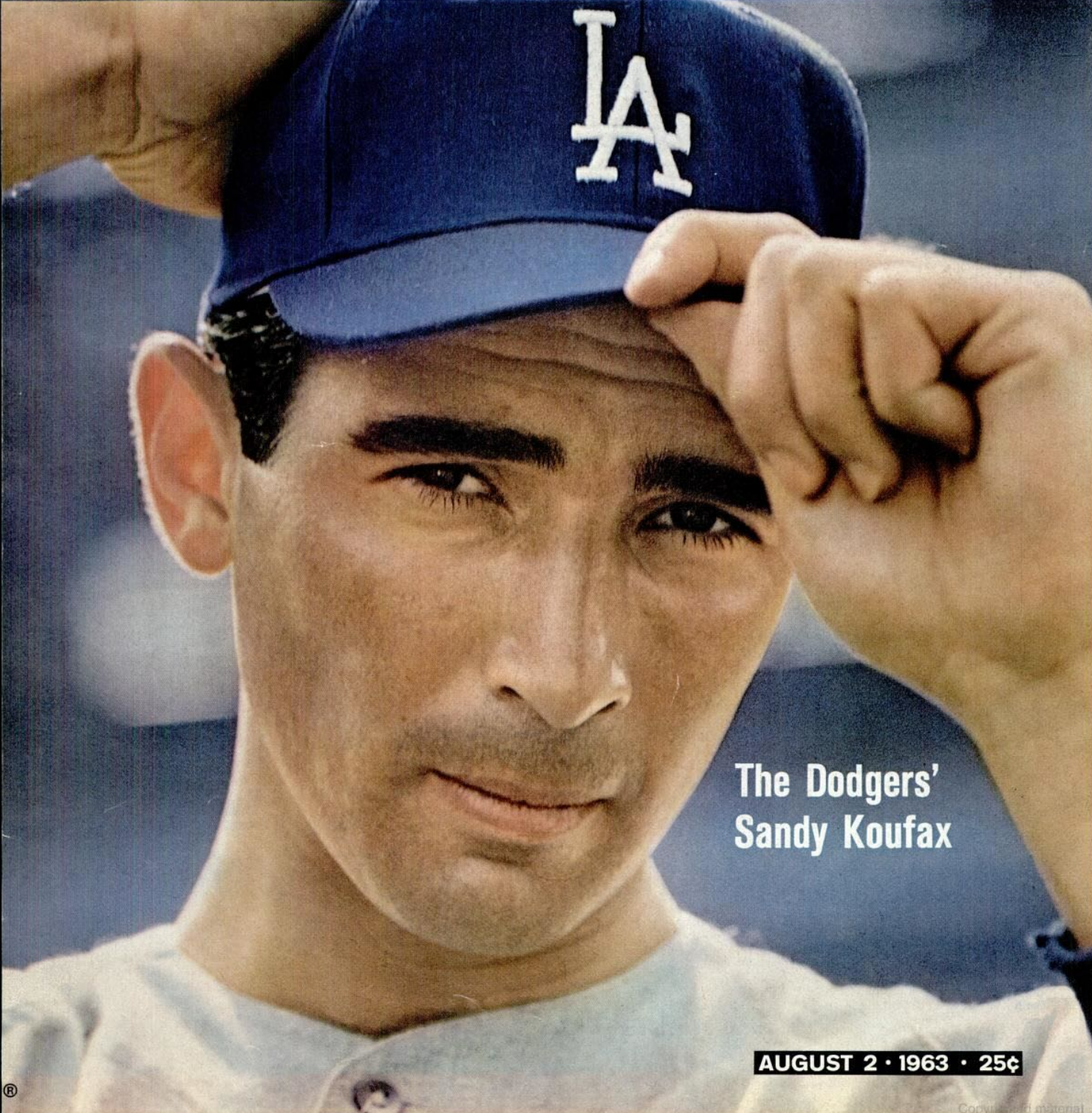


LIFE

ECLIPSE IN COLOR: A PERFECT VIEW

The Mostest Pitcher: Most Wins,
Most Shutouts, Most Strike-outs



The Dodgers'
Sandy Koufax

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Good Life of Baseball's No. 1 Hero

Sandy Koufax' first impulse when confronted by squealing admirers is to flee. "If I am a hero," he concedes, "I guess standing my ground is part of the job."

Koufax has become baseball's biggest hero by proving himself the best pitcher in the past decade. Working for the Los Angeles Dodgers—at \$35,000 a year—he had the best earned run average, the most strike-outs, most shut-outs and (though closely pressed by rivals) the most wins in the big leagues last week. In a day when the relief pitcher is praised extravagantly, Koufax stands out as a nine-inning wonder.

He also stands out as baseball's most attractive bachelor. Tall and

27, he has poise, a literary mind and a resonant, softly modulated voice. He lives alone in a suburban home with several oil paintings, a well-stocked library and a self-installed stereo system. His car is gold-colored and his girl was runner-up for the title of Miss U.S.A.

Three years ago, Southpaw Sandy was blazing fast and terrifyingly wild. Then, taking a teammate's advice, he slowed down his pitch and thus controlled it. Still far faster than almost anybody else, he can now pitch the ball where he wants it—and, besides, has a curve which "jumps a foot," according to Willie Mays. "It's too good a life," says Sandy. "When will it end? The hitters will let me know."



Pitcher Koufax, no giant with the bat, grimaces after striking out.

****My main problem as a kid was that I couldn't hit. I knew it and told the coach. So he made me a pitcher.****

Sandy lounges in pool at his motel with his date, Linda Kennon.

****During the season I do little during or nightclubbing. With night games it's hard to find time.****





Koufax, in great demand to make personal appearances, tries to please autograph-hunters at departmental store, but his heart isn't in it.

"I have an obligation to kids. But if I had my way, I'd see them at the park but I'd vanish afterwards. I like to be with people I know. I don't like to be an display."

At home, Koufax is interrupted by Linda as he listens to his hi-fi. He hooked up set himself and installed it in the bookcase behind him.

"I want to enjoy all this while it lasts. The end can come any day or 10 years from now. After that, who knows? Maybe I'll go back where I came from and finish college."

