high level

United Press International  
WASHINGTON —

High school and college students suffered more than 1 million athletic injuries in 1975-76, an unacceptably high figure, the federal government has reported.

The report released by HEW Secretary Joseph Califano showed women suffered more than 20 percent of these injuries and said that rate will inevitably rise with the growth of women's sports programs.

It also showed that young Americans suffered three quarters as many injuries in gym class as on the football field — 244,879 to 325,000 — and said the physical education figure "was higher than anticipated and suggests that this area also needs more attention in health planning care."

"This report suggests that the casualties (of student athletic programs) have reached unacceptably high levels," Califano said.

Males accounted for 824,684 of the injuries, while females suffered 235,595.



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