

Curt and Charley Cut Cool Pattern As Card Swingers

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

The most delightful development of the early weeks for the remodeled Cardinals? No question about that. Except in Minnesota, twins are unusual, and Pat Corrales became the father of twin daughters, April 22. He almost fell off the dugout bench at Busch Stadium when he got the word during a game with the Pirates.

Ranking right behind Corrales in production were Curt Flood and Charley Smith. Hammering game-winning homers in successive tilts against the Mets and Pirates, little Curt had 12 runs batted in for his first eight games. And when the first fortnight was over, Flood, batting third, was at the .415 mark.

At the same time, fifth-place hitter Smith had a skimpy total of two RBIs, but you could hardly blame the Met alumnus. Smitty, batting an enormous .486 for the first two weeks, had included four doubles, a triple and a homer among his 18 hits, but the No. 2 batsman, Julian Javier, and the No. 4 man, either Tim McCarver or Alex Johnson, were conspicuous by their absence on the bases. Javier was far below .200.

The pitching in the first two weeks also was impressive.

Flood, the club's RBI king with 83 last season even though he often batted leadoff, looked back on his usual winter. A talented artist, Curt worked again for a commercial engraving firm in Oakland, Calif., but he avoided any special conditioning program.

Weight Loss During Winter

"I even lose weight in the winter because I eat more regularly when the season is on," said Flood, who usually plays at around 160 pounds.

Flood, noting the long hikes a center fielder must make from his position to the bench, and the return trips, between innings, said with a sigh, "It's a pleasure to take it easy for a couple of months. The big guys need the extra conditioning. But Doc Bauman (trainer) can rub me down with only one arm."

As for Smith, that mountainous batting average of .486 wasn't his only early testimonial. Smitty, who had hit well and fielded brilliantly, too, at third base, picked up where he had left off in Florida.

There has been some doubts about Smith ability to do the glove job day in and day out. But, of course, that could well have been a bad rap because he previously was shifted from position to position so often, not to mention being pushed from field to bench.

Smitty Shortens Swing

Another bright aspect about Smith was the fact that he had worked so hard on cutting down his swing and hitting to the opposite field that his strikeout total for the first ten games came to just one. And Smitty, whose lifetime batting mark before 1966 was .237, had whiffed 123 times in '65.

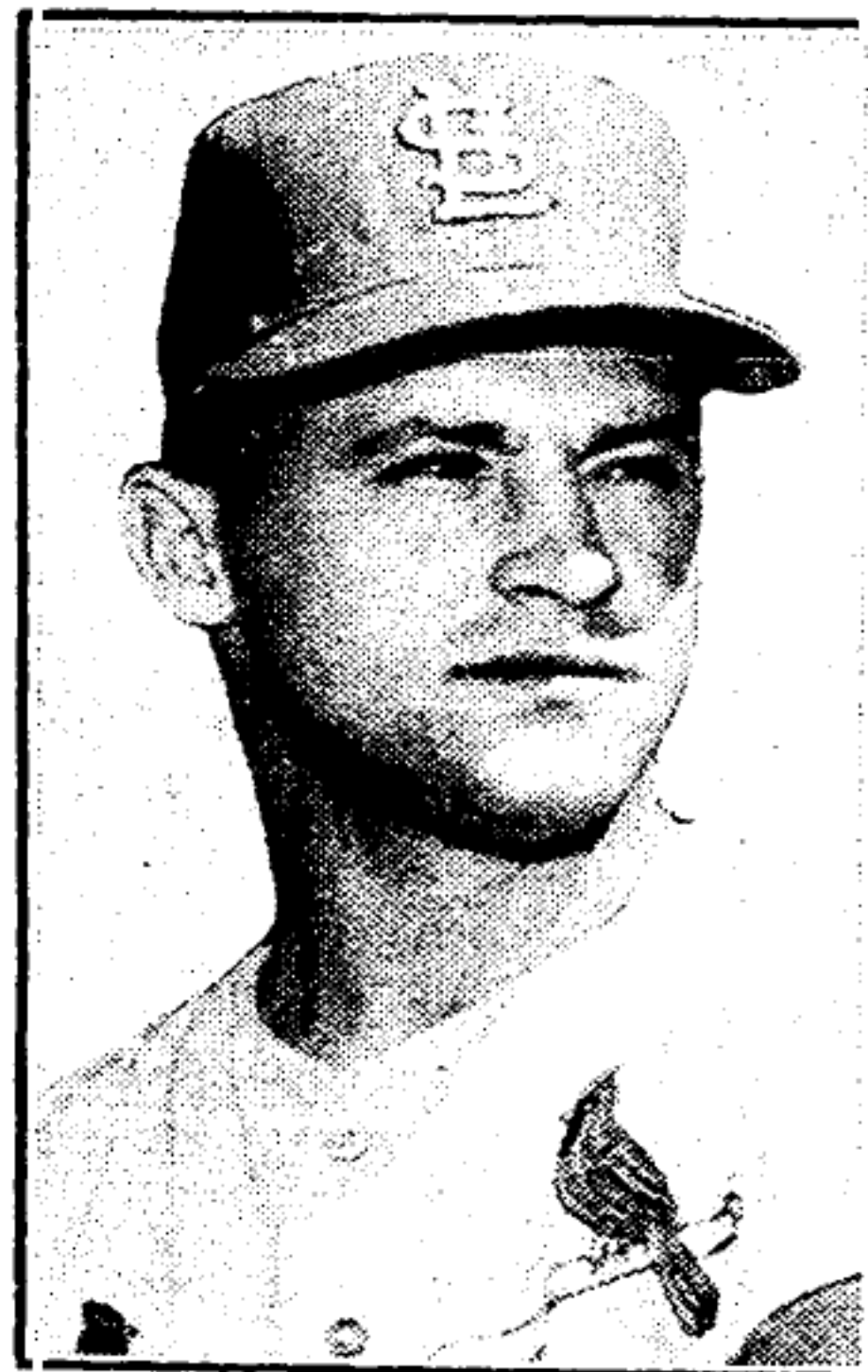
Said Smitty: "I hit to right field more times in our first six games than I did in the last two years."

And when Charley hit his first homer of the campaign, to the bleachers at Busch Stadium, he said he actually had been trying to hit the ball through the middle.

In the field, Smith was grabbing everything, shots to his left, drives



Curt Flood



Charley Smith

to his right and slow rollers, and was displaying a strong, accurate arm.

Said Coach Dick Sisler: "Going with the pitch takes an awful lot of concentration, and the big thing is that Smith is concentrating a lot more than ever before."

Getting back to sock and RBIs, Lou Brock had eight RBIs in his first ten games, even though he leads off.

Long Shot by Lou

Brock made his initials stand for "Long Ball" again, April 23, when he became the first Cardinal player in memory to drive a ball to the arboretum in the center field stands at Busch Stadium. Lou connected on the first pitch of the game from the Pirates' Steve Blass—a low slider.

Lou Adamie, who has missed only one game in 25-plus years as operator of the electric scoreboard at Busch, could not recall a homer to the shrubbery, 422-feet plus to dead center, by either the Cardinals or Browns. Several visiting play-

'We're Rusting on the Roost,' Idle Hurlers Beef to Becker

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

"There was an old pitching coach who lived in St. Loo.

"He had so many pitchers he didn't know what to do."

With apologies to Mother Goose, the rhyme summed up an early-season dilemma for the Cardinals. They were so overloaded with pitchers, especially starting pitchers, that the steady grumbling hit a peak with the season only a few weeks old.

Curt Simmons, Tracy Stallard, Art Mahaffey and Ray Sadecki all had been outspoken about being side-tracked. And Al Jackson couldn't be expected to be satisfied with a few relief assignments because he had been a top starter.

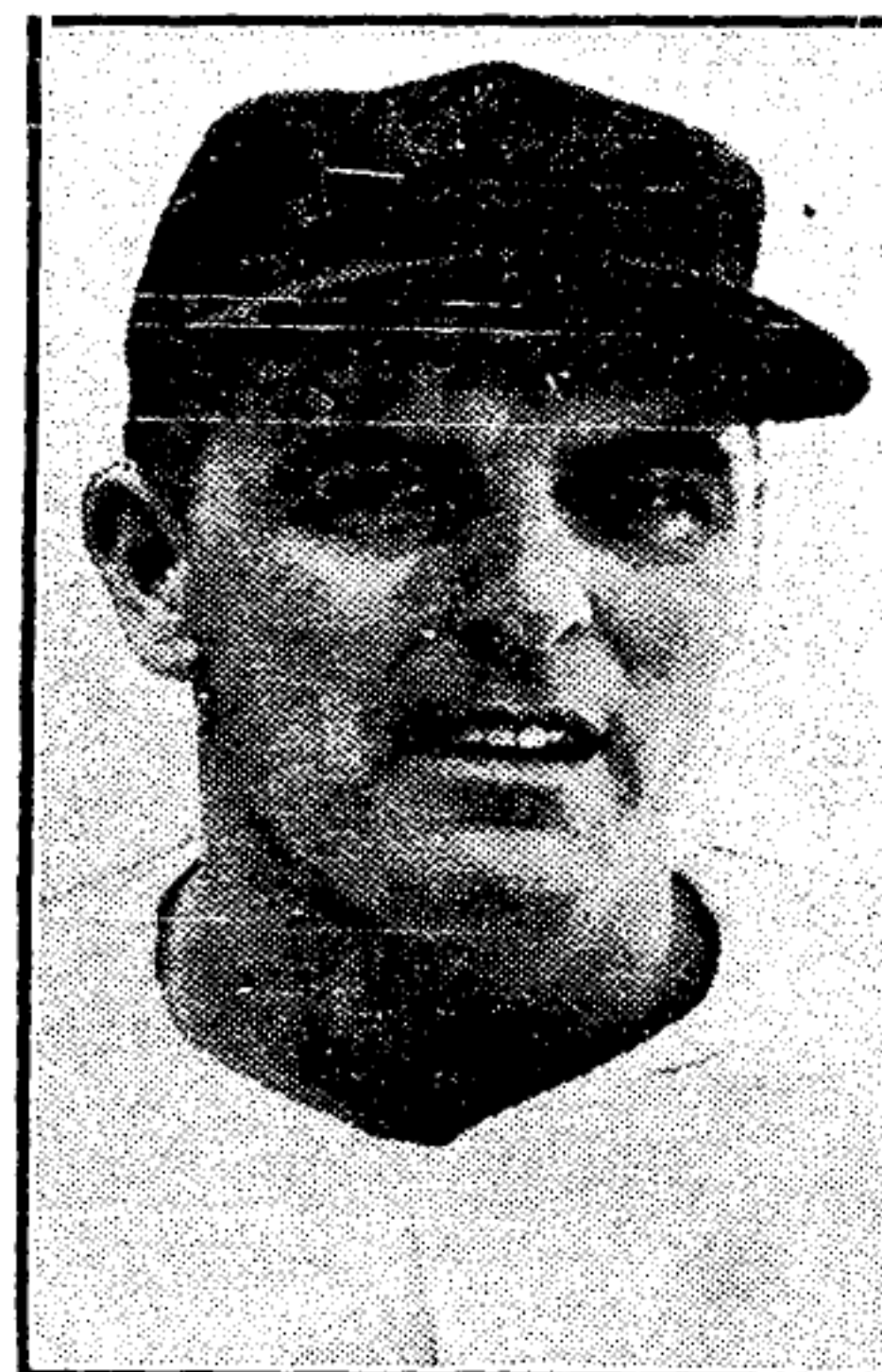
But when another escape route for the surplus pitchers was shut with the deal that sent Larry Jackson and Bob Buhl to the Phillies, Simmons and Stallard especially complained again of their situation.

Can't Keep 'Em All Happy

It doesn't take a genius, or even Modern Math, to figure out you hardly can give much work to 13 pitchers in just eight games. So it would be stupid to heap blame on Manager Red Schoendienst or coach Joe Becker, who said simply, "You can't keep 13 pitchers happy and you can't rotate more than five pitchers early in the season."

And certainly the dissatisfied, idle pitchers understand the problems caused by rainouts and open dates. They also recognize the excellent job being done by some of the younger pitchers. But they're thinking about their own dwindling future, too.

"We're getting buried," protested



Curt Simmons

Curt Simmons, speaking for the dissident group. "The front office ought to be professional about it and either let us pitch, trade us or give us away. It's frustrating."

Simmons continued, "We're rusting and our market value is going down. If they're going with the young guys, they ought to hurry up and make up their minds and let us go."

Curt, who feels he can do a good job for two or three more years if he doesn't rust, was so impatient that he declared, "Bob Howsam's been criticized for some of his deals,

so he's looking for an edge now. He's backed into a corner and he can't hold out for a deal. He's burying too many good pitchers."

Becker would like to operate with no more than ten pitchers, preferably nine.

The veteran pitchers fear that their inactivity might continue even as late as the trading deadline in mid-June.

"And there's nothing worse for a ball player than inactivity, no actual game competition," said one veteran.

Another Training Regimen?

Stallard said, "We'll have to start spring training all over."

Tracy pitched well most of 1965 and for a time he and Bob Gibson were the only consistent members of the staff. He easily might have won 15 or 16 games instead of 11.

"I never looked forward to spring training more than I did this year," Stallard said. "I thought I had a job when I went to spring training after working so hard the winter before right after I was traded. . . I thought I'd work right into the rotation."

A bitter Stallard added, "I'm not casting reflections on anyone, but it seems to me the best thing to do is to come up the last month of the season and pitch two or three good games."

Simmons hadn't been in a game since pitching the home opener—and he had a great spring training in which he didn't walk a batter in 25 innings. Mahaffey hadn't appeared in a game. Sadecki made his first start, April 24. Neither Stallard nor Jackson had started.

Numbers Excite Corrales, Brood Could Reach Seven

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—When Pat Corrales became the father of twin daughters, April 22, it was pointed out that maybe he shouldn't have been too surprised after all—because of his new manager.

Manager Red Schoendienst wears No. 2. He batted second and specialized in two-base hits.

Corrales, still rocky from the news of twins born to his wife, Sharon, at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, Calif., was staggered a bit more when told:

"Schoendienst had two children when he wore No. 2. When he went to the Giants, he was given No. 4 and soon had a total of four children."

Pat wears No. 7. "Oh, no!" yelled Pat. "We were going to have only three and we already had a daughter, Renee, 2. But really we still want a boy."

Patricia, named by Pat, weighed it at three pounds, five ounces. Sharon was to name the twin who weighed four pounds, seven ounces.

ers have performed the feat in recent years.

An imbalanced attack and an inability to win the one-run decisions kept the Cardinals from having better than a 5-5 mark the first two weeks. There's no doubt they could have been 10-0 or should have been 8-2 or 7-3. But they dropped four of their first five, one-run decisions, not to mention the 5-3 loss they protested in vain.

Bob Gibson was most impressive in his first two starts. Rookie left-hander Larry Jaster also had two good outings. So did Ray Washburn. Nelson Briles did well except for a few killing home-run balls. Curt Simmons did okay in his only start. And Ray Sadecki made an especially huge splash in his first start, April 24, when he knocked

Giles Turns Deaf Ear To Redhead's Protest

ST. LOUIS, Mo.



Red Schoendienst

Red Schoendienst was almost completely right when, asked how he thought his latest protest would turnout, replied, "The only one who wins a protest is Western Union."

The Cardinal manager was notified, April 21, that his protest of a 5-3 loss at Pittsburgh, April 16, had been turned down by National League President Warren Giles. However, the N. L. counts seven upheld protests since 1934—though none in 12 years.

The Redhead's protest was based on what he considered a misinterpretation of a new rule designed to curb stalling by managers when changing pitchers. Under the new rule, the hurler must complete pitching to the man at the plate if the manager or his representative visits the mound and does not replace the pitcher then.

After coach Joe Becker visited the mound to talk to pitcher Ray Washburn, tiring Ray threw two balls to the batter, pitcher Tommie Sisk. Now Schoendienst, with the score, 2-2, two out and a runner on first, went out to replace Washburn.

The umpires intercepted Red and cited the rule. The protesting Cardinals contended that the situation was completely changed when Washburn ran up a 2-and-0 count on Sisk and the umpire's interpretation of the rule was wrong in that it severely handicapped the manager of the club in the field and unfairly favored the opposition.

Western Union, of course, benefits from the telegrams sent by the Cardinals, the National League and the umpires.

off the first-place Pirates, with the help of Tracy Stallard in the last two innings.

Sadecki gave up only five hits in achieving his first April victory in four years. He also put his club ahead with a two-run homer off Don Cardwell and scored another run after singling in his 5-2 triumph.

Tim McCarver showed bounce-back ability. When the catcher suffered a laceration of the tip of the middle finger of his right hand, there was talk of being out a week or so. However, Tim missed only one game, pinch-hit in the next and started the third. He was nicked by a foul tip off Ken Boyer's bat in New York, April 21.

Redbird Chirps: Jerry Buchek,

hitting .231, was benched, April 23, and slick-fielding Dal Maxvill took over. Maxie would like to forget his non-Oscar performance in the second game: he made three errors and was caught off first base after rounding it too far on a single. Maxvill also doubled. . . . Art Mahaffey was bothered by a sore elbow. He didn't pitch in a game in the first two weeks. . . . Hal Woodeshick hurt his back a bit when he teamed with first baseman Tito Francona on a brilliant play at first base, April 23. . . . Ray Sadecki's homer, April 24, was his second in the majors. . . . The Birds, 5-5 in the standings, had outscored the enemy at that point, 49-39. . . . The Cards handed the Pirates their first three setbacks.

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Flood Streaks Past Medwick On Cardinals' Swat Ladder

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Curtis Charles Flood is a little man with big game on his mind, so far as the Cardinals' all-time top men listings are concerned.

It seems that every time you turn around, Flood is either making another great catch or passing another man on the ladder in one category or another.

Flood did it again in Chicago June 28. That day, he passed Joe Medwick for seventh place in hits while wearing a Cardinal uniform. Curt's No. 1,591 enabled him to whiz past Medwick. At the time, Flood actually had 1,592 major league hits, but his first had been for the Reds, a home run off Moe Drabowsky.

Of course, to climb high on a club all-time listing, the trick is not to get traded.

If Flood keeps wearing birds perched on a bat on his uniform, at least one former center fielder feels that Curt should be right behind Stan Musial in several categories when he hangs up No. 21. The Flood booster is Bill Virdon, a former Cardinal who is now serving as a Pittsburgh coach.

"Oh, Curt will lose a step when he's 33 or 34 because that's when your wheels start going bad," Virdon said. "But with his body, he ought to be able to play until he's 38, maybe even longer. After all, he could switch to left or right field for a couple of years. That would put him past 40."

Threat to Enos

Flood turned 30 last January. So, if Virdon's right and Curt is not dealt, the Redbird center fielder would stand a good chance of topping Enos Slaughter's 1,820 games, Red Schoendienst's 6,841 at-bats, Rogers Hornsby's 1,089

runs, Hornsby's 2,110 hits and maybe even Hornsby's 3,342 total bases.

All of those figures rank second to Musial's totals. And The Man's figures appear far beyond reach. Musial had 3,026 games, 10,972 at-bats, 1,949 runs, 3,630 hits and 6,134 total bases.

This season, Flood had passed Marty Marion and moved into sixth place in games played. Curt had appeared in 1,511 Redbird games by July 1. Flood also moved into sixth place in at-bats, passing Marion and Jim Bottomley. Curt had topped the 5,400 at-bat mark by July 1. He also crept into the top ten in runs, ousting Terry Moore, who had reached 719.

When Flood sped past Medwick in hits as a Cardinal, he said, "That was one of those things that has to come. I'm proud of it. Don't get me wrong. How about me passing a Hall of Famer? I just wish I had started earlier."

Made Bow in '56

Curt actually broke into the major leagues at the age of 18. But he had only one at-bat his first season, 1956, with the Reds and went to the plate just three times the next season before he shifted to the Cardinals in Bing Devine's first deal on his first go-round as general manager.

He had 422 at-bats for the Cards in 1958, but dwindled to 208 the next season and 396 in 1960, the year Johnny Keane replaced Solly Hemus as manager in July. Keane gave Flood plenty of work and Curt never had fewer than 617 at-bats from 1963 through 1966. A sore arm and shoulder dropped him to 514 last season, but on July 1 this season, Curt was the only

Cardinal who had played every game.

Manager Schoendienst talked about the need of resting Flood soon because Curt was taking a beating, both physically and mentally. However, Flood said, "All I need is more hits, not rest."

Although unselfish Flood frequently gave himself up to advance a runner, he was in good position to notch his third 200-hit season. With five games remaining before the Cardinals reached the halfway mark in the schedule, he had 99 hits.

A Rare Gem Indeed

"When you have a man who can play center field the way Flood does and can get 200 hits a season, you've really got something," said Virdon, who was a top center fielder himself.

As for Flood making the All-Star starting lineup for the first time, Virdon said that selection was overdue.

"Flood was the best center fielder defensively in the National League the last two years I played," Virdon said. And Bill was aware that Curt hardly had slipped in the two seasons Virdon spent as a minor league manager, 1966-67, before returning to the Big Time this spring.

What makes Virdon so high on Flood?

"It's just because he makes all the plays," Bill said. "Some players have better arms than Curt, but he is accurate. He can go and get the ball better than anyone else around. Willie Davis can go farther than Flood for a ball, but he can't judge a ball as well and he isn't as smart a fielder."

Virdon noted that Flood was constantly aggressive in the outfield.

"The big thing is to challenge the ball, to keep the man from going to second and thus set up a double play, and I never saw Flood lay back," Virdon said. "It was amazing that he went so long (226 games) without making an error because he goes after every ball, and that's where the errors can come."

Flood's only two previous appearances in All-Star competition were a lone at-bat shot and a pinch-running stint.

He Could Use Vacation

"I'd like to have my cake and eat it," Flood said. He meant he'd love to have the All-Star starting honor and have the three-day vacation for the interlude because he was getting worn out.

Besides, the Cardinals would be



Curt Flood . . . No. 7 in Redbird Sock Annals.

in San Francisco when the All-Star break came, and that's just about home for Flood.

"I would have had a chance to get acquainted with my family," Flood said.

Actually, playing in the Astrodome will be a sort of homecoming for Curt because he was born in Houston. He and his parents moved to California before he was a year old.

Redbird Chirps: Floyd Wicker, a .500 hitter in spring training, had two hits in his first three pinch-hitting chances as a fill-in for Ron Davis, who was spending two weeks with his Army Reserve unit at Fort Sill, Okla. . . . Pitcher Pete Mikkelsen was returned to Tulsa to make room for fellow hurler Dick Hughes June 30. Hughes had been on the disabled list three weeks. In his first relief stint after returning to duty, Hughes was tagged for a homer by the Cubs' Jim Hickman. . . . An old sportsman-friend of Manager Red Schoendienst, the Rev. George A. Schramm, died in Canton, Ill. . . . Lou Brock, off to a slow start in defense of his stolen-base honors, chalked up his sixth straight theft June 30 to make his record read 11 steals in 15 attempts.

Tim McCarver continued having troubles. He was on duty when the Pirates stole five bases in one game June 26. . . . All-Star pitch-

er Steve Carlton received some rough treatment from the Cubs when bidding for his ninth victory June 30 in Chicago. The Cubs scored three runs in the first off Steve, enough to defeat the Cardinals, who bowed, 6-2. Carlton gave up five runs in six innings and absorbed his fourth defeat. . . . The Cards lost two out of three to the Pirates and then dropped two of three to the Cubs, the first time in a month they had lost two series in succession.

McCOVEY

(Continued From Page 3)

Pitcher Jim Maloney of the Reds has plenty of respect for McCovey.

"I would have to say he's the most feared lefthanded hitter in the National League. He's strong enough to hit the ball out of any park."

Manager Herman Franks agrees with Maloney and Feeney.

"I don't think I have ever seen a player hit the ball harder than McCovey," he said.

Willie's biggest thrill in baseball came in his very first major league game.

It was a July day in 1959 and McCovey, just off a plane from the Giants' Phoenix farm team, started at first base against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Roberts Was Victim

The pitcher was Robin Roberts. McCovey had a 4-for-4 day, including a pair of triples, as the Giants won easily.

Possibly the biggest disappointment for McCovey was losing to the Yankees in the seventh game of the 1962 World Series.

McCovey came to bat in the last of the ninth with runners on second and third and the Yankees ahead, 1-0. He hit a sizzling line drive toward right field, but New York second baseman Bobby Richardson made a fine catch to end the game.

"I wish it would have been a hit, but I hit the ball the best I could," Willie said.

At the age of 30, with ten seasons of major league baseball behind him, Willie Lee McCovey from Mobile, Ala., still thinks he has a few "ups" ahead of him.

Soccer Player Carl Gentile Wins Celebrity HR Laurels

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Carl Gentile said he hadn't swung a baseball bat in nearly two years, but he proved he had a good memory when he booted a fellow kicker out of the Celebrity home-run title June 25.

Gentile, a native St. Louisian who plays for the pro soccer Stars of St. Louis, socked a ball near the top of the left-field wall. Jim Bakken, the ace placekicker of the football Cardinals and a baseball teammate of Rick Reichardt at the University of Wisconsin, also hit a shot to the left field wall, but his drive did not land as high as Gentile's.

Gentile starred in baseball and soccer at St. Louis U. before signing with the Mets. He batted .276 as an outfielder with the Mets' Marion entry in the Appalachian (Rookie) League.

Among other celebrities beaten by Gentile in the homer sweepstakes were Bob Goalby, Masters golf champ who had played baseball and football (quarterback) at Illinois U.; pro golfer Bob Rosburg, bowler Ray Bluth (onetime copy boy in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch sports department); auto racer Arnie Knepper, tennis star Rod Susman and Noel Picard of the hockey Blues.

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