

CINCINNATI REDS UNIFORM UPDATE # 2 September 2002

Dear Reds Fan,

This will be a shorter update than what was sent out last quarter. A number of quality Reds items have surfaced as well as an equal number of questions.

Powell Crosley Memoriam Arm Band

I was recently sent the 1961 Fred Hutchinson home flannel that was featured in Leland's May Auction. The blue piping had been removed from the sleeve area. In doing a very detailed re-look of the 1961 season, I noticed that the blue piping was only found on the left sleeve.

The idea of piping around only one arm whole seemed very strange. Then I recalled that Reds owner Powell Crosley passed away just prior to the Reds 1961 Opener. I felt very certain that this was in fact a memoriam armband... a narrow band as these are sleeveless jerseys.

Going back through the Cincinnati Enquirer on micro-fiche at the Cincinnati Public Library, I came across a small blurb on the 12 April 1961 sports page that conforms this. The article mentions that they "do not know how long the players will wear them." The answer is they wore them all season.

You will find pictures of this style jersey with no piping. When you look very closely at those shots you will see that they are either outdoor or indoor spring training shots from Tampa.

You can see examples of this in such books as *The Reds in Black and White: 100 Years of Cincinnati Reds Images* (Rhodes and Stang); *The 1961 World Series Program* (Reds Edition), most *Topps 1962 Baseball Cards*; Video- *The*

History of the Cincinnati Reds; When It Was a Game III (HBO).

1970 World Series Uniforms

The 1970s Guide shows the home post season uniforms has having a slightly different tail tagging. I am becoming more and more inclined to think that the McGlothlin jersey is simply a regular season variation. At the time I wrote the Guide, I had no reason to doubt the word of the veteran collector I obtained the shirt from.

Now it appears more likely that the Reds opted for both the home and road 1971 uniforms for the post season. The difference in the road jerseys is very obvious. If they went with 71 road jerseys for the World Series, why not the home as well.

QUESTIONS

Q: Did Spalding make uniforms for the Reds in the 50s?

A: I don't believe so. The Reds seemed to have pretty much stuck with local manufacture Gold Smith; MacGregor/Gold Smith. The Reds had jerseys and jackets made by Spalding up to including the 1940 season. There are examples of 50s Reds jerseys out there made by Spalding. The Hall of Fame has a collection of jerseys donated years ago by a Spalding salesman, one of which is a gorgeous mid 1950s Bucky Walters.