

# Phils' Hoerner Thrives on Pressure

By ALLEN LEWIS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—All spring, experts dissecting the Phillies pointed to the pitching as the weakest department on the club. The starting pitching, that is, not the relief pitching, which rated with the very best around last season.

In the early games of the new season, such appraisals have been half right. The relief pitching has been of the same high quality as in 1970, but the starting pitching also has been surprisingly effective.

The Phillies employed five starters—Chris Short, Woodie Fryman, Jim Bunning, Barry Lersch and Rick Wise—in the first week and each held his own, at least.

The same can be said of the relievers. Lefthander Joe Hoerner and righthander Dick Selma appeared to have picked up right where they left off last year, and righthander Darrell Brandon, the 30-year-old former American Leaguer, seems ready to add depth to the "short" relief staff.

Relief pitching is, of course, an art in itself and it takes a certain type of pitcher and person to excel at the job.

For one thing, he must be something of a fatalist, impervious to pressure and convinced that there's only one approach to the job—come in, do your best, let the chips (or the hits) fall where they may and refuse to worry about the consequences.

Hoerner, one of the Phillies' real aces, fits this mold perfectly. Possibly, something in Joe's background helps explain it.

## Good Breaks—Finally

The native of Dubuque, Ia., was just another hard-throwing lefthander until some things began to happen in his favor after a lot of seasons spent bouncing around in the minor leagues.

Hoerner originally was signed by the White Sox and, after five years, was drafted by the Astros' organization in December, 1961. But Paul Richards, then with Houston, was never very much impressed with Joe and, despite what he calls "two super years in Triple-A," he was exposed to the draft at the end of the 1965 season.

"I was in Puerto Rico at the time," Hoerner recalled, "and Frank (present Phillies' Manager Frank Lucchesi), who was managing Caguas, called me the night before the draft and told me the Phillies were going to draft me the next day.

"Well, naturally, I was happy. Ten minutes later the phone rang again. It was Charlie Metro, who was my manager at San Juan. He asked me to come to see him right away. So I went over and Charlie told me the Cardinals were going to draft me.

"I told him about the call from Frank and he said the Cards had first crack because the Phillies had fin-

ished ahead of the Cards that year.

"I went to spring training and I had never impressed anybody in the spring, so naturally I was worried about making the club. But Joe Becker, the pitching coach, and Red (Schoendienst, Cardinals' manager) talked to me.

"They told me they knew I never had a good spring.

"That relaxed me. I always was wild in the spring before then.

## Woodie Injured

"But, if it hadn't been for Hal Woodeshick hurting himself, I might not have made it.

"Woodie was the Cards' lefthanded short man, but the last day of spring training in '66, he pulled a muscle in the rib cage," Hoerner related.

"We went to St. Louis and opened the season. Right away, there was a tight situation with a lefthanded hitter up and Red called for me in a spot where he would normally have used Woodie.

"The first nine innings I pitched, I think I gave up one hit and no runs in six games. If Woodie had been there, I probably would have been used in long relief and might have got hit and been gone.

"Or, if the Phillies had drafted me, the same thing might have happened because they had Darold Knowles as their lefthanded short man then.

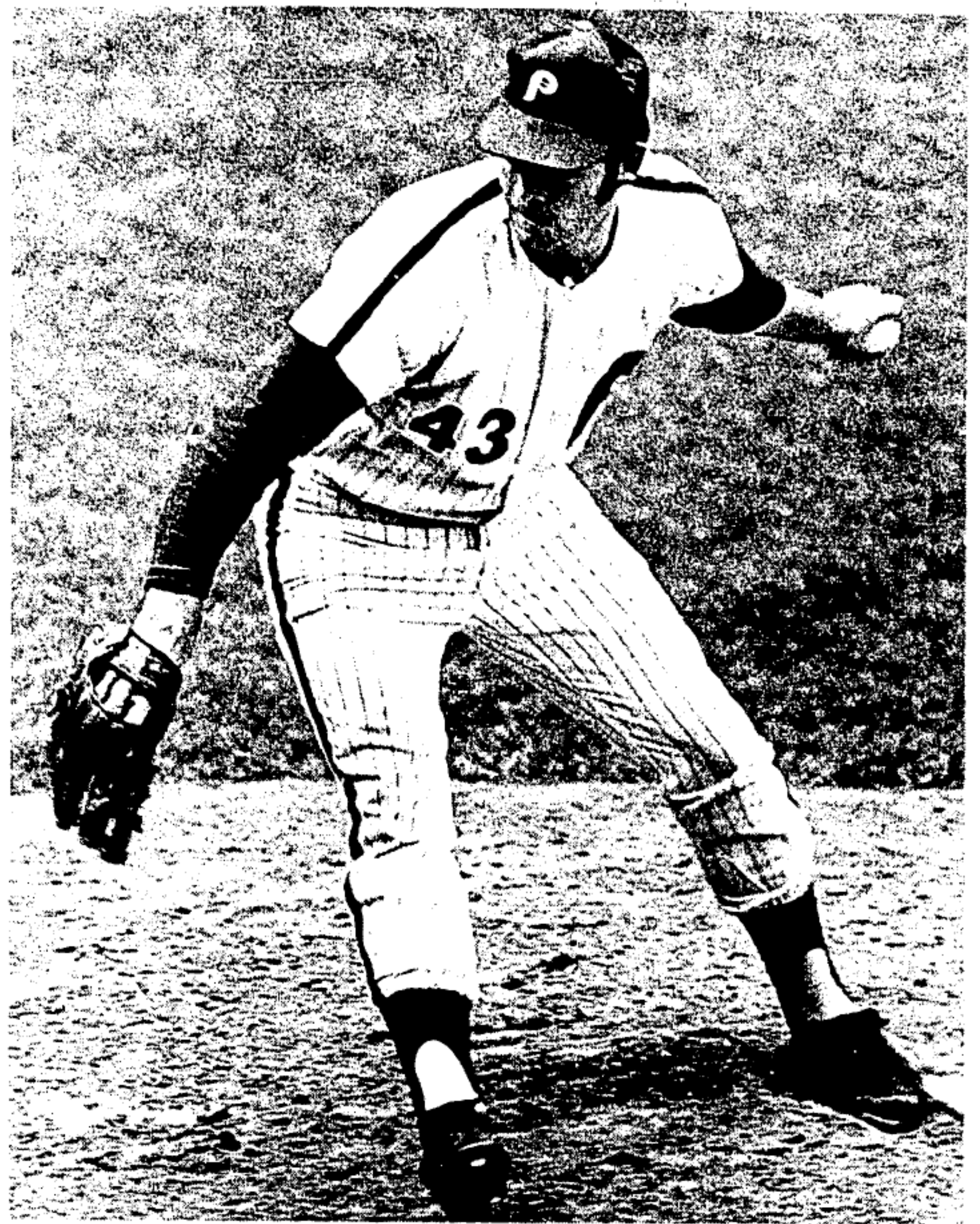
"Instead, I got on two pennant winners, and pitching relief is sure a lot easier with the team winning 90 to 100 games.

## Tips From Veteran

"But Woodeshick really helped me in a lot of ways. We threw a lot the same, although he was more three-quarters and I'm sidearm. We had known each other when we were both at Houston and he used to stand out in the outfield with me and talk about pitching. He talked to me about challenging the hitters in certain situations, how to pitch to certain hitters, how to set up a hitter and all that.

"He helped me so much, and I really owe him a lot, and I've gotten a lot from the game.

"I was very happy with the way things went last year, even though



Joe Hoerner . . . Tough for Two Innings.

I lost a couple of weeks in the middle, when I had that heart spasm, and a couple at the end of the summer with that (broken) finger."

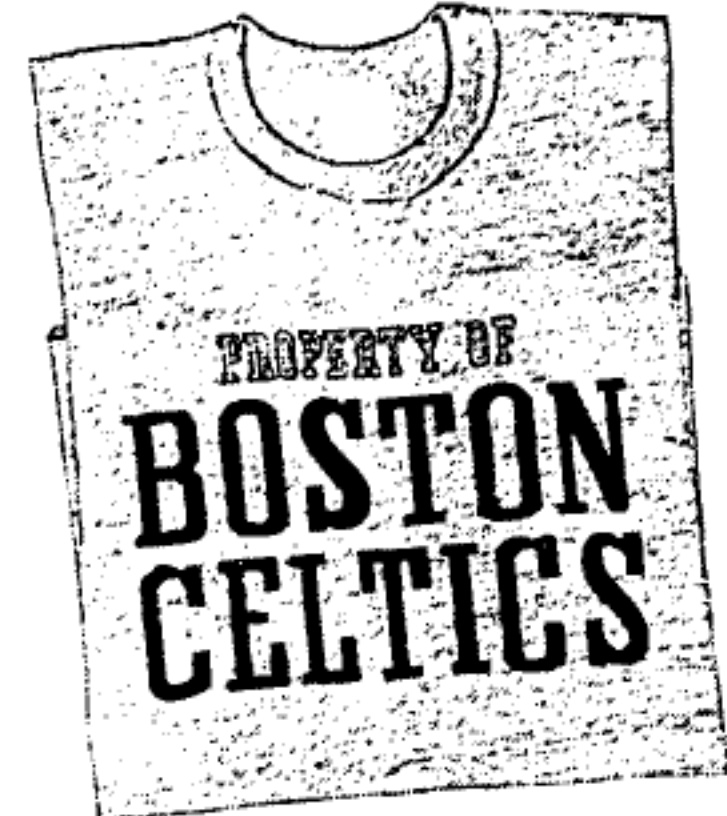
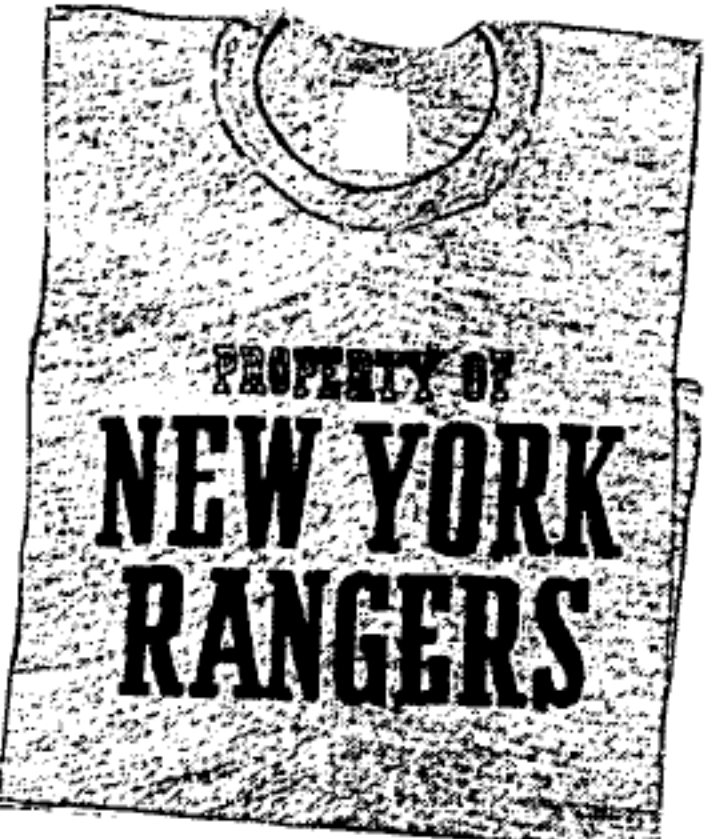
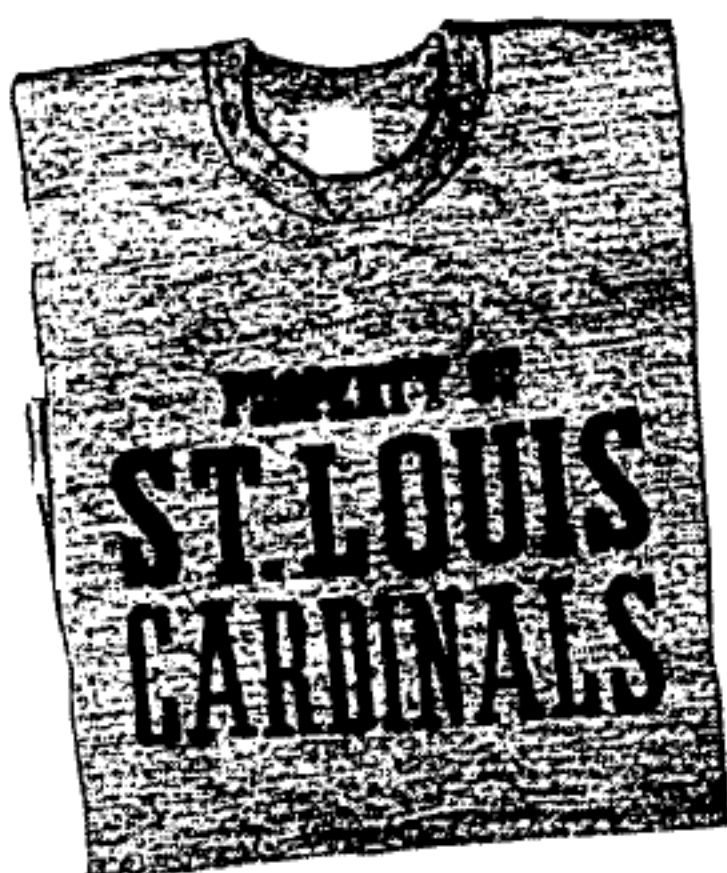
Hoerner is pretty much of a one-pitch pitcher, but his fast ball moves so much when he's right and is difficult to follow because of his slingshot motion. He's as tough as they come—if he doesn't stay in there too long.

"Any time I face hitters a second time in a game, I'm at a disadvantage," Joe said. "I'm losing a little velocity and he's seen me. I can give two good innings—even three—but any time I make more than 30 pitches, I'm going to start getting tired."

**Phillie Fodder:** Hoerner picked up his first save the day new Veterans Stadium opened. He replaced Jim Bunning in the eighth with the Phils ahead, 4-1, two men on base and

one out. Joe walked Ron Fairly to load the bases, then fanned Mack Jones and John Bateman, and breezed in the ninth. . . . Third baseman Don Money collected only two hits in his first five games, but both were homers. The first tied the score in an April 10 victory and the second, a three-run blast, gave the Phillies a lead in a game they finally lost to the Pirates in the 11th, 4-3. . . . Shortstop Lary Bowa, who got away to such a rough start a year ago, hit safely in every game the first week of the season. . . . The Phillies are 0-8 in Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, including two losses there this season. . . . For the first night game at their new stadium, the Phillies drew 19,469, more than the attendance at any night game at Connie Mack Stadium last year until the Expos played a twi-nighter there on June 22.

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# Carlos' Errors Costing White Sox Wins

By EDGAR MUNZEL

CHICAGO, Ill. — After a spectacular start in which they won their first three games, including a sweep over the A's, things haven't been going so well for the White Sox.

And perhaps they have gone worst of all for Carlos May, the heavily-muscled slugger who has been converted from outfielder to first baseman by Manager Chuck Tanner.

When the White Sox suddenly shifted from high into reverse and began a losing streak, May's defensive mistakes stood out like a sore thumb. Indeed, it was Carlos' sore thumb—the stump of a right thumb that was left following an accidental firing-range explosion at a Marine base.

Three of the first four White Sox defeats were traceable to errors by May. Twice he made wild throws that sent costly runs across the plate and once he fumbled a grounder.

Carlos had done all right throwing from the outfield last season, following the August, 1969, mortar-loading mishap. And all during the exhibition campaign he made only one throwing error as a first baseman.

However, under the pressure of making snap throws in the regular season, from first to home in one case and from first to third base in

another, the ball sailed high and wide for Carlos. Was it his thumb?

Carlos insists that his stub of a thumb had nothing to do with those bad throws. He refuses to use that as an alibi. And nobody but Carlos knows how much, if at all, the thumb is a factor in his short, hard throws.

## Plenty of Courage

Nevertheless, this much definitely has been established. The way May came back last season from his injury of the previous August, he had to rank as the most courageous player of 1970.

And with that sort of determination, it would be folly to count Carlos out as a first baseman.

One fellow who definitely won't be Tanner. And he's the only one who counts.

"I believe Carlos has done an amazing job at first base," said the White Sox skipper. "Frankly, I thought that it would take a while for him to make the change because he never had played first base before.

"And that had nothing to do with his brother Lee (Cincinnati first sacker) perhaps crowding him out of the position when they were youngsters. As I understand it, they never played on the same team in high school or anywhere else. Carlos

happens to be five years younger than Lee.

"Yes, Carlos is going to make a few mistakes now and then because of a lack of experience at the position.

"For instance, Carlos occasionally will go too far to his right for a ball when he should let the second baseman take it. Or then again he will be hiking back to the bag when he should be fielding the grounder.

"There also was a mixup once with Mike Andrews while covering first base on a bunt. But these are judgment matters that come with experience.

"I know Carlos has good hands and he's quick. Before he's through, he'll be not just a good first baseman, he could be an outstanding one."

Tanner began the conversion of Carlos to first base in the final two weeks of the season last fall. After undergoing some further corrective surgery on his thumb after the season, Carlos was sent to the Venezuelan Winter League to learn a little more about first basing.

"He really did a fine job," said Bart Johnson, who was a star hurler in Venezuela last winter. "As a matter of fact, he cut down two runners at the plate with great plays."

Obviously, there was no evidence then that Carlos would have trouble with the snap throws. So perhaps May just isn't being gallant in denying that the half-thumb has been handicapping him on throws. Could be that it isn't.

## He Won't Give Up

Anyhow, Carlos isn't about to throw in the towel and retreat to the outfield. He frankly declares he likes first base "because you're in the thick of the action."

May's misadventures in the field haven't bothered his hitting, either. After the first week, he was hitting .308, slightly up from the .281 and .285 averages of his first two years.

**Sox Yarns:** When Luis Alvarado was playing shortstop April 14, rookie shortstop Lee (Bee Bee) Richard finished the ninth inning in center field. Which may be a harbinger of the future. . . . The White Sox knocked down the ticket price to 50 cents for students 18 and under during vacation week, but a cold front moved in and slowed down the turnstiles. . . . After winning the first three, the White Sox went into a batting slump. . . . They totaled only six runs in the next five contests, two of them shutouts. . . . Harry Caray is leaving his mark on White Sox radio fans. He was saluted with a "Holy Cow" banner.