

the sports

Orioles, Pirates start Series

BALTIMORE — With a cast of characters that could easily have come out of a vaudeville house, the Baltimore Orioles and the Pittsburgh Pirates worked out Monday in preparation for the World Series, which begins tonight in Memorial Stadium.

Earl Weaver, the chain-smoking, pipe-baiting manager, leads the Orioles. Chuck Tanner, who survived a managerial term under Charlie Finley and lived to hear the disco music in the Pittsburgh clubhouse, will lead the Pirates.

Bruce Kison, 4-0 in postseason play, drew the starting assignment for Pittsburgh. Weaver said he wanted to talk to scouts before naming a starting pitcher.

Both clubs won easily in the playoffs, Pittsburgh in three games

over Cincinnati in the National League and Baltimore in four over California in the American. Now they want to have fun.

"We're going to play some hardball," said Willie "Pops" Stargell, the Pittsburgh clubhouse guru who hits for power.

"We were playing under pressure," said Weaver. "We won 102 games during the season but it was all on the line in a best-of-five series. Now we want to have some fun and win."

Stargell's good-natured humor helps lubricate a group that includes among others: Tim "Crazy Horse" Foli; Bill "Mad Dog" Madlock; reliever Kent Tekulve — the human drainpipe, and the Pirate wives who celebrated Pittsburgh's playoff sweep by dancing on the dugout to the club theme song, "We Are Family."

On the Baltimore side is Weaver and his reliance on reliever Don "Full Pack" Stanhouse, so named because of the amount of cigarettes Weaver smokes when the pitcher is on the mound. Stanhouse is called "Stan The Man Unusual" by his teammates because of his temperament.

Then there is the boisterous Section 38, where the patrons wear Oriole colors and rally around Wild Bill, a cab-driver who stands atop the dugout and leads the stadium in cheers.

The color and the baseball meet in Weaver, who keeps a book to back up statistically what he observes on the field.

Weaver is analyzing the Pirates. "We have stats on Bert Blyleven, Enrique Romo and Jim Bibby from when they played in the American League," Weaver said.

Someone then asked him about Tekulve, who saved 31 games for the Pirates. Tekulve has never pitched in the American League.

"Well," Weaver said after a pause, "he's a low ball pitcher. We'll send up our low ball hitters."

Each team is the best representative of its league.

"You can put both teams together and analyze them and you're going to see that they're the same kind of teams," said Tanner. "Both teams have power, both teams have speed, both teams have good defense, both teams have good bullpens and both have good starters."

There will be no designated hitter used in the Series, meaning the Orioles pitchers will be batting for virtually the first time this season.

'Family' of Pirates ready for Series

BALTIMORE — This could be the first time in baseball history an entire "family" will be playing in the World Series, and if there's anything at all to the old belief that love makes the world go round, then the Pittsburgh Pirates may have the Baltimore Orioles spinning in circles.

The Pittsburgh players consider themselves a family first and a ball club second. You see and hear undeniable evidence of that in everything they do and everything they say.

So fixed is the idea in their minds that instead of having the word "Pirates" painted on the roof of their stadium at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh this season, they prearranged the word "Family" instead, and the moment they clinched the National League pennant by beating Cincinnati last Saturday, the ball was whisked to Baltimore for a public address system blared the million-gal word — Sister Sale price. "We Are Family."

Possibly of more importance, you see the deep affection the Orioles to distribute show for each other in their relationship off the field as well as on.

Earlier this season, for example, pitcher Steve Carlton, the Pirate's first baseman had so charged to be removed from a game with the Phillies due to a stomach virus.

Not one or two of them, but practically all the Pirates clustered around Milner solicitously in the manager's room after the game. They were genuinely concerned about

one of their own.

"How do you feel now, John?" "Is there anything I can do for you?" "Can I take you home?" were the questions they asked him, anxiously.

Tim Foli talks about the "family" influence, too.

"I started out 1-for-28 when I first joined this club but everybody made me feel I belonged right away," says the 28-year-old shortstop the Mets called "Crazy Horse" because of some of the flaky things he did.

"When I was having trouble hitting, they'd make me feel good if I moved a runner over or made a play in the field. For example, you know those stars Willie Stargell passes out for a big hit or a well-pitched ball game? He gave me one in a game I went oh-for-five because I moved a runner over. From the first day I came here, I felt like I fit in."

It was Stargell, the club's 38-year-old patriarch, who first conceived the idea of using the song, "We Are Family," as the team's melodic and spiritual signature.

"We were listening to that song one day in the clubhouse, a lot of the guys were moving and keeping time to the rhythm, and 'Pops,' which is what we all call Willie, said, 'You know something? We oughtta make that our team song,'" relates reliever Grant Jackson. "And we did."

The continuous disco music in the clubhouse doesn't bother Manager Chuck Tanner.

"I can't disco but I love it," laughs the Pirates' 50-year-old skipper.

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