

Murphy Eyes Plus Side of Angel Ledger

By ROSS NEWHAN

ANAHEIM, Calif.—It was the next-to-the-next-to-the-last night of the 1970 season and Tom Murphy's Irish eyes were smiling.

Carrying only a .164 average, Murphy had doubled and singled as the Angels defeated Chicago, 4-3, at Anaheim Stadium.

It was a night when the pitcher's performance wasn't entirely offensive. Murphy also gained his 16th victory, a figure exceeded during the 10 years of the Angels' existence by only Clyde Wright, Dean Chance and Andy Messersmith.

This was only the second full season for Murphy, who is 24. It was a season that put the names of Wright, Alex Johnson and Jim Fregosi in headlines, but it was also a stepping-stone season for Murphy.

He made 38 starts with a record of 16-13 and he said:

"With normal progress, I feel I have a real chance to win 20 games next year.

Prospect, Not Suspect

"I mean it's like Wright learned how to win in the winter league while I learned how this summer."

Except for a streak when he was 0-6 from mid-August through mid-September, Murphy might have won 20 this year.

Instead, he continued to rewrite the Angels' record book.

In 1969, Murphy set marks for wild pitches (16) and hit batters (21). This past season his control was better. He hit the bat more consistently and set records for most home runs allowed (32) and most earned runs yielded (107).

The Angels' style-setter and a blithe spirit, Murphy said:

"Before I retire—or before they trade me—I may own all the Angel records.

"However, I think I learned a lot about pitching this year and I'm still relatively young—at least,



Tom Murphy

that's what they keep telling me. I'm still a prospect rather than a suspect."

Angel Notes: According to George Lederer—Anaheim's answer to Bill Veeck—the Angels were the most improved team in the American League, showing a gain of 15 games over 1969. The Angels were 20 games under .500 last year and 10 over this year, equaling the club record for wins with 86. . . . Among the team records established were hits (1,391), batting average (.251) and saves (49). . . . Individual marks included batting percentage (Alex Johnson, .329), hits (Johnson, 202), games (Sandy Alomar, 162), singles (Johnson, 166), hitting streak (Alomar, 22 games), victories (Wright, 22) and starts (Wright, 39). . . . Lefty Phillips' entire coaching staff was rehired. Returning will be Pete Reiser, who did not receive enough credit for helping to revive the Angels' confidence and aggressiveness; Norm Sherry, Rocky Bridges and Fred Koenig.

The Angels are in the market for a Triple-A affiliate since Hawaii (Pacific Coast) severed its working agreement to sign with San Diego. . . . The Angels will send Fregosi to their Arizona Instructional League camp as a lecturer on matters of spirit and attitude. General Manager Dick Walsh said: "To me, Fregosi exemplifies the spirit every major leaguer should have. He gives 100 percent, healthy or hurting, and this is something that a lot of the kids entering the game today seem unwilling to do. Maybe some of Fregosi will rub off." Last winter Fregosi kept an eye on several Angel prospects as manager of Ponce in the Puerto Rican League.

Shopping for Mound Help? Don't Ring Yankees' Phone

By JIM OGLE

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The Yankees were included in the many trade rumors which flew around the hospitality rooms during the World Series. But unless something changes the minds of General Manager Lee MacPhail and Manager Ralph Houk, the New Yorkers are unlikely to swing any major transactions.

With both the Tigers and Red Sox, who battled the Yanks for runner-up honors in the American East, making major deals, it was thought the Yanks may have revised their thinking. Many figure the Tigers made themselves the No. 1 contenders to Baltimore in one deal.

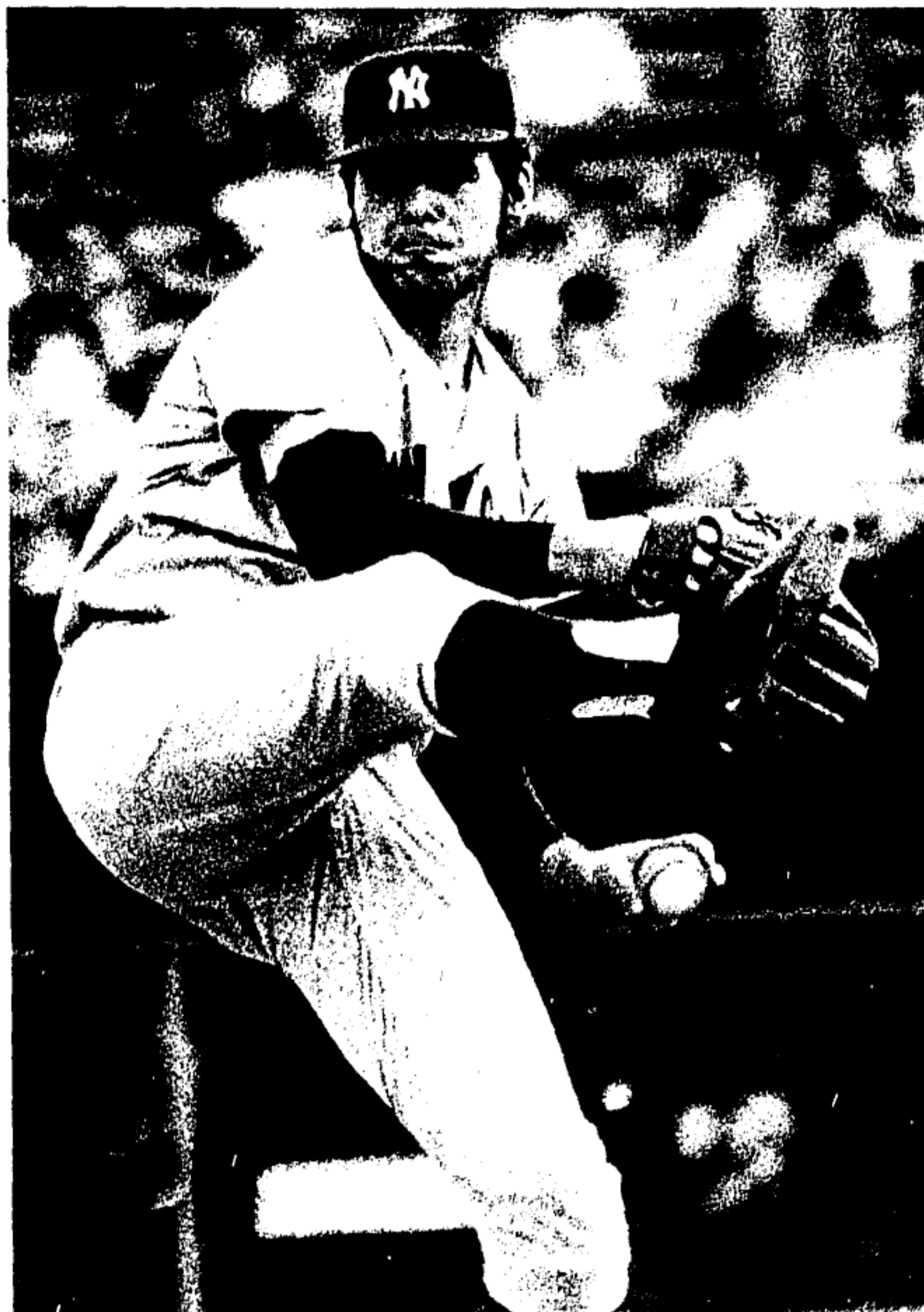
"Everyone is looking for pitchers," Houk said, "but they aren't going to get mine. I have no intention of trading a pitcher, which seems to make a major deal unlikely for us. We're ready to talk trades at any time, but not for one of my pitchers.

"I spent most of last year trying to find a fourth starter. I don't want to go through that again. If Mike Kekich and Steve Kline pick up where they left off, I feel we'll go into the next season much stronger in pitching. I'm not going to try to strengthen one position at the expense of another.

Late Impressions

"Mel (Stottlemyre) pitched a lot better than his 15-13 record, while (Stan) Bahnsen made big strides last year. I figure he's about due to step out as a consistent, steady winner. With a 20-victory season behind him, Fritz (Peterson) should move up with the top lefthanders in the league.

"Look at the way Kekich and Kline pitched the last two months," Houk continued. "They stepped into the rotation and turned in consistently good efforts. Mike will be pitching this winter with a lot of confidence and may finally come up to his potential next year. At least, I want to see if he can here . . . not somewhere else."



Mike Kekich . . . Untapped Potential.

Kekich, who has tremendous untapped potential, went into the regular rotation on August 18 and won his last four decisions. In that stretch, he worked 39 innings, yielded 34 hits, walked nine and fanned 21. The winning or losing was unimportant, but the way Mike pitched and worked out of jams was encouraging.

Once Kline stopped trying to be too fine and spot every pitch, he also impressed. Starting August 21, Steve went into the rotation and had a 5-3 record the rest of the way with three complete games in nine starts. The youngster worked 68 innings and gave up 59 hits, walked 10 and fanned 21.

Need Lefty in Bullpen

Houk also has high hopes that Mike McCormick, who didn't do much after being acquired from the Giants, will prove a surprise next season.

"Certainly, Mike will be in spring training with us," Houk said. "I wouldn't be too quick to sell him short. With a full spring training with us, a few adjustments and a whole new start, it is quite possible Mike will be one of the big surprises of the spring."

It is certain that the "heart of the bullpen," consisting of Lindy McDaniel, Jack Aker and Ron Klimkowski, will return. McDaniel will be 36 next season, but with his 9-5 record, plus a club record-tying 29 saves, there is little reason to suspect that he will lose much of his effectiveness.

Klimkowski, with a year's experience behind him, figures to be a more poised pitcher next year. Ron had trouble convincing himself that he really had made the majors, but shouldn't have that problem next year. A relaxed pitcher is a good pitcher, which is what should happen to Klim in 1971.

The biggest opening on the Yankee staff next year is the role of the lefthanded reliever, which Steve Hamilton held for so long. It is unlikely at the moment that Houk has any plans for McCormick in that direction.

Rob Gardner, who had a 16-5 record at Syracuse (International) and added three more in the playoffs, will be competing for a job along with Gary Jones, who was chiefly a reliever at Syracuse. Bill Olsen, who spent the year at Kingston, also may get a shot at a spot.

One of the prime mysteries to everyone connected with the Yanks is why Bill Burbach hasn't made it big by this time. After spending the 1969 season with the Yanks, Burbach was sent down to Syracuse last year in hopes he would find control and consistency.

Plagued by a series of injuries and illness, Burbach had a very ordinary year with the Chiefs. This leaves his status up in the air, yet the big righthander has all the equipment to be a fine pitcher.

First Base Crowded

If the Yankees make a deal, chances are it will include one of their many applicants for the first base job. Danny Cater, John Ellis, Frank Tepedino and Tony Solaito feel first is their best position.

Cater, who is 30, had his best season and hit .301 as a Yankee. He could be attractive to several clubs. The Yanks think highly of Cater, but the presence of the youngsters may sway them to include him in any proposed deals.

"I don't want to be traded, but I know that at my age anything is possible," Cater said. "There's a lot of traffic around first base, so I may get lost in the shuffle somewhere."

No one is saying the Yankees definitely won't deal, but a major swap appears quite unlikely.

Kaline, Cash Key Assets, Says Martin

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

DETROIT, Mich.—Manager Billy Martin doesn't think it is model changeover time for Al Kaline and Norm Cash, Detroit's two oldest players.

"Kaline and Cash are two of the first players on my visiting list," said Martin. "I think they both will have good years for me."

In his winter plans, the new Detroit manager is counting on the two veterans to play first base with Kaline still available for outfield duty.

Cash will celebrate his 36th birthday November 10 and Kaline will join him December 19.

For years, the two have kidded each other about the 5½ weeks separating their birthdays.

18th Season for Al

"I'm glad I'm not the oldest guy around here," Kaline invariably says when Cash is around to hear it.

Kaline has completed 18 seasons in Detroit uniform and he can't complain too much about the last one. He managed to play 131 games, the same number as the year before, and his .278 average ranked No. 1 among regulars.

Al started the year with a .302 career average and it fell a couple points to an even .300.

Deep down, Kaline would like to

finish his career as a .300 hitter, but he says this isn't the only factor in deciding when to hang up his uniform.

"I'll stay as long as I can do a good job for the team," he said last August when Detroit rewarded him with a day in his honor at Tiger Stadium.

Cash has said for years that they'll have to tear the uniform off to make him quit. He sat around more in 1970 than ever before. For the first time in 11 years in Detroit, he failed to make 100 hits. He batted .259 in limited duty.

Surgery for Billy

Obviously, Norm will accept more work at first base if Martin will give it to him.

They should have an interesting visit when Martin stops in at Cash's home in Fort Worth.

Martin picked the right starting spot when he went to Kaline first in the sequence of off-season visits to nearly all the Detroit players.

"I'm taking a little time off in January to have a knee operation," said Martin. "I've been bothered with calcium growths in my right knee. It comes from an old playing injury. The doctor says I'll wear a cast for 10 days." Billy will continue to live in the

Minneapolis area and the surgery will be done at home before he leaves for spring training.

Joe Schultz is the new third base coach in a shift from the same job in Kansas City. Schultz, 52, joined Martin for several days at the Baltimore end of the World Series.

One Coaching Vacancy

Billy will be joined in Detroit by two coaches who stay with him wherever he goes—Art Fowler and Charlie Silvera. A fourth coach probably will come from the Detroit organization.

Mike Roarke, who served as Mayo Smith's pitching coach, has a year left on his Detroit contract. Roarke is lined up for a managing job in the Detroit farm system.

Tiger Tales: Schultz is going to Vietnam with one of the baseball groups organized by Commissioner Bowie Kuhn. "My son, Tommy, has been in Vietnam for almost a year," said Schultz. . . . Getting Dick McAuliffe back on the beam is a top priority project for Martin. McAuliffe had a bad second half and his average skidded to .234, a career low. . . . General Manager Jim Campbell finds many clubs are interested in a deal for shortstop Cesar Gutierrez since Detroit got Ed Brinkman from Washington.

Bengals Build Head of Steam With Kaline Pouring on Coal

By WATSON SPOELSTRA

LAKELAND, Fla. — Al Kaline enters the new season engaged in sort of a do-it-yourself project for the Tigers.

Infielder Dick McAuliffe says that his improvement in hitting lefthanded pitching stems from what Kaline told him.

"Al said I wasn't taking my usual swing," reported the Detroit shortstop. "I was too defensive against lefthanders."

Willie Horton related how Kaline's suggestion re-

sulted in stronger, more accurate throwing from the outfield.

"Al really helped me," said Willie.

Before he departed for a minor league assignment, young Wayne Redmond was advised by Kaline to "chop down more on the ball." Redmond responded with a grand-slam home run in a Grapefruit League victory.

All these things are quite significant. But the most pleasing spring trend for Manager Charlie Dressen was Kaline's running and hitting in Florida.

"I never did see Al when he was good," the manager declared. "He had a sore foot all the time I've been here. Now he's playing the way they told me he could."

Week by week, Kaline has gained confidence in his left foot, the one which was operated on last October.

There was the day he streaked across the right field foul line to catch a low drive off Curt Blefary's bat.

This was the Kaline of the pre-Dressen era.

Al Whacks Double

Another time, Kaline doubled in the eighth inning of a one-sided Detroit victory. He sprinted to second, making the big turn to tempt the outfielder into throwing behind him.

"I felt so good I wanted to steal third base," Al declared afterward. "I didn't want to lose my head."

"Let him steal," suggested Dressen when informed of this impulse. "We want Kaline to run whenever he feels like it."

Kaline's first stolen base of the spring, it developed, was achieved against Wally Bunker.

"I guessed right," Kaline shrugged. "It was a slow pitch."

Nothing quite matched the zest of Kaline's longest spring home run. Jim Bouton was pitching when Al lashed one two-thirds of the way up the light pole over the left field fence at Ft. Lauderdale.

"You can't be telling people anything," Al observed, "unless you do it yourself."

He was thinking of the advice he gave to McAuliffe, Horton, Redmond and many other Detroit players.

There is no mistaking that Al has the physical capacity to be an inspirational figure in a Detroit pennant campaign.

Kaline in Top Shape

"I just hope I can play the full season," Kaline said as he prepared for the trip north.

"I feel so good down here that I wish the season would hurry up and start."

Kaline comes right out and says what other Detroit players are trying to mask.

"What I want to do is play in a World Series," Al declared. "We have a good chance. Detroit always scores runs and now we got the



John Bateman

on it hard this spring and doing a good job of it."

As an idea how well John has been doing, he hit two of his four home runs over the right-center fence. He hit another just to the left of center field and one down the left-center alley.

The big righthanded swinger has not pulled one dead down the left field line yet.

"I'm just trying to go with the ball on the outside and hit it where it's pitched," Bateman explained. "They've always told me I had enough power to hit them over the fences to the opposite field, but I never believed them. I tried to pull the outside ball and would hit a little grounder down to the shortstop."

One other improvement, at least so far this spring, is that John is not going after that bad pitch low and away. Bateman is making the ball come over the plate.

Just Trying to Meet Ball

"I've learned I don't have to swing at the first thing they put up there," Bateman explained. "I'm trying to cut down my swing and then, particularly, with two strikes on me I want to make sure I get a piece of the ball."

In a realistic appraisal of his abilities, John added, "I know I'm never going to hit .300. For one thing, I'm not going to get enough infield hits. But if I can keep from striking out and can hit some with power, then I think I'm going to help the team."

As for receiving, Bateman wants to improve on that, too, and the place he figures he can do it is in keeping balls from getting through.

"I don't care if they're called wild pitches or passed balls, I want to stop more balls this year," he said. "Sometimes they call one a wild pitch, but a good catcher might keep it from getting by. The other day, Bob Bruce hit the dirt with a pitch and it got through and a runner scored from third. It was called a wild pitch and it did hit the dirt. But I think I should have knocked it down some way and kept that run from coming home."

Bateman has one of the high velocity arms in baseball. However,

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Not-So-Brash Bateman Cuts Swat Forecast

By JOHN WILSON

COCOA, Fla.

John Bateman doesn't tell you what he is going to do to the National League this year as quickly as he did in 1964 or even 1965.

"I think I can hit .260 in the majors," Bateman answered when asked about his present outlook toward his career. "I would like to hit 20 or more home runs," he added.

A lot of people would like to hit 20 or more home runs, of course. But just about everyone agrees John is capable of doing it. The only question is, will he?

In 1964, there wasn't any doubt in Bateman's mind about what he would do. And there wasn't too much doubt in others.

Hadn't Bateman made the team as a raw rookie the year before? He had come to town with one year's professional experience and announced he was going to make the team. And he had set out to become the team's No. 1 catcher, which he accomplished before midseason.

But Bateman had to take the jolting trip back to Oklahoma City in the Pacific Coast League in both 1964 and 1965.

He's Gaining Maturity

It was the kind of experience that takes the edge off a young man's brashness. And that experience, no doubt, is partly responsible for the toned-down Bateman personality. It also may be that John is becoming more mature as the years go by.

"I don't know what to say about the season," Bateman said while quietly sitting at his locker before a game with St. Louis in which Billy Heath was the starting catcher.

"I've gone through this every spring," he said, without elaborating. There was no need to. He had to mean that in the spring, the Astros and their fans look forward to John producing for the Texans in a big way. But not since his rookie year has he even remained around all year.

Again this year, John is starting out as the team's No. 1 catcher.

"I think he's earned a chance at No. 1," Manager Grady Hatton said as Houston passed the midway point in the spring exhibition schedule.

No. 1 in Home Runs

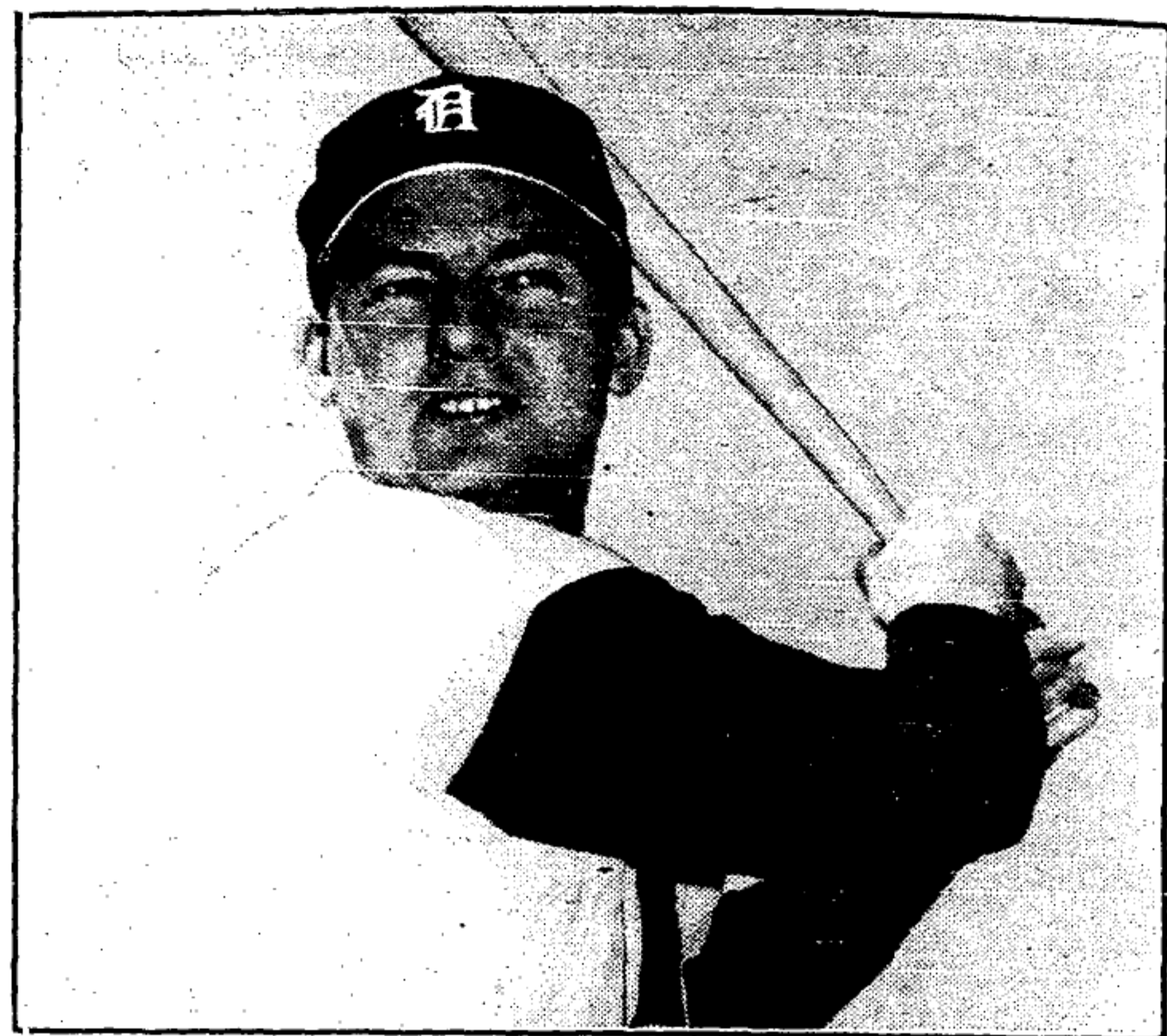
Bateman was leading the team in home runs (four) and hitting in the .280s. He had done a good job behind the plate and had thrown well.

The 225-pound catcher has made progress.

"He can catch and he can throw," Manager Hatton said. "I'm not worried about that."

That means Bateman has to use some of his power at the plate to bring in runs for Houston. Or, paradoxically, he needs to cut down the power in order to use it.

"He's got to cut down on his strikeouts and learn to go to right field with that outside pitch," Hatton said. "And he's been working



AL KALINE . . . A New Lease on Baseball Life

pitching. Maybe the pitching is the strongest part."

This observation carried spring support. The staff ERA dipped under 3.00 in the Grapefruit League and once reached a low of 2.38.

Bill Monbouquette pitched 19 2/3 scoreless innings in Detroit uniform before there was a Yankee breakthrough for a modest two runs.

Denny McLain and Mickey Lolich were quite effective. Joe Sparma lagged behind them in conditioning because of an accident. He caught the index finger of his right hand in a car door.

Kaline has had a lot of fun this spring.

Joe Garagiola was entertaining Detroit players on the bench and Kaline walked by with another announcer to make a tape.

"Still talking, Joe," said Al as he passed.

Repatee With Garagiola

"I hope you get a corn on the foot that is getting better," responded Garagiola in mock disgust.

"I heard what you said about my talking," said Garagiola the next time they met.

"Tell me, Joe," parried Kaline, "why are all catchers bald-headed?" Al nodded to young Bill Freehan, whose hairline is in retreat.

"Catchers have to worry about every pitch," said Garagiola. "You outfield guys only have to work on your hitting."

Kaline is giving the Tigers leadership in other ways. He and Hank Aguirre organized a dinner-dance for all the players and their wives.

"We'd been thinking about it for three years," Al said.

It was quite an affair at the Lakeland Elks Club and the younger players were particularly appreciative.

"It was a wonderful way to let us know we are part of this," said young Mike Kilkenny a few days before he was sent out to the Tigertown base for minor league assignment.

Contractor Foots Bill

As it turned out, Frank Decker, the general contractor who built Lakeland's new Marchant Stadium, joined the player party at the Elks Club and picked up the check.

Kaline and Aguirre hustled around to buy Decker something appropriate before the club departed from Lakeland.

Tiger Tales: Jim Northrup is one of Detroit's most aggressive players this spring and he's happy to be the backup man for Kaline in right field.

Norm Cash was telling Don Demeter about a busload of fans from his home in Eldorado, Tex., going 390 miles to Houston to watch the Tigers play. "I thought stagecoach was the only way to get there from Eldorado," cracked Demeter. . . . Bill Freehan's arm was a little sore and Orlando McFarlane earned the chance to stabilize himself as De-

Behm New Tiger Trainer; Ill Wife Sidelines Homel

DETROIT, Mich. — Bill Behm is a major league trainer with a college degree in business administration.

The 44-year-old Behm has advanced from the farm system to serve as the Detroit trainer this season. He replaces Jack Homel, a 20-year man with the Tigers, who is detained in California by the illness of his wife.

In 1964, Behm served the Tigers for an interim period and they won four games. Detroit is having its best spring record in many years.

"The trainer must be rubbing these guys in the right spots," said Don Demeter.

Behm was born in Pittsburgh and raised in suburban Wilkinsburg. He walks with a limp because of foot surgery as a boy, but this didn't stop him from playing high school basketball at Wilkinsburg.

He attended Wake Forest and served as student manager before his graduation in 1943.

"I helped the trainer tape ankles," said Behm. "Peahead Walker, the football coach, got me my first baseball job."

In 1945, he was the trainer for Norfolk, Va., in the Piedmont League. He served the Yankees at Denver for 13 years and then worked for the Tigers in the same park for two years. He since has been in the Southern League, last year with Montgomery, Ala.

With a business degree, he ought to be a sharpie at ordering tape and supplies at Tiger Stadium.

troit's No. 2 catcher. After 15 Grapefruit League games, McFarlane shared the team RBI leadership with Dick McAuliffe at nine. . . . McAuliffe is having his best spring for power hitting and someone said to him: "Maybe you'll be the All-Star shortstop again." Said McAuliffe: "I don't care about anything if we finish first." . . . Traveling secretary Charlie Creedon promised to buy dinner on the return trip if the Tigers swept the three games on the East Coast. "It's ham sandwiches and chili," Creedon teased after the three wins. Actually he bought \$120 worth of steaks. . . . In 15 games, Dressen stayed with the same outfield combination only two successive days. "I hope it's going to be only one," Charlie said, asking for big years from Kaline, Horton and Demeter. . . . As a clutch hitter, Demeter is still the best. Two of his first three spring RBIs won games for the Tigers. "He's been doing this all his life," observed Dressen.



Dick McAuliffe