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EDITORIALS

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We cheer ourselves when we hail Phils

William Penn stands atop City Hall resplendent in his bright red Phillies cap. Holding a baseball program in one hand, he extends a blessing over Veterans Stadium with the other — *"And thou Phillies, champions of the N.L. East, my soul prays to God for thee that thou may stand firm in the day of trial, that thee may be blessed with another pennant . . . even if it takes seven to clinch it!"*

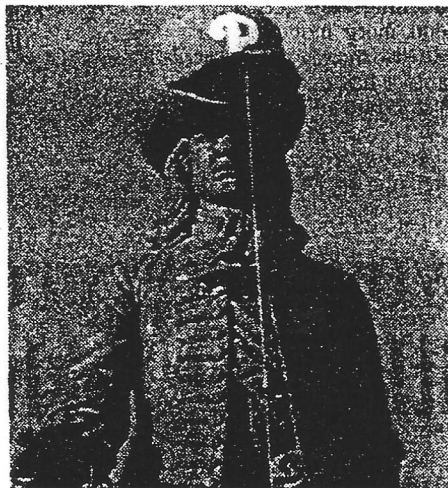
Who can blame Billy for jumping on the bandwagon? Since his birth nearly 350 years ago, the Phillies have captured a total of four pennants and one world championship. For most Philadelphians though, an event like this occurs once in a decade. That is why it is so special.

We've always been a city of underdogs. Our Quaker forefathers were considered troublesome outcasts in other colonies because they consciously disregarded all expressions of social-class distinction.

But here in Philadelphia, they found a home. Their rebelliousness remains an essential part of the social fabric of our urban culture today.

And so while Philadelphians may be a city of respected universities, nationally recognized museums and an ever-diminishing coterie of blue-bloods, our genuine spirit can be found in the clock-punchers and blue-collarers, who define our character, especially when it comes to sports.

The '93 Phillies were made for us. This swaggering, trash-talking bunch went from



worst to first in a year when there were absolutely no expectations to succeed.

Like ourselves, they are die-hards who function in the same black-and-white world of heroes and bums. We embrace them because they show their humanness — warts and all — and we admire them because they are throwbacks to the days when baseball was played for little more than the love of the game.

In this enchanted season of dreams, rooting for those wild, wacky, woefully wonderful Phillies is, for many of us, like cheering for ourselves.

William C. Kashatus
Philadelphia