

LE DIAMANT.

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LES EXPOS · LE MOIS DE JUIN

They Didn't Hang Up

A losing month, a long road trip and four trades in ten days. Maury Wills, Roy Face, Mudcat Grant and Donn Clendenon are gone. In their place is a list of names most of Montreal has never heard of, and one of them is eighteen years old.

PAR ÉMILE GAGNON · LE DIAMANT BASEBALL COLUMNIST

A month ago, in this space, I gave the front office some advice about the trading deadline. It was one word long. Hang up. The telephone was ringing for Maury Wills and Roy Face and Mudcat Grant, I wrote, and the club was finally winning with them. Let June play out. Well, June played out. The Expos went 13-18, fell from fourth place to fifth and from eight games back to nine and a half. And the front office did not hang up.

I will admit something. They were right and I was wrong. Not about the men they traded; those were good ballplayers, and Wills was among the best in the league this spring. But about the moment. A club that loses six straight on a West Coast trip, as this one did from June 11 to 15, is not a club one left-handed reliever away from a pennant. It is a club that needs to be built, and you don't build with 36-year-old shortstops.

THE FOUR DEALS

On June 15, Roy Face went to Minnesota, at 41 and with eleven saves,

for outfielder Jim Holt and a 19-year-old catcher named Rick Dempsey. On June 20, Ron Brand and an injured Donn Clendenon went to the White Sox for catcher Don Pavletich. The same day, Wills and Grant went to San Francisco for an 18-year-old outfielder named Gary Matthews. On June 21, a minor leaguer named Floyd Wicker went to St. Louis for pitcher Mike Torrez and outfielder Luis Melendez.

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Count it up. Six men out, average age about 33. Six men in, average age about 22. The club kept its four best hitters, Rusty Staub, Bob Bailey, Manny Mota and Mack Jones.

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BY THE NUMBERS

June record	13-18
One-run games, June	6-2
June runs for / against	133/161
Trades, Jun 15-21	4
Laboy, June RBI	23
Avg. home crowd, June	11,951

NL EAST · JULY 1

Pittsburgh	47-33
Chicago	46-34
St. Louis	44-36
New York	37-40
Montréal	37-42
Philadelphia	28-49

LES HONNEURS DE JUIN

NL Player of the Week (Jun 2): Maury Wills, Montréal, his last honour in our colours.

NL Rookie of the Month: Don Gullett, Cincinnati.

Our own: Gary Matthews, Texas League Player of the Week (Jun 16, before the trade). West Palm Beach OF Jim Fairey, FSL Player of the Week (Jun 30).

About that eighteen-year-old. Gary Matthews was hitting .311 in Double-A for the Giants when they traded him, and he has hit .371 in his first 40 trips to the plate at West Palm Beach. The Giants wanted a sweetener, and Grant went west with Wills. Remember the name. Dempsey, at nineteen, is catching every day beside him.

WHAT WENT RIGHT

Coco Laboy, the rookie third baseman nobody had heard of in April, was the best hitter on the club in June: .309, nine doubles, four home runs and 23 runs batted in. He leads the team with 50. Bob Bailey and Rusty Staub each walked 21 times in the month, and Bailey finally hit, .274 with a .398 on-base percentage. Jerry Robertson took over the ninth inning from Face and saved four games with a 2.60 ERA. And on deadline day, with half the city wondering what was left of this team, the Expos beat Steve Carlton 17-1 at Jarry Park.

WHAT STILL WORRIES ME

The walks. Mike Wegener walked 37 men in June and leads the major leagues

with 89. Bill Stoneman walked 34. Steve Renko and Larry Jaster each gave up eight home runs in the month. By the statisticians' measure, this pitching staff is now the worst of the 24 in baseball, and no trade fixed that. Andy Simpson has a lot of teaching to do this summer.

The defence worries me too. By the zone numbers, Staub in right field and Mota at second base are the two worst gloves on the club, and both got worse in June. The best glove the Expos had, Wills, now plays in San Francisco.

WHAT COMES NEXT

John Boccabella, who has hit 19 home runs at West Palm Beach, joins the club today as the backup catcher. Ted Savage should be back from the disabled list by mid-month. The Cubs, a game behind Pittsburgh and the hottest team in the division, are at Jarry Park for three to open July. This team won't catch them this year. That was never the plan. The plan is the boy hitting .371 in Florida, and the catcher of nineteen beside him. On recommence. We start again.

L'ÉTAT DU CLUB

Strength: Staub and Bailey's on-base, Laboy's bat, Robertson in the ninth.
Worry: the walks, the home runs, and the gloves at second and in right.
Watch: Boccabella in Montreal, Matthews in Florida, Savage's return.
Next: July, with the All-Star Game on the 23rd.

LES NÔTRES · GCL
HOMETOWN WATCH

Mac McSween, LHP	0.82 ERA
Michel Dostaler, RHP	2 IP, 0 R
Hank Zacharias, OF	no AB yet
Bill MacKenzie, C	yet to play

JUNE'S BEST DAY

June 25, Jarry Park. Expos 17, Cardinals 1. Deadline day, against Steve Carlton, with Mike Wegener on the mound. The trades were done, and the club that was left answered with seventeen runs.