

Interview with Bob Turley, February 3, 2003, Marco Island, Florida

Interviewer: Bill Stevens, SABR

Subjects: Yogi Berra
Roger Maris
Bob Cerv
Sportswriters: Dick Young
Ted Williams
The individual drive to win/Yankee winning tradition
Mickey Mantle
Ballparks/Foul territory
Move from St. Louis to Baltimore
Life on the road
Last years ('61-64) Being traded by the Yankees
Retirement
Ballplayers today
Being scouted and signed.
The big, big trade
Umpires/ Ed Runge, McGowan
Don Larsen's perfect game

Tape 1, Side A

Q: Did Yogi really say all those things?

Bob: Yogi and I worked together in a fantasy camp. I said "Yogi, you did that commercial with that duck. Did the duck really speak? He said, "Naw, I never even saw the duck." I said "Yogi, you and I have known each other a long time. We "locked" together for 8 years. I don't remember you saying all the things you're getting credit for. He said "I said em". I said "Yogi one you said was 'When you're driving down the road and come to a fork in the road, take it. What does that mean. What it means he said was "you take the fork and either one goes to my house".

What about the one where people don't go to that restaurant any more because it's too crowded. You didn't say that. He said, "I sure did".

WS: You might get asked to death about some of the guys you played with, but I wanted to ask you about **Roger Maris** and the 61 home run year.

Bob: First of all, people have to know Roger. He was always a very quite guy. He wasn't flamboyant. He didn't run around. He wasn't Mickey Mantle--entirely different type and a hell of a ballplayer. One of the best ballplayers I've ever watched. Great fielder--throw good, run good. He could do it all. He was a great part of the team. Roger was the type of guy--dry sense of humor. Sometimes he would say something, never intending to hurt anybody and it would always come out the wrong way. Mickey could get away with a lot of that, but not Roger.

I remember it was about the 58th or 59th home run in Detroit. He hit a ball and it hit the upper deck and dropped down. So it was a home run. **Kaline** got the ball and put it in his pocket. When he ran in he threw the ball over to Maris. Maris took it into the locker. I was "locking" close to Maris. There was a sportswriter there and he asked Roger "What did you think about Kaline coming in and giving you that ball?". Roger said "I thought it was nice but I would have done the same thing for him." They beat him to death in the newspapers the next day.

WS: Did he realize the scrutiny he was under?

Bob: No he didn't. He had never been under that before. He had never played on a championship team. He played at Cleveland and Kansas City. No pressure on those clubs. Buy when he came over to New York it was a different situation. The ballparks are packed both at home and on the road. He didn't like much of that. He was a family man. He had six kids. He was very devoted to his wife. He never did much of anything else. He hung around with **Bob Cerv**. Bob Cerv was the original bitcher. Bob Cerv is a nice guy. But he was one of those guys that makes too many comments when he's really out of line.

WS: He can't let anything go?

Bob: He's got to top anything anybody says. And Bob is a non-stop talker. He's got 11 kids or something like that. He and Roger roomed together all that time. I don't think Roger could ever get out of that environment. He wasn't the showoff kind of guy. I remember one time when he was out with several of the ballplayers. Some kid come over and Roger signed 'Babe Ruth'. He called the kid back and he

signed his signature. But they ripped him up in the newspapers. It was just a joke.

WS: Are sportswriters your friends and not your friends at the same time? Do they look for those type of situations?

Bob: Yes. Especially Boston and New York are two of the worst towns I know of. Everyone is looking to out scoop the other one. One of the things I remember after the '58 season--**Dick Young** called me on the phone from New York and asked 'How would you like to get a 100% raise?' I said I would love to have a 100% raise. The headline the next day was "Turley demands 100% raise". I hadn't even talked to Weiss. Weiss called me the next day and said "What are you doing?" I had to tell him I had never asked for a 100% raise. He asked whether I would like one.

WS: Do you have to look at that as part of the territory?

Bob: Well, growing up you become used to it a little bit. If I would lose a game I would not listen to the radio or read the newspaper for 24 hours. Then it's all over with because you are old news. But if you won a game you would want to watch them all. But New York was that way.

WS: If you had been in Milwaukee it would have been different.

Bob: I don't know how many newspapers you had there (note: there were 2 at that time) but they probably had 3-4 writers traveling with them, but in New York there was a whole train full with us. I'm going to say in New York and Boston there were probably 15 writers with us all the time. And the papers wanted each of them to cover a different angle.

WS: So some of the guys handled that better than others.

Bob: Yes, some of them did it the right way. You never wanted to read anything in the paper bad about you. But they didn't play on our personal lives as much as they do now. They just covered the baseball part. I guess that's why we could put up with it more. But I don't know how ballplayers can take it today. They get the big money to draw fans to the ballpark. You got to take the good with the bad because if you aren't popular you wouldn't be making that much money and they wouldn't

care about you anyway.

WS: Fame comes with both perks and penalties

Bob: Right--especially when you're making real money. You hit good in baseball but your popularity is made by sportswriters

WS: One of the things I wanted to ask you about was the drive to succeed you mentioned earlier. Where did all that come from? There have to be a lot of talented ballplayers but you have to have the drive too don't you?

Bob: It's not just having the ability. It's part of it but I don't know if ability is the most important part. It's the drive to want to excel. When ballplayers say playing in the World Series is just another game then something is wrong. I remember sitting next to **Ted Williams** during an all-star game. I was the starting pitcher that day. I went down to take a leak. Then I took another leak. He looked at me and said "You do the same thing I do. I'm so damned nervous before this game starts that I'm in the bathroom all the time before it gets going. That's that drive. If you don't have that, there is nothing in life in any area. You gotta be nervous. Just because you're a little nervous doesn't mean you are no good. You just want to get out there and get going. In my life, growing up as a little kid, I wanted to win. I don't care whether it was marbles, football.

WS: Is that some that's just innate?

Bob: My mother and father weren't that way. My dad was a good person. Normal job in WWII. He was in the navy. My mother worked. They might have had it but never had a way of showing it. I just wanted to win. Growing up and having kids of my own. My wife would say to me "Let them win". I said "They have plenty of time to win, but they have to first learn how to lose." I remember playing cards with my grandson and I made a mistake playing the cards. He looked at me and said "You're just doing that so I can win." I told him I don't do that for nobody.

When I say beat, I don't want to embarrass you. My desire is to win. I didn't want anyone to hit me and they obviously did hit me. I just wanted to be part of a winning team.

I was with the St. Louis Browns. You couldn't be with a worse team than that. They lost 100 games a year. I remember one day going into the clubhouse after we just got beat real bad. Marty Marion was the manager at the time and I was about 19 years old. We went upstairs in the clubhouse at St. Louis. The Browns lockers were up above and the Cardinals below. I walked in the clubhouse and the guys were drinking beer, snapping towels at each other. We just lost by maybe 12-13 runs. I walked in without knowing any better. I was just disappointed. I walked into the manager's office and said "Mr. Marion I don't understand. We just lost and those guys are having a party out there. He looked at me and said "Bob, let me tell you something. If you were their age and at this part of the game, they were happy to get through that game and didn't get hurt.

I didn't understand at the time. Today there are more ballplayers than ever hanging on when they shouldn't even be in the major leagues to get another year in. I can understand when they are making a million or two. From the owners standpoint they want somebody who has a name. But it just bothers me to see that.

I played on losing ball clubs and I played on winning ball clubs. And I know what made the Yankees win. It was their desire to win. *There were individual stars from the fans standpoint, but on the club there were no individual stars.* That was true on the day I walked into the Yankee clubhouse. It was a tradition. You had enough guys overlapping that you carried on the tradition.

Mickey was one of those guys but he wasn't one of those guys who would do it verbally. But actually Mickey Mantle played in games he shouldn't have played in. He loved to play baseball. A lot of the guys on the club were like that. Sure we had a few oddball guys but they didn't stay around long. I don't care what your abilities are but if you don't want to win your teammates don't want you around.

Side B, tape 1

Counter

10

WS: You mentioned **Sportsman's Park**. You played there during the last year. What do you remember about that park?

Bob: Growing up in East St. Louis I was more of a Cardinal fan. I watched Musial, Terry Moore so it was quite a thrill. I signed right out of high school with the Browns when I was 17. So to come up to the major leagues and be there was the thrill of a lifetime.

I remember when I was a little kid. We played a three inning game before the Cardinals. They put a fence up around the ball park so the kids could hit it over the fence for a home run. I remember two things. The coach gave us baseballs to get autographs from the Cardinals. The only guy I asked for an autograph was **Harry Brecheen**. He said "I don't have a chance right now, I've got to leave." When I came up to the big leagues the first time the pitching coach was **Harry Brecheen**. He was my roommate on the road and I really let him know about it.

We played that game and our catcher--he was 11 or 12 years old hit a ball into the left field seats at Sportsman's Park 395' from home plate. It was Hank Bauer's nephew. Hank is from East St. Louis. He played with all my uncles and I played with his nephew.

74

WS: What peculiarities of that ballpark do you remember?

Bob: The right field screen. It was about 315'. There wasn't a lot of foul territory. If you have a lot of foul territory you'll have a better ERA because guys can catch pop fouls. In Boston, the reason they hit so much is the ballpark is so close so they get second or third shots. I would swear they have a 10 point better average because of that. Brooklyn was another one. Brooklyn had all those great hitters. Same thing. Now when you went to LA to play in the Coliseum it was another story. That was a big ballpark.

100

WS: You were kind of a pioneer in that you played one year in St. Louis and then off to Baltimore. What was that like? I know you pitched the opening game.

Bob: Right. I won it 3-1, beat Virgil Trucks

WS: What was it like with the fans and such?

Bob: It was really exciting because here we come from St. Louis. I remember the Harlem Globetrotters played in a basketball game. There must have been 15,000 people in the stands. They could stay and see our game after that. There must have been 3,000 that stayed. So to sit there and never have any fans--even on July 4th we could never get more than 10,000. From a town like that to go to another town where my gosh--I won a Cadillac as the most valuable player, a trip to Japan--a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of people coming to the games. We were heroes in town. Everybody knew you. It was really exciting. It was like the world series. I think we drew a million and a half or something.

We weren't any different. We were the same team. Just different uniforms. We were their Orioles.

WS: Did that change things in the clubhouse?

Bob: Oh, it affected it a lot, but still, if you don't have a good team.

WS: What was **Memorial Stadium** like?

Bob: It was a pitchers stadium. It had a lot of foul territory. The lines were short but deep in center, right-center, the power alleys. In my first year there I think I pitched close to 300 innings. I know I only gave up 7 home runs. (Note: Actually 247 IP). So in a big ballpark they aren't going to beat you with home runs and you keep the averages down.

WS: Now when you go to **Fenway** you have to pitch different.

Bob: I loved Fenway. There were two ballparks I loved to pitch in, Detroit and Fenway. And the reason for it was because home plate was right against the backstop. So when you're on the mound you feel like you are right on top of him. When you get into **Yankee Stadium** there is so much room back there that you get no depth perception. In those ballparks (Detroit Briggs and Fenway) you feel like you're throwing 300 miles an hour.

WS: What was your least favorite ballpark?

Bob: Cleveland. I think I won one game in Cleveland and it was the last game I ever pitched there. I pitched some of my best ball games there but I just couldn't seem to win. It was another big ballpark. I really didn't fear any ballpark. It didn't make any difference.

WS: But you do have to make some adjustments.

Bob: Right. You have to pitch accordingly. People say in Boston you have to pitch away. In Boston I pitched you around your hands because if you get around on it you'll hit it foul. A lot of the guys pitched outside and got killed. You can hit it out anywhere in that ballpark. It wasn't the home runs that beat you in Boston, it was the line drives. Little fly balls would hit the fence.

184

WS: I've been watching ball games since 1945 and even guys like me probably don't realize what head games are going on out there.

Bob: You really do. There are some ballplayers you know you can pitch against that didn't know what the hell they were doing. They just went up to hit the ball. The old saying was 'get a good pitch and hit it.' There were a lot of guys who weren't thinking along. I can't get inside a hitters head, but I know a lot of hitters where I pitched the same way my whole career and they never got a hit off of me.

I don't care how hard you throw. Hitters will get to you if they get the timing right. Unless you are a superstar pitcher. What makes the guy from Boston (Martinez) such a great pitcher is not that he throws so hard and not that he has a great curve ball or change up. It's his great control.

204

WS: No control was always a problem for you wasn't it?

Bob: I remember going in to talk to Weiss. I always knew what they were going to talk about. I'd say, "Mr. Weiss I thought the object of the game was to win. I win games." "Yes you do, but you walk too many." I said "How many hits did I give up Mr. Weiss? I think men on base is what you ought to look at. Take my walks

and my hits and tell me who is the best pitcher in baseball. He said Bob Lemon. I knew he was going to come back to that because Bob won 25 games. I put 45 less people on base. (Note: Lemon put 1.32 runners on base in '54-55 compared to Turley's 1.28).

It's like the style of the game today. You've got middle relievers, set up men and closers. Pitching is so easy if there are no men on base. The test of a pitcher is what happens when you have men on base. I was good with people on base, real good. That's why I did relieving with New York. I didn't walk people when I relieved. I walked people when I started.

WS: What was the difference in those two situations?

Bob: When you come in in a situation like that your adrenalin gets pumping. With men on base you have to reach back and get it. In that situation the good pitchers get better. You have to because that's where you have to bear down and get out of the situation.

WS: In other words with nobody on you "don't have to". With men on base you "have to".

Bob: That's right. Some of those guys who are good relievers today would also be good starters. They just master one pitch because they're in for such a short time.

267

WS: Roger Kahn in his book The Boys of Summer said it was a book about men who played baseball for a living, not about baseball players. We fans tend to see you guys as baseball players. Anyway, this game has to be challenging for families. Were you married during this time and I understand you have 6 children now.

Bob: I've been married three times. My present wife and I, Carolyn have been married 21 years. But the times you are away from your family on the road. One of the things that was nice though is your family got to see you work. But it creates doubts because you're on the road. The wives read the newspapers about guys messing around. In those days we would have 18 day road trips. We weren't flying. We were in trains. Baseball was a different system then because every

Monday we were off and every Thursday with a double header on Sunday.

WS: Were you with Billy and Mickey and those guys?

Bob: That's a whole different group of guys. Whatever they did did not affect their baseball. When they came on the field they played baseball.

Tape 2, Side A

Counter

16

(Continuing about how baseball affects family life)

WS: So that was a little bit easier

Bob: Right. We played a lot of day games. Now they play at night and don't play doubleheaders. Now they play 7 days a week. So in that sense it was nicer. On the other hand we had long road trips. In those days we'd play Friday night, Saturday and two on Sunday.

29

WS: Life on the road. What was that like?

Bob: It was quite enjoyable. We'd leave New York and get on the train and we all had sleepers. We'd read a book and go to bed. There would be a dining car and we'd all eat in the dining car. We'd talk baseball. We'd be in a city, get in a cab, go to these hotels. All the hotels at that time had lobbies. We'd sit around. Nobody would bother us. We'd eat in the hotels. Today, some of the ballplayers don't even stay at the same hotel. Some have their own private rooms. It was all different then.

I remember Rizzuto, Yogi, myself, a lot of the guys loved to go to the movies. We'd go to a movie during the day, go to the ballpark and play a game at night. Then we'd come back to the hotel.. You'd sit and watch television. TV went off at two in the morning. Some guys would sleep late in the morning because they had

nothing else to do. Some guys like me would get up early, had breakfast and sit and read the newspaper. It was a regular routine. You could walk down the streets and nobody would bother you. Today they would overwhelm you so you almost have to hide.

WS: It was a different lifestyle when you were home again. Was that like going to work?

Bob: When you are home it's just like a regular job. The guys didn't bum around when you were home. We all lived in separate places and went home to our families. They often car pooled into the ballpark. But it was more like a 9 to 5 job.

WS: But on the road, you lived with these guys. You were together all the time.

Bob: It was like playing college baseball. We hung around with the guys and the families weren't involved. You'd do a lot of crazy things to have fun. It wasn't like having sex with somebody every night. Some guys were like that and some weren't.

WS: What was it like for your kids?

Bob: My first son was born in '54 when I was with Baltimore. It was about 3 years before he knew what it was about. He still talks today about going down to St. Petersburg and playing with Whitey Ford's kids. They all played baseball. Then I used to take the two sons that were born at that time and take them to Yankee Stadium and we'd play baseball in center field when nobody was in the stands. They were there all the time. They have good memories of that.

I remember when I was with the Los Angeles Angels I took the oldest boy with me and he was the bat boy for the Angels. He wore Albie Pearson's uniform. Albie was so little it fit him.

125

WS: You were with the Yankees through '62. From the way you talk about it you were obviously proud to be a Yankee. Then you went to Los Angeles.

Bob: That's a sad time of your life. I had my arm operated on after the '61 season. I pitched in '62 but I didn't pitch too much (note: 69 IP). My arm got hurt in the Pittsburgh world series. So I didn't pitch much in '61 because my arm was pretty sore. I pitched in some games good, some games bad. In '62 I came back with them a little bit but I didn't get to pitch a lot. The older you get, the more you have to pitch because when you get older your muscles have to get worked on. That's why you see guys like Clemens who have a workout schedule that would kill you. They have to do that to stay in shape like the 25 year old do it naturally.

Because I wasn't pitching a lot I asked Ford Frick for permission to go to Puerto Rico and pitch. He allowed me to go down there. On opening night at the Roberto Clemente stadium. I was only down there two days because we were in the World Series. I came back to the hotel. In those days they had the holes where they would put your keys and messages. There was a pink message for me. It was from Roy Hamey. It said "You've been traded to the Los Angeles Angels. That's all I ever heard from the Yankees. That was very disheartening. I had done a lot for the club. I did a lot of sign stealing. I was the player representative. I thought I was really committed to the team.

I even talked to management at the time. I said "Let me go down to Puerto Rico and I'll pitch and get my arm in better shape. In spring training you can put me on the roster. You can take me off the roster if you want. If it doesn't work out you can make me a coach. They didn't say no. It was more like "It sounds like a good idea." Then I was down there for those two days. I found out later that I was traded a long time before that but they couldn't announce it until after the world series. So while they were agreeing with me they knew I was going to be gone.

180

I felt let down very much. But once I matured in life a little bit in the business world I understood it. It didn't bother me any more. In the beginning I had to prove to those son-of-a-guns I can really do this. That's what I say in my motivation book. I say that most successful people are driven because they want to prove something to somebody. They aren't in it for the money. I could be to their mother, father, brother, coach or somebody. If you know the key is when you're in management, you play on that.

WS: You ended up with the Red Sox that year ('62)

Bob: Around July the Angels released me. They weren't going anywhere and I was probably the highest paid pitcher on the roster. I remember **Gene Autry** as a kid, then to have him sit on the bench next to you. He actually had tears. He said "I don't want you to go. (He loved the Yankees.) I'm so sorry, but I had no part of this decision. If I did you'd still be here". But they cut down.

At the same time Boston wanted to sign me but I was on waivers and had to wait, I think it was 7 days to see if somebody picks you up. So I signed and pitched the rest of the year for them. Then when the season was over they came to me and asked me to be the pitching coach. They told me I could still pitch if I wanted to. So I got in real good shape when I went to Arizona. But to do my job good as a pitching coach, it consumed all my time so I couldn't pitch any more.

After the season was over **Paul Richards** called me. He was manager and GM in Houston in a new ballpark. He wanted me to come to spring training. I was still young at the time. I was only 34 years old. He wanted me to pitch and if it didn't work out he was going to make me a coach. So I was in spring training with them. I pitched 2-3 games with them and I pitched real well because I always went to spring training in shape. Then I pitched mediocre. I didn't get tired. I didn't get sore.

But I didn't care whether I won or lost, and when I lost that winning attitude I said "This is it". It didn't bother me if I lost and I wasn't happy if I won. Then 4-5 days before spring training broke up they called me in and wanted me to go to Durham so I could pitch and get myself in pitching shape and then they'd bring me back. They told me "If you don't win down there we'll bring you back as coach". I was almost tempted to do that, but about 30 minutes after that the (Durham ??) writers all came in and talked about how I'd be there opening day pitcher.

I went home and said to myself, _____. I went in and talked to them. Eddie Robinson was his assistant. I said "Eddie, I just don't want to go down to the minors." He understood that.

WS: Did you feel it was time to go?

Bob: Yes. I had other things in my life. I was on my way at that time to go to California. I was going to be marketing director for Continental Baking company. I had worked for them in the winter time. They called me and I told them I'd like to work in California and they said OK. I stopped off to visit in Atlanta with a friend of mine who was a stockbroker. He asked what I was going to do. I told him I was going to California. He asked if I was in a hurry and I said no. So he said "Why don't you just stay here and sell some securities". I said OK. They gave me a guarantee of \$200 a week or something. Then all of a sudden I started making a ton of money because Atlanta was a hot town.

I was sitting in the stands at the end of spring training when the Yankees were coming through. **John McHale** who was president of the Milwaukee Braves saw me. He sat down next to me and ask "What are you doing here? Are you in baseball now". He told me they were looking for a pitching coach for the Atlanta Crackers. I said "As long as I don't have to give up what I'm doing. He said OK and I worked all that year for the Braves.

He called me in at the end of the year to go over the pitchers. He told me they wanted me to go to Richmond because Whit Wyatt was the pitching coach for Milwaukee and he's coming back to his home town (Atlanta) and he just wants to go one more year and I'd have the job. He offered me a raise to I think it was \$9,000 a year and \$13,000 when I took Wyatt's job. I said "John, I'm making over \$100,000 a year now. I'll help you for nothing but I just can't do it.

So I would go to spring training Paul Richards came over to Atlanta. He remembered about my **sign stealing**. He and I would sit behind home plate. I would screen all the pitchers for him what they were throwing. Then he'd call them aside and tell them. Their usual reaction was "I don't do that". I did that for quite a few years.

WS: Baseball can only carry you so far in business. Is that right?

Bob: I was good at what I did. We concentrated pretty much on what I did in baseball. I was highly educated--not with degrees, but highly educated in what to do, how to buy and sell companies and all kinds of stuff. But I had a name because

I was with the New York Yankees and that got me into anywhere I wanted to go. But I knew what the hell I was talking about. I had a philosophy that when I went to see somebody I knew what I was going to say but you didn't know what you were going to say. I never worried about what questions somebody was going to ask me. Most people fail in the business world because they are afraid somebody will ask them questions they can't answer. I had tremendous confidence in my abilities.

WS: That's the same thing that made you a success in baseball

Bob: Now you're getting into what the book is all about. I had one thing. You could take everything away from me physically but you can't take this (pointing to his mind) away from me. As long as I have this I can always make a living.

WS: Were the thrills in business like those in baseball?

Bob: They are identical. The business world is the same thing as playing on a championship team. If you put a winning team together you'll win in the business world. But it's more than just hitting the ball. A lot of people are very good hitters. Like I see today, a classical thing I remember--when the Braves were playing Philadelphia in the playoffs. If they win this game they go on to the world series. That wild left hand pitcher was pitching for Philadelphia. The catcher for the Braves was up at the plate with the bases loaded and the score tied, bottom of the 9th. The lefthander throws a ball inside and the catcher jumped out of the way. All he had to do is let it hit him and the Braves are in the world series. The next pitch he flies out and they lose.

WS: It isn't the way it used to be.

Bob: No. Here is the reason you hear. I don't know if they say this because they think it's the right thing to say. You hear ballplayers say "Look, you're messing with my business. I want to throw up when I hear that. It's not your damn business. It's still game. It's a game that people love to play. You may think it's your business and it is, but you don't ever say that. I hear Tommy Glavine say that and I want to die. Nobody wants to come and see you do your business. They come to the ballpark to see you play baseball. I think the ballplayers today are better. They are stronger, they are in better shape year around (we only stayed in

shape 7 months a year). It's a money game to them. I would probably be doing the same thing if it was me. I don't know.

It's an entirely different game. Guys don't play. I pitched a game in Milwaukee. I pitched 9 innings in the 5th game in New York (actually the 3rd game in New York) and relieved the very next day in Milwaukee in the 10th inning. (Actually two days later) Then I came in the next day (actually 2 days later) and pitched 7 innings. (Actually pitched 9). People ask "Didn't you get tired?" I tell them I never got tired until Schoendienst flew out to center field and Mickey caught it. Today guys don't want to do that. They don't volunteer to go to the bullpen.

Tape 2, Side B

WS: There seem to be a lot more players on the disabled list today.

Bob: I could throw 230-240 pitches in a game and still be throwing as good as I was when I started. My arm was in shape. We threw a lot so our arms didn't get as sore at least not as much as you have today. If we had 5 guys on the disabled list the whole year that was a lot.

WS: Maybe if you train your arm to throw 125 pitches that's what you get.

Bob: That's right. It's just like your legs. Your legs have to get in shape. When I run out here I run 10 laps. Your legs get in shape as you increase your running. Pitching is the same way. I don't think I had a sore arm in Boston when I was coach there. On the teams in New York I used to pitch batting practice every day. We timed how long we threw and we increased it every day. They made you throw on the sidelines all the time.

Today they don't do that. They do routines. But I don't think any pitcher pitches 9 innings in spring training any more. We always had to have two 9 inning games before we went north. It's a different game. They don't pitch 9 innings any more so they don't throw as much so your arm gets in shape up to that limit.

84

WS: Another thing I wanted to ask you was who scouted you?

Bob: Basically I was pitching for East Side high and there was a guy by the name of Howard Gort (?) who was a kind of a local "birddog" for the Browns. He had a couple of sons who played. So he called my high school pitching coach and asked "Who is the best ballplayer you got?" They said me. So they called me and asked me to come over for a workout. Then I went over for a workout with the Browns. **Jack Fournier** was their head scout. So they talked to me. I was still in high school so they couldn't sign me. He told me he would like to sign me the night I graduate. So they sent a guy by the name of Perlbine (?) and they signed me.

WS: How did your parents feel about it?

Bob: My mother just loved it. Your son gets to play professional baseball. So I went out to Belleville in the Illinois State League.

WS: You picked the Browns because you were a home town boy?

Bob: No, I picked the Browns because they offered me a contract. I just wanted to play baseball. You never think you're that good. I did go to a Yankee tryout camp in Maryville, Illinois. I went there with my uncle who was two years older than me. We were both pitchers. They liked me at the time and told me they would get back to me. Then the tryout came with the Browns after that. They didn't have my address because my mother and father were divorced. The only Turley in the phone book was my uncle. So they sent someone out to see him and they signed him up thinking they were signing me.

I went to Bellville in the Illinois State League and he went to Marion in the same league and we played against each other. I pitched and won the game that night. I went to the clubhouse to get him because we were going to go out to eat and when I saw him I asked what was wrong. He said "They told me they signed the wrong Turley".

Lou McGwalla (?) was the Yankee scout in the area at that time. Later on he came to me and said he would never admit to that story but that was the truth. So they finally got me 7 years later.

WS: Let's talk about the monster trade. I think there were 18 or 19 ballplayers.

WS: How did you find out you had been traded?

Bob: When the '54 season was over Paul Richards came over, Jimmy Dykes was the manager at the time. He called me into his office. I was scheduled to pitch the last game of the year. I think I was 13-14 or 14-15 and it was a chance to even out my record. He asked me what I was going to do and I told him I was going to stay in St. Louis, buy a home and I had a job. He said "That's good because we're going to build the team around you."

Then he said "You're not going to gain anything by pitching the last game. I can't tell you what to do but I wouldn't pitch that game. So I went back and told Jimmy Dykes. He said OK so Larsen pitched that day and lost his 21st game. My son was born October 28. About a week later I was watching television watching the "Tonight" show and all of a sudden my picture flashed across the screen with "Bob Turley traded to New York Yankees".

People asked if I was mad about it. I was thrilled. The Browns averaged about 2 and a half runs a game for me that year. To go to a ball club like that was heaven.

One of the guys in the trade was Gus Triondos. He was my catcher in the army. He went to the Yankees and I was with the Browns and we flip flopped.

237

WS: Who were your favorite umpires?

Bob: No question. **Ed Runge**. **McGowan** was the other one. They were the type of umpire that didn't make you get into the strike zone that much. You could pitch outside the strike zone. They were consistent. They wanted the hitters to swing and not take pitch after pitch. They were pitchers umpires. With Runge I don't think I ever lost a game in my career with him behind the plate.

WS: Wouldn't the batters agree that he was their favorite

Bob: No, but some of them wouldn't mind because he was consistent. There were

some bad umpires. If you said anything they would hate you the rest of your life. One umpire didn't like me. I never did anything, yelled from the dugout or anything. But they never allowed me to pitch with him behind the plate. Good management knows that.

288

WS: Forgive me for changing subjects but we still talk about the infamous "bush league" comment someone on the Yankees made before the '57 series. Was that Hank Bauer?

Bob: No. We were on a bus. We came in by train. They were having a parade before the series started. They asked us to be in the parade and the club agreed. So we're sitting in the bus waiting. We had been sitting there for an hour and a half after traveling to get there and nobody had showed up. They were waiting for the mayor and he hadn't shown up. All of a sudden some representative of the parade came on and said "Fellas we're sorry. We are waiting on so-and-so. It will be another 15 minutes. And **Gus Mauch** the trainer said "This is really bush". And that's what they blew up. He wasn't talking about Milwaukee.

322

WS: What were your recollections of **Don Larsen's** game?

Bob: One thing you didn't see in the papers that I remember. Don started the second game of that world series and Casey took him out in the 3rd or 4th inning (actually 2nd) of the game when he was winning 3-1 or 4-1 or something. (Note: Actually 6-1). So he said the heck with that. Don was noted for drinking a little bit. He wasn't carousing around with women but he'd bum around with the guys a little bit--policemen, the guys that worked at the park. I remember him saying "I'll never pitch again".

That morning, playing a day game he "locked" right next to me. They would never tell us who was going to pitch. You knew, but they didn't tell you. But Jim Turner or Frank Crosetti would take a baseball in your shoe. So I was sitting there and he came in and I honestly don't think he'd been to bed all night. He walked in and looked at the ball, he looked at me, laid down and went to bed and slept. He did

that about 30 minutes before the game, got a little rubdown, walked out and pitched a perfect game.

WS: When were you guys aware that it was a perfect game?

Bob: You always get award of that stuff in the middle of the game.

The best game I ever pitched in my major league career was in the world series the next day. It was in Brooklyn. Clem Labine was pitching against me. I got beat 1-0 in 10 innings and set a world series strikeout record (Note: 11 K's) the next day but nobody remembers that. But what they do now is someone walks up to me and says "I remember your perfect game" because I won all those games and that's the only thing he did his whole career. (Note: Bob said this with a smile on his face). The next day, I think it was either a 3 hitter or 4 hitter (Note: It was a 4 hitter), (Note: His wife Karen came in then and we got a bit sidetracked).

Junior Gilliam got the first hit. (Note: Snider actually singled in the first). Slaughter was playing left field for us and he hit a high fly ball. Slaughter lost it in the sun. He turned his back and the ball dropped. The second hit was by Clem Labine (Note: 8th inning). He hit a routine fly down the left field line. In Ebbets Field it's real close to the foul line. He (Slaughter) ran over, hit the wall, fell down and the ball landed for a ground rule double.

The third hit was with Junior Gilliam on second (single, sacrifice), Snider was on first (IP), 2 outs. Jackie Robinson was the hitter. He hit a line drive. Slaughter just standing there could have caught the ball. He hustled IN and the ball went over his head and I got beat 1-0.

Note: After the tape was off Bob said he was not upset at Slaughter. He was just too old to have played left field any more.