

Pirate's family feuding

United Press International
Once, their rallying cry was "We Are Family." Now they might wind up in "family" court.

Willie Stargell and Dave Parker, the heart of the 1979 championship Pittsburgh Pi- rates team, Tuesday continued their exchange of hard words. Stargell, now an assistant general manager with the Pirates, Monday spoke critically of Parker in his newly published book, "Willie Stargell, An Autobiography."

"He played the game out of hate and revenge instead of love," Stargell wrote. "He was under a tremendous amount of pressure. But instead of leaning on a friend when he needed help, he withdrew into a shell. As a result he had no one to turn to for help."

"I never played the game out of hate," he said. "I would have killed for the man (Stargell) until last night. I have yet to talk to Willie. I think he did it to push the book. I played the game because of my family and it was a good way to make money. Never out of hate."

"I'll analyze the whole thing with my legal people," Parker added. "I'm not going to hesitate going after him. If all this is true — even though I love him, if I feel portrayed as someone I shouldn't be — there will be a recourse."

Parker joined the Reds as a free agent this season after 11 years with the Pirates. He twice led the National League in batting and in 1978 was named Most Valuable Player.

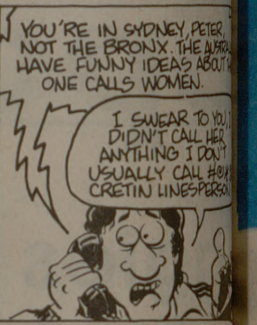
In other spring training news, Montreal Expos president John McHale says he may seek arbitration to alter the terms of last week's trade with the San Francisco Giants. The Expos sent first baseman Al Oliver to the Giants for pitcher Fred Breining and a player to be named. But Breining reported with an injured shoulder and may not be ready for the start of the season.

"We want him," McHale said. "However, we don't want damaged merchandise." In exhibition games Tuesday, Boston defeated Detroit 8-4 as Wade Boggs and Jim Rice hit first-inning triples to spark the Red Sox in the spring training opener for both teams. Detroit's John Martin was tagged for eight hits and five runs in two innings.

Cincinnati rallied to a 6-5 victory over Houston Astros, marking the debut of Vern Rapp as Reds manager.

TANK McNAMARA*

by Jeff Millar & Bill



Ranger has won 31 in last 2 years

Hough a Texas gen

United Press International
POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — He has bursitis in his shoulder, arthritis in his knee and his best pitch doesn't travel more than 60 mph.

Yet, Charley Hough has been as valuable to the Texas Rangers over the last two years as oil refineries are to the Lone Star state.

The Rangers have won 141 games over the past two seasons and Hough has accounted for 31 of them, or 22 percent.

No pitcher on the team comes close to that figure and very few pitchers in the major leagues can match that statistic.

Moreover, Hough has achieved success without much use of a fastball or slider. Like Phil Niekro of the New York Yankees and Joe Niekro of the Houston Astros, 80 percent of the pitches Hough throws are knuckleballs and often the batters' inability to hit them leaves him shaking his head in bewilderment.

"I'll sit in the clubhouse after a game, especially if I've pitched a good game and I'll say 'I can't believe that I'm standing out there throwing a ball 60 miles per hour and they're striking out,'" Hough said. "It's almost comical."

Batters found nothing about Hough last summer when he posted a 5-1 record with a 3.30 ERA and, during a stretch during late August, he pitched 36 consecutive scoreless innings.

Overall, Hough compiled a 15-13 record and a 3.30 ERA but with a little luck he would have won 21 games. The bullpen blew leads after he parted and on four occasions he would have been a hero if the Rangers could have scored three runs.

"I've always felt that I go out to the mound to go out to the mound and I talk about Hough said. "I think I have a slight tendency to make a good play, I'm going to be the first guy to tell him

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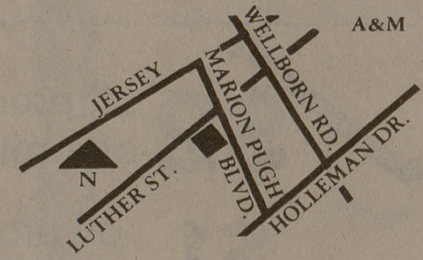


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