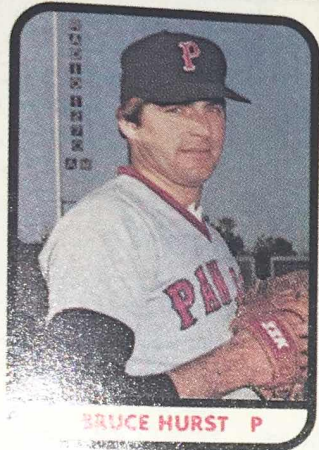


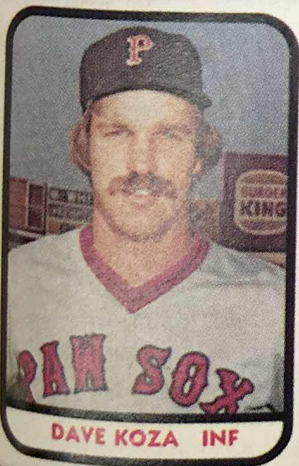
Game Checklist

Bruce Hurst: He pitched the final five shutout innings in the wee hours of April 19.



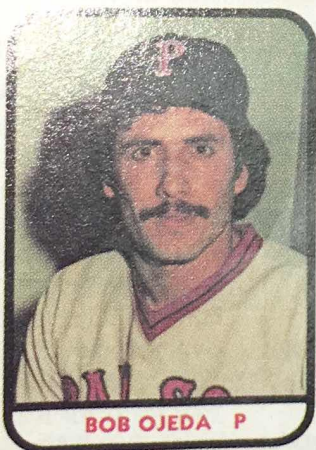
BRUCE HURST P

Dave Koza: His no-out RBI single to left in the bottom of the 33rd was the game-winning hit.



DAVE KOZA INF

Bob Ojeda: Though he'd left the clubhouse on April 18 before play ended, he earned the victory on June 23 by pitching one scoreless inning.



BOB OJEDA P

the tired, weary players finally got a chance to head home.

"My wife and I were just new-lweds," Hurst says. "She took two naps and stayed until the end of the game. Then we went home. It was Easter morning and the sun was coming up at about 4:30. We played a day game the next day. That one lasted 11 innings."

While the players welcomed the chance to leave the ballpark, not everybody received a warm reception upon returning home.

"I remember [pitcher] Luis Aponte coming to the ballpark the next day," Barrett recalls. "His wife said, 'You were out drinking and carousing after the game. You're not coming in.' He had to show her the newspaper the next day for her to believe it."

In the Spotlight

Play resumed two months later, the next time Rochester was in town. It was 11 days after the major league players went on strike, so the nation's baseball fans were focused on Pawtucket and this wacky contest. Some 5,756 fans and a media contingent over 100 jammed the 40-year-old ballpark to capacity.

"It was like a zoo," Hurst says. "They had media from Australia, England, Japan and from all over the United States. There were reporters on the field. They couldn't give them all seats."

But if those on hand expected the game to continue for another 32 innings, they would be mistaken.

Ojeda gave up a leadoff single

to Ripken in the top of the 33rd, but then retired the side in order on 13 pitches. In the bottom half, Barrett was hit by a pitch leading off ("the only time I was hit all year") and went to third on Walker's single. After an intentional walk loaded the bases, Koza plunked his historic single into left. Barrett, who was celebrating his 23rd birthday, scored the winning run.

"I remember high-fiving Wade Boggs as I crossed the plate," Barrett says.

Ojeda, who pitched the final inning, wasn't on hand for all 32 innings two months before.

"I saw the first 20 innings and went home," says Ojeda, who had pitched the previous night. "I was lucky because when play resumed, it was my turn to pitch. So I pitched one inning and I got the win."

Hurst, who was on hand for all 33 innings, actually was disappointed when the game ended.

"It was kind of anticlimactic when Marty finally came in scoring that winning run," Hurst says. "After playing for 32 innings one night, then it's all over in 20 minutes."

Koza, who played seven seasons in Pawtucket but never reached the majors, put the game into perspective best. "We're all in Cooperstown now," he said after the game, "and for a lot of us, it'll be the only way we get there." ☆

FELICE CLYNE IS A FREELANCE WRITER IN NEW YORK CITY.

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