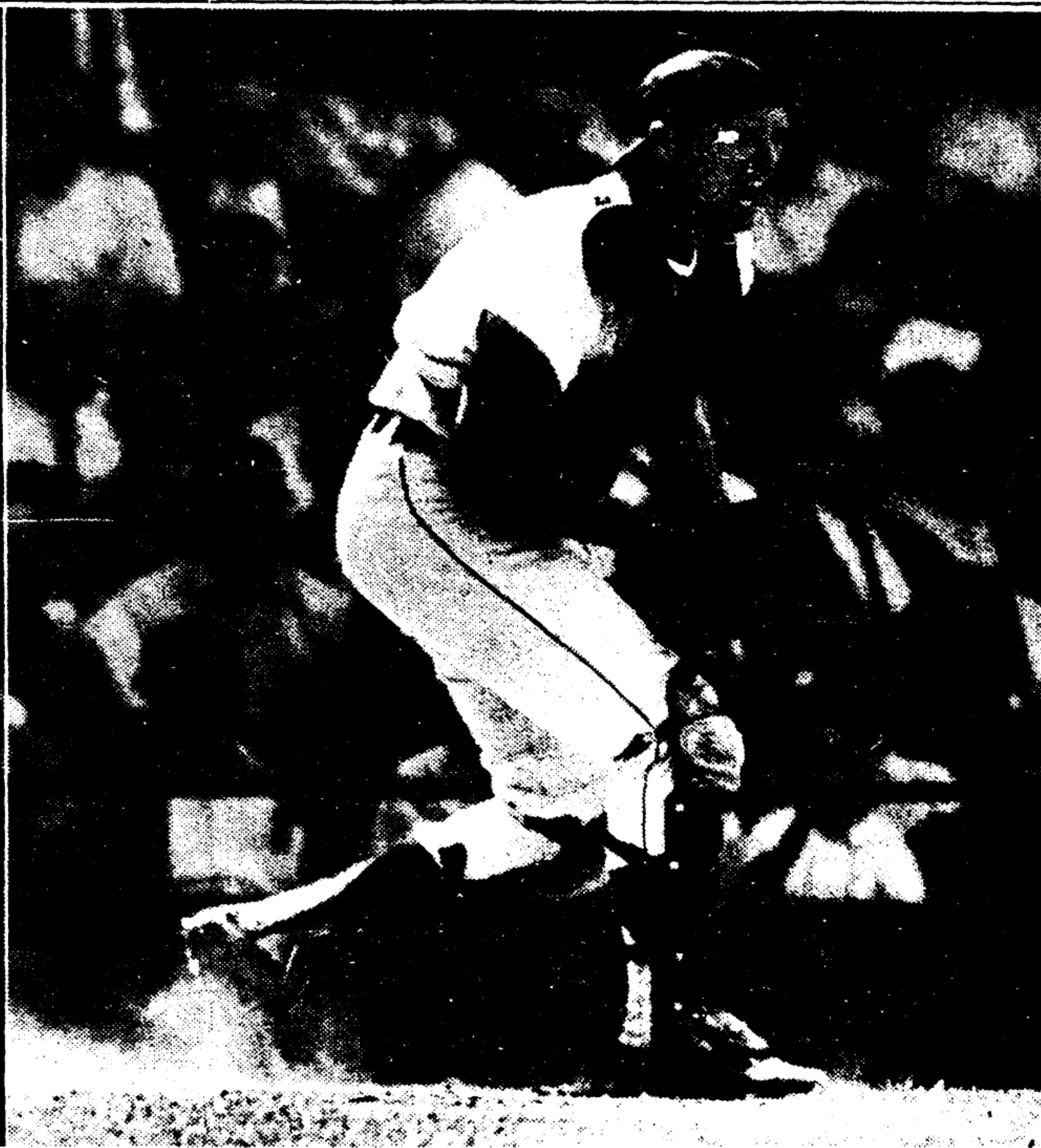
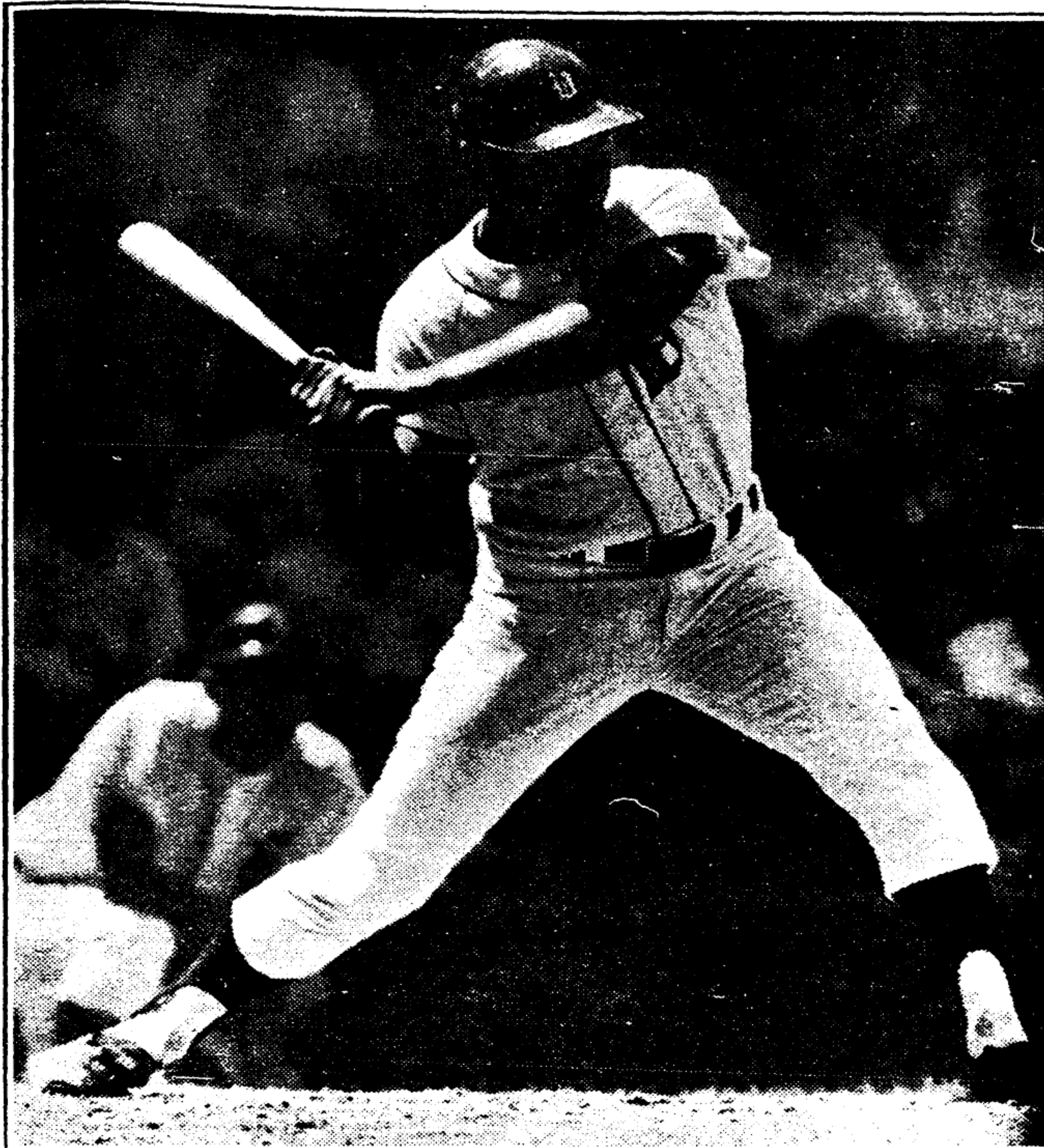


Bill Freehan: Bengals' Bashful Basher



BILL FREEHAN . . . AT THE PLATE OR BEHIND THE PLATE HE'S BIG MAN FOR BENGALS. —Freehan photos, pages 1 and 3, by Dick Tripp.

On Homer He Almost Looks As If He's Sorry He Hit It

By JOE FALLS

DETROIT, Mich.

Dick Radatz sat there shaking his head. "Look at him; just look at him," said Radatz, from his seat in the Red Sox dugout at Fenway Park. He was pointing up to the batting cage.

"They call me the 'Monster,'" said Radatz. "There's the real 'Monster.' If he ever grabbed me, he could break me in half."

Up in the batting cage, **Bill Freehan** of the Tigers swung at the ball. It bounced off the left field wall. He swung again and the ball hit the screen on top of the wall.

Radatz was staring intently at him, perhaps wondering if a man could be broken into thirds. **Freehan** may not be the strongest player on the Tigers, but until they bring back Willie Horton from the minors, he'll do.

His monster measurements are 6-3 and 205 pounds. He shakes your hand as if he's gripping a Louisville Slugger (with the bases loaded and Whitey Ford on the mound).

He's only 22 years old, so he still may be growing.

But it takes more than strength to be an outstanding catcher. It takes agility of mind and body and **Freehan** must have these things because his colleagues recently voted him the second-ranking catcher in the American League.

Ranked Behind Howard

Elston Howard was voted as the No. 1 catcher on the American League All-Star team and that was as it should be. Howard is the best catcher in the league, almost all agree.

But that **Freehan** should get the No. 2 spot was something of a surprise and an honor. He was the youngest catcher ever to be named to the team and, at the time of his selection, he had caught fewer than 200 games in the big leagues.

Freehan is different. He is different in a lot of ways.

Watch him when he hits a home

Tiger Catcher Enjoys Best Days at Bat Against Yanks

DETROIT, Mich.—The Yankees? Just another team to **Bill Freehan**.

The young catcher of the Tigers has had his best days in baseball against the perennial champs.

He batted .366 against them last year and is batting .364 (16-for-44) against them this year.

Freehan's finest moment came in Yankee Stadium, June 27. He got five-for-five, four singles and a double.

The secret? "I dunno," smiled **Freehan**, "but I hope they keep pitching me the same way."

run. He'll run to first base and round the bag like a thoroughbred out for a morning sprint. Once the ball hits the seats, he'll suddenly begin jogging like the football player he used to be and put his head down, almost as if he is sorry it happened.

"It looks to me like he's embarrassed that he hit it out of sight," said Bob Scheffing, an old catcher himself.

That's the fascinating part of this

What Kaline Likes About Bill —He's Not Home-Run Crazy!

DETROIT, Mich.—What impresses Al Kaline about **Bill Freehan** is that he isn't home-run crazy.

"He tries to hit the ball where it is pitched," says Kaline. "That's a good sign in a young player."

"He's not trying to hit home runs. He knows his strike zone and he's not fooled by too many pitches."

young man—inwardly, he is as confident as can be; outwardly, he is shy almost to a fault.

His confidence is boundless. About a month ago, he was hitting the ball well, hitting it to right field—when he made a bet with a friend.

"You watch," said **Freehan**. "They will have me batting second soon." "A catcher hitting second!" said his friend. "It'll never happen."

There He Is, Batting Second

Two weeks later, with the Yankees in town for a big week-end series, **Freehan** was listed as the No. 2 batter by Manager Charlie Dressen.

That night **Freehan** made another bet.

"I'll bet I get two hits," he said, sitting on the bench. He was speaking more to himself, but a newspaperman, envisioning a free "Coke" after the game, said "Okay, you're on."

Batting in his new position, **Freehan** flied to right, bounced to third and flied to right in his first three trips to the plate. It was the eighth inning now and the writer was chuckling to himself up in the press box.

Freehan was the first batter in the eighth inning. He singled to center and the writer thought to himself: "Too bad, boy—you missed by one."

Eight batters and six runs later, with Tiger Stadium rocking with roars, **Freehan** stepped to the plate again. There were runners on second and third. He swung at Pete

Catcher Lucky, Few Injuries

DETROIT, Mich.—**Bill Freehan** considers himself lucky. "I've never been hurt in athletics," he says.

Oh, he's had his nose broken three times, and he has had blood poisoning in his legs, and he has scars all over his hands and wrists from making tag plays at the plate.

The Red Sox' Lee Thomas bowled him over at the plate and opened a bloody gash over his eyes.

"But never anything serious," says **Freehan**.

Mikkelsen's side-arm delivery and singled to left, scoring both runners.

Afterwards, he never mentioned the bet. Neither did the writer.

Freehan has been fooling people all season. He was no more than a .243 batter last year, but now he has kept his average right at .300 through the first four months of the season.

Roger Griswold called the turn on **Freehan**.

Big Baltimore Buildup

Griswold is the public address announcer in Memorial Stadium in Baltimore. It was late one Sunday afternoon in May, during a double-header between the Orioles and Twins, that Griswold picked up his microphone and boomed the following message to the fans:

"Attention, please! The Detroit Tigers, led by **Bill Freehan**, will be here for a three-game series against the Baltimore Orioles. . . ."

"The Tigers, led by WHO?" exclaimed one of the Baltimore writers, loud enough for everyone in the press box to hear. "No wonder they are in seventh place."

The Tigers showed up the next night and **Freehan** turned out to be their cleanup hitter. He smacked a double and home run and the Tigers beat the Orioles, 5-3.

Many think **Freehan** will be the next great catcher in baseball. It's easier to get others to talk about him than it is to get **Freehan** to talk about himself.

Whenever he is asked about his ac-

Scheffing Believes Freehan Could Be Outstanding Golfer

DETROIT, Mich.—If **Bill Freehan** took up golf, he could consistently break par.

So says that eminent duffer, Bob Scheffing.

"I've played with him and he could be an outstanding golfer," says Scheffing. "If he put his mind to it, he could give par an awful working over."

Freehan, who plays perhaps a dozen times a year, won the team tournament in Lakeland last spring with a one-over-par 73.

complishments, he suddenly acts casual, almost as if he were bored by such conversations, lest anyone get the idea he has a swell head.

You get the idea that he would rather hit .000 than have someone think he had trouble putting his hat on.

That \$125,000 bonus the Tigers gave him—that embarrasses him. It puts him in a special class (Al Kaline got \$35,000) and he doesn't want to be special.

The money is important to him, but not as important as his job with the Tigers. He has spent only a fraction of it, letting his parents invest the balance of it.

Any mention of his bonus makes him uneasy. He has been called "Mr.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 3)

Gladding Spreading Glad Tiger Tidings On Nifty Relief Jobs

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.

Bulging Fred Gladding has earned a place of respect as a Detroit relief pitcher.

Bill Freehan, his young catcher, calls him Little Monster, with the suggestion that the 28-year-old Gladding is a reasonable facsimile of Dick Radatz.

Gladding is a well-padded 230-pounder and, to the naked eye, seems thicker through the middle than Radatz.

Around the American League, you hear remarks about Gladding like "He sure eats up all his meal money."

Teammates called Gladding The Bear, a nickname he never particularly liked. Fred wears glasses and was known as Specs when Scout Ray Meyers signed him eight years ago.

Gladding's home town is Flat Rock, Mich., a community of 5,000 inhabitants between Detroit and Toledo. He now winters in Knoxville with his wife and small daughter.

In his rise through the farm system, Gladding first made it to Detroit in 1961. His subsequent visits have not been long. He came north with the Tigers last April, but Manager Charlie Dressen sent him out for a month to Syracuse (International) before the big fellow started to baffle the hitters.

Change-Up Would Boost Value

"He's a strong man and can pitch a couple of innings every day," observed Dressen. "What he needs is one more pitch. I'd like to see him get a slowed-up ball off his fast one."

Without this type of finesse, Gladding began to prosper with his fast ball, curve and slider. On the Sunday before the All-Star game, he fired away for four and one-third innings, his longest hitch of the year, and extracted the victory on a late Detroit batting surge.

Dressen called on Gladding again—and with remarkably good results. The big fellow sharpened his control and made strong hitters look rather weak swinging at his fast ball.

Within a span of five Sundays, he responded a dozen times to Dressen's motion to the bull pen. In this sequence Gladding won four games and received one save. He pitched 28 innings, striking out 29, and showed a 2.57 ERA.

Gladding, Sherry Filled Bill

Last winter in Florida, Dressen said the Tigers primarily needed "two good relief pitchers." Curiously, Detroit developed two bull pen stalwarts in Gladding and Larry Sherry. It was the best one-two combination in a good many years at Tiger Stadium.

Then on August 2 Sherry suffered a broken bone in his right foot when struck by Leon Wagner's line drive. He was put on the disabled list. Sherry had gathered seven victories and 11 saves.

The Tigers developed weaknesses in

Bengals Expect Gate Boost To About 850,000 in '64

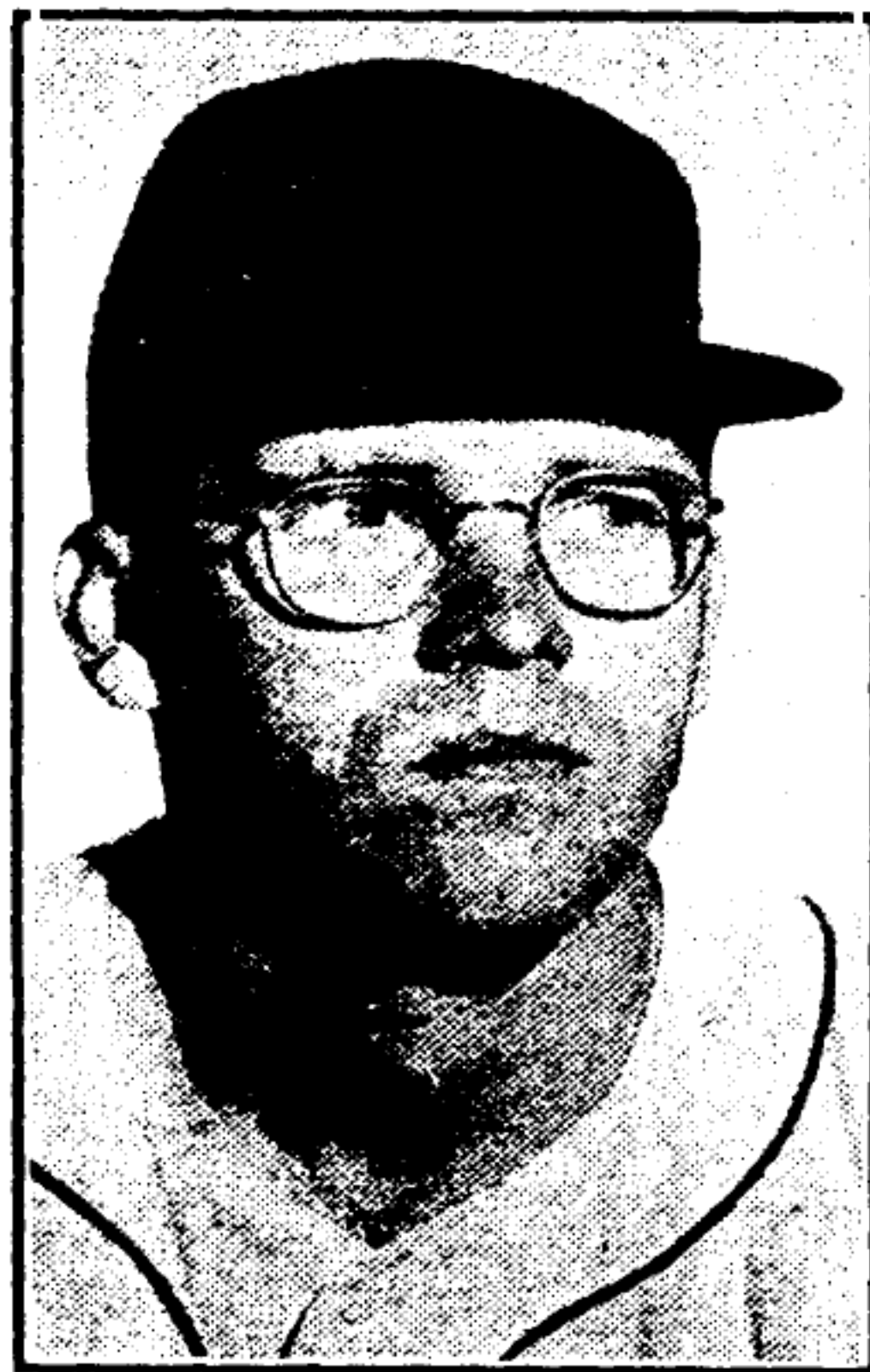
DETROIT, Mich. — It appears that the Tigers have halted their attendance decline.

A final count of 850,000 is likely for Tiger Stadium this season. This would be a slight improvement over last year when an 821,973 turnout was a 20-year low.

The Tigers used to hit a million at home without half trying. Starting with their last pennant year in 1945, they surpassed one million for eight straight years before missing in 1953. Then came nine years of one million-plus before the 1963 sag.

This year the club played 500 ball for three and one-half weeks and then plunged.

The Tiger economy is based on 1,200,000 turnout at home so the club will again lose money.



Fred Gladding

other areas. The starting pitchers, except for Dave Wickersham and Mickey Lolich, have faltered. Hank Aguirre and Phil Regan, considered the two strongest pitchers last March, had won only six games (Regan four and Aguirre two) with nine weeks of the season remaining.

Everybody is aware that the Tigers must make trades next fall and winter to shore up the pitching.

When the Tigers spurred in early July, the big hitters were Gates Brown, George Thomas, Freehan and Dick McAuliffe.

When the lesser hitters tailed off, Detroit expected Al Kaline, Norm Cash, Don Demeter and Jerry Lumpe to move briskly into action to keep the club rolling. This didn't happen.

Bleak Year for Kaline

Kaline is having one of his worst years. Most of the time Al has been around .300, but the answer lies deeper. His output of home runs and RBIs is down. He hasn't produced the big hits.

Tiger Tales: Don Demeter is wearing glasses for the first time, but not on the field. "The doctor says I need them for reading, driving and watching TV," Demeter said. . . . Hank Aguirre missed another pitching turn in a troubled year when he suffered a groin injury on his second pitch on August 2 at Cleveland. . . . Gates Brown was elated when citizens of Crestline, O., his home town, honored him between games on August 2 at Cleveland. Gates received many gifts. As so often happens, the response on the field was inadequate as Gates went 1-for-9 in the two games. . . . Al Kaline was stopped by Lee Stange after hitting in 14 straight games for Detroit's longest streak of the season. . . . Jack Hamilton was hit hard and yielded seven runs in less than two innings in his return to the Tigers on July 31. Dick Egan went to Syracuse (International) to make room for Hamilton. . . . Jerry Lumpe was the first Tiger to get 100 hits, but the second baseman is lagging some 25 points behind his .278 lifetime average.

Freehan Names Howard as Top Catcher in Loop

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Moneybags and the "Brink's Express" and this bothers him.

He took his wife on a short trip to Europe just before the start of spring training and he didn't want to talk about it when he got home.

He has fear of creating the image of the rich boy living it up. Ask him about the sports car he bought and you'll get a pained expression.

Freehan actually is this kind of spender: When he returned to the University of Michigan after getting his big bonus from the Tigers, he paid his tuition with the money he saved while playing at Denver.

You will interview Freehan and he will offer his opinions on any subject, just as any young man of 22 will do. But then, like no 22-year-old athlete we've ever met, he will take quick stock of what he has said and will ask you to "leave this out" or "leave that out" of your story.

His .425 Average "Accident"

He doesn't want to create the wrong impression, even though what he said may have been innocuous.

An example of this was when he was asked about his .429 average early in the season.

"I guess you'd say it's sort of an accident," he declared. "My hand hurts me and I can't grip the bat the way I'd like to. I haven't been able to pull the ball. So I've been trying to go through the middle—hit the ball where it's pitched—and I've been getting most of my hits that way."

"And I don't think we've seen very good pitching yet . . ."

He paused.

"No," he said, "don't write that. It'll give some people the wrong idea, that I'm knocking the pitching. I'm not. It's just that Bill Monbouquette and Jack Lamabe up in Boston didn't give me tough pitches to hit. They're good pitchers, but they just weren't in the groove yet."

Freehan had gotten two hits off each pitcher. What he was doing was not criticizing them at all, but praising them—even giving them an alibi.

Make no mistake about it, however: Freehan, despite his age and his relative inexperience, has some definite ideas about his profession.

His Baseball Ideas Mature

In fact, he talks like a professional, except that sitting there, in his tattered undershirt with "Redskins" stenciled across the front of it (a gift from the clubhouse man in Washington), Freehan still gives the appearance of a college athlete.

His thoughts are quite mature. For instance:

Who is the best catcher in the league? — "I'd have to say Elston Howard. He catches more victories than anyone else."

Who is the best base stealer? — "I'd say that depends on the pitcher. If someone like Terry Fox is out there, someone with a good move to first base, it's a lot easier to throw out the runners. But with some of the others, you've got to go out there and get the ball and that gives the runner an edge."

How about Luis Aparicio? — "He's tough. He gets such a lead he can steal your signal if you're not careful."

How do you know when a runner is going to steal? — "There's really no sure way, but I've noticed that their faces sort of light up when they get the sign. Sometimes they take a double look at the coach or at the bench when the sign is on. Of course, you can't look for this with Aparicio since he runs on his own."

What's your theory about hitting? — "I know I'm not going to hit everything the pitcher throws. There are some pitches nobody can hit. So I try to eliminate my own mistakes



BILL FREEHAN, although only 22, "calls" an excellent game. Here he confers with Dave Wickersham, Tiger hurler.

and hit the pitcher's mistakes. In other words, I want him to get me out. I don't want to get myself out."

Do you ever argue with the umpires over the pitches? — "I try to keep our relationship as amicable as possible. I'll complain about a pitch if I think the ump missed it. I want them to be as honest with me as I am with them. And to bear down as much as we do."

Bill is still a kid. But nobody kids him. Even when he took a day off in spring training in 1963 to get married, the players didn't kid him.

"How can you kid him?" asked pitching coach Stubby Overmire. "Once he puts that uniform on, he's all business."

Coach Bob Swift, who has tutored Freehan in the art of catching, claims that Freehan is a 50 per cent better catcher than a year ago.

Earns Pitchers' Respect

But, most important of all, Freehan has earned the respect of the most picky of all people—the pitchers who pitch to him.

"It seemed like I used to shake him off all the time," said Phil Regan, a veteran of five years in the majors. "It seemed like he'd just put down his fingers and away we'd go."

"It was unfair of me to judge him so harshly because, after all, he not only had to learn all the batters in the league, he had to learn about us, too—his own pitchers."

"Now Bill knows what he is doing. He has a reason for everything. It seems like I shake him off just a few times a game."

Mickey Lolich offered a rookie's viewpoint of Freehan.

"I like working with him," said the 23-year-old southpaw. "We work well together. I'd say he calls the pitch I want to throw about nine out of ten times. He knows my pitches, what I like to throw, and when I like to throw them."

It wasn't always this way, Lolich added.

"I've got to be honest about it," he said. "I worked with him at Denver and I didn't like pitching to him. I'd had four years of professional baseball, but he was brand new, and he sort of tried to take over, to let everyone know how much he knew. He wanted you to do everything his way and I didn't like that."

"It's so different now. He thinks like a pitcher. The thing I like about him is that he never lets his hitting interfere with his catching."

"Nothing demoralizes a pitcher

'Still Sandlotter at Heart,' Scout Says of Fiery Freehan

DETROIT, Mich.—Scout Louis D'Annunzio, who helped sign Bill Freehan, says the reason the Tigers' bonus catcher is headed for greatness is because "he is still a sandlotter at heart."

By that, D'Annunzio means Freehan still plays with the zest and desire of his younger days on the sandlots of Detroit.

more than to stand out there on the mound and see his catcher with a hang-dog look on his face because he'd just struck out. If he looks disgusted, it makes you feel disgusted.

"It's never this way with Bill. No matter what he does at the plate, he always looks alive back there and this gives you a lift. You never have to worry about him firing the ball 90 miles an hour to you because he has just popped out with the bases loaded."

"It's a nice feeling pitching to him. believe me."

Despite his size—and he'd be even money in there with Dick the Bruiser—Freehan has not hit with overwhelming power. But Scheffing, for one, thinks this will come with time.

Learning the Pitchers

"As he gets more experience, he'll learn which pitchers he can take a big cut at," said Scheffing. "He's learning it already. He's had rips at some pitchers this season that he'd never swung hard at before."

Now it was Scheffing's turn to shake his head in awe of the young giant.

"He is the best young catcher I have ever seen," said Scheffing. "In fact, I think he's the best catcher in the game today. In my opinion, nobody is even close to him."

Freehan has heard these accolades before. He shrugs them off, though in an unguarded moment, he admitted: "I would like to be the best catcher there's ever been."

He is learning.

This shy, quiet, soft-spoken lad is learning all there is to learn about his business. After an explosive series against the Yankees he was rushed to the television booth—uniform and all—for an on-the-spot interview that was being sent back to New York.

On the way up in the elevator, he turned to a companion and said: "Is this gratis or do we get paid?"

He is learning quite fast.

Freehan Found Solution To Passed-Ball Bugaboo

By WATSON SPOELSTRA
DETROIT, Mich.

If you didn't know better, Bill Freehan could be called a one-armed bandit with the Tigers.

"How come you did so well last summer on passed balls?" the Detroit catcher was asked.

"I was able to move around better," Freehan replied. "The year before, I had back trouble, remember?"

It is a mark of excellence when a catcher declines from 20 passed balls to only three in just one season.

"Three, is that what I had?" Freehan asked with obvious pleasure. "I knew it was four errors. I got two errors in one game. But those passed balls! Part of the improvement came from using a different glove."

Two Kinds of Catchers

Freehan, working in Detroit as a sales representative for automotive components, smiled as he explained:

"There are one-handed catchers and two-handed catchers," he said. "I was two-handed originally. That is the way I was taught. Charlie Dressen and Bob Swift both wanted me to catch one-handed. That reduces the chances of mashing your meat hand."

He was asked about gloves for the two styles.

"Actually, it's the same glove," Bill replied. "It's how you break it in."

"A one-handed catcher wants a bigger pocket. It's almost like a first baseman's glove. You sort of snap at the ball."

Essentially, Freehan became a one-handed operator with certain reservations.

"Like I said," Bill declared, "I broke in catching the other way. Rick Ferrell and Mike Roarke talked to me about it. They were two-

Sparma Earns Freehan's Salute for Nifty Hurling

DETROIT, Mich.—When an Ohio State man has a Michigan man in his corner, well, how can he fail?

Bill Freehan, one-time Michigan end, is stimulated by the winter pitching and performance of Joe Sparma, one-time Ohio State quarterback.

"I hear Joe pitched 12 strong innings in Puerto Rico with only four walks," said Freehan. "Sparma's got talent, guts and competitive desire. He'll make it back."

Freehan and Sparma never met head-on in football, but old school enmities don't count now. You see, they're roommates on the road with the Tigers.

handed catchers. There are definite advantages to this style."

Freehan grinned as he backed up his side of it.

"You can block low pitches better catching two-handed," he said. "You can throw better, too. The trouble with the deep pocket is that you can't find the ball on throws. All you grab is leather."

Bill hastily added that he sustained no disabling injury to his throwing hand on foul tips last summer.

"That's important, too," he said. "But I think I belong somewhere in between. The advantages of catching two-handed mean something to the team in certain situations. I'll catch two-handed when I have to and use only one hand at other times."

This is Freehan's first winter fully devoted to business pursuits. In other years, he played winter ball or went to school. Last Febru-

ary, he put the finishing touches on an AB degree in history at the University of Michigan.

Freehan ventured that he's enthused over reporting next March to Mayo Smith, the new manager, and the all-new coaching staff.

"I'm impressed by the whole staff," said Bill. "They're good fellows who have a reputation for knowing how to teach."

Freehan said he probably knows Hal Naragon best, but that he has high professional respect for Tony Cuccinello, John Sain and Wally Moses. These were Smith's four coaching choices after the Tigers hired him last October 3 on a two-year contract at \$40,000 a year.

Eager for Sain's Arrival

"I've watched Sain work with pitchers," said Freehan. "I'm anxious to see firsthand how he operates. We can all learn something from him. In a way, Sain reminds me of Dressen. Sain stays on top of pitchers all the time, like Charlie did."

Freehan has a primary winter regret, purely personal. He's disappointed that his average slipped to .234, exactly where it was the year before.

"I said last spring I thought I could hit .280," Bill declared. "I still think I can. This year I had a terrible two weeks after the All-Star Game. Then I hurt my wrist in August and couldn't swing the bat. August is usually when I'm the best."

Tiger Tales: General Manager Jim Campbell tried to call Norm Cash when the first baseman was recovering from a hernia operation in a Dallas hospital. "Norm didn't have a phone in the room," said Campbell with a grin. "He'll probably tell me at contract time he couldn't afford one." . . . Fritz Fisher, lefthander who is pitching



BILL FREEHAN . . . Two Styles for Slick Receiver

in Puerto Rico, is Bill Freehan's nominee as the "sleeper" on Detroit's staff next year. . . . Owner John Fetzer's summit conference in Florida with Manager Mayo Smith

and the new staff had interesting byproducts. "I'm enthused and optimistic," one of the new coaches declared. "Detroit is on the ball in club operations."

Disgusted Hurler Monbo Expects Tigers to Trade Him

By TERRY JONES

STETTLE, Alta.

It's going to be a long winter for Bill Monbouquette.

And the 5-11, 195-pound, 29-year-old Detroit pitcher makes no bones about it.

Monbouquette was in this eastern Alberta community recently with his pretty wife, Pat, and 13-month-old son, Marc, for a visit with an old friend, Larry Wilson, a Stettler physical education instructor.

The Monbouquette family was en route to Edmonton to visit Pat's parents.

A former all-star with the Boston Red Sox, Monbo recorded a not-so-spectacular won-lost record of 7-8 with the Tigers this past season.

"It was a wasted year," he said, "the most disgusting I've had in baseball."

"When you see a rookie in a rut, you tell him not to get down on himself—but I just can't help getting that way myself."

Bill was anything but pleased with himself or the way he was used by Detroit.

Bull Pen Not for Monbo

"I'm a starter, not a reliever . . . once I sat in that bull pen for three weeks without getting into a game . . . there's no dough in the bullpen."

"Frankly, I don't think I'll be with the club next year," declared Monbo. "I think they'll make a deal for me."

But that's not the way Bill wants it. The Tigers are a pennant contender and Monbouquette feels he can help them as a starter.

"I've got to bounce back and show them I can still pitch. My confidence was never shot in Boston like it was in Detroit."

"Sure, I've lost some of the hop on my fast ball, but I've still got control."

"But every time I would go into a game, it was BOOM-BOOM before I settled down."

"I think we're the best team in the league," Monbo said of the third-place Tigers.

The illness and subsequent deaths of Manager Charlie Dressen and his successor, Bob Swift, hurt the club deeply, according to Monbouquette.

"If Dressen had been with us all year, I'm sure he would have won the pennant," explained the Boston native, who broke into the majors with the Red Sox in 1958 and was traded to the Tigers last winter.



BILL MONBOUQUETTE (left) gags it up with Larry Wilson, a physical education instructor and long-time buddy, during a recent trip to Alberta.

field leaders—including Manager Mayo Smith and pitching coach Johnny Sain.

"I haven't met Mayo Smith yet and I'm looking forward to working with Johnny Sain. In my estimation, he's the greatest pitching coach in baseball."

Breaking into the big leagues, a no-hitter in 1962 against the White Sox, a 20-victory season, and being selected to the All-Star team on four occasions rate as Monbouquette's greatest moments in the game.

It was in the low 40s and Monbo wore three sweatshirts under his Red Sox uniform the night he pitched the no-hitter. The White Sox had Early Wynn on the mound looking for his 300th victory. Monbouquette had not won a game for 54 days.

"I can remember standing on the rubber in the eighth inning—I was really shaking."

He walked off the mound, gazed into the outfield and re-

Bill Likes Hunting and Fishing

STETTLE, Alta.—Bill Monbouquette, who came here to look up a couple of friends and visit the parents of his wife, Pat, is impressed with Alberta.

"I really like this country," he said, "I think I'll stay a little longer than I planned and do some hunting and fishing."

Monbouquette, who had a dismal year with the Tigers, came to Detroit in a winter deal last year.

turned to send three more batters back to the dugout. With one out in the ninth, Monbo was feeling the pressure more than ever before.

"Nellie Fox, who was probably the hardest guy to get out in the league, came in to pinch-hit. I knew I wasn't going to strike him out. Fortunately he hit one down the line to third on one bounce."

Monbouquette then struck out Luis Aparicio to end the game. "They said I jumped three feet into the air."

Wilson Forecast Came True

Earl Wilson, who was to join the Tigers this spring, threw a no-hit gem earlier in the '62 season for the Red Sox. "He (Wilson) said that I would be on Cloud 9 for about a week and I was. I couldn't even get to sleep that night."

Monbouquette met Pat, then an airline stewardess, for the first time the following day.

"You've got to be good to win 20 games in a season, but the Tiger moundsman claims you've got to be lucky, too."

"It's the close ones that make the difference and, almost invariably, someone will make a great play to save it for you," Monbo said.

Monbouquette was never a Little Leaguer, but he did play cadet and midget ball before joining an American Legion team. He spent two years in the minors before Boston called him up in 1958 at the age of 20.

His first of four All-Star appearances came in 1960.

But Monbo has yet to reach his goal—to pitch in a World Series. Dick Tracewski, who rooms with Bill and has played in two Series with the Dodgers, keeps talking about the Series and of rooming with Sandy Koufax.

"How can you help but want to be in one?" Monbo explained.

Freehan Feeling Rosy Over Black And Blue Marks

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.

Bill Freehan can tell by counting his bruises that American League pitchers think more highly of him this year.

"Nobody throws at a .230 hitter," observed the muscular Detroit catcher when someone asked why he was hit by eight pitches in the first 30 games.

Along with the time he was hit, Freehan had some near-misses as he stimulated the Tigers with a productive bat.

There was the night Freehan was struck above the right knee while kneeling in the on-deck circle. Fortunately, the screaming shot at close range from Norm Cash's bat struck Freehan a glancing blow.

Bill remained in the game and the next thing he knew Mel Stottlemyre had knocked him down with a high, inside pitch in combat with the Yankees. Freehan evened the score in the best known way. He smacked a home run off Stottlemyre to win the game.

Last July, Freehan entered the All-Star Game with an output of eight home runs. This year, he reached the production figure nearly two months ahead of schedule when he belted No. 8 in his eighty-ninth at-bat.

"I always did think I should hit 20 to 30 home runs a year," declared Freehan, shrugging off his top count of 18 in 1964. "The Lord gave me more ability with the bat than I've shown the last couple of years."

The rise in power production is reflected in Freehan's RBI surge. Bill had to settle for 46 RBIs last year and only 43 the year before. He averaged slightly more than four a week in the new season, meaning that he can become a 100-RBI man if he keeps it up.

.234 Hitter Last Year

Freehan became a hit batsman only three times in 1966 while batting .234 for the second successive year.

"I'm standing closer to the plate with my new stance," Bill ventured. "I guess I don't move too fast out of there. I also got hit a lot the year I batted .300."

It turned out that for the full season in 1964, the count was eight hit by pitches. The rate has been stepped up.

Manager Mayo Smith regards it essential to keep Freehan from growing weary in the hot months.

"Catching every day gets to be tough," the manager said. "You hate to take Freehan's bat out of the lineup. But we'll give him some rest here and there. He won't catch many double-headers."

Jim Price, the \$50,000 April acquisition from the Pirates, is the No. 2 man behind Freehan.

Smith uses a lineup switch with Freehan and Norm Cash. The manager puts Freehan in the No. 6 spot against lefthanders and No. 7 against righthanders. The situation is reversed for Cash.

Good Niche for RBIs

"This is quite a spot to drive in runs," said Freehan, noting that he usually had Don Wert, Dick McAuliffe, Al Kaline, Willie Horton and Jim Northrup hitting ahead of him.

On certain days, he could add the name of Cash.

Detroit is thankful for the rugged individualism that Freehan puts into each game. One day against the Yankees, Jake Gibbs took an outfield throw and seemingly had Freehan retired at the plate.

Bill came in head-first and belted Gibbs pretty hard. Jake is an old football man from Mississippi himself, but Freehan had too much size and crunch going for him.

"How would you like to have Bernie deViveiros see that head first slide?" someone asked, aware that deViveiros teaches the bent-



BILL FREEHAN, an all-out performer, belly-whoppers across the plate, dislodging

the ball from the grasp of catcher Jake Gibbs in the May 20 game with the Yankees.



Willie Horton

Horton Hurtin' -- But Bludgeon Never Healthier

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.

Two years ago, Willie Horton stroked six long home runs in 13 at-bats.

His Tiger teammates thought they'd never see anything like it again.

You just can't underestimate Willie. The Detroit outfielder with the powerful batting stroke didn't lose anything when he missed nearly a month with a sore left leg.

Manager Mayo Smith stationed Horton in the No. 4 spot in the lineup behind Al Kaline with devastating results.

In one stretch, Willie smacked four home runs in ten at-bats. He had two home runs in a game at Boston and duplicated the feat at Washington.

Then he shot a line drive over the left field screen at Tiger Stadium.

The shot left the fans buzzing. It never seemed high enough in its flight to clear the ten-foot barrier.

Leg Is No Worse

"I feel good about hitting again," said Horton. "My leg doesn't seem much better, but I guess I should be thankful it isn't any worse."

Horton pulled a muscle in his left calf running to first base in the last week of the Grapefruit League in Florida.

Horton's raw power at the plate makes him a popular figure at Tiger Stadium.

But Willie isn't satisfied just to be a hitter.

He didn't look good on a wind-blown fly in the last visit to Boston and it fell in for a scratch double.

"I don't like to do that," said Horton, with intense pride in his defensive skill. "I should have caught it."

Another important side of Horton is that hits and home runs mean nothing to him while the Tigers are losing.

"There's nothing left when you don't win," said Horton severely. He means it.

leg slide to all Detroit players. "Maybe Bernie wouldn't like it," replied Freehan, "but Bump Elliott would."

Elliott is football coach at the University of Michigan, where Freehan was a robust two-way end before signing with the Tigers for \$100,000.

"That was the best forearm block I've thrown in a long time," said Freehan, reflecting on the Gibbs incident.

Moses Enjoys Bill's Surge

Batting coach Wally Moses gets plenty of satisfaction from the Freehan comeback at the plate. Moses frowned last March in Florida when Gene Mauch observed that "Freehan's bat doesn't seem to be quick enough for a .300 hitter."

"Bill's bat was a little lazy then," said Moses. "But it's quick now."

Moses doesn't disclose trade secrets and he declines to get into the Freehan case in detail.

"The big thing is that Bill knows what to do now," said Moses.

The meaning of Freehan's new contribution to the Tigers is not lost by anyone. Pitching coach John Sain was talking about Mickey Lolich's job in becoming Detroit's first five-game winner.

"Mickey has an ace in the hole," said Sain, with a nod to Freehan. "I mean that big catcher."

Tiger Tales: Dick McAuliffe is gaining a reputation as a first-inning home-run hitter. He belted two of them as the leadoff man in games, adding an inside-the-park shot off Al Downing in the first against the Yankees.

Denny McLain has won five straight from New York as the latest Yankee killer. "It's nothing special," said Denny. "My three best clubs seem to be the Yankees, White Sox and Twins." . . . Jim Northrup was the sixth and last Tiger to hit a grand-slam last year as Detroit ranked No. 1 in the major leagues. But Northrup got the pole position this year by hitting one off Barry Moore in Washington.

Al Kaline threw out young Steve Whitaker trying to go from first to third on a single and Frank Lane cracked: "When Mayo Smith was scouting for the Yankees, he forgot to tell them Kaline can throw."

. . . Earl Wilson insisted on going to the bull pen the following night after the Senators knocked him out in the third inning. Mayo Smith doesn't want his starters out there and talked Earl out of it. . . . Someone asked Mickey Lolich what winning 20 games would mean to him personally. "It would help pay for my new home," replied Mickey.

Old Dark Magic Got Kaycee in Its Spell

By JOE MCGUFF

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

Al Dark has a well-justified reputation as a daring and inventive manager, but never have his talents been more evident than they are this season.

Dark is operating with a nine-man pitching staff and a youthful team that lacks power. Despite his problems, he has manipulated his personnel so expertly that the A's have a chance to become the first Kansas City team ever to finish in the first division.

Kansas City fans saw one of Dark's bold strategy moves pay off in a victory over the White Sox, May 20.

The White Sox had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the third. The A's filled the bases when Dennis Higgins hit Danny Cater on the head, walked Dick Green and hit Sal Bando on the left hip. Higgins and his manager, Eddie Stanky, were ejected by umpire Jim Odom.

When the furor subsided, Bruce Howard, a righthanded pitcher, took over for the White Sox. Dark sent Jim Gosger, a lefthander, up to bat for righthanded Joe Nosssek. Gosger popped out. Undismayed, Dark next called on Tim Talton, a lefthanded batter generally regarded as his best pinch-hitter. Talton batted for Phil Roof, a righthanded hitter, and singled off Howard's glove to drive in a run.

Repoz Comes Through

The next scheduled batter was Catfish Hunter, the pitcher. Hunter had pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the second and then had given up three runs in the third. Dark, going all the way, sent Roger Repoz up to bat for Hunter. Repoz lined a single to left, scoring two runs.

Paul Lindblad became the Kansas City pitcher and stopped the Sox on one run and four hits over the final six innings.

Pinch-hitting in the early innings has become commonplace with the A's. Dark had used pinch-hitters as early as the first inning and several times has called on them in the third inning. The strategy has not always been as successful as it was against the White Sox, but, overall, it is producing results.

"The way our club is made up, we have to take advantage of scoring opportunities whenever we get



Al Dark

them," Dark said. "If we pass up an opportunity in the third inning we might not get another."

"We have 16 players on our club (exclusive of pitchers). There are only two or three I won't maneuver with. Our players understand why we are doing this and one reason we have been successful is that they are so cooperative. I just can't say enough for them."

Dark said his decisions on whether to pinch-hit for pitchers early in a game will be dictated largely by the condition of his bull pen.

Bull Pen Holds Key

"When our bull pen is rested, I can make the moves I need to make," Dark said. "If our bull pen has been overworked, then we'll have to be more conservative."

To date, there are only four players in Dark's lineup that he has not pinch-hit for. They are Campy Campaneris, Rick Monday, Danny Cater and Dick Green.

In addition to making early and frequent use of pinch-hitters, Dark is doing a great deal of platooning. Against righthanded pitching he normally uses Ramon Webster at first, moves Cater to left field and starts Gosger or Repoz

(Continued on Page 40, Column 4)

Ticklish Tiger Problem Up to Freehan

Young Catcher Rated Key To Revival of Mound Staff

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

LAKELAND, Fla.

People talked last summer about **Bill Freehan** winning games for the Tigers with his bat and his glove.

A new area of recognition is opening for the Detroit catcher. Manager Charlie Dressen says they'll be talking about how **Freehan** wins games with his head.

The 23-year-old **Freehan** is the most significant man in the restoration of Detroit pitching.

"We've got more good arms around than I've seen since I've been with this club," declared **Freehan** as he glanced about Henley Field. "I just hope they go north with young arms."

This is what Dressen wants to hear. The 66-year-old manager is fascinated by the use of unheralded young pitching. This began when Joe Black won 15 games for Brooklyn (1952) and Johnny Podres started a World Series game for the Dodgers a few days after his twenty-first birthday (1953).

Dressen will call the shots on the makeup of the Detroit staff for 1965. It is up to **Freehan** to get the most out of the talent.

"When you have a young staff, you keep wondering when they're going to be ready," the catcher said thoughtfully. "Last spring, Hank Bauer must have put 20 victories after Steve Barber's name and a question mark after Wally Bunker's. How can you figure things like that? (Barber was 9-13 and Bunker 19-5.)"

Young Hurlers Need Confidence

"Detroit is in the same position. We've got the arms. It's a matter of young pitchers getting confidence in themselves."

Freehan goes down the line with Rick Ferrell's theory that pitchers and catchers "must think as near alike as possible."

"When Dave Wickersham and Ed Rakow came over from Kansas City last year," **Freehan** related, "I told them: 'You guys pitch your way. Let me get used to you first.' By the end of the year, I was used to Wickersham's way of thinking. The same with Rakow."

Freehan feels that 141 games behind the plate last season produced ample background on the holdover Detroit pitchers.

"Besides, I've got my buddy, Mike Roarke, here as coach," **Bill** added. "Mike's smart and he knows the staff better than I do."

This is not overlooking the talents of Dressen and his pitching coach, Stubby Overmire. They both command **Freehan's** respect.

Freehan's new mission in spring training is "making it a point to find out everything I can about the new pitchers."

Hoeft Trying Comeback

This is accomplished without ignoring the older men. Billy Hoeft, approaching his thirty-third birthday, signed with the Tigers several months ago as a free agent. Hoeft is trying to earn a second term at Tiger Stadium.

In the Henley Field clubhouse, Hoeft has his locker right next to **Freehan's**.

"I remember you," said **Freehan** in jest. "I saw you pitch for the Tigers when I was a kid in grade school in Detroit."

Freehan has mastered the relaxed way to let somebody know he's appreciated.

A catcher, like a quarterback in football, must earn the confidence of the other players off the field. **Freehan** made a move in that direction when he joined other Tiger families in the most popular motel in the area.

Al Kaine lives there with his family. So do Hank Aguirre, Phil Regan, Denny McLain and Joe Sparna.

Freehan talks pitching with them on the golf course or on share-riding to the ball park or just sitting around the pool.

Rick Ferrell says this kind of to-

Freehan Rooting for His Pal Fisher to Win Tiger Hill Job

LAKELAND, Fla.—**Bill Freehan** is pulling for Fritz Fisher, University of Michigan lefthander, to make the Detroit pitching staff.

"I've grown up with Fritz," **Bill** said, "and I like to work with him. He's a winner. Fritz does the things you need to beat the other guy."

Fisher's advancement to Tiger Stadium hasn't matched **Freehan's**. Last year, Fisher divided his time between Syracuse (International) and Knoxville (Southern), winning 11 games. Fisher had a calcium chip removed from his left elbow last December.

getherness is meaningful. Ferrell, Detroit vice-president, is in the books as the American League receiver who caught the most games (1,806 games for 18 seasons through 1947).

"When I joined the old St. Louis Browns in 1941," said Ferrell, "Fred Haney was the manager. He called a meeting and told the pitchers in front of everybody that he wanted me to be the boss behind the plate. I knew what Haney meant. But you don't go at it that way. Usually you have a beer with a pitcher or have him out to dinner. You talk over situations that are sure to come up. You get to know each other."

Ferrell also believes that it is harmful to "overcatch."

"The guy out there (pitcher) is throwing the ball and he's thinking, too," said Rick. "You can't have your way all the time. The idea is to get together and know where you're going."

Played for Denver in '62

In three seasons in Detroit, **Freehan** has followed the Ferrell plan. **Bill's** first visit to Lakeland was in 1962. He didn't stand much of a chance and spent the whole season at Denver (American Association).

The following March, **Freehan** ranked behind Gus Triandos and Roarke. The Detroit pitchers were Jim Bunning, Frank Lary, Don Mossi, Aguirre, Regan, Terry Fox and a few others.

"By nature, **Bill** is on the shy side," observed General Manager Jim Campbell. "He's not overly aggressive in breaking in on existing situations."

Freehan stayed with the Tigers that summer. On June 18, Dressen replaced Bob Scheffing as manager. **Freehan** put in quite a few games at first base. Dressen made sure that the way was cleared for **Freehan** to be the No. 1 catcher in 1964.

Last spring, Dressen asked his catcher to "take charge" and be more of "a holler guy." The manager did not repeat the order this time.

"**Bill's** more of a man now," Dressen declared.

Obviously, **Freehan** has lifted his confidence by occupying the No. 2 All-Star Game spot behind Elston Howard and by hitting .300, the first Detroit catcher to do so since the celebrated Cochrane.

Freehan gives Dressen a great deal of credit.

"He stayed with me longer than most managers would," said **Bill**. "People kept asking all winter how I



BILL FREEHAN . . . Entrusted With Getting Most From Bengal Curvers

Bill Only Half a Step Slower Than Cochrane, Claims Rick

LAKELAND, Fla.—Rick Ferrell, Detroit vice-president, rates **Bill Freehan** only half a step slower than Mickey Cochrane.

"Cochrane, Al Lopez and Frankie Pytlak were the fastest catchers I saw," said Ferrell, who caught 1,806 games for the Browns, Red Sox and Senators, an American League catching record. "There are very few catchers I would call fast."

"**Freehan** is in the next category down. He's not as fast as Cochrane was. But **Bill** is in a class by himself right now in the American League."

"I'm talking about first-string catchers. Elston Howard, Earl Battey and John Romano are all slow."

boys from Syracuse. **Freehan** will be more relaxed this year and it might not bother him as much to catch 141 games."

Together, they will work on im- (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 3)

liked playing for Dressen. I said Dressen is good for young players. It may be a little rougher for older players who are used to doing things and maybe don't want to change to Charlie's way. A young player gets a break with Dressen."

What's Dressen's viewpoint on **Freehan**?

Pickoff Plays Important

"I'm more than satisfied with him," the manager replied. "Bill's getting better all the time. This spring, we're having him practice pitchouts. He'll pick some guys off base this year."

"I've always had catchers a little older. Roy Campanella was older in Brooklyn. I had Clint Courtney and Ed Fitz Gerald in Washington. With Milwaukee, it was Del Crandall."

Freehan caught 141 games last season and he might again.

"It all depends on who's going to be the second-string catcher," said Dressen, pondering between Jackie Moore and John Sullivan, two of the



Ball in Mitt, **Bill Freehan** Braces at The Plate for The Impact He Knows Is Coming From Hurtling Hank Allen, Washington.

Tigers' Freehan Holy Terror in Late Innings

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.—**Bill Freehan** has remarkably sound instincts as the durable catcher for the Tigers. He could sense this year was different.

"Last year, there was a lot of uncertainty about our winning the pennant," said **Freehan**, drawing on a long, slim cigar. "You could see it was gone this season. Our guys felt they could go to the World Series by trying a little harder, even when you're tired."

The muscular, 220-pound **Freehan** doesn't deny that many favorable factors are part of Detroit's pennant campaign.

"This is a game of breaks, believe me," he said. "Things have to go your way, and we've had plenty of nice things happen for us. But don't forget that we've been able to take advantage of favorable situations."

The prime characteristic of these Tigers under Manager Mayo Smith is their capacity to win games from the seventh inning on.

Nearly four out of every ten victories—actually 34 of the 88 games won by early September—have been come-from-behind productions.

The 26-year-old **Freehan** has often figured in dramatic finishes. For example, the Tigers rode a night jet flight to Oakland before the Labor Day double-header with the Athletics.

Bill's Back Was Hurting

"My back gave me problems when we got to the hotel in Oakland," he related. "I tore a muscle in my back a couple of years ago in Florida. A catcher is up and down behind the plate and then up and down some more. Sometimes your back stiffens up after a game."

In the Oakland situation, **Freehan** found relaxation in a hot shower and a good night's sleep. He caught the first holiday game against the A's. The second game went ten innings and he found himself in the lineup all the way. "Did you volunteer to catch both games?" he was asked. "I assumed I would," he replied with a grin, "and it was a pretty good assumption."

Manager Smith explained that **Freehan** stayed in because it was fairly cool in Oakland. **Bill** would have sat out the second game or played first base if it had been hot and humid.

Anyway, **Freehan** took his stance in the batter's box with

two out in the tenth inning and Diego Segui pitching for the A's. The husky catcher ripped one over the left field fence for his 21st home run. Detroit won the game on the only run scored against Segui in a month.

"I was dragging," confessed **Freehan**. "I was hoping somebody would hit one out, but I didn't think it would be me. Of course, I didn't know Segui had that long relief shutout string."

The weather is scarcely a factor in **Freehan's** power hitting. Some two weeks earlier, the Tigers blew an 8-1 lead in steamy, 95-degree Fenway Park and the game with the Red Sox went into extra innings at 9-9.

With two out in the 11th, **Freehan** stroked a pitch by Lee Stange into the netting above the high left field wall and the Tigers extracted a game they couldn't afford to lose.

He Has Staying Power

"Somebody must be praying for me," said **Freehan** that day in the clubhouse. "I didn't think I had enough stamina to get the bat around."

Stamina was something that **Bill** never had to worry about as a young player breaking into baseball. When he signed a \$100,000 bonus contract with the Tigers in 1961, **Freehan** was accompanied to Tiger Stadium by his parents.

Bill's mother recalled her son had once caught three games in one day for the University of Michigan.

"Then he went dancing half the night," she ventured. This is **Bill's** sixth full season with the Tigers and about the only time off he gets is an occasional game at first base. **Bill** does well defensively at the second position and Jim Price has come on as the No. 2 catcher.

"When you're at first base," said **Freehan**, "you are out of the routine of calling signals over and over. It helps you relax."

In **Freehan's** view, the Tigers became more formidable this year because of their bench and secondary pitching.

"Everybody has a part in what's happening in Detroit," he explained. "In football and basketball, the subs or extra men have certain jobs to do. Even when you're on a suicide squad in football, you have big responsibilities to the team."

"Baseball is different. If you're riding the bench, it's

tough to make yourself feel that you're a part of things."

Manager Smith has moved players in and out all year and Al Kaline and others keep saying: "This is a 25-man effort."

But this doesn't alter the status of **Freehan**, who took part in 155 games last year and might make it again. **Bill** caught 147 games as the busiest American League catcher.

"When you are 26 to 28," reasoned **Freehan**, "you expect to play more games than you might later in your career. This is fine with me. I'll have plenty of time to rest up after October 15 or so."

Bill or Denny for MVP?

Freehan finished a strong third behind Carl Yastrzemski and Harmon Killebrew last year in the Most Valuable Player voting. Many assumed **Freehan** would win the award the first year the Tigers won the pennant.

But Denny McLain's pursuit of a 30-game season suggests that the American League may have a pitcher as MVP for the first time since Bobby Shantz won with the 1952 Philadelphia Athletics.

Freehan regards this as "a nice kind of problem," inasmuch as Detroit will have its first MVP since Hal Newhouser won the award in 1945.

Bill figures the team is stimulated by the memory of losing \$12,000 to \$30,000 a man for finishing second behind the Red Sox last year.

"In some cases, it might be more than \$30,000," reasoned **Freehan**. "I'm figuring the Series share plus a bigger contract when you win, plus what you receive in endorsements and things like that."

Freehan has a good head for business. He served for three years as the Detroit player representative. He lightened the load this year when Jim Price took over the player details.

Owner John Fetzer often speaks of **Freehan's** "natural instinct for leadership."

Manager Smith said when he took over his job that "the catcher's the guy who has to take charge out there." **Freehan** has responded ably.

Pitching coach John Sain respects **Freehan** for a quality

(Continued on Page 4, Column 5)



ROY FACE, longtime Pirate relief ace, shows fork ball grip to new Tiger teammate Denny McLain.

Buc Scribe Gives Bengals An Intimate Look at Face

By LES BIEDERMAN

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Dear Mayo Smith:

I don't have to tell you about the job Roy Face can do for you, but maybe some of your Tigers might like to hear of his prowess in the National League for 15 years. And perhaps this will refresh your memory, too.

Face is the last of a vanishing breed—the continually successful pitcher.

Don't let his 40 years fool you. He can still throw hard but, better yet, he still can fool 'em all—the sluggers and the Punch-and-Judy hitters.

And you'll never hear him complain about work. He likes it, the more the merrier.

The Tiger fans—and the Tigers who haven't seen him—will like the way he operates—the way he struts in from the bullpen, small of stature, but big of heart.

He walks in with fire in his eyes and anxious to get the job done. He grabs the ball, rubs it up, stares at the batter with the kind of a I-feel-sorry-for-you look.

There isn't an ounce of fear in his makeup and you'll soon find it out. He revels in tough situations.

Face appeared in 802 games for the Pirates in 15 years and I believe I saw him work every one of them. He had many memorable jobs, but there are a couple I fondly remember.

I saw him win 17 straight in relief in 1959 before he lost to the Dodgers at the Coliseum in September, when they scored two runs in the ninth inning.

But the best and quickest operations I ever saw him perform came against the Cubs and the Reds.

He came into the game against the Reds one time with men on first and second and none out, and three pitches later the inning ended.

Roy Picked Two Runners Off Base

Against the Reds, he had runners on first and second, none out and actually threw only one pitch to the batter. He picked off the guy on second, then picked off the guy on first and, on the only pitch he threw to the plate, the batter flied out.

We never associated Face with failure in this town. He won 100 games (93 in relief) in 15 years and he saved more than 200 others.

His own teammates always regarded him with a special kind of hero worship. He put much money in their pockets.

He brought tremendous prestige to the bullpen. He was the first relief pitcher to hit the \$40,000 salary bracket, and he made the job of a fireman somewhat glamorous.

Face is now a Pittsburgher. He married a Pittsburgh girl, his two daughters and son go to school here and he owns his own home. He works here in the offseason as a carpenter.

He walked out of Forbes Field the day he reported to the Tigers surrounded by fans who wanted his autographs. He was a genuine hero here for years.

"This has been my second home for 15 years," Face said as he looked around at Forbes Field. "I'm leaving a lot of memories here, but I'm taking quite a few with me."

If a relief pitcher can work the miracle for you, Mayo, Face can do the job. Your pennant fate is in good hands.

Pirate Scoreboard: Manny Jimenez was 0-for-12 as a pinch-hitter when he hit his first home run of the season against the Braves. . . . Ron Kline won four games in relief and saved one against the Braves before losing. . . . Tito Francona of the Braves, a Pittsburgh area resident, batted .333 against the Pirates. . . . Billy Graham's Crusade outdrew the Pirates five to one at nearby Pitt Stadium.

The Pirates have had some small crowds. Only 6,200 turned out on Labor Day for a double-header, lowest in many years for a holiday twin-bill. And just 3,000 attended the final night game with the Astros. . . . Matty Alou batted .440 and had 11 RBIs against the Astros.

Donn Clendenon's father died on Labor Day morning after a long illness. The Pirate first baseman played both games, then flew to Atlanta for the funeral. . . . Luke Walker did a terrific job of relief pitching while protecting Dock Ellis' 3-2 win over the Astros September 3. He came in with two on, two out in the eighth and fanned four batters.

It Looks Like Northrup Can Buy Cowboy Boots

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich. — Jim Northrup's spring ambition with the Tigers was related to a pair of \$100 cowboy boots.

"I hope I have the money for them in October," said Northrup six months ago in Lakeland, Fla.

Possibly a more serious factor in the new season was Northrup's desire to draw 550 to 600 at-bats for the Tigers. Clearly, what he wanted was a regular outfield job and not in-and-out platoon duty.

For all practical purposes, Northrup has been Detroit's right fielder in 1968. Al Kaline played there some early in the year with Northrup taking over center field.

But Kaline's broken hand, along with subsequent first-base duty, has opened right field for Northrup.

Performance figured in for the 28-year-old Northrup, whose silver flecks in his hair brought the clubhouse nickname of the Gray Fox.

Northrup saved his hottest batting spurt for the two-week period that sent the Tigers out of reach of the pursuing Orioles.

Kaline on Shelf

The Fox took over when Kaline went out with a pulled thigh muscle sustained in running out a double against Rocky Colavito in New York.

In the next two weeks, Northrup batted .400 and drove in the big runs in at least a half-dozen games. He lifted his average more than 20 points to near .250.

"I wish I had started a little earlier," he said, focusing on the .271 he batted for the Tigers last year.

The remarkable thing about Northrup is that he led the Tigers in RBIs most of the year. He pushed ahead of the pack with an eight-run spurge on June 24 in Cleveland.

This was the night Jim hit the two grand-slam home runs in successive innings, one off Eddie Fisher and the other off Bill Rohr.

In the turn into September, Northrup still ranked No. 1 in RBIs. He survived a one-night burst of five RBIs by Willie Horton.

"Another game like that and I'll be chasing Willie," said Northrup.

Northrup has always considered himself a sound candidate to bat .300 in the majors. He did it many times in the minor leagues and winter ball in his five-year advance to Tiger Stadium.

Jim Shoots for RBIs

Maybe it is significant that Northrup himself now thinks RBIs are more important than the average.

Northrup is on particularly close terms with Horton and Mickey Stanley. The three threaded their way through the Detroit farm system together. Mickey is Northrup's roommate on the road and both have been stimulated by Stanley's big RBI year.

It took four years in a Detroit uniform for Mickey to gather 57 RBIs, and now he's going to top that figure in one season.

Mickey and Jim have the greatest respect for Horton's power hitting. Horton, of course, had two years of 100 RBIs before falling back in 1967.

This year, Willie is having his best home-run year. In fact, when he smacked No. 32, Willie took over fifth place on the Detroit home-run list (season) behind Hank Greenberg (58), Rocky Colavito (45), Norm Cash (41) and Rudy York (35).

The curious part is that Horton's first 31 home runs came with



Jim Northrup . . . The Gray Fox Rolls Up the RBIs.

nobody on or one on. The 32nd blast was a three-run rap.

Northrup has thoroughly enjoyed the pennant race.

"These guys play together," he said. "This is the closest knit team I've ever been on."

Northrup is a hard-going competitor, a quality that attracted Detroit scouts in the first place. The tougher the game, the better his challenge.

Tigers Eye Redbirds

"The last Baltimore series in Detroit was a high spot for me," he said. "It does something for you when the whole team is up."

Constant focus on the pennant race doesn't prevent the Tigers from looking ahead to a World Series encounter with the Cardinals. Detroit's last game in the Grapefruit League was a victory over the Cardinals.

"We know we've got to keep those jackrabbits off the bases," ventured Northrup, referring to Lou Brock and Curt Flood.

Tiger Tales: Roy Face received a rude reception in the American League, giving up two run-scoring singles in his first two relief appearances for the Tigers. . . . Ray Oyler has become a switch-hitter with Manager Mayo Smith's approval. Oyler struck out and flied out in his first two at-bats as a lefthander. . . . Mickey Stanley's catch of Reggie Jackson's line drive off the center field wall at Oakland ranks with the best in Stanley's personal collection. . . . Earl Wilson smacked three home runs in a sequence of 12 times at bat. Earl was all-or-nothing, striking out six times in the stretch. . . . Don McMahon does football scouting in the fall for Al Davis, boss of the Oakland Raiders. "Al and I went to school together," said McMahon. . . . Scouting director Ed Katatlinas is pleased with the signing of Spencer Horn, 18-year-old shortstop from Ft. Cobb, Okla. "He's a big, strong boy," said Katatlinas. "Young shortstops have the best infield arms."

FREEHAN

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unrelated to physical skill.

"He has a positive frame of mind," said Sain.

Last April, at the annual Capuchin Charity Guild dinner at Cobo Hall, announcer Ernie Harwell captured the mood of the city with these lines:

"Super-star, a real he-man.

"That's our catcher, Bill Freehan."

Freehan considers himself a .270 hitter or better with good power. It was not purely coincidental that his hitting improved with the arrival of Mayo Smith and Wally Moses.

Bill had stumbled two years at bat, averaging .234.

"He has no pop with the bat at all," diagnosed Mayo. "Bill's front arm is dead. Go to work on him, Wally."

Strong, Silent Type

Moses did his work for two springs in Florida, along with summer refresher courses in Detroit and on the road.

Freehan is a strong man with considerable restraint. Earlier this year, Vince Desmond, Detroit promotional director, was struck on the head by a one-time serviceman who got onto the field at Tiger Stadium during a swearing-in ceremony for Army recruits.

Freehan ran from the Detroit bench and put an armlock on Desmond's assailant until police arrived. The man was as big as Freehan, but he didn't have a chance.

Two summers ago, in Kansas City, the Tigers and A's got into a knockdown incident and Freehan was among those hit by pitches.

"Freehan showed me something," said Al Dark, then Kansas City manager. "He could have started a fight or hollered at us. But he called to his bench: 'It was my fault,' and went to first base. He's a big man."