

Orlando Grabs Bull By Horns; His Knee Passes Picket Test

Dodgers' Games at Frisco Magnet for Ticket Sales

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Pete Hoffman, Giants' ticket manager, says ticket sales for the three Dodger-Giant series in Candlestick Park this year are booming, in spite of the fear that neither Don Drysdale nor Sandy Koufax would play.

"Nobody's backing off. If anything, the absence of the two Dodger aces had perked up our sales. Our fans really think we can win this year," Hoffman said. The Dodger pair signed, March 30.

"Our sales for the three Dodger series is bigger than ever. Tickets are going fast for our first meeting with them here, May 3, 4 and 5. If anything, sales have increased since the two first became holdout threats.

"Our second series with Los Angeles, June 10, 11 and 12, will be a whopper. It looks like we may sell out those three games by the middle of May."

Bob Shaw Holds Firm on Demand --Not \$50,000

By JACK McDONALD
PHOENIX, Ariz.

Bob Shaw, unsigned as of March 30, said by phone from his home in Jupiter, Fla., that he was not asking the Giants for a \$50,000 contract, as reported.

"This is no Drysdale-Koufax situation," he asserted. "I'm not even putting myself in Juan Marichal's class. He's a great pitcher who could have an off-year and still win 20 games. I'd have to have everything going for me to win 20."

But Shaw contended a pitcher does not have to win 20 games to merit a raise and said he felt his 16-9 record helped the Giants last year.

When the Giants mailed him his initial contract in January, Shaw said, all they did was restore the cut for a poor year in '64.

"I mailed it back, asking for more than \$50,000," he related.

"But I didn't expect that much and told them so. It was just my way of telling them my figure of over \$50,000 was as ridiculously high as the amount they offered was, in my judgment, ridiculously low.

Giants Raise Offer

"They've come up a little since, but not enough. As things now stand, we're not miles apart, but Chub Feeney hasn't yet asked me what I really want, and it has been over a week since I've heard from him. It doesn't look good.

"The Giants know I always report in shape and that I can get ready in ten days, so maybe they're in no hurry.

"I'm just not satisfied with their last offer. I don't want to sit around and mope all season, kicking myself for not demanding and getting what I think I'm worth."

As to published stories he did not help the club during the September pennant fight, Shaw reminded that he won two games that month, one a 3-1, five-hit decision over the Dodgers.

"In another game I pitched against Milwaukee and was taken out with the score 2-2," he pointed out.

By JACK McDONALD
PHOENIX, Ariz.

It can be said, with reasonable safety, that Orlando Cepeda has erased the question mark after his name concerning his 1966 availability. His knee problem appears to have been conquered.

When spring training started, it looked doubtful. He appeared to be just going through the motions in left field for the first week or ten days.

He was not overjoyed over losing the first base job he had held for seven full seasons, to Willie McCovey, but concluded it would be better to play left field than no place at all.

It was after he made two errors there in one inning that his pride was stung and he began to play the position with a passion. Helping his incentive was the fact he started to hit.

In one recent streak, he had 11 hits in 27 at-bats to raise his steadily-mounting Cactus League average to .407. The climax was when he hit a tape-measure homer off Luis Tiant of the Indians in a game at Mesa. It was the Baby Bull's seventh hit in his last ten at-bats.

Shot to Dead Center

The homer equalled his grand total of one last season, when he was at bat only 34 times. The ball off Tiant cleared a 30-foot fence in dead center and was estimated to have traveled between 475 and 500 feet.

Of course, there was never any question about his hitting. But his outfielding began to improve as his base-hits increased.

"I'm beginning to feel more comfortable out there now," he said. "My knee is much stronger than when I came to Arizona. I exercised it hard all winter, but when you start playing baseball, you make different moves and the muscles must be re-educated."

The balls that give Big O the most trouble are flies he has to go back on. To overcome this, he plays hitters deeper than normal and comes in on them.

Orlando still leaves something to be desired in the outfield, but at this stage, he has made progress.

Herman Franks says he never saw Cepeda swing a bat in more classic style and to better effect. The ball shoots off his bat like a rocket and he has been death on curve balls.

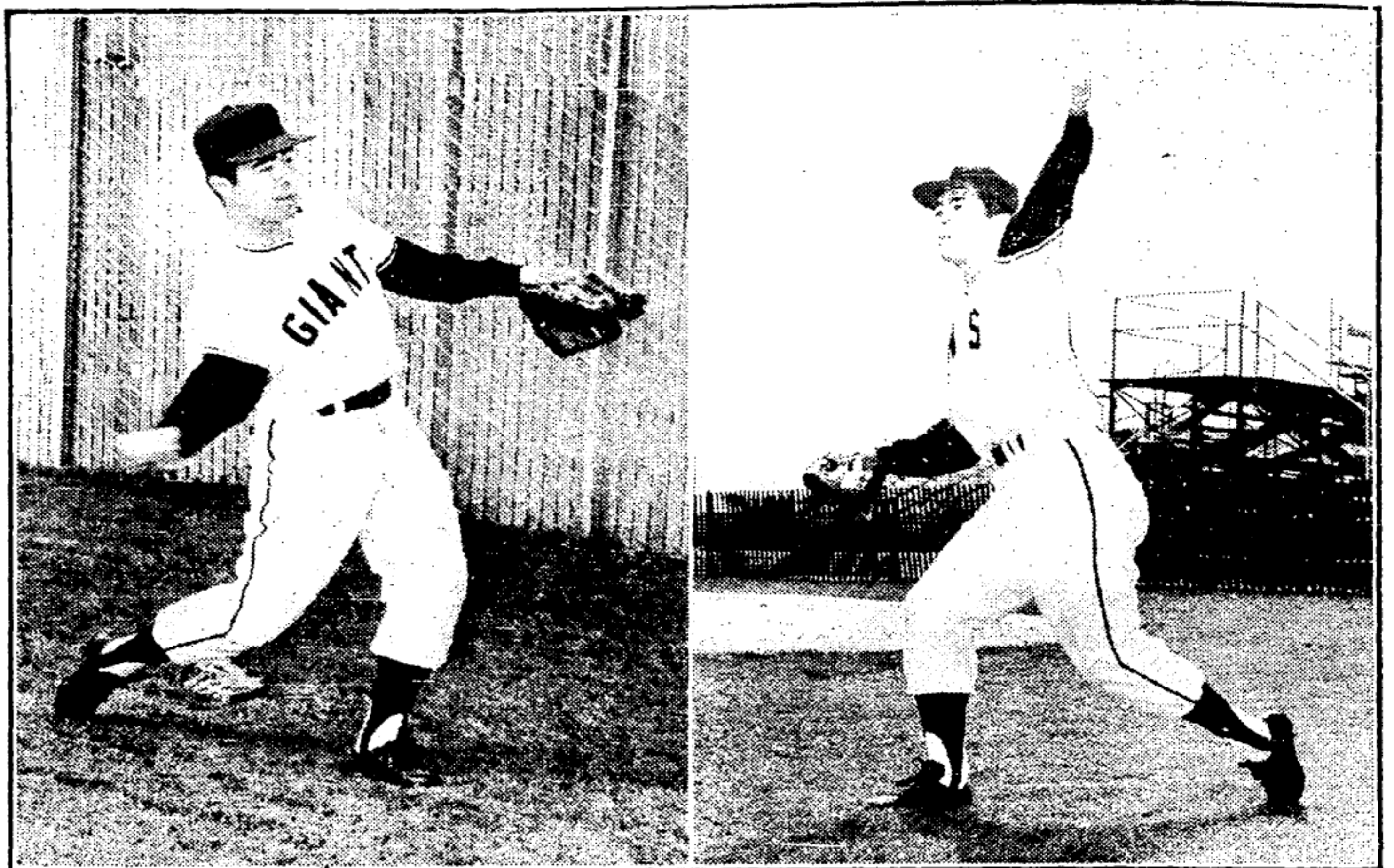
Cepeda continues to work with 250-pound barbells, installed in the Giants' Phoenix clubhouse. He lies on his back and with his legs lifts them up and down for nearly an hour daily. As a result, he seems to have developed muscles and strength he never knew existed.

Marichal Late Arrival

Juan Marichal appeared in camp belatedly, March 26, and signed his 1966 contract calling for a purported \$72,000. His asking price was said to have been \$80,000, but the Dominican Dandy seemed happy as Skipper Franks outlined a "crash program" to ready him for his traditional season opener role, April 12.

It is hoped to get three exhibition appearances out of him before the bell rings. Juan reported at his playing weight. Skeptics think the Giant ace lost something off his fast ball, following his suspension late in the season after the "bat incident" involving himself and John Roseboro. Marichal is anxious to prove these pessimists wrong.

He still insists he didn't provoke the incident. "I had expected to be thrown at in front by Sandy Koufax, but not from behind," he said. "The



SHOZO YOSHINARI . . . The Giants' Ambidextrous Pitching Candidate

Switch-Pitching Yoshi--Will He Warm Up Both Right and Left?

By JACK McDONALD

CASA GRANDE, Ariz.

The arrival here of Japan's Shozo Yoshinari, one of those rare ambidextrous pitchers, poses some problems for the umpires and rules makers.

When he comes to the mound to start each inning, can he demand 16 warm-up pitches, eight for each arm, instead of the conventional eight?

Should switch-pitcher Yoshinari face, say, switch-hitter Maury Wills of the Dodgers, where will the line be drawn between hitter and pitcher changing from one side to the other at the plate, or one hand to the other on the mound? This looks like a job for the rules committee.

And if "Yoshi" makes it from the Giants' Fresno farm club to the majors and pleads a sore arm, will Herman Franks tell him, "So what? Throw with the other one."

When Yoshinari decided to bring his ambidextrous arms to the U. S., he sought out Masanori Murakami, his countryman, who knows what it is to face homerdaffy American sluggers.

Murakami offered two pearls of wisdom. "Learn English. It is essential." And, "Even more important, keep the ball down or those Americans will clout the ball out of the park on you."

Yoshi Forgets Sound Advice

"Yoshi" disregarded this advice when we saw him pitch in batting practice here the other day. He got one up a little high to rookie Bill Pepitone, 19-year-old Giant chattel and a brother of Joe, the Yankee. What Murakami had said would happen, did. Pepitone whacked one over the fence.

Carl Hubbell, Giant farm system boss, has been trying to evaluate Horace Stoneham's latest import from Japan. "Yoshi" wears impressive sideburns, is about 5-10 and weighs 160 pounds.

He comes out to the mound with two gloves, one for each hand, sticking the one not in use in his back pocket.

He throws underhanded with his right and delivers overhanded with his left.

Through his interpreter, Hide Koga, who also aspires to fame and fortune as a pitcher, "Yoshi" explained he is a natural lefty but got a sore arm in high school and learned to use his right. Ironically, he now throws better with his unorthodox right than with his natural left.

With Koga catching him, the obliging "Yoshi" threw a few sample pitches from both sides for us. His lefty curve is quick, but dinky. But when he throws a curve with his right, it's a real roundhouse.

When "Yoshi" has a runner on first, he pitches left-

ball Roseboro threw ticked my ear and when I asked why he threw at me, he came at me."

Has he tried to forget the whole affair? "I don't forget it, but it doesn't bother me."

Told that Roseboro had announced his intention of going through with a \$110,000 damage suit against him, he shrugged and observed, "Nothing I can do about that."

Juan has won at least 21 games

handed. With a man on third, he switches to a right-handed delivery. What if he has runners on both first and third?

We tried to get through to him on this, but the only answer we got from the interpreter was, "Yoshi says he is taking Murakami's advice and is trying hard to learn English."

Modest Bonus of \$3,000

"Yoshi," like Murakami, signed into pro ball out of high school, but the Tokyo Giants paid him only a \$3,000 bonus, as against \$40,000 Murakami reputedly got to sign with the Nankai Hawks.

He pitched in the Japanese minors several seasons. In one game, he claims, he struck out 12, seven with his right hand, five with his left. In his last season in Japan, he says he posted a 13-6 record with a farm club, finishing with a 2.18 ERA.

"Yoshi" paid his own way to the U. S. A native of Okita, in northern Japan, his father, a bank clerk, advised against the move. But "Yoshi" told him, "Baseball is my life."

"The Tokyo Giants released me and no other club took me, so the only place left for me to pitch is the United States."

His father predicted no good will come of it. The Giants here suspect he doesn't throw hard enough to win in the majors, but that he might prove useful as a relief pitcher in the minors. He is temporarily assigned to Fresno (California).

He reports Murakami is off to a bad start in Japan, having been clobbered for four home runs in the first 18 innings he pitched for the Nankai Hawks.

Press Hostile to Murakami

"The press hasn't been friendly to him since he went back to Japan," he said, through his interpreter. As he did so, "Yoshi" put a finger to the tip of his nose and pushed the nose upward, to indicate Japanese baseball writers think Murakami has become a fat-head.

"Japanese press has him figured all wrong, but Murakami is unhappy in Japan and I think he will come back to the S. F. Giants some day. Not this year, but maybe next."

He finds American spring training camps much different than those in Japan. "Here they put in a couple of hours, then take off and play golf."

"In Japan, training starts at ten in the morning and goes on for seven hours, with only a short break for lunch. Daily exercises include miles of uphill hiking and as many as three solid hours of bunting practice."

Willie had played in only 56 out of a possible 99 frames. . . . The Giants are striving desperately for a lefty starter and so far are failing. Dick Estelle has been wild and Joe Gibbon has proven an early disappointment, though Franks has given up on neither. . . . Tito Fuentes and Dick Schofield are still waging an even-up battle for the short-stop berth. It's still a question who will start the season there.