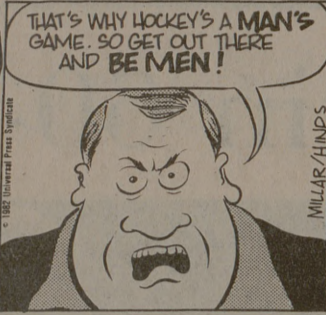


TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Cardinals first for Houston

TAMPA, Fla. — Travis Jackson, shortstop for the New York Giants during the 1920's, and A.B. "Happy" Chandler, the second commissioner of baseball, were elected today to baseball's Hall of Fame by the Veterans' Committee.

The announcement was made by Ed Stack, director of the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N.Y., into which Jackson and Chandler will be officially inducted along with Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson Aug. 1.



staff photo by Press

Committee elects shortstop, former baseball exec to Hall

United Press International
St. Louis Manager Whitey Herzog said Wednesday that he has been impressed with newly acquired shortstop Ozzie Smith's desire to work during the early spring training sessions.

"He's doing something extra

every day — extra hitting, extra ground balls," Herzog said. "He really wants to improve and why not? Look at the money he's going to make."

Smith will make his first official appearance in a St. Louis Cardinal uniform today in the team's exhibition opener against

Houston. He will lead off in the Cardinals' lineup against the Astros in Cocoa, Fla.

Bob Shirley will start today. He is scheduled to be followed by rookie Dave LaPoint and John Martin. All three are left-handers.

In games Wednesday, the Los Angeles Dodgers looked to a World Series hero for their first victory of the spring.

Pedro Guerrero, who drove in seven runs in the World Series, led off the 12th inning with a double and scored on a single by Candy Maldonado to give the Dodgers a 3-2 victory over Boston, their first victory in three Grapefruit League games.

In other games, Atlanta beat Montreal 7-5, Toronto stopped Philadelphia 7-2, San Diego defeated California 1-0 and Seattle blanked Arizona State 12-0.

At West Palm Beach, Fla., two-run doubles by Jerry Royster and Claudell Washington helped Atlanta to an early lead and the Braves held on to beat the Expos for their fifth straight victory.

At Clearwater, Fla., the Toronto Blue Jays took advantage of two balks and four Philadelphia errors to defeat the Phillies, who were playing their first exhibition game.

At Phoenix, Ariz., Mike Tyson drove in three runs with a bases-loaded double in a four-run sixth inning in leading the Chicago Cubs to a 9-6 victory over the Oakland A's.

Aaron and Robinson were elected to the Hall of Fame by the Baseball Writers Association of America in January.

Jackson, who played from 1922 to 1936, compiled a lifetime batting average of .291. He was recognized as one of baseball's finest bunters and was called by Hall of Fame manager Casey Stengel "the finest bunter I ever saw."

Jackson hit over .300 in a season six times, reaching a career high of .339 in 1930.

Chandler, a former governor of Kentucky, was elected to succeed the original commissioner of baseball, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and negotiated the early television contracts between baseball and the news media in the 1940s.

He was dismissed as commissioner following a highly controversial confrontation with Leo Durocher in 1947 and 1948, which involved Durocher's alleged activities that were "detrimental to baseball."

The Veterans' Committee is made up of 16 former players, executives and newspapermen, 15 of whom were present. Buzie Bavasi of the California Angels missed his plane connection in Chicago.

Glenn Wright, former Pittsburgh Pirate and Brooklyn Dodger shortstop, polled the most votes among the runners-up, with former Dodger manager Walt Alton closest behind him.

Hit the dirt

Shortstop Dave Kennard slides head-first into second base on a steal attempt during his team's double-header sweep of McNeese State Tuesday in

Olsen Field. Cowboy shortstop Ray Hickernell takes the throw from Tom Griffin. Texas A&M opens Southwestern Conference play Friday, hosting Rice

Going strong

At 42, Boston's Yastrzemski hasn't lost his love for sport of baseball

United Press International
WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — If being in love means never having to say you're sorry, Ralph Houk must love Carl Yastrzemski, because he has absolutely no intention of ever saying that to him.

When Yaz finally quits, he'll be the one to punch his own ticket.

At 42, the Boston Red Sox' lean and sun-tanned elder statesman is about to begin his 22nd straight season with them.

"I'll never tell him he's through," says Houk, the Red Sox manager. "He'll play as long as he wants to play. When you have the kind of star like he is, he's the one who makes the decision. One thing I know, he'll never embarrass himself or the ballclub."

Yastrzemski looks at it the same way.

"Right now," he says, "I feel good and if I stay injury-free, I think I could play in 130 games. I honestly don't know how much longer I'll play. It depends. I'll be the first to know when I'm all through. I'm certainly not gonna ever embarrass myself or the team and I'll never put Houk on the spot."

Yaz has achieved many of his original goals since first reporting to the Red Sox in 1961 when he was 21. He has 3,192 hits and 426 homers and among his individual accomplishments are winning the Triple Crown in 1967 and the American League's MVP award the same year. He has played in two World Series and has been named to 16 All-Star teams. And he has won seven Gold Gloves.

Last year wasn't a particularly good one for him, however, and a foreshadowing of things to come might have been when he missed his first opening day ever with back spasms. His .246 average in 91 games was the lowest of his career, but Houk feels Yastrzemski will be much more productive this year.

"The guy can help you," he says. "Sure, he can't steal bases anymore, but he can still go good from first to third, he knows how to hit and he's a great asset to the club. He's still one of the best clutch hitters we've got. He led the club in game-winning RBIs and that speaks for itself."

"It's plan to use him as DH a lot this year," says the Red Sox pilot. "If I can keep him strong and in the right frame of mind,

he can do a lot for me. He can fill in at first base for me. I'm trying to play the kid [Stapleton] at first base and doing everything he can to help him. That shows you that of guy he is."

Houk considers Yastrzemski a sure future Hall of Famer. Chances are that he will make it into Cooperstown's first ballot.

More than likely, Houk still will be with the Red Sox. Yaz finally does retire. He undoubtedly will make his way back to the feeling he had as manager when three other perstars who played for Mickey Mantle and Whitey with the Yankees and Al with the Tigers, also came to the end of the road.

"I felt bad about every one of them leaving," Houk says. "Especially Mantle. I had to see him quit. He was going to retire the year before he did, but I talked him into staying one more year. All those fellows, Mickey, Whitey and Al, made the decision leave themselves. I didn't tell them."

Houk had to tell one of them, Hall of Famer, though, The Robin Roberts.

"He was the toughest to have to tell I didn't have room on the club for him," Houk says. "What made it so hard was that he never really quit for me when he was with the Yankees, but I was the manager when I had to let him go. It was the year he went over to the Orioles and had such a good year for them. Lee MacPhail with Baltimore then and he led me after we had to let Roberts go. Someone on Baltimore staff had hurt him and Lee was looking for a pitcher. I told him I thought Bob could help him. He went there and did fine for Orioles."

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