

Third Baseman **Sal Bando**, Oakland, Tags Out Reggie Smith, Boston, and Fires to First Base to Complete a Double Play.

Cleanup Spot Brings Out Best in **Bando**

By **RON BERGMAN**

OAKLAND, Calif.—Whatever happened to **Sal Bando**?

He is alive and batting cleanup for the Athletics.

You may remember **Bando**. He batted .333 in the exhibition games. He was the subject of countless newspaper stories about baseball's potential new super-star.

In the second game of the season, **Sal** hit his first home run. Then something happened. Nothing.

He didn't hit another homer until one month and one day later. Like golf tournament leaders after the first 18 holes ("Unknown Leads First Round"), the name **Bando** dropped out of sight.

He had to fight just to get his average up around .250. Although the homers never came in any profusion, **Bando's** hitting picked up.

And, on July 7, the **Bando** bat exploded. In the first game of a double-header against Detroit, **Bando** hit his first homer in 36 games dating back to May 30. He didn't hit one in the entire month of June.

An Iron Deficiency

In the second game, **Sal** hit two more, his fifth and sixth of the season in the A's 82nd game.

"I didn't change anything," **Bando** said about his one-day streak. "My timing just came back. Finally, I felt good again."

The day before, **Bando** had seen a doctor who said the muscular specimen had an iron deficiency. He was told to eat better breakfasts and was given some pills.

"My philosophy about homers is that they'll come," said **Sal**. "I thought I could hit them as consistently as in spring training."

"But I forgot that the parks were bigger than in Florida. I was swinging too hard and jerking my head."

Trio of Ex-Sun Devils Kingpins in A's Lineup

OAKLAND, Calif.—**Sal Bando** is one of three former Arizona State University stars on the Athletics. Rick Monday and Reggie Jackson are the two others.

Against righthanded pitchers, Monday bats third, **Bando** fourth and Jackson fifth. When their names are written on the blackboard in the batting order, a bracket is put beside them with the marginal notation, "Go Sun Devils."

"We get a lot of teasing about it," admitted **Sal**. "But it's a thrill and something to be proud of."

Finally, Manager Bob Kennedy called a club meeting. **Bando** was not the only one swinging for the fences and the manager wanted it stopped.

"We went over hitting at the meeting," **Bando** recalled. "He told us that we couldn't swing for home runs in our park. He told us to just swing the bat."

"I knew this," **Bando** continued. "But I just had to hear it."

The 24-year-old **Bando** began putting together his hits. He batted third in the lineup until June 5, when he was moved to sixth. Then, on June 13, Kennedy moved him into the No. 4 spot for both positive and negative reasons.

Rick a .300 Hitter

"Who else was I going to bat there?" Kennedy asked. "I don't want to bat Rick Monday fourth because then maybe he won't get to bat in the first inning."

Monday, of course, had been hitting over .300 for a long time. In fact, he took over the third spot in the order from **Bando**.

"Also," Kennedy added, "I wanted someone batting fourth who wouldn't feel the pressure."

Kennedy tried six different players at cleanup before settling on **Bando**. After the move was made, **Sal** took over the club RBI leadership and once drove in five runs in two straight games.

"Batting cleanup, you've got to drive in runs," said **Sal**. "I'd been hitting the ball hard, but right at guys."

"At the beginning of the season, I was pressing. I was fed up with myself. I seemed to have two days when I felt good and two days when I felt bad."

"One day, you get an inside pitch and you pull it. The next day, there'll be a pitch right down the middle of the plate, and you foul it back."

Bando had a total of 27 RBIs and almost every one of them contributed to victories. He specialized in producing the tying run to keep the A's cause alive.

Ability and Desire

For a youngster, he exudes the poise of a veteran.

Kennedy thinks **Bando** will hit consistently. "He's got the ability and the desire," said Bob.

"**Sal** has enough common sense to cope with the rough spots. He's been chasing a few bad pitches. But all he needs is more at-bats. I think he's been picking the ball up better."

Kennedy, who once managed Ron Santo, says **Bando** reminds him of the outstanding Cub third baseman, "but he doesn't have as much power."

The decline from the halcyon days of spring hasn't affected **Ban-**

do's fielding. During the spring, Kennedy, a former third baseman, noticed **Bando** was trying to get in front of the ball at all times. The manager wanted him to backhand the ball instead, and this is what **Bando's** been doing.

He also knows how to use his well-developed chest to stop the hard shots right at him, a tactic third basemen have to live with.

A Rifle Wing

Bando has such a strong arm that he can run down the ball after taking it on the chest and get the runner nearly every time.

His throw to first comes hard and below the waist. His ball has one of the lower trajectories in the league, but rarely does he throw into the dirt.

First baseman Ramon Webster likes the way **Bando** throws.

"The ball usually comes right to me," said Ramon. "I don't have to move around much for him."

"I like the way he talks it up, too," continued Webster. "We did not have that last year."

Pitcher Lew Krausse added, "I like having **Sal** out there. He reminds the pitchers to bear down and what the situation is."

There has been some talk that **Bando** will be the team leader eventually, an indication of how young the A's are as a team.

"There are times you wish there was a star veteran out there like Brooks Robinson," says **Bando**.

Sal has watched the Oriole third baseman, as well as other players

in the league, closely. But the 6-0, 195-pounder has a style all his own.

"I can't do what he does," said **Bando** about Robinson. "We've got different styles."

"For instance, he's got his body moving forward. He keeps his hands up. I keep mine down. My glove webbing is catching the ground because it's easier for me to bring my hands up instead of down."

He Can Punch the Ball

Bando has the ability to hit to right field on the hit-and-run, a skill used by the fast, young Athletics. He doesn't mind giving himself up, either, to move a runner along.

"I'm worried most about winning," he explained. "If I get a hit, fine. But if I don't and we win, that's fine."

Bando's father, a sub-contractor, moved the family out of Cleveland to the suburb of Warrensville when **Sal** was a youngster. He played Little League, Pony League and in high school, mainly as a shortstop.

During the summer, while he was in high school, **Bando** played on a semi-pro team with the unusual name of Go. The manager was Richard S. Kliskovek, an assistant professor of mathematics at Arizona State University, who lives around Cleveland.

The prof liked what he saw in **Bando** and recommended him to the Arizona State baseball coach,

Bobby Winkle, for a scholarship.

In 1964, **Sal** batted .347 and starred on the Arizona State team that won the Western Athletic Conference title. The next year, he hit .317, and the Sun Devils went to the College World Series, where **Bando** was named the outstanding player after batting .480.

That was enough for the A's, who drafted him fifth and signed him before his last year of eligibility.

After **Sal** finishes his active career, he would like to stay in baseball, but not as a manager.

"I think I'm too emotional," he said. "I get too worked up."

"I'd like to work in the front office, maybe in public relations."

Sal and Rick Cut Short A Times Square Stroll

OAKLAND, Calif.—**Sal Bando's** introduction to New York City was a short one. He and fellow Arizona State star Rick Monday had just signed with the Athletics in 1965 and were being taken on a two-week tour with the big club.

"We decided to take a walk our first night and see what was happening," recalled **Sal**. "On our way to Times Square, we met a guy walking around wearing a Viking costume."

"We turned around and went back to the hotel."



Sal Bando . . . Learning to Meet the Ball.

A's Cheer as Sal Soars Out of His Sock Slump

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND, Calif.—Sal Bando was struggling along at 1-for-17.

"And that was an infield topper," the Athletics' third baseman said. "In Chicago, I was so frustrated that hitting didn't appeal to me anymore."

It was between games of a doubleheader in White Sox Park. Bando had distinguished himself in the opener by being the only Athletic not to get a hit in an 11-2 victory. His teammates chipped in with 17.

"When he had the bat cocked as the pitcher was throwing," third base coach Irv Noren observed, "he would drop his right elbow and it would lock. He couldn't get his bat around."

Bando took the tip, changed uniforms from gold to sea mist green and took the field for the second game. The adjustment wasn't an immediate success.

But after a groundout and a called strike three, Bando embarked on a remarkable batting streak. In his next 12 trips, Bando homered four times, doubled once, singled twice and three times walked.

Eight Quick RBIs

In that span, Bando drove in eight runs as the Athletics rumbled into first place in a close American League West race.

"I put more weight on my back foot," Bando said in explaining how he got out of his bad habit. "When you're struggling, you start feeling for the ball. I was lunging."

The five homers for Bando through the first 16 games of the season constituted quite a comeback for the 27-year-old native of Cleveland.

Although he hit 20 home runs in

1970, only three of those came in the last half of the season. In one way, it was because of another type of adjustment he failed to make.

For on July 11, another Sal Bando showed up, a junior, the first child for Sal and Sandy Bando.

"It was a whole different way of life," Bando said, echoing the plaint of new fathers through history.

It wasn't that Bando had to get up at 3 a.m. to feed the baby, because he didn't. But where things had been run on an orderly timetable before in the Bandos' Oakland diggings, now there was a mild form of displacement.

Slumps Are Rare

Perhaps Bando's troubles at the plate caused him to think there was slight confusion at home. In any case, at the ball park Bando was in one of the rare slumps of his career. Normally, even when he's not feeling comfortable at the plate, Sal gets his hits—singles at least. Not last year.

"The first thing that sticks in my mind about last year," Bando said, "is that before, when I got in slumps, I stuck with my style. But last year, I listened to too many people."

"They meant well, but I was changing my stance, how I held my hands, the position of my head when I looked at the pitcher—all these things were contrary to my style."

"But Noren's tip was a fundamental thing."

Despite his success, Bando was so deeply in the bad habit that he said, "I still don't feel comfortable just standing there."

What Bando would like would be

a return to 1969 when he hit 31 homers, batted in 113 runs and beat out Brooks Robinson for third base in the All-Star Game.

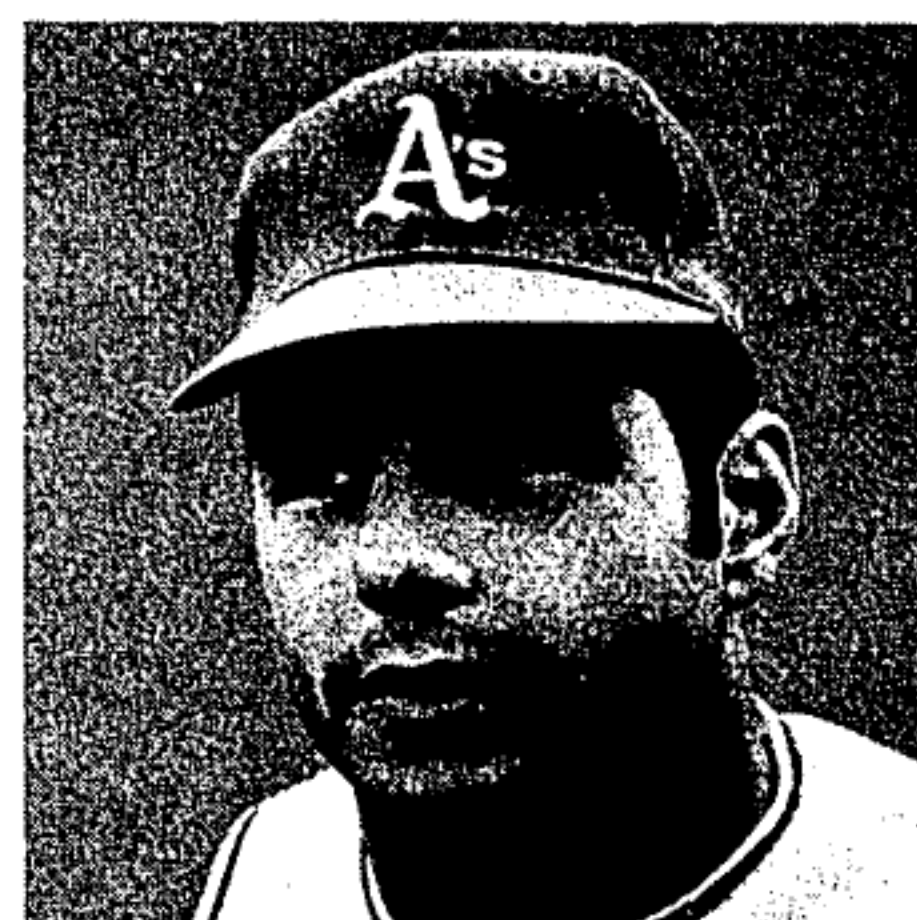
Hard to Predict

"That was unusually high for me," Bando admitted. "I think I'm capable of 25 homers a year. RBIs are hard to predict because it depends on who's getting on base in front of you."

Bando may not be sure how many RBIs he'll get this season, but he has some unshakable ideas about larger matters.

"Definitely we're going to win our division," he said. "We haven't the depth Baltimore has and, of course, not the pitching, but in a short series, you never can tell."

A's Acorns: The A's returned from a trip on which they won 10 of 11 and drew 7,071 on a Friday night, 7,815 on Saturday afternoon and 10,-



Sal Bando

677 on Sunday against the Tigers. . . . You'd think that after two full seasons, they'd learn how to run the Oakland Coliseum scoreboard without having the whole thing go blank almost once a game. . . . Everyone worried about the starting pitching without disabled Chuck Dobson and Blue Moon Odom, but the A's got nine complete-game victories in one

13-game span. In between, righthander Ron Klimkowski picked up two wins in relief and hadn't been scored on in eight innings spread over four appearances.

The Coliseum management said heaters hopefully would be installed in the frozen press box by opening day but, as usual, nothing materialized. After three years of talking about enclosing or mitigating the cold in the sunless working space, it's generally agreed that the Coliseum really doesn't want to do anything about the situation. . . . Vida Blue won four straight complete games and Diego Segui three in a row. . . . The A's are receiving complaints that the radio broadcasts are hard to pick up on the new, less powerful station, but the club is just as powerless to do anything about it. . . . There was an estimate of \$50,000 out of Cleveland as the purchase price of infielder Larry Brown, but the A's said that figure was "substantially low."

Tim Convinces Nats He's Full-Timer

By MERRELL WHITTLESEY

ending in White Sox Park.

That was the year of the southpaw drouth in the American League West. Series after series, all the Senators saw were righthanders until getaway day in Chicago before returning home. It was a cold and dreary setting, but Cullen finally started his first game of the tour because lefty Gerry Nyman was pitching for the White Sox. That was Nyman's career-best game—a one-hitter. No, it was not Cullen's hit.

Cullen set a Washington club record with his .994 fielding average at second last year, best in the American League. He has made 10 errors over the last three years, including his perfect record to date this year.

3 Straight Bobbles

The error total would be three lower except for the ninth inning of a game against Oakland late in the 1969 season. Tim bobbled three ground balls in a row, but he and everybody else laughed about it because the score when his little spree started was 11-2 for the Senators and his unearned run made

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Senators have discovered what Tim Cullen has known for several years—that he is the second baseman that they have been looking for.

Not a part-time second baseman, not a platoon second baseman, but a full-time, nine-inning, 162-game second baseman.

With the exception of a couple of innings at shortstop, Cullen has been at second all the way this season, even though he started only a half-dozen games in spring training.

The biggest lift for Tim this year was to shake the No. 8 spot in the batting order. He has been a different hitter in the first and second spots, or even seventh. Cullen was hitting over .250 in the Senators' first long home stand, and stinging the ball like he might hold that pace.

Cullen always has had the glove, the quick hands, fast reactions. His buddies say he is the top-fielding second baseman in the American League and they'll include Dave Johnson.

It was Tim's bat that forced four managers to platoon him, including Eddie Stanky, when Cullen spent a part season with the White Sox. The Senators traded him away, but wanted him back, with Ron Hansen figuring in the deal both times.

Crowd at Second

There have been busloads of kids and vets hanging around second base since Cullen was drafted from Boston by the Senators at the winter meetings in 1964.

Tim was drafted as a third baseman, played third and shortstop for a couple of years at Hawaii and, after making it to the big leagues, was called into Manager Gil Hodges' office early in the 1967 season.

Gil wanted to know if Tim thought he could play second base. Cullen wasn't about to say no.

That was the year he barely made 400 at-bats, his major league high by almost 150. His games-played total has been high but, in many of those games, he was a late-inning defensive replacement and did not even bat.

Platooning is better than nothing, but the quick-witted Santa Clara graduate said it can get you down. He used to read the probable pitchers for the series and if three righthanders were going for the opposition, he knew he would be on the bench.

Cullen recalled a long Western swing by the Senators in 1969, starting in the Midwest, touching all the West Coast spots when Seattle was in the league and then

the final score 11-3.

Tim has taken a ribbing because he has played for Ted Williams for two years, listened to all of Ted's tips and has hit .209 and .214 after hitting in the .230s his first three years in the majors. Williams did not change Tim's sound batting stroke, but Ted has suggested that Cullen is not one of the geniuses when it comes to thinking hitting.

Just For Sacrifices

Cullen can put the bat on the ball. "I think they kept me around one year just for sacrifices," he said. Recently in Yankee Stadium, he moved up the winning run with a beaut of a bunt.

One of the vets with the Senators' front office had to go all the way back to Gerry Priddy for a Washington second baseman who could do it all. There probably has not been one since who has had the job for a full year, but here's Tim.

Senators' Slants: Howard's home run in Yankee Stadium was his first there since September 3, 1967, off Bill Monbouquette. . . . Don Wert was returned to the active list and Tom Ragland optioned to Denver. . . . President Gabe Paul of the Indians was taking his turn on a charity telethon when the Senators were in Cleveland, and Paul called Owner Bob Short, who was in town with the Senators. Short donated \$50, \$25 for each of the games the Senators won in the series. . . . Denny McLain, who led the league in sacrifice bunts a few years ago, had two in his first three starts and certainly is the best bunting pitcher the Senators have had in years. . . . When McLain beat Sam McDowell, it was the first time either had gone the route against each other. Denny pitched a three-hit shutout while Sam walked himself out early.

The Senators were 24-38 against southpaws last year, but were doing an about-face after facing six in the early days of this year. Dave McNally was the only one who had gone the distance and beaten them. Their victims were Vida Blue, Fritz Peterson and McDowell, and they had chased Peterson and Mike Kekich in no-decision games. . . . In the first two weeks of the season, Howard had batted in the fifth spot for the first time since 1966, stolen a base to equal last year's total, and also beat out a bunt. . . . Tom McCraw lived up to his reputation as a Yankee killer. His first two homers of the season were against the Yankees, plus a triple, and Manager Ralph Houk said, "He has been murdering us for years."



Tim Cullen

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Bando Steps Up His Play to Match \$100,000 Paycheck

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND—Sal Bando is one \$100,000 ballplayer who earns his money.

Sure, he hits and he fields. The arbitrator who decided \$100,000 was a fairer figure than the \$75,000 offered, looked at Bando's 29 homers and 98 RBIs last year and then compared what **Sal** was making to what other third basemen around baseball were being paid. Bingo!

But there's more to Bando's contributions than mere figures. On a team in which trouble bubbles like a live volcano, **Bando**, more than anyone else, keeps teammates relaxed and thinking about baseball.

Bando uses humor to relieve stress. He kids teammates about making errors or striking out or throwing bad pitches or getting a big head. Most everyone waits for Bando to foul up himself and kids back, but there has been some resentment of **Sal's** needle. Yet, there is underlying respect.

"I DON'T KNOW why Charlie (Finley) didn't save himself some money and just let **Sal** manage the team," said one A's player who isn't considered a member of the **Bando** Fan Club. "Sal could do it. He really could."

As for now, Bando is content to confine his executive duties to team captain. He has said he'd be a player-manager, but only later in his career. About the only assistance he's given Manager Alvin Dark this season is with the batting order. **Bando** influenced Dark not to lower a player named **Sal Bando** from third to sixth in the order. **Bando** was proved correct.

Some folks were unkind enough to suggest that the only reason **Bando** wanted to bat third was to receive more fast balls to hit because Reggie Jackson bats fourth.

"Sure, I like batting third in front of Reggie, but it's not as big a deal as some people say," declared **Bando**. "I don't see all fast balls, you know. Against the Indians, I hit a double with the bases loaded on a 3-and-2 pitch that was a slider."

"I KNOW THEY say the year Roger Maris hit those 61 home runs that he didn't draw one intentional walk because he was batting in front of Mickey Mantle. But he still had to hit the ball!"

Bando batted .299 the first month of this season with three homers and 15 RBIs. He credited his good start to having less pressure on him. Why? Because, he said, he's making all that money.

"The funny thing is," Bando said, "I approached this year with a much more mature attitude and not like a young kid. Now that I'm being paid what I'm worth, I don't have to try for publicity or making the All-Star team to prove anything."

"I used to press so hard to make the All-Star team that I tailed off in July."

THE A'S LANDED **Bando** originally because the Indians wouldn't believe scout Elmer Flick, a Hall of Famer no less. Flick urged the Indians to sign young **Sal** when he was attending high school near Cleveland. The Indians didn't lis-

ten to Flick and **Bando** went to Arizona State University instead.

"The Indians said he was too stocky, too slow," said **Sal's** father. "But I'm glad he did go with the A's. There would have been too much pressure on him in Cleveland because this is our hometown. I think there's a lot of pressure on him when the A's come here as it is."

A's Acorns: Through the first 21 games, A's opponents scored 14 times in the eighth inning. The A's dropped three straight when opponents came up with the winning runs in the fatal eighth. . . . Reggie Jackson was reduced to designated-hitter status because of a pulled leg muscle, but last year's MVP finished the first month with 10 homers and 27 RBIs while batting .397 for the best start of his career. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spahr are a pair of A's fans who have showed up in places like Arizona, Dallas and New York to watch their favorite team. He's a weather forecaster from Chicago. . . . Vida Blue, who holds the major league record for victories in April with six in 1971, didn't win once this April.

Further adventures of pinch-runner Herb Washington, who

Arbitration Trio Orders a Refund Of Tolan's Fines

NEW YORK—An arbitration panel reversed action taken by the Reds against Bobby Tolan late in the 1973 season and ruled the Cincinnati club must repay \$350 in fines levied against the outfielder. Tolan's suspension for alleged "lack of interest in batting and fielding practice" was rescinded by the arbitration ruling announced May 2.

The panel consisted of John Gaherin, representing major league club owners; Marvin Miller, executive director of the Major League Players Association, and Gabriel Alexander, impartial arbitration chairman.

TOLAN, WHOM the Reds traded to the Padres following the 1973 season, was suspended last September after the Cincinnati club attempted to place him on the disabled list. After an altercation with Sheldon (Chief) Bender, Reds' player personnel director, Tolan was fined \$100 for failing to keep a medical appointment and \$200 for "insubordination and abusive language."

The Players' Association said Tolan was suspended after he was told that he would not be permitted to appear in uniform unless he shaved his mustache. There was no reference to batting or fielding practice or to his alleged lack of interest, the Association maintained.

Arbitration Chairman Alexander concluded "that no convincing evidence was present in support of the allegations made by the club against Mr. Tolan with regard to his suspension." The arbitrator also found, "Mr. Tolan's conduct with regard to the incidents for which he was fined was reasonable, and the fines were not justified."

Reds' President Bob Howsam said he thought the ruling was "very unfair, but we have to accept it."

stole one base in four tries the first month. Against the Orioles, he was sent in to run at first base with second occupied and asked Manager Dark whether he was supposed to steal on the first pitch. Dark said no. Bill North, second-ranking base stealer last year in the American League, said Washington was beginning to look more relaxed on

the bases. Washington got more attention from the press on trips than any other member of the A's. A report that Washington received a \$35,000 bonus and \$42,500 no-cut contract angered many of the players, but it might not be true. All told, bonus and salary, Washington is making more than \$30,000, that's for sure.

GLANCING BACK in The Sporting News

1899 . . . 1924 . . . 1949

75 Years Ago This Week

Bob Fitzsimmons is posted as an early 2-1 favorite over challenger Jim Jeffries in their bout for the world heavyweight championship scheduled to be held on June 9 at Coney Island.

Western League games drew excellent crowds this past Sunday. There were 14,000 people at St. Louis, 17,000 at Chicago and 12,000 at Cincinnati.

50 Years Ago This Week

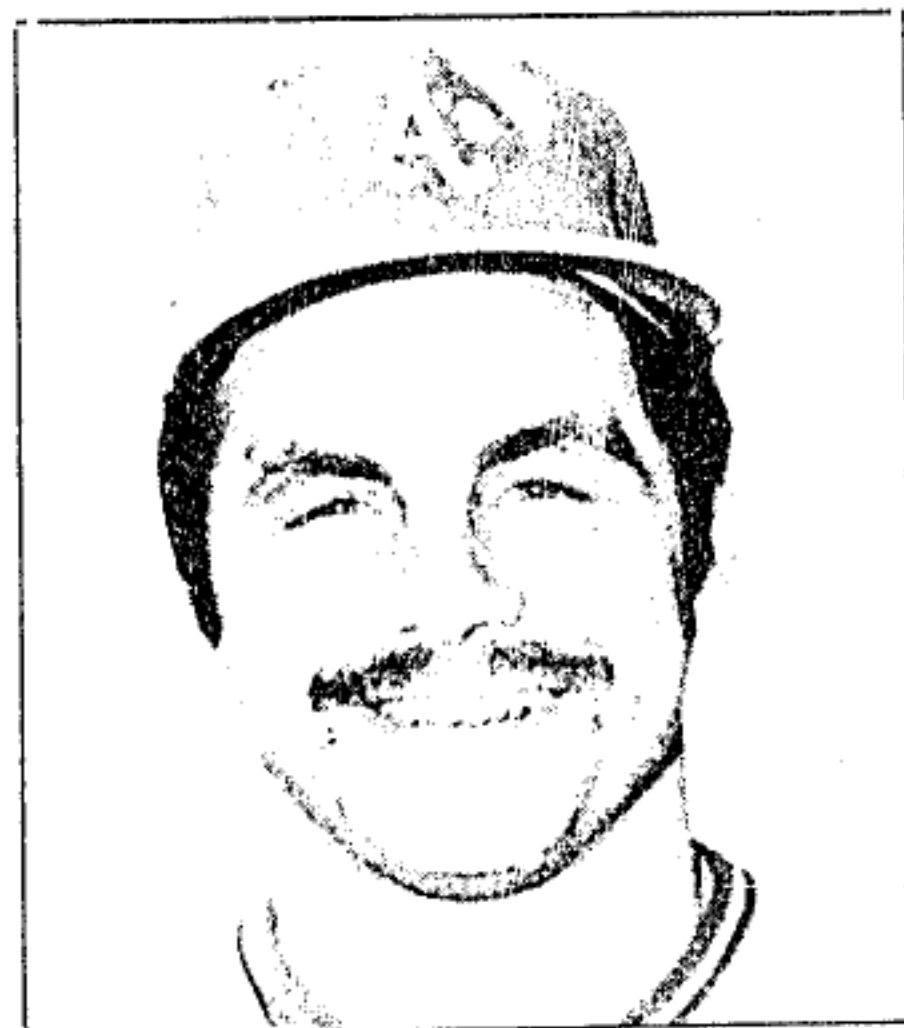
Second baseman Eddie Collins has taken over the reins of the Chicago White Sox after Manager Johnny Evers underwent an operation for appendicitis. Evers has gone to his Troy, N. Y., home for recuperation.

Harry Heilmann, veteran outfielder of the Detroit Tigers, is leading the American League in batting with a .464 average. St. Louis Cardinal second baseman Rogers Hornsby's .451 mark leads the National League.

25 Years Ago This Week

In a startling move, the New York Yankees optioned star outfielder Charlie Keller to their Newark farm club in the International League. Keller, who has been hampered by injuries the past two seasons, will stay at Newark until he works himself into playing condition, according to Yankee Manager Casey Stengel. The Yankees also optioned catcher Ralph Houk to Kansas City of the American Association.

Ralph Branca, the big, hard-throwing righthander of the Brooklyn Dodgers, tops National League pitchers with a 6-0 record.



Sal Bando

Majors' Turnstiles Dip

Compiled By Mike Douchant
(Through Games of May 2)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Club	Home Dates	1974 Attendance	1973 Attendance	Increase Decrease
Baltimore	11	140,539	137,567	+ 2,972
Boston	13	151,241	206,156	- 54,915
California	10	122,386	133,892	- 11,506
Chicago	13	182,441	182,673	- 232
Cleveland	10	77,958	141,351	- 63,393
Detroit	7	104,218	114,911	- 10,693
Kansas City	10	141,782	170,252	- 28,470
Milwaukee	9	92,759	92,145	+ 614
Minnesota	10	45,443	70,144	- 24,701
New York	13	151,200	168,247	- 17,047
Oakland	8	66,473	93,988	- 27,515
Texas	10	154,653	104,395	+ 50,258
Totals	124	1,431,093	1,615,721	- 184,628

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Club	Home Dates	1974 Attendance	1973 Attendance	Increase Decrease
Atlanta	15	144,010	129,763	+ 14,247
Chicago	7	114,042	148,571	- 34,529
Cincinnati	10	223,026	196,418	+ 26,608
Houston	14	178,167	261,997	- 83,830
Los Angeles	15	382,386	278,896	+ 103,490
Montreal	3	36,822	41,130	- 4,308
New York	5	107,182	113,066	- 5,884
Philadelphia	9	136,850	139,349	- 2,499
Pittsburgh	9	113,836	161,616	- 47,780
St. Louis	12	211,834	124,407	+ 87,427
San Diego	14	189,579	132,355	+ 57,224
San Francisco	13	111,896	130,789	- 18,893
Totals	126	1,949,630	1,858,357	+ 91,273

Grand Totals..... 250 3,380,723 3,474,078 - 93,355

Note: Totals based on attendance figures announced in daily box scores.



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