

Hub Kittle (HK)

4/3/1991

interviewer Roger Herz

Hello, my name is Roger Herz. It's April 3rd, 1991 and we're in Yakima, Washington speaking with Hub Kittle. Welcome Hub.

HK- I'm glad to be here, Roger.

Hub, when did you sign, how old were you, where did you go?

HK- I was pitching in Los Angeles for the Fairfax High School in 1934. [Oddly, loud birdcalls punctuate the rest of this interview!] We won the championship (that's my bird there, don't worry about that!, it's Carmen, I've had here for 31 years). Anyway, I got a scholarship to San Diego Army-Navy Academy and I went down there and one day I pitched a no-hitter against Coranero High and the scout Ernie Johnson, he came down after the ballgame and he said, "Young man, I would like to offer you a contract to go to Rocky Mount, North Carolina." He was for the Red Sox then and he didn't have a contract in his pocket but he had a piece of paper and he made out [unintelligible, tape has no sound]. Well, anyway, later on now I turn in all my uniform, my equipment and everything and I'm going to be a ballplayer. I'm seventeen years old, just turning eighteen, so I head out to Los Angeles and I get a job working in a meat market by the name of Young's Market. I was gutting turkeys up there at Christmas time and staying with my Aunt Shirley. I got a letter in the mailbox from the Angels from Los Angeles and they said they'd like for me to come to Wrigley Field. It was on 42nd and Avalon in those days. So I go over there and I go up into the big office and I look down and there's the diamond down there, you know and it looks like big leagues. It looks like Yankee Stadium to me and they says "Well, what are you doing" and I said "Well, I've already signed." "What kind, you signed a contract? What kind?" and I said "No, sir. I signed a piece of paper." And so they showed me a real contract. So they said "Well, how about you signing with us for 150 and you could probably pitch here in Los Angeles, your home town." And I said "Oh, that sounds good to me." And I said, "Was that contract any good that he sent to me?" See I didn't have any legal advice and a guardian because my dad died when I was six, you know. So anyway, I signed it. Now I go to spring training up in San Bernadino and now the Red Sox know I'm up there so they put in a complaint to the Commissioner's Office. So, I gotta get on a streetcar. They used to have those big red cars in those days so they told me to go back to Wrigley Field. They wanted to interview me. So, they had a hearing. Old man Shaunessey, in those days, he was the boss and he wanted my contract for Los Angeles. So that's how I finally signed. But, that's not the end. By the time that spring training was over, old Jack Belbow was the manager and he liked me and he said "Hey young man. You know I think to go to Ponca City, Oklahoma would be too fast for you. We would like to have you go to our rookie league over on Catalina Island." But he says we're going to have to cut your salary. So they cut me from 150 to 50. So now I go over there and I clean streets and I empty garbage cans and do all this stuff and we pitch every day. They send a team over to play us, on the boat. See, on a big ship that comes over like the Long Beach Plasters and the

Prairymount Cubs and Fox Studios and the Croatians. We played them every day. But anyway, that's where I got my start. I won fifteen and lose three and pitched no hitters and now they're to jump me to where I was going to go in the first place to Ponca City.

Who were some of the players you played with?

HK- Well, I played then with Peanuts Lowery and Louis Stringer, Lou Novikoff, you remember "The Mad Russian"? And Al Olsen, Eddie Weigant and Hargroves and Don Lang and oh my God, we had some kind of ballplayers. Jake Suter. Anyway, I go back to Ponca City and they get on a bus in those days and you had to drive clear back to Oklahoma. We played our spring training games on the bus! Our first stop was Gold Miami, Arizona. Then, we played Flagstaff and then we went down to Tucson and then we played Border, Texas and Pampas, Texas and then we went up to Guthrie, Oklahoma and then we went up to Chickasha and Seminole and we finally got into Enid and then we got into Ponca City about two days before the season would start. But we did all of our play on a bus, you know go to town and I got 50 bucks extra for driving that thing and we called that bus "Gallop in' Brunella." Boy, that was some kind of an old real speedwagon. We finally burned the thing up and I tell you that story later. But anyway. I thought I was some kind of prospect, see and I just got through winning the fifteen and lose three but now I get my eyes open. The guys are bigger, they're stronger, they're older and that ball started jumping and I ended up losing fifteen and win nine.

And, what level was this?

HK- Class C. It was the Western Association. Well, that was a disastrous year for me. I thought. The guy that was managing the ball club, his name was Art Beltman and he had arthritis and he couldn't stand up to throw. He had to throw on his knees, you know. And we had another guy catching, but that was a pretty bad ball club we had. The owner knew it and he, after I had to drive the bus back to L.A., he called me into his office and he says "Young man, you know I know you've been disappointed because of this year you've had, but you know, I think you've got a pretty good chance for the future and I want you to come back." See, I thought I was going to get released, you know. "Well," he says. "I want to give you a little raise and you can drive the bus next year again and I want to make your contract out for 95." Well boy, I signed that son of a buck really quick! I was making ninety bucks see and so he give me a five dollar raise and so anyway I went back and I had a tremendous year. That's the year we had a good ball club. We had, I mentioned some of the guys, Lou Novikoff in left and we had Louis Stringer at second, we had Bill Reese at first and Dutch Seibold was catching and Dominick Castro. In the outfield we had Eddie Weigant "The Dutchman." He was the dirtiest ballplayer. Oh, he couldn't play with a clean uniform. He had to have tobacco juice going clear down like it was a Fu Manchu moustache. I mean this tobacco would come out and roll down his face. It was the funniest thing you ever saw. But anyway, we had Bobby Hargroves in right and Goldy Holt was the manager. Goldy Holt, boy. What a manager! He was a character. He made me relieve. We only had five pitchers in those days for 144 games, see. And, our pitching staff was Emil Kush, Paul Erickson, Carl McConnell, Sloppy Erickson, and me. And Goldy was the reliever and he played right field and pinch-hit and everything

like that, but we won the pennant and we won it going away. I won nineteen and losing six. Well, the old man that owned the club, he says "Hub, I'm going to move this ball club to Topeka, Kansas and I'm going to make a bunch of changes and I got a chance to sell you. The Yakima club up in the Northwest League is interested in you." So, I'll be darned. He sold me for four hundred dollars. I went home, drove the bus and went home and then that winter a horse fell on my leg and broke my leg, you know. We here I am sold into a higher classification and I'm a one-legged pitcher. And Hunky Shaw comes down to see me and find out who I am, you know. He knocks on my door. Here I am on crutches. He opens the door and he says, "Oh, my God, we've bought a cripple!" "Now, don't worry," I says. "The doctor says my ankle will be alright." So anyway, I finally signed for a hundred and twenty five, up here at Yakima and I won twenty, and that year I was the only guy in the league that won twenty.

That was B ball.

HK- Yeah, that was B and then they sold me, I came back, boy that's another story. But, I went home.

What league was that?

HK- That was the Western International League.

Some of the other teams?

HK- Coleman, we have Victoria, Spokane, and Wenatchee and Salem and Eugene was in the league then. Lewiston. But anyway, I went home after that year and man, I thought I was some kind of pitcher. I was the only one in the league that won twenty! So now contract time comes and I want a hundred and fifty. Well, he sent me my contract back and I sent it back to him. And the guy was named Hole-in-the-Head McCullough. He'd run the Larson Building and he had a big hole in his head like somebody hit him with a golf ball, right in the forehead. We used to call him Hole-in-the-Head. He was some chintzy kind of guy, you know. Well anyway, I finally made up my mind. Bucky Harris, an outfielder who pitched for Billingham then, he was living right down next to me. I was bartending in my mom's joint, Dutch's down there. So one time I says to him, "Buck, let's go up to Yakima. Let's get a car." So, we went up and went and bought a Model A Roadster for ninety bucks and now we're going to head out to Yakima. And I had my dog, a St. Bernard dog called Jake. I put that dog in the rumble seat, took out the seat, put some burlap sacks in there and we head out. We finally come to Yakima. This was 1941. Anyway, I held out until opening day and Goldy Holt brings me up. He was the new manager because I had recommended him. They got him from back there in Ponca City and we got Bill Reese and we got Eddie Weigant and we got Carl McConnell. We had all those guys! When I came I recommend that they get them so this ball club Yakima, and they all got 'em, see! So anyway, that's the way it used to go in those days. Anyways, Goldy, he brings me up in the Donnelly Hotel one day and he says, "Hub," he says, "The old man is going to suspend you and put you on the suspended list if you don't sign. He'll give you a hundred and thirty five and I recommend you sign it. I don't want to lose

you.” I said, “OK, skipper. I’ll go up and sign.” So, anyway, I signed the thing for a hundred and thirty five and now I get off to a good start and I had nine wins and I get strep throat. I’m in the bed, over in a boarding house on 12th. Ma Carpenter’s Boarding House, they used to call it. And one day, ole Hucky Shaw comes in and says, “How ya feel?” He was a banty rooster kind of guy, bow-legged little guy. He used to play third base for the Rainiers. He owned a sporting goods down here. He was part of the Shaw Funeral Parlor family, you know. He had a little money. So, he says, “I’ve got good news. We just sold you to San Francisco. You’re going to get up and get on a plane and go to the big city, boy!” I says, “What! I’m damn near dead here. I’ve lost fifteen pounds with a strep throat. I can’t pitch.” “Well,” he says, “You better get out of bed because you’re on your way.” Well, anyway, I finally got up. The doctors turned me loose. I got on a plane and went down.

That’s the Pacific Coast League.

HK- Pacific Coast, that’s Triple A. That’s a funny story, too. A guy by the name of Mr. Graham, Charlie Graham owned the ball club and he had his son, that was his assistant. And it was the Seals and Lefty O’Doul was the manager, you know. So they had bought Don White from Tacoma, Manny Fernandez from Yakima, and me and they paid \$7500 for me and two pitchers—Jack Bolan and Charlie Shands. They came to the Yakima, and so forth. We all get there and we go into the hotel and old Walter Mayos, Walter the Great, he picks us up at the airport, you know and takes us down to the hotel and he says now, “C’mon boys, we gotta see the old man.” So we go up there and I’ll never forget it. We go up on the elevator, up to the rotunda, up above, you know. Here we opened the door and we go in there and there’s a secretary and she says, “Well, come on in gentlemen, come on in.” And we go in the big office. Man, a big curved desk, and here is this elderly man with glasses on his nose and big white hair sitting there and he says, “Boys, I’m glad to see all of you! Join our organization. You’ll notice that I have three contracts on the table and a pen next to each contract and they are all the same and I would appreciate it that you boys sign them right now so that we can get started.” And I looked down and that son of gun was for three hundred dollars a month. Man! I signed that baby. You couldn’t believe how fast I signed that baby! Anyway, Rog. That was beginning of getting me started into this business and I pitched there.

Who were some of the other players on that team?

HK- Tony Lazzeri and Ferris Fain was the first baseman and we had Cocky Fain, we used to call him Cocky. We had Verret in center. We had Ted Norbert in left. We used to have Billy Romandi was catching.

Any of the DiMaggio boys? Joe and...

HK- No, they had just left. We had Boots Ogradowski and we had, oh, we had a lot of guys there. Let me see, who else was on that ball club. Oh, Larry Woodhall was the coach and Jackie Warner was one of the coaches and Al Epperly was a pitcher and Fritz Parmalee. I’m kinda takin’ too long to name all these guys.

But anyway, I stayed there until '40, I mean '41 and then I went, they were going to get rid of me, going send me back to Tacoma, so they made a deal and I refused. I said I wouldn't go. So I was selling tires for Firestone then, in Visalia, California during the wintertime. The old man wouldn't send me my release, see? I didn't do too good. I wasn't physically up to it in those times. But anyway, I ended up getting my free agency and I signed with the Giants. I went back to Jersey City. I went to spring training in Roosevelt Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida and old Pancho Snyder was the manager there, the toughest guy in the whole world of baseball. He was out of McGraw's pack. Everything he did was like McGraw did, brother. When he said "Run!" you better fly and if he told you to jump over the building, you better try to jump over that building, man! That's how it was in those days. They'd put you on the end of a fungo stick and before you threw, you were dead. Oh boy, I'll tell you! They'd run ya until your tongue hung out. I'm not lying to you. But anyway, to make a long story short. I ended up with Oklahoma City in '42 and then the War is coming and Old Man Humphries one time, Johnny Stanford was on the club and Gillespie was on the club and Jinx Poindexter was on the club and Herschel Martin was on the club. We weren't drawing flies, you know and one time, Old Man Humphries he told us to come in and he says, "Hey boys, will you wait until Sunday for your payday? I ain't got enough in the till." So, we said OK and at the end of that doubleheader he finally brought us in and he says, "Ahh, Martin, I'm gonna trade you to Tulsa and he says Dynamite Don, that's the first baseman, I'm going to make you a free agent so you can sign with anybody. I can't afford to pay you and Kittle the same thing for you. You're a free agent and I know a lot of clubs that want to getcha."

So, Ray Jacobs, who was my manager in Yakima, when I won the twenty games, he was managing Spokane. And when he knew that I was free, he sent me a wire and said that he wanted me to come up there. So I got on a bus and went clear to Spokane, signed up there, win fifteen games and then they sold me to Oakland at the end of the year. They sold me back to Oakland. Next year I go to Oakland and I'm a starter with Oakland and I'm pitching against Dasill, Frankie Dasill, the long-armed boy, he could throw bullets. I beat him 2-1 in twelve innings. Two weeks later, old Uncle Sam says "Mr. Kittle, we want you!" and I was 1-A, didn't have any kids, so I got drafted. I went into the Army and I'm in Hollywood one time and this is a story, too, boy! I'm in the bullpen in Hollywood Stadium, so I'm sitting there, we're all in the bullpen chewing tobacco, you know, and this guy comes in and taps me on the shoulder. And I look around and here is a guy in uniform! Big red-headed guy. Gee, he looks like a big guy and he had sergeant stripes on. He said, "You Kittle?" I said "Yes," and he said "I'm Red Ruffing. I'm managing the Santa Anna Army-Air Base ball club. I hear you're going into the service. I says, "Yes, I'm drafted, I'm 1-A. They drafted me." He says, "Well here, I want to give you this number and when you get your serial number, I want you to call me and we'll put in a request for you to come and pitch for us because we need some pitchers and we need some physical education guys over there to give those soldiers calisthenics and all that stuff, and work in a steam room and all that." Major Terry Hunt was the director there. He was the guy who developed all the movie stars, athletically, you know. He had the gym there in Hollywood. Well they made him a major and they made him in charge of all the six ferrying commands, all the pilots who were flying back and forth who were ferrying planes all over the country. And all these pilots would have to get treatment. So,

anyway, that's another long story. So Red said, "Well I..." and I said "Yessir, boy I'd sure like that Red." He said, "I'm gad to have metcha." And we get through with the game and we go back to the hotel and I get a telephone call. "You Kittle?" "Yes," I said. He said, "It's Joe DiMaggio. I'm managing the Santa Anna Army Air Base over here. I hear you're going in the service?" I said yes and he said, "We got a spot open on the band. We have no spots opening on our physical education department. Do you play an instrument?" I says "No!" "I'll tell you what I want you to do. I want you to go down to the Musician's Union tomorrow and put in your application as a cymbal player! You can bang the cymbals. It'll cost you about seven bucks to join." I said, "OK, I sure will and I'll give you my serial number when I get it" and I told him about Red. Now, here I go down to Port McArthur. I'm going through all these tests and they give you your shots and they give you your uniform and so all of a sudden they put us out in this big parade ground and there's this stand there and this sergeant is there with a microphone. We all fall in and he starts calling these numbers out. And he calls mine, "39229951 FOUR! Front and center!" I says, "Private Kittle, sir." And he says, "Soldier, what in the heck is going on? This is the first time I ever saw two applications for one person. You got a chance to go to Six Ferrying Commands in Long Beach or you can go to Santa Anna Army-Air Base. Which one do you want to go to?" Well, Red Ruffing was the manager, he was a pitcher, you see, and my best man at my wedding was Manny Fernandez. He played with me in Yakima, he was playing there. Art Lilly was playing there, he was my great buddy, in fact I named my son after him and they had Danning, a big league catcher and I thought boy I could go there and learn something with these guys and I could become a little better. So anyway, I went over there and got in the barracks, got checked in, and now they assigned me to the gym and now I'm giving calisthenics to Vic Raschi and all those people. You know, we were all giving calisthenics all over the place and anyway, we won the whole Pacific tournament for the Army. We played down in Lane Field in San Diego. We'd go up to Seals Stadium and we played all over the country, you know, flying in these B-25's.

We had a Lieutenant Novak. He was a guy there. He used to fly. He was a liaison officer and he said, one time I was talking to him and I had mentioned that I had wanted to fly because my dad was a flyer in the old days. He flew the Jenny's. He was in Hell's Angels. He was one of them stunt pilots, you know, in Hell's Angels. So, I says, "Man, what I'd give anything if I could fly one of these things." He says, "You really want to fly?" Yeah. And he says "Well, I see what I can do," he says. "Give me a serial number." So I did. About two weeks later I get a look at the bulletin board and it says "Private Hubert M. Kittle, report to cadet in classification and test at Fort McArthur." So, now here I'm going to go over there. Get in this jeep and go there. I go over there with a Korean kid by the name of Suril Kim. He's trying to fly, too. He's sitting with me. We go over there and we go in this big mess hall. Now the sergeants got all these papers, these tests in front of all these tables, you know, the benches. He's up there and he says, "Well boys, you've got forty five minutes to get these things all filled out. I'll be going to get a cup of coffee and I'll be back." Boy, I'm looking at those. A lot of them are true and false but they got the arithmetic ones and algebra and all that stuff. I says, "Oh, I'm dead. I'm dead." Well anyway, this Korean kid, he's sitting next to me and every so often I look at him and I says, "What is it?" and I wrote it down. I did all the true and false that I could do and I went real fast and I'd get to the difficult ones and I'd look over and he'd tell me,

see. Well anyway, I passed that son-of-a-gun, Roger. I'm going to be a classification for cadet training! But, now they have to send us to Buckley Field. And here I go. Now they have a ball club there. And this is where Eddie Knobloch was playing, Max West, I'm mean Captain West was catching and they had a real good ball club up there and Kenny Spearman was one of the few black guys playing in the service, he was playing third base and they wanted me to pitch up there, see, at Buckley Field. But anyway, I go in and take these tests and now they got you in these little square box stalls. You can't see nowhere and you got all these tests and they finally catch me where I'm not as smart as I thought I was. So the guy says, "Soldier, you need some more education. I'll tell you what we're going to do. We got a training detachment at the University of Nevada at Reno. And it's called CT, college training detachment. You go for three months and they re-educate you about Communism and all this stuff." Now, I get on a train and I go to Reno. I check in and I'm in the first of three squadrons. So I check in and to make a long story short, I come out as squadron commander with their money. I'm the big cheese. I got the four stars on my shoulder. I'm the oldest guy, you know, twenty seven years old! So, anyway, I go now to Santa Anna to be classified as a bombardier and pilot and a navigator. In those days they had a backlog of pilots in the Battle of the Bulge, over there, you know, so anyway I go through and take all these tests, and I come out, and in those days you had to be six, six, and six, if they kept you. In pilot I had six, in navigating I had three, and bombardiering I had four.

So, they washed me out and they said where do you want to go now? I said I wanted to go out and shoot some Japs. That's all I want to do. I'm tired of going to school and all this stuff. It's getting me goin' there brother! And they said we got two things you can do. You can go to Armament School or go to Engineering School. [tape not legible for two minutes here] Anyway, the general told us we want to get a club here and he says, "Gentleman we only have three ballplayers here that I know of. I know there's some arms out there. You find 'em. Either high school, college, semi-pro, or what. You find 'em and we're going to join this thing." Well, seventy five percent of all personnel at that time on the island were colored. They were the Transportation Engineering Corps so he gave the special service radio to go down and put a broadcast. So, I went down "NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS! Any ballplayers that have played baseball, high school, semi-pro, whatever, report to Rotation Field!" So the next day I go and here's these trucks coming out of the Army. Here they come, loaded, all in their fatigues. So, we have a try out. I want to tell you. I saw ballplayers you couldn't believe! Could run and could slide and could throw! But they were all black guys. I had Sherwin Brewer, Kansas City Monarchs. I had Marcus Corbin, Indianapolis Clowns. I had Chick Basalt, Philadelphia Elite Giants. I had Dick Adams, caught for White Kings, so I ended up with eight. Eight!

This was 1945?

HK- No. Yeah, 1945. I had eight guys that I picked out. We had a tryout and old Captain Frase was taking down the number but now Queen won't play. Mel Queen, the big Yankee pitcher says "I'm not playing with any black guys!" Well, one night, we got him loaded in the tent and I had some liquor ration that the lieutenant, at batting practice, used to give me all of his jugs, we were all on green beer, you know. So I got Mel, and he was

a pretty good trick. He had a Dear John letter from his wife and he was not feeling too good. So anyway, about four o'clock in the morning he was really bombed out and he said "OK, you bald headed idiot. I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll play but I gotta hit fourth and I want to play third. I ain't gonna pitch!" I reached over and I shook his hand and I said "That's a deal, brother!" So now he comes out and he starts seeing these guys, what they could do and he gets enthused. Now Kirby Higbe is pitching for Tokyo and Gene Woodling is managing the Navy down in here and they got the league going. So we beat Tinny, and we beat Iwo Jima, we beat Kwajalein, and Tokyo is winning all the time and so now the pennant is going to be decided in Guam against Tokyo and us. Now they got all the generals, admirals who ever saw and bands playing and we fly over there in a C-47 and we start the ballgame. Now, anyway the game goes 2-2 in the eighth inning. Roger, you ain't gonna believe this. Up in the sky, in back of the center field fence, there was a big field way out there. And this whine started. "Whooo..." Way out there it started and everybody looks up. Well, Queen was taking his warm-up pitches and getting ready to start the eighth inning. Here this guys dives a Mustang, turned it over and started into the ground! Right in front of everybody's eyes. He nose-dives that baby! Now, there's a big ball of flame and the ambulance is going and the fire engines are going and you couldn't hear a pin drop in the stands. We all saw a guy commit suicide. Right in front of our eyes, man! So Queen walks the first guy. The umpire finally says, "Play ball!" Oh, my God, I can't believe it. He walks the first guy and I look at him and he walks the next guy. So now they bunt and now there's a man on second and third and I walk the guy to make a force play. The next guy hits a fly ball to left field. The third base runner tags. The guy catches the ball, he throws, and he beats it by just BOOM BOOM and they get the go-ahead run. Higbe went out and got us out 1-2-3 in the ninth and we lose 3-2.

But anyway, that got me started managing. And when I came back I went with Bremerton and then I won fifteen and I won sixteen. I pitched seven shutouts in 1947 and anyway, all of a sudden, I started getting in managing. Because I was thirty two years old and my career's down the chute and I could still pitch but I pitched and managed. So now I pitched in Bremerton in '46 and '47. I come to Yakima, and I had a chili party by that time. I'm making hamburgers and chili and a little Jewish guy by the name of Dick Richards and Monty Fyle and Vern Johnson, they buy the Yakima club from Mercy. So, I'm at my chili joint and now the guys over in Bremerton are making 300 bucks a month and I got 50 dollars for being a coach and trainer and I drove the bus a little bit, see. And I won sixteen ball games with seven shutouts and he wants to cut me to fifty bucks! So I told him to stick it! I'm staying in chili and serving my chili. So anyway, the little Jewish guy, Dick Richards, he says, "Would you play home games if we trade for ya?" I said, "Sure. What'll you give me?" "I'll give you three hundred." I said, "OK, boy." So, anyway, they traded Keith Simons to me to Bremerton and I'm at Yakima and so all of a sudden I started going on the road. I get somebody to run my joint and now I'm going on the road and really playing all the time, see? In the middle of the year, very last place, we were twenty seven games out of seventh, we had a lousy ball club. He asked me if I'd like to manage the ball club because Vern Johnson was getting booed and I'm a local guy here. I won twenty way back there. So anyway, I took the club over. Now I got Charlie Peterson playing. I had Frank Constantino catching and I wanted to make a couple of deals, see. So we had Baby Eyes Marisaw. He was sitting over at Tacoma doing nothing so I told Richards I wanted him. He said "I'll call him, but he's a drinker." I says, "I don't

care if he drinks or nothing, he's an alcoholic." So we got him and then I traded Diamond Cecil to Wenatchee for Neal Bryant and Lou Estes. Well anyway, all of a sudden, we started to win. We had seven in a row. Now, Neal Vanney is playing for Spokane and they had a good ball club but I had "Popup" Gene Thompson playing for me. I had all these guys. Anyway, we get through the season and that year Don McShane would come in. He's my mentor and he says, "Hub, I needed pitching and a manager at Klamath Falls." See, I never been in a big league organization before. This is all independent ball, you know, in those days. "So, you'd be working for the Phillies and you'd be in charge of one of our D ball clubs, at Klamath Falls. Now, I'm gonna pay ya four and a quarter," Which I thought was great. "But, now, you've gotta drive the bus." I said, "OK, I've been driving buses all my life. Let's go!" And he says, "You gotta pitch!" So I says "Fine." To make a long story short, we go down there and I won the pennant in '49 and I pitched every night. Now, we come back and we win every year. In those days you had to go two years in each club. That was the Phillies' policy. If you managed D in one town and they wanted you, you had to go back again. Then, they'd move you to C and then to B and the to Double A, and then finally you get up there as high as you can get, you know. So I went to Klamath Falls two years in '49 and '50 and then they moved me to Salt Lake pitching/manager and I won the pennant there in '50 and I went back in '51. Now they moved me to Terre Haute. That's Class B in the Three-I League. So now I go back there and I win the pennant there and I'm still pitching in '53 and '54. Now, Fred Hamey, he's going to be the new general manager of the Phillies. He's bringing all these Yankee guys with him. Roy Hamey, Roy Hamey, that's right. So, he brought in Ben Tincup and now we've got Don McShane and he got fired. And now I'm managing down in Mexico in Hermasillo and I hear all of these things so I get on the horn and I call Eddie Collins, Jr., who was the assistant to Joe Reardon. And he says, "Hub, dammit, they haven't come to you yet, but if I were you, I'd look around." Well, Babe Hollenberry here at Yakima always told me even when I had coffee in my joint, my chili joint, "Boy, when you want to manage, come back and manage Yakima." So I says, "I'm going to call him." So anyway I put a call into Babe and he says, "Yeah, we want you!" That's 1955. So they gave me a thousand dollars a month to manage the ball club in Yakima and I ended up being general manager and manager. Now I had to buy ballplayers. I had to sell, I had to advertise. I had to drive the bus. I had to do everything. I had to hire concession managers. I had to do everything and this lasts in '55, '56, '57, '58, '59, '60.

You're still an independent, though?

HK- In Yakima. No, no, no. I finally got the first help in this northwest area from a big league ballclub. Cleveland gave me four ballplayers. They gave me Nixon, Heeny Wilcox, Bobby Adams, and another player, but anyway, that started me having four. Now, I go to the winter meetings in Washington and I go up there where the Braves room and I meet John Mullen and I finally get him in there and I tell him about what we got. By this time I'm in Mexico, managing every year. So he says, "Hub, well we don't have too much but I've got a limited agreement in Victoria, Texas that I'm not too hot on. Where are going to be in February?" "Well," I says, "I'm going back to manage, I just took a week off to come up here, I'm going to finish and I'll be in L.A., I'll be at my aunt's at this number, because I'm scouting down there, looking for ballplayers." He

says, "OK, I'll get in touch with you." Well anyway, he called me and all of a sudden said, "Hub, do you want that limited agreement with the Braves that I told you about?"

Milwaukee?

HK- Milwaukee. "Oh!" I says, "you'd better believe it!" Now, here we go. I get Dennis Menke. I get Bill Robinson here. We started to get, we had Mike Lum. I got Felix Millan. All these guys and so finally we won and then I finally got off the field and went into the front office.

This was B ball?

HK- Yeah, this was B. And anyway, I went into the front office and I started selling real estate with John Strossi, United Building Service. You know, for the winter months to keep me going and I was making pretty good then, about thirteen thousand, five hundred a year. So, the base agreed to pay Buddy Epps' salary and he'd be a playing manager and I'd be general manager, see? I don't have to drive the bus anymore and I'm getting to be... So, anyway, that year *The Sporting News* gave me the Minor League Executive of the Year Award.

That was the year that George Weiss, I think, on that newspaper that you showed me before won, and Murtaugh, in 1961?

HK- Danny Murtaugh. Well anyway, that got me the job in Hawaii as general manager but we're independent again. I haven't got a single. The only guy I got over there was, wait a minute, he's a crazy guy, oh, wait a minute, but Nick Morgan, from Salt lake, he bought the ball club, see. He had gas lease rights and so he was a wealthy guy. His dad was wealthy, wealthy, wealthy. But he drank, he was an alcoholic. He used to chew Sinsins so nobody could smell his breath. You could never tell the guys if he was loaded or not. He'd look right at you and you'd think he was cold sober but he'd be drunker than a skunk, you know. He was funny, man! Anyway, I go over there and we start, now I start buying. I bought ballplayers from all over. I bought Big Bill White from Vancouver for three thousand. I had Bobby Knoop. I got him. I got Joe Hanna, I got him from the Braves. I hired Irv Noren as the manager. Anyway, we finished a game out of fourth and I had a Japanese trainer, Tom Takamori and I had a Japanese secretary by the name of J. Hanamoto. Now, from there my wife gets diabetic, so she couldn't stay on the island anymore so they offered me the Portland job. So, then we take the Portland job. Now, Kansas City pulls out! And, we got independent again for Gosh sakes. Oh, Arch Clems, they used to pay me the money to go to Hawaii on, give me the money, and I says, "Arch, we can't do this. You gonna lose your shirt!" He says, "We'll move out of Loma Stadium and we'll get a ballpark out here somewhere." I said, "No, you're not. I'm not coming back!" So I resigned and I came back to Yakima as manager again and managed here until '65 and they took the ballpark away from us and now the Braves sent me to Austin. Now I go to Austin and there's where you asked me when I become a pitching coach and all that. I managed Austin for two years. OK, now they send me to Dallas-Fort Worth. Now they send me to Savannah, Georgia.

Still the Braves?

HK- No, no. I go with Houston now. John Mullen had left the Braves. Paul Richards had come in and I didn't want to leave Houston, you know, but Mullen told me to. "You stay, because they like you and when the time is right I will call you." So when I got in the Dominican now. I'm way down in the Dominican managing, I get a call from Eddie Robinson and he says "You're the new Richmond manager." I says, "For how much?" Well, I'd just got through paying Irv Noren and Homer Field and Carnavale and all these guys and I know what Triple A...[tape change, continuity lost] and the Judge Hofheinz, at that time, Dallas-Fort Worth was trying to get into the big leagues, so he stopped them at the major league meeting and he says, "There's only one team in Houston, brother!" By stopping them, they burned his body in effigy at home plate and all the sportswriters and announcers and everybody, they've turned him and burned him at home plate! So, we had to move out of Dallas-Fort Worth. So, now we go to Savannah. So, there I am. I have two work interviews. I have half. I have Billings. I have Bob Watson. They try to make a catcher out of him. I have Rafael Batista. I have Fred Stanley. I had Toby Harrah. All these guys. I had Biitner. All these guys and I had half Houston and half Washington players. Well, this was a tough thing to do, to handle two clubs because they are all trying to get to the big leagues and if you don't play 'em enough, it's tough managing job. But anyway, I got by that. But I told Houston that I would not come back and I wouldn't go put myself through this kind of business anymore. So, old Spec told Grady Hatten, he says, "You tell Hub when the season's over, you come and see me at the Astrodome."

That's Spec Richardson?

HK- Spec Richardson. So I go in there. My God, he's a great guy with me, boy. He's the one that got me my pitching, believe it or not. But anyway, I go into the Astrodome and I go down to his office and I says, "Spec, I've been in the game longer than you have. And you mean to tell me that I'm gonna go down there and go through what I've done after all these years in baseball? I'm going home, brother! You can stick it!" "Oh Hub, don't do that, you better believe you'll be..." Anyway, he said, "Go home and relax and you'll hear from me." So about three weeks he says, "Hub, we're going to make you the Triple A manager at Oklahoma City. I want you to go back there and meet the people and make a couple of speeches." And I says, "OK, OK baby!" Now, I go down there and I got Mayberry. I got Cedeno. I got Richie Chiles. I had J. R. Richard. I got them all. And Larry Howard. I had Duffalo. I got all those guys and names and all of a sudden I have to send Cedeno to the big leagues and they send me, who do you think, to catch? Cliff Johnson. And brother, we were nine and a half games out in front and all of a sudden we ended up the season one half game in second. I'm telling you. Trying to make a catcher out of Cliff Johnson was something, brother. Well anyway, at the end of the year, Tal Smith, who is now the big shot down at Houston, I'm in Venezuela, going back and forth, see. He calls me and he says "Obviously, you don't have to do any more managing. We want you to be our pitching coach for the whole organization." I thought it over and he says, "I'm going to give you a thousand more a month." I says, "Oh, you mean I don't have to sweat managing no more? Because, look at all those years I'd managed now. All

those years. I only had myself. You ask if I'll become a pitching coach? I never had any coaches." I had to teach kids pitching sliders, throwing, fielding, everything! Work, work, that's the secret of the minor league system. Everything is dog-eat-dog work. WORK, brother. That's what it's all about. And I was the worker. I'd throw batting two times a day. This arm of mine is just hanging on me. I said, "OK, I'll be a pitching coach." Now, Mel McGaha was Houston's first base coach. All of a sudden he resigns to go back to Shreveport, Louisiana as the physical education director. The job became open. I'm fifty four years old. Spec knew I was fifty four. Grady knew I was fifty four. John Mullen knew I was fifty four. Now, they say if I was fifty five I would never get a big league pension. Now, this is my thirty eighth year in the minors. Spec calls me and asks me if I would like to be the first base coach for the Houston Astros. I'm fifty four years old. I nearly had a heart attack! I couldn't believe it! A gorilla can coach first base, for God's sakes! You don't have to know anything. And here I am after coaching third all these years, I'm going to go coach first. So Harry Walker, Harry the Hat is the manager, he's my buddy. Now, I'm in the big leagues.

This was 1970?

HK- 1970. So I stayed here in '71 with Harry. Now, Durocher comes in. Leo is my manager. Now, I pitch for this fifth decade. I relieve against Detroit. I'd pitch in the fifth decade and nobody else had ever done it. Now, all of a sudden, Leo is the manager and now they are going to make a change. Tal Smith comes back from the Yankees. Spec is gone. The Judge is crippled in a wheelchair. He's thirty two million dollars in debt paying thirteen percent interest.

This was Hofheinz?

HK- Judge, my buddy. He's the greatest guy and he's like my right hand, boy. So now, Leo recommends that they make Preston the manager and he says, "Don't get rid of this old guy to them." So anyway, I stay with Preston. I became his liaison man with the team and he makes me the bullpen coach. He brings Roger Craig in as his pitching coach. See, I was Durocher's pitching coach. He fired Jimmy Owens opening day and made me pitching coach the year he was managing. Well anyway, now, all of a sudden, I get the fifth year. I was only supposed to get four to qualify and I got five. Bill Virdon comes in. Now, he's gonna let Jimmy Williams go. He lets Grady Hatten go. All of a sudden Virdon tells me Tal Smith wants to see you.

This is the Jimmy Williams who later managed Toronto?

HK- No, no. This is another guy. He's from Canada. He's a Canadian. But anyway, he calls me and says, "Hub, we want you to get off the field and go into promotion and radio, TV. We're going to hire a new promotional director and we want you to move to Houston. That's what we want you to do. We know that you've promoted all your life. We know that you could do it. Everybody knows you around here and it would be just perfect." Well, my wife didn't like Houston, see. She was getting sick and she wanted to be close to the doctor and so I told them, "I'm obligated to go to the Dominican."

Because then I have Canesny. I had J. R. Richard. I had him down there. I had Cosgrove. I had Jutsey, the catcher. I had all these Houston guys that I was working with in the Dominican. I says, "I'll go down there but I'm not going to move to Houston, so I'll be free." So, two days later, I'm over at the Astroworld Hotel. I'm sitting there with Jimmy and Jimmy is typing out all these resumes to send to the twenty six major league clubs and I'm reading them and seeing what he says and I says, "Well, you ought to make me a copy of these things, I'll send them in." Here up in the driveway of the Astroworld Hotel is this big Lincoln Continental drives up and Spec gets out. He's just been in the general manager's meeting in Kansas City with Harry and Bing Devine and all of them up there. He says, "Hub, come over here." So I go over there and he says, "Don't look for a job. You've got a job, brother!" He says, "Devine and Harry the Hat wants you to be the pitching coach and take care of all the Cardinals' pitchers." I says, "Yeah." He says, "They don't want no announcement of it. They want to announce it on their own time but you go home and take it easy and they're going to call you." So this was 1976. So I signed. Now I go down and I'm the only pitching coach. I have all their clubs. Harry the Hat, he's the director of all of the minor leagues. So I have St. Pete and we have Little Rock and at that time we had Springfield, Illinois. Sarasota. We had all these minor league clubs and then the next year I got a call and they had moved their training situation in St. Pete into the new Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg. And the guy, by the name of Miller, he wanted a veteran manager. He didn't want any kids down there. He wanted somebody that knew the stadium. So Jim Baines the farm director called me and he says, "Hub, we want you to manage again. Would you do us a favor and manage St. Pete?" So, I talked to my wife. Now, I had to leave her home here, get somebody to take care of her and go down and so I did. I managed St. Pete in 1977. So the next year I told them I didn't want to manage so Harry says, "Well, we want you to just take the two clubs, the Triple A and the Double A clubs and teach those guys a pitch that they need. Give 'em a new pitch. If they haven't got the third pitch, make sure." So that's what I did. In 1978 and 1979.

Who were some of the pitchers, Sutter?

HK- No, no, no. Stuper. I had him later on, but anyway all these guys that I had for the Cardinals, oh my God, I had so many of them.

Andujar?

HK- No, Andujar. I got him from Houston. I recommended that he make the deal, see. We traded Scott. They were both on their free agency year and they both wanted big money and we couldn't sign Scott. And so they says, well. And Andujar was pitching lousy down there. He changed his delivery and everything. He got screwed up, got wild. So they sent McAllister. I told them to send him down to see his arm. If his arm is sound, I'd take the guy, because I had him in the Dominican. I developed him, you know, and I knew what he could do. Oh boy, that was a godsend. So they made the trade. To make a long story short, in 1980 I'm down in Arizona and I get a call. Whitey's the new manger and general manager there. See, I had him as a player in Navajoa, Mexico. Whitey Herzog is a story in itself. I needed a center fielder when I managed in Navajoa. See I had

Mike Leemish. I had John Andre. I had Eddie Barbarito. I had Bill Waltman and the big first baseman, the big giant. I had Albie Pearson. I had all these guys down there and I needed an outfielder. So, Jimmy Johnson was farm director for the Yankees. So, I put a call in. "Ya Hub!" I says, "I need some help, by God. You got an outfielder I can use?" "Hey, I got a kid coming out of the Army. He's a lefthander." He says, "He's young, only nineteen." I says, "Well, can he run?" "Yeah!" "Can he catch a fly ball?" "Yeah!" I said, "Send him down here!" Now, in Navajoa in those days they just had a little tiny airport, see. And I had a horse, Plumaroja, this guy that used to be trainer from Aliman and he was developing these horses, the big dancers, fancy dancers, horses. So I used to give him ball and bats and everything to his kid. He lived in Pueblo Riho and his name was Jose Sijas. Well, he let me use his horse and I'd go downtown and ride that horse and sashay and fishtail and all the fans would go crazy. Here I had my big sombrero and my boots and I thought I was John Wayne. Anyway, this is Whitey Herzog. Whitey Herzog's coming in on the plane. See, I didn't have no car. There was dirt roads all over the place. So, I said well, what the heck. So, I rode the horse out to the airport. Now, here he gets off of that little plane. He's got this duffle bag. I said, "Hey kid." He says, "Yeah!" I said, "You Herzog?" "Yeah!" "Come on, get on the back!" So he climbed up in the stirrup and we go down and checked him in the hotel, on a horse!

Anyway, we stated working with him. He couldn't hit the pitch upstairs. I just came out and threw him pitches above his head and staircase him and get him to come up instead of going up with the front and keep it down with his hands going up. All of a sudden, he started to hit ropes, brother! He hit balls to left center, go get 'em. We won the pennant! Going away, man. He's one of the few ballplayers that afterwards, I still got that letter in mind, basically a letter he wrote to me thanking me for the work that I did with him, at that given time. So now he's the manager of the Cardinals and he wants me to be their pitching coach. Because, I had been with all of them. Been with Forsch, been with all their pitchers, you see. Cox, all of them. And he wants me and he knew that he could work with me and I could work with him and we could work together. So I said, "Well, OK." I didn't want to do it because I got tired of the big leagues. Big League glamour was gone for me, too much. I was getting older and my wife was so sick. But we talked it over and I said, "Well momma. I won't get any more pension time because I already draw my pension." So she said "Well, you can do it if you want to and I'll be alright." So anyway, I went up there. We had a ball club, we finished half a game out. That's the year they had the strike. We were half a game out in the first half and a game and a half out in the second half. Then, the next year, we won the World Series. Now, we go back, we're going into the final days in 1983 and we're only a couple of games out and we had one of them doubleheaders and we just didn't win like we did the year before. But, I told Whitey, I said, "Whitey, I can't do this anymore." So he asked me, "I don't want to lose you." He says, "What would you say if you just looked at all the rookies, you know the first year guys? Would that satisfy you?" I says, "Sure, I'll do that. It's not as long and I'll do that." Well, anyway, that's what I did and then they made me cross-checker. I'd cross-check all the talent in the country and then finally that got eliminated when she died, I retired. She died in April 14th, '89. I'd retired in June to take care of her. So they wanted me to come back. Well, I drew my pension. They gave me all that dough, from the brewery and now they wanted me to come. So now I'm on an expense account consultant basis. And I just worked with the kids. Peoria; Arizona; and Hamilton,

Ontario; and Johnson City, Tennessee. There are seventeen pitchers on each club. I bounce from here to there. I check them out. I teach them. I show them how to throw the ball over the plate. I show them how to grip the ball, use the best delivery that they can and teach them what being a pro is all about. How you've got to be to become a big league pitcher. See, that's the story right there, see. Now you got it.

That's quite a history. Tell us a little bit, when you said right at the end where you said you teach kids how to be a pro. What does that mean and how do you see that in relation to some of the other ballplayers around today?

HK- Well, Roger, you know kids today are different than my time. Sure, I was alone. I ran away from home when I was thirteen years old. We never had no automobiles. We had to walk. We never had the affluence that they have here today. I went through the Depression days. Well the kids today, the difference is they have the Little League program and everybody gets a uniform. They take them out to the place but the biggest fault, is they play on little diamonds when they are just starting out. Little, short diamonds. They never throw the ball hard or any distance. We used to throw out in cornfields, see, in cow pastures. My, we'd challenge every guy to see who can throw the ball the furthest. Well, by doing that, when you're nine, ten, eleven, you're arm, even though sometimes you see stars coming out of your eyes after you've thrown the ball, you threw it as hard as you could, see. Well, that's how you developed it. Arm strength is not like it used to be. Today, they use an aluminum bat. Well, an aluminum bat is the most disastrous thing that ever came into this game of baseball. Because when we sign a kid now, he's been swinging an aluminum bat. He thinks he's a superstar because he hits the ball out of the ball park or he hits pretty good. Now he comes down to the wood bat and when he's hitting the ball over the fence, he's just reaching the warning track now, huh? OK, now he's got to hit every day, every night. He goes oh for four, one for five, oh for four, one for two. Pretty soon he's hitting .200 and he thinks Oh I can't hit. They lose their confidence so quick. We have got to not let that happen. We've got to still keep pounding affirmative thoughts into their minds. Pitchers that can't throw strikes. Well, there's a reason he can't throw strikes. See. OK, now he's in school and he pitches two or three games, you know, a month. He doesn't pitch every fourth day. He doesn't get up in the bullpen tonight and we now have got to put bullpen pitchers, long pitchers, short men, starters, and we've got to teach the professional type. Now, maybe he thinks he's a starter. Well, he's going to be a reliever on this ball club so he's gotta go through that, that superstar, that big high school phenom that he is. He's got to change a little bit because he's getting paid dough, right?

Big dough!

HK- What are the chances of being... Well, I'm one of the few guys that teaches people that has a chance to make five million dollars a season for six months work! What law professor is doing that kind of teaching? Here's what you've got to tell them. Every kid that starts pro ball, I tell you this, it's the gospel. You can't have fear and play this game. This game has got to be fun to play. You have got to enjoy this that you do. Really, there should be no fear to it. Now, I'll tell you what. I'm standing in the outfield in Busch

Stadium. And Stuper comes up from Louisville. I developed Stuper. I had him from Little Rock, from Louisville, from Springfield, all the way up. Changed him from down in three-quarter to over the top. Now, I know this guy's got stuff. He's got the body. He's got the arm and he's got the talent. So I get him in the outfield and I told him, "The Dodgers are just coming into the stadium, right?" And they walk in with their blue uniforms on and they got the DODGERS across here. Here comes Lasorda. There comes Pedro Guerrero and all these guys." I tell him, "John, look across to your chest here. You've got them two little birds sitting on that bat, huh? Now I want you to take a look around at this grandstand here. This beautiful place. There's going to be fifty five thousand people here to see this game tonight, right, right? OK, I want to tell you something. Those guys that are over there coming out of that bullpen and into that dugout there, got the blue on, they've done the same thing that you've had to do to put these two birds on your chest and stand out here on this stadium floor and be here. They don't intimidate you because they had to come through the same thing that you've had to go through. Bus rides. A ball. Double A ball. Triple A ball. But now you've reached the top. Understand me? And what you are, the game's has got to be played tonight. Nine guys against nine other guys. Every guy is different because the third baseman is not like a first baseman. The center fielder is not like the catcher. But they have their specific jobs that they've got to do and you are a pitcher. The game was invented. It had to have somebody throw the ball, somebody try to hit it, and so somebody could try to catch it. Right? So all you've got to do is you're one of the given few people in the world that can throw this ball with the work and effort that you've gone through to learn it professionally and big league to throw it so the fans can enjoy it. So, what you are only is an entertainer. You are like Frank Sinatra or Judy Garland or whoever it is that gets up and gets paid for their talent that they're doing. So, I want to tell you something. When you warm up in the bullpen down here and you're throwing BB's and you're throwing strikes and the catcher is throwing it here and on the black out there and the black there and now you walk out to that little circle out there in the middle of that diamond and now you look down the chute and there's an umpire back there who is calling this and that and there's a right handed hitter or a left handed hitter up there. You pitch the same as you did down here. Don't walk out there and now because the game is starting, your Adam's apple starts to get tight, and you can't hardly spit! You can't hardly swallow because you're scared! And when you're scared, you can't do your job. So, you have to learn just to be who you are because experience will teach you this. Once you stay in the big leagues long enough and you get the experience and the exposure and you know the manager's calling on you and you're getting up and you're going to do your job, you're doing the job. That's all it is." And that's why I've got to teach you how to be a big leaguer. So, you ask me what I try to teach them, Roger.

Baseball is such a life. It's a gift from heaven. It's not like any other game in the world. Believe me, there's something about it that's a little mystique if you play it long enough like I have. Once you play and you win, you have a championship year, the next year everything changes a little bit. You might have a bad year. But the secret is staying in it long enough to realize that you understand the good with the bad. Baseball, it's like golf a little bit. It will teach you humility so quick that you are not as good as you think you are. You understand? It gives you a little bit of something inside that there's faith and trust in what it's all about. It's a wonderful thing to learn. And baseball is one of the

teachers of this, if you understand it. I believe in it. I've taught it and maybe much of the guys I've had close to me and it's amazing. Like Whitey Herzog played for me. Bobby Cox was my third baseman at Austin. Shuler, he's another general manager with the White Sox. He was a rookie and I had him his first year. Bill Robinson, I had him his first year. Mike Lum, I had him. Felix Millan, I taught him. J. R. Richard, I taught him. Now we'll go. Walt Hriniak, he played for me five years. Cito Gaston, I was his first manager. He's manager of the Toronto Blue Jays. Right. OK, I can go. Dusty Baker, a hitting coach for the Giants. I was his first manager. Dave Duncan, who is the pitching coach for the Oakland Athletics, he was my catcher in Vacasimento. Tommy Reynolds, their batting coach was my center fielder in there. Andy Rincon, who is now one of our pitching coaches, I was his first manager. He's pitching coach for the Cardinals. Oh, Tommy House, pitching coach for the Texas Rangers, I was his first manager. See, all these guys that have stayed in the game. Adrian Garrett, who is the third base coach for the Kansas City Royals. He played for me five years. See, somehow or other, I always told them, Look, if you're going to stay like Don McShane told me in a car one time when he first signed me, he said, "Young man, you know what, you might not make lots of money from this business. But, you'll be doing something that you like to do, you love to do and it will make you happy." You will be happy.

Now, it's not as easy as a lot of people think. It costs dedication, desire, and honesty. If you haven't got it and you know it within yourself then you better get another profession, but if you'll be honest, and you have the desire, and you know, the talent, people tell you that you have to believe what they are telling you. But anyway, you're not going to make a lot of money, but people who stay in the game, everybody knows your loyalty to the game because when jobs change, names come up. And an application here, there, he's a good man. They know who you are. They know if you're a jerk or whatever you are and that is the way this baseball business is. Somebody has got to take somebody else's place because age finally gets us all. You understand me? And that's what I've always told the guys. There's nothing in the world in baseball that is better than staying in it. Staying in it, because if you can't play anymore, you can coach. If you can't play anymore, you can be a scout. If you can't play anymore, you can be a teacher. If you can't play anymore, you can be a general manager. You can be a promotional director. Look at "Kitty" Kaat, Jim Kaat up there. He's now a radio announcer. Bill Robinson, he's a radio announcer for ESPN. All these guys, just like we're talking. I used to talk to them just like I'm talking to you.

Out of all the people that you've known in baseball and have had an effect on you, who would you say had the most, the greatest effect on you, in your career of 57 years?

HK- The greatest one that I ever had on me was Don McShane.

The one that signed you?

HK- The one that gave me my first job as a manager. Through all the years, see, he was my biggest critic. He would literally get me in the bus after a ballgame in Klamath Falls, Oregon, now he hired me and I was a pitcher-coach. He would get in there and sit me down. I had to drive the bus after a ballgame in Pittsburgh, California and drive to Willis.

I had to drive the bus all the way, you know. So the bus is loaded and all the ballplayers are sitting there. We lost and I'm in his car sitting next to him and he's chewing me out. "Why did you bunt in this situation? Why did you have your infield in in the first inning in a Class D league? Why did you have two right handed pitchers warming up in the bullpen? What are you going to do? You are managing crazy, man." And another time he says, "When Swede Jensen hits the ball and goes halfway to first and slows down, you better see that when he hits the ball and heads to first base, he's flying when he gets over the bag. He's loafing. He's playing baseball half as it should be and you've got to make sure that they do this, Hub." So he would teach me, see. He'd say, "What is the take sign? Do you know what the take sign is, for God's sake?" Well I said, "It makes the guy take a strike." He says, "Why are you making him take a strike? What is the secret of this take sign?" Uh huh, didn't know. He says, "Well, I'll tell you what it is. First of all, a kid in Class D, if he don't learn to hit with a couple of strikes on him, he ain't never going to hit in the first place. You have to learn discipline as a hitter. Now, first of all, if you let that other pitcher, who is beating you tonight, throw 85-95 pitches, and he beats you easy, and four days from now he might beat another club because his arm is pretty strong. But if you make that same pitcher beat ya, if he has to throw 135, 140 pitches the next time out his arm might be dragging a little bit. So the other club will beat him and now you're back even again. You understand me?" See, that's what you do when you have a take sign. You don't go up there and swing the bat without teaching them anything about what this game is all about. 3 and 1, you've got to teach them to get their good pitch and not to go for the pitcher's pitch, 3 and 1, 2 and 0. You know, every pitcher in the world, 2 and 2, they want you to hit the next pitch above all. Find out what you're looking at. 2 and 2. Right, the guy don't want to go 3 and 2 on you, does he? Thinking wise, he wants you to hit this pitch. So what you've got to do now is to know who he is, what he's got, and know where that ball is when it leaves his hand, see. Because if you're not picking the ball up quick enough, you're not going to see it too good. That ball is spinning, brother, and when it leaves his fingertips, your eyes have got to see what that ball is doing. You don't look at his hands and at his knees, his shoulders. You look at the side of him and you look where that ball comes out of and that's where you learn to become to be a pretty good hitter, see? Well, that's what I wanted to try to tell you about that.

Out of all the ballplayers that you've seen play, either being on the field with them, managing, or just seeing them play, who was the best?

HK- The best talent I ever saw in my life was, I thought he'd be another Clemente for sure, is Cesar Cedeno. When I sent him to Houston, he was playing for Oklahoma City in Triple A. He was leading the league in hitting, leading the league in stolen bases, leading the league in assists, leading the league in RBIs, and leading the league in home runs. All facets of the game, he was leading. He went to Houston when he was nineteen years old. They finally named the Astrodome "Cesar's Palace." The guy could do everything. They guy was a superstar with a body you couldn't believe but he got big league-itis and he got a few injuries and that's what happens to a lot of them. Once they get to the big leagues, they go a little bit cuckoo and you can't stop it. It's just a modern-day read.

What about pitchers? Best pitcher?

HK- The best pitcher that I ever had was a guy by the name of Jimmy Owens. He finally ended up, he pitched for the Phillies, Jimmy Owens, and as far as pitching is concerned, the guy won twenty three games for me in Terre Haute and I had to fine him 150 bucks because he drank too much, he was a young kid, and I had to teach him. Oh, my Lord! Finally, he became a pitching coach for Houston but he was a great one.

But the two, I had to balance them out like this, J. R. Richard had the greatest stuff I have ever seen. He had a ninety-mile slider that he could just...wait, I gotta tell you a story about Willie Mays and him, but the guy that was the most fantastic pitcher was, temperament-wise and could give you a game when you needed it because of his temperament was Joaquin Andujar. I want to tell you man, when he wanted to beat you, he was like Gibson. Gibson, Bob Gibson, I know him like a book but he was one of the greatest competitors. If you could get him by the third inning, you might have a chance. If he could get by the third inning and he had one run, you might as well put the bats in the racks, friend, because you're dead! He goes into the seventh, eighth, ninth and ninety-nine percent of the time he had more stuff than he did with what he had in the first. He was a competitor, that type, see? J. R., I'll give you a story about this guy. He is with Houston, he couldn't even hit the screen in Cocoa. A big fellow, I taught him how to shoot pool and I taught this guy. Anyway, I changed his delivery. It used to break way above his head. Got him to come up here right about his chin and come back. BOOM, now I goes and takes him to the Dominican. He goes to Columbus, Georgia. Preston is there and sees this guy. He had a bicycle, motorcycle accident and it fell on his arm. So, that year he was sort of derailed, no operation or anything, so we sent him down. So finally he was winning and doing OK and Preston says, "Hub, do you think he can come up?" "Yeah," I says. "Get him up here! We need the guy up here. We need an arm like that." So he joins us and now we gotta go to Candlestick Park. Charlie Fox is managing the Giants. Now, he's got Willie Mays playing first base. He's trying to save his legs a little bit and Willie's on the end of his career. Ha ha ha. I'm playing coach at first base, see. So, J. R. is going to make his first start in the big leagues. He goes out in the first inning and he strikes out Mays on three pitches, bang, bang, bang. Willie comes to me at first base and he says, "Hubber, my Gawd man! Where did they get that big black dude?" He says, "Gawd almighty, I thought he was going to hit me in the head. I was scared to death of that man. My Lord, I never saw anything like that!" Well, he was wild, too. So the next time up he strikes out again. This time Willie Mays comes back to me and he just shakes his head and he picks the ball and he throws it to third, to second and to shortstop and he's been catching ground balls and so he goes over again. OK, now the third time up, he strikes out again. This time, he comes slow to me at first base. And all of a sudden he came to the coaching box and he looked at me and he said, "You know what, nobody in the world ever struck Willie Mays out four times! It's not happening." He says, "I'll tell you one thing man, that man ain't going to strike me out because I ain't playing any more. I'll see you later." He went in and Charlie Fox put somebody else in to play first base! Ha ha. But J. R struck out fifteen that night, brother! The next start in Houston, I never will forget it, he goes out there and he lasts five innings. They had to take him out of there, but anyway, in the first inning, bases loaded, no outs, do you know what he did? He struck out the side. Struck out the side with the bases loaded in the first inning! The guy had so much stuff. He'd just intimidate you. He could, if he hadn't of

had that stroke and everything else in here, I don't know if he'd been another..., I don't know if he'd lasted as long as Ryan, but he was the same type of stuff that he had. Unbelievable!

We've got a few more minutes left. I notice on your hand there's a 1982 World Championship ring. What was it like that year?

HK- Well, I gotta thank Whitey and all the players for giving me this chance. You know, all I did that year was kept those pitchers in shape. Whitey did it all. He was one of the best guys I ever saw in my life handling a pitching staff. He had Sutter. Now, he knew Sutter. He traded for Sutter, he traded Mayberry and all them over there to the Cubs for Sutter. Well, he used him just perfect. If Sutter ever'd pitch 35 pitches one night, he'd never use him the next night. But, if he pitch eighteen pitches, up to 22 maybe, he'd bring him in the next night to win, you know. So, that whole season, the way that he manipulated that pitching staff, and we had Doug Bair, which we got from Cincinnati, and I changed his delivery a little bit, and he helped us. He set up Sutter and Jim Kaat. Kaat would go in there like the master he is, veteran. he'd go in and field ground balls. He field a bunch and never miss. He was one of the greatest fielding pitchers in the world. But, winning that series and putting this ring on my finger, I never dreamed it would ever happen to me. It did. I was older. I was the oldest guy in the big leagues when it happened. I couldn't believe it and it's something that I'm glad before my wife died, she got one too. They put a ring on her finger. They gave all the wives one. And, she stayed with me, it was twenty-eight years through all this stuff. And that's what I say is the happiest thing that I remember most about it. For my family and kids to know that the stuff that you get, "Oh, Hub, what do you think? You've got a World Series ring. Let me see that?" It's something you've got that most people don't have, you know?

Are you still in touch with Whitey?

HK- I'm just waiting now to go to Peoria to my job starting. I try to keep active around here until the Rookie League starts but he's not doing too much. He's doing a little cross-checking, scouting, because he's still under contract to them, you know. When Old Man Busch died, that was a blow to Whitey. Jus like when the Judge died, it was a great blow to me in Houston. It's the rapport we had. Whitey had it with Old Man Busch. His love of Whitey, too, made us. Whitey had this power in back of him, so whatever he did, boy, he was just right there. It's amazing that things like that happen in your lifetime. It goes in cycles, you know. I'm on my down cycle now.

Well, maybe not. How did you get in touch with Hofheinz?

HK- Well, when I was general manager at Portland, he was Houston and they had Oklahoma City then as their Triple A ball club. One time, we had a general manager's meeting in Portland and the Judge, before his stroke, and he came out and made a speech to the general managers. He got up and started to talk. Well brother, when he started to talk, everybody started to listen. His manner! And I wrote him a note and said that I enjoyed his presentation. Well, finally then, Eddie Leasman was a general manager at

San Diego and I was at Portland and we had a rainout deal and they had to decide the championship by just one-half game. There was a game in Portland that we couldn't play because of the grounds. So there was a big argument and depositions from the president of the league that I had to go through. Well, through that negotiation, I got to know the Judge a little bit better. Then finally when I became a coach with Houston, then he had a stroke. Well, he used to like to hear me telling stories. I'd tell him stories, because, you know, he liked that. He'd always want me around him. I'd have a few beers and I'd start talking and he just loved to have me around him to keep him company. We coned together. He used to be a promoter, too. He used to build bandstands for the bands. Anyway, he used to make what they put the music on. You know the musicians and the stands and all that aluminum stuff and the fancy ones, fancy letters. Well, that's where he promoted his first job when he was a young kid. He started that and he finally became a judge and he became the mayor of Houston and he built the Astrodome on a matchcover, for God's sake. One time, we were all sitting there and having dinner and he drew this little thing on the matchcover and he says, "Hey, you guys think this will work?" Well, Grady and I, we're all sitting and we said, "Well, now Judge." Because he had Colts Stadium and it was open and it was hot, you know. So, about three weeks later, he calls us in to the office and he's got a big Plaster of Paris deal made, and a dome made, and he put this lid on like putting a dome right on a teakettle, you know. He had a parking area over here and all this. My God, well anyway, from that idea, he started and he got these architects and went over to Italy and France. And got all these foreigners and everything in and they combined with all the Americans and so now, they built the first Astrodome, the Eighth Wonder of the World. It was amazing and I was there, part of it, see?

We've been talking this afternoon with Hub Kittle, fifty-seven years in baseball, and hopefully we'll come back and do some more interviews at another time. Thanks very much!

HK- OK, Rog!

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