

In a trade that draws little notice nationally and both teams term "an even trade," the Pittsburgh Pirates send 30-year-old south-paw Paul LaPalme to the St. Louis Cardinals for 32-year-old right-handed pitcher Ben Wade.

Both pitchers are coming off less-than-successful seasons ... LaPalme is 4-10 with a 5.50 ERA in 33 appearances for the Pirates while Wade, acquired by the Cardinals on waivers from Brooklyn late in the 1954 season, was 1-1 with a 7.28 ERA for the Dodgers and Cardinals.

LaPalme responds to the change of scenery enjoying his best major league season, posting a 4-3 mark for the Cardinals with a 2.75 ERA in 56 relief appearances ... Wade is 0-1 with a 3.21 ERA in 11 games when on June 15, the Pirates trade him and third baseman Gene Freeze to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League ... Wade will pitch another seven seasons in the PCL before ending his career with the San Diego Padres in May of 1961.

LaPalme is 24-45 with a 4.42 ERA in seven major league seasons (1951-1957), with Pittsburgh, St. Louis, the Cincinnati Reds and the Chicago White Sox ... the Springfield, Massachusetts, native begins professional career in 1941, going 10-4 with a 4.50 ERA for the Bristol Twins of the Appalachian (C) League.

After spending two years in the military, LaPalme returns to professional baseball in 1946, posting an outstanding 20-2 mark with a 3.16 ERA and 181 strikeouts in 27 games with Bristol.

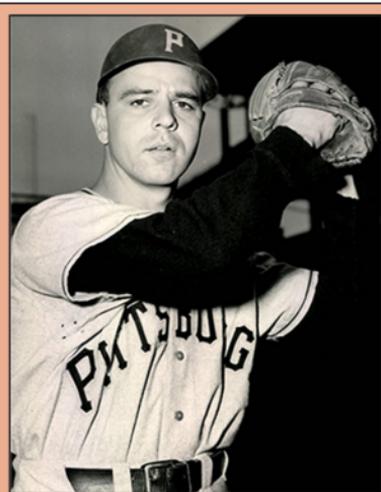
Wade pitches five years in the majors (1948, 1952-1955) with the Chicago Cubs, Dodgers, Cardinals and Pirates ... the Morehead City, North Carolina native is 11-9 with three saves in 1952 with Brooklyn ... he finishes 19-17 with a 4.34 ERA and 10 career saves.

Cards Trade Ben Wade To Pirates For LaPalme

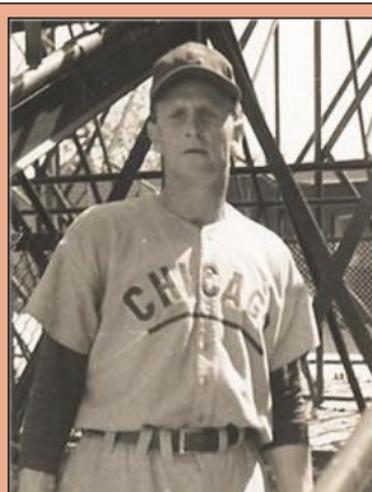
ST. LOUIS, Jan. 12 (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals yesterday traded righthanded pitcher Ben Wade to the Pittsburgh Pirates for south-paw LaPalme. No cash was involved.

Wade, 32, came to the Cardinals from Brooklyn on waivers late last season. He appeared in 36 games during the season and compiled a 1-1 record with a 7.28 earned run average. He is a native of Morehead City, N. C.

LaPalme, a 30-year-old knuckle ball specialist, appeared in 33 games in 1954 and finished with a 4-10 record with an earned run mark of 5.50.



Paul LaPalme
1954 Pittsburgh Pirates



Ben Wade
1948 Chicago Cubs