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He'll Still Pick Up Willie's Hat

LOS ANGELES, Calif.

At the time in 1951 that Willie Mays came from Minneapolis in the American Association to the New York Giants, he was batting a modest .477. The story is told that a player was describing Willie to Alvin Dark, then an infielder for the Giants.

"... And they tell me," the man said, "that every time he runs around the bases, his hat flies off."

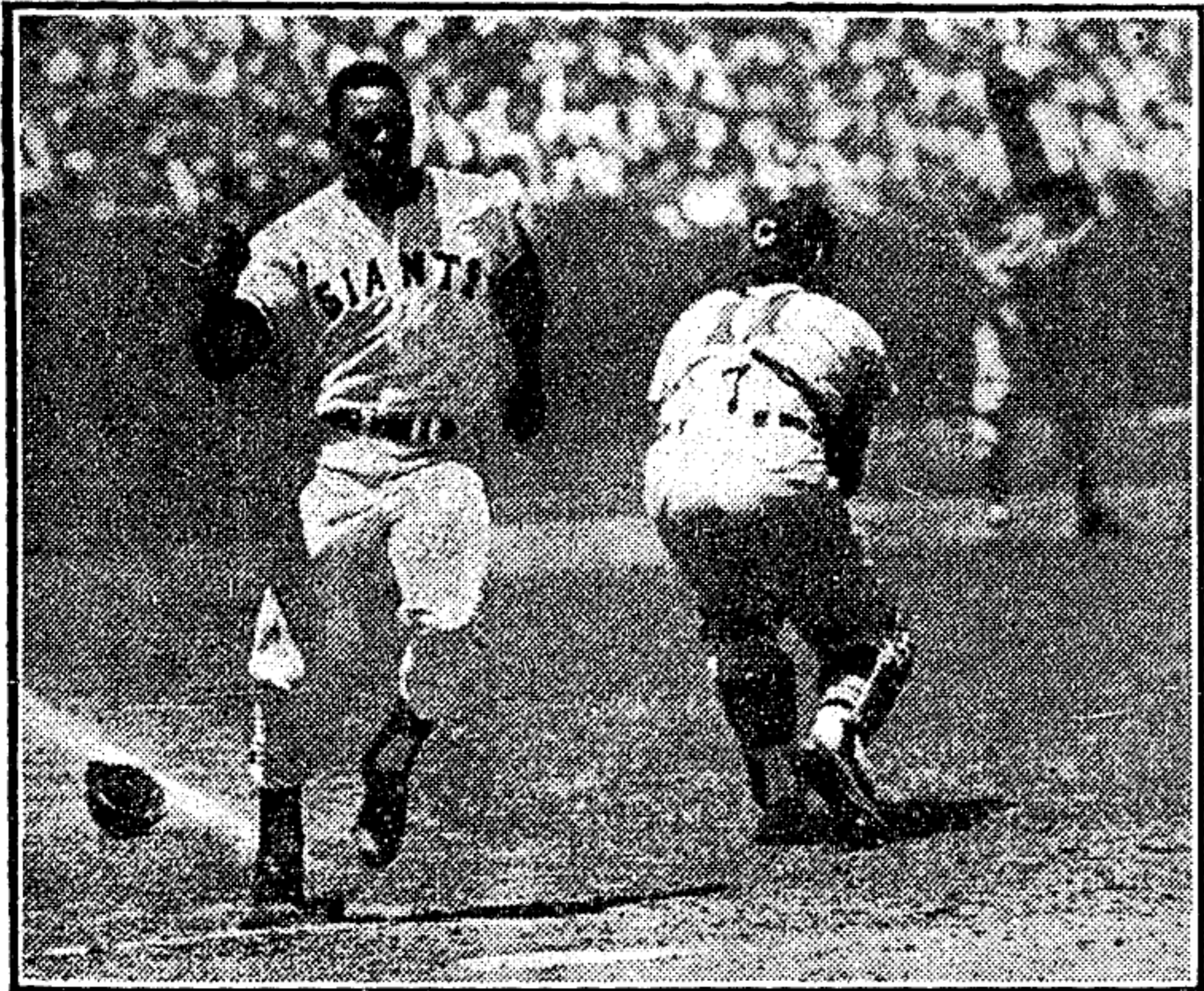
Dark listened intently. Finally, he responded, "If he can help the club any, I'll follow him and pick it up."

It is interesting that ten years later, Dark should wind up the manager of Mays, picking up the hat of the highest paid player in baseball.

By latest San Francisco estimates, guaranteed to be only mildly wind-blown, Willie signed a contract the other day for \$90,000, which is a lot of money for one not on the lam from Eliot Ness.

It is the most the Giants ever have paid a player and represents a sizeable package for a club whose earnings dropped sharply last year.

But every nickel that goes to Willie is deserved, because when people 25 years from now are standing in tap rooms, on street corners and in par-



WILLIE MAYS "runs out from under his hat" probably more often than any other major leaguer, a fact that once prompted Alvin Dark to observe that he would gladly follow him and pick up his cap if it would help the club. Here bareheaded Willie crosses the plate in the first 1961 All-Star Game. John Romano of the Indians is the A. L. catcher.

lors, discussing baseball livestock, Mays will be recalled as one of the genuinely classical players of this half of the century.

He will be remembered fondly for his power, for his fielding, for his arm, for his base-running and for the boyish enthusiasm with which he performed even ten years after coming to the majors.

At the recent Hall of Fame election, Jackie Robinson was admitted as the first Negro to the hallowed corridors of Cooperstown. Jackie was a good ball player whose case was heightened by the fierceness of his struggle against bigotry.

He rode triumphantly into the Hall of Fame, partly through performance and partly because of the sociological battle he fought.

When Willie Mays goes to Cooperstown, it will be all performance, just as it will be with Ernie Banks and Hank Aaron.

The sum of \$90,000 a year to one ball player is an extraordinary figure. We asked Fresno Thompson, vice-president of the Dodgers, to tell us the implications of a team's paying a man such a salary.

Other Players Use Mays' Salary as Wedge

"You start out by admitting," said Thompson, "that Mays is worth the money. If he isn't, who is? The guy does everything Mantle can do and does it more often. He rarely misses a game."

"The thing is, however, that when you pay a man such a salary, it is used as a basis for argument of other players."

"A fellow like Mantle, for instance, makes money for almost every man on the Yankee team. Say a guy is earning \$10,000 a year. He will tell the general manager that Mantle is good, all right, but not eight times as good as the guy complaining."

"If Mantle gets \$80,000, the complainer will claim he is worth at least \$15,000."

Thompson points out that as a second baseman for the Phillies, he never would have earned \$10,000 a year, plus \$500 for being captain, if it weren't for Babe Ruth.

"When I screamed about Ruth's pay of \$100,000 a year," he says, "I squeezed out ten grand. And I wasn't even playing for the same team."

"It's much the same with Mays and the Giants. Cepeda, you'll note, is still a holdout. If he sees Willie is getting \$90,000, he may want \$50,000. That's why he hasn't signed, even though they've offered him a raise of 33 1/2 per cent over last year."

How do players find out the personal deals of others on the team?

"The worst kept secret in baseball," says Thompson, "is the financial setups of the athletes. They find out the private business of everyone on the club. Even in Class D leagues, they'll discover, for instance, that one guy got return transportation as part of his deal, while others didn't. Then there's trouble."

"If you can't conceal the salary of a shortstop in the Sally League, how can you hide the deal of baseball's highest-paid player?"

Glove Dandy Jim Davenport Locks Up Hot-Corner Post

Fielding Whiz Signs Giants' Pact at Healthy Hike After Bangup Season at Platter

By JACK McDONALD
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.



Al Dark

Manager Alvin Dark rarely mentions third base in his 1962 pre-season estimates. He doesn't have to. **Jim Davenport** is anchored there. It wasn't this way last spring when Jim was a known but doubtful quantity. He had

been treated for a stomach ulcer late in 1960 and wasn't at all sure a knee, operated on after the 1959 campaign, was going to hold up.

But the ulcer cleared up and the knee was completely cured. He ate regularly and played regularly. Result, a career high batting average and RBI total. Also a defensive record that led the league's third basemen for the third straight season.

The latest result was Davenport signing his 1962 contract for a substantial pay increase. If Jim's comeback was quiet, it was steady. His .278 batting average wasn't as spectacular as Willie Mays' or Orlando Cepeda's, yet he finished as the Giants' third-ranking hitter in most categories. He hit as many doubles and triples as Orlando, though the Baby Bull outstripped him in home runs, 46 to 12.

Asked if he thinks the league's expanded schedule of 162 games will prove too many for him, Davenport replied, "I can do it standing on my head. All it means is a few less off days and a few more double-headers."

Cepeda, Miller Balk

Davenport's signing brought to 25 the number of Giants in the fold. Two players were having what were regarded as serious disputes with the front office over salary. They were Cepeda and Stu Miller, whose 1961 records would seem to call for the biggest pay jumps.

Cepeda has been offered a 33 1/2 per cent increase but was said to be demanding his \$27,000 salary of last year be doubled. Miller, who had by far the biggest year of his career, naturally was seeking the biggest increase of his career.

He was 14-5 in the won-lost listings. The most wins he had ever registered in any previous season in the majors was eight, in 1959. Stu was in 63 games. Five innings was the most he pitched in any. Used exclusively in relief, he compiled an ERA of 2.66, making him low man among the Giants. He pitched in 122 innings, 32 innings shy of qualifying for official ERA honors.

McCormick Takes Cut

Mike McCormick, at 23 the oldest pitcher in point of service with the club, has signed his 1962 contract for a slight cut in pay. In all, 33 homers were hit off him in 1961, more than any other N. L. pitcher gave up. He was beaten three times by 2 to 1 scores and all six of these runs off him were homers.

There's such a thing, Mike contends, as having too much control. Too many hitters could stand in close on him last season and take advantage of his fine control. The hitters know he could pinpoint his pitches and didn't have to concentrate on wondering if they'd have to duck.

McCormick says he is going to change his tactics. "I fired too many strikes last year," he said. "I'm going to move the ball around more and not worry about it if I walk a few."

Mike was asked if he thought bypassing the minors and jumping into a Giant uniform at the age of 17 set him back.

"I dunno," he replied. "It made me eligible for the players' pension at the age of 23."

Far-Turn Flash



Jim Davenport

Litwhiler's Five RBIs Pace N. L. Gaffers' Victory

By FRED LIEB
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

Danny Litwhiler, Florida State baseball coach and former Phil and Cardinal outfielder, continued to be the scourge of the American League in the seventh annual March of Dimes Old-Timers' game here, February 3. His double, single and sacrifice fly drove in five runs as the National stars won a five and one-half inning game, 8 to 6. It was the fifth straight win for the N. L. after the American League started the series with victories in 1956 and 1957.

Eddie Roush, 68-year-old former Red and Giant outfielder star, made his first public appearance since his recent election to the Hall of Fame. Edd was the National League's starting center fielder and leadoff man; he played two innings, had one futile trip to the plate, but handled two outfield chances in the smooth easy Roush fashion. Another Hall of Fame outfielder, the former Pirate great, Paul Waner, lent encouragement from the N. L. bench, but did not get in uniform.

For the first time since the series was inaugurated, a father and son combination appeared in one of the lineups. Max Lanier, former Cardinal southpaw ace, now a troubleshooter in the Giant organization, was the fifth National League pitcher, and his 19-year-old son, recently married Harold, pitched shortstop for the winners.

Harold, voted Florida's No. 1 scholastic player for 1961, pounded out three hits in three ABs.

Alpha Brazle, a lefthanded teammate of Papa Lanier on the Cardinals, had to leave the game in the second inning when he developed a kink in his left shoulder.

Dazzling Danny

American	ab	r	h	rbi	National	ab	r	h	rbi
Collier, 2b.....	3	0	0	0	Roush, cf.....	1	0	0	0
Haag, 2b.....	1	0	0	0	Ermish, cf-3b..	1	1	1	1
Kant, 1b.....	3	2	0	0	Castiglione, 2b	4	2	1	0
Garrison, lf.....	3	1	2	0	H. Lanier, 3b..	3	3	3	0
Silverman, rf.....	2	1	1	0	Litwhiler, lf.....	2	1	2	0
Bernhart, rf.....	1	0	0	0	May, 2b.....	2	1	1	1
Kline, ss.....	2	1	2	2	Sadecki, 1b.....	3	0	1	0
Bowler, ss.....	0	0	0	0	Martin, cf.....	3	0	1	1
Seal, 3b.....	2	1	2	2	Suzie, c.....	3	0	0	0
Bagill, 3b.....	1	0	0	0	Keely, c.....	1	0	0	0
Flori, c.....	2	0	0	0	Vander Meer, p	0	0	0	0
Whalen, c.....	1	0	0	0	Brazle, p.....	0	0	0	0
Chandler, p.....	1	0	1	0	Russell, p.....	0	0	0	0
Minnor, p.....	0	0	0	0	Miller, cf.....	2	0	0	0
Lott, p.....	1	0	0	0	Sewell, p.....	0	0	0	0
Sherbon, p.....	0	0	0	0	Smith, p.....	1	0	0	0
Hall, p.....	1	0	0	0	F. Smith, p.....	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	24	6	10	5	M. Lanier, p.....	0	0	0	0
					Moore, p.....	0	0	0	0
					Early, p.....	0	0	0	0
					Totals.....	24	8	10	8

A. Fouled out for Russell in second. B. Piled out for Sewell in third. C. Walked for Lanier in fifth. D. Kline, Russell, 2B—Kline, Litwhiler, SF—Litwhiler, Ermish. P.O.—American League 15-4, National League 18-5. L.O.B.—American League 5, National League 6. WP—Russell. U—Burkhardt, Shapiro, Herlon, Francis. T—2:00. Attendance—2,200.

100,000 Gate for Miami Club Predicted by Durney

MIAMI, Fla. — Attendance of 100,000 for Miami's team in the Class D Florida State League has been predicted by Bill Durney, a vice-president of the club. Durney, a former associate of Bill Veeck at St. Louis, helped Ronnie Fine, Miami businessman, land the FSL franchise.

Durney has set prices of \$1.35 for box seats in Miami Stadium, once home of the International League Marlins, with 85 cents as general admission. Durney said the latter prices would be more of a bargain because a father and child of high school age will be admitted for one dollar.

Another innovation will be starting the night games at 7:30 o'clock.

Buffalo Induces John Stiglmeier to Stay on Job

Veteran Prexy Had Planned to Quit, But Reconsiders After Being Voted Salary

By CY KRITZER
BUFFALO, N. Y.

For the first time in seven years as chief executive of the Buffalo community-owned Bisons, John C. Stiglmeier is to receive a salary for the coming season.



John Stiglmeier

It was not something that he suggested or requested, but the directors of the International club used it as a weapon to cause Big Jawn to change his mind about resigning.

He first announced his intentions to quit at a stockholders' meeting, November 19, but he was re-elected anyway and accepted on the proviso that he could take a few months to reconsider.

As late as February 2, he sent a special delivery letter to the 14 directors saying that he owed it to his family and business to leave the president's post, but that he was willing to continue as a director and serve in an advisory capacity to the new president.

At a special meeting, the directors refused to accept Stiggy's resignation and voted him an unannounced salary, if he would remain indefinitely in the president's chair.

Predicts Big-Time Franchise

"I changed my mind for only one reason," said Stiglmeier. "I believe Buffalo is only three years away from the major leagues, that the next expansion will come soon and I want to do my share to help this city get there."

With a few changes in the field-box seats, a netting for the backstop, some paint to brighten up the entrances and added restroom facilities, Stiglmeier said he believes War Memorial Stadium will be adequate for the start of major league ball here.

But he is convinced, too, that Buffalo's future in baseball and football requires a new stadium. He suggested that Erie County, fourteenth largest in the nation, was in a better position to build such a stadium, without a referendum, than the city of Buffalo.

The county has plenty of available land, he said.

"If population, industry and location are factors in the next expansion," said Stiglmeier, "Buffalo should be the next city in line for the major leagues. I have assurance the necessary capital will be available."