

Carew Expensive--And Worth Every Cent

By DICK MILLER

ANAHEIM—The eyes that have enabled Rod Carew to win seven American League batting championships caught the flashing red lights of the Minnesota Highway Patrol vehicle immediately.

"I knew I was going more than 55 miles an hour," Carew recalled. "I had been to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to visit some people. I was in a hurry to get home."

The Panamanian-born Carew wasn't ready for what happened next. The speeding ticket was expected. The racial slurs were not.

There were two more surprises the next day. A friend, owner of a CB radio, reported hearing the officer bragging on the radio, "I just nailed Rod Carew."

THERE WAS A LARGER surprise awaiting the Twins' first baseman at Metropolitan Stadium. Waiting for him was the officer who only 24 hours before had hurled insults against his ancestry and bragged of nailing Carew with a speeding ticket.

"I can't blame you for saying no after what I did," the policeman said, "but my dad is a Rod Carew fan. He's dying of cancer. Can you visit him in the Mayo Clinic sometime?"

A sucker for a hard-luck story—Carew may lead the league in loaning money to friends in trouble—Rod paused only seconds before saying, "Sure. Why not? I'll go tomorrow."

Carew may also lead the league in unpublicized hospital visits.

There are two Rodney Cline Carews. There is the moody, temperamental youngster who was the American League Rookie of the Year in 1967, whose trademark was a sullen demeanor and the ability to convert easy ground balls into 31 glaring errors.

The other Carew is the man who has made a home in Anaheim, after joining the Angels in February. These adjectives apply today: friendly; outgoing; team leader; an incredible drawing card who already is underpaid at \$800,000 this season.

THE ANGELS HAD SOLD 6,500 season tickets February 3 when Carew was acquired for infielder Ron Jackson, outfielder Ken Landreaux and minor league pitcher Brad Havens and infielder Dave Engle.

By the time the season opened—ironically against Minnesota—the Angels had sold 11,043 season tickets. The increase of 4,543 was worth \$1,590,050 in the bank at an average price of \$350 per ticket.

Carew credits Billy Martin with turning him into one of baseball's solid citizens. He was, he admits, a bewildered kid off the streets of New York who did not know how to relate to the Harmon Killebrews and the Bob Allison.

"When I first came up to the Twins, I sulked a lot," Carew admitted readily. "I ran in streaks, good moods and bad moods, good days and bad days."

"I didn't care if the sun was shining if I felt it was a bad day. That's the kind of mood I put myself in if I didn't wake up feeling good."

"I wasn't liked by my teammates because of the way I was. When I first played for Martin, he sat me down after the 1968 season and talked to me a lot. He told me a few things as far as the way I carried myself."

"Billy told me that to get respect from your teammates, you have to give respect. I just started learning and doing those things."

"I decided I was going to have to change for the best." Today, more than 10 years later, no one has more respect than the 33-year-old first baseman.

And, ironically, Martin is out of baseball as the result of somewhat similar problems.

Carew was the hit of the Cactus League in spring training. He batted .409, a figure some baseball people think he is capable of achieving if the people surrounding him in the batting order produce—Dan Ford, Don Baylor, Joe Rudi and Carney Lansford. He led the Cactus League with 18 RBIs.

But it was in batting practice that Carew usually drew his largest crowds. Most of the "fans" were wearing uniforms of opposing teams as he conducted hitting laboratories.

HE HELD CLASS ONE day at Tempe Stadium. His students were Seattle players. The only equipment was a bat, half a dozen balls and one of those protective screens which batting-practice pitchers place in front of the mound.

Carew worked on bunting for 20 minutes. He never tries to hit the ball out of the park in batting practice. Then he stood halfway between home plate and the mound and carefully fungoed balls into the screen so accurately the balls bounced directly back to him.

The balls couldn't have been placed more accurately if Frank Tanana had thrown at the screen from 10 feet away. "He is something, isn't he?" said batting coach Deron Johnson, a note of awe in his voice.

Jim Murray, the Los Angeles Times' syndicated columnist, holds Carew in equal awe. Murray's successful writing formula is artful exaggeration, but he wasn't exaggerating this spring when he wrote:

"The odd thing about Rodney Cline Carew, the legend, is that he didn't come to L.A. under glass, like the Mona Lisa, King Tut or the crown jewels, and they didn't send him

direct to the Huntington Library or L.A. County Museum. "YOU ARE SURPRISED" a work of art like that is allowed to roam free. You would think that Lloyds of London or somebody would insist on an armed guard, a Brinks truck or bullet-proof glass.

"America doesn't think very much of its art objects anyway. The statue of David would probably be turned into a McDonald's. Westminster Abbey would have slot machines in it."

"Rod Carew is Picasso at the plate. An artist at work. He wields a bat the way Pablo wielded a brush. He is a portraitist. The game, the score, the league pale into insignificance. People come to see the artist, not the contest."

"Who won is like asking who won, Caruso or Carmen, Gielgud or Shakespeare? 'I saw Carew go 4-for-5 tonight,' a spectator might say proudly. 'How did the Angels do?' he may be asked.

"I forget," he'll say."

But even Picasso needs help with his art.

SOME PEOPLE WILL FIND this difficult to believe, but Carew actually goes into slumps (0-for-4 might be considered one by him). When that happens, he consults hypnotist Harvey Misel. Maybe Misel played a part in Carew's great 1977 season when he batted .388 with an incredible 239 hits.

"He stresses concentration," Carew said. "He basically instills that, picking up the ball from the moment it leaves the pitcher's hand."

"He puts you under hypnotic suggestion and talks to you about positive things. We are good friends. I talk to him on the phone when I get in a slump. He says things like, 'You know you are the best. Concentrate on the ball.'"



JUST BEFORE THE Angels' home opener, Rod Carew gets together with Jim Fregosi (left), his

current manager, and Gene Mauch, his former skipper with the Twins.

Do you suppose Carew hypnotizes pitchers? Hitting is Carew's trademark. Only two players in the history of the game, Ty Cobb (12) and Honus Wagner (8), have won more batting titles. But Carew wants to be known for his glove, too.

He thought he deserved a Rawlings Gold Glove in 1977 and will campaign for one this season.

"I'd like to be remembered as a complete player when my career is over," he said. "I'd like to be remembered as a player who could go out there and do everything."

"PEOPLE TALK SO much about my hitting, things that I can do with a bat, how easy I make hitting look. I want to be remembered as a player who could go out there and play well defensively, who could run the bases, make the important plays that can win a game."

"That's the way all players want to be remembered. 'I've done a lot, learned a lot in the years I've been in the major leagues. I think I have a pretty good head about baseball. You just don't want to be remembered as a good defensive player or a good offensive player.'"

Carew won his seventh batting title last season while concealing an injury sustained shortly after the All-Star Game. A .349 hitter the first half, with five home runs and 44 RBIs, Carew dropped to .318 with no home runs and only 26 RBIs over the final 81 games.

"I had a nerve problem in my right elbow for the last two months of the season," Carew said. "I didn't have any feeling from my arm pit to the smaller two fingers on my hand. One time when I was walking to the plate, I couldn't feel anything in the hand."

NATURALLY, CAREW singled and collected two more hits that day.

Having reached the age of 33—"Doctors in Minnesota told me I have the body of a 25 or 26-year-old," Carew claims—Rodney will continue to torment pitchers as much when he on the base paths as when looking at them with a bat in his hand.

He has stolen home 16 times, more than any player in modern times.

"There is nothing in baseball more exciting than an attempt at stealing home," he said. "Contemplating it excites me, and the suspense is as great for the runner as for those who watch."

His most satisfying theft of home was against Mickey Lolich, then employed by Detroit.

"I got such a jump," Rod recalled with obvious satisfaction, "that when I came into the plate, I barely missed getting hit by the pitch."

Luck plays a bigger factor in hitting than in base stealing, he believes.

"In 1977, I hit for my highest average," he pointed out. "I went .388. But I didn't hit the ball nearly as well that year as I did in 1973 when my average was only .350."

(Carew is the only player who would use the word "only" with .350.)

"I CONSIDER '73 MY best year of batting in baseball, meaning I hit more line drives and more balls generally solid than in any other season."

"Yet, in 1974, '75 and '77, I hit for a higher average. Often these things are controlled by something called luck."

Carew is contemplating a career in broadcasting, a possible bonus from his signing with the Angels. The club's real name is Golden West Baseball Co., a subsidiary of Golden West Broadcasters. Gene Autry retained 50.1 per-

cent of Golden West Broadcasters after selling 49.9 percent to the Signal Companies in 1968.

"I would have gone into broadcasting school last winter in Minneapolis if I hadn't been busy with the trade and the contract negotiations," Carew said. "I did 78 pre-game shows last year and I loved it."

Carew has impressed Southern California broadcasting people, who believe he has the voice and personality to become a winner. Although he spent the first 14 years of his life in Panama, his grammar rates in the top two percent among the jocks.

IT WAS MARTIN WHO helped Carew on the road to maturity, but it is his wife Marilyn who guided him to the destination. The couple are utterly without pretension.

Carew drives a '75 Porsche, his wife a Mercedes sedan and a 450 SL Mercedes a local car dealer has loaned them. Except for the cars, the Carews live like a couple making \$20,000 a year. Their four-bedroom, ranch-style home in Villa Park has a pool, but it is substantially lower in price than their neighbors'.

THEY HAVE THREE daughters: Charryse, Stephanie and Michelle. The family became instant Californians, although they say they will spend the winter at their home at Golden Valley, Minn.

"I guess that is pretty dumb of me," Carew said. "Spend the summer in California and the winter in Minnesota."

Marilynn also appears to be wavering. "I got up this morning and looked out the window," she said. "The flowers were blooming and the pool looked beautiful."

And Angels' fans thought it was beautiful seeing Carew in a California uniform. They had reason to be pleased. All Rod did in his first 10 games was go 14-for-38, .368.

Muscle Pull Helps Carew Spray Hits

By MIKE LAMEY

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Rod Carew has served notice that he will be a tough man to unseat as American League batting champion.

The Twin second baseman, who led the A. L. in hitting last year with a .332 mark, is off to a flying start. After his first 28 games, Carew was batting .387 on May 25.

Oddly enough, an injury late in April may have helped Rod.

On April 23, Carew pulled a rib muscle. He missed the next 11 games because he was unable to swing the bat.

After returning to the lineup, he had one streak where he collected 22 hits in 35 at-bats. That included hitting for the cycle May 20 in Kansas City. Carew's home run, triple, double and single marked the first time in the club's 10-year history that a player has hit for the cycle.

"I can't swing hard because of the soreness," Carew said. "But this might actually be helping me. I haven't been able to pull the ball, so I am going up the middle and to left field more."

Excellent Bat Control

It was Carew's ability to hit to all fields that helped him win the batting title a year ago. Of his first 33 hits this year, 10 were to left, 10 to center, nine to right and four were infield hits.

That is called spraying the ball. After the injury, the opposition started playing Carew to hit to left field. The second baseman often was right next to the bag. But Rod, with great bat control, foiled the strategy time and again by going to right.

Another thing Carew has going for him this year in defense of his batting title is the fact that he is hitting lefthanded pitching.

At one point, his average was .428 against lefthanders. Last year, he hit southpaws for a .280 mark.

"Seeing a lefthander every other day like we have for the last couple of weeks has helped me ad-

just," Carew explained. "I seem to be keeping my head in on lefthanders better now. At times last year I found myself pulling out. Now I don't, not even when they throw side-arm."

When Carew is on a hot streak, nothing seems to bother him.

"Oh, it's mostly luck," he said modestly. "Sometimes you hit the ball sharply and it goes right at somebody. In California earlier this year, I hit 10 of 11 balls hard and had only one hit. Then we went to Oakland and I got a couple of bloop hits."

Flops as Pinch-Hitter

Carew has had little luck against Angel pitching the past two years. He is 2-for-22 this season after hitting only .186 (8-for-43) last season. In his last 51 at-bats versus California, Rod is 6-for-51, .118.

During his hot streak that included eight games, Carew had Twin Manager Bill Rigney and coaches Marv Grissom and Frank Crosetti searching for adjectives.

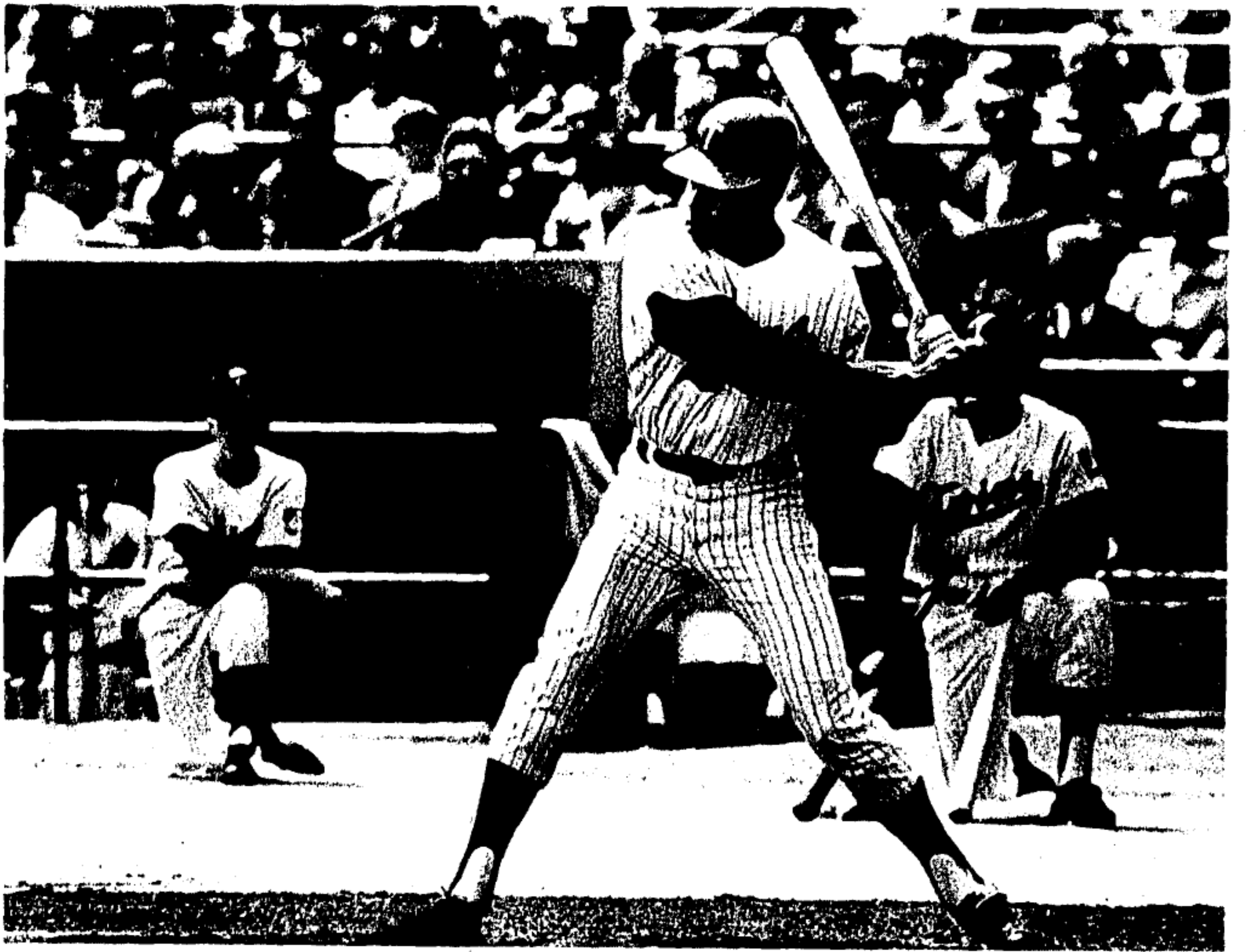
"I have never in my career seen a man going like Carew was then," said Rigney. "I don't remember anyone hitting the way this young man was, and that includes Mays, Cepeda, McCovey and anyone else."

"I have seen guys hit good for two or three days, but Rod was doing it almost every game," said pitching coach Marv Grissom. "In throwing to him in batting practice, I haven't been able to find a weakness. I will honestly tell you that if I had to pitch to him, I just wouldn't know how to get him out."

"Almost every hitter has some spot where he can't hit the ball. I have tried to find it on Rod, but I can't."

Lauded by Crosetti

"Guys have had streaks before," said Crosetti, "but I don't know if any were like this. Rod can hit an inside pitch to left field. That's why when I am coaching at third base I stay alive. Rod is apt to



Rod Carew . . . An Impressive Defender of Swat Crown.

line one down my direction any time."

If hitting is luck, Carew might need some luck to qualify for the batting title. A total of 502 official plate appearances, which include walks, sacrifices etc., is required.

That was Rod's biggest problem in the closing weeks last season. He was well ahead of the field, but it looked like he might not make enough appearances. He just made it with 504.

The rib injury, although he says it might have helped, did cost Carew at least 40 plate appearances. Rod faces two weeks of summer camp in August with the Marine Reserves, plus one weekend meeting each month.

"There is nothing I can do about getting enough at-bats," he said. "I have my service commitments. And I cannot play if I am hurt."

Last year, Carew missed 39 games, but only four of those were

because of injuries. Twenty-eight were because of Marine Reserve meetings. He also was platooned several games.

Platooning Is Unlikely

It is unlikely Carew will be platooned this year.

Carew said he has tried not to guess what pitchers are throwing. "A lot of hitters look for a certain pitch when they go to the plate," Rod said. "But, many times when you do that, you never get the pitch you want."

A natural question when a man is hitting .400 is if he feels he can do it for an entire year. Carew had the same question asked of him last year, too, when he got off to a great start.

"I don't think about .400," he said, "because I think it is impossible. You see too many good pitchers and there are too many different pitches they throw."

Twin Killings: Dave Boswell recorded his first victory of the season May 16 in Milwaukee when the

Twins won, 11-7. Bos had lost his first five games. . . . The next day, against the Brewers, Jim Perry went the distance in winning his sixth game. It was the first complete game for the Twins since April 28, a stretch of 15 games. . . . The May 15 game against Milwaukee that was rained out has been reset for June 25 at County Stadium. . . . Bill Zepp notched his first major league victory May 18 against Kansas City and had to throw only four pitches. A year ago, Zepp was cut from the roster the day before the season opened in Kaycee, so this win meant a little more. . . . Zepp almost won his second game the following night when he threw only three pitches. But the Twins got only the tying run in the one-third of an inning he worked and the victory went to Ron Perranoski. . . . Lefthander Tom Hall will serve his two-week summer camp stint from May 30 to June 13. Hall is a member of the Marine Reserve.

The Twins Seem to Inspire Dizzy Plays

By MIKE LAMEY

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Watching the Twins is seldom a routine assignment. It seems the Twins can think of more ways to win or lose games than any other team.

Take the May 13 game against Baltimore as an example.

The score was tied, 5-5, with the Twins batting in the bottom of the 10th inning. Cesar Tovar led off with a walk.

After Rod Carew failed to sacrifice Tovar to second, Carew lined the ball to left field. Tovar, running on the play, already was around second base when left fielder Don Buford caught the ball. In his haste to get back to first, Tovar failed to retouch second base.



Cesar Tovar . . . A Bit of Confusion.

Now the fun began. Tovar tagged up at first base, then slid into second. He then ran back to first.

When it was all ironed out, Tovar was ruled out. Now the Twins had no one on with two out. So Tony Oliva promptly doubled and Harmon Killebrew was walked intentionally. Rich Reese then doubled in Oliva with the winning run. Easy, but hardly routine.

After the game, Tovar still didn't know what happened.

"I see everybody go here and there so I run," Tovar said. "I ask Boog Powell (Baltimore's first baseman) what was going on. When I go back to the dug-out, Reese tell me to run back to first again. I say 'forget it.' I never saw such a thing in my life."

Rig Was Seeing Triple

Another strange incident involved Twin Manager Bill Rigney, who thought he was a victim of triple vision May 18 in Kansas City.

First, he saw the Royals' Rich Severson double. He thought it should have been Ellie Rodriguez at the plate.

Rigney then went on to the field to see if Severson had batted out of turn. He hadn't. Then Jackie Hernandez singled. Again Rigney thought it was Rodriguez and someone had batted out of turn. He went to the umpires again.

"I got out there and said Rodriguez had just hit again and asked what was going on," Rigney said. "Then I turned around and saw Rodriguez standing in the batter's box."

"All I wanted to do then was find a way off the field. I just saw too many Rodriguezes."

In that same game, the Twins scored the winning run on a walk, wild pitch, error and sacrifice fly.

Something like this will happen again. There is nothing routine about the Twins.

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Happily-Wedded Rod, Marilyn Hurdle Race, Religion Barriers

By FRED GIRARD

Times are changed with him who marries; there are no more by-path meadows, where you may innocently linger, but the road lies long and straight and dusty to the grave.

From
"Virginbus Puerisque"
Robert Louis Stevenson,
1881.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Times are changed for Rod and Marilyn Carew now. They're married. They're a young couple facing the same troubles and uncertainties every other young married couple must face. Plus a few unique ones of their own.

There's religion, for one thing. Rod is Episcopalian, Marilyn Jewish. There's Rod's occupation for another thing. He's a professional baseball player for the Minnesota Twins. Not just any baseball player, either—he's one of the best. Rookie of the Year, 1967. American League batting champ, 1969. Stole home seven times in 1969, tying Pete Reiser's major league record and breaking Ty Cobb's ancient American League record.

The two problems merged when the question of marriage arose.

"It was the kids, that's all we were worried about," Marilyn said, propped up comfortably in an uncomfortable motel room chair. Rod was in St. Petersburg playing in the Florida Instructional League, strengthening the injured leg that kept him out of play since last June. Marilyn smiled quickly, and it does wonderful things to her bluish-greenish eyes. Rod is more serious, listening carefully, speaking slowly, considering his answers. But he smiles quickly, too. Especially when he looks at Marilyn.

Jewish Faith for Children

"Our children will be raised Jewish," he said. "And I'm thinking about converting. It was all my own idea. I was on a road trip and started thinking about it." "He'll be gone so much, you see," Marilyn said. "As far as Rod's religion is concerned, whatever he believes in, I respect. He said the same thing about my religion, but we were both concerned that the children would be directed only one way. We took about a five-month vacation from each other last year; we didn't see each other at all, and that was one of the main reasons."

"We didn't know then what was going to happen between us," Rod put in. "We didn't know if there was a future for us. We knew what kind of people mom and dad (Marilyn's parents, religious people both born in Russia) were, and we didn't want to hurt them in any way."

Celebrating a Birthday

The romance began in classical form in May, 1968. It was Marilyn Levy's birthday, and a girl friend had taken her to a nightclub in Minneapolis to celebrate. Rod was there with a friend, and his friend wanted to meet Marilyn's friend. He had a flash. He'd introduce famous baseball star Rod Carew to them and score with ease.

"Hi," Rod's friend said brightly. "I'd like you both to meet Rod Carew, the baseball player."

"So?" said Marilyn, who didn't know second base from a cheese Danish at that time. "Why don't you bring Tony Curtis and Rock Hudson over, too?"

Refusing to be cowed by this rather inauspicious beginning, Rod wangled Marilyn's phone number

and soon they were dating. And soon they fell in love. And then there was another problem—not a problem for them, really, but for other people.

Rod is black. Marilyn is white. "I didn't really think about it," Marilyn said. "I know I didn't like him at first, but that was because I thought he was cocky. But I never really thought about color, there was never any 'should I or shouldn't I?' because he was black. The high school I went to was integrated. I grew up with all kinds, it wasn't as though I had been sheltered. We were always friends with every walk of life. And I went three years to the University of Minnesota, and it was the same there."

"I had dated white girls before," Rod said. "I think the first time was when I first came up to the big league in '67. But I never considered it a factor. I never looked at a girl's color."

"I just went out with her because of her personality, just dependent on her as a person."

Native of Panama

Carew was born in Gatun, a little town in the Panama Canal Zone. He came to the United States at the age of 17 and graduated from New York's George Washington High School. His English now is flawless, spoken with only a trace of accent. The business he is in now is said to be one of the world's foremost advocates of civil rights—if a man can play the game, nobody cares what color he is. But it doesn't always work out that way, and Carew has had his share of incidents.

"But I don't hate," he said. "I've had several things happen to me, sure, things I frown on. I played in North Carolina, for instance, and I really went through the mill there. But I also met some of the nicest white people in the South in North Carolina. All I can say is, there are ignorant people, both black and white, and nice people, too."

When the Carews announced their engagement, there was a spate of hate mail. ("But there were just hundreds of congratulations, too," Marilyn said. "That sort of restored our faith.") The situation became critical when Rod received a letter saying he would be shot to death on a certain date as he left the ballpark.

A Noise at 2 A. M.

"We weren't even playing that night," he said, grinning at the memory. "I didn't even tell Marilyn what was up. We went out that night, and when we got back I told her all about it. I thought that was the end of it, but that night—it was about 2 a.m., and I was in bed in my apartment—the toilet seat dropped down with a big bang. I came right out of that bed, headed straight for the ceiling. I've never been so scared in my life."

The hate mail stopped when the club began censoring Rod's mail. Actually, Rod doesn't know if the hate mail stopped or not. He only knows it stopped getting through to him.

Now that marriage is a fait accompli, the collective mind of the Carew family is bent on children. Children are a problem in an interracial marriage, as a general rule. What about the Carew children?

"They'll be strong and healthy," Marilyn said firmly. "We want four—two boys and two girls. Rod started out saying he wanted three

sets of triplets, but he's more serious now.

"You know, things are changing. Things are different now. You see mixed couples all over, everywhere you go. People used to stare at that whenever they saw it, but now . . . it's like their eyes are getting adjusted to seeing it. And I really believe that by the time our kids are old enough to understand, things will be even more different, even better."

Adjustment for Parents

Times are changed for Marilyn's parents, too. It took patience and love for Rod and Marilyn to realize the adjustment that had to be made, and not to try to rush it. Perhaps the rest of the family helped. Rod proposed to Marilyn on the feast of Passover, and later that day they celebrated the religious holiday at Marilyn's brother's home. There were six nieces and two nephews present, and Rod says they had a wonderful time before he arrived trying to decide whether to put out a welcome mat or a sign saying "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner." The children loved



ROD AND MARILYNN CAREW. A difference in religious beliefs and his long absences during the baseball season weren't the biggest problems they had to face.

Rod, as Marilyn said all children do, and Marilyn's parents were not long in following suit.

"After I met her mom and dad and got to know them," Rod said, "they told me the only thing they wanted me to do was take care of Marilyn and make her happy. And

that I intend to do, because I love her very much."

Times are changed indeed. As the Carews begin their walk down the road, "straight and long and dusty," you can see in their eyes they intend to be together at its end, as happy as they are now.

A Blizzard? Twins Arrive for Dinner

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — A few weeks ago, the snow was blowing in the wind and you could barely see the road, but a car left Martin, S. D., for Sioux Falls. Martin is located on an Indian reservation in the Badlands and the towns en route to Sioux Falls are small and scattered.

It was a long drive, a hazardous drive, but the car eventually arrived in Sioux Falls and the Twins had fulfilled another commitment for a promotional tour dinner.

When infielder Danny Thompson, coach Vern Morgan and director of promotions Don Cassidy arrived at a local country club, they discovered some local citizens had stayed home. "You can't expect them to go out on a night like this," one man said.

It's an Old Story

The Twins, however, have been going out on nights like that since Calvin Griffith moved his franchise to Minnesota in 1961. Oh, they have missed one or two banquets. Like the time their car slid into a snow-filled ditch en route to Rugby, N. D.

Despite such hazards, this tour has developed into one of baseball's biggest promotions, if not one of the biggest in sports.

In January, 1961, Herb Heft, then the publicity director, and his assistant, Tom Mee, were answering hundreds of inquiries about the state's first major league baseball club.

"The tour was Herb's idea," said

Fowler Is New Chairman Of Twin Cities Writers

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Bob Fowler, baseball writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch, has been elected chairman of the Twin Cities chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America for 1971.

Dick Gordon of the Minneapolis Star has been elected vice-chairman while Dan Stoneking of the Star is the chapter's new secretary-treasurer.

Mee, now Minnesota's publicity director.

"In seven days, Chuck Stobbs, Bob Allison, Billy Gardner, Cookie Lavagetto and I appeared at breakfasts, lunches and dinners in 32 towns in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

"The idea was to get exposure in the area and to impress the fans that our name 'Minnesota Twins' was selected so we could represent the area, not as a compromise for fans of the Twin Cities."

Crowds in those days were good, but not as good as you might expect.

Passive at First

"They weren't aware of the impact of big league baseball," Mee said. "They seemed to be rather passive."

"But after one season of listening to games, reading about them in newspapers and watching them in person, they turned into rabid fans."

The tours expanded, of course. Soon, Twins were making appearances in Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska.

They have toured three provinces (Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario) in Canada. And in 1964, Harmon Killebrew, Earl Battey, Allison, Mee and Cassidy were in a group that appeared in Alaska.

This year, Twins will visit 90 towns in five states.

"The fans ask questions and they ask some great ones," Thompson said.

"They want to know who is going to be traded, why Dave Boswell had the season he did, whether or not we're going to beat Baltimore next season."

Promotion Pays Off

"Some 30-40 players have been involved over the years," Mee said. "They are paid; it is their off-season job."

The promotion has paid off for the Twins, too.

"We use a soft-sell approach," Cassidy said. "We only offer information on ticket prices and group sales."

"We might say something like, 'We came to see you this winter, we hope you'll come to see us this summer,'" Mee added.

Many take them up on the offer.

Last season, for example, 2,807 delegations showed up at Metropolitan Stadium. The fans came from 18 states, Washington, D. C., and Canada.

Also, there were delegations from Japan, Belgium, Sweden and Australia.

A Campers Weekend attracted 6,000 fans in their campers and trailers as the stadium's parking lot became a city. That was the largest single promotion.

In 1970, the Twins topped the one-million mark in attendance for the 10th straight year. The total was 1,261,887.

And 210,429 of those fans came as members of delegations.

Twin Tales: Rod Carew will play winter ball in Venezuela, joining teammates Cesar Tovar, Jim Holt, Luis Tiant and Leo Cardenas in that league. Tiant was late in reporting, receiving treatment for his back ailments in Mexico City. . . . Tony Oliva is playing for a month in Mexico.

The winter baseball banquet, formerly put on by the Twin Cities baseball writers' chapter, has been taken over by the area's broadcasters. It will be held January 18 at the Leamington Hotel (Bob Short's place) in Minneapolis. . . . John Goryl, who managed last season at Wisconsin Rapids (Midwest), has been named to manage Lynchburg (Carolina). Weldin (Hoss) Bowlin, an infielder last season at Evansville (American Association), will replace Goryl at Wisconsin Rapids.



Don Cassidy

Carew May Yet Wind Up in a Giants' Uniform

By NICK PETERS

SAN FRANCISCO History failed to repeat for the Giants, so they turned into a pumpkin at the winter meetings.

Unlike last March, when they beat the interleague trading deadline by a few minutes with a blockbuster deal that transformed them into an instant contender, the Giants came up short in their bid for Rod Carew by the December 8 interleague deadline.

Considering the lack of trading activity at the Orlando session, the deal that wasn't made commanded a lot of attention at the meetings. Carew's rejection of a Giants-Twins package disappointed the San Francisco delegation.

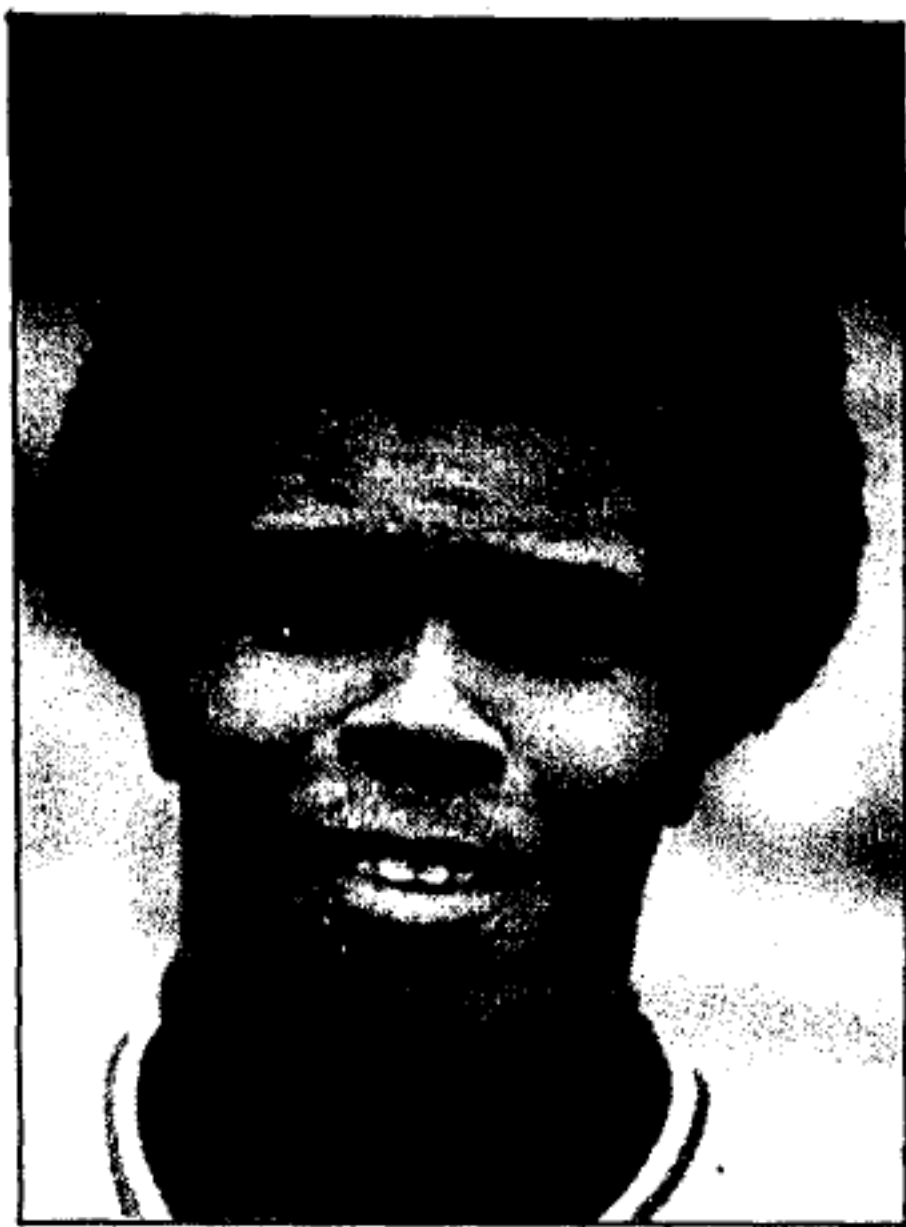
ACCORDING TO arrangements worked out between Giants' brass and Twins' president Calvin Griffith, Carew would have changed leagues in exchange for first baseman Mike Ivie, outfielder Jim Dwyer and minor league lefthander Phil Natsu.

It would have been a coup for the Giants, who would have claimed the two leading career batters in each league. Carew heads the American League with a .335 average, whereas Bill Madlock is the National League leader at .325.

Details of the proposed swap

were confirmed the night of December 7, Griffith insisting the deal needed only Carew's approval. In attempts to obtain it, Giants' co-owner Bob Lurie met for three hours with Carew's attorney, Jerome Simon, and the Panamanian super star at Bloomington, Minn., the morning of December 8.

CAREW, WHO won his seventh batting title at .333 this year, originally had not included the Giants among clubs he was interested in



Rod Carew

joining, but that feeling changed following his meeting with Lurie.

"If we hadn't wanted to play in San Francisco, we wouldn't have talked 15 minutes," said Simon, who admitted the suddenness of the negotiations was the greatest deterrent to a quick decision by Carew.

"I feel we should have had more notice," Simon explained. "The first time we heard San Francisco was interested was December 6. I don't know who changes jobs on short notice without checking out the environment."

Both Carew and Simon indicated the Giants' possibility would be further explored. Negotiations could be resumed, with Carew's approval, during the next interleague trading period, February 15-March 15.

"I HAD INDICATED before that I didn't want to go to San Francisco," Carew admitted, "but after meeting and talking with Mr. Lurie and seeing the type of organization the Giants have, I would consider them for a future trade."

"I don't know how they (the Twins) think they could have made a deal and expected me to jump at it," he added. "I guess I'm in limbo, I'm not bitter, but I am disappointed. I would have liked to

have been able to do something, but it was such a short time.

"I just didn't want to be rushed into anything . . . to do something that I would regret," concluded Carew, who apparently will visit the Bay Area in the near future and also ask National League players about Candlestick Park.

It is known that Carew has a preference for playing on natural grass and, coincidentally, a new grass surface is replacing the



Bob Lurie

much-criticized synthetic surface at Candlestick.

"NATURALLY, WE hoped something could be worked out, but I understand Rod's position," said Lurie, who supposedly offered the 33-year-old Carew a \$3.5 million contract for five years.

"He wants to feel comfortable," Lurie added. "He would be changing his life. He's an American Leaguer who would be going to a National League team. It's a big move and money definitely isn't the hang up."

"Basically, it comes down to the complexity of the deal and the short time we had to work it out," the owner explained. "I think Rod wants to come to San Francisco. We'll pursue it in February. I want him if he's still available."

THE FEELING could be mutual. "We were impressed that the Giants thought enough of Rod to come to Bloomington," Simon said. "We didn't agree on money, but Lurie appreciated the value of a player like Rod. With time, I think we could work it out."

Earlier, the Giants signed free agent third baseman Darrell Evans to a five-year contract and inked former Reds' pitching coach Larry Shepard to handle their pitchers.

Carew Nixes Deal, But Twins Make Two Others

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—Calvin Griffith, who hadn't made a trade since June 1, 1976, and hadn't participated in one at the winter meetings since 1973, became a virtual wheeler-dealer at the recent conclave in Orlando. Not only did he make two swaps, but he almost pulled off the deal of the year.

He was stymied in that effort by Rod Carew, the man he was trying to trade to the Giants.

Griffith agreed to send Carew, the seven-time American League batting champion who could become a free agent after the 1979 campaign, to the Giants for first baseman Mike Ivie, outfielder Jim Dwyer and lefthanded pitching prospect Phil Natsu. Once that was accomplished, he would have sent Natsu and a Minnesota farmhand to the Mets for veteran lefthanded pitcher Jerry Koosman.

Instead, after the Carew deal was blocked by the main man involved in it, he still obtained Koosman in it, he still obtained Koosman in exchange for Greg Field, a minor league pitcher, and the ever-popular "player to be named later."

Griffith had offered the 12-year veteran with the .334 career batting average, a \$2 million contract over five years. Carew's agent asked for \$3.5 million and the club president decided it was time to make a deal.

After Griffith and San Francisco officials agreed to the 3-for-1 trade, Carew and his agent, Jerry Simon, met with Bob Lurie, co-owner of the Giants, for three hours in Minneapolis. Lurie reportedly offered \$4 million for five years and Carew turned it down because he had such a short time to make a decision before the inter-league trading period expired.

"I was impressed with the Giants and their desire to build a winning team," he said. "The Twins waited too long to trade me. After 12 years, you can't make a decision in 12 hours."

He added he hoped to remain with the Twins, but even Lurie knows that relationship can last only one more year.

As he put it, "We were dealing with a situation where Rod wanted to stay in Minnesota, but he's not able to do so."

Yet this could have been the first step in making the trade.

Carew had given Griffith a list of seven teams he would be interested in joining and San Francisco wasn't included. But Simon said after the meeting with Lurie, "If a new list was made, the Giants probably would be on it."

THE AGENT added that he didn't think it fair that his client should be "stampeded" into mak-

ing a decision, that he felt Carew should have time to visit San Francisco, meet the people, pick a home site and check out Candlestick Park.

That could occur, Carew could be satisfied and the deal could be completed during the second interleague trading period that begins February 15 and lasts a month.

"We didn't reach an agreement on the money," Simon added. "But, if he had longer to negotiate, that may not be a major problem. Mr. Lurie obviously realizes the worth of a player like Rod Carew."

Now, back to the deals Griffith did make.

IN KOOSMAN, the Twins got a lefthanded starter to add to their rotation of Dave Goltz, Roger Erickson, Geoff Zahn and Gary Serum. He had a 3-15 record last year and an 8-20 mark the previous season, but was working for a club that didn't score many runs.

Plus, he is a native of Minnesota and told the Mets he wanted to finish his career with the Twins. He was excited by the trade as was his family.

In Field, the Twins gave up a prospect who almost made their roster last spring and had an 8-8 record with two farm clubs.

The other deal sent outfielder Danny Ford, the Twins' leader in RBIs with 82, to the Angels for Ron Jackson and Danny Goodwin.

JACKSON, WHO hit .297 for the Angels, is considered a possible first baseman, third baseman or left fielder. Goodwin, who hit .276 in 58 at-bats, is a lefthanded DH candidate.

As manager Gene Mauch put it when asked about Goodwin's position, "He plays bat."

The trades didn't answer all Minnesota's questions, meaning there could be more deals later. For instance, who will replace Ford in center field? And, just as important, will Carew join the Giants next spring or remain in Minnesota for a final season?

Brewers Nix Trade Talks Involving Sixto

By MIKE GONRING

MILWAUKEE—In 1976, it was George Scott. In 1977, Jim Slaton. And after the 1978 season, it was assumed that outfielder Sixto Lezcano would be the regular traded by the Brewers.

The Brewers needed a topflight relief pitcher, everyone agreed, and the best way to get one was by trading a starter. With four regular outfielders—Lezcano, Larry Hise, Gorman Thomas and Ben Oglivie—they had some leeway, and Lezcano seemed the most likely to go.

But when it came down to doing it, the Brewers balked. "He's 25 years old," said Manager George Bamberger, "and he's probably the best right fielder in baseball. The only guy close is Dwight Evans at Boston, and if you ask me which one I'd rather have, I'd take Lezcano."

Lezcano was a major contributor to the Brewers' 1978 season, when they established themselves as the best offensive club in baseball. He hit .292, with 15 home runs and 62



Sixto Lezcano

runs batted in, and led American League outfielders with a total of 18 assists.

AND THE DECISION not to trade him underlined the Brewers' intent not to disrupt their everyday lineup.

"We've got such a well-balanced club," said General Manager Harry Dalton. "I would hate to disturb it, even though we have the extra man."

Still, the Brewers would have had to trade a regular if not for the free-agent draft. Not only did they want to obtain a relief pitcher in the off-season, but they figured they needed a starter, too.

They signed Slaton a week before the winter meetings and did not have to give up a player to get the former Brewer. All they put up was \$1.4 million. And with the addition of a topflight pitcher to the staff, they were not in as big a hurry to make a major trade for a

front line relief pitcher.

"If we didn't get Slaton, we would have had to trade one of our regulars," said Bamberger. "We wanted a starting pitcher. But getting Slaton solved the problem."

Brewer Bits: Catcher Buck Martinez and his wife have filed a \$175,000 damage suit against former Kansas City teammate Doug Bird, in connection with a 1976 hunting accident. Martinez, according to the suit, was wounded in the left eye by a pellet from Bird's gun while the two were hunting in Lafayette County, Mo. . . . The Brewers added Joe McIlvanie as their 14th fulltime scout. McIlvanie, 30, is another in the Baltimore-California connection of Dalton and Ray Poitevint, the director of scouting and player development. . . . Oglivie and pitchers Mike Caldwell and Larry Sorensen are working in the Brewers' season ticket drive.



Calvin Griffith

Who's Premier Swatter in A. L.? Rod Carew

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—Oakland's Reggie Jackson just had collected three hits, including a home run, and five RBIs when he was asked about repeating as home run and RBI champion in the American League.

"I could win the Triple Crown," Jackson said, pausing for effect, "if Rod Carew retires before he gets the required plate appearances."

Jackson was acknowledging a fact everyone in the American League knows—Rod Carew is the league's best hitter. Oh, he may not win a third straight title this season for some unusual reason, but he still is the best hitter.

Consider the following:

CAREW ENTERED this season with a .316 career average, tops in his league and second in the majors only to Atlanta's Ralph Garr, who has a .318 mark.

Only six players—Ty Cobb, Nap Lajoie, Harry Heilmann, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Carew and teammate Tony Oliva—have won three or more American League batting crowns. And only Cobb (1907-1915, 1917-1919) won three or more in a row.

In 1970, Carew was off to his best start with a .375 average when he suffered a knee injury and managed to play in only 51 games, thus missing a fourth title.

In winning his third title last year (the others were in 1969 and 1972), Carew batted .350, the highest A. L. average since 1961, when Detroit's Norm Cash hit .361.

AT 28 YEARS OF AGE, Carew is in the prime of his career. He has experience—he has been an All-Star selection since his rookie year in 1967—maturity, speed, everything. He has an excellent chance to be the game's next .400 hitter.

As late as June 8, he was leading the league with a .405 average. And in past years, he has hit best in August and September.

Ted Williams, the last .400 hitter—he hit .406 in 1941—once said of Carew "He's got that great inside-out swing that makes it almost impossible to fool him."

His roommate on trips and one of his constant challengers for batting titles is Oliva.

"You're a great hitter if you hit .300 year after year, like Carew," Oliva said one night in the Minnesota clubhouse. "But if you hit .400 like he is hitting now, you're a super hitter."

"WE DON'T TALK much about hitting. After all, what can I tell him about it?

"If he goes into a slump, I might see something he's doing wrong and I'll mention it to him. But I never get to say too much because he never goes into a slump."

"That's right," Harmon Killebrew added. "If he fails to get a hit in one or two games, he can bunt once or twice in the next game for a hit, or beat out a grounder with his great speed."

Killebrew, the game's No. 5 all-time home-run hitter, has been studying hitters for 20 years.

"He has great concentration," Minnesota's leading slugger said. "He's got that quick stroke and he hits the ball hard all the time."

"He doesn't have a home-run swing. He doesn't swing for the fences. Once in a while, you'll see him overswing, try to kill a ball, and his hat will go flying and he'll miss the pitch."

"BUT HIS NEXT swing will be controlled. He never gets into a bad rut."

There is a reason for the Carew swing.

"Latin-Americans generally are small people," he said. "Consequently, from the first time we start playing the game, we think about making contact and not about hitting home runs."

"Most Latin players are Matty Alou and Luis Aparicio types. An Orlando Cepeda is an exception."

Calvin Griffith, the Twins' president, is another who has studied hitters for many years. He began his baseball career in 1922 as a bat boy with the Washington Senators.

"Carew has to be one of the great hitters in the history of the game," he said. "He should get 3,000 hits during his career if he stays healthy."

"There have been many great hitters in our league—Cobb, Williams, Heilmann, Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins—yet Carew may pass most of their records. He's that good."

"HE KNOWS HOW to handle the bat and he has a great asset in his speed. He's a sure Hall of Famer."

Despite the fact he has been named to seven All-Star teams in his seven years in the league, Carew has been chided for his lack of defense. Indeed, critics say he is honored for his bat, not his glove.

But he has changed in that aspect of the game. He makes the double-play pivot better—he was quite shy about staying on the bag after that injury in 1970—and in the past two years he has led the Twins in spectacular plays.

To illustrate the change, consider that in April, 1973, Manager Frank Quilici fined Carew \$250 for failing to hustle on a double-play grounder. Now the manager, a very good defensive infielder in his day, says:

"He has been playing his tail off. He has the best range of any second baseman in our league, maybe in the major leagues."

"HE IS A TRUE super star. He is the guy on our club who plays the most consistently day after day. And he is our leader."

Wait a minute, the team's leader? The same guy who almost jumped the club in 1968? The same guy who threatened to retire in 1971 after a slow start?

The same guy who admitted, "There once was a time when a lot of guys didn't know what to say to me. I took everything as a nasty remark. I always wanted to fight."

"He's matured," Quilici explained. "When he's on the field, he dives for more balls than ever before, and gets many of them. That comes with knowledge of the position."

"And he's more determined. It's as if he has set some goals during the past couple years."

"WHEN I FIRST came up to the Twins, I was 21 years old, the youngest starter on the club," Carew added. "Now, as far as experience goes, I'm one of the oldest."

"Harmon was hurt a lot last year and Tony was the designated hitter. I felt it was my responsibility to help the younger guys on the field, to be the guy to take charge."

He did it off the field, too. Last summer, Carew and his wife, Marilyn, held a party in their home for players and coaches and their wives. It was the first time in Minnesota history that anyone had sponsored a "team party."

So, who is this man who is the best hitter in the American League, and perhaps in all of baseball? Who is this man who is the leader of the Minnesota Twins?

HE WAS BORN October 1, 1945, on a train that was going from Gatun to Colon in the Panama Canal Zone. The doctor who assisted his mother was Dr. Rodney Cline—hence the name Rodney Cline Carew.

Growing up in the Canal Zone, Carew played baseball often. He used a broom stick and swung at tennis balls, or "baseballs" that were pieces of foam rubber covered with tape.

"I used to play with boys much older than me," he recalled. "But even then I could hit. I have always been able to hit."

In 1959, at the age of 14, he was hospitalized with rheumatic fever for six weeks. When he returned home, his father refused to believe he had been ill and called him a "sissy."

And when Rod wanted to rest, his father beat him.

"My father didn't have much time for me," Carew said. "I loved to play baseball, and an uncle, who was in charge of the school's recreation department, worked a lot with me."

"I PLAYED ON A Little League team and in other organized leagues. Yes, we had those programs, too. I sometimes believe people in the United States think Latin-Americans live in grass huts and climb banana trees all day."

The next year, Carew moved to New York with his mother, brother and three sisters. He didn't play high school baseball because he had to work in a drug store and grocery after school to help support the family.

But he did play sandlot ball and it was there he was discovered by a Minnesota scout. In 1964, he hit .325 at Melbourne, Fla., in the Cocoa Rookie League. Then, after two more seasons of Class A ball, he was in the majors.

Why? Because Calvin Griffith thought he was ready and told Sam Mele, then the manager, to "give the kid a chance" in spring training.

WELL, THE REST has been documented many times. He was the A. L. Rookie of the Year, hitting .292. In 1969, he won his first batting title with a .332 average, captured a second in 1972 with .318 and had that .350 mark last year.

What isn't documented is the change that occurred off the field.

At one time, it seemed—and this is just a belief—he was embarrassed to be black. Now he is proud of his race.

He is proud, too, because he is the father of a baby girl, Charryse Britt.

He is concerned about others.

"I'd like to work with kids," he said, realizing he'll have to retire some day. "The drug problem is so great, I'd like to help get the kids off the streets. It would be nice to do something worthwhile."

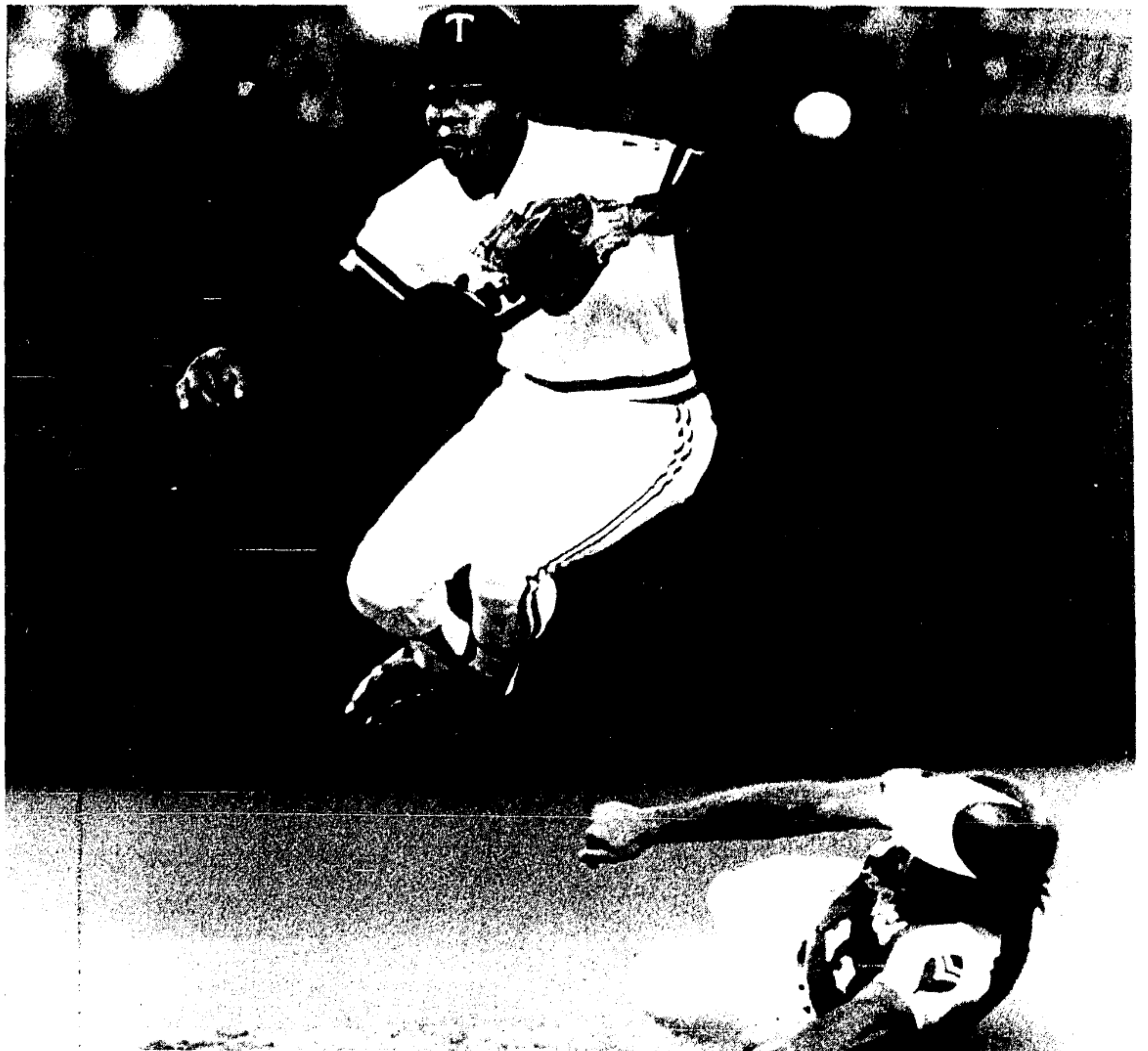
"Baseball has done a lot for me. Now perhaps I could help others. I think kids could benefit from my experiences."

"I THINK I COULD get through to them, too, because I accomplished some things after starting out with nothing."

Like being the American League's best hitter. Like being a \$100,000 player. Like being a leader of men and a family man.

Rod Carew has accomplished a lot in his 28 years. Yet, playing in an area that isn't saturated by press, radio and television coverage, such as New York or Los Angeles, he is not widely known outside the Upper Midwest.

Obviously, he is a man worth knowing because of the way he hits a baseball, the way he plays the game and the way he is.



Rod Carew Leaps After Forcing Darrell Evans in 1973 All-Star Game

Twins Go Shopping, Inspect Bids for Carew

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—Like a good soap opera, the Rod Carew Sweepstakes continue.

As we pick up the latest episode, the Giants withdrew their bid of \$3.5 million for five years for the services of the seven-time American League batting champion. However, he didn't reject the Giants and still could end up there. Remember Pete Rose originally turning down the Phillies?

The Angels were next, trying to woo Carew with an offer of \$4 million for five years—the \$800,000 annually making him baseball's highest-paid player.

CAREW LIKED that contract and agreed to it, but the Twins rejected the Angels' proposed trade that included outfielder Ken Landreaux, pitchers Ken Brett and Paul Hartzell and minor league pitcher Brad Havens, a lefthander who would be shipped to the Mets to complete the deal for Jerry Koosman.

Instead, the Twins wanted third baseman Carney Lansford, who hit .294 last year as a rookie, and cash.

The plot thickens: "We've seen thousands of good prospects in this game," Twins'



ROD CAREW and his agent, Jerry Simon, meet with the media after the Twins' star agreed to an offer by the Angels. Minnesota rejected the trade, however.

President Calvin Griffith said. "But we haven't seen thousands of Carews.

"We would be more receptive to a deal if California had Ron Jackson and Danny Goodwin. Now we've got them (for Danny Ford)

and the only other player on their roster we want is Lansford.

"If the Angels won't include him, I don't see how a deal can be made. We've got the merchandise and we're going to shop around."

With that in mind, the Twins

agreed to let Carew and his agent, Jerry Simon, shop in New York and negotiate with the Yankees.

"That's what his agent requested from the beginning," Minnesota Vice-President Howard Fox said. "Calvin gave New York his word that Carew would talk to them before any deal was completed."

But what about Carew? Did he give his word, too?

"I know this (California) is where I want to go," he said. "My hope is that the Angels and Twins can get together on a trade."

For sure, the Twins and Yankees can.

It was leaked that New York would offer first baseman Chris Chambliss, center fielder Juan Beniquez, second baseman Brian Doyle and pitcher Dick Tidrow for Carew. Twins officials liked that four-for-one exchange.

YET, EVEN IF Carew talks to the Yankees, will he agree to join them? He has pointed out, "I'm in the driver's seat," and is on record as saying he doesn't want to move to New York.

"What do they call these things?" Fox asked. "A Mexican standoff?"

Yes, so the sweepstakes could continue even if George Steinbren-

ner makes Carew a multi-million-dollar offer. Next in line to negotiate with him would be Boston. Then, well, maybe Texas or Kansas City.

By that time, the interleague trading period will reopen in mid-February and if Carew hasn't signed by then, he'll be able to discuss contracts with National League clubs.

In each case, Carew must be satisfied first, then the Twins must be happy with the compensation. And the team that wants him must be pleased with the contract offer and the trade.

ALTHOUGH CAREW'S agent, Simon, doesn't want him to play next season with Minnesota and become a free agent in October, that could happen, if all the pieces of this puzzle aren't put together properly.

As Twins' Manager Gene Mauch put it, "If we can't get the players we want, we should keep Carew this season."

So the sweepstakes could continue into the regular season, with emphasis coming before the June 15 trading deadline.

Indeed, if nothing else, it appears this saga may not be concluded until season's end.

Braves and Horner Far Apart Over Contract

By GARY CARUSO

ATLANTA—The only clear thing in the Braves' contract dispute with Bob Horner is that the situation gets more complex with every new development. The most likely conclusion which can be drawn at this point is that the matter will wind up in arbitration, but the way the soap opera has been progressing, anything is possible.

"I hope it will not go to arbitration, but it seems to be headed that way now," General Manager Bill Lucas admitted after Horner and his agent, Bucky Woy, publicly charged the team with reneging on an agreement. In so doing, Horner and Woy asked the Braves to trade TSN's National League Rookie of the Year.

"We've been negotiating with them since October and now it's like we haven't accomplished a thing," said Horner, who hit 23 home runs in 89 games after stepping off the Arizona State campus as the No. 1 draft choice in the nation.

"WE'VE GONE nowhere," he continued. "They totally reneged and now it's a bad situation for everyone. It's come down to the point that if that's the way they want to work, they might as well trade me. Not in my wildest dreams did I think anything like this would happen."

Lucas said the Braves would not trade the 21-year-old third baseman and denied he had made any sort of verbal agreement with Woy.

Obviously disturbed with the amount of time the Horner case is requiring, Lucas said, "I can't use all my time dealing with one player. I'm tired of this whole thing. I'm going to go on with some other business and try to get some of our other players signed."

Meanwhile, Woy said, "We really came to terms. There's no question about it, except that he (Lucas) had to get Turner's approval."

INSTEAD OF getting approval, however, Woy said the Braves came back with an entirely different offer that was "at the opposite

end of the spectrum from what we had agreed on."

Because of that, Woy said Horner's spirit is "completely broken."

"Bob said if it goes to arbitration and we win a grievance, there wouldn't be enough money to get him to play in Atlanta," said the Dallas-based agent. "And if we lost a grievance, he couldn't play there anyway because his spirit is com-

pletely broken. It would be best for everyone to trade him."

Woy is trying to get his client a "multi-year" deal for \$300,000 a year, while the Braves seem to be back to talking about a one-year agreement for less than \$146,400. They have sent Horner a contract for \$146,400, but at the same time filed a grievance asking that they be allowed to lower the figure which Woy says they must pay his

client in accordance with baseball rules.

Marvin Miller, executive director of the players' association, and Woy say the Braves have yet to make a "firm" written offer to Horner, as required by December 20 under baseball rules, and thus he should now be a free agent.

What will happen next is anyone's guess.

Wigwam Wisps: Braves' pitch-

ers and catchers are scheduled to report to spring training in West Palm Beach, Fla., February 23, with the first full squad workout March 1. . . . Outfielder Brian Assestine, who missed most of 1978 with a severe ankle injury, is reportedly making a strong recovery. He is running on the beach near his California home and taking regular practice against a pitching machine he purchased.

If Steinbrenner Really Wants Rod...

By PHIL PEPE

NEW YORK—It never really figured that Rod Carew, at age 33, would want to switch leagues and have to learn pitchers' habits all over. And it never really figured that George Steinbrenner would sit back and let the game's greatest hitter go someplace else.

Steinbrenner, as every student of economics knows, has an itchy check-writing hand. He also has a desire to bring the greatest stars in the game to New York and drape them in pinstripes. A star at every position, that has been George Steinbrenner's secret desire.

It took a while, but Steinbrenner finally made his move, asking the Twins for permission to negotiate with Carew after the Angels had their innings.

Do the Yankees have a chance?

TO PUT IT IN the words of the team president, Al Rosen, "You know George. He's like the 3,000-pound gorilla. Where does the 3,000-pound gorilla sleep? Wherever he wants to. Whatever George wants, he gets."

The complication is that George is not sure he wants Rod Carew, or needs him.

"It's premature," he said, "and not realistic. He wants a lot of money (the Giants offered \$3.5 million for five years, the Angels reportedly upped the offer to \$4 million for five years). If we do that, what does that do to the rest of my team?"

But George is the Zsa Zsa Gabor

of baseball. Zsa Zsa has all the diamonds she can wear, all the mink and sable she needs, but she'll always accept another bauble.

STEINBRENNER has all the stars he needs, enough, probably, to win a third straight world championship. But the idea of adding another bauble is seductive.

"In our park," he said, "Rod could hit .380. And he thinks so."

Steinbrenner is being conservative. One Yankee, Bucky Dent, thinks, "In our lineup and our park, he can hit .400. He can reach the right field seats and he has all that wide open territory in left and center. Remember the All-Star



George Steinbrenner

Game (1977) when he hit two triples in Yankee Stadium?"

The other complication is that Carew has made remarks indicating he might not be willing to play in New York, although he grew up there, still has family there and always hit well in Yankee Stadium.

CLOSE FRIENDS of Carew think his anti-New York remarks are merely a smokescreen, that he would love to play in New York.

"He'd walk over broken glass bare-footed to play in New York," said one friend.

Carew has said his one last dream in baseball is to play in a World Series and the Yankees certainly offer him his greatest opportunity to fulfill that dream.

"Besides," says another friend, "Rod feels he's never made the outside money he thinks he deserves. Playing in New York, in the center of the media, he would make it."

For Carew to become a Yankee, Steinbrenner must not only satisfy Carew's contractual demands, he must satisfy Calvin Griffith in a deal. With their surplus of talent, that should not be difficult and the Yankees have made a formidable offer—Chris Chambliss, Juan Beniquez and the mandatory (for Griffith and Bowie Kuhn) \$400,000.

"George is in the best position to get Carew," said Griffith. "He has the money to satisfy Rod and the players to satisfy us."

Flareups Spice Carew's Checkered Career

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—His name is **Rod Carew** and he is a player of many talents. That can be proved by his two batting championships, his .309 career average, his six All-Star team berths in six seasons, his Rookie of the Year trophy from 1967 and his trophy for being named Minnesota's MVP last year.

Yet, for all his ability, **Rod** performs in virtual anonymity. Although he is articulate, he isn't seen on television commercials. Although he is a regular, he isn't interviewed as often as, say, Harmon Killebrew or Tony Oliva.

When newsmen ask questions, they generally are, "What kind of pitch did you hit?" or "What happened on that play?" They never ask about **Rod Carew** the man.

FEATURE STORIES are as rare as a 0-for-5 game. Few know, for example, he was born on a train in Panama, moved to New York City as a teenager and was discovered

on the sandlots.

Why? Well, most reporters believe **Rod Carew** does not try as hard as possible most of the time and they'd rather interview a player who is trying than one who is trying to watch.

Carew says he does "bust it." His supporters argue his loping running style is deceptive, that he is able to run faster than most players while appearing to be casually trotting.

Many believe he is an overrated second baseman, that he misses many grounders he could stop by taking one or two quick steps to get in front of the ball. They are told his style is to backhand grounders, make basket catches of pop-ups and flip sidearm loopers to first base. It may not be a textbook style, but it has been successful for him.

THUS, MOST OF the stories that appear about **Rod Carew** are controversial.

There was, for example, spring training in 1967 when Calvin Griffith told his manager, then Sam Mele, to play **Carew** at second base, despite the fact he had played the previous season for a Class A team.

In 1968, **Carew** returned from military reserve duties to find Frank Quilici playing his position and doing well. The manager that year, Cal Ermer, decided **Carew** should take some batting practice before returning to the lineup and the second baseman took a trip to the Cleveland airport.

He was headed off at the ticket counter by coach John Goryl, returned to the clubhouse and ordered to apologize to his teammates.

IN 1969, THE manager was Billy Martin and there was another incident. In the last of the fifth in a game at Detroit, he caught a pop-up to end the inning, flipped the ball to the mound, ran into the dug-out and continued to the clubhouse.

Martin found him changing clothes and, in the sixth, the Twins' second baseman was Quilici. **Carew**, blaming personal problems, eventually was returned to the lineup and finished the season with his first batting title.

In 1970, the manager was Bill Rigney and **Carew** played as many thought he could play—for three months. Then while making a double play pivot in Milwaukee, he was hit and suffered a knee injury. He was hitting .375 at the time and didn't return until September, when he played briefly as a cripple.



Rod Carew

It was then that critics claimed he wouldn't have been injured if he hadn't been nonchalant about his relay to first, watching the ball sail to first instead of getting out of the way.

In 1971, he started slowly and, after the sixth game of the season, he announced he was going to retire. The next day he changed his mind and it was then that relief pitcher Ron Perranoski asked, "What did he think he'd do, become a brain surgeon?"

IT WAS QUIET last year as **Carew** won a second batting title, but controversy cropped up early this season.

Quilici, now the manager, had established a policy of fining his players in the clubhouse. Teammates would know of the fines, but outsiders wouldn't. He felt this would create team togetherness.

On April 29, during the first game of a doubleheader in New York, the Twins were trailing, 6-2, in the eighth when **Carew** hit a grounder to pitcher Mel Stottlemyre with men on first and third and none out.

Stottlemyre checked the runner back to third and threw to second and shortstop Gene Michael's slow, looping relay to first beat **Carew** by three steps.

LATER, BETWEEN games in the clubhouse, Quilici handed out his first fine—\$250 to **Carew** for failing to hustle.

"I've broken my back for this guy (Quilici)," he said. "I told him in Boston that I had a bad leg and it was giving me some trouble. If he thought I wasn't hustling, the least he could have done was to warn me. And then, I was embarrassed when he announced the fine before the entire team."

"We were behind, 6-1, at the time, so I certainly didn't cost us the game. I wasn't very happy when he sat me down the second game and didn't play me at all. I guess what he wanted to do was to make an example of me. All I'm going to do now is to do my best and see what happens."

And so it would seem the most interesting stories about **Rod Carew** again will not concern his abilities on the field.

Twin Tales: After getting off to a quick start, the Twins went into a five-game losing streak. During the streak, Minnesota pitchers gave up 40 runs. . . . The Twins' first extra-inning game, May 2, was a 10-inning loss to Cleveland. . . . Harmon Killebrew was off to one of his slowest starts, hitting .174 with one homer.

Written on the Stars

By OSCAR WEBER



CANTON, Mass.—Are great athletes and super stars in the world of sports born that way or are they the product of environment and training? What made a Babe Ruth? Or what is it that makes a Hank Aaron? Environment and training can only bring out that which is within. The talents are inherited or inborn.

Both of these great sluggers, though born years apart and with differences in a number of ways, shared much in common, at least from an astrological point of view.

The Babe was born on February 6 and Hank was born on February 5. Ruth had and Aaron has excellent coordination between the mind and hand as indicated by having both the Sun and Mercury in the Sign of the Zodiac Aquarius. In addition, these were in "favorable aspect" to the planet Saturn, indicating good control.

LIKE RUTH, Aaron has the planets of Mars and Mercury in aspect, symbolizing a keen mentality, a penetrating insight, a rapid sizing-up of situations and an ability to make quick, practically spontaneous decisions.

Aaron has tremendous will power and a desire to exercise that will in a manner that would bring recognition and fame while keeping the respect and good will of others. His emotional response to people in general is high-minded. He has a true feeling and affection for his fellow man.

Basically, he would prefer to live his life in his own way, whether others approve or not, since his individualistic tendencies are strong, yet he appreciates the value of team work and is at his best cooperating with others in his group. He is good-natured and friendly, even when in deep and serious thought, and he rarely, if ever, is likely to be frivolous or trifling.

There is an astrological indication of considerable power in his wrists and excellent control of their use, which undoubtedly contribute much to his ability to bang out those home runs.

HE IS CAPABLE of and can get a thrill out of fast action and at various times in life may gamble with his personal safety.

His energies are not as endless as they may seem. In all activities, work or play, he would be well advised to know his limits and take care not to over-extend himself. Anyone trying too hard, de-

manding too much of himself, being too eager to achieve outstanding accomplishments or overexerting himself in any manner is apt to find this reflected in the quality of his performance.

Tension, pressures and/or emotional trauma not only are apt to affect the nerves, blood pressure and digestive system momentarily, but also can have a lasting effect on general health and ability to carry on a person's daily tasks.

IF EVER A great athlete was born, Aaron is that man. The Tenth House of a horoscope shows the heights to which one can rise in performance, reputation and public acknowledgement. On his Tenth House, Hank has the Sign of Sagittarius, which in itself is indicative of athletics. But, in addition, its "ruler" Jupiter is in a powerful "favorable aspect" to the planets Mars, Mercury, Venus, the Sun and the Moon, a rare combination found in the charts of some outstanding champions.

"To be or not to be, that is the question," paraphrasing William Shakespeare. Will Aaron reach and then break Babe Ruth's lifetime home-run record?

Astrologically, there are indications that much depends on how well he takes care of his health.

Providing this presents no problem, 1973 should be a better season than he had in 1972 when he hit 34 home runs. Since at the start of this year he needed 41 home runs, it could be that he will break Ruth's mark by this season's end.

YET LIKE THE Sword of Damocles, the unexpected could threaten to upset these bright prospects. Particular care should be exercised from early June to late July.

We all have a "Biological Clock" which runs in cycles. We have so-called "good days" when we function at our best and "bad days" when we do not do so well. This applies to sportsmen as well as to those in business or the professions.

The Braves are scheduled to play the Giants in Atlanta on May 23. Hank will be at a High Cycle that day and should he play in that game, he should do very well.

The Braves also are scheduled to play the Cubs in Chicago on June 3. Cycle-wise, Hank will be at a low point and, therefore, it can be expected that he will not feel right. Should he play in that game, he probably will not do well.

We shall see what we shall see on these dates.



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