

Quinn Era: Resurrected Players, Record Crowds

By Rod Ohira

Assistant Sports Editor

In 1970, Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley sold the contract of pitcher Juan Pizarro to the Hawaii Islanders for \$10,000. Pizarro was 9-0 for Hawaii when the Chicago Cubs purchased his contract for \$30,000.

The Cubs also threw in a pitcher, Archie Reynolds, to complete the deal. Reynolds was later sold to the California Angels for \$70,000. "It's the best deal I ever made," says Jack Quinn, the architect of Islanderbaseball fortunes for 11 of the club's 24 seasons in the Pacific Coast League. Quinn had a sixth sense for recognizing talent and used it to resurrect many playing careers.



Quinn

During spring training of 1969, Quinn talked third baseman John Werhas out of retiring. Werhas, who had turned 30 that year, went on to play 147 games in 1969; 111 in 1970 and 137 in 1972 after spending 1971 in Japan with the Taiyo Whales.

"I can remember standing in a hotel lobby in El Centro (Calif.) for hours with John before he finally agreed to come back," Quinn said.

That was vintage Quinn.

So, too, were the acquisitions of Bo Belinsky and Gene Martin. Two solid seasons with the Islanders earned Belinsky a final major-league shot with the Pittsburgh Pirates while Martin went on to play for big bucks in Japan.

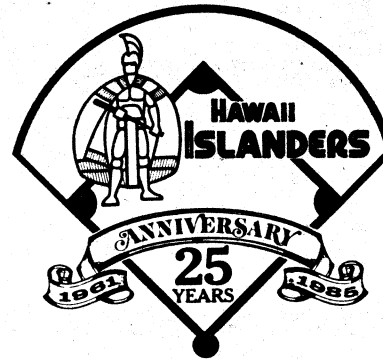
THE ISLANDERS were a solid Triple-A franchise in the mid-1960s and early '70s before Quinn had a falling out with

Second in a Series

then Honolulu Stadium General Manager Mackay Yanagisawa.

The club controlled billboard advertising and received concession revenues all year at Honolulu Stadium. Much of the money was poured back into the club to acquire home-owned players.

The late Francis H. li Brown and Chinn Ho headed a group of local investors that bailed out Nick Morgan after the 1962 season. Morgan had shifted the Sacramento franchise to Hawaii in 1961 but was sinking in red ink after two years here.



The local hui made a key move after the 1964 season by hiring Quinn.

"The club was heavily in debt at the time," recalled Quinn. "There were two big notes and the club owned two players, Herbie Plews and Carlos Bernier, who were paid very well."

QUINN SUGGESTED moving both players, who were earning more than \$2,000 a month at that time. The Islanders dumped Plews and his \$2,100 paycheck but the board of directors decided to keep Bernier because of his popularity with the fans.

Quinn helped to streamline the operation and by 1968 the club had paid off its two big notes.

Winning seasons in 1968 and '69 led up to the big year of 1970. Under Manager Chuck Tan-

ner, Hawaii won 98 games and lost only 48 in running away with its division title. At the gate, the club drew nearly half a million (467,217) to lead the minors.

"That was a fun year," recalled Quinn. "Can you believe that team was 50 games over .500?"

However, the Spokane Indians, managed by Tommy Lasorda, swept the Islanders in the best-of-seven championship series. "We made only one mistake in 1970 and that was to rest the oldtimers for the playoffs," Quinn said. "They just couldn't get back up physically when the playoffs started."

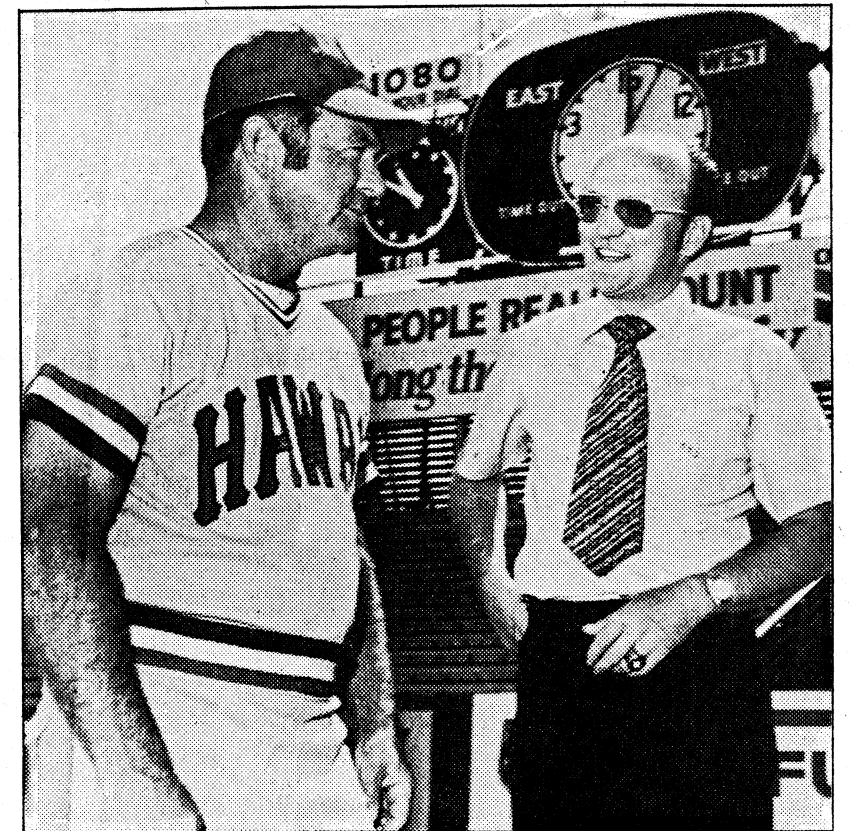
Tanner, who was fine-tuning his managerial skills, finished out the 1970 major-league season as manager of the Chicago White Sox. He has been in the bigs ever since.

IN 1975, THE Islanders closed Honolulu Stadium by winning their first PCL title and then opened Aloha Stadium in 1976 with a second championship season.

The club won the '76 pennant despite the fact that the front office had all but ceased operation. Paychecks were bouncing and the IRS had padlocked the offices.

"In all my years in this game,

Turn to Page F-6, Col. 3



TOP OF THE LINE—Roy Hartsfield, who managed the Islanders' only two PCL championship teams (1975 and '76), and General Manager Jack Quinn in 1974 Star-Bulletin photo taken at Honolulu Stadium.

Islanders Player Directory

Bridge Too Far: 1976-1980

1980

CLUB PRESIDENT—Clarence Phillips. **PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER**—Lee Doerr. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Dave Pierson. **FIELD MANAGER**—Doug Rader. **COACH**—Chuck Hartenstein. **PARENT CLUB**—San Diego Padres.

REGULARS—First Base: Broderick Perkins (115 games). Second Base: Steve Smith (61), Tim Flannery (47). Third Base: Craig Stimac (86), Rick Sweet (25). Shortstop: Chuck Baker (112). Outfielders: Jim Beswick (127), Donnie Reynolds (107), Bobby Mitchell (96), Andy Dyes (83). Catcher: Sweet (70), Castillo (69).

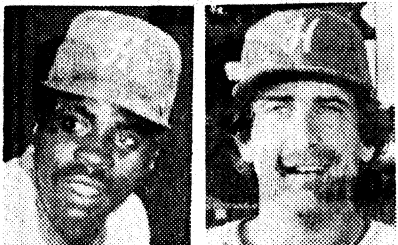
OTHER POSITION PLAYERS—Craig Kusick (dh), John Matias, Luis Salazar, Barry Evans, Greg Pastors, Gary Ashby, Paul Dade.

PITCHERS—Tom Tellmann, Mike Armstrong, Juan Eichelberger, Fred Kuhaulua, George Stablein, Johnny Sutton, John Yandle, Greg Wilkes, Eric Mustad, Gary Beare, Dennis Blair, Daniel Boone.



Stimac

Eichelberger



Perkins

Sweet

RECORD: 76-65 (40-25, first in North first half; 36-40, third in North second half). **POST-SEASON**: Hawaii defeated Vancouver, 2-1, in best-of-3 North playoffs. Albuquerque defeated Hawaii, 3-2, in best-of-5 PCL championship series. **ATTENDANCE**: 137,778.

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—Shutouts: Tellmann 4.

1979

CLUB PRESIDENT—Clarence Phillips. **PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER**—Lee Doerr. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Jim Loomis. **FIELD MANAGER**—Dick "Pup" Phillips. **COACH**—Al "Zeke" Zarilla. **PARENT CLUB**—San Diego Padres.

REGULARS—First Base: Craig Stimac (53), Broderick Perkins (43), Rick Sweet (42). Second Base: Sam Pelozzo (142). Third Base: Tucker Ashford (141). Shortstop: Chuck Baker (130). Outfielders: Jim Beswick (141), Jim Wilhelm (87), Donnie Reynolds (46), Stimac (46), Andy Dyes (35). Catcher: Sweet (85), Tony Castillo (76).

OTHER POSITION PLAYERS—Bobby Mitchell (dh), Steve Smith, Steve Brye, Mike Dupree (also pitcher).

PITCHERS—Gary Lucas, Fred Kuhaulua, Juan Eichelberger, Mark Lee, Tom Tellmann, Vic Bernal, Dupree, Lynn McKinney, Dave Wehrmeister, Mike Armstrong, Dennis Blair, Joe Carroll, Randy Fierbaugh, Alan Fitzmorris, Dennis Kinney, Greg Wilkes, Barry Biggerstaff.

RECORD: 72-76 (42-32, first in North first half; 30-44, fourth in North second half). **POST-SEASON**: Hawaii defeated Vancouver, 2-1, in best-of-3 North playoffs. Salt Lake swept Hawaii, 3-0, in best-of-5 PCL championship series. **ATTENDANCE**: 176,049.

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—none.

1978

CLUB PRESIDENT—Clarence Phillips. **PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER**—Lee Doerr. **GENERAL MANAGER**—

Conrad Passas. **FIELD MANAGER**—Dick "Pup" Phillips. **PARENT CLUB**—San Diego Padres.

REGULARS—First Base: Broderick Perkins (70), Frank Ortenzio (48), Jack Maloof (21). Second Base: Mike Champion (79), Pedro Garcia (50). Third Base: Garcia (63), Paul O'Neill (36), Craig Stimac (23). Shortstop: Bobby Mitchell (101), Craig Robinson (37). Outfielders: Jim Wilhelm (135), Gene Quirk (121), Maloof (102). Catchers: Bob Davis (79), Dave Roberts (31), Stimac (31).

OTHER POSITION PLAYERS—Pat Scanlon (dh), Tucker Ashford, Andy Dyes.

PITCHERS—Steve Mura, Mark Wiley, Dave Wehrmeister, Juan Eichelberger, Mike Dupree, Bill Laxton, Mark Lee, Steve Dunning, Rusty Gerhardt, Don Alfano, Vic Bernal, Randy Fierbaugh, Dennis Kinney. **RECORD**: 56-82 (fifth in West). **ATTENDANCE**: 155,301.

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—Fewest Grounded Into Double Play: Maloof 4. Strikeouts: Mura 158. Complete Games: Mura 16 (club record). Games Lost: Mura 16. Bases on Balls (Pitcher): Eichelberger 113.

1977

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE—Frank Cooper, chairman; Clarence Phillips, William Dodd Jr. (representing Lee Doerr), Peter S. Donahoe, Tobias Tolzmann. **GENERAL MANAGER**—Fred Whitacre. **FIELD MANAGER**—Dick "Pup" Phillips. **PARENT CLUB**—San Diego Padres.

REGULARS—First Base: Franklin Hamilton (65), Jim Fairey (53), Steve Huntz (38). Second Base: Julio Cruz (75), Manny Estrada (45), Pedro Garcia (24). Third Base: Tucker Ashford (73), Huntz (35). Shortstop: Chuck Baker (130). Outfielders: Jim Wilhelm (138), Chris Ward (73), Luis Melendez (68), Fairey (63), Donnie Reynolds (42). Catcher: Rick Sweet (88), Jerry Stone (60).

OTHER POSITION PLAYERS—Pat Scanlon, Luis Alvarado, John Balaz, Kala Kaalhue.

PITCHERS—Mark Wiley, Dan Spillner, Dave Freisleben, Steve Mura, Bob Owchinko, Paul Siebert, Eddie Watt, Dave Wehrmeister, Vic Bernal, John D'Acquisto, Mike Dupree, John Franklin, Bob Kammeyer, Clay Kirby, John McAllen.

RECORD: 79-67 (West champ). **POST-SEASON**: Phoenix defeated Hawaii, 4-2, in best-of-7 PCL championship series. **ATTENDANCE**: 347,931.

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—Sacrifice Hits: Cruz and Wilhelm 9; Hawaii 65. Fewest Strikeouts: Hawaii 545 (4,829 at-bats). Complete Games: Wiley 14. Shutouts: Mura and Wiley 3. Games Won (Pitcher): Wiley 16. Innings Pitched: Wiley 214.

1976

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD—Lee Doerr. **PRESIDENT-GENERAL MANAGER**—Jack Quinn. **FIELD MANAGER**—Roy Hartsfield. **COACH**—Al "Zeke" Zarilla. **PARENT CLUB**: San Diego Padres.

REGULARS—First Base: Bobby Valentine (66), John Doherty (46), Adrian Garrett (28). Second Base: Mike Champion (141). Third Base: Dave Hilton (116), Steve Huntz (28). Shortstop: Bill Almon (129), Huntz (12). Outfielders: Rod Gaspar (144), Gene Richards (137), John Scott (131). Catcher: Dave Roberts (89), Jerry Stone (59).

OTHER POSITION PLAYERS—Jim Fairey (dh), Joe Pepitone.

PITCHERS—Diego Segui, Chuck Hartenstein, Jerry Johnson, Jim Shellenback, Bob Strampe, Eddie Watt, Dave Wehrmeister, Tom Dettore, Dave Freisleben, Ken Reynolds, Mike Dupree, John McAllen, Galen McSpadden.

RECORD: 77-68 (West champ). **POST-SEASON**: Hawaii defeated Tacoma (3-1) in a one-game playoff for West championship. Hawaii then beat Salt Lake, 3-2, in a best-of-5 PCL championship series. **ATTENDANCE**: 306,236 (first season at Aloha Stadium).

PCL STATISTICAL LEADERS—Hits: Richards 173. Sacrifice Flies: Champion 10. Earned Run Average: Segui 3.18. Complete Games: Dettore 16. Games Lost (Pitcher): Dettore 15. Hit Batsmen: Dettore 13. Player in Every Game: Gaspar.