



Leavitt Leo Daley was born October 7th, 1932 in Orange California, and was named after his father. For baseball fans he is known as Bud Daley. He pitched for the Kansas City Athletics from 1958 to 1961. At birth Daley suffered some complications when in delivery the instrument the doctor was using slipped and pinched a nerve in his right shoulder leaving his right shoulder paralyzed for the first six months of his life. Daley's mother stated that no one wanted a baby as much as she did, but Buddy was so crippled she did not want him to live. But through exercise and message therapy his health improved. This improvement and the desire to play baseball lead to a major league career that lasted 10 seasons.

In 1951 at the age of 18, Bud signed as an amateur free agent with the Cleveland Indians organization and spent the first five years in professional baseball playing at the minor league level. At the end of the 1955 season Bud was called up to the major leagues by the Indians and appeared in two games. When asked what he remembered most about making it to the major leagues, Bud responded that he thought AAA would be as far as he would make it in baseball. Bud returned to the minor leagues in 1956, but was called up and appeared in 14 games at the end of that season, and then split the 1957 season between AAA and the big league club. In April of 1958 Bud was traded from the Indians to the Baltimore Orioles. Two weeks later the Orioles traded him to the Kansas City Athletics in exchange for pitcher Arnie Portocarrero. Bud responded to this quick trade, that Orioles Manager Paul Richards said he had to trade Daley because the Orioles had 7 left-handed pitchers at that time. He was a left-handed knuckleball pitcher that threw a round house curve ball. In 1958 with the A's Bud appeared in 26 games mostly in relief. But beginning in 1959, Bud became the Ace of the A's pitching staff. In both the 1959 and 1960 seasons Bud collected 16 victories. When asked about those seasons he remembered how much fun it was to go out and pitch every four days.

In 1959 Casey Stengel selected Daley to the AL All Star teams pitching staff, and represented the Kansas City A's in both the 1959 All Star game as well as the 1960 Classic. From 1959 to 1962 two all star games were held each season in different cities. Daley reflected that his best memory of the All Star game was getting to pitch at home in Kansas City in 1960, He stated that he was asked by Chicago White Sox Manager Al Lopez if he wanted to start the 2nd All Star game in New York or pitch the last inning of the game in Kansas City. He chose to pitch in front of the home town fans in Kansas City and said it was one of his biggest thrills. During his time in Kansas City he had a battery mate named Pete Daley. They were affectionately known as the "Daley Double". His roommate on the road was Ray Herbert. When he was asked what he

remembered most about his Kansas City teammates, he stated that all of them were in the same boat trying to make a living.

During his time with the A's pitching in Municipal Stadium he remembered most the wind blowing out to left field and the grass bank in right field. After appearing in 16 games for the A's in 1961, Daley was traded to the New York Yankees. Many people have said that the A's were a "farm club" of the Yankees because of the great players the A's traded to New York, and the relationship of owner Arnold Johnson to the Yankees. When asked about being traded to New York, Bud reflected that most of the players always hoped to be traded to New York. "It meant a trip to the World Series!" Becoming a Yankee in 1961 brought some memorable experiences playing with Yankee greats like Whitey Ford, Elston Howard, Yogi Berra as well as being in the middle of the home run battle between Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle. He also appeared in two World Series, winning World Championships in 1961 against the Cincinnati Reds and in 1962 against the San Francisco Giants. He remembers most about his Yankee experience just being thankful for being on the best team in baseball. In 1963 Bud appeared in only 1 game for the Yankees due to injuries, and then pitched in 13 games in 1964 to finish his major league career. After the 1964 season Bud was traded back to the Cleveland Indians, but did not appear in any games before retiring. Bud Daley will be remembered by Kansas City fans as the Ace of the Staff during his time with the A's. He should be remembered as someone who overcame adversity to accomplish his dreams.

Mark Moore