



Glenn Beckert Follows the Flight of His Double Play Relay Toward First Base as the Giants' Bob Barton, Separated From His Helmet, Slides Into Second.

Beckert Modern Star With Old-Time Style

By JEROME HOLTZMAN

CHICAGO, Ill.—Ever hear of a ball player who believes home runs mess up his batting swing?

Believe it or not, there is such a player. He is Glenn Beckert, the dandy second baseman of the Cubs whom Manager Leo Durocher insists is the most underrated player in the National League.

"He's some kind of player," says Durocher. "He's the best second baseman in the league."

The 28-year-old Beckert, now in his fourth full season in the major leagues, is having "some kind of year."

He has been keeping his average in the high .280s, plays a wonderful second base and, in addition, has further distinguished himself by batting safely in 27 consecutive games, tops in both leagues.

Beckert is a spray hitter, but he does slug an occasional home run. Last year, for example, he hit five homers. This season he has hit two.

Homers Okay, But —

"If I hit a homer, it's always a surprise," Beckert explained. "I suppose you can say it's a big thrill, but when I hit 'em, they mess me up. They can mess me up for two, maybe three weeks."

Beckert further explained that when he does clear a fence, he sometimes gets the idea he's a home-run hitter and, as a result, may continue to muscle up in the hopes of hitting the long ball.

"It's a mistake," Beckert said. "It's like Pete Reiser (a Cub coach) has been telling me. He says, 'Beck, when you have 340-foot power, you don't try to hit homers.'"

Beckert fully agrees.

"I'm better off when I hit the

ball on the ground," he explained. "I'm dead if I hit the ball in the air. I get most of my hits when I'm hitting the ball down."

Beckert, as you can plainly see, is a most unusual ball player.

The old-timers, especially, should love the guy because all he does is stand up at the plate and try to meet the ball.

Homer Swing Can Hurt

"I don't want anyone to get the idea I'm against home runs," Beckert said. "But trying for home runs hurts a lot of fellows. The ones who can't handle it can be damaged."

He explained that he wasn't speaking of such power hitters as Hank Aaron or Willie Mays or Willie McCovey or Richie Allen.

"The fellows I'm talking about are the ones who hit maybe ten to 12 homers a year. They are the ones who are damaged by swinging for the fences."

Beckert says these hitters prob-

ably would add anywhere from 20 to 40 points to their averages if they swung straightaway and merely tried for base-hits.

This is what Beckert does.

He chokes up about two inches on the handle of his bat and simply tries to hit the ball where it is pitched.

Moreover, Beckert also "gives in" to the pitcher when he has two strikes against him.

"With two strikes, I choke even more," Beckert revealed. "I know I'm conceding more to the pitcher. But I don't want to strike out."

And Beckert seldom does.

He has led the National League in the last two years in fewest strikeouts per time at bat—for a player in the lineup every day.

Last season, Beckert struck out at the ratio of once in every 25.44 times he faced the pitcher. His figures were 25 strikeouts for 636 appearances. He also led in 1966 when his strikeout ratio was 19.25.

Outstanding Team Man

Beckert is an outstanding team man and figures that his value to the club increases as his strikeouts diminish.

He is also the type of player who constantly "gives himself up" in an effort to advance base-runners. Beckert is a good right-field hitter and will almost always be hitting behind the runner, either in an effort to advance a man from second or enable a runner to go from first to third.

Moreover, he also has developed into a better-than-average bunter. Coaches Reiser and Joe Amalfitano worked with him to improve his bunting in spring training and this has paid off.

Beckert has beaten out five bunts this season. Three of these

bunts helped prolong his 27-game hitting streak.

Like the old-time hitters, Beckert doesn't use the same batting stance against all pitchers. He varies his stance according to the pitcher and, for example, moves back in the box when he is up against a hard-throwing lefthanded pitcher.

"If I go four or five games without a hit, I'll be making changes up there," Beckert revealed. "I'll move up on the plate, or I'll move back. I'll always be doing something."

Then he added: "Or I'll bunt." Beckert then repeated something Reiser had told him during spring training.

"Pete said, 'All you have to do is lay down a bunt once and they (the opposition) will never forget it.'"

Bunt Threat Opens Defense

This threat of a bunt has opened up the defense and has enabled Beckert to get several extra hits on ground balls through the hole between third and short.

"I like to spread that defense," Beckert said. "It gives me a lot of gaps."

Beckert has set no goals for himself—say, like 200 hits,—but will be "content" if he can hit .290.

"Everyone would like to hit .300," he said, "and I'm very capable of hitting .300, but I take a lot of pride in giving myself up. I might give myself up 15 or 20 times a year. That's probably enough to keep me from .300."

Beckert says that he's surprised that more players don't see things his way.

"I think things are going to be changing," he explained. "I know all about that talk that 'home-run hitters drive Cadillacs,' but I think it's going to be different now."

"The owners and the club management are going to give more recognition to the fellows who get on base with singles and who hit for a decent average."

"The game today is defense and pitching. I predict you're going to see more fellows go to the heavier bat and just try to meet the ball."

Beckert was asked if he was going to buy himself a Cadillac next year.

"No, I don't want a Caddy," he said. "It doesn't mean that much to me. But I'm going to be in the Cadillac class."

Glenn Would Like to See More Banks-Type Players

CHICAGO, Ill.—Cub second baseman Glenn Beckert says he wishes there were more players in the majors like Ernie Banks, the veteran Mr. Cub.

"I'm an Ernie Banks fan," Beckert said. "He's great. I admire his enthusiasm and attitude. He takes a lot of ribbing (from other players) because he's always saying how great everything is, but I wish there were more fellows like him."

"I've never heard Ernie say he's too tired to play, or that he's not feeling good, or that the season's too long, or that there's too much travel. He has a great attitude."



Glenn Beckert... Second Time Easier?

Midwest Market Tip— Keep an Eye on Beckert

By JEROME HOLTZMAN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—If big league players were listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the cry around the land would be "Buy Beckert." This would be the time to call your broker and purchase a share of the veteran Cub second baseman who is coming off a poor year and who easily could rally and regain his place among the National League batting leaders.

Glenn Beckert, the Cub dandy—and one of Leo Durocher's all-time favorite players—hit only .270 last season. This represented a drop of 72 points from the year before when he was third in the National League with a .342 average. Beckert had such a hot bat in '71 he might have won the batting title if he hadn't missed most of the last month because of injuries.

"I GUESS MY stock really went down last year," Beckert said, referring to the plunge. "But don't ask me why. I really don't know. Well, maybe I know one thing. I was standing closer to the plate last year. It was something I was doing without even noticing it."

Beckert did notice it, however, in early September after watching miles of films from the previous year. He immediately corrected this and responded by hitting at a better than .300 clip during the last month of the regular season.

Whether Beckert can zoom to .342 is questionable. It could be that his .342 average was merely a one-year flash. But Beckert, himself, is convinced he can rise again.

"I DID IT ONCE, didn't I?" he said. "Then, I think it should be possible for me to do it again. In fact, they say it's supposed to be easier the second time."

Beckert is, of course, essentially a singles hitter. He doesn't swing for the fences and generally hits two to three home runs a year. He is content to meet the ball and, as a

result, usually leads the league or is among the leaders in fewest strikeouts. Last year he fanned 17 times in 474 at-bats; the year before 24 in 530 official trips.

"The good Lord just didn't give me power," Beckert explained. "If I started swinging for the fences, I wouldn't be around much longer."

LIKE MANY of the Cub regulars, Beckert has been around quite a while. He's been the Wrighleys' No. 1 second baseman for the last eight seasons. He became a regular at the beginning of the 1965 campaign, a few months before Don Kessinger took over as the Bruins' regular shortstop.

The Beckert-Kessinger keystone combination is among the best in Cub history and would certainly rank with the legendary Joe Tinker-Johnny Evers duo and the more recent combination of Billy Jurgens and Billy Herman.

"THERE'S NO doubt we help each other," Beckert said, speaking of Kessinger. "It's a mutual thing, I help him and he helps me."

Like many of the other Cub players, Beckert believes this may be the year that the club finally puts it all together.

"Everybody on the club has a great mental attitude," Beckert said. "We all feel we can win it. I don't know if we can, but we certainly feel we can."

Beckert is one of the few Cub players who didn't have any particular ups and downs with Durocher, who managed the Cubs for 6½ years before being replaced last August with Whitey Lockman.

DUROCHER, FROM the beginning, always admired Beckert and was constantly praising him to the writers. But Beckert never appeared to court Durocher's praise and certainly wasn't "teacher's pet."

Introducing Lockman-Led Cubs

JOHN HOLLAND—Vice-President

WHITEY LOCKMAN—Manager

PITCHERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	IP.	W.	L.	ERA.
Aker, Jack	R	R	6:02	203	July 13, 1940, Tulare, Calif.	New York (A)	6	0	0	3.00	
Baddock, Tommy	L	L	6:01	190	July 13, 1949, Summit, N. J.	Chicago	67	6	6	2.96	
Bonham, Bill	R	R	6:03	190	Oct. 1, 1948, Glendale, Calif.	Quincy	34	3	2	3.71	
Gura, Larry	L	L	6:00	170	Nov. 26, 1947, Joliet, Ill.	Midland	95	7	6	3.33	
Hooton, Burt	R	R	6:01	210	Feb. 7, 1950, Greenville, Texas	Wichita	10	1	0	2.70	
Jenkins, Ferguson	R	R	6:05	205	Dec. 13, 1943, Chatham, Ont., Can.	Wichita	125	10	4	3.54	
LaRoche, Dave	L	L	6:02	200	May 14, 1948, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Chicago	58	1	1	3.10	
Locker, Bobby	R	R	6:03	195	March 15, 1938, Hull, Iowa	Wichita	130	11	4	3.65	
McGinn, Dan	L	L	6:00	178	Nov. 29, 1943, Omaha, Neb.	Chicago	12	0	0	3.75	
Pappas, Milt	R	R	6:03	204	May 11, 1939, Detroit, Mich.	Chicago	218	11	14	2.81	
Pizarro, Juan	L	L	5:11	190	Feb. 7, 1937, Santurce, P. R.	Chicago	289	20	12	3.21	
Reuschel, Rick	R	R	6:03	215	May 16, 1949, Quincy, Ill.	Minnesota	95	5	7	2.84	
Roe, Mike	R	R	6:03	185	April 29, 1950, Providence, R. I.	Oakland	78	6	1	2.65	
Todd, James	L	R	6:01	180	Sept. 21, 1947, Lancaster, Pa.	Chicago	63	0	5	5.86	
						Chicago	195	17	7	2.77	
						Chicago	59	4	5	3.97	
						Wichita	102	9	2	1.33	
						Chicago	129	10	8	2.93	
						Midland	102	4	5	5.19	
						Wichita	142	9	7	4.37	
CATCHERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Estrada, Francisco	R	R	5:08	182	Feb. 12, 1948, Navajoa, Son., Mex.	Salt Lake C.	21	0	4	.268	
Hibbs, Jim	R	R	6:00	192	Sept. 10, 1944, Klamath Falls, Ore.	Rochester	65	6	15	.252	
Hundley, Randy	R	R	6:00	175	June 1, 1942, Martinsville, Va.	Wichita	70	5	39	.275	
Martin, J. C.	L	R	6:02	195	Dec. 13, 1936, Axton, Va.	Chicago	114	5	30	.218	
Rudolph, Ken	R	R	6:01	180	Dec. 29, 1946, Rockford, Ill.	Chicago	25	0	7	.240	
						Chicago	42	2	9	.236	
INFIELDERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Beckert, Glenn	R	R	6:01	190	Oct. 12, 1940, Pittsburgh, Pa.	Chicago	120	3	43	.270	
Bourque, Pat	L	L	6:00	210	March 23, 1947, Worcester, Mass.	Wichita	119	20	87	.279	
Fanzone, Carmen	R	R	6:00	200	Aug. 30, 1941, Detroit, Mich.	Chicago	11	0	5	.259	
Hickman, Jim	R	R	6:04	205	May 10, 1937, Henning, Tenn.	Chicago	86	8	42	.225	
Hughes, Terry	R	R	6:01	185	May 13, 1949, Spartanburg, S. C.	Chicago	115	17	64	.272	
Kessinger, Don	L-R	R	6:01	175	July 17, 1942, Forest City, Ark.	Wichita	78	13	37	.302	
LaRusa, Tony	R	R	6:01	187	Oct. 4, 1944, Tampa, Fla.	Chicago	149	1	39	.274	
Pepitone, Joe	L	L	6:02	199	Oct. 9, 1940, Brooklyn, N. Y.	Richmond	122	10	42	.308	
Popovich, Paul	L-R	R	6:00	175	Aug. 18, 1940, Flemington, W. Va.	Chicago	66	8	21	.262	
Rosello, Dave	R	R	5:11	160	June 26, 1950, Mayaguez, P. R.	Chicago	58	1	11	.194	
Santo, Ron	R	R	6:00	190	Feb. 25, 1940, Seattle, Wash.	Wichita	137	2	46	.271	
Ward, Chris	L	L	6:00	180	May 18, 1949, Oakland, Calif.	Chicago	5	1	3	.250	
						Chicago	133	17	74	.302	
						Midland	132	7	64	.297	
						Chicago	1	0	0	.000	
OUTFIELDERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Alexander, Matt	L-R	R	5:10	162	Jan. 30, 1947, Shreveport, La.	Midland	124	5	45	.270	
Cardenal, Jose	R	R	5:10	150	Oct. 7, 1943, Matanzas, Cuba	Chicago	143	17	70	.291	
Hiser, Gene	L	L	5:11	175	Dec. 11, 1948, Baltimore, Md.	Wichita	63	10	36	.282	
LaCock, Peter	L	L	6:02	200	Jan. 17, 1952, Burbank, Calif.	Chicago	32	0	4	.196	
Monday, Rick	L	L	6:03	195	Oct. 20, 1945, Batesville, Ark.	Midland	129	8	70	.306	
Tyrone, James	R	R	6:01	185	Jan. 29, 1949, Alice, Texas	Chicago	5	0	4	.500	
Williams, Billy	L	R	6:01	175	June 15, 1938, Whistler, Ala.	Chicago	138	11	42	.249	
						Midland	128	16	71	.282	
						Chicago	13	0	0	.000	
						Chicago	150	37	122	.333	

Larry Jansen—Coach

Hank Aguirre—Coach

Pete Reiser—Coach

Ernie Banks—Coach

Expos at the Starting Gate

JAMES FANNING—General Manager

GENE MAUCH—Manager

PITCHERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	IP.	W.	L.	ERA.
Gilbert, Joe	R	L	6:01	167	April 20, 1952, Jasper, Texas	Quebec City	7	0	1	1.29	
Jarvis, Pat	R	R	5:10	180	Mar. 18, 1941, Carlyle, Ill.	Montreal	33	0	1	8.45	
Marshall, Mike	R	R	5:10	180	Jan. 15, 1943, Adrian, Mich.	Atlanta	99	11	7	4.09	
McAnally, Ernie	R	R	6:01	195	Aug. 15, 1946, Mount Pleasant, Texas	Montreal	116	14	8	1.78	
McSween, Denis	R	L	6:03	180	May 16, 1952, Valleyfield, Que., Can.	Montreal	170	6	15	3.81	
Moore, Balor	L	L	6:02	184	Jan. 25, 1951, Smithville, Texas	Quebec City	120	9	8	3.38	
Murray, Dale	R	R	6:03	200	Feb. 2, 1950, Cuero, Texas	Quebec City	71	5	3	0.63	
Renko, Steve	R	R	6:06	226	Dec. 10, 1944, Kansas City, Kan.	Montreal	148	9	9	3.47	
Stoneman, Bill	R	R	5:10	168	April 7, 1944, Oak Park, Ill.	West Palm B.	10	3	1	5.40	
Strohmayr, John	R	R	6:00	181	Oct. 13, 1946, Belle Fourche, S. D.	Quebec	108	11	5	2.42	
Torrez, Mike	R	R	6:05	202	Aug. 28, 1946, Topeka, Kan.	Montreal	97	1	10	5.20	
Walker, Tom	R	R	6:01	188	Nov. 7, 1948, Tampa, Fla.	Montreal	251	12	14	2.98	
						Montreal	77	1	2	3.51	
						Montreal	243	16	12	3.33	
						Montreal	75	2	2	2.88	
CATCHERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Boccabella, John	R	R	6:01	199	June 29, 1941, San Francisco, Calif.	Montreal	83	1	10	.227	
Footo, Barry	R	R	6:03	205	Feb. 16, 1952, Smithfield, N. C.	Quebec City	124	16	75	.253	
Humphrey, Terry	R	R	6:03	188	Aug. 4, 1949, Chickasha, Okla.	Montreal	69	1	9	.186	
INFIELDERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Bailey, Bob	R	R	6:00	187	Oct. 13, 1942, Long Beach, Calif.	Montreal	143	16	57	.233	
Breeden, Hal	R	L	6:02	200	June 28, 1944, Albany, Ga.	Peninsula	88	18	53	.308	
Fairly, Ron	L	L	5:10	178	July 12, 1938, Macon, Ga.	Montreal	42	3	10	.230	
Foli, Tim	R	R	6:00	176	Dec. 8, 1950, Culver City, Calif.	Montreal	140	17	68	.278	
Frias, Pepe	R	R	5:10	159	July 14, 1948, S.P. de Macoris, D. R.	Montreal	149	2	35	.241	
Hunt, Ron	R	R	5:11	180	Feb. 23, 1941, St. Louis, Mo.	Evansville	132	2	41	.219	
Jorgenson, Mike	L	L	6:00	192	Aug. 16, 1948, Passaic, N. J.	Montreal	129	0	18	.253	
Laboy, Coco	R	R	5:10	173	July 4, 1940, Ponce, P. R.	Montreal	113	13	47	.231	
Torres, Hector	R	R	6:00	176	Sept. 16, 1945, Monterrey, Mex.	Peninsula	33	2	17	.327	
						Montreal	28	3	14	.261	
						Montreal	83	2	7	.155	
OUTFIELDERS—		Bats	Thrs.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Date and Place of Birth	1972 Club	G.	HR.	RBI.	Avg.
Day, Boots	L	L	5:09	164	Aug. 31, 1947, Iilon, N. Y.	Montreal	128	0	30	.233	
Fairey, Jim	L	L	5:10	177	Sept. 22, 1944, Orangeburg, S. C.	Montreal	86	1	13	.234	
Mangual, Pepe	R	R	5:10	157	May 23, 1952, Ponce, P. R.	Peninsula	144	16	57	.261	
Mashore, Clyde	R	R	5:11	182	May 29, 1945, Concord, Calif.	Montreal	8	0	0	.273	
Rivera, Jesus	R	R	5:10	186	Aug. 2, 1952, Ponce, P. R.	Montreal	93	3	23	.227	
Roque, Jorge	R	R	5:10	185	April 28, 1950, Ponce, P. R.	West Palm B.	125	3	60	.260	
Scott, Tony	L-R	R	6:00	164	Sept. 18, 1951, Cincinnati, Ohio	Tulsa	64	8	25	.233	
Singleton, Ken	L-R	R	6:04	213	June 10, 1947, New York, N. Y.	Arkansas	22	1	19	.341	
Swanson, Stan	R	R	5:11	168	May 19, 1944, Yuba City, Calif.	St. Louis	32	1	5	.104	
Woods, Ron	R	R	5:10	171	Feb. 1, 1943, Hamilton, Ohio	Quebec City	135	2	39	.214	
						Montreal	142	14	50	.274	
						Portland	89	5			