

# Hale's Hearty Stick Work Gives Dodgers Big Lift

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—The splash with which John Steven Hale arrived in the big leagues detracted momentarily from the Dodgers' many woes, which included:

The loss of catcher-outfielder Joe Ferguson, probably for the season, because of a broken arm suffered in a brawl with the Padres on July 1.

Their nosedive in the National League's West Division standings, caused by (a) the remarkable play of the runaway Reds and (b) the Dodgers' second poorest June record—13-16—since they moved to Los Angeles 17 summers ago.

The embarrassment of losing four straight games June 26-29 to their arch-enemies, the Giants, in Candlestick Park for the first time in more than a decade.

**SAID MANAGER** Walter Alston, when he disclosed that the 21-year-

old Hale was being promoted from the Dodgers' Albuquerque (Pacific Coast) farm club: "We had to do something."

At the time, the move appeared to be little more than just that—merely a move just to be doing something—but Hale was inserted into the lineup immediately. He performed well enough to remain in the outfield which deposited Willie Crawford and Tom Paciorek back on the bench.

He slugged his first major league home run July 5 off San Francisco's Ed Halicki and nearly lost his glove in the same game. He tried to catch a home run by the Giants' Dave Rader, actually had the ball in his glove, but when he leaped high against the fence, the ball—and the glove—landed in the right field pavilion. It required a Dodger Stadium security guard to recap-

ture the glove.

"I thought it was a goner," Hale admitted later, "but just to be there, to be playing, I don't think I would have minded at all."

"**REALLY**, I was surprised when I was called up, especially since I hadn't even had a full year of Triple A. I wouldn't have been disappointed if I had stayed at Albuquerque because I need to play every day. But I just happened to be hot at the right time, the Dodgers were slumping and there were injuries. Like I said, it just happened I was hot and playing well at the right time."

What pleased Vice-President Al Campanis the most about the lefthanded-hitting Hale when he scouted him in a series at Salt Lake City (Pacific Coast) prior to his promotion, was the way Hale stayed in against lefthanders.

"It's especially pleasing since he was beamed June 12 by a lefthander and then came back so strong," Campanis explained.

"I was out 12 days and the first day back I realized I was lucky to be alive," Hale said, pointing to his right eye, which still was scarred from the accident a month later. "I really got hot, I guess because I was concentrating so hard, and in my first series after getting hurt I went 9-for-15 against Phoenix with four homers and drove in 10 runs."

The day after Hale was summoned from the minors on June 30, the Dodgers and Padres got into it.

In the midst of it all, Hale picked up two hits, stole a base, made an excellent catch in right field and became the darling of the fans.

Asked what he did in the battle, Hale smiled and said, "I didn't know what to do because I didn't

know any of those guys."

**Dodger Dope:** Bill Buckner, furious that he popped up for the final out in a 1-0 loss to the Giants and John Montefusco on July 4, slammed his batting helmet to the ground. But the helmet boomeranged and slammed into his forehead. The wound required four stitches to close. . . . The game of July 2 with the Padres lasted so long that the Dodgers actually changed managers. Alston had to catch a 1 a. m. flight to Ohio for the funeral services for his brother-in-law, Cliff Alexander. When the game went into the 10th inning, Tommy Lasorda took over with explicit instructions from Alston: "Don't win it until I can get out on the freeway and can listen on the radio." The Dodgers won it in the 14th inning, 6-5.

Steve Garvey clubbed a career-high five RBIs in the Dodgers' 7-1 victory July 3 over the Giants in Dodger Stadium. The big game pushed him back in front of Ron Cey for the club RBI lead with 52, one more than Cey. . . . When Ferguson's broken right arm mends, he'll face another operation in order to remove the four-inch bone plate which was inserted surgically. . . . Despite their troubles on the field, the Dodger Stadium turnstile continues to whirl. The Dodgers went over the 1.5 million mark on July 5, their 42nd home date, and prior to the All-Star Game had played to 1,536,573 fans in 43 dates.

Doug Rau, who complained early in the day on July 6 that he didn't feel too good and told Rick Rhoden to be ready, hurled a no-hitter for seven innings against the Giants. Chris Speier broke it up in the eighth, but Rau wound up with a three-hit, 5-1 victory.

## Big Dave a King-Sized Mystery to Met Fans

By JACK LANG

NEW YORK—It started back in 1961 when the late George Weiss purchased Frank Thomas from the Milwaukee Braves. Four years later, Casey Stengel thought he'd struck gold when Ron Swoboda appeared on the scene. Briefly there was Donn Clendenon, who did lead the Mets to a world championship in 1969.

A righthanded home-run hitter is what the Mets have been seeking since the moment of their birth. And now that they finally have one, they don't know what to do with him.

Dave Kingman is not an enigma. It is plain and simple what he can do. He can hit home runs, he can knock in runs, he can field better than the Mets were led to believe and he also can strike out often.

**HE ALSO CAN** win games, as he has proven. No Met has knocked in more game-winning runs than the 6-6 man they call Sky King and Kong.

And less than a handful of players in the league can hit home runs at a more rapid pace than the former San Francisco Giant. At the All-Star break, only two Na-

tional Leaguers had more home runs than Kingman.

Yet, on his own club, Kingman could not win status as a regular. As the Mets reached the halfway point in the schedule, Kingman had missed 25 percent of the club's games.

But in the 61 he did play, he had 15 homers and his 39 RBIs were second only to Rusty Staub's total. Of the Mets' first 42 victories, Kingman was credited with the game-winning hit in 11.

Kingman says he has found peace in New York and there is no other place he would rather play. So why can't he find permanent employment?

"**YOU'LL HAVE** to ask Yogi Berra that," Kong replied. "I can't say I'm gonna play him every day," the manager said after a Kingman homer had beaten the Braves for a second straight night. "He could have a slump. He's hot now, but he could have another slump. He's had 'em before."

But even in a slump, Kingman hits home runs, and that's why it is almost imperative, if the Mets are going to catch the Pirates, that

Kingman play every day. He doesn't even mind shuttling back and forth between left field and first base.

Earlier this year, Berra benched Kingman against righthanders. Sky King responded by threatening to bunt when he started against lefthanders—a threat that was shortlived, it might be pointed out.

But if righthanders bothered Kingman more than lefties, there was no evidence to substantiate it in his home-run statistics. Eight of his first 15 came off righthanders.

**THE METS** can't be all that upset about Dave's strikeouts. He has managed to cut them down a bit. With the Giants, he fanned once every three times at bat. With the Mets, it is once every four times.

"How many home runs do you think you could hit playing regularly?" Kingman was asked.

"Why don't you ask me how many times I'd strike out if I played regularly?" he replied with a grin. "I can't answer that question. I've yet to play a full year. I was hot twice this year and wound up platooning."

"I know what's in my mind. I'd like to play regularly. But I don't know what's in Yogi's mind. I know I'll go through periods when I strike out a lot. The way I swing, I'm going to strike out a lot."

He proved it one night when he struck out four times in one game. In between his third and fourth strikeouts he hit a two-run homer to win the game.

**Gotham Gossip:** Observers of the Mets have long decried the team's lack of speed. Joe Torre put it all in perspective recently. "If you get Rusty Staub, Ed Kranepool and myself on base at the same time," said Joe, "a stick of dynamite couldn't move us." . . . Ken Sanders celebrated his 34th birthday July 8, picking up his first National League save. He had 84 in the American League with five different clubs. . . . Rookie catcher Johnny Stearns had an opportunity to show his strong arm for almost a week when Jerry Grote strained his right shoulder in a freak accident. Grote reached back to throw and hit umpire John McSherry, thus straining his shoulder.

Tom Seaver has made the All-Star team in all but one of his years in the majors. . . . In addition to a

compound fracture of the nose, relief pitcher Bob Apodaca suffered a deviated septum when hit with a batted ball June 29. It was corrected at Roosevelt Hospital July 8 and doctors said it would be another week before Apodaca could resume running. . . . The Jon Matlack named their first born son Jonathan Daniel. "He'll be known as Danny," said the pitcher. . . . Shortstop Bud Harrelson, walking around without crutches, hoped to resume running in late July and be back playing in September. He underwent right knee surgery the end of May.

## Heise Wins Hub Cheers For Super Job as Fill-In

By PETER GAMMONS

BOSTON—Tommy Harper had been one of the most respected and popular players on the Red Sox, and when he went to the Angels for Bob Heise, it brought on two reactions: 1—Who's Bob Heise? and 2—Lynch Dick O'Connell.

And part of it was Heise himself. Look at the stats and you see someone who's played parts of eight seasons in the majors and has hit one home run, with 55 RBIs. Look at him and you see someone who has to work very hard at everything.

But, halfway through the season, Heise has become exactly what O'Connell hoped he would become. With Rico Petrocelli sidelined, Heise again stepped in and not only played third more than adequately, but he hit. In one stretch of four games, he knocked in seven

runs. In a doubleheader, he had five hits and four RBIs. It seemed every time he'd come up in the clutch, he'd hit the ball somewhere.

"**I'VE GOT** this tag now, that I'm a utility player," said Heise, "and I accept it. I take pride in doing what my role entails—coming in cold for defensive purposes, being ready at any time. When I was with Milwaukee a few years back, Dick Schofield told me not many guys can fill this kind of role."

"I try to keep myself ready by running every day when I'm not playing, working harder than if I were in the lineup. And I think I do a good job at this. I know I've never hit for power, but I've always been around .250 and have

(Continued on Page 28, Column 2)

### Manage in the Majors with STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL

**Play the original  
computer-programmed baseball game  
that puts you in the Manager's Seat  
in every Big League ballpark in the country.**

Ever wonder why the experts do so poorly when it comes time to pick the Pennant winners every spring? It's because ballgames are decided by more than the "paper skills" of the players. Strategy and "breaks" often put a ballgame in the won or lost column. And that's the way we designed STRAT O MATIC. So players' abilities count heavily—but so does strategy and Lady Luck. You probably couldn't win a Pennant with the longshot San Diego Padres—but your diabolical managing might move them up higher in the standings than the experts predicted.

Like on the diamond, STRAT O MATIC begins when you make up your lineup. You know southpaw fastballer Mickey Lolich will be on the mound for Detroit against your Baltimore Orioles. Do you bench fence buster pitcher Boog Powell and play the righty lefty percentages by putting righty Earl Williams in your lineup? YOUR decision might mean the ballgame.

**YOU CALL THE SHOTS**

What do you do when the hitters begin to peck away at your tiring starting pitcher in the late innings? Maybe you should give him the hook with the heavy artillery on deck. But who do you bring in from the bullpen—the flame throwing rookie with the gaudy K record—or the wily vet who keeps the ball down and makes 'em hit it into the dirt? In

tell you whether you made the right decision. Would you dare cross up the Mets by having slugger Willie Stargill lay down a bunt to spoil ace Tom Seaver's no hitter? Or how about sending aging base thief Lou Brock to second with rifle armed Johnny Bench behind the bat? Suffer! Did you ever think the Reds might get careless about holding Brock on because they're overconfident?

**YOU REACT TO  
REAL GAME SITUATIONS**

You really have to manage in STRAT O MATIC—take charge. The bows for winning are all yours—and so are the raps for losing. Only STRAT O MATIC gives you this kind of on field realism. It's not just a game of luck or statistics (although no other game comes close to computing ALL the vital facts into their game). STRAT O MATIC is the game that's been getting fans involved in every element of Major League Baseball for 10 years.

**THE ONLY GAME FOR FANS**

If you love baseball, nothing but STRAT O MATIC will do. It can be played in a basic version for younger players. Or the no player barred way that puts you right in the dugout with Weaver, Mauch, Houk, Alston and Berra. STRAT O MATIC. There's nothing like it this side of homeplate.

**Exclusive  
STRAT-O-MATIC  
features for '75:**

- Pitcher's stamina factor now computed into pitching records.
- Individual batter's performances computed against righty and lefty pitching.
- Each pitcher rated against both righty and lefty batters.

**STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., INC.** 46 Railroad Plaza, Glen Head, N.Y. 11545

Dept. 3398

Please send me free brochure including samples of STRAT O MATIC Baseball. I enclose 10 cents to cover postage and handling.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Play Ball!**  
Play  
**STRAT-O-MATIC**  
Baseball!

Fit in snugly for brochure with free Sample

★ THE SPORTING NEWS, JULY 26, 1975 ★ 11