

Best Player in Game? Stock Answer is Bonds

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO — Bobby Lee Bonds never seems satisfied. He always is trying to do better—and usually does.

The exceptional competitor from Riverside, Calif., broke into the Giants' lineup with a grand-slam home run in June, 1968, and has been amassing amazing accomplishments ever since.

At 27, Bonds is mature as well as gifted. He not only heads the 1973 Giants in almost every statistical category, but leads or is among the first five in the National League in nearly all.

"Bonds has the best statistics in baseball," observed Sparky Anderson, manager of the Reds and of the National League All-Star team. "He can prepare himself for a trip to Kansas City. He'll be on the All-Star team."

Gene Mauch, outspoken manager of the Expos, stated flatly: "Bonds may be the best player in baseball today."

WHILE PLEASED to receive compliments from such experts as well as from thousands of fans around the league, Bobby is exactly the opposite of complacent or overconfident. He's an avid team man, too, inevitably placing winning above individual acclaim.

"I always read my own statistics," the Giants' right fielder said. "I believe every player knows his own pretty well. But if you study your statistics too much, you might begin to worry."

"Or you might become too proud of them and be in real trouble. Too much emphasis on your records isn't wise."

"At the start of this season, I said, as leadoff hitter, I hoped to drive in 50 or 60 runs. By the middle of June, I already had 45 RBIs. So what should I do? Quit?"

"NO, EVERY day I figure the season has just begun for me. I go out there to get more hits, steals, everything."

In his sixth year with the Giants, Bonds seems certain, barring injuries, to become only the second player in major league history to repeat the feat of hitting 30 home runs and stealing 30 bases in the same season. Willie Mays, one of Bobby's heroes, combined the 30s in both 1956 and 1957. Only three others have achieved the 30-30 mark even once.

"About home runs," Bonds said. "I don't know how many I might hit. I've felt 20 or 25 home runs come naturally for me. But guys like Willie McCovey and Willie Stargell already have proved they can hit 40 or more in a season. I'm not saying I'm not capable of doing that. But I haven't, so I don't know."

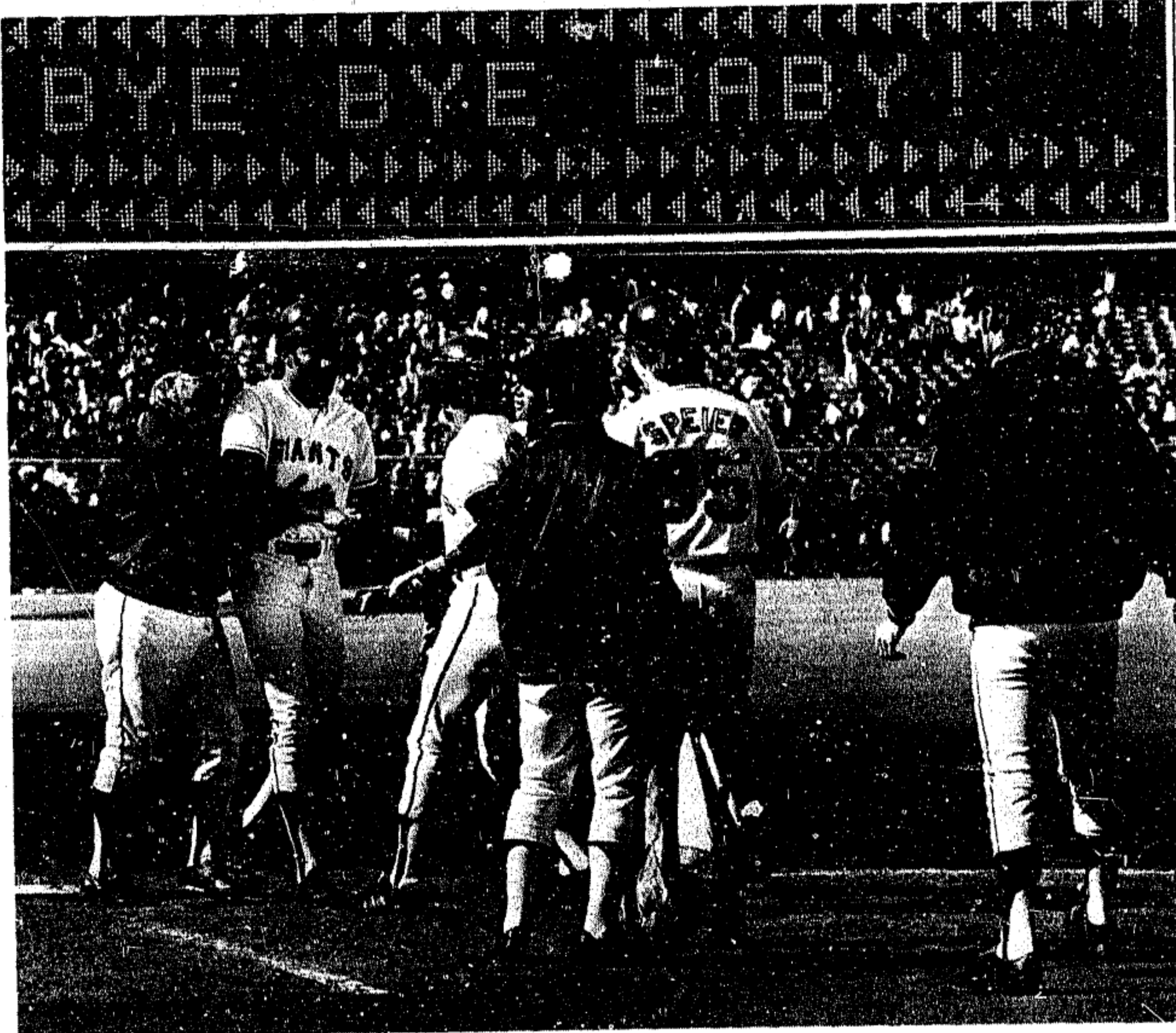
One statistic in which Bonds must reign supreme is the off-beat department of hitting "good morning" home runs as first batsman for his side in a game.

WHEN BOBBY greeted Don Gullett of the Reds that way June 20, it was his eighth first-inning leadoff homer of the season.

He clouted first-up homers against Reggie Cleveland of the Cards April 28; Bob Gibson, Cards, May 8; Mike Corkins, Padres, May 14; Tommy Moore, Mets, May 28; Nelson Briles, Pirates, June 5; Steve Blass, Pirates, June 6, and Dick Ruthven, Phillies, June 16.

"I always expect a pitcher to want to get ahead of the leadoff hitter, keep him off the bases," Bonds said. "As a result, a leadoff man has a good chance to get a pitch he can hit out. Being able to hit the ball out of the park is a definite advantage for a leadoff hitter. He has an opportunity to put his team in front early."

His shot off Gullett was the 22nd first-up, first-inning home run of Bonds' career. This surpassed the previous National League high of 21,



BOBBY BONDS receives a hero's welcome from Manager Charlie Fox (left) and Giant teammates after his homer defeated the Braves, 4-3, in an early-season game.

attained by Lou Brock of the Cards after many more seasons. The major league mark is 28 by Eddie Yost of the Washington Senators, also in far more years than Bonds has played.

IN ADDITION to power, Bobby has many qualifications required by an outstanding leadoff hitter. He has get-on-base ability. Once on, he's one of baseball's best base runners. Yet he isn't at all happy about his 1973 work on the paths.

"My goal, one that I'll always make public, is to steal 50 bases," Bonds said. "Even when I was in the minor leagues, I insisted I'd do that some day in the majors. And I've come fairly close with over 40 steals three times."

"But this season I've been taking too much for granted on the bases. I've been a little lax. In trying to improve my jump on the pitcher, I've been committing myself too soon. So I've been caught stealing more than ever before. A good base runner shouldn't be caught often—and I was thrown out 10 times while stealing my first 22 bases."

Bonds, as a matter of fact, would prefer to bat lower in the Giants' order, but Manager Charlie Fox commented:

"IT'S AN advantage to have a guy like Bonds leading off. He can hit the big one. When he does it to open the game, it gives the team a tremendous lift. He's always a threat to do that. And if Bonds gets on base, he can steal. Bobby is very different with two strikes on him this year. He still makes contact then."

Stifling his desire to try batting third or fifth, Bonds rationalized. "Not only Charlie but my teammates seem to want me to continue to lead off. If my teammates wanted me down in the order, I'd go to Charlie and ask him about it. Garry Maddox and Gary Matthews are good potential leadoff men, but they have less experience. Of course, as leadoff hitter, you often get up an extra time. I might be sacrificing a time at bat if I hit lower in the lineup."

Bonds recalled that in 1970 his 200th hit, a triple, came on his final, ninth-inning time at bat on the final day of the season in Houston. If

he hadn't been leading off, he probably would have wound up with 199 or fewer hits.

WITH 92 HITS by June 20, Bonds appears sure to collect 200 this year, barring the unforeseen. With 68 runs on the same date, he led the league in this category, in which he tied for the 1969 crown. Bobby's batting average June 20 was .329, fourth in the league. His 18 home runs tied for second place, his 46 RBIs were fourth. His 16 doubles were tops. His 22 steals weren't too far off the pace. He led the Giants in game-winning hits and twice had decided games with extra-inning homers.

"Bonds can do anything required of a super star," Fox said. "He really does it all. If he misses a fly ball, he'll make up for it with 50 good catches. At bat, there's absolutely nothing he doesn't do. He has cut down his strikeouts and increased his power. And then there's that great speed."

In right field, Bonds provides the kind of defense that won him a Gold Glove Award for leading N. L. outfielders in fielding in 1971 and then was a member of THE SPORTING NEWS N. L. All-Star fielding team. He has a super-strong arm. He has continued to contribute outstanding sprinting catches.

"I THINK our outfield is the best anywhere," Bonds said. "It's certainly the fastest. Maddox and Matthews inspire me to run in the outfield and on the bases. We're not always going to be young, and we want to run while we can. Speed helps the team so much."

Bonds still strikes out often, but he isn't threatening his own major league record of 189 whiffs, established in 1969.

"If I worried about strikeouts, I might still get that many," he said. "But I don't. I'm waiting on pitches somewhat more now. I only try to hit a home run when the situation calls for it. But if you give me a bat, I'll swing. A swinging bat is a dangerous bat."

Bonds is an opportunist. If a pitcher gives Bobby an inch, he'll take a mile.

"You can throw him 99 curves,"

Sparky Anderson said, "and one fast ball and he'll hit that one a long way."

McCovey pointed out: "Bobby has improved 100 percent in hitting breaking balls. By not swinging at so many bad curves, he's getting better pitches to hit."

Bonds is a leader as well as a super star. At a young age, he has more experience than most other Giants.

"I talk a lot with Maddox and Matthews and some of the others," he said. "But they have to make their own plays. I don't. I like to watch the other teams' hitters closely in batting practice. I encourage others, especially outfielders, to do that. I got the idea from Willie Mays. I think Mays became such a great outfielder by watching hitters closely, realizing where they were most likely to hit the ball, knowing their possibilities and potentials."

Mays and the late Roberto Clemente were Bonds' idols as a kid in Riverside, as a minor leaguer and

as a Giant. He tries to follow many of their examples.

"I'M PLAYING more or less my type of baseball now," Bobby said. "In past seasons, I tried to pick people up. When Mays or McCovey weren't hitting or were hurt, I felt I had to go out there and hit home runs and so on. Now we have guys like Maddox, Matthews, Ed Goodson, Tito Fuentes and Chris Speier to pick people up. I just try to get on base, score runs, play my own way."

Bonds has had too many outstanding days this season to enumerate. He had four hits in one game and three in each of seven others by June 20. He homered, doubled, singled and stole three bases against the Braves after squeezing a rolled-up wet towel in his left hand all afternoon to reduce pain from a forearm smacked by a pitch. He hit in 15 consecutive games. He played in all the Giants' first 70 games—nothing unusual, since he got into at least 153 games in each of the previous four seasons.

Ever since he learned to play ball with his older brothers and a sister on a field behind the Bonds' house in Riverside, Bobby has been a determined competitor. He hit 12 Little League home runs when he was 12 and batted .516 in Colt League ball at 16. He was outstanding in four sports at Riverside Poly High School.

"MY FATHER encouraged us to play ball," Bonds said, looking back. "He bought me a glove when I was 12, but I lost it. When I was 14, I mowed enough lawns to buy another glove for \$4.95. I made my own web in that one. I used that glove all the way into my first season after the Giants signed me, when I was with Lexington (Western Carolinas) in 1965. I gave it away to a kid who never missed a game there."

It was at Lexington that Max Lanier, the manager, put Bobby in right field to take advantage of his strong right arm. It turned out to be a fortuitous move for the Giants.

Bonds likes to play his music, from rock to sacred on Sunday mornings, and he loves to fish. He takes his sons with him on long and short fishing excursions. Barry, 9, is a good young fisherman as well as a promising ballplayer, according to his proud dad. Rickey, 7, and Bobby II, only 3, are learning both arts.

Top thrills in Bonds' career, he said, have been (1) the Giants' 1971 National League West championship; (2) playing in the 1971 All-Star Game, and (3) hitting a grand-slam in his first major league game.

Bobby undoubtedly has more thrills to come.

Goodson and Matthews Plugging Giant Holes

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO—"We have three main concerns," Charlie Fox, manager of the Giants, said before spring training.

"Pitching is one, of course. Our other principal concerns are third base and left field. These positions are wide open."

Pitching remains a severe problem for the Giants, whose starters frequently have encountered trouble. But third base and left field are in strong, competent hands.

Ed Goodson, who never had tried the position before in the major leagues, has taken over at third. Gary Matthews, a right fielder in the minors, has handled left field

capably.

BOTH HAVE provided proficient defense. Moreover, both have hit consistently and with power.

Goodson, having spent parts of 1971 and 1972 with the Giants, was a better known quantity than Matthews. But big Ed's position previously had been first base.

Matthews, a rookie who attracted attention with his authoritative hitting in 20 Giant games last September, shared left field with Gary Thomasson, a lefthanded hitter, early in the current race.

But Matthews demonstrated ability to hit righthanded as well as lefthanded pitching and won the

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Bonds Sets Sights on 40 Homers, 50 Steals

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—Less than 24 hours after he was traded to the Yankees, **Bobby Bonds** was sitting in the temporary offices of his new team, telling the press how happy he was with the trade. Since actions speak louder than words, you knew **Bonds** was happy.

He had taken a midnight flight out of San Francisco, flown all night, grabbed three hours' sleep on the plane and arrived in the Yankee offices at 10:30 the next morning, New York time.

If **Bonds** was happy, his new manager, Bill Virdon, was ecstatic.

"I liked the trade (**Bobby** Murcer for **Bonds**) before," Virdon said. "After talking with **Bonds**, I like it even more."

THE NEW YANKEE, who will play right field, bat third and wear his old No. 25, made promises of fidelity, loyalty and production to his new employer, suggesting that it is not outside the realm of possibility that he will hit 40 home runs and steal 50 bases.

He never has done either, achieving highs of 39 homers and 48 steals, but he pointed out, "I'm happy and a happy ballplayer performs. Jimmy Wynn proved that. I hope I have my best season in 1975."

While here, under strong questioning, **Bonds** also laid rest, to everyone's satisfaction, ugly rumors about his personal life. He was not only willing to talk about them, he even seemed eager to have things out in the open.

The rumors, which circulated when it was learned the Giants were looking to dispose of him, said that **Bonds** had a drug habit and a drinking problem.

YES, BOBBY SAID, he had heard the rumors. No, he insisted, they were not true.

"I don't know who started it," he said. "I'd like to find out. I heard it this spring. Charlie Fox came to me and asked me, 'Do you mess with drugs?'"

"I said, 'Do I what? Are you kidding?'"

"I have never in my life had any type . . . I will not let the doctor give me any type of medicine with a drug in it. I have never smoked a marijuana joint. I have never taken a pill. When I heard it, it kind of shook me. I'd like to know who in the heck started it."



Bobby Bonds . . . Squelching Rumors

Why, **Bonds** was asked, had he never spoken out before? Why didn't he deny it publicly?

"I **KNEW IT** wasn't true," he said. "As long as I know it, as long as I know I've never done it, I didn't think it was anything for me to be upset about. I have never taken any type of drug. Never in my life. You can ask the team physician. He would give me a tablet when I was sick or something and I would ask him did it have any drugs in it, because if it did, I wouldn't take it."

"I have never in my life messed with any kind of drug. I never fool with it and I never will."

There was another story, out of San Francisco in 1973. **Bobby Bonds** was arrested for drunken driving. It was on the police blotter and it was out and once it got out, there was a stigma, a reputation. The newest Yankee was willing to discuss that, too.

"It was after a doubleheader," he explained. "I went to my brother's for a picnic. My wife didn't want to go, but I told her I'd be home that night. We had the picnic and we played dominoes, I like to play dominoes, and we drank beer. A lot of beer. Too much beer, I guess."

"I **SHOULD** have stayed overnight at my brother's, but I promised my wife I would be home. I drove home when I shouldn't have. I almost made it: I drove 60 miles and a mile away from my house, I fell asleep at the wheel and had a wreck. I was wrong. The judge fined me \$360 and I was embarrassed."

"But I don't have a drinking problem. I haven't had a drink all season, except a beer after a game."

Bonds has had his problems, domestic and otherwise, "but they're gone," he said. "They are GONE. They are all the way behind me . . . and that's the truth. This (the trade) is like having a new life. I'm so thrilled. I'm just overjoyed."

So, it might be added, are the Yankees.

Phils Had Bonds All Wrapped Up—Well, Almost

By RAY KELLY

PHILADELPHIA—Last summer it was "yes we can." This fall, it's "I can't believe it." Such are the ups and downs of the baseball business with the Phillies.

Right now, the Phillies are lower than a snake's belly, and the reason is that the Giants traded **Bobby Bonds** to the Yankees for **Bobby** Murcer.

That's what started the "I can't believe it" routine.

The Phillies had it all figured out. They were going to get **Bonds** themselves in a trade. According to one of the local papers, it was all set and due to break any minute during the World Series.

A PHILADELPHIA radio station had Steve Carlton going to the Giants even-up for **Bonds**, and it sounded like the gospel . . . over the air waves, anyway.

No doubt of it. The Phillies had talked a good trade. Remember

earlier in the year when Paul Owens, their director of player personnel, said he turned down a chance to get **Bonds** in exchange for Wayne Twitchell and **Bobby** Boone? Paul said he didn't sleep much that night after rejecting the offer. Small wonder.

So now the Phillies were thinking **Bobby Bonds** again. Thinking of **Bobby Bonds** playing right field at the Vet, stealing all those bases, hitting all those home runs and teaming with Greg Luzinski and Mike Schmidt to drive in all those runs.

They were probably also trying

to figure out why Owens ever turned down that Twitchell-Boone for **Bonds** deal.

OUT OF THE blue comes the news that the Yankees got **Bonds** in a swap for Murcer.

Then the Phils started to explain to the fans that they made a much better offer than the Yankees.

"We would have given them a pitcher and another player," said Owens. "There were two or three ways we could have gone. Player for player—the Carlton thing, or a player and a pitcher. They (Giants) kept insisting they had to

have a pitcher."

This was after Owens had come off his swivel chair when the trade was announced and bellowed: "I can't believe it."

Manager Danny Ozark said the same thing over the telephone from his home at Vero Beach, Fla. "I can't believe it," he muttered. "I am very dejected. We talked to the Giants and they said they would get back to us. They never did."

LARRY BOWA, the Phils' shortstop who likes to stay on top of off-season developments, also had visions of playing with the mercurial

Bonds.

"The way they (front office) were talking, we thought it might happen," he said. But on **Bonds** even up for Murcer, he said: "I can't believe it."

Larry said he called Dave Cash on the phone and told him about it. The hard-hitting second baseman's reaction? "He said he couldn't believe it, either," Bowa reported.

Now the Phillies are looking elsewhere for a power-hitting outfielder and they are not about to let themselves get carried away this time.

Maddox' 1974 Decline at Dish Blamed on Ailments

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO—For the National League's No. 3 hitter only a year earlier, the 1974 season proved disappointing.

Garry Maddox, the Giants' slender center fielder, plagued by leg and back miseries, dropped 35 points, from a .319 average down to .284.

"If I'd stayed healthy," the soft-spoken Vietnam veteran said, "I think I'd have batted over .300 again."

Close observers of the Giants almost unanimously agree. And a good many of them didn't realize how much pain Maddox was experiencing.

"I **FIRST** had trouble when we were playing the Dodgers at Candlestick Park in May," Garry recalled, "but I didn't have a real problem until we were in Philadelphia early in June."

"I woke up one morning in Philadelphia and couldn't straighten my leg. The doctor diagnosed the pain as tendinitis in my left knee. I asked Charlie Fox if he needed me in the lineup, and he said, 'Yes.' So

I told myself I could play, and did."

"I favored the leg, I guess, so much so that pain got up into my lower back. Eventually it ran down into my right leg. I had this all the rest of the season. It was worse at night games, when the weather was chilly. At the end of the season, I still was having trouble sleeping."

So this month Maddox was to undergo a complete physical checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

"**ON THE** doctor's advice," Garry disclosed, "I've been getting a certain amount of exercise this fall. I'm taking karate lessons three times a week. This is something I've always wanted to try. Aside from the physical part of it, karate requires so much concentration it can help a person mentally. I think I may learn to increase my concentration in baseball from this."

Maddox and his wife, at home in the San Francisco Bay area this off-season, are enjoying their first offspring. Garry Lee, named after

his father, was born at Stanford University Hospital October 24.

"I'll miss **Bobby Bonds**," said the 25-year-old Maddox, who has teamed with **Bobby**, now a Yankee, the past three seasons in the outfield.

"I just hope **Bobby** Murcer can do the kind of things **Bonds** did for us. He could win games by himself. I often looked to **Bobby** for help in the outfield. So did Gary Matthews. Now I hope I can help Murcer get to know National League hitters."

BEFORE THE somewhat mysterious injuries began bothering him, Maddox was hitting as consistently the past season as in 1973, possibly even more so. An early splurge pushed his average above .350 in May.

This shaped up as Garry's greatest year.

Swinging in the No. 3 spot in the batting order for the Giants' first 53 games, Maddox rarely missed his daily hit, or two or three. On

April 30, against the Phillies, he went 4-for-4. The next day it was 3-for-5.

Yet just over a month later, the double-R Garry was forced to the bench for six games by leg pain. He played most of the way thereafter, getting into 135 games, but he had to sit out several days on a couple of other occasions and was severely frustrated. Still, Maddox had as high a batting average as either of the players who finished ahead of him in 1973, Pete Rose of the Reds (also .284 this year) and Cesar Cedeño of the Astros (.269).

Garry led the Giants in doubles with 31, placed second to Matthews on the club in hits with 153 and was runner-up to **Bonds** in steals with 29.

Giant Jottings: Mike Caldwell underwent successful surgery for removal of a bone spur from his left elbow in Los Angeles late in October and hopes to be free of pain in his pitching arm by spring training.



Paul Owens

Gilt-Edged Bonds Supporting Giants' Flag Bid

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—**Bobby Bonds**, at 25, is on the verge of super stardom.

From Manager Charlie Fox on down, the Giants realize their versatile right fielder is one of the key reasons for the club's fast start.

Bonds has been outstanding ever since he made his major league debut with a grand-slam homer off John Purdin of the Dodgers in 1968.

Even in light of his exceptional performances the following season and last year, **Bobby** is putting it all together more impressively than ever before in 1971.

The Riverside Ripper is ahead of his past paces in home runs, RBIs and runs scored, approximately even in hits and not so far behind in stolen bases, despite an under-par right ankle. He has fielded brilliantly.

Cutting Whiff Tempo

Perhaps most significantly of all, **Bonds** is well behind his previous strikeout tempo, which led the league and set records.

"I hope I don't strike out 100 times this season," said **Bobby**, who was retired by the K route 187 times in 1969 and 189 last year.

The exceptional young outfielder didn't suffer his 40th strikeout until

June 8 this time, in the Giants' 58th game. At that rate, he has a chance to stay under 100.

"The main reason I'm striking out fewer times," **Bonds** said, "is that I'm standing farther back in the batter's box. This way I'm following curves better. I'm waiting and seeing the ball longer."

Just Meeting the Ball

"Another reason is that I'm not trying to be strictly a pull-hitter. I'm hitting the ball up the middle a lot and to right field. If they try to jam me, of course, I still will pull the ball."

Like so many other Giants, **Bonds** gives Willie Mays credit for important assistance.

"Mays suggested I move back in the batter's box this spring," **Bobby** explained. "He's rarely, if ever, wrong, so I took his advice. It definitely has helped."

"Last year I struck out as many times on fast balls, I think, as on curves, although curves caused many of the first and second strikes. I struck out on the fast balls because I was anticipating breaking pitches."

"Now, standing farther back in the box, I know I can hit the curve. I'm not worried if a curve is coming. I know I'm going to hit

it. This makes the situation different."

It has been said that if **Bonds** could cut his strikeouts in half, he could hit .350 or more. Even with 189 Ks, he led Giant batsmen with his .302 average last year. **Bobby**, although over .300 again and second only to the amazing Mays, laughed at this.

"Now I'm grounding out more," he said.

With **Bobby**, this isn't so bad. It doesn't mean double plays.

"I've grounded into only one DP this season," he said, well into June. "That was in Atlanta when I had the sore ankle."

So this is another category in which **Bonds** is ahead of even his fast 1970 pace. He and Willie Davis of the Dodgers grounded into the fewest double plays in the league last season—only six each.

Fast Homer Pace

Bobby hit only 14 home runs before the All-Star Game break last year and finished with 26, following his 32 of 1969. This year he had 14 homers more than a month before the break.

The 6-1, 195-pound righthanded swinger pulled about half of those homers to left field. All were hit while **Bobby** led off. He could become the No. 1 leadoff home-run hitter in history.

Bonds batted third in the order one June day when injuries had depleted the Giants' roster, and immediately he drove home a run with a single.

Then, after being restricted to pinch-hitting and late-inning play in two games because of a swollen jaw following an exceptionally painful tooth extraction, **Bobby** returned to leadoff.

"I don't care where I bat in the order now," he said. "In earlier years, I disliked hitting No. 3, but I have more confidence there now."

As for stolen bases, in which he finished third with 48 last year, behind **Bobby** Tolan and Lou Brock, **Bonds** thinks he still might wind up with as many as 50.

Adept at Hit-and-Run

"If I can steal 20 by the break," he said, "I can do it. One reason I haven't stolen as many bases this year, in addition to my ankle injury, is that we've used the hit-and-run so much."

"With Chris Speier batting behind me, we've made that such an important part of our game and it's been so successful that I haven't been getting the same kind of jump on steals."

"Instead of exploding right now, I'm waiting more for the pitcher to throw the ball and not getting as much jump. The hit-and-run has been working, with Chris doing a great job. As long as it works, I don't care about getting fewer steals."

Bobby is only one of five players in major league history to have hit 30 home runs and stolen 30 bases in the same season—1969. There's every chance he can accomplish this

feat again. And there's a fine chance he can lead the league again in runs scored—he tied for No. 1 with 134 last year—and match his 200 hits of 1971.

"My ankle may not be as strong all season as it was before I hurt it," **Bonds** conceded.

The injury occurred on a slide back to second base on a pickoff attempt by the Cardinals April 20. The injury put **Bobby** on crutches, but he bounced back after four games on the sidelines. He hasn't missed many games since making the Giants. He played 158 in 1969 and 157 in 1970.

Whiz With Glove

Not to be overlooked is the fact that **Bonds** is extremely proficient defensively.

The fleet Southern California native ranked fourth in putouts by an outfielder in the league last year, with 346. He trailed only Tommie Agee, Tolan and Davis.

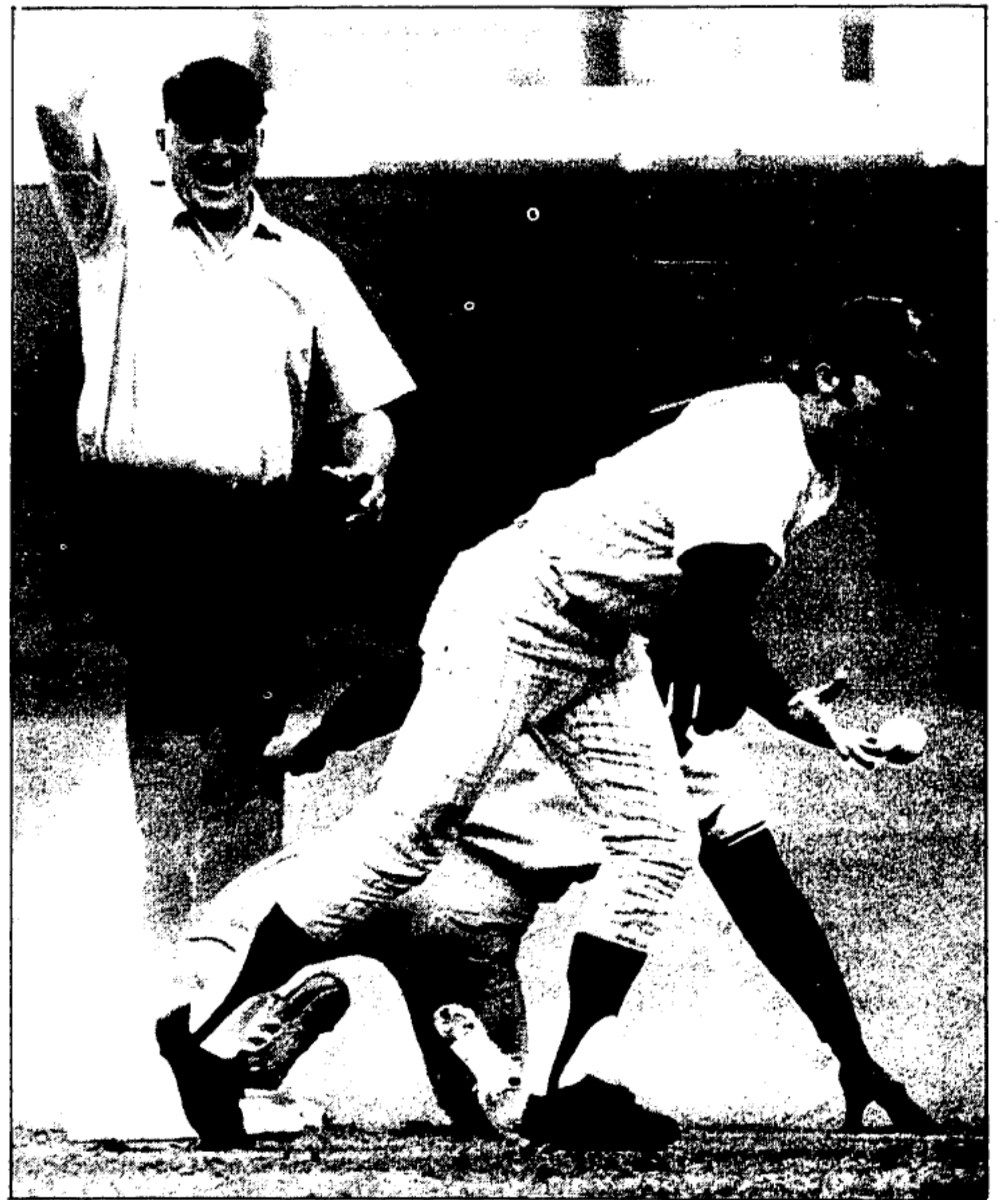
His powerful right arm accounted for the fact **Bonds** was in more double plays—seven—than any other outfielder.

Giant Jottings: Willie Mays' 13th home run, the 641st of his career, dramatically ended the Giants' longest losing streak since May, 1969, at five games. They hadn't lost six in a row since April, 1967, but No. 6 appeared in the making when they trailed the Phillies, 3-0, going into the bottom of the eighth at Candlestick Park. San Francisco scored

once in the eighth and Mays, after going 0-for-6 in the doubleheader, doubled to open a rally that produced two runs and a tie in the ninth. Then Willie singled in the 10th and blasted a long, high drive out of the park against the wind with one out in the 12th. The belt came off Joe Hoerner, who had struck out Mays the day before. "I was almost too tired to run around the bases," said Willie, who played 21 innings, nine in center field and the last 12 at first base. "We asked him if he wanted us to carry him off the field," said Manager Fox, "and Willie just laughed. How can any human being hit a ball that high that far into that strong a wind? No one can come to me and say he's seen a greater player than Mays in any respect. He can do anything." . . . The same day, Chris Speier's single was the Giants' first hit by a pinch-hitter in 19 tries. . . . The Giants absorbed their first shut-out of the season at the hands of the Phillies' Rick Wise, who allowed three hits, the only solid one a single by Tito Fuentes. . . . Jerry Johnson relieved in four consecutive games. . . . Rookie Bernie Williams broke in with singles on his first three official times at bat and played all of seven successive games in left field. . . . Ken Henderson, out for two weeks with a groin injury, pinch-hit June 4, then played both ends of a doubleheader the next day.



Bobby Bonds, . . . A Blue-Chip Security in Giants' Vault.



UMPIRE KEN BURKHART waves **Bobby Bonds** out on an attempted steal, Jerry Grote to Ken Boswell, in the June 12 game, won by the Giants over the Mets, 5-1.



BEEFEATER BEEFEATER.

First name for the martini

FROM ENGLAND BY KOBRAND, NY • 94 PROOF • 100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS



Writers Goad Bonds, Murcer Into MOUTHING OFF

SAN FRANCISCO—They are basically children's games, although played for profit if not fun by men, so there is a tendency to view professional sports with too much emotion and too little discernment. All of us were fans or participants at one time.

But in reality, no matter what the executives claim—and what legislatures decide—professional sports are a business, like selling stock or stocking shelves. And like any other business, changes in philosophy, material and personnel must be effected to keep ahead of the times and the competition.

The problem is that you're not dealing with cans of beans or a new design for a Chevrolet front fender. You're dealing with humans, some of them immature, who have evolved—in fact or imagination—into something special. Any transformation in the system, meaning trades or sales, brings a hue and cry from the people involved, or worse, the critics.

THIS ALL must be considered when discussing the Bobby Bonds-Bobby Murcer trade, as everyone seems to be doing this spring. Especially Bonds and Murcer.

Lip service is given all the time to the disadvantages of being a professional athlete, or coach or manager. The words are a litany of apologies or indictments. Managers are hired to be fired. You've got to expect to be traded. That's baseball. Or that's football. Or that's World Team Tennis. We're nothing more than a sack of wheat.

That's not quite true. Wheat's expensive, but when's the last time you heard of a sack selling for \$100,000 a year with a no-cut contract and deferred payment plans? Wheat, however, can't protest. A



Art Spander

ballplayer, Bonds or Murcer for example, certainly can.

DESPITE THE cliches, very few athletes like to be traded or sold. It's a blow to the ego, not to mention a disruption in normalcy. And besides talent, ego, or pride, is one of the driving forces behind an athlete. Indeed, any sort of successful man.

Both Bonds and Murcer are proud men. They're both talented men. But with their old clubs, they both failed to perform as predict-



Bobby Bonds

ed—at least in the minds of some critics. Murcer was supposed to replace Mickey Mantle, Bonds was supposed to replace Willie Mays. The task of each not only was difficult, it was impossible.

Not because they couldn't hit home runs or make fine catches. But because whatever they did, Bonds and Murcer suffered from the inevitable comparison. If Bonds hit 30 home runs, someone would point out that Mays could have hit 40. If Murcer batted .280, that's right, Mantle would have been over .300.

LAST FALL, for the first time in their careers, Bonds and Murcer were traded. For each other. Bonds, a California native, insisted he was "delighted" by the trade. He believed he had to get away from the San Francisco Giants, where the situation had disintegrated to the point that the new Mays wasn't even playing at the end of the season. Murcer, meanwhile, was disgusted. The New York Yankees had broken a promise, had given up on him prematurely.

The disenchantment, the complaints remained unrecorded during the winter, when the antagonists from the sports pages and radio were occupied with individuals like Franco Harris and Muhammad Ali. But with the start of spring training, the writers fled to

the baseball camps full of vitriol and curiosity—and a determination to make headlines.

Cajoled by journalists, Bonds and Murcer began to discuss the past. Murcer, at the Giants' camp in Arizona, groused about the inadequacies of the Yankees. A continent away in Florida, Bonds responded, rising to his own defense.

THE WRITERS kept after both. The guys from New York, many of whom have the jaundiced idea that the world ends just west of Manhattan, built up Bonds and put down Murcer. Bitterness apparently is permissible only if you play for the Yankees or the Mets. You are not allowed to be unhappy as a member of the Giants.

It is a common fault of the profession that sportswriters will inveigle a man into giving his opinion, then turn around and flay the



Bobby Murcer

man for giving his opinion. Particularly if it does not coincide with theirs.

What do they expect Bobby Murcer to say? That he is ecstatic about losing his place with the Yankees, that he enjoys moving across the country because he had disagreements with New York management, that he likes being a discard?

In New York, there is a feeling the Yankees conned the Giants, even defrauded them, taking Bonds and giving up only Murcer. They say that Bonds will hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases. And maybe he will.

BUT HE wouldn't have done it with the Giants. Bobby was placed into an unenviable role of trying to carry the team, of being forced into a position of leadership.

Uncomfortable, and occasionally unhappy, Bonds had a bad season—a bad season for him—hitting only 21 homers and batting just .256 in 1974. He might hit .350 for the Yankees in 1975, but the guess is he wouldn't have done it for the Giants.

Bonds still will feel pressure in New York, primarily from the writers, many of whom are expecting him to bring the Yankees a championship. One wishes Bonds good fortune, or the press in Manhattan may once again display its fickleness.

Murcer, on the other hand, is not expected to bring the Giants anything but a little respect. If he does, he might even stop rapping the Yankees.

And the journalists then can go about worrying about the next major trade that makes pro sports look like a game instead of a business.

Exhibition games

(Continued From Page 46)

Rangers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Wright	3	1	2	0	0	1
Boggs	2	2	1	1	0	0
Hargan (Winner)	4	2	1	1	0	4

E—Randle, Royster, Harrah. DP—Rangers 1. LOB—Dodgers 3, Rangers 8. 2B—Harrah, Lovitto, Grieve, Moates. HR—Paciorek, Yeager, Jones. SB—Burroughs, Royster. SF—Harrah. WP—Hough 3. PB—Ferguson, Fahey. T—2:15. A—897.

Orioles-Royals

MIAMI, Fla.—Homers by Frank White and Amos Otis helped power Royals to 7-1 victory over Orioles March 13. White, who had four hits, doubled and scored in fourth inning, homered in sixth and drove in run with single in seventh. Amos hit his round-tripper with man on base in ninth. Series standing: Royals, 1-0; Orioles, 0-1.

GAME OF THURSDAY, MARCH 13
AT MIAMI, FLA.

Royals	ab	r	h	rbi	Orioles	ab	r	h	rbi
White, ss	5	2	4	2	Bumbry, dh	3	0	0	0
Mallory, dh	4	2	1	0	Blair, cf	4	0	1	1
Otis, cf	5	1	1	1	Harlow, cf	1	0	0	0
Mayberry, 1b	5	0	2	1	Grich, 2b	3	0	2	0
McRae, lf	5	0	1	1	Garcia, 2b	0	0	0	0
Rojas, 2b	3	0	0	0	May, 1b	3	0	0	0
Scott, 2b	0	0	0	0	Fuller, 1b	0	0	0	0
Quirk, 3b	4	0	1	0	Baylor, lf	4	0	2	0
Jones, rf	3	1	1	0	Robinson, 3b	3	0	0	0
Martinez, c	4	1	1	1	Duncan, 3b	1	0	0	0
Spittorff, p	0	0	0	0	Nordbr'k, rf	2	0	0	0
Leonard, p	0	0	0	0	Hendricks, c	1	0	0	0
Baird, p	0	0	0	0	Williams, c	2	0	0	0
Totals	38	7	12	6	Totals	30	1	5	1

Royals IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 5 2 1 1 3. Orioles IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 1 0 0 0. E—None. LOB—Royals 7, Orioles 10. 2B—White, Mallory. 3B—Martinez. HR—White, Otis. SH—Mallory.

Bumbry. SB—Baylor. Nordbrook. HBP—By Leonard (Grich). Balk—Spittorff. T—2:30. A—1,657.

Braves-Astros

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—With two out in 16th inning, Jack Pierce doubled, scoring Biff Pocoroba, to give Braves 3-2 victory over Astros March 13. Pocoroba reached base on error. Charlie Taylor, pitching in relief for Astros, struck out Dave May and retired Brian Asseltine on pop fly, but Pierce then broke up game with his double. Series standings: Braves, 1-0; Astros, 0-1.

GAME OF THURSDAY, MARCH 13
AT WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

Astros	ab	r	h	rbi	Braves	ab	r	h	rbi
Milbr'ne, ss	7	1	2	0	Garr, lf	3	0	2	0
Cab'l, rf-lf	7	0	1	0	Neibauer, p	1	0	0	0
Boswell, 2b	7	0	2	0	Beard, p	1	0	0	0
C. J'ason, c	5	0	2	0	Pierce, 1b	3	0	1	1
Taveras, pr	0	0	0	0	Office, cf	5	0	0	0
Didier, c	1	0	0	0	Gaston, lf	1	0	0	0
Cruz, rf	3	0	0	0	Evans, 3b	5	0	0	0
Easley, lf	2	0	0	0	N'dhagen, rf	1	0	0	0
Rader, 3b	2	0	0	0	D. J'ason, 2b	3	0	0	0
Busse, 3b	4	0	0	0	Gil'h, 2b-3b	3	0	1	0
Batista, 1b	6	0	1	0	Baker, rf	4	1	0	0
Howard, cf	6	1	1	0	Blanks, 3b-ss	2	0	0	0
Griffin, p	1	0	0	0	Lum, 1b	4	1	0	0
Gardner, ph	1	0	1	0	Rockett, ss	1	0	1	0
Crawford, p	1	0	0	0	Tepedino, ph	1	0	0	0
Granger, p	0	0	0	0	M. Perez, 2b	0	0	0	0
de la Rosa, ph	1	0	0	0	Correll, c	2	0	2	1
York, p	1	0	0	0	Foster, pr	0	0	0	0
R. Perez, ph	0	0	0	0	Pocoroba, c	3	1	0	0
Stanton, p	1	0	0	0	Robinson, ss	5	0	1	0
Taylor, p	0	0	0	0	Torrealba, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	56	2	10	2	Totals	55	3	9	3

Astros IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 000 110 000 000 0-2. Braves IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 020 000 000 000 1-3. Two out when winning run scored. E—Mithourne, Torrealba, Morton, Boswell, Batista. DP—Astros 3, Braves 3. LOB—Astros 10, Braves 14. 2B—Garr, Correll, Gardner, Pierce. SH—Busse, R. Perez, Didier, Torrealba. SB—Howard, Office, Baker. HBP—By Griffin (Office), by Torrealba (Easley). T—3:33. A—1,152.

Beer License Revoked At Candlestick in May

SAN FRANCISCO—There will be no beer sold at nine of the Giants' games at Candlestick Park in May. The California State Alcoholic Beverage Control Department imposed a 10-day license suspension against Stevens California Enterprises, the Candlestick Park concessionaire, for selling beer to minors in April, 1974.

Yankees-Mets

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—After swapping shutouts in first two games, Yankees defeated Mets, 7-6, March 13 when Lou Piniella walked in eighth inning. Chris Chambliss sacrificed and Fred Stanley singled to drive in deciding run. In opener of series March 11, Bob Oliver and Bobby Bonds each hit two-run homer as Yankees blanked Mets, 4-0, behind pitching of Dave Pagan, Ed Ricks and Scott McGregor. Dave Kingman hit two homers off Catfish Hunter when Mets came back with 3-0 victory March 12. Tom Seaver, Craig Swan and Rick Baldwin joined in posting shutout. Series standing: Yankees, 2-1; Mets, 1-2.

GAME OF TUESDAY, MARCH 11
AT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mets	ab	r	h	rbi	Yankees	ab	r	h	rbi
Harrleson, ss	4	0	0	0	White, dh	4	0	2	0
Millan, 2b	4	0	2	0	Maddox, cf	3	0	2	0
Miller, 1b	4	0	1	0	Whitfield, cf	1	1	0	0
Torre, 3b	4	0	1	0	Bonds, rf	4	1	1	2
Staub, rf	3	0	2	0	Blomberg, lf	4	1	1	0
Roque, rf	1	0	0	0	Oliver, 3b	3	1	1	2
Kingman, lf	4	0	0	0	Chambliss, 1b	3	0	0	0
Unser, cf	4	0	1	0	Dempsey, c	3	0	0	0
Grote, c	0	0	0	0	Leon, 2b	3	0	1	0
Moses, c	2	0	1	0	Stanley, ss	3	0	0	0
Gallagher, dh	2	0	0	0	Pagan, p	0	0	0	0
Clines, dh	1	0	0	0	Ricks, p	0	0	0	0
Parker, p	0	0	0	0	McGregor, p	0	0	0	0
Scarce, p	0	0	0	0	Totals	33	0	8	0
Apodaca, p	0	0	0	0	Totals	31	4	8	4

Mets IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0. Yankees IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 0 0 2 0 2 0 x-4. E—None. LOB—Mets 4, Yankees 4. 2B—Pagan, Ricks. HR—Kingman (2). SB—White. T—2:05. A—7,195.

White Sox-Twins

ORLANDO, Fla.—Homer by Pete Varney saved split squad of White Sox from being shut out in 8-1 loss to Twins March 12. Bert Blyleven worked three middle innings for Twins and held White Sox hitless. Twins' 13-hit attack included homer by Craig Kusick. Series standing: Twins, 1-0; White Sox, 0-1.

GAME OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
AT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mets	ab	r	h	rbi	Yankees	ab	r	h	rbi
Unser, cf	3	1	1	0	White, 1b	4	0	1	0
Clines, cf	1	0	0	0	Maddox, cf	4	0	0	0
Millan, 2b	3	0	0	0	Bonds, rf	4	0	1	0
Miller, 1b	4	0	0	0	Blomberg, lf	4	0	0	0
Torre, 3b	2	0	0	0	Nettelles, 3b	2	0	0	0
Garrett, 3b	2	0	0	0	Dineen, pr	0	0	0	0
Staub, rf	3	0	0	0	Veletz, 3b	1	0	0	0
Roque, rf	0	0	0	0	Munson, c	2	0	2	0
Kingman, lf	4	2	2	2	Dempsey, c	0	0	0	0
Gallagher, lf	0	0	0	0	Mason, ss	3	0	0	0
Grote, c	3	0	0	0	Alomar, 2b	2	0	0	0
Harrleson, ss	3	0	1	0	Hunter, p	1	0	0	0
Seaver, p	1	0	0	0	May, p	1	0	0	0
Stearns, ph	1	0	0	0	Johnson, ph	1	0	0	0
Swan, p	1	0	0	0	Martinez, p	0	0	0	0
Baldwin, p	0	0	0	0	Totals	29	0	4	0

Mets IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0-3. Yankees IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0. E—None. LOB—Mets 3, Yankees 6. 3B—Unser. HR—Kingman (2). SB—White. T—2:05. A—7,195.

GAME OF THURSDAY, MARCH 13
AT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mets	ab	r	h	rbi	Yankees	ab	r	h	rbi
Clines, cf	4	0	2	2	Williams, 2b	4	0	2	1
Gallagher, lf	4	1	0	0	Maddox, cf	2	0	1	1
Miller, dh	2	1	0	0	Dineen, cf	1	0	1	0
Staub, dh	2	0	0	0	Johnson, dh	4	0	0	0
Kranep'l, 1b	4	1	3	0	Bonds, rf	3	0	0	0
Garrett, 3b	5	0	1	0	Whitfield, 1b	1	0	0	0
Hodges, c	4	1	1	0	Oliver, 3b	3	1	1	0
Roque, rf	4	1	1	0	Veletz, 3b	1	0	0	0
Heidem'n, ss	3	1	2	1	Piniella, lf	3	2	1	0
Puig, 2b	2	0	0	0	Ch'bliss, 1b	3	2	2	1
Mallack, p	0	0	0	0	Dempsey, c	2	1	1	2
Webb, p	0	0	0	0	Deidel, c	1	0	0	0
Sterling, p	0	0	0	0	Stanley, ss	3	1	2	2
Totals	34	6	9	5	Totals	31	7	11	7

Mets IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 0 0 5 0 1 0 0 0-6. Yankees IP: H. R. ER. BB. SO. 0 0 0 3 0 1 0 1 x-7. E—None. LOB—Mets 4, Yankees 7. 2B—Brye, Bradford. 3B—Bostock, Kelly. HR—Varney, Kusick. SH—Hisle.

Phillies-Pirates

BRADENTON, Fla.—Steve Blass' wildness, which sent righthander to minors last season, was in evidence again when Pirates lost to Phillies,

Angels' Dynamite Package: Bonds, Melton

By DICK MILLER

ANAHEIM—Harry Dalton took the Angels' cap and placed it on the head of Bobby Bonds. "I hope you wear it for 10 years," said the general manager.

"I don't," replied Bonds as he tried to adjust the cap. "This one is too small."

Indeed, much of what the Angels have accomplished in 15 years is too small for Bonds and the Angels' fans. In a 12-team league, the Angels finished last in home runs and designated hitting last season, were 11th in runs scored and runs batted in and only one team left more runners on base.

So Dalton took a big gamble, sending singles-hitting Mickey Rivers (one home run) and 16-game winner Eddie Figueroa to the Yankees for Bonds.

THEN DALTON traded pitcher Bill Singer to the Rangers for first baseman Jim Spencer and dispatched Spencer along with another singles hitter, outfielder Morris Nettles, to the White Sox for long-ball hitting Bill Melton.

"Without a doubt, we helped ourselves more than any club in the American League West during the winter," claimed Manager Dick Williams. "Bonds and Melton will help the team tremendously, both

offensively and defensively."

Both the departed players, Rivers and Nettles, are lefthanded hitters. The newcomers, Bonds and Melton, both are righthanded swingers.

"I'm the one who is immensely pleased," said first baseman Bruce Bochte during a workout at Anaheim Stadium. "In our first 21 games last year, the other clubs started 17 southpaws. I was seeing lefthanders in my sleep."

Bochte is a lefthanded hitter. BONDS, WHO has averaged 40 steals a season throughout his career, doesn't think the Angels gave up any speed in picking up 31 more home runs. "I'll race Mickey Rivers, anybody in baseball, on a straightaway," he said.

"I'm not an Ivory Crockett or the kid out of Florida (Houston McTear) or Bobby Hayes. But in the sport I'm in, I'm as fast as anyone. I'm not quick. I'm not talking about 90 feet, but over 100 yards, where they classify the world's fastest human, I'll race anyone."

"From first to third base, I think I'm as fast as anyone in baseball."

At Poly High in Riverside, Bonds was timed in 9.5 for the 100 and won the state long jump title with a leap of 25-3.

He is one of the most versatile players in the game. "There are five ways to rate a ballplayer," Melton pointed out. "They're on hitting, hitting for power, speed, defense and arm. Bobby has all of them."



Bobby Bonds

There always has been a debate over whether Bonds should lead off or bat in the middle of the order.

"With the kind of stats Bobby has, he should be allowed to bat wherever he wants," said Melton.

THE ANGELS lost 26 one-run decisions last season and 12 more by two runs.

"Nolan Ryan and Frank Tanana won't lose by 1-0 any more," said Bonds. "If there's a man on second base, we're going to win, 2-1, because I'm going to knock him in."

Dalton talked about why he was willing to part with Rivers and Figueroa, leaving his pitching staff suspect if Ryan isn't able to come back.

"Bonds and Melton change our whole offensive lineup. They give us the long-ball hitters we have been looking for and Bonds brings speed along with it."

"We haven't lost any of the ability to play the running game we had last year. In addition, we have the long-ball threat to help Lee Stanton."

The player biography section of the 1975 Yankees' Press/TV/Radio Guide has this to say about Bonds:

"It took one of the biggest one-for-one trades in baseball history to bring Bobby Bonds to the Yan-

kees. His arrival in New York is expected to make him one of the best-known athletes in the United States."

A YEAR LATER, he is wearing an Angel uniform. Why?

The rebuilt Yankee Stadium will be ready this season. The power alley in left-center will be 433 feet, Death Valley for righthanded hitters even with Bonds' power.

Immediately after sending Bonds to the Angels, Yankee President Gabe Paul traded pitcher Doc Medich to Pittsburgh for pitchers Ken Brett and Dock Ellis and an outstanding prospect at second base, Willie Randolph.

"I think the reason we were able to get Bonds," said Dalton, "was that it set up the deal with Pittsburgh. Getting Figueroa enabled Paul to trade Medich and get back an exciting outfielder in Rivers."

Said Paul: "We didn't win last year. I'm not blaming Bobby Bonds for that. He played hurt, and many guys won't play hurt. He did a hell of a job. I resisted the idea of including him in the deal and we told the Angels he wasn't available."

"But we had to do something. You have to shoot craps a little, and you're always taking a risk."

Tigers Improved—But Don't Look for Miracles

By JIM HAWKINS

DETROIT—For more than two months now, the Tigers have provided good reasons to believe better days lie ahead.

Those reasons are named Rusty Staub, Milt May, Alex Johnson, Bruce Taylor, Jim Crawford and Mark Fidrych, among others. Soon it will be up to them to prove it.

Like it or not, the pressure is going to be on the Tigers to begin winning right away this spring. Those carefree afternoon contests in Florida will be anything but meaningless exhibitions.

ALTHOUGH HE insists a team can win too much in spring training—causing it to overlook its shortcomings—Manager Ralph Houk admits it will be very important for the Tigers to reacquire the habit of winning.

Unfortunately, they will play a tough schedule this spring. Seven of their 29 exhibitions will be against the American League champion Red Sox. And three others will be against the only team in baseball better than the Bosox, the Reds.

And this year it will not be enough for Houk to shrug off each loss with his patented "Wait 'til the bell rings." The Tiger manager wore that refrain out last spring, and you saw what happened when they started playing for keeps.

NO, THIS spring the Tigers are going to have to demonstrate from the outset that they are, indeed, improved.

To their credit, they are trying. Trying as hard as they know how to clear their name and make amends for their sorry past.

They have made a realistic appraisal of their problems—and they've taken a realistic approach to solving them. You have to appreciate the all-out effort they've undertaken—and you cannot help but be encouraged by the results.

Even General Manager Jim Campbell's staunchest critics must admit he has improved the club with the deals he has made.

There seems to have been a dramatic change in attitude in the

front office, too. No longer do the Tigers act as if they assume they'll find thousands of eager fans lined up outside every time they open the gates.

THEY'RE GOING to have to sell themselves all over again—and they seem sincerely determined to do just that.

And, thanks to Campbell and a

farm system that may be ready to begin producing again, they do, indeed, have something to sell.

The Tigers were simply horrible last season. They know that better

than anyone—and they're not trying to hide that fact.

No one is predicting a Bicentennial pennant for the Tigers in 1976. Far too many problems remain unsolved. Their pitching still is suspect, despite the addition of Dave Roberts, Crawford, Billy Laxton and Taylor, plus a promising minor league cast. And the defense, upon which so much depends, still must prove itself.

When you were as inept as the Tigers were last year, you can't possibly rectify everything overnight. But they've made a beginning. A big beginning.

Tiger Tales: In addition to the 40 major leaguers on the roster, eight of the organization's blue-chip prospects have been invited to work out with the big league club. What's more, pitchers Fidrych and Frank McCormick and first baseman Jason Thompson all appear to have an outside chance of making the club. . . . Of the players who were on the spring roster in 1973—just three years ago—only eight remain. They are Joe Coleman, John Hiller, Bill Freehan, Willie Horton, Lerrin LaGrow, Aurelio Rodriguez, Mickey Stanley and Bill Slayback.

In response to those people who keep asking why Campbell didn't fire Houk after those back-to-back basement finishes, the Tiger G. M. rates Ralph as "one of the two or three best managers in baseball—if not the best." . . . Houk admits, "It's quite far-fetched to think our top draft pick, Steve Kemp, will stick with the Tigers this spring. But he's got a fine future ahead of him," the Tiger manager added. "I just hope I'm still here when he arrives."

Houk plans to carry nine pitchers, three catchers, six infielders and seven outfielders. . . . Houk still can't believe he didn't get a single vote for Manager of the Year. He thought, for sure, his sparring partner from Baltimore, Phil Hersh, would vote for him.

Cubs' Madlock Shuns Multi-Year Pact

By RICHARD DOZER

CHICAGO—It was supposed to be a routine week for Bill Madlock, the Cubs' National League batting champion. He dropped in to talk contract with Salty Saltwell, the new general manager, who was delighted that not every super star has a players' agent to handle these chores.

Madlock reportedly wanted \$80,000, and Saltwell told him he would talk to Owner Phil Wrigley and get back to him. He did, and Bill signed for \$75-80,000. Both wanted to get the task finished before Madlock answered an invitation to join his fellow National Guardsmen on a two-week drill at Camp Ripley, Minn., February 7.

BUT 24 HOURS hadn't passed before Madlock received another invitation—from the President of the United States. A secretary at Wrigley Field was the first to handle the imposing piece of correspondence and excitedly called Bill at his home in the Chicago suburbs. The invitation read:

"President and Mrs. Ford request the pleasure of the company of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Madlock at brunch on Sunday, February 15, 1976, at 11 o'clock a.m." and went on to explain that it was a prayer brunch for professional athletes in the East Room of the White House."

Madlock, planning to make his National Guard commitment as scheduled, saw no conflict with the command appearance at the White House. His basic Guard duties are in the realm of recruiting, and he noted, "We get weekends off so it will be no problem for us (he and wife Cynthia) to go to Washington.

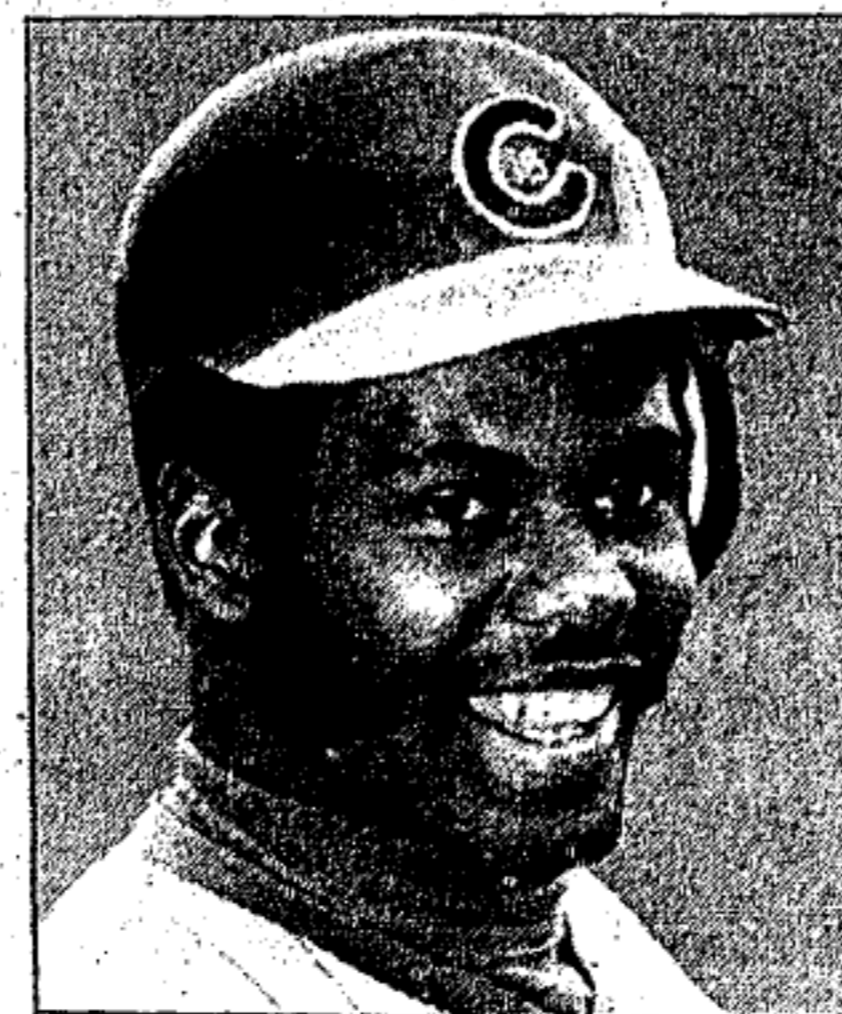
I'm really excited about it."

HE DIDN'T SEEM nearly so excited about getting his contract signed. "I gave them a figure and told them if I got what I wanted, I'd sign," he said. "There really was no big hurry."

Saltwell called his first meeting with Madlock "just an initial conversation," adding, "He gave me his thinking, and we gave him ours. It really was an open-end thing and we agreed easily."

After winning the National League batting championship with a mark of .354, Madlock has been in heavy demand on the banquet circuit. He also is occupied with management training for a sausage firm and plays basketball with the Cubs' team that barnstorms in the area.

He sees neither the need for an agent nor the benefit of signing a multi-year contract.



Bill Madlock

ALL OF WHICH was good news to Saltwell, who is new in the business of signing major leaguers to modern-day contracts. The Cubs were in no frame of mind to talk about more than a one-year agreement anyway, and Saltwell admitted, too, that he prefers dealing directly with the player.

"As a matter of fact," he added, "I haven't dealt with any agents yet at all, and I haven't had any indications that we will have any holdouts."

If he is confronted by neither agent nor holdout, the Cubs will be in a class by themselves.

Cub Clouts: Owner Phil Wrigley, commenting on the judge's decision to uphold the Peter Seitz ruling that frees Andy Messersmith, said, "I'm probably the only owner who never worried about the reserve clause. I've always felt that if a player doesn't want to work for you, he isn't going to do a very good job. I'd be pretty fussy about signing a man who jumped from one club to sign with another." . . . Madlock was to be honored at the Leahy awards dinner in Chicago February 12. . . . Saltwell and John Holland, Cubs' executive veep, read with interest a quote by Marvin Miller that the players' association has recommended starting spring training on schedule while Basic Agreement negotiations continue. They said they were looking for a similar quote from Miller that the season should also start on schedule if negotiations linger. "But he hasn't touched on that," said Saltwell.

Giants Prepared to Put Lot of Stock in Bonds

By HARRY JUPITER

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—There will be a great deal of attention paid to **Bobby Bonds** during spring training.

The young outfielder was impressive as a rookie. He may be the

key to the Giants' pennant hopes in 1969.

There already has been plenty of discussion comparing **Bonds** with Willie Mays. Willie doesn't encourage such conversation. "It

isn't fair to **Bonds** to put too much pressure on him," said Mays.

Nevertheless, the comparisons and the pressure will be inevitable this year and, if you check the records back to 1951, which was Mays' rookie year, the comparisons can be exceedingly interesting.

Nine Homers for Bobby

Mays, the National League's all-time homer king with 587, always had power. He hit 20 homers as a Giant rookie, drove in 68 runs and averaged .274 for 121 games.

Bonds hit .254 last season for 81 games, whacked nine home runs and had 35 RBIs.

Although Mays' .274 was 20 points better than **Bonds'** first-year average, it may be significant to note that the 1951 Giants hit .260 as a club, 21 points better than the 1968 team average of .239.

So **Bonds'** average was 15 points better than the team average; Mays' rookie average was 14 points above the '51 team average.

Although Mays' home-run production as a rookie was more than double that of **Bonds**, **Bobby** hit eight of his nine homers in the final two months of last season. That would indicate he was starting to find the range.

The departments that would best suggest speed are stolen bases, triples and, possibly, runs.

In these categories, **Bonds'** freshman results were at least a match for the rookie Mays.

Each smacked five triples in his

first season. Mays scored 59 runs in 121 games in '51. **Bonds** scored 55 times in 81 games last year.

Mays swiped seven bases in 11 attempts in 1951. **Bonds** stole 16 bases last year and was nabbed seven times.

Bonds doesn't have the defensive skill Mays had as a rookie, but **Bobby** learns quickly. He also has the advantage of playing alongside Willie, who is one of the greatest outfielders of all time.

Mays has a fine memory, which is one of the reasons he urged people to let **Bonds** develop gradually.

Willie a Whirlwind in '54

Back in 1952, just before Mays went into the Army for a hitch of almost two years, Willie played 34 games and hit only .236.

But when he returned to the team in 1954, he was ready to roll. Willie led the National League with .345, hit 41 homers, drove in 110 runs and led the Giants to the pennant and a World Series sweep over the Indians.

Willie was the league's Most Valuable Player that year and he's been a super-star ever since.

While **Bonds'** freshman year can be compared with Mays' rookie season, it would take a fabulous second year for **Bonds** to come close to Willie's 1954 season with the Giants.

The biggest thing on **Bonds'** agenda is to cut down on his strikeouts. He fanned 84 times in 307 at-bats. Mays, on the other



Bobby Bonds

hand, struck out 60 times in 464 at-bats in 1951.

Mays, the National League's all-time leader in slugging, had an average of .472 in this department in '51. **Bonds'** slugging percentage last season was .407. It was another indication of Willie's superior power, even as a 20-year-old rookie.

But, in another speed indicator, **Bonds** demonstrated a startling superiority. Mays grounded into 11 double plays as a first-year player. **Bonds** didn't hit into any.

Perhaps, as Mays says, it's really best to avoid the comparisons. There never will be another Willie Mays. But **Bobby Bonds** may prove to be a super-star in his own right, with his own style.



Joe DiMaggio . . . A's Hitters Are His Project.

DiMag Might Relent —Return as A's Tutor

By RON BERGMAN

OAKLAND, Calif. — There's a chance that Joe DiMaggio will return next season as a coach of the Athletics.

After serving in that capacity last year, Joe D. repeated the terms under which he took the assignment at the beginning of the campaign—it was only for one season.

But now that former teammate Hank Bauer has assumed the manager's job, DiMaggio is beginning to waver.

During a recent press open house featuring Bauer and six A's players at DiMaggio's Restaurant in San Francisco, Joe D. admitted to not having made up his mind yet. He disclosed that he'll at least attend spring training in Mesa, Ariz.

"I think I'll go down with the first group (February 19)," he told a few of the players seated at a table. "I want to see Hank open up camp for the first time."

His Duties Are Vague

DiMaggio bears the title of executive vice-president under a two-year contract with Owner Charlie Finley, but this is an extremely loose arrangement as far as office responsibilities are concerned.

"I'm leaving it up to him," said Bauer, cautiously, about DiMaggio's position with the squad. "If Joe comes to spring training, I'll never interfere with Joe's work."

Once again, DiMaggio will work with the hitters. His biggest project will be catcher Dave Duncan, whose defensive work and long-ball ability show great potential, although his .191 batting average shows he needs special tutoring.

During a one-week swing through the northern and central California hinterlands, during which the A's entourage visited 16 different cities, Bauer made official what observers have speculated upon ever

since he took over the team:

Lew Krausse will be tried in the bullpen.

Last year, the former \$125,000 bonus boy was the fifth starter until the bullpen began developing leaks. Lew was effective in relief.

Two things led to Bauer's decision: The A's lost relievers Diego Segui and Jack Aker to Seattle in the expansion draft and Hank wants a four-man rotation.

Hank Cites Rewards

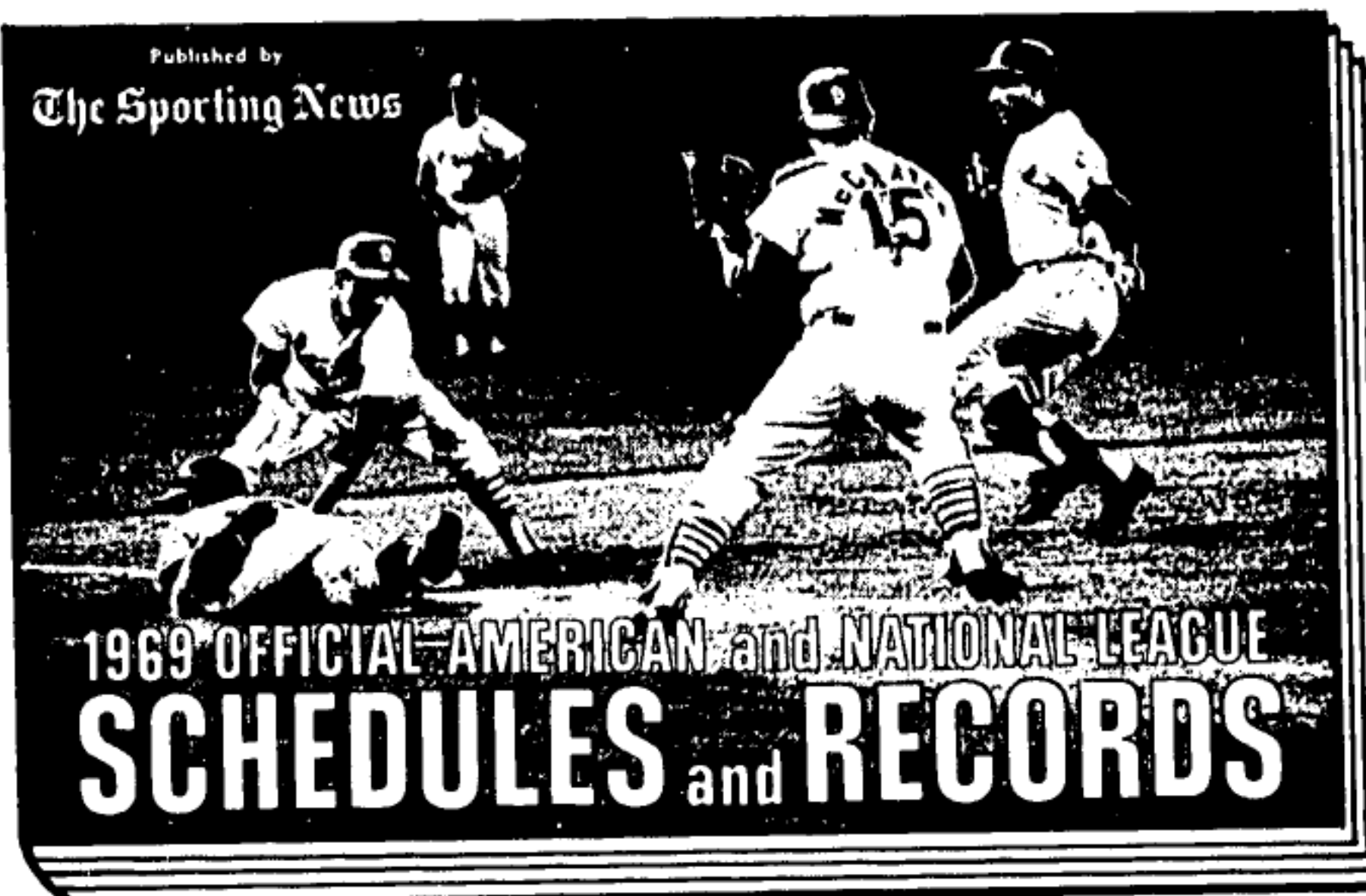
During the promotional swing, Bauer and Krausse chatted.

"Lew was worried that there isn't enough money in relieving," said Bauer. "I reminded him that Stu Miller made \$47,000 a year, probably for more than a few years."

"Lew could be our big stopper."

Although Bauer was unhappy about losing the two relievers in the draft, he was pleased that Paul Lindblad had a good winter in the Puerto Rican League because the lefthander had complained about a sore arm last season. Bob Meyer, another southpaw, will get a good look from Bauer, too, for possible bullpen duty.

A's Acorns: The Oakland Coliseum's million-dollar scoreboard, paid for by Finley, will be ready for next season, the club has announced. It was supposed to be ready last season, but didn't start working until the very end of the campaign. . . . A 20-second clock to time pitchers is planned for the message board, which didn't work at all last year. . . . The A's have dropped their season ticket plan that offered ducats only for day games and replaced it with one for Tuesday and Friday nights. The five other ticket plans remain the same. . . . Pitcher Jim Nash has lost most of his excess weight.



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Bonds Rates as Giants' No. 1 Candidate for Laurels as MVP

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — What does it take to make a Most Valuable Player candidate? There are several criteria, and the Giants' **Bobby Bonds** measures up to most of them.

Bonds, mature at 25, is leading the club in most departments—batting average, home runs, RBIs, hits, runs scored, stolen bases, doubles and at-bats. There isn't much else offensively.

Bobby leads again in strikeouts, too, but his number has dropped significantly this season.

In the outfield, **Bonds** had made only two errors moving into the campaign's final fortnight, while nimbly handling a large number of chances in right and center fields.

The fourth-year Giant from Riverside, Calif., is a player who believes in establishing goals for himself, then attaining them.

Goal Is 33 Homers

"I'd like to bat in 100 runs," **Bonds** said. "It will happen if I reach another goal—33 home runs.

"I'd like to hit 33 home runs because of two things. First, it would give me 100 for my 3½ seasons in the major leagues. Second, it would be the most I've ever hit."

Bobby banged out 32 in 1969, then dropped to 26 homers last year, when his average climbed to .302 and he collected exactly 200 hits.

Add the nine home runs he smacked in his rookie season, 1968, and **Bonds'** total entering 1971 read 67.

An impressive home-run figure is appropriate for a young man who blasted a grand slam in his first big-league game in July, 1968, after his

recall from Phoenix (Pacific Coast). The only other player who ever did it was Bill Duggleby of the Phillies in 1898.

As for runs batted in, **Bonds** produced 90 in 1969 and 78 last year, but in most of those seasons he batted leadoff. This year, too, he hit leadoff until well into August.

Pressure on Bobby

Then Manager Charlie Fox, seeking more power with Willie McCovey handicapped by his sore knee and later an injured hand, alternated **Bobby** in the third, fourth and fifth batting-order spots.

Unquestionably, there has been pressure there, especially with McCovey and sometimes Willie Mays out of the lineup.

And **Bonds** has responded to it with timely hits on a number of occasions.

While the entire Giant club-slumped miserably in early September, only third baseman Al Gallagher and **Bonds** hit respectably.

With McCovey sidelined and tall Dave Kingman idled by an appendectomy, much of what power hitting there was had to be **Bonds'** responsibility.

"It's definitely a challenge," **Bobby** conceded, "but I don't mind it." While McCovey missed 11 games with his torn hand, **Bonds** had to bat cleanup. When Stretch returned to action September 15, **Bobby** was switched to No. 3.

Bonds' home run in Atlanta September 12 was the first by a Giant other than rookie Chris Arnold in eight frustrating days. The previous one was clouted by **Bonds**, too, giving the Giants a 1-0 decision

over Houston just prior to their seven-game losing streak.

A determined competitor, **Bonds** has maintained a constructive attitude amid the changing tides of the pennant race.

"I've felt all along it would take a miracle to keep us away from the division championship," **Bobby** said resolutely. "I'm out to do everything I can to win it for us."

The 31,907 Candlestick Park fans who watched **Bonds** rifle a long home run into left field with Tito Fuentes and Mays on base to give the Giants a 5-3 lead over the Dodgers in the seventh inning September 14 will long remember the moment.

A Victory Salute

Before he even reached first base on his drive over the left field fence off Joe Moeller, **Bobby** jumped high in the air and raised both arms over his head in a victorious gesture.

"But the home run didn't mean much when we couldn't hold the lead," growled **Bonds** after the Dodgers rallied for three runs in the ninth to win, 6-5.

Bobby has cut his strikeouts by one third. He is down from his 45 steals of 1969 and 48 in 1970. But he retains a chance to duplicate his rare 1969 feat of hitting 30 home runs and stealing 30 bases in the same season.

Only four other players in major league history have done this—Willie Mays in 1956-57, Hank Aaron in 1963, Ken Williams in 1922 and Tommy Harper last year.

(Continued on Page 26, Column 3)



Jerome Holtzman

Ex-Saviour Short Now Pain in Neck

CHICAGO, Ill.—According to what I hear, there seems to be a possibility that Owner Bob Short may sue his fellow owners if they keep him locked in at Washington, D. C. Tell me, sir, isn't this the same Bob Short who several brief years ago was heralded as one of the bright New Breed owners, one of the so-called Young Turks who was rushing in to save baseball from the ancients? Ironic, isn't it, that now baseball is trying to save itself from Bob Short?

I also find it somewhat amusing that Bill Veeck entered the bidding for Short's Washington franchise. For the last 10 years, Veeck had been putting the knock—and I mean constantly—on baseball. To hear him tell it, almost all of the members of the Baseball Establishment have been and presumably still are boobs. Yet, Veeck now wants to get back in—at cut-rate prices, to boot. Frankly, I'll take Calvin Griffith of Minnesota over all of them.

This is the time of the year when we start thinking about awards and individual titles and it's just occurred to me why, in all these years, hasn't there been some kind of recognition for the pitcher who has the best percentage of outs in relation to the number of batters faced.

What I'm thinking of would be similar to the batting title in reverse. The hitters with the highest ratio of hits to times at bat are duly honored, yet there is never even any mention of the pitchers with the best percentage of retiring the most hitters. In a sense, the pitcher who would win this award would be the season's most effective pitcher, since essentially the pitcher's job is to get outs.

John Hillyer, one of my Chicago buddies and a knowledgeable baseball writer, predicts that the Kansas City Royals won't do as well next season when they move into their new park. Hillyer says the Royals are better suited for their present park because they don't hit the long ball, yet their fences are distant enough to negate much of the power of the opposing clubs.

Lew Krausse, the Milwaukee pitcher, had a pair of his fancy pants stolen from the visitors' clubhouse during the Brewers' last trip into Kansas City. Deadpanned Dave Bristol, the Milwaukee manager, "Needless to say, it wasn't the night Amos Otis stole five bases against us, so it wasn't him."

White Sox coach Luke Appling was talking about those wonderful years when he was a player and Jimmie Dykes was his manager. Appling said that Dykes never gave him a sign of any kind to hit and run, to take, etc., on the premise that Luke always would know what to do, anyway.

When Luke Bunted, It Was a Surprise

"I was a good bunter," Luke recalled. "I'd bunt once a year just to keep my hand. One day we were playing Boston—it's two outs in the ninth, bases loaded and two strikes on me. Old Pinky Higgins was playing third. I bunted, a beautiful bunt. Pinky just came in and put the ball in his pocket and walked off the field. No chance for a play. But he was waiting for me in the runway. He told me, 'Why, you sonofagun, first time you've bunted in five years and it had to be against me.'"

If you have some time on your hands and like to play with statistics, check out Mike Epstein's homer vs. at-bat ratio. White Sox outfielder Rick Reichardt tells me it ranks with the majors' top sluggers. . . . Charlie Finley, poor guy, had to celebrate his pennant by his lonesome. His wife, Shirley, is on a big European tour.

The hitters are saying that Jim Slaton, the Milwaukee bullpen ace, not only knows how to load 'em up, but also has a sharp belt buckle. Which, so far as I'm concerned, is okay. With the strike zone constantly shrinking, the pitchers have it tougher than ever and should have a little something extra going for them.

Jim Fregosi, the Angels' star shortstop and team captain, is one smart fellow. He attended the Alex Johnson hearings (Anaheim portion) on his own, just to find out what was going on. Commissioner Bowie Kuhn should have done the same thing. I realize Kuhn doesn't have an official say in the Johnson case, but it might have been good for him to listen.

On my last trip into Kansas City, I visited with Ewing Kauffman, the Royals' owner, and he told me all about the progress of his Baseball Academy. Funny thing is that every time I see Kauffman, it makes me think of Cub Owner P. K. Wrigley. P. K.'s been in baseball for 40 years and has been trying hard to come up with one good idea and Kauffman walks in off the street and beats him to the punch.

Wrigley in Chicago, But Not at Ball Park

Speaking of P. K., a reader from Decatur, Ill., writes in to say that ". . . at least Mr. Wrigley isn't an absentee owner." . . . True enough, Wrigley does live in Chicago, but he could just as well be in Timbuktu. I've been covering the Cubs for 15 years (a half season each year) and have yet to see him at a Cub game in Chicago. I've been told that P. K. does occasionally go to the ball park in disguise.

Lou Chapman, the Milwaukee baseball authority, says the Brewers are taking a \$1.3 million bath. . . . I've got a new hero. He's Freddie Patek, the little Kansas City shortstop. The guy's amazing. He hustles so much he makes Pete Rose look like he's standing still. Patek's aim is to leap into the \$100,000 salary bracket and I, for one, certainly hope he makes it.

Now that Paul Popovich is playing every day with the Cubs (as a replacement for the wounded Glenn Beckert), it is becoming increasingly apparent he can get the ball away (on a double play) as fast as any second baseman since Bill Mazerowski was in his prime. This shouldn't be too surprising. Popo grew up in Pittsburgh and imitated all of Maz' moves.

Astros Turn Second Triple Play

HOUSTON, Tex.—The Astros turned their second triple play of the season to back righthander Don Wilson's one-hit pitching and score a 4-1 victory over the Reds September 17.

Cincinnati had scored once and had the bases full when second baseman **Bobby** Morgan made a diving catch of Darrel Chaney's liner. Morgan flipped the ball to second, doubling George Foster. Shortstop Roger Metzger then relayed to first baseman John Mayberry to nail Pat Corrales and complete the triple play.

Tony Perez doubled, leading off the second, for the Reds' only hit.



Melvin Durslag

A Case of Ump Courage

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — There has been advanced in baseball a logical plan for dealing with pitchers who throw suspiciously inside.

The plan calls for one warning, after which the umpire removes the pitcher from the game.

"Proving the man's motive is unimportant," says Baltimore's Earl Weaver, the leading advocate of the idea. "When a pitcher keeps putting that ball high and inside, the ump must say to him, 'You don't have your control tonight, son. You are endangering people's lives. You go to the shower and come back another time.'"

In such circumstances, you are not asked to read the mind of the culprit. If he looks dangerous, he is thrown out.

Well, we saw a heartening enforcement of this philosophy in a recent game between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Singer Touches It Off

It had begun with Bill Singer, the Dodger pitcher, hitting two Giant batsmen. Those studying the pitches on television tape were pretty much agreed they were not suspicious.

Nor did they arouse the plate umpire, who was working in the home park of San Francisco. No official is anxious to stir the natives unnecessarily, especially in San Francisco, a notorious community.

Do you know what they did at Candlestick Park one day? Unable to buy seats, fans turned over the ticket booths, which was very distressing to those working inside.

The two inside pitches by Singer

were all that were needed to draw reciprocation from Juan Marichal, who is known to reciprocate before there is a provocation.

Juan always has taken the position that a team doesn't have the right to get a hit off him. He has bombed batters for years and driven others into the dirt.

Now the Dodgers led him, 3-1, in a vital game, and, as luck would have it, Singer had given him a beautiful opening.

A Warning to Juan

With Bill at bat, Juan sent the first two balls whizzing past his head. Neither looked accidental to anyone, least of all the umpire at the plate.

He strode to the mound and warned Juan, who grew indignant that his integrity as a sportsman would be questioned.

When Bill Buckner, the rookie outfielder, came to bat, the first pitch was more than close. It hit Buckner on the arm. Whereupon the young man went to the mound in a pose that had to be strikingly familiar to Marichal.

Buckner carried a bat.

He was quickly overtaken by the San Francisco catcher, after which turbulence spread like a hillside fire. Earlier in the year, Buckner had been hit by Marichal in Los Angeles, and he now discovered that developing a fondness for Juan wasn't easy.

It was at this point that the umpires comported themselves in just about as admirable a way as ever witnessed at a baseball game.

They kicked out Marichal for throwing inside, and they gave the

foot to Buckner for approaching the mound with a bat.

This was courageous officiating, folks. The two teams were locked in a boiling pennant race. Marichal was working in his home park. And the umpires had the innards to bounce him, a fate he richly deserved.

Nor did Buckner have a case. Anyone even strolling in the direction of another with a bat is an automatic scratch.

It isn't easy to explain Juan Marichal. As one of baseball's premier pitchers the last 10 years, he actually isn't far removed from Cooperstown.

But he never has learned to control his emotions as he does his breaking stuff.

Marichal Can Boil Over

Personally, he is a mild individual who talks quietly and often wears a smile. But an awful lot of lava obviously flows inside and escapes in moments of stress.

In such a mood, he hit John Roseboro over the head with a baseball bat one day in San Francisco. He put Willie Davis in the hospital with a fast ball at the head.

And the book on him among hitters is to beware when he is behind, or in distress.

Whatever their sentiments socially about Marichal, the Dodgers despise him in a game.

Which, of course, is incidental to the primary issue, namely, that proof of motive is unimportant when a pitcher is throwing suspiciously inside.

He must be kicked out. It will amaze you how his control will improve the next time he works.



Bobby Bonds . . . Billed for Big Role as Bomber



Bobby Murcer . . . New Light at Candlestick

Yanks Find Power, Speed In Single Package—Bonds

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—For years, the penetrating local question in bars and on street corners was: "Would you trade Mickey Mantle for Willie Mays?"

The question, of course, never was answered, but to a slightly lesser degree, the Yankees and Giants did just that when Bobby Murcer, the "new" Mantle, was sent to San Francisco in exchange for Bobby Bonds, the "new" Mays.

The even-up trade of the Bobbys was considered one of the biggest one-for-one deals in baseball history. It ranks bigger than the Rocky Colavito-for-Harvey Kuenn swap pulled off by the Indians and Tigers two decades ago simply because Bonds and Murcer are both \$100,000 ballplayers. Never before has one six-figure player been traded for another.

THERE IS SO much about the two Bobbys that is similar that the trade, on the surface, seems senseless. Why would the Yankees and Giants trade an outfielder for an outfielder, particularly when they are the same age? Bonds, born on March 15, 1946, is two months and five days older than Murcer.

The answer, so far as the Yankees are concerned, is speed, power and Ron Blomberg.

The three things Yankee President Gabe Paul was looking to add to his team for 1975 was a righthanded pitcher, a righthanded power hitter and speed. He got two of those three things in one man, with one trade on the first day of interleague trading.

In six full seasons with the Giants, Bonds averaged 30 homers and 41 stolen bases. In his six years

as a Yankee, Murcer averaged 11 stolen bases and, although he also averaged 23 homers, the Yankees no longer thought of him as a home-run hitter. His home-run production fell off from a high of 33 in 1972 to 10 in 1974, when he gave in to frustration over his inability to hit the ball out of Shea Stadium.

HE HIT ONLY two home runs there all season and they came in the team's 153rd and 154th games.

Murcer has a higher lifetime batting average (.282 to .276) and is a better bet to hit .300 for the Giants than Bonds is to hit .300 for the Yankees.

But Bonds is the first Yankee to combine power and speed since Mickey Mantle, ironically the man Murcer was billed to replace. Murcer and Mantle both were born in Oklahoma; they were both signed by Tom Greenwade; they both started their professional careers

as shortstops, and they both were shifted to center field. The comparisons were inevitable and Murcer suffered because, for all his excellence, he never was the Mantle-type player the Yankees hoped and predicted he'd be.

Bonds is more in the Mantle mold. The power . . . the speed . . . the strikeouts. Mantle struck out a record 1,710 times in 18 seasons. Bonds has fanned 1,016 times in 6½ seasons and holds the major league single-season record of 189 in 1970.

BUT BILL VIRDON, who admired Bonds from across the field when he managed in Pittsburgh, knows the strikeouts are just something he's going to have to live with.

"That's the only bad thing he does," said Virdon. "He does everything else well. It seems when-
(Continued on Page 40, Column 3)

Murcer 'Stunned' by Trade

NEW YORK—Bobby Murcer was asleep when the telephone rang at his home in Oklahoma City. On the line was Yankee President Gabe Paul, telling him he had been traded to the Giants.

"I was stunned," said Murcer. "I had been assured by Mr. Steinbrenner that as long as he was part of the Yankees, I would be, too.

"I thought I would finish my career in New York. I always wanted to be a Yankee. I took less money (\$10,000) than the Dodgers offered (\$20,000) to sign with them. I've been through a rebuilding program and I really thought we had a chance to win next year and I wanted to be part of it."

Now, Murcer goes to San Francisco, where he will be part of another rebuilding program.

"I don't know a thing about the National League," he said. "I don't know the pitchers in the National League. But I'll learn fast. The pitchers there can't be that much different."

PHIL PEPE

'Needed Righthand Power,' Paul Explanation to Murcer

By PAT FRIZZELL

home the morning of the first day of interleague trading.

"My wife had taken our two children to school," said the man once groomed to succeed Mickey Mantle, "so I had to get up and answer.

"It was Gabe Paul, president of the Yankees. He told me I'd been traded to the Giants for Bonds.

"I was completely shocked. I thought at first I was dreaming. I asked Paul one question: 'Why?'

"HIS ANSWER was that the Yankees needed a righthanded hitter."

Murcer and Bonds have many similarities. Both are 28. Both have been outstanding hitters for average and also able to deliver the long ball. Both command salaries in the \$100,000 bracket.

And both had off-seasons in 1974, plus some disagreements with managers—Bonds with Westrum's predecessor, Charlie Fox, and Murcer with Bill Virdon, who moved him from center to right field against his wishes.

MURCER, A member of the American League All-Star team

the past four summers, first got into the Yankee lineup as a shortstop back in 1964, when he was only 18. Not until 1969, after two years in the service, did he become a regular, however, as an outfielder.

In 958 games as a Yankee, Bobby compiled a cumulative batting average of .278, with 140 home runs and 542 RBIs. His best season was 1971, when he hit .331, with 25 homers and 94 RBIs. The following year, he clouted 33 homers. In 1974, his average fell to .274, 10 points down from the previous season, with only 10 home runs and 88 RBIs.

Bonds smashed a grand slam in his first game with the Giants in June, 1968, and rocketed on from there. In 1,014 Giant games, Bobby B. batted .276, with 176 home runs and 552 RBIs. He stole 263 bases compared with 68 for Murcer. But in 1974, Bonds' batting average dropped to .256. He hit 21 homers, drove in 71 runs and stole 41 bases.

"I hope the Yankees win the pennant next season," said Murcer,
(Continued on Page 40, Column 1)

SAN FRANCISCO—Bobby Murcer was shocked when he learned he had become a Giant.

The 28-year-old outfielder, swapped by the Yankees for Bobby Bonds, said he had no inkling he would be traded. He hasn't even seen Candlestick Park, except from the air. He isn't accustomed to playing on AstroTurf, nor in windy weather.

"But I'm not sorry to be with the Giants, even though I hate to leave the Yankees," Murcer said. "I understand the Giants have a great-looking young club. Maybe I can help them turn things around. We'll have to wait and see."

Murcer probably will play right field and bat No. 3 in the Giants' order.

"THIS TRADE gives us the left-handed hitter we needed," Manager Wes Westrum said. "Murcer is a very aggressive hitter. He has a good arm and above-average speed. He's a bulldog competitor.

"I watched Murcer for two years when I was a Giant scout and was very impressed."

Bobby was in bed when the telephone rang at his Oklahoma City

Murcer: 'An Even-Up Trade'

(Continued From Page 39)

one of the leaders in the New York club's close division-championship battle with the Orioles in the American League East this year.

"ONE THING that worries me a little is that when I originally signed, I accepted \$10,000 less bonus money from the Yankees than the Dodgers offered, because I wanted to be with a strong club. It didn't turn out that way, did it? I was part of the Yankees' struggle for six years. Now that the club finally is a pennant contender, I'm gone.

"But this will be a new experience. I'll have to adjust, learn National League parks and pitchers. I haven't met many of the Giants' players. I've been in San Francisco when I was in Oakland with the Yankees, but never got to Candlestick. I'm sorry to hear it gets so cold and windy there. I don't enjoy cold weather."

Murcer felt the Yankees would not trade him because of denials reported earlier this year.

"Gabe Paul was asked early in the season if I might be traded," Bobby said. "He said yes, for Fenway Park and Hank Aaron. I guess they couldn't get Fenway Park or Aaron, so they traded me for someone else. But it sounds like a pretty even trade."

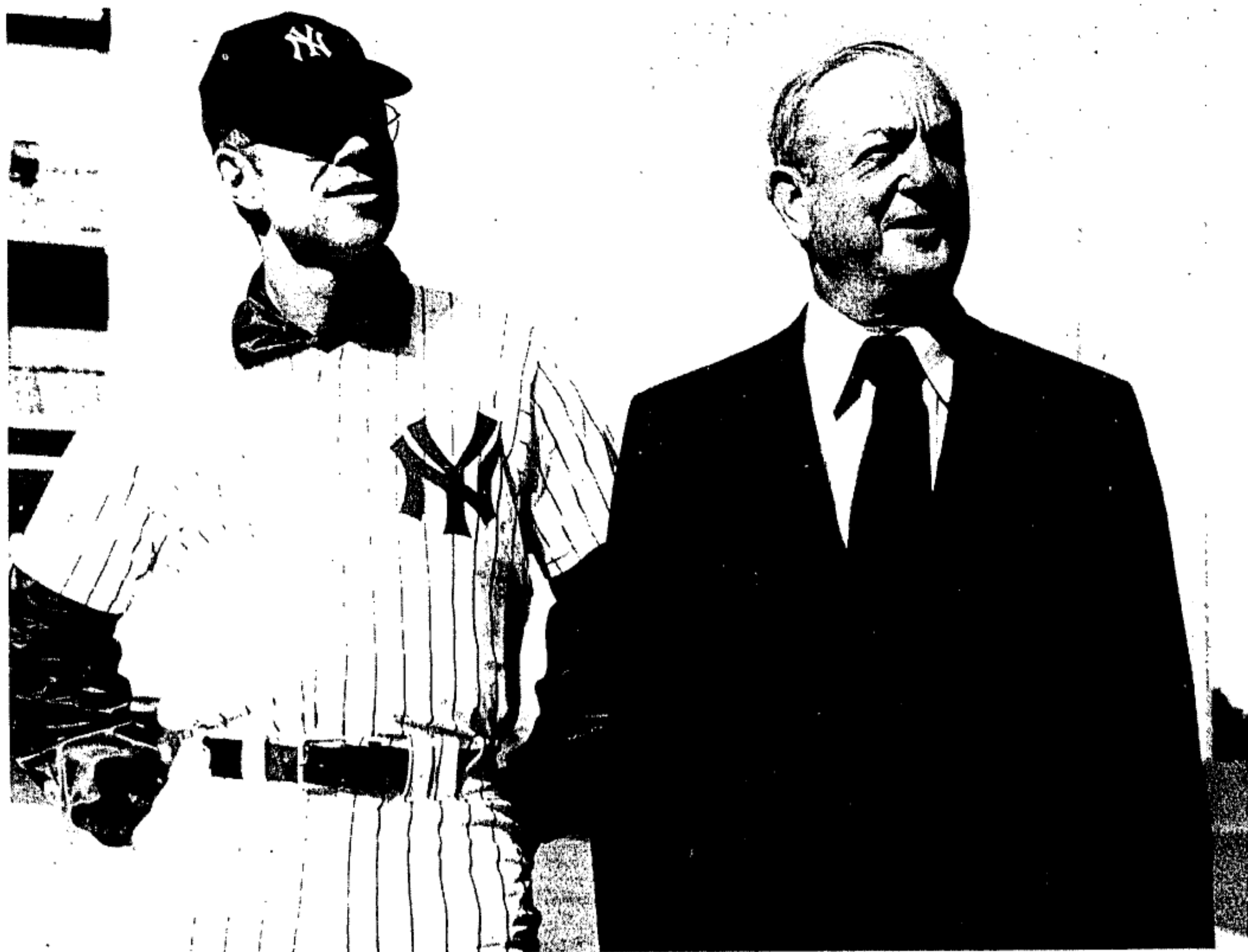
HORACE STONEHAM, the Giants' president, worked out the Murcer-Bonds deal himself with Paul. Originally, the Giants sought a pitcher, but they liked Murcer, too.

"I'd hoped to spend my entire career with the Giants," said Bonds, who first learned of the trade from his brother, David, who'd heard about it on the radio while Bobby was fishing with Jim Ray Hart, an ex-Giant and ex-Yankee.

"Still, I thought I was going to be traded. There were a lot of rumors. If it had to happen, the Angels were my first choice of a team to go to. My second choice was one of the New York clubs.

"So I'm kind of delighted. Still, I hate to leave. The fans were great to me in San Francisco. Mr. Stoneham has been good to me. I thought when I talked with him last summer he wouldn't trade me, but I'm sure he did this in what he considered the best interest of the club."

Giant Jottings: Garry Maddox will have his back and legs, which pained the last half of the season, checked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., this month. . . . Tito Fuentes, assuring everyone his back is as good as ever, probably will not undergo a checkup at Mayo, as originally planned, but instead will leave shortly on his first visit to his native Cuba since he signed with the Giants in 1962. . . . Although the Giants were in search of a lefthanded hitter when they obtained Murcer, their final 1974 percentage against lefthanded starting pitchers, with many righthanded hitters in their lineup, was only .333 on 16 wins, 28 losses, compared with an overall finish of .444.



Virdon With G. M. Gabe Paul . . . Some Second Fiddle

Second-Fiddle Virdon Gets a Pay Hike

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—Like The Man Who Came To Dinner, Bill Virdon, who became Yankee manager on a "temporary" basis, may stay in that post longer than any other man.

The record is Joe McCarthy's 15 consecutive years, starting in 1931. The two-year contract Virdon signed for a substantial pay boost, putting him in the \$70,000-per-year class, will leave Bill just 12 years behind McCarthy.

THE NEW contract means Virdon will be the Yankee manager when the team returns to Yankee Stadium in 1976. He hopes it also means he'll be the Yankee manager when the team wins its next pennant—like in 1975.

"I don't think anybody can predict a pennant," Virdon said. "Who knows what's going to happen? But I feel I have a far greater knowledge of the American League and that's got to help to a great extent, especially early in the season. The other teams respect us now. That's one thing they didn't do going into last season."

Virdon took a team that had been promised to Dick Williams and he got the job only after Williams was unable to get out of his contract with Oakland. As second fiddle, Virdon played his own tune. He took a team picked to finish no higher than fourth and came in second, two games behind the Orioles in the American League East.

FOR HIS great job, Virdon got the nod of his peers, the 23 other major league managers, and was named "Manager of the Year" in THE SPORTING NEWS poll.

In announcing the rehiring of Virdon, Yankee President Gabe Paul said Bill "did a tremendous job in 1974 and we look forward to the future with great anticipation. Bill, it's a pleasure to be able to make this announcement."

Paul said, "There are many good things you can say about Bill Virdon, but the best thing is that he has good, old-fashioned guts. He's unaffected by criticism."

To which Virdon cracked, "I don't necessarily like it, but I don't resent it."

GLANCING BACK in The Sporting News

1969 . . . 1959 . . . 1949 . . . 1924 . . . 1899

5 Years Ago

Chicago's Gale Sayers showed flashes of his old running form for the first time since his knee injury of last season as he carried the ball 15 times for 109 yards in Sunday's game. Despite Sayers, the Los Angeles Rams defeated the Bears, 9-7.

THE SPORTING NEWS named third baseman Coco Laboy of the Montreal Expos and outfielder Carlos May of the Chicago White Sox as the Rookie Players of the Year in the National and American leagues, respectively. Tom Griffin of Houston and Mike Nagy of Boston were selected as Rookie Pitchers of the Year.

15 Years Ago

A bidding war for college football players appears to be developing between the National Football League and the newly organized American Football League.

THE SPORTING NEWS Major League All-Star team was announced. It had Hank Aaron (Milwaukee), Willie Mays (San Francisco) and Minnie Minoso (Chicago White Sox) in the outfield. The infield had Orlando Cepeda (San Francisco), Nelson Fox (White Sox), Ernie Banks (Chicago Cubs) and Eddie Mathews (Milwaukee). Sherman Lollar (White Sox) was the catcher and the pitchers were Early Wynn (White Sox), Johnny Antonelli (San Francisco) and Sam Jones (San Francisco).

25 Years Ago

Joe McCarthy signed a two-year contract to continue as manager of the Boston Red Sox. The signing spiked reports that McCarthy planned to retire.

Powel Crosley, Jr., said that, despite published reports to the contrary, no bids had been received for the Cincinnati Reds and the sale of the club was not imminent.

50 Years Ago

The Seattle club in the Pacific Coast League showed a net profit of \$70,000 for the past season. Manager Wade Killifer's share was \$25,000, including salary and money earned by his stock in the club.

Reflecting on his 18 years in the major leagues, Walter Johnson declared that Rube Waddell was the best pitcher he had ever seen.

75 Years Ago

Jim Jeffries retained the world heavyweight championship by scoring a 25-round decision over Tom Sharkey.

John McGraw refused to leave the National League to go to the American Association of Professional Baseball Clubs and take over the Baltimore franchise there.

Bonds' Speed a Plus for Yankees

(Continued From Page 39)

ever we (the Pirates) played against him, if he didn't strike out, he got a hit."

That's probably not far wrong. In 1970, Bonds came to bat 663 times officially. He struck out 189 times, leaving 474 times he hit the ball. Out of that, he had 200 hits, a batting average of .422 when he made contact.

In addition to his great bat, Bonds has 9.5 speed for the 100 and is considered a great defensive player, twice winning the Gold Glove as a member of the outfield on THE SPORTING NEWS N. L. All-Star fielding team and twice leading National League outfielders in double plays. He gets the nod over Murcer on defense simply because he is a natural right fielder.

BONDS AND HIS idol, Willie Mays, are the only players in baseball history to have more than one season in which they have had 30 homers and 30 steals in the same year. Both did it twice, Bonds achieving it in 1969 (32 HRs, 45 steals) and 1973 (39 HRs, 43). In 1973, he missed by one home run of becoming the first 40-40 man in

baseball history.

After that year, at least two National League managers acclaimed Bonds the best player in the game.

"Not too many people will give you much of an argument on that," said Virdon, delighted with his new man.

Bonds Will Hear Maddox

Line in New York, Too

NEW YORK—The more things change, the more they remain the same.

When Bobby Murcer arrives in San Francisco, he will be told he cannot play center field because they have Maddox there.

When Bobby Bonds comes to New York, he will be told he cannot play center field because they have Maddox here.

The Giants' center fielder is Garry Maddox. The Yankees' is Elliott Maddox. They are related only in their ability to catch a baseball.

PHIL PEPE

In announcing the trade, Gabe Paul said when he first talked to the Giants about Bonds, they kept bringing up the name Doc Medich and the Yankees kept saying, "Nothing doing."

"I THOUGHT IT was dead," Paul said. "Then I mentioned Murcer's name and Horace Stoneham said, 'That I like.'"

In Bonds, Paul said, "We got the speed and the righthanded hitting we were looking for," and that's where Ron Blomberg comes in.

With Murcer, Chris Chambliss, Graig Nettles and Blomberg, the Yankees of 1974 were heavy on lefthanded power. That encouraged other teams to store up their lefties and save them for the Yankees. Consequently, the Yankees had 86 decisions against lefthanders, 76 against righties, an imbalance.

It also meant that more than half the time, Blomberg's lefty bat was put on the bench. He came to bat only 264 times and as a part-time player, batted .310 with 10 homers and 48 RBIs. The replacement of Murcer with Bonds means the Yankees will likely see more righthanders and have more opportunity to use Blomberg's bat.