SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1971 THE SAGINAW NEWS 2nd Annual Korf Meet Promises to be Better Top Track Athletes in County Match Talents in Tuesday's Invitational qualify a year ago while one award to Saginaw High's Ken pete in the long jump, and two the second place qualifier. BY BILL AYVAZIAN ners are under 23 seconds in Hill turned in a 1:58.6 and SS. McKinnon last year. McKinnon hurdle events. He has the top was the same. the 220. Along with Peaphon Peter & Paul's Dave Garcia a News Staff Writer SS. Peter & Paul's Pat Cher-The meet will be held Tues- won the long jump and 120- qualifying time in the high hur- nich returns to defend his mile and Somerfield, Jones has 1:59.5. Last year's inaugural Herb day at Saginaw High with the yard high hurdles events plus dles at 14.7 seconds, best in the turned in a 22.4 effort and Gortitle. He won with 4:35.4 effort Korf Invitational Saginaw field events scheduled to get taking a second in the 180-yard long jump at 21-9 and third in County track meet featured under way at 6:30 p.m. and the low hurdles. Three runners have broken ney a 22.6. a year ago, but has trimmed under way at 6:30 p.m. and the low hurdles. the 10 minute mark in the two that down to 4:30.0 for the best Four qualifiers for this strong competition in every meet getting under way at 6:30 Howard Beatty, former Gary Peaphon, Bridgeport's mile. Craig Voise of Pridgeport county time this season. year's 440 dash bettered the event. The second edition of p.m. and the running events at teacher and coach at Saginaw top sprinter, won the 100 and has the best time of 9:37.8. The short sprints are of winning mark for last season. The Saginaw News sponsored 7:30. If the meet is canceled High, will preside as the honor- 220 dashes a year ago. He has Mike Goschka of Chesaning folevent promises to be even bet- because of rain; it will be held ary referee of the meet. Beatty, the top times in those two great interest to the spectators. John Rolf of Arthur Hill is in at lows at 9:57.1 and Steve Gar-This year's races will be faster 50.7 seconds, John Hobson of ter. Thursday night at Saginaw a former Big Ten official, events with a 9.8 effort in 100 chow of Carrollton is close and more exciting than a year Chesaning at 51.2, Chuck Nier-In most instances, this High. coached football and track at and 22.1 mark in the 220. behind at 9:59.0. sall of Hemlock 51.4 and Brian year's crop of county athletes Mrs. Beth Korf will be pre-Saginaw High from 1921-32. Dean Somerfield, who also ago. The times and distances so Todd of Arthur Hill 51.6. have better times and distance sent again to award a trophy to Six first-year winners return has a 22.1 effort to his credit in Peaphon's 9.8 time in the 100 from the athletes are better. and the spread between those the meet's most outstanding to compete in a field that the 220, won the low hurdles a is challenged by Reggie Jones The 880 run field lists three Now all that is needed is a bigcompeting is closer. Of the 14 performer, selected by The includes 14 schools and over 150 year ago. The Carrollton ace's of Saginaw High at 10.0, Paul athletes under two minutes. ger crowd to add more support events, the final qualifying News' sports department. Mrs. athletes. 19.4 mark of this year is eight- Gorney of Hemlock at 10.1 and Hobson has the top time of to the annual Korf meet and

time or distance needed to Korf presented the first annual McKinnon is back to com- tenths of a second better than Somerfield at 10.15. Four run- 1:57.2. Dan Cappell of Arthur



OAKLAND (AP) — Vida Blue, the hottest pitching property in baseball today, faced an embarrassing situation after he signed with the Oakland Athletics four years ago.

He had to tell A's owner Charles O. Finley that his name didn't carry any weight in Mansfield, La., Blue's home town.

"I remember that the first thing he asked for after he signed was a dozen baseballs. I told him to go buy them at the hardware store and charge them to me," Finley recalls.

"But they wouldn't give him any. We had to send him a box of baseballs from Oakland."

Blue, who once preferred throwing a football, is now throwing baseballs past American League batters with startling regularity.

"He's a young Sandy Koufax," says A's Manager Dick Williams of his 21 year-old left-handed pitching star. "His protential is unlimited. His present looks pretty good, too."

Koufax, the former Los Angeles Dodgers southpaw, was 27 years old and in his ninth season with the team before he had his first 20-victory year.

Blue, starting his first full season with the A's, came out of Wednesday night's game against Milwaukee with a 9-1 record. He could be the game's next 30-game winner. Denny McLain, who won 31 games for the Detroit Tigers in 1968, got his eighth victory on May 29th and his ninth on June

Blue Day," celebrating the no-hitter he threw against the Minnesota Twins last Sept 21,

· Blue also had a one hitter against Kansas City, last fall after the A's brought him up from their Iowa farm club in the American Association, where he was 12-3.

"Not bringing him up earlier might have cost us our division title," Finley says.

But the A's felt that Blue who was rushed to the majors in 1969 and hit hard, needed a full season in Class AAA baseball to work on his control and regain confidence.

He was 10-3 with Birmingham, Ala., of the Class AA Southern Association in 1969 before joining the A's in July. In 12 games against American League batters, he gave up 13 home -runs and had a 6.21 earned run average in 42 innings.

"Everyone in the ball park knew I couldn't control my breaking ball. They'd just lean back and wait for my fast ball," says Blue.

After reeling off eight straight victories this year, he had walked just 28 batters in 77 innings, had 81 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.27. -



Blue once dreamed of quarterbacking the Baltimore Colts, and he earned the nickname "Golden Arm" in high school, where he threw 35 touchdown passes his senior year.

Grambling was one of several colleges which wanted him to continue his football career on a scholarship.

"But my father died the year I left high school. That's the biggest reason I went into baseball," says Blue, who was chosen on the second round of the free agent draft and signed with the A's in August 1967.

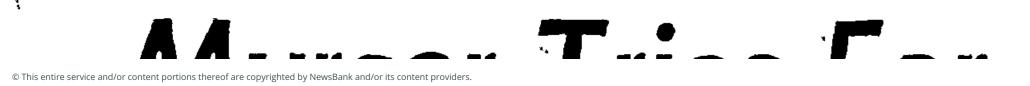
Also, he missed final exams as a senior and didn't get a diploma until after going to summer school.

"My life just got all messed up that year," he says.

Now he helps support his four sisters and a brother, who are all younger, and spends his winters in Mansfield. There are few off-season opportunities for a baseball player in the Northwest Louisiana town of 3,000.

"I did some work on the house for my mother last year," says Blue, to turned down several offers to play winter baseball.

They also put Blue in a red convertible over the winter and drove him around town behind two high school bands on "Vida



1.1

Blue credits A's pitching coach Bill Posedel and major league veteran Juan Pizarro, a teammate at Iowa last year, with solving his control problems.

"They both told me to take a shorter stride when I threw my curve ball," he explains. Blue throws his fastball, one of the best in baseball, about 80 per cent of the time. The occasional curves make it appear even faster.

"He got his feet on the ground last year," says Phil Seghi, the A's farm director. "He had to get over that hump, control. Some young pitchers never do. He's just done it in a big way."

Testimonials from opposing batters include this one from Al Kaline of Detroit:

"He throws as good as any one in our league. What . impressed me was whenever he got in a jam he could strike somebody out. That's awfully important."

Frank Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles said, "As young as he is, it might be a good idea to give him five days rest sometimes. With him, they've got to be thinking about the next 10 years."

Dick Williams will use Blue every fourth or fifth day, though he sympathizes with Robinson.

"Vida has pitched against Baltimore, the world champions, twice now and they've scored one run in 18 innings," Williams noles.

Robinson, with just one single in six at-bats against Blue, may suggest an even longer rest period for the pitcher the next time around.