

Dodgers Will Rise Quickly With Baker, Says Campanis

By GORDON VERRELL

LOS ANGELES—Al Campanis, the Dodgers' vice-president in charge of player personnel, had said that, despite the club's disappointing 1975 season, there was no need for wholesale changes.

So, the day after his four-for-two trade with the Braves, Campanis, the master swapper, leaned back in his chair in his Dodger Stadium office, stroked his chin and said, "I have a couple of more things in mind."

He refused to say just what it was, but it's believed he wants still another pitcher and has meetings scheduled with both the Mets and Yankees.

At least two of his previously announced needs were fulfilled in the November 17 trade with Atlanta when the Dodgers acquired center fielder Dusty Baker and utility in-

fielder-pinch hitter Ed Goodson in exchange for popular Jimmy Wynn, versatile Lee Lacy, outfielder Tom Paciorek and Jerry Royster, a 23-year-old infielder who led the Pacific Coast League in batting in 1975.

"WE GAVE UP a good part of our bench in Lacy and Paciorek and even Wynn when you're talking about next year," analyzed Campanis, "but we can now put eight better players on the field."

Originally, the Dodgers wanted catcher Biff Pocoroba included in the deal, which had been in the works for several weeks, but Campanis said it was still a good trade and added:

"I hated giving up the two young players, especially Royster. But both Walter Alston and I believe that Baker has the ability to more quickly make us better or equal to Cincinnati in the N. L. West."

Of Baker, 26, Campanis said: "It's our feeling he's yet to reach his peak. Our scouting reports on him always have been good. He can run, throw and hit with power."

BAKER, WHO spent the first four of his five seasons in the majors playing in the shadow of Henry Aaron, batted .261 last summer and led the Braves in home runs (19) and runs batted in (72), in 1975. His best year was 1973, when he batted .288 with 99 RBIs and 21 home runs.

The price was a heavy one for Baker and Goodson, a onetime Giant who has been bothered with knee injuries.

Wynn, 33, was a major part of the Dodgers while winning the 1974 National League pennant, when he

slugged a Los Angeles record 32 homers and drove in 108 runs. It was his first season with the Dodgers after playing 11 seasons in Houston.

But in 1975 he fell off to .248, 18 home runs and 58 RBIs and late in the year was moved to left field on a platoon basis.

"JIMMY SHOWED some defensive weakness, even in 1974," Campanis pointed out, "and we believe his arm never really came all the way back from the operation he had last winter."

Wynn said, "I thought I was a fixture here. I was surprised I was traded. But there's no doubt in my mind I can still play center field regularly. My arm is strong. I just got into a rut last summer and I guess I started pressing because of all our injuries."

At Atlanta, Wynn likely will play left field, however, and The Cannon is already looking ahead to the challenge.

"I'll try to have the same year with the Braves that I had with the Dodgers in 1974—absolutely my happiest year ever," Wynn said. "The park (Atlanta Stadium) is smaller and should be to my advantage. I can help supply some leadership for the Braves, one of the things I think they've lacked."

"The hardest thing, though, will be adjusting to the small crowds in Atlanta after all the great crowds we had in L.A."

Wynn learned of the trade in a phone call from Campanis. Baker heard about it in another way.

He was driving his family through the Southwest and stopped off at the Grand Canyon. He found out he was traded when



Dusty Baker . . . Still on the Upgrade

he checked into a motel, flipped on the television and saw his picture on the screen.

Dodger Dope: The Dodgers are scheduled to open the 1976 season Friday, April 9, against the Giants in . . . well, right now it says San Francisco. . . . The "Dodger Chorale" debuted at the Champions vs. Multiple Sclerosis dinner November 19 at the Century Plaza. The chorale, in a special one-time-only performance, featured Al Downing, Ken McMullen, Doug Rau, Steve Garvey, Don Sutton and Jim Wynn singing, "We've No Business in Show Business." . . . Tommy Lasorda reported from Santa Domingo that his Licey club is 5-5, "but we're tied for first place." . . . The Dodgers were 12th

in the National League in double plays with 106 in 1975, 75 less than the leader, Montreal. But Manager Walt Alston said, "I don't care if we are last in double plays. What I'm interested in is whether we get a double play when we have an opportunity to make one."

Gordon Verrell of the Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram has been elected chairman of the Los Angeles-Anaheim Chapter, Baseball Writers Association of America. Verrell succeeds Mike Waldner, sports editor of the South Bay Daily Breeze. Other officers: Bob Cox, South Bay Daily Breeze, vice-chairman; Mitch Chortkoff, Santa Monica Evening Outlook, secretary, and Ron Rapoport, Los Angeles Times, treasurer.

Dodgers Break 17-Year Freeze on Ducat Prices

LOS ANGELES—The Dodgers have announced their first increase in ticket prices since moving to Los Angeles in 1958.

Field and loge level box seats will be increased from \$3.50 to \$4.50; reserved seats from \$2.50 to \$3; general admission from \$1.50 to \$2, and children's general admission from 75 cents to \$1.

"We are sorry that rising costs have forced us to take this step," said President Peter O'Malley, "but we are proud that we have been able to maintain our prices for so long."

Toy Cannon Expects to Shell Atlanta Stadium Fences

By WAYNE MINSHEW

ATLANTA—Jim Wynn, the veteran slugger who earned the label Toy Cannon in such mammoth parks as the Astrodome and Dod-

ger Stadium, is on his way to "the park that Aaron built." And he is excited about the prospects.

"I hate to leave the Dodgers,"

said Wynn, "but I'm glad somebody wanted me, and I'm tickled it was Atlanta. I'm happy to be coming to the park that Aaron built. . . . I just want to get there now and hit a few home runs for the fans there."

Wynn, a 13-year veteran who has 273 career homers, paused for a moment and added, "And for myself."

THE 34-YEAR-OLD righthanded-hitting outfielder was one of the major figures in a six-player trade involving the Braves and Dodgers November 17. The Braves gave up outfielder Dusty Baker and handyman Ed Goodson for Wynn, outfielder Tom Paciorek and infielders Lee Lacy and Jerry Royster.

"This adds speed, power and versatility," said General Manager Eddie Robinson of the Braves. "We are glad to get these guys, although we hated to give up a couple of players like Baker and Goodson."

The Braves envision Wynn for left field duty, while Lacy probably will battle Marty Perez for the second base job. Royster has an excellent chance to make the team at third base, with veteran Darrell Evans moving to first base. Paciorek likely will continue in a reserve role.

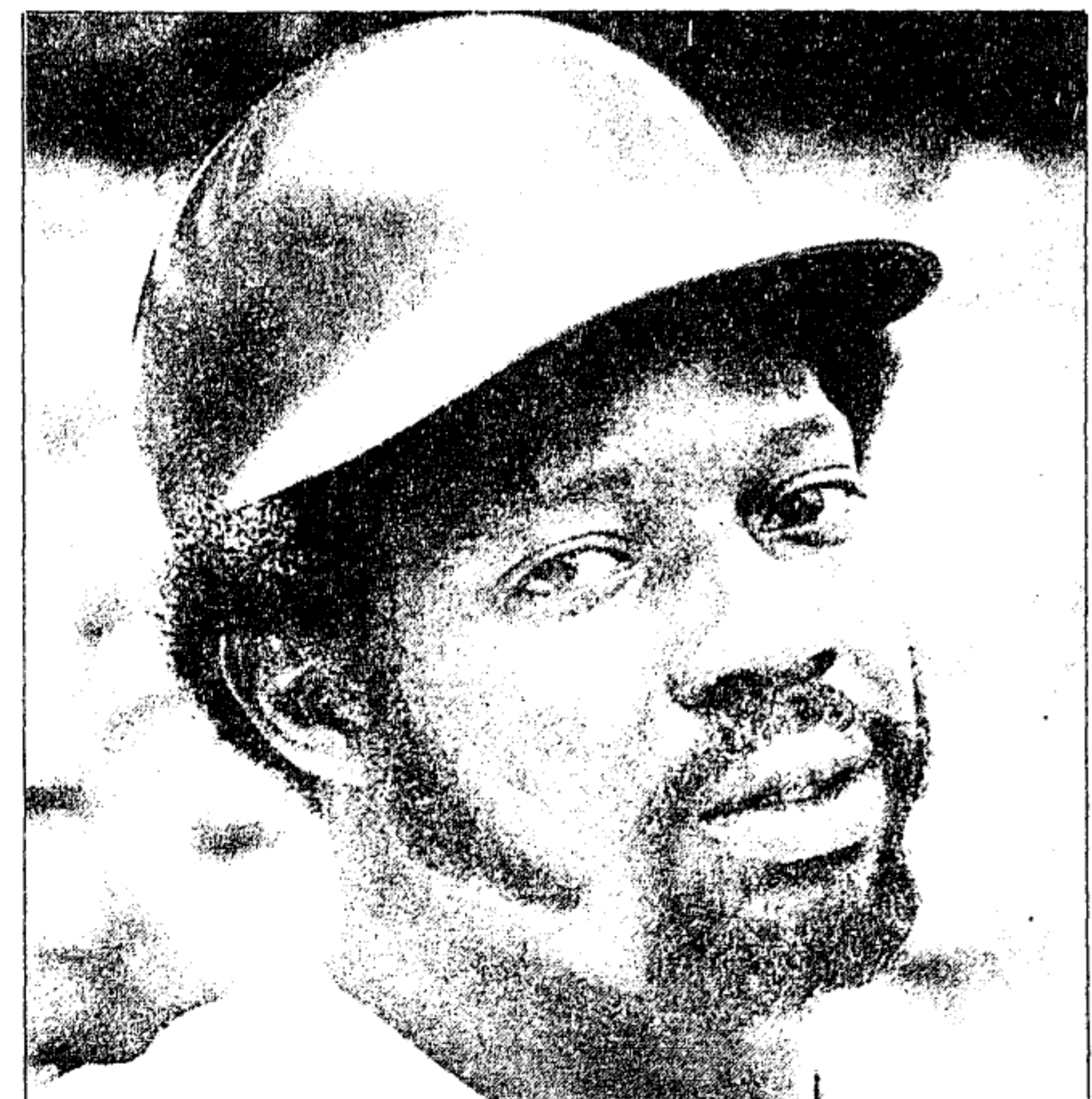
"Our reports say that Royster's best position is third," said Robinson, "although we know he can

play shortstop, too."

Said Wynn, who once hit one of the longest homers ever in Atlanta Stadium, driving a ball off the club lever facade in deep left: "It's a hitter's park, and I think I can do a better job there than I did for the

Dodgers last season. I'm looking forward to hitting a few there because the ball seems to travel real well."

THE VETERAN player has been (Continued on Page 56, Column 1)



Jim Wynn . . . A Closer Target Area

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