

Phils not likely to concoct same title formula

There is a sure-bet formula to winning a baseball divisional pennant.

First, you must go 23-10 from Sept. 1 to the day you clinch. That includes being 12-3 in one-run games and 5-0 in extra-inning games during the span. Next, of your two chief antagonists, one must collapse in the stretch drive while the other specializes in last-weekend-of-the-season nosedives.

Somewhere along the way, you can throw in an ace reliever who turns in an absolutely unbelievable 0.52 earned run average after the All-star break. Throw in a rookie pitcher's 5-0 mark in September, too.

Then, stir in something or

By
Gene
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another called intangibles — a ton of them. And, finally, add a manager whose voice would cave in the walls at Fort Knox.

Oh, yes. There's one other necessary ingredient — and it's probably the most important: You mustn't be baseball's defending champion. Defending baseball championships

fall somewhere between defending the Alamo and Masada.

It's a formula that works. Ask any Philadelphia Phillies fan. But don't look for it to work again.

"Sure, things went our way last year," said Larry Bowa during spring training. "When you win, things always go your way. You have to do your part, but you also have to have something else going for you."

"Last year things came together for us. They can this year, too. But it's a different year. Different things will have to happen. A lot of what happened last year will never occur again."

So, what will happen to the Phillies this year? Much remains to

be seen. In fact, starting Wednesday afternoon at Cincinnati when Steve Carlton takes the mound against the Reds' Tom Seaver, the first of at least 162 happenings — barring a strike, we hope — will take place.

There is no sure way to predict what will take place over that course. But we can stab at it.

The Phils have a potential 45 wins in Steve Carlton and Dick Ruthven. Don't expect Carlton to win another Cy Young, but then don't expect him to not win enough to at least be in the running as usual. Ruthven would appear ready to have the best season of his career.

Nino Espinosa is back from wherever he was last year. Chief

sign: almost every pitch he threw in spring training. Just the fact that Larry Christenson made it through the spring without an injury has to be the best thing about him in several years. But does that mean he'll be the 19-win Christenson of 1977? It's questionable. The Phillies have never lost a game Marty Bystrom has started. That will change, of course. Also, don't look for Bystrom to be as spectacular the second time around.

Tug McGraw certainly won't turn in another performance that had him changing clothes in a phone booth en route to the mound from the bullpen. Another 1.47 ERA would be a tough act for even Superman to repeat. A plus has to

be seen in having Sparky Lyle for an entire season, although he is 37. The most impressive thing about Ron Reed could be his age (38). Recently acquired Mike Proly was a versatile and efficient pitcher with the Chicago White Sox the last two-plus years.

This is not a staff which will sustain injury. If injury does come — last year's staff was held together by balling wire most of the campaign — there is Dickie Noles, Warren Brusstar and bright rising star Jon Reelhorn waiting at Oklahoma City.

Is 40 too old for even Pete Rose? How significant was his 49-point drop in batting average? Manny See PHILLIES on page 17

For third year, baseball opening under labor cloud

CINCINNATI (AP) — Nobody knows who will throw out the first ball of the 1981 baseball season nor how long the players will be playing, but at least the ushers will be working at Riverfront Stadium.

The Cincinnati Reds, baseball's first professional team, open the National League's 1981 season with the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday afternoon.

But for the third consecutive season, baseball opens under a labor threat.

This year, the Major League Players Association has threatened to strike May 29 unless there is an agreement on the veterans free agent system, the same issue that suspended the spring exhibition game schedule in 1980.

The Reds, however, settled one issue late Monday night. The 300 ushers, who take tickets and find seats for the sell-out crowd of more than 50,000, accepted a new contract giving them a 20 percent raise.

Meanwhile, the Reds haven't decided who will throw out the first ball. President Ronald Reagan had agreed but was wounded last week.

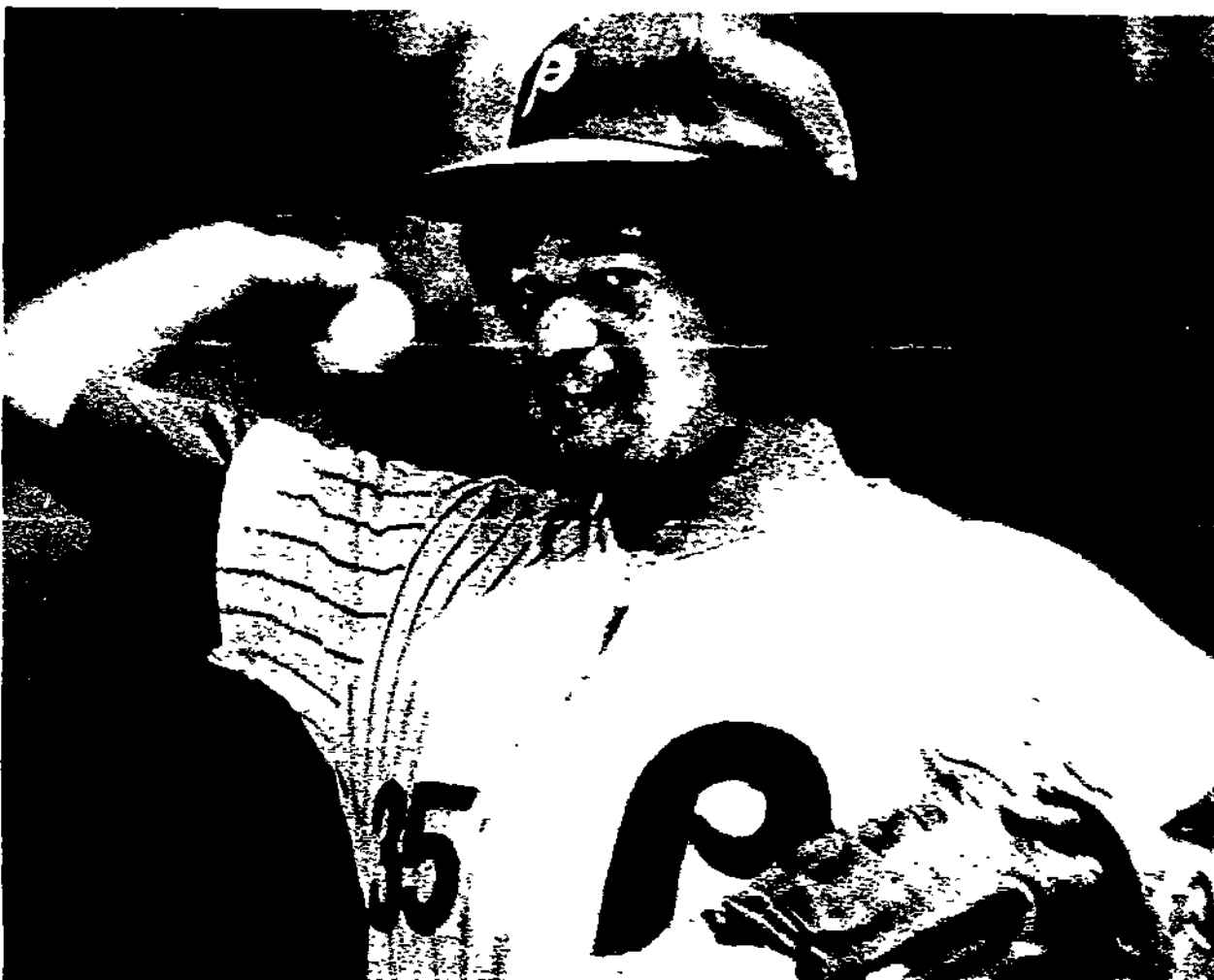
Vice President George Bush said on Monday that he couldn't attend, either, because he had too many commitments between his own schedule and sitting in for Reagan while president recuperates.

One of two former Iranian hostages accepted invitations to the game and might be elected for the first-ball honors — Bert C. Moore of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and Leland Holland, whose children live in Cincinnati.

Two years ago, striking umpires formed a picket line outside the stadium on opening day before the Reds game with the San Francisco Giants.

The strike in 1972 over pension benefits cancelled the scheduled the April 5 inaugural game with the Houston Astros. The strike was settled 10 days later, and the Reds and the Los Angeles Dodgers started the shortened season before a smaller crowd of 37,895.

In past years, unsettled early spring weather has been a problem for the game. Ground crews had to shovel up four inches of snow from the artificial service for the 1977 game, and the 1972 game was played in a drenching rain.



Rough afternoon

Phillies pitcher Nino Espinosa, trying to make a return to the form of a few years ago, was rocked by the Toronto Blue Jays in the Phillies Grapefruit-League finale Monday. The Phils suffered a 16-2 setback at the hands of Toronto. (AP photo)

Phillies trim roster to 25

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies reached their 25-man roster for the 1981 season Monday by optioning catcher Don McCormack to their Oklahoma City AAA farm club, a spokesman for the National League club said.

Left on the Phillies' roster are pitchers Marty Bystrom, Steve Carlton, Larry Christenson, Nino Espinosa, Sparky Lyle, Tug McGraw, Mike Proly, Ron Reed, and Dick Ruthven; catchers Bob Boone and Keith Moreland; infielders Luis Aguayo, Ramon Aviles, Larry Bowa, Pete Rose, Mike Schmidt, Manny Trillo, and John Vukovich; and outfielders Dick Davis, Greg Gross, Garry Maddox, Gary Matthews, Bake McBride, Lonnie Smith, and Del Unser.

The starting lineup for the Phils' opener Wednesday against the Reds in Cincinnati will be Rose at first base; Trillo, second; McBride, right field; Schmidt, third base; Matthews, left field; Maddox, center field; Bowa, shortstop; Boone, catcher; and Carlton, pitcher, the spokesman said.

In the final spring-training game, designated-hitter Otto Velez hit three home runs, went 5-for-5 and drove in eight runs as the Toronto Blue Jays trounced the Phillies 16-2 Monday.

The playoff situation

Sixers, Bucks match strengths tonight

By RICK GOLDSTEIN
Intelligencer Writer
PHILADELPHIA — "We earned our money Sunday," Sixers coach Billy Cunningham was saying as his club prepared for tonight's second game of the NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals with the Milwaukee Bucks. "For some rea-

son I didn't think they'd come at us like they did (transition game). More than anything, we realize how important getting back (on defense) is going to be. They release (on break) everyone."

Obviously, this series is designed for the cold-hearted. If the pace of Game One is the true barometer for

this scuffle, bring along your local neurologist.

This matchup is heaven-sent. Both outfits thrive on quickness, defensive diligence and superb shot-selection when the break is unavailable. Through and through, perhaps no two other teams match

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Quinn seeking a 60-minute effort

By WAYNE FISH
Intelligencer Writer
PHILADELPHIA — If Pat Quinn had a cigar for every time the Flyers free-lanced their way through a game this year instead of following his system, he'd be a happy man these days.

Such is not the case. It's been a

season of ups and downs, personnel changes and medical reports. Still, Quinn would be wearing a smile going into the playoffs if he could only get a positive reading off his players' desire to put in a "60-minute effort" night after night for the next seven weeks.

So maybe it's just as well the

Flyers do away with the toe-in-the-pool routine and perform a head-first drive when the Stanley Cup playoffs open Wednesday night with a best-of-five series against the Quebec Nordiques at the Spectrum (8:05 p.m., PRISM-TV, WIP-610 radio). It will give the real

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Gritty Holt named to Suburban One first team

The Suburban One League provided a fitting climax to the high school basketball career of Upper Moreland's Kevin Holt Monday, naming the 6-2 senior to the league's first team unit.

While it is no doubt a compliment to the hard-working Holt to be picked to the first team, the Bears' center received the ultimate accolade Monday, being the only unanimous selection.

William Tennent forward Ken Haug, a junior, was chosen to the third team, as was Upper Moreland sophomore Scott Trimble.

"I guess we were kind of sweating it out for a while," said Upper Moreland coach Gary Kochersperger of Holt's nomination. "Although I really don't know why. You always have to wait and see what happens when you're not one of the top three or four teams."

The Bears were not among the league's top three or four teams in 1980-81, although it certainly wasn't for lack of effort. Inspired by the true grit of Holt, the Bears went on to post an 11-11 record, and in general, give fits to those teams who were in contention for post-season playoff spots. Holt, of course, was the main reason.

The soft-spoken Holt, who is headed for Northwestern University in September, averaged a whopping 20.7 points per game for the Bears, all while hauling down 7.3 rebounds pre game. Generally he was acknowledged as the Bears' leader both on and off the floor.

Awards have been coming his way since the basketball season came to a close in the final week of February; earlier he was named to the Suburban One All-Star team for the Special Olympics Cage

Classic, and was a first team selection to *The Daily Intelligencer's* annual all-area team.

All the notoriety comes for Holt in a senior season best-described as super, and comes on the heels of junior year in which he averaged just five points a game for the Bears.

"It's nice for him to be recognized by the league for the player he was, because he wasn't real flashy," said Kochersperger. "He just did his job."

"He was the type of player all the kids could look up to, I hope we have some more like him who are willing to follow in his footsteps."

Kochersperger already has one more who has been cut from the Holt mold, that being the 6-2 Trimble. Just a sophomore, Trimble averaged 13 points per contest for the Bears, putting in from outside what Holt wasn't from underneath. Consistently, Trimble, who was a second team choice of the *Daily Intelligencer*, was assigned to cover the opposition's best player, his tireless effort making him one of the league's most reliable, if not exciting players.

The nicest part about Trimble, says Kochersperger, is he's only a sophomore.

"He can only get better," the

coach reminded. "That was one of our goals to get Scotty on there, a real credit to a kid who's only a sophomore."

It is also a credit to Haug, who is just a junior. The 6-1 swingman was the hub of a William Tennent team that won only four games in 1980-81. Despite constant double coverage, Haug popped for 15.7 points per game.

During the course of the season gone by, Haug set a new Panther record for most free throws made in a season, 113, the result of 79.8 percent shooting. Haug also connected on nearly 44 percent of his field goal attempts.

"As the season progressed, there was no doubt that when we needed someone to get our offense going, Kenny was going to be the one to do it," said Tennent coach Chic Donnelly. "The best thing about him is that he doesn't want to be known as just a shooter, he wants to become a complete basketball player—rebounding defense every-

"He sets his goals high, that only makes him work that much harder. He's a real student of the game. He knows what he has to do to make himself a better player, and he wants to work on his weaknesses."



KEVIN HOLT
Upper Moreland standout

WT's Crandley unanimous first team choice



JILL CRANDLEY
...Tennent star

Teams searched and searched for a way to shut down William Tennent's Jill Crandley during the 1980-81 basketball season, and much to their dismay, could find none. Panther coach Mel Ginden knew all along he had something special in his backcourt this year, so naturally he was pleased Monday to learn the rest of the Suburban One League recognized it as well.

Crandley, who averaged 22 points per game for the 14-7 Panthers, was voted to the league's first team unit by a unanimous vote Monday, capping a splendid season for the 5-10 junior.

"An incredible season," said Ginden with a note of approval. "It's a nice honor for her, and it's well-deserved."

Upper Moreland guard Karen Engelhardt was placed on the sec-

ond team, while teammate Chris Mitchell was a third-team selection along with Tennent's Lois Hatzbeller. Upper Moreland's Andria Lure was an honorable mention choice.

Crandley's selection came as no surprise, even if the unanimous decision did.

"She just keeps getting better and better," said Ginden. "From the first game of the year, and especially in the league games, she faced all different kinds of defenses this year, the double teams, box and one's, everything. And she handled them all very well. The thing is she's not out there just to get her points, she's a tremendous team player and super person."

She's also a super shortstop for Tennent's unbeaten softball team, but that's another story entirely. Hatzbeller overcame a series

of nagging ankle injuries to make the all-league team, averaging 12 points per game. She will team with Crandley and one other starter back to form the nucleus of Tennent's team in 1981-82.

At Upper Moreland, Engelhardt also had to battle injury, this one a knee, but came on strong to become one of the league's best point guards, said coach Ron Veit.

"She's a real heady-type player," said Veit. "She's very intense, she works hard every day at practice, and she's determined. She's a good leader, all the other kids really respect her."

Hustle was the key to Mitchell's game for the Golden Bears. Veit disclosed his senior co-captain was the team's best shooter, best rebounder (10 per game), and most aggressive defensive player.

averaging six steals. Mitchell also worked hard to transform herself into a complete player.

Lure, the Bears' remaining co-captain, was a steady performer for the Bears during her three-year varsity career, and played a key role in UM's District One playoff team of 1979-80. Lure emerged as the team's second leading scorer and its third leading rebounder. Her best game this season came against Delhaas when she poured in 17 points and snatched 18 rebounds. Earlier in the year, she had deposited 17 points against Norris-town.

As seniors, both Mitchell and Lure were selected as representatives for the Suburban One All-Star team which participated in the round robin Special Olympics Cage Classic last week.