

Werhas Was Best-Ever Third Baseman for Islanders

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Field but I always thought that the old stadium in Honolulu was the closest to it," Werhas said. "The fans there were the greatest and my most nostalgic feeling in baseball is when I think about the old ball park. There wasn't anything like it. "It was really sad for me when I went back to Hawaii for a visit recently and saw that the stadium was no longer there. It felt like a part of me was missing."

Werhas was the team captain

of perhaps the grandest Islander team of them all—the 1970 club which included an infield of shortstop Marty Perez and second baseman Doug Griffin, who both went on to play in the majors. Chuck Vinson was at first and Werhas at third. Winston Llenas, one of the purest hitters in the minors, spelled Werhas at third and Tanner tried to get him in the lineup whenever possible because of his bat. Llenas would have been a designated hitter's DH' he swung the bat that good.

The Islanders drew record crowds that year—19,673 on Aug. 8, 18,161 on Aloha Night 13 days later and 18,032 in a playoff game on Sept. 6. They had 17 games with 10,000 or more fans that season.

Summer, 1984 John Werhas gives the invocation for the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at the downtown Los Angeles Hyatt. He talks about the Apostle Paul's "Hall of Faith" from Hebrews, Chapter 11. "I never heard a baseball player who could talk like that," said Associated Press sports writer Will Grimsley.

Asked about his conversion, Werhas said that his spiritual "Damascus" occurred in Hawaii. "I just got back from a year in Japan and there was a tremendous void in my life. There were a lot of dead-end areas in my life. There were only bad an-

swers to my questions. I saw the purposelessness of my life. Everything seemed so empty. "I met Bob Turnbull of the Waikiki Chapel and that's what turned my life around. I made a commitment to Jesus Christ and He proved to be totally real. He gave meaning to my life." Werhas attended seminaries in Colorado, San Bernardino and Long Beach for the next three years after getting married in 1974. He was ordained on July 4, 1982, a date he duly notes in his well-worn Bible. "I really have no title. You could call me reverend, I guess, but I shudder at that." But for a lot of fans, John Werhas will always be regarded as the best who ever played third base for the Islanders. Amen.

Tomorrow: The First Season.

Islanders Player Directory

Growing Pains: 1965-1970

1970

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD—Francis H. II Brown. **PRESIDENT**—Chinn Ho. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—Chuck Tanner. **PARENT CLUB**—California Angels. **REGULARS**—First Base: Chuck Vinson (136 games). **Second Base**: Doug Griffin (134). **Third Base**: John Werhas (110). **Shortstop**: Marty Perez (100). **Outfielders**: Rich Barry (120), Winston Llenas (95), Wayne Redmond (82), Tomas Silverio (76). **Catcher**: Merritt Ranew (91), Dave Adlesh (46). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Don Wilkinson, Hank McGraw, Nate Oliver, Ray Oyler, Jarvis Tatum, Jim Saul, Randy Brown, Jim DeNeff. **PITCHERS**—Dennis Bennett, Tom Bradley, Juan Pizarro, John Purdin, Archie Reynolds, Dale Roberts, El Roy Face, Phil Ortega, Greg Wasburn, Dave LaRoche, Ed Sukla, Steve Kealey, Ron Kline, Gary Kroll, Bob Allen, Gary Bell, Rickey Clark, Larry Loughlin, Harvey Shank, Walter Wolf. **RECORD**: 98-48. (South champ). **POST-SEASON**: Spokane swept Hawaii, 4-0, in best-of-7 PCL championship series. **ATTENDANCE**: 467,217. **PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS**—Runs Batted In: Llenas 108; Hawaii 732. **Most Strikeouts (Batting)**: Barry 121; Hawaii 959. **Runs**: Hawaii 812. **Bases on Balls**: Werhas 98; Hawaii 659. **Games Started (Pitching)**: Bennett 32 (tied with one other). **Games Won**: Bennett 18 (tied with one other). **Home Runs Allowed**: Bennett 27.

1969

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD—Francis H. II Brown. **PRESIDENT**—Chinn Ho. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **MANAGER**—Chuck Tanner. **COACH**: Jimmie Reese. **PARENT CLUB**—California Angels. **REGULARS**—First Base: Chuck Vinson (96), Jim Spencer (47). **Second Base**: Larry Rojas (76), Winston Llenas (69). **Third Base**: John Werhas (147). **Shortstop**: Marty Perez (115). **Outfielders**: Jarvis Tatum (136), Floyd Robinson (138), Tomas Silverio (135). **Catcher**: Orlando McFarlane (52), Bob Rodgers (39), Dave Adlesh (39), Jim Saul (20). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Bill Bethea, Ethan Blackaby, Mel Corbo, Terry Cox, Dan Loomer, Gordy Lund, Mike Stubbins, Don Wilkinson. **PITCHERS**—Bo Belinsky, Lloyd Allen, Dennis Bennett, Bobby Locke, Phil Ortega, Bob Priddy, Minnie Rojas, Ed Sukla, Ken Tatum, Greg Washburn, Jim Weaver, Bill Boehlert, Tom Bradley, Rickey Clark, Vern Geishert, Bill Harrelson, Steve Kealey. **RECORD**: 74-72-1 (third in South). **ATTENDANCE**: 280,477. **PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS**—Times At Bat: Hawaii 4,894. **Total Bases**: Hawaii 1,949. **Home Runs**—Hawaii 107. **Bases on Balls**—Hawaii 524. **Runs Batted In**—John Werhas 90. **Hit by Pitcher**: Robinson 11 (Tied with one other). **Winning Percentage (Pitching)**: Belinsky .706 (12-5). **Games Won**: Bennett 13 (Tied with 5 others). **Player in Every Game**: Werhas 147.

1968

PRESIDENT—Francis H. II Brown. **VICE PRESIDENTS**—Chinn Ho, Sakae Takahashi, Bishop Harry Kennedy. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—Bill Adair. **COACH**—Ted Beard. **PARENT CLUB**—Chicago White Sox. **REGULARS**—First Base: George Kernek (121). **Second Base**: Jim Stewart (78), Ernie Fazio (32). **Third Base**: Bill Melton (60), Gene Freese (27), Stewart (21), Billy Williams (20). **Shortstop**: Rich Morales (144). **Outfielders**: Joe Gaines (75), Walt "No Neck" Williams (72), Billy Williams (66), Angel Bravo (60), Jose Ortiz (48) Stewart (43). **Catcher**: Jim Napier (71), Ed Herrmann (41). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Buddy Booker, Gail Hopkins, Dick Kenworthy, Danny Napoleon, Cotton Nash, Dick Littleton, Marv Breeding, Curt Fontenot, Bill Voss, Steve Whitaker. **PITCHERS**—Bo Belinsky, Don Nottebart, Gerry Nyman, Danny Osinski, Larry Sherry, Bill Fischer, Bobby Locke, Aurelio Monteagudo, Danny Lazar, Don Dennis, Paul Edmondson, Fred Klages, Danny Murphy, Billy Wynne. **NO-HIT GAME**—Belinsky blanked Tacoma, 1-0, on August 18. **RECORD**: 78-69 (second in West) **AT-**

TENDANCE: 255,569.

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—Stolen Bases: Hawaii 138. **Sacrifice Flies**: Kernak 9; Hawaii 43.

1967

PRESIDENT—Francis H. II Brown. **VICE PRESIDENTS**—Chinn Ho, Sakae Takahashi, Bishop Harry Kennedy, Le Roy Bush. **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**—Mackay Yanagisawa. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—Wayne Terwilliger. **PARENT CLUB**—Washington Senators. **REGULARS**—First Base: Bob Chance (108). **Second Base**: Frank Coggins (141). **Third Base**: Gene Freese (123). **Shortstop**: Jim Mahoney (137). **Outfielders**: Willie Kirkland (142), Jay Walrath (118), Hector Lopez (98). **Catcher**: Jim French (85), Larry Himes (52). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Dick "Pup" Phillips, Barry Shetrone, Dave Hirtz, John Orsino, Paul Ratliff. **PITCHERS**—Dick Bosman, Marshall Bridges, Carlos Medrano, Buster Narum, Dick Nold, Bill Pleis, Dave Stenhouse, Ruperto Toppin, Casey Cox, Pete Craig, Jim Duckworth, Jim Hannan, Bill Haywood, Jack Jenkins, Frank Kreutzer, Bill Spanswick. **RECORD**: 60-87 (sixth in West). **ATTENDANCE**: 218,983. **PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS**—Times At Bat: Coggins 584; Hawaii 4,923. **Hits (Batting)**: Coggins 168. **Total Bases**: Kirkland 252. **Home Runs**: Kirkland 34. **Runs Batted In**: Kirkland 97. **Sacrifice Hits**: Hirtz 11 (tied with one other; 3 for Hawaii, 8 for Denver). **Consecutive Games Lost**: Pleis 8 (tied with two others).

1966

PRESIDENT—Francis H. II Brown. **VICE PRESIDENTS**—Chinn Ho, Sakae Takahashi, Bishop Harry Kennedy, Le Roy Bush. **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**—Mackay Yanagisawa. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—George Case. **PARENT CLUB**—Washington Senators. **REGULARS**—First Base: Bob Chance (57), Dick Phillips (50), Brant Alyea (49). **Second Base**: Chuck Cottier (92), Frank Gable (24). **Third Base**: Dave Hirtz (95), Hank Allen (51). **Shortstop**: Tim Cullen (111). **Outfielders**: Barry Shetrone (134), Allen (99), Jerry Kushner (90), Alyea (86). **Catcher**: Nick Brumley (92), Jim Saul (46). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Dick "Pup" Phillips, Ron Cox, Jim French. **PITCHERS**—Dave Baldwin, Peter Craig, Jim Duckworth, Dave Stenhouse, Don Williams, Bennie Daniels, Carlos Medrano, Marshall Bridges, Tom Cheney, Frank Kreutzer, Don Loun, Buster Narum, Doug Ritter, Diego Segui. **RECORD**: 63-84 (fifth in West). **ATTENDANCE**: 191,367. **PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS**—Total Bases: Allen 288. **Home Runs**—Hawaii 136 (tied with Portland). **Games Pitched**—Medrano 60. **Games Lost**—Daniels 15.

1965

PRESIDENT—Francis H. II Brown. **VICE PRESIDENTS**—Chinn Ho, Sakae Takahashi, Bishop Harry Kennedy, Le Roy Bush. **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**—Mackay Yanagisawa. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—George Case. **PARENT CLUB**—Washington Senators. **REGULARS**—First Base: Dick Nen (81), Brant Alyea (32). **Second Base**: Dick "Pup" Phillips (87) Chuck Cottier (75). **Third Base**: Dave Hirtz (147). **Shortstop**: Tim Cullen (142). **Outfielders**: Fred Valentine (147), Alyea (107), John Wojcik (95), Barry Shetrone (87). **Catcher**: Joe McCabe (69), Don Leppert (38), Orlando McFarlane (26), Jim French (25). **OTHER POSITION PLAYERS**—Andy Miyamoto, Bob Chance. **PITCHERS**—Dave Baldwin, Marshall Bridges, Casey Cox, Jim Duckworth, Eli Grba, Jim Hannan, Howie Koplitz, Dick Lines, Don Loun, Carlos Medrano, Peter Craig, Don Williams, Bob Olson, Dave Stenhouse. **NO-HIT GAME**—Dick Estelle, Tacoma, blanked Hawaii, 6-0, on May 11. **RECORD**: 75-72 (fourth in West). **ATTENDANCE**: 174,699. **PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS**—Runs: Valentine 116. **Stolen Bases**: Valentine 58; Hawaii 162. **Hit by Pitcher**: Valentine 17; Hawaii 49. **Hit Batsmen**: Craig, Williams 9.

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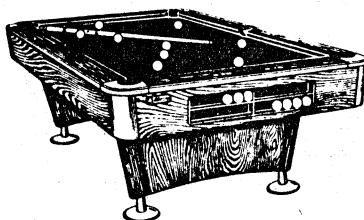
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