

# 'I'm Ready to Help Mets Wherever I'm Needed' -- Bressoud

By BARNEY KREMENKO

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Eddie Bressoud, obtained by the Mets from the Red Sox in a recent trade, regards his return to New York as a homecoming in more ways than one.

"In the first place, I'll be back in the city where I started my major league career," the 33-year-old infielder said. "It was in 1956 that I came up with the Giants. They were playing at the Polo Grounds then.

"Besides that, when I reported to the Giants in training camp that spring, two players on that team welcomed me. One was Wes Westrum, then their regular catcher, and the other, Don Mueller, their regular right fielder. Mueller has long since retired, but Westrum now is my manager." Bressoud said as he expressed the highest regard for Casey Stengel's successor.

"I was still with the Giants when Wes became a coach for them," Eddie reminded. "I thought that Wes was greatly underrated in his ability. He was a master at stealing pitches and that was very helpful to every hitter on the team.

"He's quiet, unassuming and a real gentleman."

Bressoud said that he was neither shocked nor surprised at being trad-

ed.

## Rode Bench in Boston

"After being the Red Sox' regular shortstop three straight years, I found myself sitting on the bench while they played Rico Petrocelli, their rookie," the new Met pointed out. "When that happened, I figured they would trade me once the season was over."

Then he added:

"Naturally, I wasn't happy being a benchwarmer and talked to Billy Herman about it. I had hit .293 the year before and thought that earned me the right to a regular job. But Billy explained the Red Sox' side of the situation and there wasn't much I could do after that."

For most of his career, Bressoud has been a shortstop, but he also has operated around both second and third.

"I played 58 games at second base for the Giants in 1958," he recalled.

Bressoud realizes that Roy McMillan is the current No. 1 shortstop of the Mets and that displacing the gifted Texan is no easy chore.

## Eager for Any Role

"All I can say is that I'll be shooting for the moon when I get to St. Petersburg," Eddie declared. "But if I can't win that job, I'm ready to help out anywhere I can.

"If it means being a utilityman and playing three positions, that will be okay, too."

Bressoud lives in Los Altos, Calif., during the winter and is teaching in the district's secondary school system.

"Since I can't work the full year

## Eddie Worked 14 Years To Get Master's Degree

NEW YORK, N. Y. — After 14 years of college work, Eddie Bressoud, the Mets' new infielder, finally obtained his master's degree in 1964. He had received his bachelor's degree four years earlier.

Because of his baseball activity, Eddie could go to school only one semester at a time.

After starting at El Camino (Calif.) College in 1950 at the age of 18, Bressoud transferred to Los Angeles City College, then received his Bachelor of Science degree from UCLA. He took his master's at San Jose State. With his master's degree, Eddie, now 33, teaches at the secondary school level.

Bressoud hopes to make teaching and coaching his full-time profession when his baseball days are over.

## Say-Hey! Swoboda Flashes New Image as Met Flyhawk

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Ron Swoboda had to laugh.

A reporter had asked if they were true — those stories out of the Florida Instructional League about Swoboda becoming another Willie Mays in the outfield. The Mets' youngster laughed, but indicated fielding was a serious matter with him.

"That's a little exaggerated," he said about the Mays reference, "but I feel I made a tremendous improvement in Florida."

The slugger played for a month and a half in the winter circuit and received much instruction in fielding and baserunning as well as his specialty — belting the ball. Observers say his performance afield was very encouraging.

Swoboda was so anxious to upgrade the quality of his garden work this winter that he passed up the chance to pick up hundreds of dollars through public appearances in New York.

because of baseball, I'm listed as a substitute teacher and teach physical education, history and science, moving around from school to school in the district," he said. "There are eight high schools and I work in each of them."

Bressoud reports that he is in pretty fair shape.

"Whenever I get the chance, I work out with the teams of those schools," he said.

In the middle of January, however, he will start on a regular program of drills and keep it up until it is time to go to spring training.

Bressoud plans to check in at the Mets' camp with the regular squad on March 1.

## Eddie Likes Teaching

"I plan to keep teaching as long as possible, but it really doesn't matter as far as my conditioning is concerned," he said. "I'll be set when I report."

Bressoud is married to the former Carol Mathews. There are three children—Ed Jr., 11, Steve 10, and one daughter, Michele, 5.

A native of Los Angeles, Bressoud moved to Los Altos after the Giants left New York to go West. Los Altos is 37 miles south of San Francisco.

Eddie, for whom the Mets gave up outfielder Joe Christopher, is the third shortstop listed on the roster. Besides veteran McMillan, there also is 21-year-old rookie Derrel Harrelson.

However, it is most likely Bressoud will serve as Westrum's infield trouble-shooter, filling in whenever needed. He also will come in handy as a pinch-hitter.

"He has been around and knows what it's all about," Skipper Westrum said. "That's the kind of man we need on the bench."

Met Memos: Wes Westrum, en route to St. Pete from his home in Phoenix, Ariz., will detour to New York for a series of dinners. The new manager is slated for appearances at the B'nai B'rith Sports Lodge dinner, January 22; the New York Press Photographers' annual shindig, January 25; the New York baseball writers' annual show and frolic, January 30, and the Mets' Boosters affair, January 31. . . . Joining his boss at these banquets will be outfielder Ron Swoboda. The young clouter, recently married, has taken an apartment in White-stone, Queens, not far from Shea Stadium. . . . More than 150 showed up at Shea on December 8 for a press preview of "Expressway To The Big Leagues," the Mets' annual promotional film. . . . The Mets will have to wait a while longer before vacating their midtown offices at 680 Fifth avenue and putting the full front office in Shea. A snag developed. . . . Jerry Hinsley, young right-handed pitching prospect, is 20 pounds underweight at 165, the result of a fractured jaw he received from being hit by a line drive. He had been unable to eat.

# Spahn Still Laughs At Old Father Time --Seeks Mound Job

By NICK SEITZ

HARTSHORNE, Okla.

Warren Spahn will rise again, according to Warren Spahn.

The winningest lefthander in the history of baseball (363 victories), a cattle rancher here between seasons, Spahn thinks he can make a comeback, assuming he gets the chance.

"I want to pitch next year if somebody will have me," said the balding, 44-year-old hurler who was cut adrift by the Giants after the season.

He is free to deal for himself. While not ruling out a return to the Giants, he doubts it.

"I talked to them and they invited me to spring training to try to make the club. They could give me no guarantee I'd pitch regularly, though, so I'll shop around first."

Spahn says he would rather work as a starter than in relief "because I'm more effective that way," but he'll go to the bull pen if nothing else develops.

And he prefers to stay in the National League "because I know more about it."

His record last season as a Giant and, before that, as a Met



WARREN SPAHN . . . Looking for a job as well as small game on his ranch at Hartshorne, Okla.

was 7-16, which won't turn many pitchers green with envy. Spahn believes the bare figures are misleading, however.

"I thought I pitched pretty well for the Giants," he says. "The games I lost, they didn't get many hits back of me. I was shut out twice, once on a three-hitter and once on a four-hitter."

You've heard the weary bromide about being only as old as you feel? Spahn claims he never felt better.

"My biggest problem is that I'm 44 and people figure me by the average. You're not supposed to pitch in the big leagues when you're that old."

He has made a few token concessions to Papa Time, though. He works out more often during the winter and is a recent convert to isometric-contraction exercising.

"I'm throwing at least twice a week. My son catches me. He's a senior at Hartshorne High. I think he might be a prospect. He's an outfielder and shortstop. He's more interested in football at present."

## At 44, He Wants to Add Knuckler

The younger Spahn must field a knuckleball these days. "Anything to get 'em out," said Warren. "I want to add a knuckler to the fast ball, slider, change-up, screwball and curve. I've fiddled with it a little in the past, but never very seriously or in a game."

Spahn conceded that conditioning is a bit tougher than when he broke into the majors 23 years ago. "But once you get in shape, it's just a matter of daily routine. I have to start earlier in the spring, that's all. Working around the ranch keeps me in trim. I weigh 185 today and I'll be down to 175 by spring."

This thriving ranch sprawls across 3,000 acres in southeastern Oklahoma. "We have four or five hundred head of cattle," he noted. "We take a count the first of the year. I have two full-time helpers. "I'm not like a lot of bosses—I let them do most of the work. I'm sort of a truck boss. . . . I drive around all the time. My day starts at about 8 and runs until about 6. Just run-of-the-mill chores. I like being outdoors and active."

Not as much as he likes baseball, of course. When he finishes playing, in 1999 or so, Spahn would like to manage. In the meantime, he would be receptive to a pitching-coaching proposition.

"I don't think the two jobs conflict. I know some people in New York disagreed when I was with the Mets. The biggest part of the job is to get your pitchers in shape and I think I did that."

He hasn't talked with any club about managing. "Everybody knows I want to continue pitching. I'll contact the big league teams in the next month to see if anybody is interested in me."

Warren Spahn does not doubt that he can rise again.

## Mets Gave Chisox Quick Stanky Okay

NEW YORK, N. Y.—George Weiss, president of the Mets, gave immediate approval when the White Sox approached the club for Eddie Stanky's services.

"The appointment of Eddie as manager of the White Sox represents a source of great pride to the Mets' organization," Weiss said.

"While Stanky's loss will be felt in the organization," Weiss said, "it has been our policy never to interfere with advancement."



Eddie Bressoud

## Met Exhibition Chart Lists 14 Foes, 28 Tilts

By BARNEY KREMENKO  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

It will be 28 games for the Mets in their first spring exhibition schedule under Wes Westrum.

They start with a two-game weekend series against the Cardinals, March 12-13, at Al Lang Field, St. Petersburg, Fla., home diamond for both clubs, and wind up with a two-game weekend against the Orioles, April 9-10, in Greenville, S. C., and Portsmouth, Va., respectively.

The Greenville game takes the Mets into their Western Carolinas League farm city.

Fifteen rival teams will train in Florida and the Mets meet all of them with the exception of the Astros, who could not be worked into the schedule.

The New York National League expansion team returns to Miami after skipping that Florida metropolis last year. The Miami visit will wind up a three-day trip from St. Pete to the 'Gator State's East Coast, starting with a Sunday game against the Yankees, March 20, in Fort Lauderdale. The next day, the Mets will take on the Braves in West Palm Beach, then back to Miami for the Orioles.

## Five Games With Cards

Most frequent foe of the Mets will be the Cardinals, whom they'll play five times in their annual St. Pete intra-city series.

There are five night games listed —four in St. Pete and the other in West Palm Beach.

The Mets will open camp on February 23, when the batterymen report to Huggins-Stengel Field.

The schedule, with all games at St. Petersburg unless indicated differently:

March 12-13, Cardinals; 14, White Sox; 15, Dodgers; 16, Twins at Orlando; 17, Phillies at Clearwater; 18, Cardinals; 19, Reds; 20, Yankees at Ft. Lauderdale; 21, Braves at West Palm Beach; 22, Orioles at Miami; 23, Pirates; 24, Pirates at Ft. Myers; 26, White Sox at Sarasota; 27, Phillies at Clearwater; 28, Cardinals; 29, Yankees; 30, Senators; 31, Athletics.

April 1, White Sox; 2, Reds "B" at Tampa; 3, Athletics at Bradenton; 4, Red Sox; 5, Tigers; 6, Red Sox at Winter Haven; 7, Cardinals; 9, Orioles at Greenville, S. C.; 10, Orioles at Portsmouth, Va.

# Bressoud Solves Ten-Year Bosox Riddle

## Former Giant Slams Door on Hub Search for Shortstop

### Bobbled Only 3 Chances in First 44 Tilts

Higgins Swung Deal for Ed After Getting Okay From Billy Herman, Sal Maglie

By HY HURWITZ  
BOSTON, Mass.

It looks very much as if the ten-year search for a shortstop by the Boston Red Sox has come to a successful conclusion.

Eddie Bressoud, a lean, erudite Californian, has plugged the most damaging hole in the Red Sox infield. The shortstop post was well covered for the Red Sox in the first two decades of the Tom Yawkey regime at Fenway Park by Joe Cronin, Johnny Pesky and Vern Stephens.

When the Red Sox obtained Stephens from the St. Louis Browns, Joe McCarthy was managing the Hub Hose. He moved Pesky over to third base. But soon Pesky was traded to the Detroit Tigers and Stephens began to fade.

The hunt for a replacement has been far-reaching. It seemed as if they had one in Milt Bolling, now a special assistant to Executive Vice-President Dick O'Connell of the Red Sox. But Milt suffered two serious injuries in 1954 and he never was able to recover.

For five years, the Red Sox tried to fill the leak with Don Buddin. He was the best they had and the best they could get. It wasn't until the National League expanded last year that the Sox could repair their infield.

#### Deal for DeMaestri Collapsed

There were a lot of people who felt that Buddin went with the Red Sox franchise. Some even thought Manager Mike Higgins wouldn't dare let Don go. It can now be related that three years ago, Higgins offered to swap Buddin to the Kansas City Athletics for Joe DeMaestri. It was rejected.

Oddly enough, DeMaestri broke into baseball as a member of the Red Sox organization. Manager Higgins always thought Joe was a great defensive shortstop. But before he became manager of the Sox, DeMaestri had been traded away.

That Bressoud should land with the Red Sox is not too surprising. They tried to get him before the 1961 season. Higgins was back as manager of the Sox for his second tour. He had seen Eddie play some exhibition games and liked him.

On top of this, Higgins has the greatest of faith in his coaching staff. He regards his quartet of Rudy York, Billy Herman, Sal Maglie and Len Okrie as the best group of assistants in the major leagues. As Maglie and Herman had been in the National League, they were asked about Bressoud. They both gave Eddie a strong recommendation.

#### Whirlwind With Glove

Through the Memorial Day quarter pole in the A. L., Bressoud has been as good a shortstop as could be found in the circuit. He accepted 109 chances in the field before he made his first boot. He went through 17 games without a fielding fluff and the one he made against the White Sox in Fenway Park the night of May 4 was the first of only three errors charged against him in the first 44 games he played in his new loop.

The manner in which Bressoud operates at shortstop, you'd suspect that he more or less was a born shortstop. But you can't assume those things.

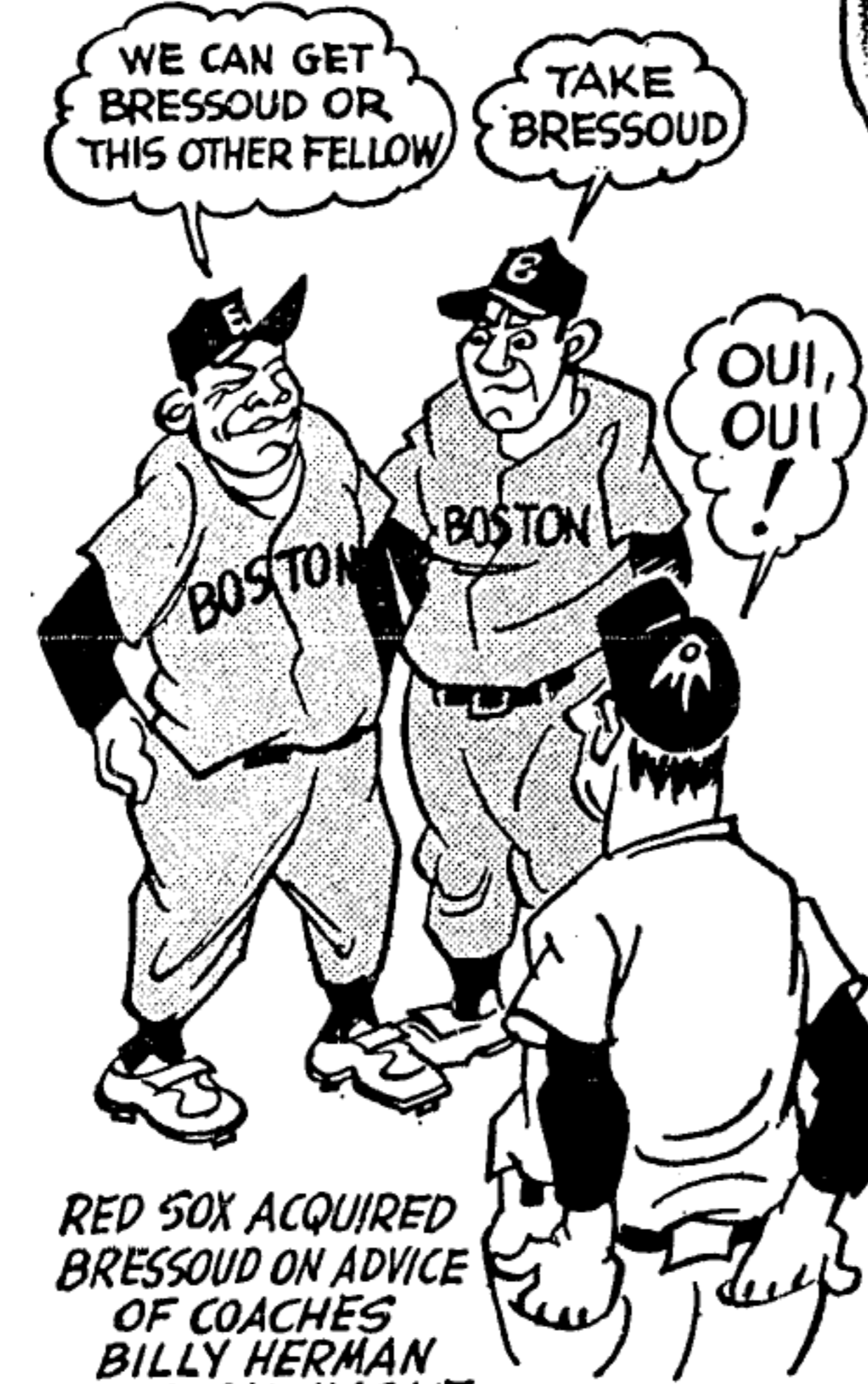
"I started out as a third baseman," Bressoud said. "I became a shortstop by accident.

"That was while I was a sophomore at high school. Our coach chose the

Correct Answer . . .

to Sticky Problem

THE BOSTON RED SOX, WHO ONCE SPECIALIZED IN HIGH-GRADE SHORTSTOPS—  
**JOE CRONIN, JOHNNY PESKY, VERN STEPHENS**—  
ARE BEATING THE BONGOS AGAIN FOR THEIR SHORTSTOP SHOW-STOPPER—  
EX-GIANT, EX-COLT  
**Eddie BRESSOUD**



RED SOX ACQUIRED BRESSOUD ON ADVICE OF COACHES BILLY HERMAN AND SAL MAGLIE, EX-NATIONAL LEAGUERS...

#### 'Nippon Fans Most Fanatic in World,' Bressoud Claims

BOSTON, Mass.—A desire to educate himself and two years of service in the U. S. Marine Corps delayed the development of 29-year old Eddie Bressoud, the new shortstop of the Boston Red Sox. Just as he was breaking into Organized Ball, Bressoud went into the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He spent two years in the Marines, most of which was in the Orient.

Bressoud has great respect for Japanese players and fans.

"The Japanese fan," stated Bressoud, "is the most fanatic in the world. They play the game over there in the streets, in alleys and even on roof tops. I spent one year in Japan during the Korean War and went back later with the San Francisco Giants." HURWITZ.

positions according to the size of the players.

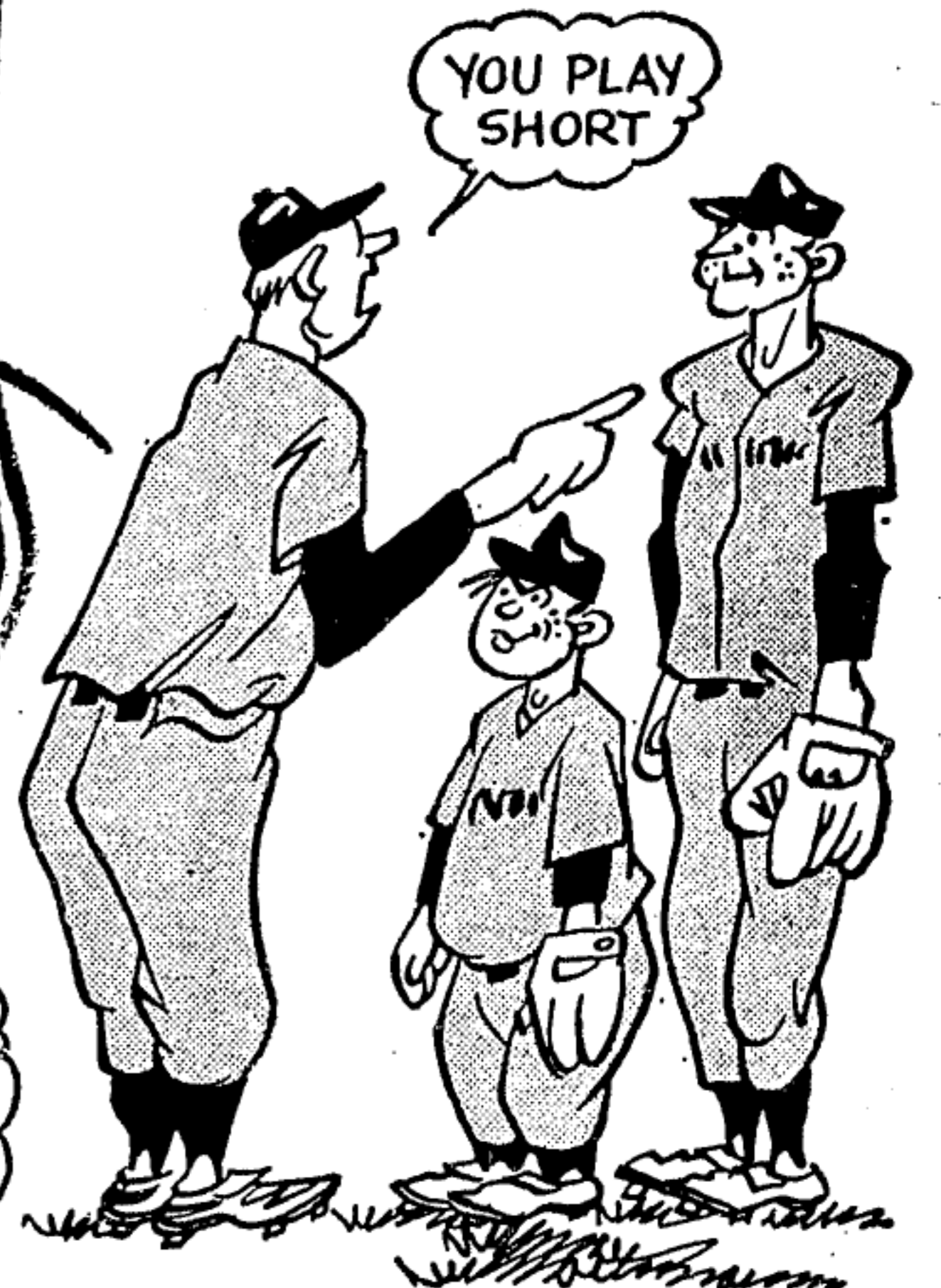
"There was a chunky kid on the team who had played shortstop. He lined up there and I lined up at third base, where I had played. I was a tall, skinny kid. Apparently it was the size the coach figured a shortstop should be and moved me over there and put the chunky kid at third base.

"While I've played shortstop practically all the time since then, I played every infield position with the Giants. I played quite a few games at second and third. I filled in at first base once when I was with the Giants, when Willie McCovey was taken out for a pinch runner."

After two months in the American

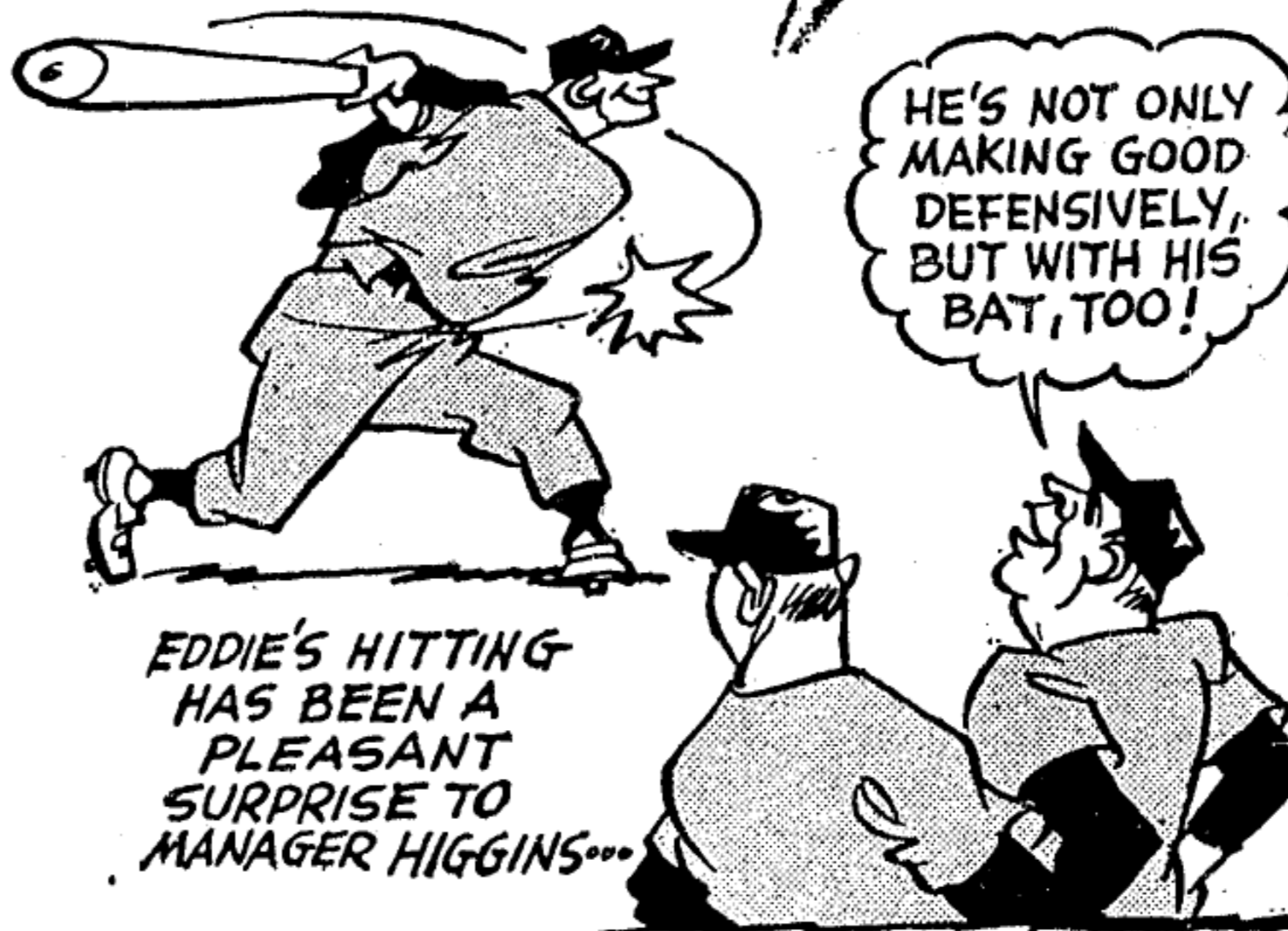


EDDIE WAS IN 17 A.L. GAMES BEFORE HE COMMITTED HIS FIRST BOBBLE...



HE BECAME A SHORTSTOP IN AN UNUSUAL WAY... HIS HIGH SCHOOL COACH ASSIGNED POSITIONS ACCORDING TO THE PLAYER'S SIZE, AND EDDIE WAS GIVEN THE SS JOB.

AMADEE



EDDIE'S HITTING HAS BEEN A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO MANAGER HIGGINS...

League, Eddie has seen all of the clubs in the circuit as well as the parks. He has had a chance to compare the two circuits.

Bressoud hasn't come to any definite conclusions because he feels he needs a bit more time, but there are some things that have been surprising to him.

#### A. L. "Big-Inning" Circuit

"There is a big difference in the style of play," Bressoud claimed. "In the National League, they played for one run more than they do over here. In this league, almost everyone plays for big innings.

"I've seen only one player over here so far give himself up to move runners along. That was Woodie Held of the Indians. With runners on first and second in Fenway Park, where a hitter like Held has an advantage, he deliberately hit towards right field to move the runners over."

There are some people who feel the

### Astute Eddie Works Toward Master's Degree in Education

BOSTON, Mass.—The Red Sox once had the most educated player in baseball in Catcher Moe Berg, a graduate of Princeton, The Sorbonne and Columbia Law School.

Red Sox Shortstop Eddie Bressoud hasn't acquired the degrees that Berg had, but he certainly has attended as many institutions.

He went to two different high schools in Los Angeles—Mount Carmel and George Washington. After high school, Bressoud went to El Camino Junior College, Los Angeles City College, University of California (L. A.) and is still attending San Jose State College.

At present, Bressoud has a bachelor-of-science degree. He is working on his master's degree in education, being two semesters shy of winning it.

Bressoud is very astute. He feels there is a great need for educators. There are 67 junior colleges in California, and by 1965 there will be a J. C. in every high school district in the state.

"I'll play baseball as long as it's profitable," says Eddie, "and when it isn't, I'll switch to teaching and coaching." HURWITZ.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10, COL. 3)