

Talk of bad behavior upsets ex star

Mays wonders why he didn't start

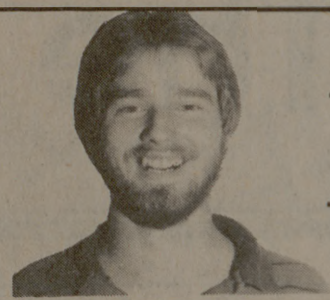
by Milton Richman
UPI Sports Editor
NEW YORK — Willie Mays has a question. Aren't there two sides to every story?
What about his side?
His critics are throwing all sorts of rocks at him because they feel he behaved boorishly at RFK Stadium in Washington Monday when he arrived there for the Old Timers' Crackerjack Classic and was shocked to find out he wasn't in the starting lineup.
For stalking out in a huff the way he did, Mays, easily the most exciting player of his generation, is being portrayed as a spoiled, self-centered little boy who picked up his bat and ball and went home upon discovering they wouldn't let him play by his rules.
Willie tries to make it sound as if all the knocks on him don't matter. But they do. They hurt him. He gives that away himself

by many of the things he says. "I read in one paper where they said I was a crybaby," says the 52-year-old Hall of Famer, still so fondly remembered by many as the Giants' Say Hey Kid. "I never cried about anything in baseball. Did you see me cry because I had to come all the way from Alaska just to be there for this Old Timers' game? That's right, I came from Anchorage, Alaska. I could've gone straight home to San Francisco, but I said I'd be in Washington for the game and I kept my word. I didn't come all that way just to sit on the bench."
Mays has heard and seen much of the criticism of him that followed the powder he took in Washington.
"They say I'm too old to play baseball," he says. "I'm not in condition to do all those things you have to do, but when the fans expect it of you, what do you do, just sit there and dis-

appoint them? But I think people still want to see me play and as long as they do I'm gonna try."
The game in Washington was limited to five innings because many of the participants had some trouble playing even two, and it benefited the Association of Professional Ball Players of America, which helps ill and indigent former players.
He is one of the directors of the association. Last year, at the Old Timers' first annual, organizers of the contest advertised Mays would show up and he didn't. Nonetheless, they invited him again this year but said they didn't hear from him.
Mays, however, insists they were notified he would appear by Billy Weinberger, his employer at Bally Park Place Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City.
Mays also has a public relations job with the Ogden Corporation. His boss there, Bill

Whitaker, asked him to go to Anchorage, Alaska, last week to help out with some work for the company in conjunction with Little League youngsters. Mays did that. He was in Anchorage three days from last Thursday through Saturday and then left to fulfill another PR assignment in Baltimore the night before the game in Washington. Joe DiMaggio and John Unitas also were on hand for that one.
The following day, Mays got to the ballpark just as the other players finished meeting with officials, who filled them in about some of the conditions under which the game would be played. There would be no stealing and frequent substitutions.
"They said I was late getting to park, but I don't think I was," Mays says. "I got to the clubhouse about 5:20 just as the players were coming out. I got into my uniform right away, then came out and took batting

practice with the rest of the guys. I did all the interviews. I went all the way down the line on the field signing autographs. I felt I did a helluva lot before the game even started."
Mays did, but since he had not been present for the pregame meeting and since those running the contest weren't sure he'd even be there, his name wasn't among the National League starters. Monte Irvin, his old roommate with the New York Giants, was listed to start in left field, Hank Aaron in center and Ralph Kiner in right.
During batting practice, Mays delighted the crowd of 31,160 by hitting a "home run" into the left field seats, which weren't much more than 260 feet or so away, and he drew perhaps the loudest ovation of the evening when he was introduced with all the other players before the five-inning game.



John Wagner

A Cajun-style QB like Broadway Joe

THE KID'S STYLE reminds you, in an incidental way, of Joe Namath. Cocky. Confident. Ability to make not as uptown, not as swanky and eligible as Broadway Joe, then again, he struts his stuff in working man's Detroit society New York.
When Bobby Hebert (pronounced A-bear) set the USFL's hip pads by leading the Michigan Panthers to a 24-21 over Philadelphia in the new league's first-ever championship game, he left himself open for comparison.
Namath, a brash, untamed talent from Alabama, came at the right time for the old American Football League, tough and playing the same way as the Jets defeated the Super Bowl III. That win gave the upstart AFL its first Bowl champion and helped bring credibility to the brand football played "in that other league."
Hebert, who led the USFL in passing, has a quieter style than Namath, but his confidence still slips through occasionally. When informed he had thrown for more than 300 yards in Philadelphia, Hebert told reporters he could have passed a 400-yard mark if "I had played as well as I could have."
Whoops. Remarks like that make great bulletin board decorations. Especially in opposing lockerrooms.

THE 22-YEAR-OLD ROOKIE from Northwest Louisiana University speaks with a thick Cajun accent, and an occasional phrase punctuated with "praise God" let's you know more to his life than wine, women and football.
But (unfortunately for vineyards and females) it's where he shines the most.
"Bobby Hebert has a chance to be as good as any American, in any league anywhere," says Michigan Coach Stanly.
Big talk from a coach in a small league. But it's the USFL needs the most. By all comparisons, the league's first season was a success — far beyond the expectations of everyone involved. The only people who yawned through the 18-game schedule were the guys in the press box.
What will ultimately be the USFL's saving grace is its aggressive signing policies and big salaries helped lure a young talent, guys like Herschel Walker, Craig James, in man, Kelvin Bryant, Anthony Carter, John Coker — whom should be the superstars of the future.
"I'm proud of our success this week," Stanley said after a championship game. "I'm proud of the USFL — I'm proud of the way things have been run. I realize we have some growing pains, but we have come farther than most people thought could in one year."

THE ONE THING the USFL lacked at the start of the season was a big-name quarterback. They needed somebody who could step into that glamorous position and throw the ball out there.
Hebert was projected as either the sixth, seventh or eighth best quarterback available in the NFL draft, depending on who you talk to. He wasn't exactly prime playing material, at least not when the Panthers offered the chance to play in the USFL. Hebert jumped.
But things started slowly for Michigan and its rookie quarterback. The Panthers struggled to a 1-4 record before a bye week. Hebert led the offense to a 17-10 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. Hebert was the hero.
The little guys are the above-mentioned Carter and Coker. Arkansas wide receiver Derek Holloway. Their speed and play ability gave Hebert two targets he couldn't miss, and the Panthers finished the season in an offensive pipe dream.
HE MAY NOT be the savior of the USFL, but Hebert already shown he has the skills to help put the new league on a map, just like Namath did with the AFL. But Hebert has a distinction that separates him from Broadway Joe. He probably won't ever model panty hose.

Rookie pitches Philadelphia past Astros

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — With the Philadelphia Phillies embarking on a seven-game road trip, it remains to be seen what the effect of a near no-hitter has on their previously slumping fortunes.
But if the Phillies should get hot, they will be able to focus the point of their turnaround on a rookie right-hander who was playing in the Class A Carolina League just one year ago, not their high-priced stable of veterans.
Charlie Hudson, called up from the minors on May 31 to bolster a weakened pitching

staff, came within two outs of the National League's first no-hitter in nearly two years and settled for a three-hitter to lead the Phillies to a 10-3 victory over the Houston Astros.
"Sometimes it takes something like this to pull the team together," said interim manager Paul Owens, who picked up his first win since replacing the fired Pat Corrales last Monday. "As the game went on, you could almost see their hearts beating."
Craig Reynolds' broken-bat single that bloomed in among three Phillies in short center field thwarted Hudson's bid to become:

—The first National League pitcher to throw a no-hitter since Nolan Ryan did it against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sept. 26, 1981.
—The first rookie to pitch a no-hitter since Steve Busby of the Kansas City Royals and Jim Bibby of the Texas Rangers did it nearly three months apart in 1973.
—The first Phillies' pitcher to no-hit the opposition since Rick Wise on June 23, 1971.
—The second pitcher to twirl a no-hitter this year. Dave Righetti of the New York Yankees no-hit the Boston Red Sox July 4.

Hudson, 3-3, struck out Harry Spilman to lead off the ninth and went 0-2 on Reynolds, who entered the game in the seventh. The next pitch just missed the outside corner and then Hudson tried a slider down and in.
Reynolds hit the ball off the handle but got enough on the ball to drop it among center fielder Bob Dernier, shortstop Ivan Dejesus and second baseman Kiko Garcia. Denny Walling and Dickie Thon followed with home runs to spoil Hudson's bid for his first major-league shutout.
Hudson said he realized he had a no-hitter going as early as the third inning. In the sixth, he started talking with veteran Gary Maddox to help him relax. Later, he developed a blister but put the ailment out of his mind.
"In the ninth, I went out and said, 'Here it is,' and then I tried to block it out of my mind," he said. "I wanted the no-hitter bad."

Hudson, in only his third season of pro baseball, was called up with a 6-3, 2.67 ERA season at Portland and was immediately plugged into the starting rotation after Larry Christenson was injured and Dick Ruthven was traded to the Chicago Cubs.
He impressed the front office right away with a blazing fastball and a sharp-breaking curve and those two pitches were most in evidence against the red-hot Astros, who had blistered the Phillies for 15 runs and 30 hits in the first two games of their series.
"I had heard good things about him," Houston manager Bob Lillis said of Hudson. "He pitched a great game. He has an outstanding arm. I thought he might get the no-hitter late in the game because he still looked strong to me."
Hudson also contributed an RBI single and scored a run but the hitting hero was Joe Lefebvre, who cracked his first career grand slam and fifth homer of the year in the first inning and added a run-scoring single in the eighth.
Pete Rose, who scored twice, had four hits to boost his career total to 3,950 and lead a 12-hit attack that included three hits by the slumping Mike Schmidt.

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West wins Texas All-Star game, 10-6

United Press International
EL PASO — Beaumont's John Kruk and Midland's Hatcher each hit one homer to lead the Western Division 10-4 victory over the East in the Texas League All-Star Game.
The Western Division pounded out 20 hits, including two home runs, and San Antonio pitcher Sid Fernandez had strong innings to win the Most Valuable Player Award Wednesday night's debacle.
The West never trailed in the game.
Fernandez, one of the top pitching prospects in the Los Angeles Dodgers' organization, allowed only two hits and struck out seven.
Hatcher had a double and a single to go with his home run and El Paso's Bill Max had a double and two singles for two RBIs.
Jackson's Joe Georger took the loss.
The West took a 3-0 lead after three innings on Kruk's two-run homer. Four more runs in the fifth made it 7-2.
Ponce capped the scoring with a run-scoring double in the sixth and a two-run eighth inning for the West.
Kevin Mitchell of Jackson singled in Mark Schuster and Shreveport's Randy Gomez doubled and scored on a single by Rod Booker of Arkansas.
Then, Mark Salas of Arkansas hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning.
The crowd of 8,093 was the largest for a Texas League All-Star game since 1967.

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