

Walls Plugs Big Phil Gap at Far Turn

Ex-Flyhawk Supplies Punch
and Makes Strong Bid for
Regular Job at Hot Corner

By ALLEN LEWIS
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

One of the biggest trouble spots on the Phillies this season has been third base. The club began the campaign with veteran Al Dark holding down the job. Ted Lepcio was given a brief trial here and there, and Rookie Joe Morgan had a shot at the post.

Then, almost in desperation, Manager Gene Mauch tried Lee Walls at the hot corner, and the veteran outfielder has been making a determined bid to nail down a regular job.

Mauch had little to lose by the experiment with Walls. Dark, a valuable hand despite his advancing years, simply didn't hit enough to make up for his lack of range in the field and was batting only .242 when he was sold on waivers to the Braves the night of June 22.

Morgan, secured from the Braves' Louisville (American Association) farm team in exchange for Dark, arrived with no great fanfare, but was expected to add some punch to the lineup. The 29-year-old New Englander had batted .280 with the Colonels before being brought up and had knocked in 30 runs in 55 games.

.134 Bat Average—Only Two RBIs
Used regularly against righthanded pitching for more than a month, Morgan was a distinct disappointment with the bat. Although he fielded well, his batting average when Walls took over the job was a sickly .134, and Joe had driven across merely two runs.

His extra-base output was confined to two doubles and two triples, and the majority of the time he hit the ball to left field, although a lefthander.

As a result of Walls' sparkling performance, Morgan was sold to the Indians on waivers, August 8.

Lepcio, who came to the Phils in the trade that sent Shortstop Chico Fernandez to the Tigers, has also been a disappointment, although he has never been given a full chance on an everyday basis.

Mauch, a teammate of Lepcio on the Red Sox in 1957, kept hoping for one of Ted's hot streaks that marked

PIRATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

triples, in the next three games with the Giants.

Pirate Scoreboard: The Pirates took two out of three from the Dodgers at Forbes Field and snapped five-game winning streaks by Stan Williams and Don Drysdale. . . . Vern Law was 4-0 against the Dodgers who hadn't beaten the Mormon righthander at Forbes Field since May 30, 1957. . . . George Witt won his first game since September 5, 1958, when he received credit for beating the Dodgers, August 4. . . . Roy Face won his first game since June 18 by getting credit for a relief win over the Giants, August 7. . . . A Face-to-Dick Groat pickoff play killed a Giant rally in the eighth inning. . . . Maury Wills, who batted .394 against the Bucs last year, was hitting .470 against 'em this year, with 24 hits to his credit. . . . Groat chalked up 27 hits off the Giants in 18 games. . . . The Pirates hit the million mark at the gate for the third straight year and the seventh time in history, August 6. . . . The Giant series drew 97,000 fans and the Bucs were en route to an all-time attendance record at Forbes Field, aiming at 1,600,000. . . . Willie Mays came into Forbes Field batting .400 against the Pirates and with five homers in his last five games against the Corsairs, but Pirate pitchers held him to two singles in 15 trips.

Handyman



Lee Walls

Phil Twin-Bill After Night Game Produces No Yelps

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Remembering the furore created in June when the Phillies tried to schedule a double-header following a night game with the Pirates, fans here were wondering "how come" when the Dodgers went along with such an arrangement without batting an eye.

The Phils were forced to book the twin-bill when a game set for August 5 was rained out. A night game was on the docket for the following night, so the home management rescheduled the rainout as part of a double-header on Sunday, August 7.

As Gil Hodges, veteran Dodger, pointed out, the situation was different this time. "The Pirates' mixup was early in the season," he said. "They could have made it up some other time. But we only come into Philly one more time. And you could imagine what would happen should the game be moved back to them, only to have another rainout."

Earlier, protests over a night game-double-header setup by the Pirates were upheld and the Phils were informed that it couldn't be done. **GEORGE METZGER.**

his play with the Bosox and Tigers. However, possibly because of the fact that only once during the season—in late June—was Lepcio in the lineup for as long as four days in a row, Ted did not hit as well as had been expected.

Lepcio's average when Walls got his chance was only .216, and he had batted in just six runs, with five doubles and two homers.

Walls has not knocked down any fences since taking over as a regular, but he has supplied some extra punch to the Phils' attack, which needed all the bolstering it could get. In his first nine games at third base, Walls hit at a .260 clip, batted home a run every other game on the average and collected several extra-base hits. In the field Walls has been adequate.

Lee Doesn't Care Where He Plays
Walls is not a complete stranger to third base, but it is hardly his best spot. He played the bag in the minors, and occasionally in the National League, but most of his previous experience with the Pirates, Cubs, Reds and Phils has been in the outfield.

"I don't really care where I play," Walls said of Mauch's latest move. "Just so I get a chance to swing the bat."

"I've been lucky," Walls added. "They haven't hit many balls my way. But I don't mind playing third, although I used to have trouble throwing from there."

"My first year in baseball at Modesto (California), I led the third basemen in the league in errors. In fact, I made so many wild throws my manager accused me of having friends sitting behind first and of making sure they all got souvenirs."

Mauch, who usually replaced Walls in the late innings to improve the defense when the Phils were ahead, was gambling that Lee would hit a hot home-run streak such as he enjoyed with the Cubs in 1958.

That year, Lee batted 24 homers, his major league high, and more than half of them were hit in the two West Coast parks. At the Los Angeles Coliseum, the 27-year-old Californian slammed nine homers in 11 games,

Base Bandits Just Sitting Ducks to Senators' Rifle-Armed Battey

Earl Shoots Down 3 Speedy
Chisox in One Game for
Top Performance of Year

By BOB ADDIE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Last year the Senators had "buffet-style" catching so far as base-stealers were concerned. That is, the base-stealers generally helped themselves.

This year, things are different with Earl Battey behind the plate. The husky backstop was obtained from the White Sox this spring along with First Baseman Don Mincher for Roy Sievers (plus \$150,000 for Washington). Battey is filling a void which has bothered the Nats like a sore tooth for many years.

Just to give you an idea, Battey had thrown out 25 runners through August 7. Last year, Clint Courtney, generally regarded as Washington's No. 1 backstop, threw out two men.

Perhaps the greatest exhibition by Battey (or any other catcher this season) was in the first game of a recent Chicago series. Earl threw out three men, including the speedy Luis Aparicio, the fleet Jim Rivera and the fast Al Smith.

It was the way Battey did it which impressed. Aparicio and Rivera both were caught by such a big margin that they attempted to turn back to first base and were trapped in rundowns. Nobody could remember the last time three of the Go-Go Sox were caught "speeding" in one game.

Runners Get Jump on Ramos

It's significant, too, that seven of the 24 thefts against Battey (through August 7) occurred when Pedro Ramos was pitching. Baseball men say Ramos has a tendency to "lean" when he's pitching, and the runners get a good jump on him. If the pitchers give him a chance, Battey can throw out anybody with his rifle arm. Battey is just a natural catcher and thrower. His form behind the plate is reminiscent of the great Roy Campanella.

Battey gets rid of the ball in a hurry and he throws "bullets." He's not afraid to throw to any base, either, and his rifle arm has kept many an ambitious runner nailed to the bag.

It's been a while, since Mickey Grasso, in fact, that the Nats have had a catcher as daring as Battey. Grasso had a fine arm, too, but wasn't as accurate as Battey. Grasso never hesitated to throw to first, second or third. He once picked Phil

Rookie Mahaffey Picks Off First Three Base-Runners

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—While baseball does not keep any official records in the category, Art Mahaffey, Phillies' rookie pitcher, may have set a mark for picking runners off first in his first few innings in the National League.

Mahaffey, recalled from Buffalo (International) on July 28, picked off the first three runners to reach base against him. On July 30, the righthander nipped the Cards' Bill White and Curt Flood in the ninth inning and, on his next appearance, August 3, picked the Giants' Jim Marshall off first after a walk in the second inning.

including three in one contest over the friendly left field screen.

Walls finished that season with a .304 average in 136 games and batted in 70 runs. If Lee could add some power to the Phils' attack, Mauch will feel the gamble has been worthwhile.

Philly Fodder: Lee Walls is enthusiastic about playing in Philadelphia. "This is a fine place and the fans have been just great," Walls said. "I really like to play here, and the Phils are a good ball club on the way up." . . . The Phils passed the 700,000 mark in attendance in their series with the Dodgers that concluded, August 7. . . . In the first game of the twin-bill that day, the Dodgers handed Relief Star Dick Farrell his third loss

Nails 'Thieves'



Earl Battey

'Battey Will Be Best in Two or Three Years'—Lavagetto

CHICAGO, Ill.—"In two or three years, Earl Battey will be the best catcher in the American League."

That was Cookie Lavagetto's smiling size-up of the Washington catcher after Battey had clouted a decisive homer and made a clutch fielding play in the Nats' 2 to 1 victory over the White Sox, August 4.

Battey, traded by the Chisox in the Roy Sievers deal, tagged Early Wynn for a round-tripper in the eighth inning and then trapped Jim Rivera off base for the final out in the ninth inning.

"With the possible exception of Sherm Lollar and Yogi Berra, there isn't a finer defensive catcher in the game today," said Lavagetto. "Battey's one of the reasons we've improved so much. Last season everybody stole on us. They're not doing it this year. Earl makes 'em stick close to base when they get on. He has a rifle arm, knows how to handle pitchers and they like to have him behind the plate."

Rizzuto off third base twice in one game.

That's the sort of catching Battey has given Washington this season, plus a "heavy" bat which can break up a game, as he did against his former White Sox mates in a recent series.

"Baseball men are always hoping a trade turns out well for both parties concerned," White Sox Boss Bill Veeck said one night. "I mean it about

in 12 decisions, and his second at the hands of the Dodgers. . . . Farrell, who appeared in 52 games in 1957 and 54 the next season, appeared headed for a new high in relief appearances this year. With 50 games remaining, the big righthander had relieved in 44 contests. . . . Robin Roberts came within one out of a shutout, August 6, in his 3 to 1 win over the Dodgers.

Robbie, who allowed 13 hits, chalked up his first victory over the Dodgers since September 10, 1958. The margin of victory in Robbie's eighth win was a two-run homer by his batterymate, Rookie Clay Dalrymple. In Roberts' seventh triumph, a 4 to 3 win at Chicago, July 26, Dalrymple batted a three-run homer in the ninth inning. . . . By winning the first three games of their series with the Giants at the start of August, the Phils ran their winning streak over the Candlestick crew to four straight, the longest since 1956. . . . Johnny Callison's two-run pinch-homer in the ninth inning that gave the Phils a 6 to 5 win over the Giants, August 3, was the Quakers' fourth pinch four-bagger of the season. They had hit nine at this point a year ago. . . . Shortstop Joe Koppe, out of action since he was injured, June 3, returned to the active list when Joe Morgan was sold to the Indians on August 8. . . . When Curt Simmons pitched the Cardinals to a 6 to 0 victory in the nightcap of an August 9 two-nighter at Connie Mack Stadium, it marked the former Phil bonus hurler's third victory over his old mates. The nine ciphers also extended the southpaw's record against the Phils to one earned run in 26 innings.

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Top-Notch Backstop Throws
Bullets to Any Bag, Keeps
Nats' Twirlers Keyed Up

the deal being beneficial. The reason is that then you can make another trade with that same club and have the fans of both cities behind you.

"I feel that we got a fine player in Sievers and I also feel that Washington did very well in getting Battey. That is an example of a trade which has been beneficial for both clubs."

Pitchers Rate Earl Tops

The Washington fans, plus Manager Cookie Lavagetto, echo these sentiments. But more important is the reaction of the pitchers. All the Washington pitchers like to work with Battey.

Again, there's a touch of Campy in Battey. Earl is clever at nursing his pitchers along, encouraging the jittery ones and keeping the competitive spark burning fiercely in the boys with a lot of confidence.

Capital Close-ups: Earl Battey sometimes throws too hard even for his pitchers. . . . It's traditional, of course, for the catcher to keep the pitcher "awake" by returning the ball with a lot of mustard on it. . . . Battey fired one back to Pete Ramos recently, but Pete was bending down for the resin bag and was hit in the chest by the throw. . . . It was nothing serious. . . . The Senators drew almost 100,000 in their five-game series with the White Sox in Chicago. . . . Cookie Lavagetto has had a couple of bouts with the virus this summer. . . . Cookie took his 11-year-old son, Ernie, on his first baseball swing recently. . . . Ernie, his brother Mike, 12, and Mrs. Lavagetto spent a month with Cookie before returning to their home in Orinda, Calif., a San Francisco suburb. . . . On two successive Sundays, Washington's Cuban aces, Pete Ramos and Camilo Pascual, "opened and closed" the show. . . . Ramos started a double-header against the Indians in Washington and was knocked out in the third inning. He came back to pitch three scoreless innings in the nightcap. . . . The following week in Chicago, Pascual started the first game against the White Sox and also was chased in the third inning. . . . He came back to pitch two scoreless games in the nightcap. . . . Billy Gardner broke a dental bridge in a collision with Shortstop Jose Valdivielso a few weeks ago. . . . Gardner's new bridge cost the club \$400 "wholesale."

GIANTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

for Vinegar Bend, a six-hitter for Jones.

Defensive gems abounded, Virdon and Roberto Clemente, particularly, shining afield. Virdon climbed the ivy walls in left and left-center to spear Giant drives. Clemente crashed into the right field stands to glove Willie Mays' shot. He injured a knee and gashed his chin so deeply that five stitches were required.

After Virdon opened the tenth with a walk, Groat bunted to Jones. Sam threw the ball over Blasingame's head and Virdon slid under Felipe Alou's spectacular throw to the plate.

Giant Jottings: Pitching Coach Bill Posedel celebrated his fifty-fourth birthday, August 3. . . . When the Phils' Clay Dalrymple homered in the ninth inning, August 3, to defeat the Giants, 6 to 5, it marked the eighth homer Reliever Billy Loes had allowed in 30½ innings. . . . Willie Mays drove in only two runs in his last 14 games, but there was reason: He didn't have many chances to drive 'em in. Nobody was on base ahead of him. . . . Both Felipe Alou and Orlando Cepeda, however, were hitting. Alou, in his last 19 games, averaged .310 with eight RBIs, three doubles, nine runs and one homer. He also stole seven bases. . . . Cepeda, in 13 games, ripped five doubles, two homers, drove in ten runs and averaged .400. . . . Pitcher Jack Sanford, who bowed to the Bucs, 4 to 1, August 7, was kayoed three times in six days.

Killer Gunning Home-Run Foes

Slugger Makes Up for Late Start With Four in Four Games

By ARNO GOETHEL



Harmon Killebrew

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—The king is alive! Long live the King!

Scratched from the early running of the American League home-run derby, the Twins' Harmon Killebrew was coming on fast in late June to move into the pack of musclemen straining to replace him as the loop's power king.

Still suffering from a wrenched right knee when the season opened, Killebrew played the Twins' first five games, collecting one homer. When water formed on the knee, he was benched and missed 24 games before he returned to full-time duty.

After 17 games on the bench, the defending A. L. home champion (with 48 in 1962) made four pinch-hitting appearances and went the first four innings of a May 11 game.

His actual return, however, came on May 14. He slugged his second homer in the Twins' thirty-second game on May 17.

It was a slow start for The Killer, but he caught up with a rush when he compiled a fantastic slugging streak starting on June 18.

While running up a nine-game hitting streak, Killebrew included five homers and four doubles among 13

hits in 32 at-bats for 32 total bases. That's a slugging percentage of 1.000.

The surge started in typical Killebrew fashion with four homers in four consecutive games, three against Chicago and the fourth against Baltimore.

According to the Twins' system for measuring the length of homers, the blasts traveled 432, 430, 393 and 415 feet.

* * *

Harmon's Homer Paces 1-0 Win

Killebrew's hitting streak was boosted to nine games with one of his most important homers of the season, a 418-foot poke over the center field fence on June 25. It was only one of two hits yielded by Detroit's Jim Bunning and rewarded Lee Stange's five-single pitching with a 1-0 victory.

The .406 hitting streak hoisted Harmon's average 34 points to .259. The slugging spree gave him a percentage of .576 for the season.

"Sure, I'd like to repeat as the league's home-run champion," Killebrew agreed, "but there are a lot of good hitters in the running."

The general feeling, however, was that the others had their opportunities to get away to a flying start while Killebrew was cooling his bat on the bench.

As the season neared the midway mark, the Killer was coming.

Twins Keep Fit on Daily Diet of Dailey Hill Feats

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

With apologies to the Huntley-Brinkley show, recent progress of the Twins must be presented as the weekly Dailey report.

As the Twins continued to press the Yankees, White Sox and Red Sox for the American League lead, they were doing it with Harmon Killebrew's booming bat, Earl Battey's backstopping, Shortstop Zoilo Versalles' glove and Johnny Goryl's emergence from the ranks of the scrubins.

Most of all, however, they were doing it with the rubber arm of their righthanded relief ace, Wild Bill Dailey.

With Camilo Pascual and Jim Roland nursing injuries that completely kept them out of action, and Starters Jim Perry, Jim Kaat and Dick Stigman restrained by minor hurts, the Twins went one stretch of 11 games without a complete game from the mound staff.

Four Saves by Ace Fireman

They won five of the 11. Dailey saved four with the most remarkable fireman performances witnessed at Metropolitan Stadium since the Twins came to Minnesota.

The 28-year-old Virginian made six appearances in one span of seven days, starting June 16, allowing four hits and one run over ten innings.

His streak started in the opener of a double-header with Los Angeles on June 16. He entered in the ninth with the Twins trailing, 4-2, and Angel runners on second and third with one out. He walked Bob Perry intentionally before Battey nailed Hank Foiles at the plate on a missed squeeze bunt. On the same play, Bat-

'Grandpa' Query by Barber Clips Graying Skipper Mele

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—A local barber could have been called for clipping Manager Sam Mele recently.

While Sam was getting his locks trimmed, his five-year-old daughter, Marsha, was flitting about the shop and stirred the barber's interest.

Finally he asked Mele: "Is that your granddaughter, mister?"

Only 41 despite his graying hair, Mele was cut to the quick.

Muscle Men Fail; Tiny Zoilo Paces Twins With 2 Homers

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—With Lefthander Mike McCormick pitching for Baltimore, Manager Sam Mele of the Twins packed his lineup with husky righthanded sluggers on June 22.

The 200-pound-plus club included Harmon Killebrew, Vic Power, Bob Allison, Wally Post and Earl Battey.

But it was 145-pound Zoilo Versalles who did the most damage to McCormick, poling his fourth and fifth homers of the season to decide the 3-1 victory. Vic Power's third homer accounted for the other run.

They had Lee Thomas vulnerable going into third, but the catcher's second error of the season sailed into left field, allowing Thomas to score before Dailey whiffed Julio Navarro. The Twins lost, 5-3.

Dailey made a brief appearance in the nightcap, getting the Twins out of a seventh-inning jam with a strike-out and double-play pitch. The Angels won in 11 innings, 5-4.

The Twins, who dropped two notches to sixth place with the double loss to the Angels, returned to fifth by taking two of three decisions from the White Sox. Dailey saved the first victory for Jim Perry, 5-3.

He was back on the beam two days later, giving up only two hits over four shutout frames to preserve a 9-4 triumph over the Chisox for Jim Kaat.

The next day, June 21, Dailey rode to Lee Stange's rescue with one out and the bases full of Orioles in the ninth inning of a two-night opener. The bases stayed full and the Twins won, 5-2.

Bill Rescues Jim Perry

On June 22, Dailey was beckoned from the bull pen when Perry was injured by an eighth-inning smash off the bat of Baltimore's Luis Aparicio. Wild Bill came in with one out, Orioles on second and third and the Twins holding a precarious 3-1 advantage.

Battey saved the bacon with a fantastic play on Russ Snyder's first-pitch nubber about 15 feet down the first base line, literally falling on his face after throwing a strike to first while the Oriole runners held their bases. Dailey racked up his sixth save of the season by getting Brooks Robinson on a called third strike and breezing through the 1-2-3 ninth.

Following this streak of six appearances within seven days, Dailey said: "I'm still eating breakfast with my right hand. I'll start thinking about taking a rest only if I have to start drinking coffee lefthanded."

Dailey wasn't among the four hurl-



Bill Dailey

ers Manager Sam Mele employed in a 4-1 loss to the Orioles the next day, but made his twenty-sixth appearance of the season on June 24 to chalk up his seventh save, the fifth in a period of nine days. He threw double-play pitches in the eighth and ninth to preserve a 6-4 verdict for Kaat.

Seven Missions in Ten Games

Over the longer stretch of seven appearances in ten games, Dailey worked 11½ innings, yielding five hits, two walks (one intentional) and one run. He struck out 11.

Twin Tales: John Goryl came off the bench to relieve Bernie Allen at second base on June 22 and shored up the Twins' defense. . . . Trainer Doc Lentz had three cold-pack patients after the 4-1 victory over Baltimore on June 23. Zoilo Versalles was struck above the right ear by a one-hop grounder, Earl Battey was nailed on the left wrist by a pitch and Reliever Ray Moore was struck just above the left ankle by a line drive. . . . When Sam Mele started Vic Wertz (38), Wally Post (33) and Vic Power (31) in the same lineup for the first time on June 23, the Twins fielded a team averaging 30 years in age, their oldest in many seasons. . . . When Rich Rollins missed two days because of hip injuries incurred diving at balls hit into the hole, Power crossed the diamond to fill in at third base and handled eight chances—some of them difficult—without an error. "Guess I'm just an old pro," Power grinned. . . . A virus continued to bug Bob Allison, but the big righthander stayed in the lineup. . . . Camilo Pascual exercised the pulled muscle near his right shoulder blade and voiced some improvement, but still was unable to return to the mound. He was hurt on June 12.

'Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow' Battey Says of Man in Mask

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Time was when Earl Battey of the Twins had a low boiling point and a lot more hair.

"I used to have quite a temper," the burly backstop reminisced in the dugout one day. "I remember one time in 1954, my second year in pro ball. I was playing at Waterloo, Ia.

"One game I came to the plate after the three guys ahead of me all had hit home runs. I knew I was going to have to go down. I told the catcher, 'You go out and tell that pitcher if he throws at me, I'm going to kick him in the seat of his pants, then I'm coming back here and do the same to you.'

"Sure enough—the first pitch came right at my head and I had to scramble out of the way. The catcher got a big kick out of it. He just squatted behind the plate and laughed like crazy.

"I couldn't see the funny side of it, so I lifted his mask with my left hand and POW!—punched him in the nose with my right.

"He went down and out. I was fined \$200.

"Yeah, I used to have a temper.

"I also used to have a lot of hair, but a catcher's mask is tough on the hairline. Rubs it off in the front. My eyebrows were heavy, too—even went right across this space over my nose.

"But you put this mask on and flip it off a few thousand times and it's hair today, gone tomorrow."

BATTEY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Jim King on Memorial Day. The Senator's spikes gouged a four-inch slice of leather out of Battey's left shoe heel. "I thought I was cut," Battey said, "because my heel had that tingling sensation." The spikes, however, didn't penetrate his skin.

Actually, it was through an injury to another catcher that Battey became a backstopping bulwark.

* * *

Break Came in High School

It happened at Jordan High School in Los Angeles when Earl was a freshman and first reported out for baseball.

"I was a softball pitcher and had lettered in basketball," he recalled, "but never had been interested in baseball. But, since it was only our second year of baseball, I thought I could make the team.

"I went out for center field and sat out the first six games. Then our catcher split his finger. We had only 12 men on the squad and the other two extras were lefthanded pitchers so our coach gave me the catcher's mitt. That was it. When the other catcher came back, they put him in right field."

More valuable to young Battey than his high school baseball were his experiences as a week-end player in Los Angeles.

Between the ages of 14 and 17, Battey played with Watt's Giants, an adult men's team. "My uncle, Clifford Prelow, who had been in the Dodger system, played second base for Watt," Earl recalled, "and he helped me quite a bit.

* * *

Played Against Major Stars

"I went from there to a Sunday semi-pro league and played against major leaguers like Johnny Lindell, Bob Lemon, Duke Snider, Jim Bredeweser, Lou Berberet and Irv Noren. On Saturdays, I played for the Chicago White Sox team in a junior league sponsored by the majors against Billy Consolo, Albie Pearson, Joe Amalfitano and Ed Palmquist."

At 18, Battey signed with the White Sox in 1953. After a brief look at the tag end of 1955, the Sox brought him up in 1956. But the Sox had Sherm Lollar and Les Moss to do the catching, so sent him out to Toronto in 1956 and started him at Los Angeles in the Coast league in 1957, before he returned to the majors.

Even then, he ran into John Romano, who was Lollar's No. 1 understudy. When Battey did get into a game, he didn't hit too well.

"I was a second or third-string catcher," he said. "When they took Lollar out for a rest, they didn't expect me to hit. So I concentrated on defense and learning the hitters.

"Al Lopez, the manager, kept asking me questions about how I'd pitch to this guy and that guy. Ray Berres helped, too.

"Lopez broke me of bad habits, too;

Battey's Tips to Catchers—Stand Up Close to Batters

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Just how much, Earl Battey was asked, does a catcher need his mask? How often during a season will a foul tip strike the mask?

"Just once is enough to make it all worth while," he retorted.

"But I'd guess a catcher gets hit in the mask on the average of 12 times a season. Seems to go in streaks. You might go a couple months without ever being hit on the mask, then wham—all of a sudden you get hit several times in one game.

"That's why catchers get as close to the batter as they can. The closer you are, the less chance you have of getting hit because of the angle.

"The worst place to get hit is in the Adam's apple. Man, that'll kill you. I remember one spring I was hit in the Adam's apple five times. It's murder." GOETHEL.

I always had locked my elbows between my knees. Lopez taught me to keep my hands out in front while awaiting the pitch.

"Lopez is just like Paul Richards, one of my other managers at Chicago—they can tell you what to do and then get out there and show you how."

* * *

Got Little Chance to Play

With Lollar enjoying four of his best years during Battey's stay with the Sox, Earl spent most of his time picking up splinters and soaking up knowledge.

"I never got discouraged," he said. "It's different sitting on the bench for a contender than it would be for a second-division club."

Still, he admits one reason he wants to play every game—including both ends of a double-header and despite his numerous injuries—is because "after sitting on the bench for four years, you don't ever want to get that feeling again."

When Battey was traded to Washington just before the 1960 season—along with Don Mincher and \$150,000 for Roy Sievers—the Senators' first-string catcher was Hal Naragon, now a Twins' coach.

"He had the knowledge," said Earl, "which is the toughest thing to replace."

Cookie Lavagetto, then manager of the Nats, soon made Battey his No. 1 backstop and credited him with much of the Senators' success in rising from eighth to fifth in the 1960 season.

Battey hit .302 in the club's first year in Minnesota, 1961.

Since 1960, there's been no doubt about who's No. 1 behind the plate for Cal Griffith's clubs.

How long can Battey keep going? He says:

"It all depends on just how long Doc Lentz can continue to keep me in one piece."

Battey Thumbs Nose at Bumps, Bruises

Ace Receiver Hikes Homer, RBI Figures

By ARNO GOETHEL
TWIN CITIES, Minn.

Earl Battey, work-horse catcher for the Minnesota Twins, credits his indestructibility to Trainer George Lentz.

"If it wasn't for Doc," said Battey, "I'd be in trouble and out of the lineup."

It's true that Battey has been commanding much of Lentz' time, ointments, needles and medication this season.

Through the first 11 weeks of the campaign, Battey's injuries would have taxed the combined TV talents of Dr. Kildare, Ben Casey, The Nurses and Young Dr. Malone, to say nothing of Old Dr. Malone.

Foul tips splashed Battey with bruises on both hands, both feet, his right knee and his right elbow.

He had pulled hamstring muscles in his right leg and wrenched his right knee.

In addition, he had been hit by pitches in the head, left bicep, right shoulder and left wrist.

Still, the 228-pound, 28-year-old backstop was playing at a pace that promised to make Manager Sam Mele a piker as a prognosticator.

Better Than Boss Predicted

During spring training, Mele predicted: "We can figure on Battey catching 140 games for us this season."

Through the Twins' first 71 games, Battey was behind the plate in 69.

And despite the open season on his anatomy, Battey was batting well and appeared destined to set new personal highs in home runs and runs batted in.

Behind the plate, he lost none of the skill that earned him the No. 1 ranking as the best defensive catcher in the American League the last three years.

When his throw attempting to catch Washington's Chuck Hinton stealing rolled into center field on May 29, it was Battey's first error since August 23, 1962.

Between those two errors, he had gone 72 games and 477 chances without a miscue.

Before his last 1962 error, he had gone 27 games and 154 chances since the prior one. That gave him a total of one error over 100 games and 632 chances.

Stafford Pitch Decked Him

Battey's second pick-off of the season came in the game following his most serious injury of the campaign and played a big role in launching the Twins on a long winning streak which carried them into the first division of the American League.

On May 15, he was struck on the helmet by Yankee Bill Stafford's high, inside pitch. It felled the big guy, who nevertheless climbed to his feet and trotted gamely toward first base.

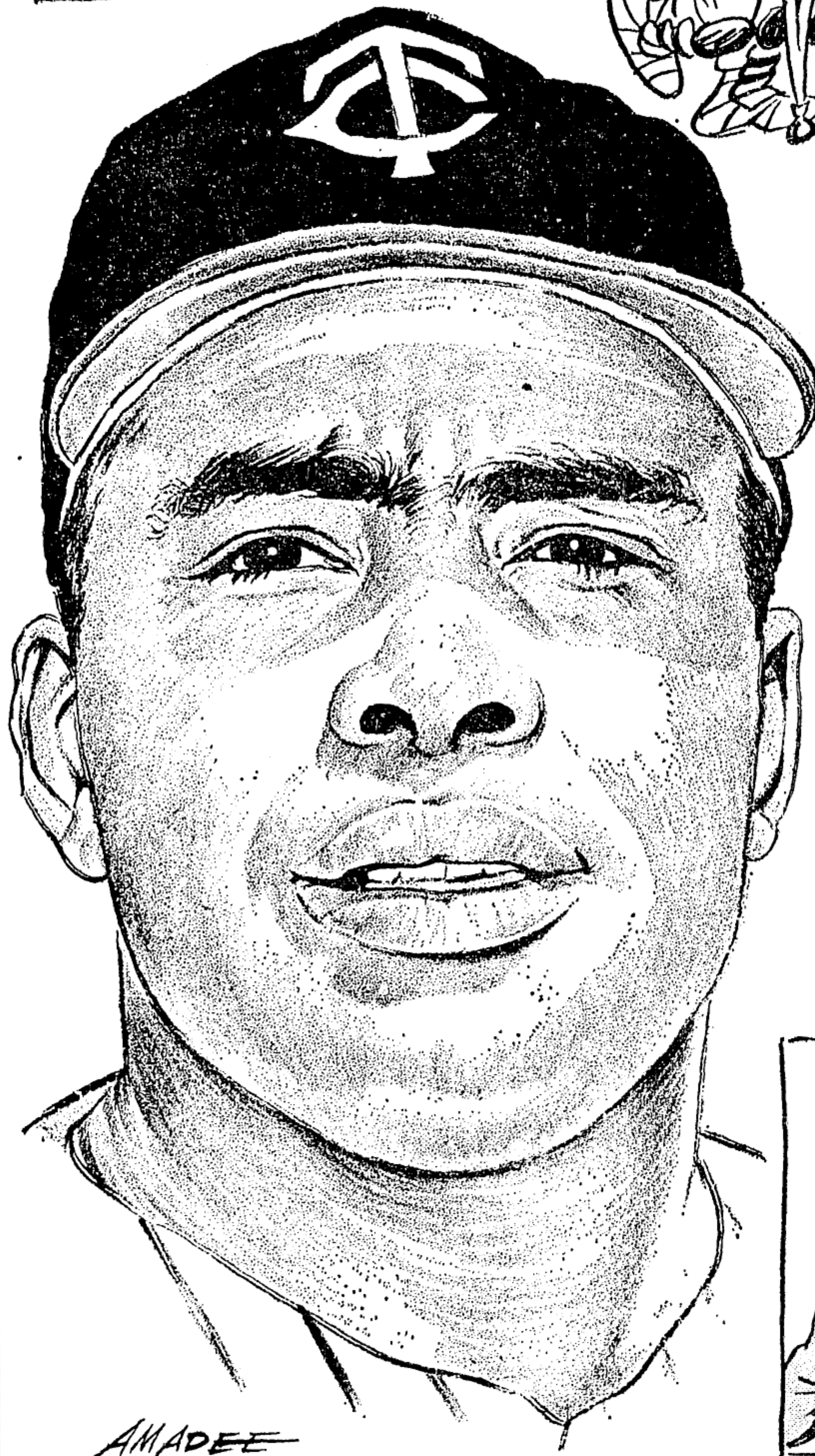
Earl left the game only on the insistence of Mele and Lentz.

X-rays were negative. Or, as Battey explained it: "They showed nothing."

When the Twins resumed action two days later against Cleveland, they were three runs behind the Indians, who had a runner on third with one out in the bottom of the third. Big Joe Adcock bounced a grounder to Second Baseman Bernie Allen, who threw to the plate. Al Luplow (180 pounds) crashed into Battey but was tagged out.

Then Tito Francona cracked a single, moving Adcock to second and bringing up dangerous John Romano, the Tribe's hard-hitting catcher and

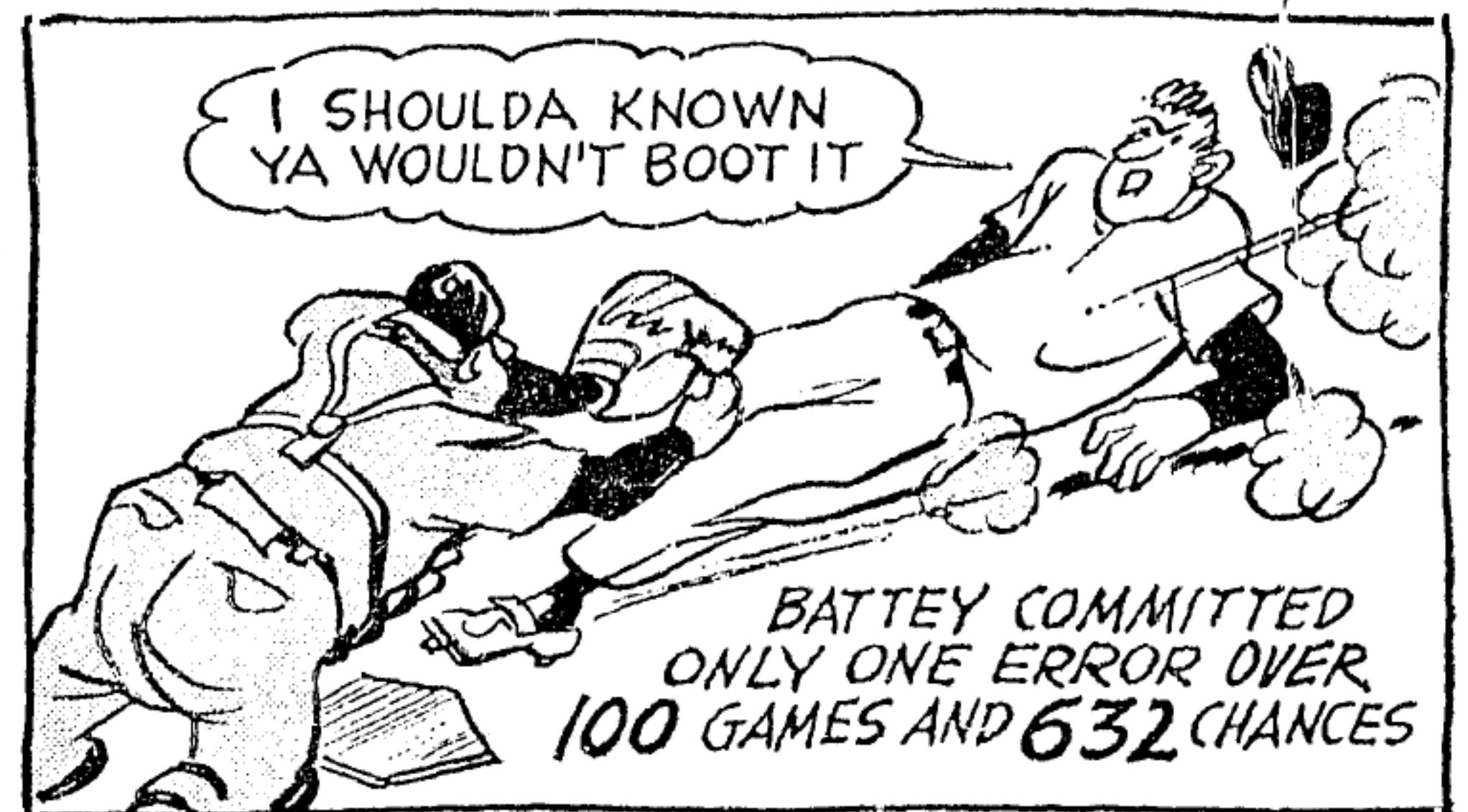
BRUISED AND BATTERED BUT UNBOWED, Earl BATTEY PROVIDES THE TWINS WITH THE RUGGED AND INTELLIGENT BRAND OF CATCHING SO VITAL TO ALL PENNANT CONTENDERS...



WELL, THAT GIVES YOU A PASSING GRADE FOR TODAY



EARL LEARNED ALL ABOUT CATCHING STRATEGY FROM TWO OLD MITT MASTERS, AL LOPEZ AND RAY BERRES, WHILE SITTING ON WHITE SOX BENCH...



Battey Saved by Doc Lentz' Helmet

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

George Lentz' success is going to Earl Battey's head.

When Battey was struck on the head by a Bill Stafford pitch in a game with the Yankees this season, Trainer Lentz of the Twins said:

"Without the new improvement this year, Earl's helmet wouldn't have helped him."

Ever since a Bobby Locke pitch fractured his left cheekbone two years ago, Battey has been wearing a batting helmet especially designed by Lentz.

The main feature is an aluminum flange that's attached to the regular helmet, protecting the vulnerable part of Battey's face. Last year the flange was four and one-half inches square. This year Lentz has devised one that is six and one-half inches square.

Stafford's pitch struck Battey on the edge of the flange.

"There's no doubt of it," said Lentz. "If he had been wearing the old flange, Earl would have been injured seriously."

"I went the limit in enlarging the flange this year to make it as big as I could without obstructing his

vision. It covers the whole weaker side of his face."

Most players treat their batting helmets as if they were tops, spinning them toward the dugout after a turn at the plate. Not so with Battey.

"His helmet's sacred with him," Lentz said. The helmet proper also is a Lentz innovation. "Doc" was trainer for the club when it was based in Washington.

Helmet Devised for Gil Coan

In 1949, Gil Coan of the Senators suffered a fractured skull. To protect him from further injury while allowing him to play, Lentz came up with the helmet.

"We took about six dozen old balls," Lentz related, "and kept the 'Iron Mike' mechanical machine throwing them at the helmet—must have hit it six or seven hundred times."

"Inside the helmet was three-sixteenths of an inch of foam rubber, then a sheet of carbon paper and on the very inside a sheet of plain white paper."

"By noting the size of the marks made by the carbon paper, we could determine the resistance of the helmet and the foam rubber."

one of Battey's rivals for All-Star honors.

After Jim Perry's second pitch to Romano, Battey fired to second. It was a sneaky throw that fooled Perry, who is new to the Twins and not completely aware of Battey's penchant for catching runners off base (13 in 1962). Perry reached for it but could only nick it with the tip of his glove as it whizzed past.

Newcomer Adcock Fooled

New to the American League after 14 seasons in the National, Adcock also was fooled into thinking it was just another return throw to the pitcher.

Allen wasn't fooled, however, and was waiting for it at second, where he put the tag on Adcock to get the Twins out of an inning that had loomed ominously only brief minutes earlier.

The Twins took heart from the defensive heroics and awoke from their hitting slump to score nine runs before the Indians could tally again.

Battey miraculously escaped injury in a plate collision with Washington's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8, COL. 4)