

SPORTS

The "greatest" - ever



By Jim Savage

As baseball spring training begins, I am reminded of my one-time teammate, whom knowledgeable baseball fans labeled, "The Greatest Ever", Billy "The Frog" Hopper. There was nothing "The Frog" could not do on the diamond.

He hit for a higher average than George Brett, hit more home runs than Hank Aaron, stole more bases than Maury Wills and Lou Brock combined, fielded his position, where ever he played, better than this year's Golden Glove winners, and had a throwing arm that was beyond compare.

Frog pitched both right handed and left handed and batted from both sides of the plate. Managers simply could not get him out with any regularity. Billy Martin often went to him for advice on how to play the game.

Johnny Bench often said Frog was his idol, and Sandy Koufax was jealous of his control and curve ball.

Modest

For all his ability Frog was very modest, yet as Dizzy Dean often stated, Frog could say anything he wanted about his talents and never be condemned for bragging because he was simply the best ever.

To the average baseball fan who may never have heard of the great Frog Hopper and had to settle for the lesser stories of exploits of Reggie Jackson, Pete Rose, Hank Aaron, or Babe Ruth, I feel sorry.

Major league career

Frog Hopper's major league career with the St. Louis Browns was cut short when he got hit in the eye, causing blindness in his left eye and partial blindness in his right eye. Shortly after this, Frog's records were removed from the record books because the Baseball Players Association was upset that Frog played for a major league team for free.

Frog's blindness curtailed his playing but not from taking part in the game. Shortly after his injury, he returned to baseball as an umpire and was the original blind umpire which fans talk about today. (SFC Savage is the FIVE by FIVE sports stringer)

New rodeo team

By Sp4 Kenneth Beall

The newly formed 22nd Signal Brigade Rodeo Team will participate in two upcoming rodeos this month. Team members will be competing in Sarbrucken on May 8 and 9 and will depart for Belgium for some stiff competition there on May 23.

Officials say this rodeo season promises a lot of excitement and thrills and spills from participates Europe-wide. Anyone interested in joining the team can call (2315-862) for information. Ride Cowboy Ride!

Sports Shorts

MARATHON - Registration deadline for the upcoming V Corps Marathon on Sunday May 23 has been moved up to May 7th. Contact McNair Gym for details. (2315-635).

TENNIS BUFFS - Frankfurt Tennis Tourney runs June 21-25 at the Betts Clay Court, located across from the 97th General Hospital.

TRACK AND FIELD OFFICIALS CLINIC - May 12-25 in Frankfurt (2315-635).