

Pitching Against Musial

Baseball is in full swing, headed for the playoffs, and it brings to mind a wonderful Stan Musial story. Musial, now retired, played for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1941 to 1963.

He was a record 24-time All-Star selection (tied with Willie Mays), and is considered to be one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. He compiled 3,630 hits, ranking fourth all-time and most in a career spent with only one team.



An outfielder, Musial was having a terrific day at bat against Bobo Newsom, the portly pitcher for the Chicago Cubs. In his first three turns at bat, Musial had a single, a triple, and a homer.

When he came up a fourth time, Charlie Grimm, the Chicago manager, decided to take Bobo out and bring in a rookie relief pitcher.

The rookie arrived from the bullpen and breathlessly asked Bobo, “Does this Musial have any weaknesses?”

“Yeah,” said Bobo. “He can’t hit doubles.”

The story brings a chuckle. But it is a reminder that everyone has areas in need of improvement.

– Beecher Hunter