

Rebel Good

# 'Dead' Bums

Does history repeat itself?  
If so, how many times?

This is the question the loyal fans of the Los Angeles Dodgers are asking themselves this season.

Look at the record. In 1958 the Bums, just settled from their move from Brooklyn, finished seventh in the old eight-team set-up. In 1959 they finished first and copped the World Series from the Chicago White Sox.

This marked the first time in baseball history that a team rose from so low to a world championship.

After slumping to fourth in '60, the Dodgers climbed to second in 1961.

Then tragedy struck. With Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale doing the hurling, Maury Wills breaking every base-stealing record in sight, and Tommy Davis leading the league in almost every offensive category, the Dodgers seemed a cinch for the pennant.

Koufax developed what is probably the most famous set of blisters in diamond annals. Drysdale slumped ever so slightly. Wills' legs became a mass of sores. Only Davis was able to hold his own.

Every fan knows what happened. The Giants caught fire; the Dodgers got complacent. The Giants won the pennant in a playoff.

The Dodgers were dead everyone said. They blew it bad. They'll never recover.

So guess what happened.

That's right; those lovable Bums took it all. Not only that, they knocked off the New York Yankees in four straight for the world crown, the first time that feat had been accomplished.

Then they died again.

Dropped all the way to seventh place in 1964. Koufax was struck again by a mysterious ailment, this time diagnosed as a form of arthritis in his pitching elbow.

In 1965 the 'experts' picked them for the second division.

Who could blame them? Koufax' elbow was still a question mark, Drysdale was pitching mediocre ball, Wills was a step slower than before, and, on top of all this, Tommy Davis sustained a broken ankle early in the season.

What happened?

You guessed it. Some minor-leaguer named Lou Johnson inspired the team as they went on to take another pennant and World Series.

The Dodgers repeated as NL champs in 1966, though they were stamped in the Series by the Baltimore Orioles.

In the aftermath of that season the guts of the club were lost. Koufax was forced to retire because of the pain in his pitching arm. Wills was traded to the Pirates after the squabble involving the trip to Japan. Davis went to the Mets.

What was predicted in 1967 happened. The Dodgers dropped to eighth place, topping only the Astros and Mets.

So much for the history course. Now we have the 1968 version of the 'dead' Dodgers.

Who are they? Well, they have Don Drysdale still, and that's about it for big names.

The Dodgers are old-timers Rocky Colavito and Ken Boyer giving it one last go.

They're Bob Bailey, a \$175,000 bonus-baby from the Pirates who barely hit .200 last season. And don't forget Luis Alcaraz and Paul Popovich, two other faceless heroes.

They are good-field, no-hit Wes Parker at first base, and Jeff Torborg at catcher. Don't these names seem familiar?

They're speedster Willie Davis in center hitting .240, and luckless Claude Osteen, who never gets any offensive support when pitching.

They are Bill Singer, Don Sutton, and John Billingham, hurlers all, whose names may never make the record books.

And where are the Dodgers this season? Check the standings. There they are, 'mired' in second place, but two games from the league lead.

But don't weep for the Dodgers. They've got the wildest manager of them all, Walt Alston, and that intangible quality that wins championships, guts.

The Dodgers will win, maybe not prettily, but they'll win.

# \$75 Thousand Contract Handed Dave Lemonds

By ED CARTER  
Tar Heel Sports Writer

Dave Lemonds, the nation's number one major league draft choice signed a baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs for an estimated \$75,000 Monday night at his home.

Lemonds had been the top pitcher on the Tar Heel staff this past spring, posting a 7-1 record and an earned-run average of 1.49.

The real attention-getter, however, was the number of strike-outs he chalked up during the season. In 72 1/3 innings he fanned 96 batters.

Already this season Lemonds has been named to the first team All-ACC team and the first team All-South district which extends from Maryland to Florida. There is a strong possibility that he will make All-American when this team is announced.

Lemonds was a rising junior when he signed, but had already demonstrated his ability even before his arrival on campus. In high school he led his American Legion team, Post 9 of Charlotte, to the national championship in 1965.

Coach Walter Rabb calls the left-handed Lemonds a major league prospect "without a doubt." Lemonds is not noted for overpowering speed, but relies heavily on his outstanding curveball. At every game this

spring there were at least a dozen major league scouts watching him perform.

He did not disappoint them. His only loss of the season came in the opening game of the spring. He relieved in the seventh inning with the score tied 1-1 and lost in the ninth 2-1. After this opening defeat Lemond, won his next seven, allowing only eleven earned runs.

But ironically Lemonds' greatest performance of his brief college career did not even result in victory for him. In a game against Maryland he had a no-hitter at the end of 7 innings and a two-hitter for 11 innings when finally lifted. Carolina eventually won the game 1-0 in the 13th.

Lemonds has been assigned to the Cubs farm club at San Antonio in the Texas League. He expressed eagerness to leave and

seemed pleased over the terms of the contract.

There is a possibility that some time this summer Dave Lemonds will take the pitching mound to oppose another former Tar Heel pitching star, Gary Hill. Hill signed with the Braves at the end of his sophomore year, 1967, and pitches in the Texas League.

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