

Mighty McCovey Destroys Self-Doubts

Slugger Masters Outfield Job, Gives Hurlers Jitters

By BOB STEVENS

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. Life is just beginning to be beautiful for Willie Lee McCovey, the gangling, sweet-swinging left fielder of the Giants.

Years ago, Willie wanted to be a sailor and actually enlisted, only to have his mother immediately enlist him by marching to the recruiting office in Mobile, Ala., and pointing out her Willie was not old enough.

His life at sea ending before it had begun, Willie turned toward baseball and the Giants have never regretted it. At times, when he found himself the whipping boy of San Francisco columnists and radio commentators, Willie regretted it, however.

He began to feel he wasn't wanted when the boos of the fans hit his ears. In the spring of 1962, he was taken off first base and converted to an outfielder.

"When they told me I was going to change from first base to the outfield, I thought they were trying to get rid of me," he said. "The manager said he had a set lineup and I felt I wasn't part of it. I didn't think I was a part of anything any more."

But the unwanted feeling and its consequent depression no longer are a part of the big man who became co-holder of the National League home-run championship last year with Milwaukee's Hank Aaron. Each smashed 44.

Confident in the knowledge he had made himself into a presentable left fielder, McCovey manifested the new faith during contract negotiations with Vice-President Chub Feeny this winter.

He wasn't offered what he thought he had earned and he let Feeny know it. In his soft, never-excited way, pithy and always to the point, McCovey announced, "I am a star and want to be paid accordingly."

Landed \$10,000 Pay Hike

He won his point, pocketed an approximate \$10,000 raise to \$36,000 and came to spring training a happy, secure man.

The "new" McCovey was born after one line drive in a World Series, ironically, an out that sealed a Giant defeat. Prior to that smash in 1962, Willie had started at three different positions—left field, right field and first base. He had homered and then he faced with courage the most compelling moment in the history of major league baseball in San Francisco.

There were two outs in the ninth inning of the seventh game, the potential tying run was at third in Felipe Alou and Willie Mays was dancing off second. Yankee Manager Ralph Houk permitted a tiring Ralph Terry, a righthander, to pitch to the lefthanded McCovey with all the marbles at stake.

McCovey got his pitch and whacked the ball on the nose. Before Willie got one stride away from the plate, Yankee second baseman Bobby Richardson grabbed the liner and the Series was over.

Willie's Worries Disappear

"What happened to McCovey in the World Series," insisted Feeny, "is that he suddenly grew up. All of a sudden, he's a grown man who does not mope and isn't worried about playing left field. But most important, he's begun to know that people like him."

Actually, nobody who knows the big man, now starting his sixth year in the majors, ever had anything but affection for him, particularly the writers who travel regularly with the club.

Growing up for McCovey meant surviving, at least emotionally, a boo-filled sophomore season after a break-in year that saw him hit .354 in 52 games in 1959, when he earned Rookie-of-the-Year honors.

McCovey is a sensitive giant of a man who was shoved into an uncomfortable situation involving himself and Orlando Cepeda. Cepeda, who broke into the majors as a charter member of the West Coast Giants, was

24-Game Swatting Streak

By Willie Ties Giant Mark

CASA GRANDE, Ariz.—Although he has been platooned most of his career, outfielder Willie McCovey owns three important San Francisco Giant records and shares an all-time New York-San Francisco Giant mark.

His 13 homers in July is one 'Frisco mark, his 24-game hitting streak last year established another and his 44 homers is the most for a SF lefthanded hitter. His hitting streak brought him even with Polo Grounders Don Mueller and Fred Lindstrom. Mueller hit in 24 straight games in 1955 and Lindstrom turned the trick in the 1930 season.

STEVENS.

the darling of Bay Area fans. The great Mays was, to San Franciscans, still New York. Orlando belonged to San Francisco.

Then, when things began to go sour in 1960 after the 1959 Giants almost swept the pennant, a violent change struck the Giants. Cepeda was sent to left field, McCovey was stationed at first base.

The fans and Cepeda resented this and McCovey felt it.

"The Giants," it was written, "weakened themselves at two positions."

Unfortunately, McCovey made the statement come true. Trying too hard, he made error after error, both in the field and on the base paths. He wound up the 1960 season with a .238 batting average and was gripped by despair.

Wisecracked While in Slump

His sense of humor, however, never deserted him. After it was written that his collapse at the plate was the result of his not being played enough, McCovey said, "I wasn't under-played, I was over-weight."

In 1961, he bounced back with .271. Then came more confusion, doubt and hurt. He was to be a left fielder, a position as strange to him as ballet dancing to a Japanese wrestler.

"They ought to give him a blindfold and a cigarette when they stand him up out there," it was written.

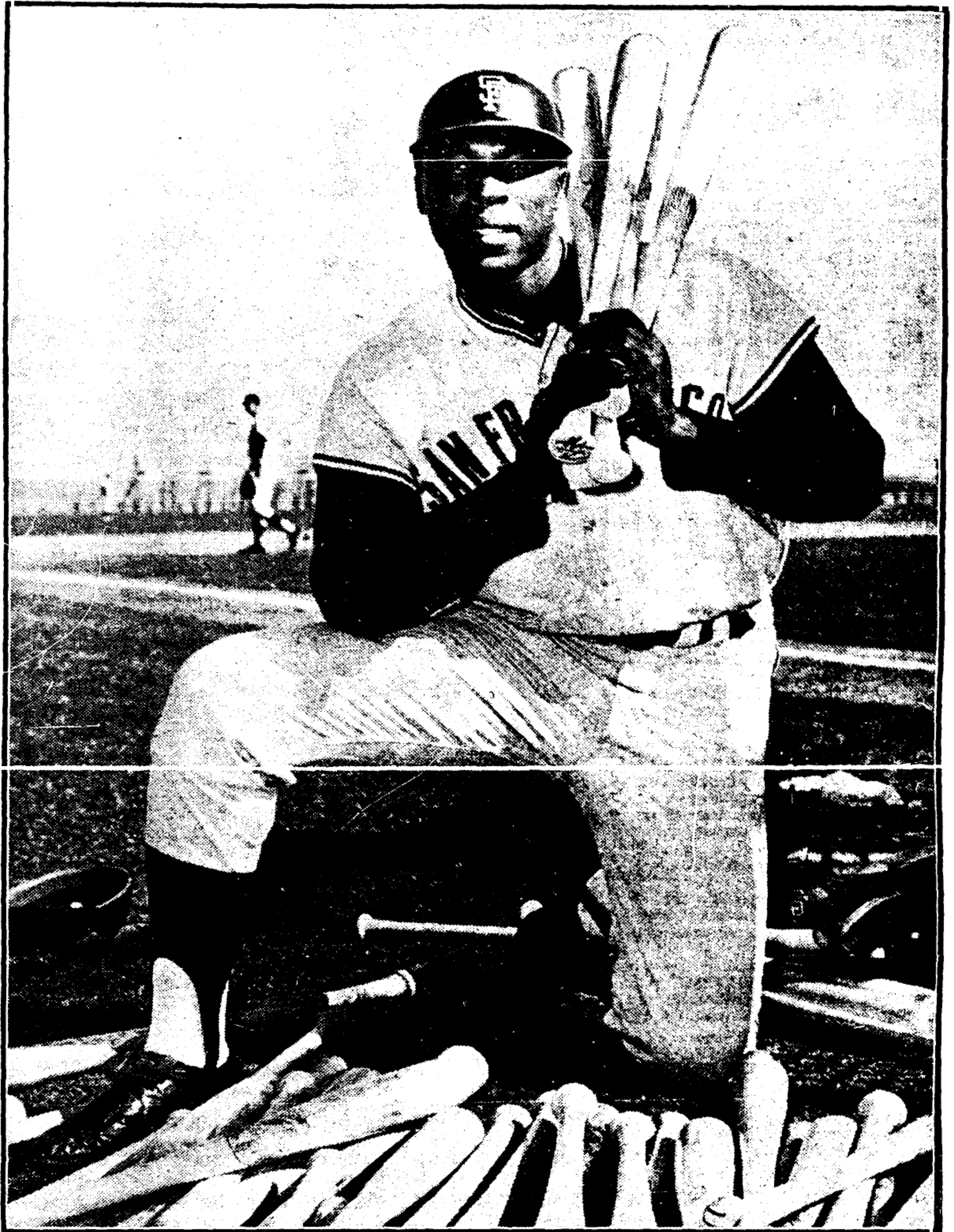
The fans were aghast. Had Alvin Dark gone out of his cotton-pickin' mind?

With Mays helping, exhorting and encouraging, McCovey made himself into an adequate left fielder. He still was not a Pavlova out there and never will be. But he was playing, he was wanted and Lord how he tried!

As his confidence grew, so did his audacity. It became commonplace to see him wave off Mays, just the greatest, and make the catch himself. They'd trot in together, McCovey smiling impishly at Mays and Mays laughing out loud, proud of the big man.

The happy, carefree days of 1959 were back again. The fans were with him again, respecting his ability, admiring his courage. They had begun to realize that McCovey's break-in year had been a freak occurrence. They no longer expected him to hit such pitchers of talent as Robin Roberts as he did in his first big league game—two doubles, two triples.

He hit every fence in sight at old



WILLIE MCCOVEY . . . Slugging Star Who's Convinced He Can Hit.

Seals' Stadium and awoke the next morning to discover some papers already had started writing his life story in serial form.

Then came the bad years, the comeback, the near-miss in the World Series and the home-run championship.

Yet, going into 1963, there was yet another hurdle in his path. He still was being platooned.

"I can't hit southpaws sitting on the bench," he said.

Platoon Setup Planned

During 1963, it was supposed to have been McCovey against righthanders, Harvey Kuenn against lefthanders. But that changed in the opener in Houston. McCovey started because Dick Farrell was on the mound for the Colts.

Farrell was bombed and, with the Giants in front, 6-2, going into the eighth inning, southpaw George Brunet came in.

Dark kept McCovey in. He wanted to learn something. In 1962, Willie had squared off against southpaws only ten times and hit successfully three times, all off Ken MacKenzie of the Mets.

Willie bagged his first of 44 home runs and later singled off Brunet. In a return match in San Francisco, McCovey singled and doubled off Brunet,

'I'll Be Satisfied With 44 Home Runs'

CASA GRANDE, Ariz.—Giant outfielder Willie McCovey's personal goals for 1964 are modest and few. He isn't thinking in terms of breaking Roger Maris' home-run record of 61.

"I'll be satisfied," he says, "if the home runs stay where they are, at 44, and if I can add 25 points to my .280 average of last year."

"If I can't win the home-run championship again this year, I hope Cepeda or Mays do. A thing like that is nice to keep in the family."

and later he singled off Cincinnati lefty Jim O'Toole.

He was 5-for-5 against southpaws. But O'Toole put a stop to that nonsense. He jammed him and struck him out. Willie's reign of terror was braked.

But Dark had learned something. Willie could be trusted to hit against lefthanders, if only certain lefthanders. The old pattern took hold, Kuenn and McCovey platooned.

Through the first days of the 1964 spring training camp, McCovey swung only at southpaws and effectively.

"Are you gaining more confidence against lefthanders?" he was asked.

"I never lost it," he said.

Even a rule change tormented Willie as he plodded the comeback trail.

He spent two years laying off the high, inside fast ball. His average

jumped from .271 in 1961 to .293 in the pennant year of 1962. Then the strike zone was enlarged. The pitch Willie had learned to let sail by for a ball became a strike.

He dropped 13 points last year to .280, but still drove in 102 runs and had a .566 slugging mark.

Giants Acceded to Demands

He had become an established star and he demanded to be paid accordingly. The Giants capitulated.

The Giants are rated a threat to the Dodgers for the 1964 pennant and one of the big reasons is a 6-4 slugger who will bring 210 pounds of productive power to the plate again this season.

The Giants are a pennant threat because they wouldn't quit on McCovey and McCovey wouldn't quit on himself.

Niftier Glove Work '60 Goal of McCovey

N. L. Rookie of Year Surprised He Copped Prized Award Over Wills, Altman, O'Toole

By JACK McDONALD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.

Willie McCovey was surprised when informed by THE SPORTING NEWS that he had been named National League Rookie of the Year, an honor that had been awarded to Orlando Cepeda, a Giant teammate, the previous season.

"I thought Maury Wills of the Dodgers or George Altman of the Cubs would win it," he said. "And that Cincinnati pitcher, Jim O'Toole, had promising stuff."

McCovey says he looks on next season, his first full one in the majors, as a real test. "Coming up in the middle of the season, I got off to a real good start," he said. "I don't expect it will be easy hitting .356 this time, but I'm sure going to try. They say Candlestick Park favors a lefthanded hitter like me, but I always found Seals Stadium a good hittin' park."

The thing McCovey thinks he has to do now is improve his fielding. "When I first started out in the minors, I was considered a better fielder than I was a hitter. So I started to work hard on my hitting and let my fielding slide. I guess I got a little careless. Now I'm going to concentrate on my fielding."

Homer Squared Accounts With Koufax

McCovey couldn't single out any particular pitcher who gave him the most trouble. "Sandy Koufax of the Dodgers was pretty fast," he said. "He struck me out twice one day, but I got a homer off him in that game."

McCovey's 1959 hitting record for 191 at-bats in 52 games was 68 hits, nine doubles, five triples, 13 homers, 38 runs batted in. His average was .356, but he was ineligible for the batting crown. The title went to Hank Aaron of the Braves, who hit one point lower than Willie.

"Watch McCovey go in 1960," was Manager Bill Rigney's comment when he learned the Giants had hit the rookie jackpot two years in succession with Willie's selection.

"With the wind blowing into right field at Candlestick Park, no telling what a lefty swinger of McCovey's talents might hit. He could even be baseball's next 400 hitter. I guess his selection as Rookie of the Year will scotch those rumors about

Major Twirling 'Good to Hit'

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Willie McCovey, winner of the 1959 National League Rookie of the Year award, spent four and one-half seasons in the minors before the Giants brought him up last July 30. He played for Sandersville, Ga., Danville, Va., Dallas, Minneapolis and Phoenix before being called to the majors.

Describing the difference in the pitching, McCovey puts it this way, "I have to say that while they move the ball around on you a lot more in the majors, it's always around the plate, and most of it is real good hitting stuff."

"If you've got a weakness at the plate, they'll find it sooner in the majors and pitch to it better. It's not so much a case of minor league pitchers not being smart, but big league clubs have more coaches to watch for things, and they keep a more complete book on hitters."

Blue-Ribbon Greenie



WILLIE MCCOVEY . . . 'Frisco's Fabulous Frosh.

us trading him to the Yankees. They'll never deal him off, as long as I'm manager of the Giants and still breathing. McCovey stood out in the 1959 rookie class."

Rigney was asked about McCovey's chances of running into a second-year jinx. "He's one guy I'd say who would be immune," said the Giants' manager. "His hitting is fundamentally too sound. He takes a short stride and keeps his head still. That's why he times the ball so well. He stays on top of the ball and doesn't uppercut it."

"McCovey's hands travel with lightning speed for about a foot and a half. He packs the power of a good fighter's right-handed punch. What a picture that swing of his is. One of the finest I've ever seen. And he hits right and lefthanders alike."

They called McCovey "Mr. Lift" after he was recalled from Phoenix of the Coast league, July 30. Willie spent half the night on a plane and was hustled into Andre Rodgers' discarded Giant uniform. The club was desperate. It had lost four straight and was about to fall out of first place.

"I dropped him into a tough spot," Rigney recalled. That afternoon he bashed Robin Roberts for four-for-four—two triples and two singles. All four hits traveled like rockets. He hit every fence in Seals Stadium that day, left, right and center.

No Giant fan will easily forget that debut. Before his timely arrival, the club was in a seemingly hopeless batting slump.

Giants' First-Year Flash 'Let My Fielding Slide'—Sees Next Season as 'a Real Test'

The Giants were beginning to feel the paralyzing grip of discouragement. But McCovey led them to a four-game winning streak.

At the end of 18 at-bats, the son of a Mobile, Ala., railroad worker and seventh child in a family of ten had hit for a total of 18 bases and sported a .500 batting average.

"Beginner's luck," the skeptics scoffed. But he answered by hitting two homers into the right field bleachers, a rare feat for anyone in Seals Stadium since the day it was built, in 1931.

The homers were off Bob Buhl of the Braves. The righthander pitched low and away to him. Willie just bent over like the Leaning Tower of Pisa and promptly rocketed the ball out of the park.

'He Hits It Far, Far Into the Night'

"Hm!" observed Dusty Rhodes. "When that McCovey gets ahold of one, he hits it far, far into the night."

Later in the game, Buhl fed McCovey a fast ball, high and inside. Willie dumped it into the 90-cent seats. "I didn't get too good wood on it," he said after the game.

"We'll find a way to pitch to him," screamed harassed rival managers. "Let him go around the circuit once or twice." But club by club, pitcher by pitcher, McCovey continued to dissect the National League. He was working on a hitting streak of 22 straight games well into September, when the Pirates finally stopped him.

But even when the Giants fell apart toward the last, the McCovey bubble didn't burst. His bat was a prime factor in keeping the club in first place until the final eight days of the race.

McCovey had to be good to take the first base job from Cepeda. If he was no Hal Chase around the bag, Willie was more than adequate as a fielder. He made the tough plays, but had trouble with slow grounders with men on base. Late in the season he corrected the bad habit of taking his eyes off the ball and letting them wander to where the runners were, to see if there was a chance for a double play.

But if he missed a few grounders, the six-four McCovey never missed a thrown ball within his reach. That's why they hung the handle "Stretch" on him. He has more range than Cepeda.

McCovey Singles as Salesman

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Although he was a .356 hitter in the National League last season, Willie McCovey, winner of the National League award as Rookie of the Year, has been a puny hitter in the car salesman's league.

Working full time for the Ellis Brooks car firm here in the off season, Willie finally sold his first car, November 19. The buyer was a dentist who declared the rookie of the year shouldn't go hitless in any league.

If McCovey can just sell a few more cars before December 1, he plans to go home to Mobile, Ala., to visit his mother over the Christmas holidays.

McCovey had expected to go into the Army after the 1959 season was over. "But they told me they wouldn't want me until 1960," he said.

Giants' McCovey Unanimous Pick for Rookie Prize

Slugging First Sacker Third Stoneham Player to Take N. L. Accolade Since '51

By HY HURWITZ

BOSTON, Mass.

Willie (The Stretch) McCovey, the spectacular first baseman of the Giants, was chosen unanimously as the National League's Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

The McCovey victory marked the second year in succession that a Giant first baseman was the winner. A year ago the award went to Orlando Cepeda. Ironically, McCovey pushed Cepeda off first base and into the outfield when Willie was brought up from the Giants' Phoenix (Coast) farm on July 30.

McCovey made a sensational start in the majors, connecting for four consecutive hits in his first game. His hitting led the Giants to a surge which kept them in first place until the final week of the season.

The 21-year-old McCovey, a native of Mobile, Ala., batted .356 in 52 games. While it topped by one point the average of Hank Aaron of the Braves, the league leader, Willie was ineligible for the batting-title because he went to bat only 191 times.

When he joined the team, the Giants were leading the N. L. by one-half game. His hot start put them in front by four games on August 23, less than a month after McCovey moved into the lineup.

McCovey at one time compiled a 22-game batting streak, one of the longest

The Sporting News Started Rookie-of-Year Picks in '46

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Selection of rookies of the year was inaugurated by THE SPORTING NEWS in 1946 when Del Ennis of the Phils was cited. THE SPORTING NEWS picked Jackie Robinson of the Dodgers the following year and in 1948 honored Richie Ashburn, speedy outfielder of the Phillies.

The Baseball Writers Association of America began making selections in 1947 and also picked Robinson. Al Dark of the Braves won in 1948.

The later rookie picks follow:

THE SPORTING NEWS

Roy Sievers, Browns, and Don Newcombe, Dodgers, 1949; Whitey Ford, Yankees (combined selection), 1950; Minnie Minoso, White Sox, and Willie Mays, Giants, 1951; Clint Courtney, Browns, and Joe Black, Dodgers, 1952; Harvey Kuenn, Tigers, and Junior Gilliam, Dodgers, 1953; Bob Grim, Yankees, and Wally Moon, Cardinals, 1954; Herb Score, Indians, and Bill Virdon, Cardinals, 1955; Luis Aparicio, White Sox, and Frank Robinson, Reds, 1956; Tony Kubek, Yankees; Ed Bouchee, Phillies, and Jack Sanford, Phillies, 1957; Albie Pearson, Senators; Ryne Duren, Yankees; Orlando Cepeda, Giants, and Carl Willey, Braves, 1958.

BASEBALL WRITERS

Roy Sievers, Browns, and Don Newcombe, Dodgers, 1949; Walt Dropo, Red Sox, and Sam Jethroe, Braves, 1950; Gil McDougald, Yankees, and Willie Mays, Giants, 1951; Harry Byrd, Athletics, and Joe Black, Dodgers, 1952; Harvey Kuenn, Tigers, and Junior Gilliam, Dodgers, 1953; Bob Grim, Yankees, and Wally Moon, Cardinals, 1954; Herb Score, Indians, and Bill Virdon, Cardinals, 1955; Luis Aparicio, White Sox, and Frank Robinson, Reds, 1956; Tony Kubek, Yankees, and Jack Sanford, Phillies, 1957; Albie Pearson, Senators, and Orlando Cepeda, Giants, 1958.

of the year by a major league performer.

Willie also is the third member of the Stonehams to win the award since the BBWAA inaugurated it in 1949. Willie Mays copped the accolade in 1951 and Cepeda last year.

Curtailed Cactus Trail Seen Jazzing Up Giant Juggernaut

Rig Likes 'Open' Mondays; 'Will Give Us Chance to Go Over Some Mistakes'

By JACK McDONALD
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.



Bill Rigney

The Giants, keeping in step with the trend to shorter spring training seasons and less travel, will play only 26 exhibition games next spring and all of them are scheduled in Arizona and California.

In the past, the Giants always played from 35 to 40 spring games, including an extended pre-season tour through the South and Midwest with the Indians as their steady traveling companions.

Why the changes? For one thing, the American League will open its regular season a week later than the National, which rings the bell on April 12. In addition, Horace Stoneham in recent years has felt that the spring training grind has been much too long. As for the swing east of the Rockies, transportation costs have increased and attendance has dropped off at some points along the exhibition trail. Under the revised program, the exhibition season will get under way for the Giants on Saturday, March 12, just a month before the regular season starts. The Giants again will have the Indi-

Indians First, Dodgers Last on 'Frisco's Exhibition List

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—The Giants' 26-game exhibition schedule, with all games at Phoenix unless voted otherwise, follows:

March 12—Cleveland at Tucson; 13—Cleveland; 15—Red Sox; 16—Cubs; 17—Red Sox at Scottsdale; 18—Cubs at Mesa; 19—20—Cleveland at San Diego; 22—Cubs; 23—Cleveland at Tucson; 24—Red Sox at Scottsdale; 25—Cleveland; 26—Cubs at Mesa; 27—Red Sox; 28—Cubs; 30—Cubs at Mesa; 31—Cleveland at Tucson; April 1—Red Sox; 2—Red Sox at Scottsdale; 3—Cubs; 5—Cardinals; 6—Dodgers; 7—Red Sox; 8—Dodgers at Bakersfield; 9—Dodgers at Fresno; 10—Dodgers at Sacramento.

ans, Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs as their regular playing partners, with the Dodgers and Cardinals joining up for late exhibition games.

The Giants and Dodgers, touring together for the first time, will meet in Phoenix, April 6, then swing up the San Joaquin Valley in California to close out their exhibition season by playing in Bakersfield, April 8; Fresno, April 9, and Sacramento, April 10, just two days before the unveiling of Candlestick Park as the new San Francisco home of the club.

The Giants will face the Indians, Red Sox and Cubs seven games each, the Dodgers four and the Cardinals once.

Since 1934, the Giants traditionally traveled through the South and Midwest on an extensive tour with the Indians. This rivalry always was friendly and keen, particularly in the years when Carl Hubbell and Bob Feller duelled. Relations between the

Park Contractor to Replace Infield, Repair Outfield at Request of Stoneham

Giants and Indians remain as cordial as ever, but circumstances compel a schedule curtailment.

The Indians will open their regular season in the East, whereas the Giants launch theirs in San Francisco. Thus, with no mutually agreeable tour schedule possible, each team had to make its own arrangements.

Giants to Open at Home

Manager Bill Rigney is pleased with the new exhibition schedule. The Giants are not due in Phoenix to start training until February 29 and their first exhibition game is March 12. But Rigney thinks two weeks are sufficient to get his youthful club ready.

"I particularly like the breaks in the schedule, giving us four Mondays open," he says. "This will give us a chance to go over some of our mistakes. And while we always enjoyed our long exhibition rivalry with the Indians, I think our club will benefit by playing all its games in Arizona and California. Thus we'll avoid that tour east of the Rockies where the early spring climate often produced an epidemic of colds just about the time the season was ready to start."

In past years, an early squad of Giants reported for preliminary conditioning at the Buckhorn Spa, in Mesa. For the present, Rigney is holding these plans in abeyance, although he may de-

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Giants Cling to Big Stretch's Strong Bat

McCovey Key Man in Flag Bid With Consistent Clouts

By BOB STEVENS

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.

When someone mentioned the name Willie McCovey to Herman Franks, manager of the Giants, Herman spoke in awe.

"Man," he said. "What a year that big guy is giving us. Where would we be without him? And how very far we've gone with him."

There is not a Giant in whom Franks, the potential Manager of the Year, hasn't great pride.

Each, during one of baseball's most exciting pennant drives, has served the cause devotedly. There is not a man Franks would dare single out as the one who has done the most. For when you think of what the incomparable Willie Mays has done, and Juan Marichal, Frank Linzy, Hal Lanier, jolting Jim Ray Hart, Tom Haller, Lenny Gabrielson, peppery Dick Schofield or Bob Shaw, none can be said to have done more than the other.

Yet, when McCovey is mentioned and by the way Franks responds, you get the idea that maybe he thinks McCovey has given a little bit more, overcome more. For never until this year has the big man from Mobile, Ala., enjoyed such an extended period of peace and confidence.

After he was named Rookie of the Year in 1959, Stretch's campaigns have had great moments, deep periods of depression, public censure, physical woes, monumental slumps, unforgettable home runs. But consistency was not his. Not until this year.

Writers Tossed Barbs

Since 1961 and through 1964, McCovey didn't know if he was an outfielder or a first baseman. Some writers persistently harpooned him for his defensive lapses. When the bat lapsed, too, they advocated trading or selling him.

There will always be Orlando Cepeda, they reasoned . . . unreasonably. This year, there was no Orlando Cepeda. For a while this spring, it was feared there'd be no Willie McCovey, either. Cepeda's knee failed to respond to winter surgery for correction of a ligament problem and McCovey reported to spring training hobbling on bad feet, a hangover from the 1964 campaign.

Franks gave Willie his head, letting him work himself into shape. The Giants bought him specially-de-

Willie Started at 3 Different Posts in '63 World Series

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Willie McCovey, the Giants' mountainous first baseman, established a World Series record in 1962 against the New York Yankees when he started three games at three different positions.

Before it was over and second baseman Bobby Richardson had speared his unforgettable seventh game, last-out, line drive, McCovey had started games in left field, right field and first base.

signed spikes to cushion his bad arches and McCovey worked hard. At times, he could barely make it to the park. To run out an infield roller was sheer agony.

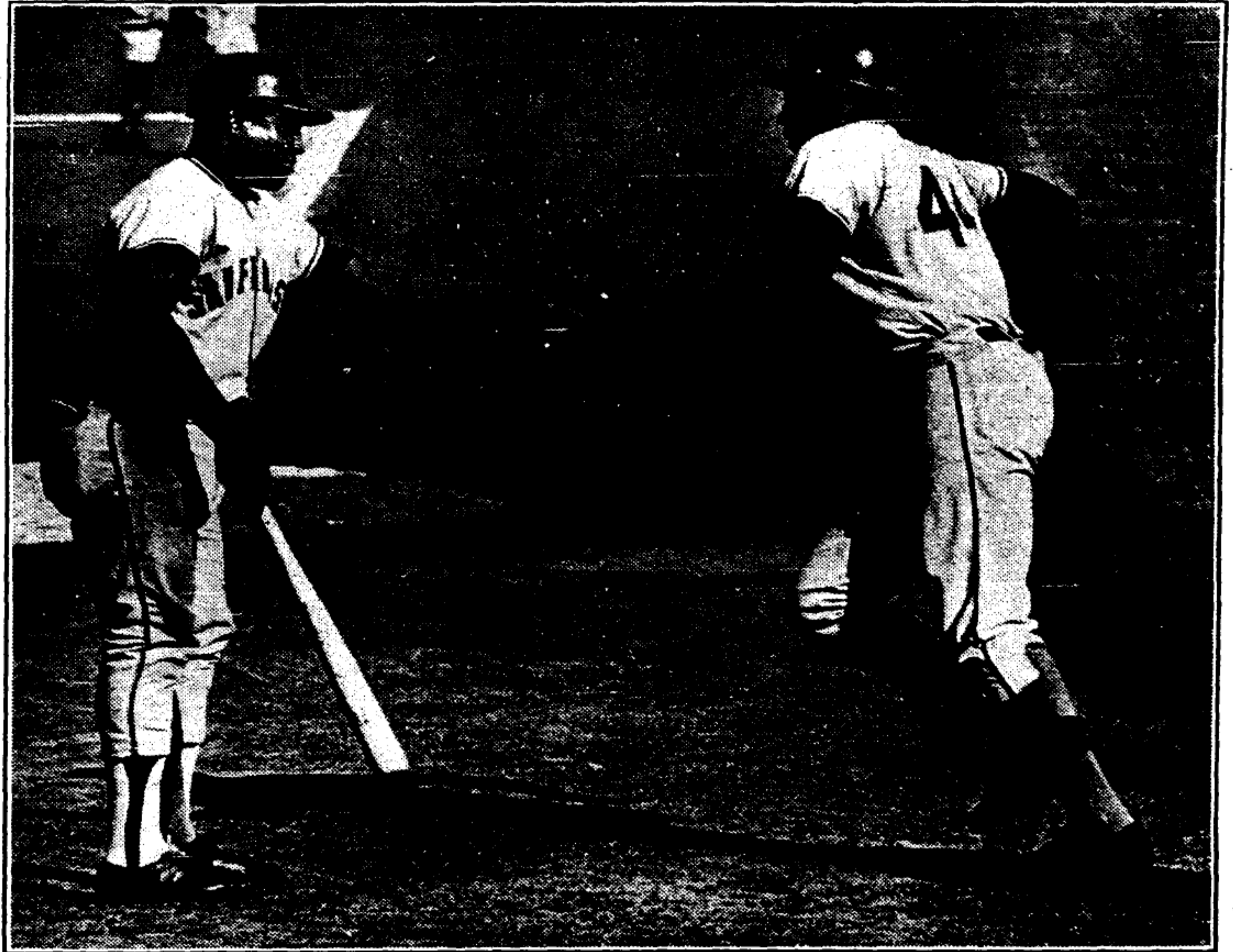
But, uncomplainingly and almost all alone, McCovey made it into opening day.

He has been a factor ever since, in spite of those feet that still betray and bother him.

He has not suffered any prolonged slumps. With 15 games to play, he had 36 home runs, had driven in 85, scored 88, and had consistently played as fine a first base as any one in the National League.

Ten times in the first 146 games he drove in the standup run, nine times with home runs. Twelve times he has carried the winning run across and six of those were when he cracked home runs.

Of the first 146 games, McCovey appeared in 144 of them, and one



JIM RAY HART extends a hand to Willie McCovey after the Giant first baseman hit a home run in Milwaukee. Both McCovey and Hart hit

for the circuit during the Giants' September 17-19 series against the Braves, which the San Franciscans won, two games to one.

of them was a memorable pinch-hit against the Cubs in Candlestick Park, September 10. The Giants were tied in the sixth. The bases were loaded and Ted Abernathy, the man with the accentuated delivery whom Willie seldom has hit, was on the mound. McCovey hit it out of sight, his third grand-slam since coming out of the minors in mid-1959.

Four Hits Off Roberts

McCovey, then 21, broke into the majors against Philadelphia's Robin Roberts. He doubled twice, singled twice, hitting all fences, each drive a roaring one that made him almost an immediate legend to the fans in old Seals' Stadium that day.

He finished the season at .354 with 13 home runs in 52 games. But by the end of the 1959 season, in which the Giants blew the pennant even though they were two ahead of the field with ten games to play, Willie was fading. The long, lonesome travail of Willie Lee McCovey had begun.

In 1960, he dropped wretchedly to .238 in 101 games and during the winter denied that his slump was brought about because he wasn't played enough.

"I wasn't underplayed," he said. "I was overweight."

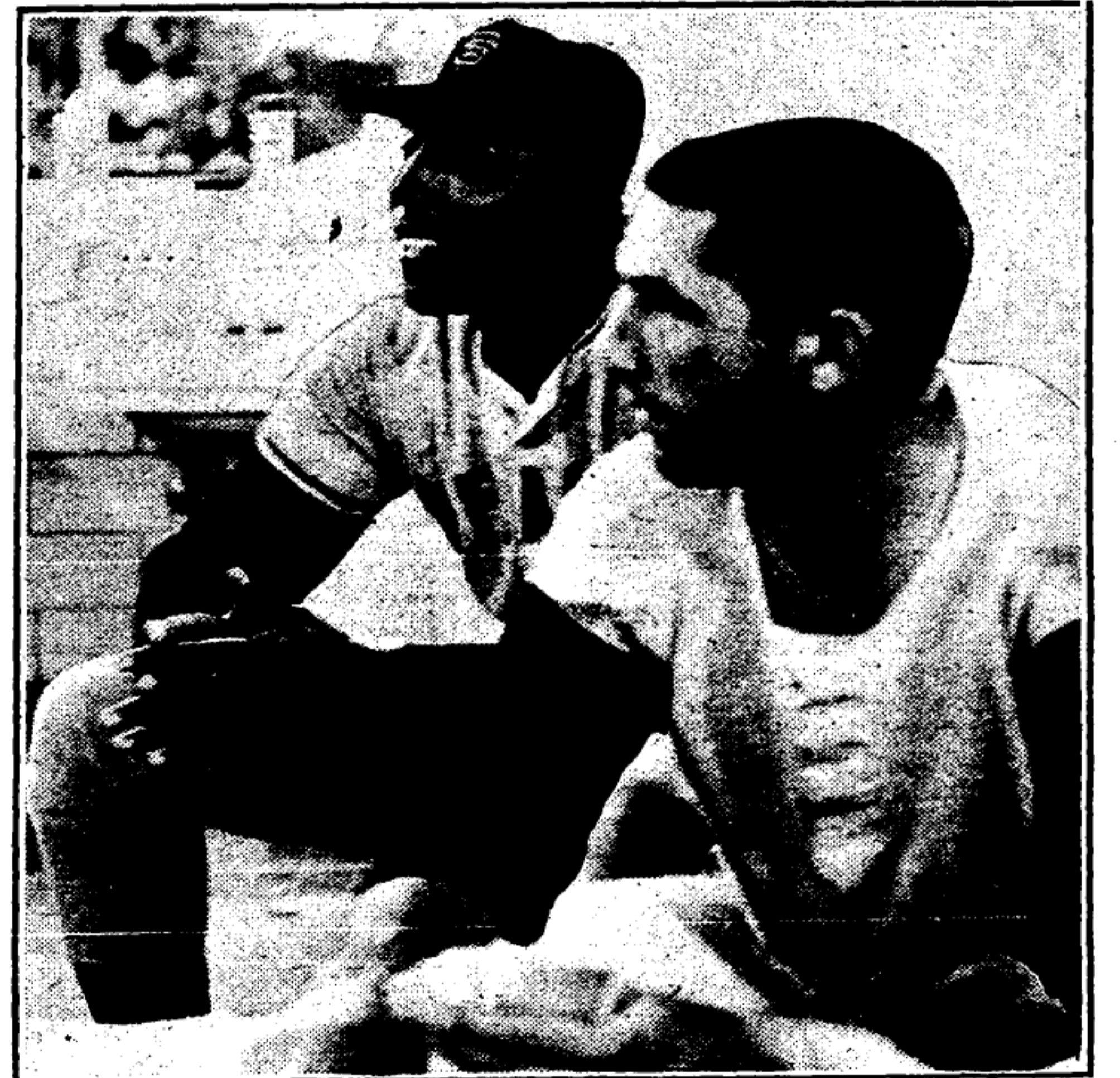
His improvement was only slight in 1961, .271, with 18 home runs. But in 1962, platooning often with Cepeda at first base and in the outfield, McCovey, never completely contented under Manager Alvin Dark, fought back. He hit .293, but bagged only 20 home runs and drove in only 54 runs.

Richardson Caught Liner

Yet, the Giants won the pennant and McCovey almost won the World Series with a two-out, ninth-inning, seventh-game shot off New York Yankee Ralph Terry that second baseman Bobby Richardson caught and San Francisco never will forget.

Nor will Terry, nor Manager Ralph Houk, who allowed the right-handed Terry to pitch to the left-handed McCovey. Only by inches did it miss from becoming an historic managerial blunder.

Asked during that winter how it



WILLIE, who had been kibitzing Jim Davenport in a clubhouse card game, stops to quip with a passerby.

felt to be on a pennant winner, McCovey said, "I feel proud to walk down the street."

The next year, 1963, Willie tied Hank Aaron for the home-run championship at 44, averaged .280, and by sheer determination and application became a journeyman outfielder.

However the Giants finished third, winning 15 fewer games than they did the previous year when they brought home 103 victories and the pennant.

Then came the season of almost total breakdown, of frustration, discouragement, anger. McCovey went stale, hit only .220 in 130 games, and wound up the season monumentally unhappy with management. Although

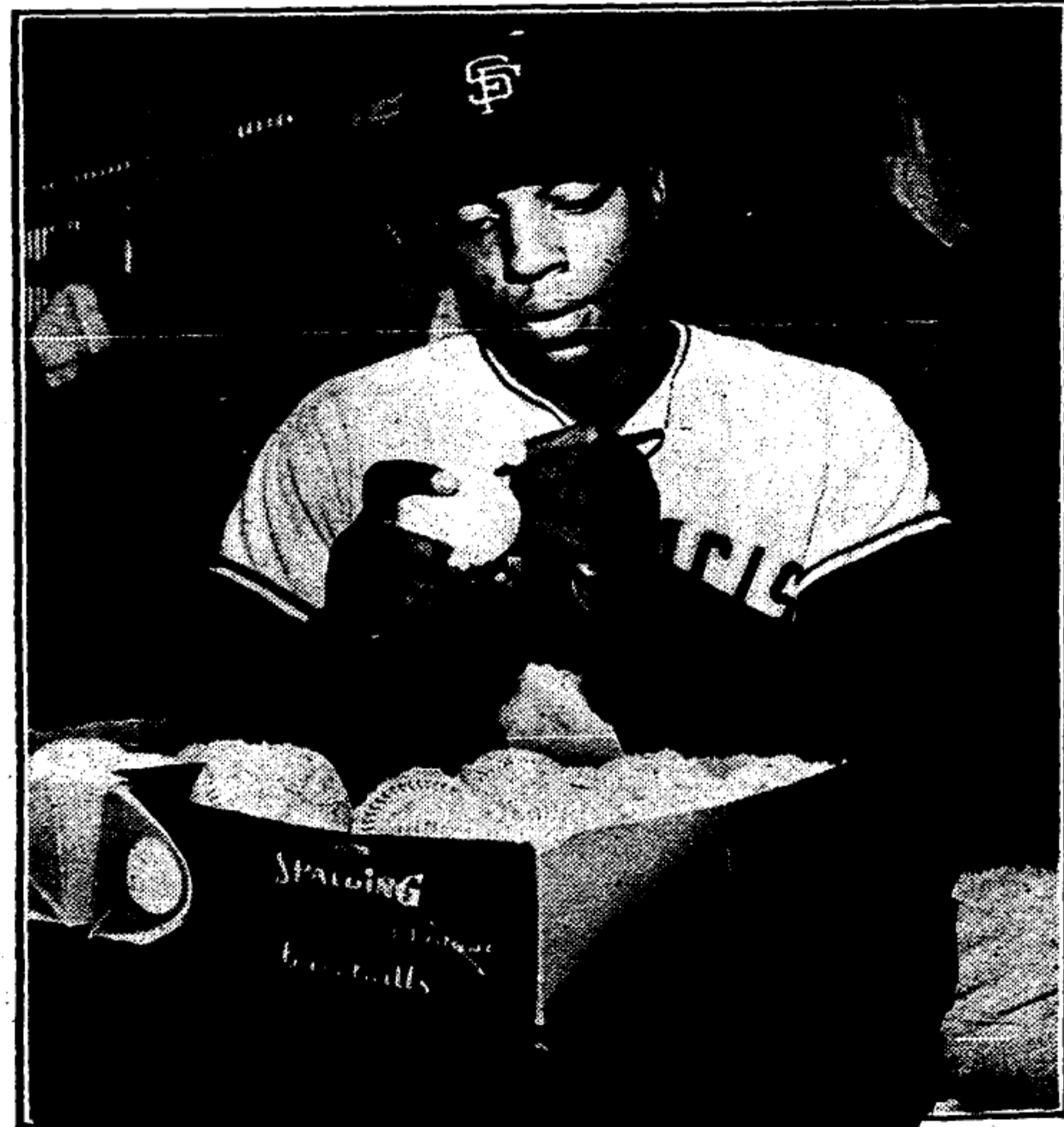
his feet now were beginning to figuratively cry out in protest, Willie played—outfield, first base, wherever the whim struck Dark. He broke down.

His Feet Were Aching

"It was," said McCovey later in painful retrospect, "those last four series—in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Los Angeles. Man, those fields are HARD, like airports. That was when my feet began killing me. And they still do hurt, although not nearly as bad as they did this spring."

After the can was tied to Dark, who indiscreetly popped off to a

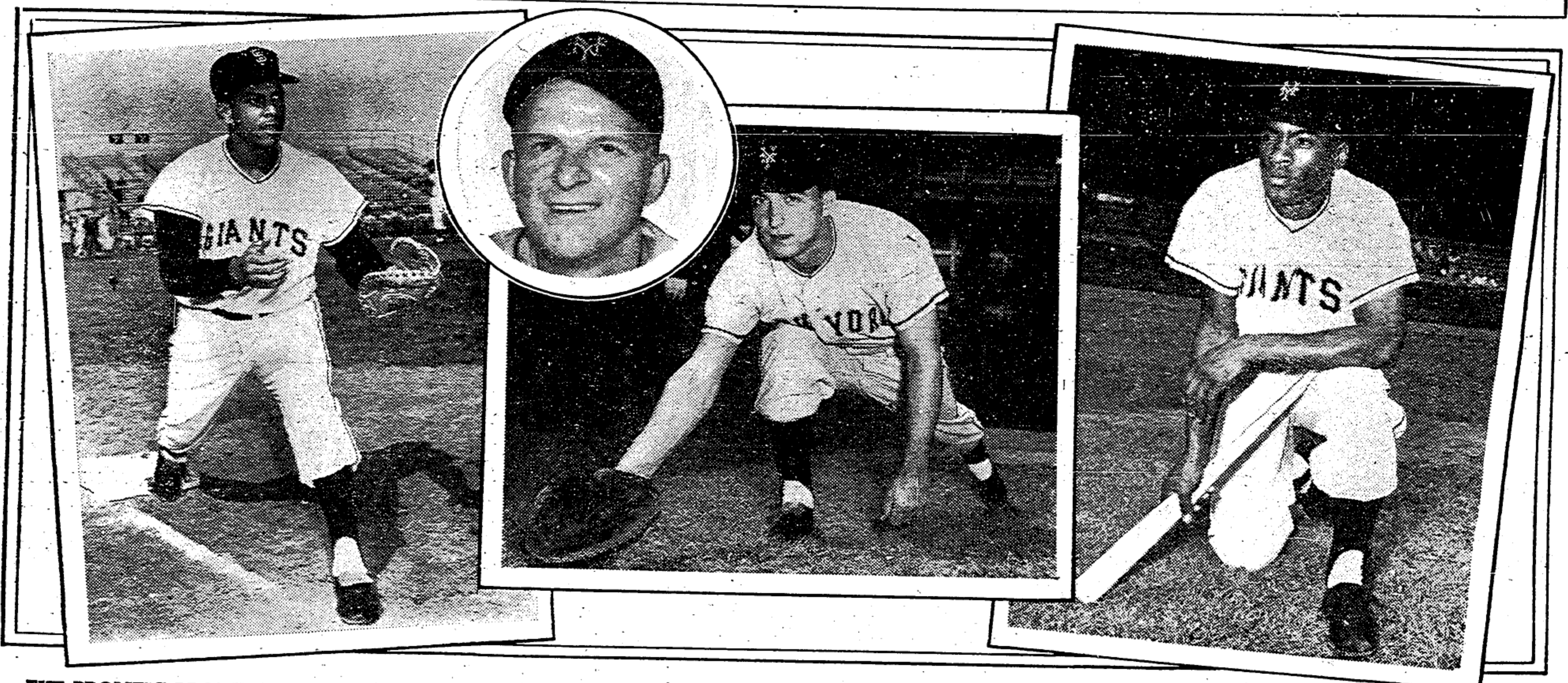
(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)



PRIOR TAKING THE FIELD, McCovey pumps his signature on a box of baseballs in the Giants' clubhouse.

McCovey Newest of Giant Stars at First

Bright Lights on Horace Stoneham's Galaxy of Gateway Twinklers



THE PROLIFIC PRODUCTION of the Giants first basemen is illustrated by the four above who are now active in the majors. At left, Orlando Cepeda, rookie of the year in '58 for first base performance, moved from the sack to third base and then to out-

field to bolster club's power, with Rookie Willie McCovey playing first base. Striding for catch is Gail Harris, a rookie, of '55, traded to Detroit in 1958. In circle is Whitey Lockman, who first appeared in a New York uniform in 1945 and who

sparked '51 and '54 pennant drives from first base. Lockman traded to Baltimore last spring, recently went to Cincinnati for Walt Dropo. At right is Bill White, now with the Cards. A brilliant rookie in '56, he lost his job to Cepeda while in the service.

Kelly, Terry and Lockman in Big Parade of Sparklers

Memphis Bill Hit .341 for Career, Piloted Club '32 to '41; Ewing, Merkle and Mize Among Notables at the Hassock

By JOE KING

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Once again, the Giants have come up with another standout first baseman. He is Willie McCovey, 21-year-old rookie, who was called up from the Giants' Phoenix farm club, July 30, at a time when he was leading the Pacific Coast League in hitting with a lusty average of .372.

The youngster broke in with a bang, personally winning the first two games, going nine for 18, with a pair of triples and doubles, a homer and five RBIs in his four-game debut, all Giant wins, ending a slump that had reached four straight defeats. In an effort to curb the tailspin, Manager Bill Rigney had inserted Willie into his lineup just a few hours after he had arrived by plane from Phoenix, following an urgent summons.

In his first appearance, Willie slammed two triples and a pair of singles off Robin Roberts in four times at bat and played the star role in the 7 to 2 defeat of the Phillies. He hit safely to right and left and one of his triples bounced off the center field scoreboard.

That victory, incidentally, enabled the Giants to go back into first place, as the Dodgers, who were temporary occupants of the top-rung, lost, 5 to 4, in 12 innings to Pittsburgh.

Three Hits in Third Game

The next night, young McCovey came through again, this time delivering an eighth-inning single off Southpaw Harvey Haddix that drove in Willie Mays with the tie-breaking run that gave the Giants a 4 to 3 triumph.

McCovey continued blasting away with his bat, banging two doubles and a single in his third game with the Giants. August 1, with the single starting a five-run, seventh-inning outburst which resulted in a 9 to 5 victory over the Pirates. And Willie hit a two-run homer in the Giants' 5 to 3 verdict, August 2, against the Bucs.

On August 5, the new first baseman slammed two homers to help submerge the Braves, 4 to 1.

To make room for McCovey, Rigney shifted his erstwhile first sacker, Sophomore Orlando Cepeda, to third base. The 21-year-old, 200-pound slugger from Puerto Rico had compiled a .312 average and blasted 25 homers as a rookie last year when the versatile youngster caught on faster than any of the former Giant first base defenders. Even 400-hitting, Hall of Famer Bill Terry had

Present Pilot Rigney Played First for One Game in '52

NEW YORK, N. Y.—So many persons have played first base for the Giants that it may come as no surprise that the present manager, Bill Rigney, also worked there.

It was for just one game in 1952, but the chore gave Bill a cleanup of the infield, because he also performed at second, short and third.

required seasoning, and George (High Rockets) Kelly, hero of John McGraw's four-straight pennant splurge, had to be broken in slowly.

Rigney sent out an SOS for Willie when the Giants hit the skids in July, blowing their grip on first place and dropping back of the Dodgers in the flag race. Disregarding Cepeda's ability as a first sacker, McCovey was moved in to take his place, July 30. In the shakeup, Cepeda went to third base and Jim Davenport to the bench. Seven days later, Cepeda was in the outfield and Davenport was back at third.

McCovey is the latest in a prolific line going back to Roger Connor, the original Giant first sacker in 1883, and which presents a cast which calls on the whole gamut of descriptive adjectives. There have been great Giant first basemen, bad ones, daffy ones, controversial ones—and so on ad infinitum. There always have been plenty of them, and McCovey and Cepeda today are only two of five players now active who have been Giant first basemen. Bill White, hitting well above .300 for the Cards, was a star-spangled rookie in 1956 before going into service.

Fogel Used Hill Star Matty at First Base in 1902 Game

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The oddest story by far in the history of Giant first basemen was the stationing of the great pitcher, Christy Mathewson, at the initial sack in 1902.

Mathewson as a rookie in 1901 had won 20 games, lost 17, with 215 strikeouts with a seventh-place club. Furthermore, he had pitched a no-hit, no-run game against St. Louis. Nevertheless, Horace Fogel, who was then managing the Giants, decided Matty might better be a first baseman when he slumped in '02, even though Dan McGann and Joe Doyle were on the squad and qualified to play the position.

Pretty soon John McGraw took over the Giants and there was no more nonsense with Matty.

Whitey Lockman, a hero of the 1951 and 1954 pennant campaigns, is now with the Reds. Gail Harris, who had several shots at the job, was traded to Detroit last year.

The almost endless variety of the breed is illustrated by listing comparatively few of the first-turn tenants for the Giants: Roger Connor, Buck Ewing, Dan McGann, Fred Tenney, Fred Merkle, Walter Holke, Hal Chase, Sambo Leslie, Zeke Bonura, Babe Young, John Mize, Danny Gardella and Johnny McCarthy.

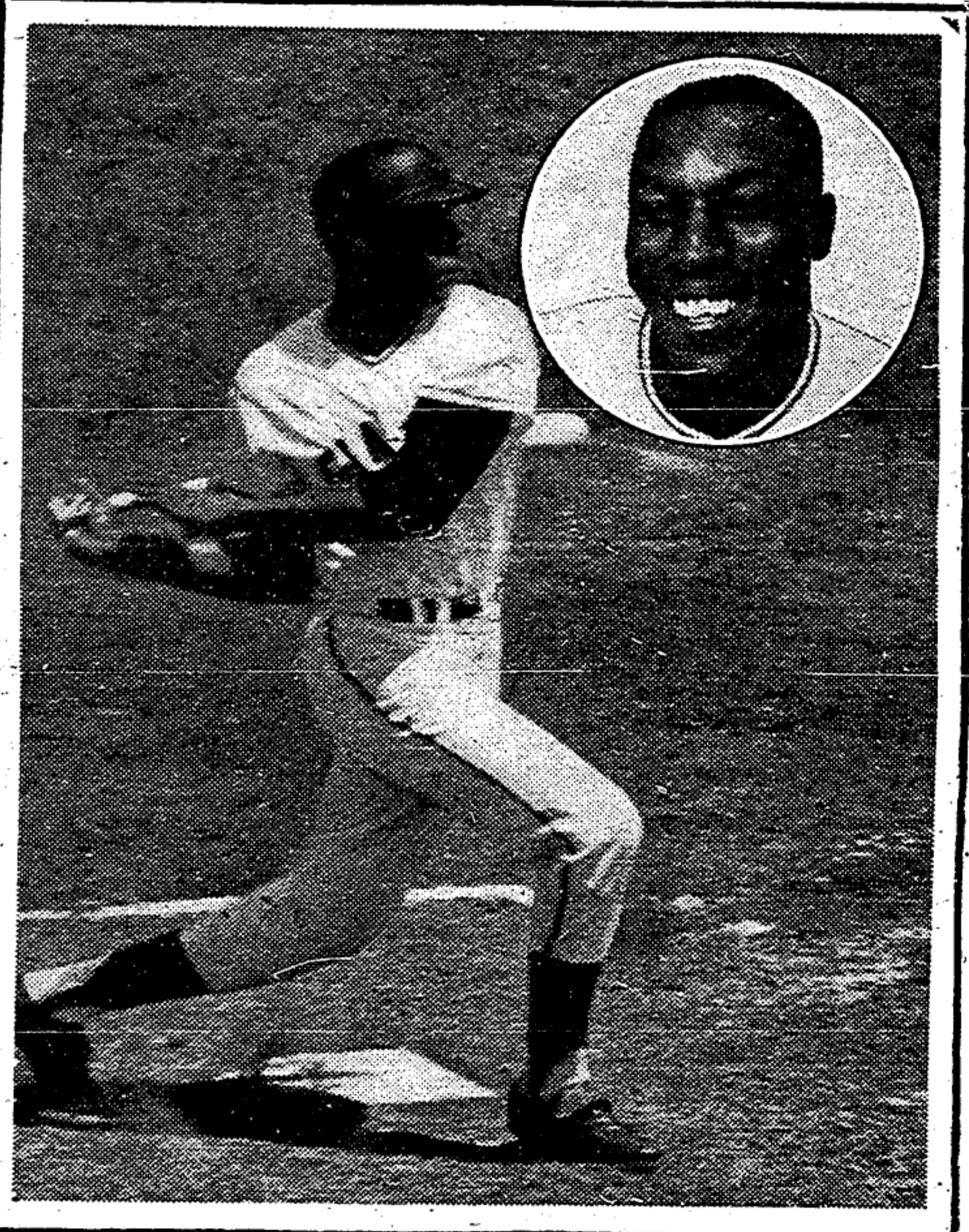
Connor Gave Giants Nickname

The story began with Connor in '83. He was a tall, strapping man and was among the giants in fact who gave the team the nickname of Giants under Jim Mutrie, first manager. Connor is one of the forgotten players in consideration for the Hall of Fame, but he played in 1,981 games over 18 years and averaged .326. He was a Giant for 11 years.

Ewing, who is in the Hall of Fame as one of the most brilliant players of earlier times, and a master of all positions on the diamond, also was a big leaguer for 18 years, and a Giant for ten. Ewing, along with Connor, was among the Troy, N. Y., players who were moved to New York City to establish the Giant franchise there in '83. However, Ewing played first base only for part of the 1885 season, and again in '92. At 34, he caught and played first in 97 games and hit .319 in '92 and was traded.

One of the desperadoes of this period, John Joseph (Dirty) Doyle, from Killorglin, Ireland, forms a trio with Connor and Ewing in the period. He was one of the Old Orioles at Baltimore with McGraw, but was a Giant before and after, beginning in '92. In

Another Gem Flashing for 'Frisco



WILLIE MCCOVEY . . . New Bombshell Shaking Bay Area.

Muscle Man McCovey Clutches First Base Job With His Hitting

By JACK McDONALD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.

Willie McCovey is happy by nature. But he's happiest wearing a major league uniform, even if it is the one with tight pants that Andre Rodgers discarded when the Giants sent Andre back to their Phoenix farm and called Willie up in his place.

Fate tapped the 21-year-old rookie from Mobile, Ala., on the shoulder and brought him out of four and one-half years of minor

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 1)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 3)

History-Makers Among Giants' Guardians of Gateway Sack



Buck Ewing



Fred Merkle



George Kelly



Bill Terry



Johnny Mize

Controversial Figure



HAL CHASE, one of the game's most controversial figures, finished his career with the Giants in 1919. He had been accused of not giving his all in Cincinnati in '18, and although acquitted in a league trial, John McGraw released him abruptly when rumors again were raised about his play in September of '19.

McCovey

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

league obscurity to rekindle Giant pennant hopes.

McCovey's recall came in the nick of time, only 24 hours ahead of the August 1 deadline for recalling players.

When the decision was made, the Giants were in their worst slump of the season. They had lost four straight and their pennant chances were crumbling. Discouragement had already seized them.

"If I had one guy hitting, that spark might light a fire," Manager Bill Rigney told Horace Stoneham. The Giant owner sent an SOS to Carl Hubbell, chief of the farm system, who was in Phoenix.

Hubbell had just seen McCovey hit a homer and triple in the first game of a double-header. Then Willie came back in the nightcap and connected for the cycle—homer, triple, double and single.

Five days later, McCovey was on his way to San Francisco. He left Phoenix as the Pacific Coast League's leading slugger, but this didn't impress some Giant fans.

Desperate for a juiced-up Giant attack that had reached rock bottom, Rigney pressed McCovey into service this day, July 30. To find room for him, he had to shift Orlando Cepeda, his All-Star first baseman and 1938 Rookie of the Year, to third.

Facing major league pitching for the first time, sweet-swingin' Willie hit four line drives—two triples and two singles—that gathered momentum as they traveled. He hit every fence in the park, right, left and center. Every

Youngster Added 20 Pounds—and All Muscle—Since '58

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Although no one expects Willie McCovey to continue his torrid hitting for the Giants, "he's too sound a hitter to slip badly," in the opinion of Carl Hubbell.

"He has too good a swing," explains the Giants' farm boss, "and he'll go on getting more than his share of hits." What moved McCovey up so fast as a power hitter this season is that he has put on 20 pounds, all of it muscle, since last year.

ball he hit went like a rocket. They were all off Robin Roberts' of the Phillies.

McCovey was the talk of the town. Six days later, he had played in six games, of which the Giants won five, and the spark Rigney had hoped would light a fire had become a conflagration. The Giants' big slump had turned into a winning streak. McCovey had become a one-man pennant parade.

His six-game toll was nine runs scored, eight knocked in, 12 hits, all of them line drives, in 26 at-bats, for a total of 27 bases.

McCovey never played prep baseball, but at 14 he played for a town team of grown men in Mobile. He signed with the Giants for \$175 a month and a bus ticket to their tryout camp in Melbourne, Fla., in 1955, at 17.

After McCovey had beaten the Pirates three straight, Manager Danny Murtaugh said:

"If anybody told me a rookie farmhand would beat me three in a row, I would have put him on a psychiatrist's couch."

First Sackers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

all, Doyle played 17 years, and hit .301 over 1,535 games. He spent eight seasons with New York, in four stints, and was manager for a while in '95.

McGraw came to the Giants with McGraw in 1902, and was on first as the Little Napoleon made his debut as manager and shortstop in the old Polo Grounds, July 19. He was a 14-year big leaguer, but worked only six seasons for the Giants.

While Merkle was being primed to take over first base, McGraw obtained one of the famous players of the Boston club to hold the bag. He was Fred Tenney, who appeared in 1,969 games over 18 years and hit .285.

Merkle Tagged as "Bonehead"

On September 23, 1908, the unfortunate Merkle became known forever after as "Bonehead," although McGraw vigorously defended the young player and charged the umpires with robbing his team. The ump's decision that day cost the Giants a pennant and forced them into a playoff with the Cubs, which they lost.

In the ninth inning of that September 23 game in the Polo Grounds, the score was tied, 1 to 1, with two out, and Moose McCormick on third base and Merkle on first, against the Cubs. Al Bridwell hit a single to center. McCormick trotted home and the game seemed ended with a Giant victory.

However, Merkle had not bothered to run to second base; he dashed from first towards the clubhouse. The astute Johnny Evers, Cub second baseman, stood on the sack and yelled for the ball. A ball was produced for him. Eddie Brannick, Giants' secretary who was there, vows that this was not the ball Bridwell hit. Eddie says Circus Solly Hofman, center fielder, made a wild return of the hit and that Iron-Man Joe McGinnity of the Giants picked it up and threw it to fans.

Evers appealed to Umpires Hank O'Day and Bob Emslie to call Merkle out, on a force play at second base, which would cancel the run. Emslie refused to rule. O'Day, plate umpire and senior official, took until 10 p.m. that night to state finally that Merkle was out.

Walter Holke, an 11-year man who hit .287 over 1,212 games, took over from Merkle in 1917, while Kelly was being prepared to move into the job.

Cloud Over Chase

Tongues wagged throughout baseball in 1919 when McGraw traded Holke and Catcher Bill Rariden for Hal Chase, whose brilliant career as a first baseman for 4 years was nearing its end under a cloud of suspicion of wrongdoing. After the abbreviated season of 1918, Christy Mathewson, Reds' manager, had charged that Chase had failed to do his best for him. The statement was strong enough for John Heydler, N. L. president, to order a trial of Chase. In December of '18, the player was acquitted for lack of evidence when Matty, then an officer in the Army in France, refused to make a deposition backing his allegations.

McGraw then obtained Chase, but Kelly, who had been Giant property since 1915, moved in for 1920, and the gangling, six-foot-four first baseman was to play 1,622 games over 17 years, at a .297 clip. He was to hold first base for three of the first four years of McGraw's four pennant campaigns, 1921-24.

The youngster from San Francisco was a nephew of Bill Lange, former star and associate of McGraw, and the Old Man took good care of him. Kelly was awkward and drew jeers from fans and critics. In '20, McGraw got the harried player on the beam by assuring him that he needn't mind his critics because he was going to be the regular at first base.

By 1925, Terry had taken over first

Muscular Gymnast Gardella Joined Jump to Mexico in '46

NEW YORK, N. Y.

The most amazing young man ever to play first base for the Giants was Danny Gardella, who was a wartime replacement from a physical culture salon. The ubiquitous mound of muscle burst on the scene in the Polo Grounds in 1944, billed as an outfielder, and hit .250 in 47 games.



Danny Gardella

In '45 he reached his peak by hitting 18 homers and .272 as an outfielder and as one of the entries in a merry chase at first base. In addition to Mr. Muscles, the following all had a whack at the initial sack for harried Mel Ott, manager: Phil Weintraub, Mike Scherer, Roy Zimmerman, Nap Reyes and Al Gardella, Dan's brother. Reyes, a Cuban, shuddered whenever he saw Danny, because the latter was an accomplished practical joker. Once, when the two were roommates with the Jersey City club, Gardella entered the room just before Reyes, chafed a "Good-bye, old pal" on the mirror, and opened the window. When Nap entered, there was no Gardella. The frantic Cuban was saved from a nervous breakdown—or was he?—when gymnast Danny hauled himself through the window. He had been hanging by his fingers from the ledge, 12 stories up.

Gardella was a leader in the rebellion on the Giants in 1946 at Miami, when a delegation, including Sal Maglie, decided to take the dough to play in Mexico.

The irony was that Danny also was paid by American baseball when he decided to return to Mexico. Gardella filed suit, charging restraint because of the five-year ban on the Mexican jumpers. He won, and even had to be accorded a tryout, with the Cards, for one pinch-hit appearance.

As Eddie Brannick often said, there could not be another Gardella, before or after.

KING.

base with the now versatile Kelly working at second base and in the outfield. Terry was one of McGraw's most valuable finds, but even the lordly Giant manager had to exercise tact and patience to land Bill.

Money Talked for Terry

Tom Watkins, owner of the Memphis club, tipped off McGraw about Terry in the spring of 1922, when the Giants played an exhibition in that city. Terry, Watkins related, had been a promising pitcher and hitter, but had retired to raise his family and work for an oil company. However, Watkins suggested that the fame of McGraw and the Giants might persuade Terry to resume his pro career.

Memphis Bill, coldly practical, was not interested in glory. He had to support a family. How much would McGraw pay? Little Napoleon refrained from blowing his top and several weeks later met Terry's terms. He guaranteed a \$5,000 salary, a whopper for a rookie at that time, and assured the unbending young man that he would not be farmed down except as Giant property.

Terry was switched from pitcher to first baseman and his seasoning took a couple of years. Thereafter, he was one of baseball's best at the position, a superior fielder and a most formidable hitter. Terry gained the Hall of Fame after playing 1,721 games over 14 years, with an average of .341. He hit .401 in 1930 and was manager of the Giants from 1932 to 1941.

Memphis Bill complained that his legs were giving out in 1935, but there was no sub, and he did right well with an average of .341. For the remainder of his reign as manager, the position was held by four men—Johnny McCarthy, Sambo Leslie, Zeke Bonura and Babe Young. Terry did play part of '36 and participated in the World's Series against the Yankees, his second as player-manager, but he went to the bench thereafter.

The next big move came when Mize joined the Giants in '42. Sam Bredon sold Mize from the Cardinals for three players and \$50,000, and it was feared at first that Horace Stoneham had bought a lemon, because the slugger suffered shoulder trouble in training camp. Mize recovered, however, to hit .305 with 26 homers before entering the Navy. He returned in 1946, and although he hit 51 homers in '47 as the Giants set the all-time record of 221, John was not lucky enough to make a

Giants' Cepeda, at 21, Baby of Dream Classic Starters

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Orlando Cepeda, then the Giant first baseman, had the distinction of being the youngest starter in the first 1959 All-Star Game. At 21, the San Francisco sophomore was two years younger than Harmon Killebrew, 23-year-old homer phenom of the A. L. "varsity." Cepeda was not the "baby" of the event, because Vada Pinson of the Reds is only 20, but he was the youngest starter.

pennant-winner in the N. L. He had joined the Cards too late and the Giants too early. He had to wait for his trade for \$50,000 to the Yankees in 1949.

Lockman Sparked Miracle Club

With Mize in service, there was a series of emergency first sackers, such as Joe Oringo, Sid Gordon, Nap Reyes, Danny Gardella and Phil Weintraub. When Mize left, Tookie Gilbert was a prospect, but Lockman finally moved from center field to first to help the club to two dramatic pennants, in 1951 and 1954. He was one of the dashing young men of the '51 "Little Miracle of Coogan's Bluff," and a valuable utility player for the club after the '54 flag. In fact, Lockman, although not a heavy hitter, had 1,555 major league games to his credit as he entered his fourteenth season this year.

Harris came on in '55 and after several trials in which he showed power, but not a qualified percentage, he was traded to Detroit for 1958. White was indubitably impressive as a rookie in '56, as he blasted 22 line-drive homers and averaged .256. He definitely indicated he was a comer as he has proved this season with the Cards. Meanwhile, Cepeda had supposedly moved in to stay in '58, and White was expendable this season.

But now, McCovey seems launched on a career which should ultimately give him a place, for longevity and in batting performance, well up on the Giants' list of distinguished first basemen.

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AT THE MOMENT of impact, Willie McCovey starts a Jim Bunning pitch on its ride over the

right field roof at Forbes Field. The homer occurred in the first inning and Willie also con-

nects in the fourth frame off Bunning to give the Giants a 2-1 victory over the Pirates.

It's an Up Year for Hot-Cold Slugger **McCovey**

By DICK O'CONNOR

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—The up-and-down career of San Francisco first baseman Willie McCovey is mostly up this season.

He was the starting first baseman for the National League in the All-Star Game in Houston's Astrodome. Willie earned the spot because he's leading the National League in home runs and runs batted in.

"It means something to me to be picked as the best first baseman by the other players in the league," he said. "But it's an individual thing and I would rather play in a World Series where the team does well."

McCovey is having one of the best seasons in the ten he has been in the major leagues.

He has 20 homers, has batted in 52 runs and his batting average is right around the .300 mark.

"I've had seasons this good before, but they haven't been noticed," Willie said. His best year was 1963, when he hit 44 homers and drove in 102 runs. His batting average that year was .280.

The other ups of his career included 1966, when he hit .295 (high for the Giants) with 36 homers and 96 runs batted in.

And there were the downs.

Willie Was Terrific as Rookie

McCovey is probably the most controversial player the Giants have had since they moved to San Francisco in 1958.

Willie came to the Giants as a first baseman and immediately took over the starting job with a sensational rookie season in which he hit .354 in 52 games.

That meant that popular Orlando Cepeda, the Giants' first baseman in 1958 and the first half of 1959, had to find some other place to play.

Orlando went to third base and later to left field. But in 1960, when McCovey had his worst year in the majors, Cepeda was back at first base and Willie was sent to Tacoma in the Pacific Coast League.

McCovey was a part-time player for the next two years, playing mostly against righthanded pitchers.

Willie gets upset when reporters suggest that he can't hit lefthanders.

"I can't understand why they ask about it," Willie said. "I hit against them in the minors and these are the same lefthanders who are in the majors now."

McCovey's platooning came under Manager Alvin Dark. Dark, who believed in percentages, was never convinced that McCovey could hit lefties.

However, in 1962, McCovey's 20 homers and 54 RBIs in only 91 games was a significant contribution to San Francisco's only pennant.

He Tried Hard in Garden Role

McCovey was used mostly in left field. Cepeda was back on first base.

Willie is the first to admit that he was no Willie Mays in the outfield. But he gave it his best.

In fact, it was McCovey who saved a 1963 no-hitter for Juan Marichal with a fine catch of a twisting line drive to left field by Carl Warwick of Houston.

The Giants had many offers from other major league teams to take McCovey off their hands.

Vice-President Chub Feeney said that at no time did the Giants ever consider trading McCovey.

"We never came close to a deal for McCovey," Feeney said.

Finally, in May of 1966, the Giants did make a deal and it was a shocker.

Cepeda was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals for pitcher Ray Sadecki.

In explaining the trade, Feeney said:

"We had two first basemen and only one could play. We felt that McCovey was the one we wanted to play for us."

Back at first base, McCovey blossomed into one of the most consistent power hitters in baseball. And his fielding got better.

"It's confidence," McCovey said. "When I first came

up, I would hope the ball wouldn't be hit to me. And there were plays that I didn't make.

"Now I hope the ball will be hit to me. I'm still making some errors, but I'm also making plays that I didn't make before."

McCovey has been a frequent target of Candlestick Park boo-birds. But he takes it in stride.

"Most of the fans have been with me. There are always a few who are not," he said.

When it comes to power, there isn't a hitter in baseball who can match McCovey.

Said Feeney:

"I can't recall Willie ever hitting what you would call a cheap home run. He did get one against the Braves a few years ago that just barely cleared the fence. But it was still hit well. His homers all have authenticity."

Feeney says that McCovey is the strongest hitter ever to play for the Giants.

Famed for Long Wallops

"That includes Mel Ott, Bill Terry, Johnny Mize, Mays and all the other great hitters we have had," Chub said.

McCovey doesn't try for long homers.

"I don't know which was the longest home run I ever hit. Sometimes I hit the ball hard and it doesn't go as far as some of the others," he said.

There are pitchers around the National League who can remember some of Willie's long bombs.

In a game at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh this season, McCovey hit a homer over the top of the stands in right field. In the same game, he crashed another homer into the upper deck in right-center field.

He hit a homer in the new Busch Stadium in St. Louis that is one of the longest in that park.

At Candlestick Park, Willie has hit several that have been past the 450-foot mark.

(Continued on Page 10, Column 5)

Flood Streaks Past Medwick On Cardinals' Swat Ladder

By NEAL RUSSO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Threat to Enos

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

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

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

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

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

Made Bow in '56

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

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

Cardinal who had played every game.

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

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

A Rare Gem Indeed

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

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

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

What makes Virdon so high on Flood?

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

Virdon noted that Flood was constantly aggressive in the outfield.

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

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

He Could Use Vacation

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

Besides, the Cardinals would be



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

McCOVEY

(Continued From Page 3)

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

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

Manager Herman Franks agrees with Maloney and Feeney.

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

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

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

Roberts Was Victim

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

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

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

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

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

Soccer Player Carl Gentile Wins Celebrity HR Laurels

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

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

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

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

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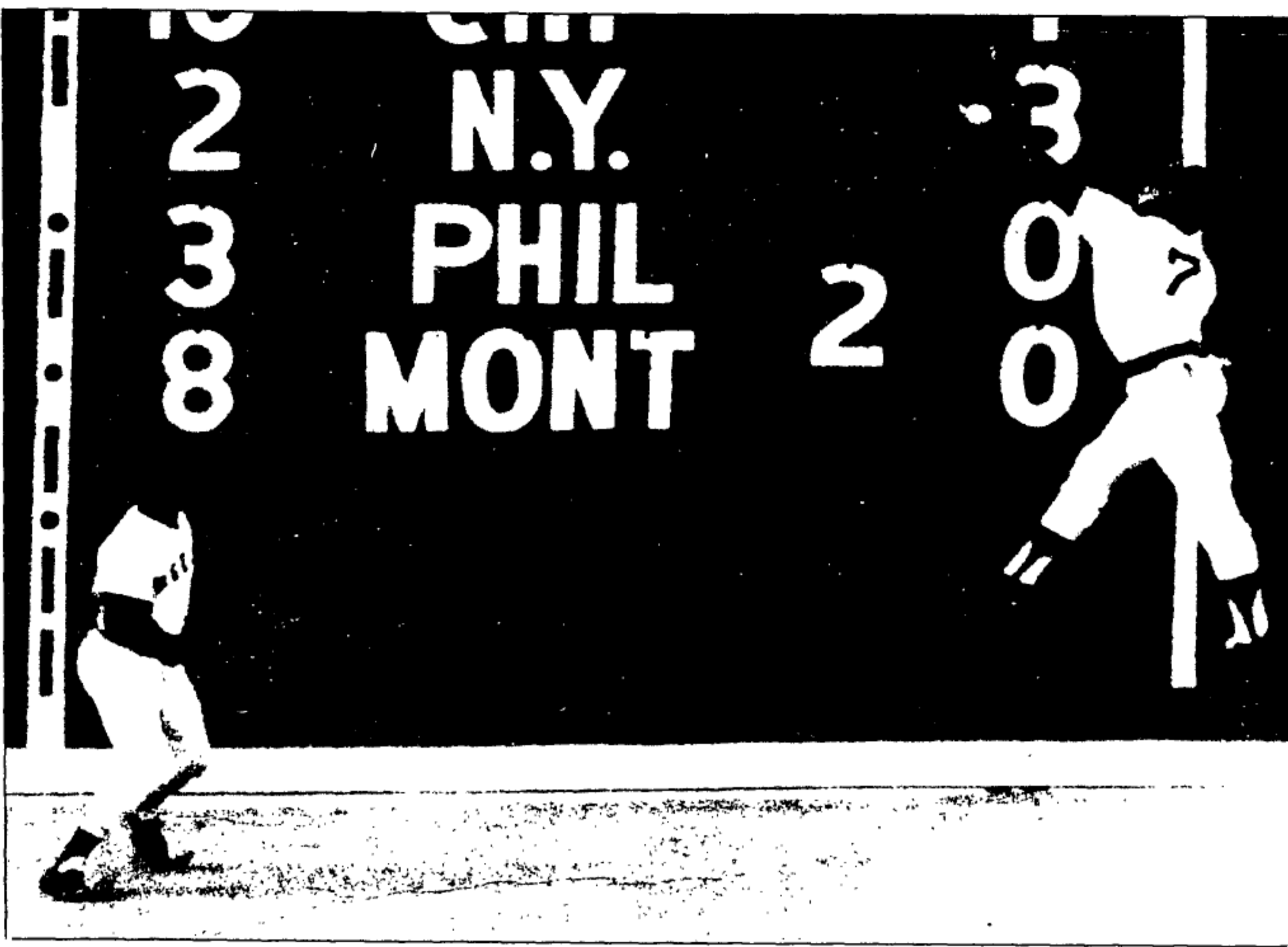


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REGGIE SMITH of the Red Sox leaps against the center field wall at Boston's Fenway Park in a futile bid to catch a drive

by the Tigers' Bill Freehan. Freehan wound up with a double, but the Red Sox won, 11-7, April 19.

A. L. flashes

TAILOR-MADE FOR ROJAS

Toby Harrah, Rangers' shortstop, believes of all the Royals, second baseman Cookie Rojas will benefit the most offensively from Kansas City's synthetic infield. "He knows how to handle the bat," Harrah said. "The way he hits, the synthetic field should add 15 or 20 points to his average."

Shades of 1972, Manager Del Crandall was thinking when four of the Brewers' first six games were decided by two runs or less. Milwaukee (2-4 through April 16) played 81 games that were decided by two runs or fewer last season, when the Brewers finished dead last in the American League East.

Center fielder Paul Blair expressed confidence the Orioles would start hitting, but admitted Baltimore would be a different kind of club from what it was during the championship years. "There's a different attitude," Blair said. "Sure, the club has talent, but we're just as likely to beat you with doubles and triples rather than home runs."

ALLEN 'EL HOMBRE GRANDE'

The White Sox' Dick Allen has a kind of magnetism to which both the fans and players react. "Take me," said the Athletics' Reggie Jackson, "I love to watch him hit. I can't take my eyes off him when he runs the bases. I get a kick out of seeing him take batting practice, even fielding practice," Jackson added. "Hell, it's even a thrill to me to see him walking around a hotel lobby. What presence he has. No doubt about it, he is 'el hombre grande.'"

According to a survey by the Society for Visual Care, 39 American leaguers and 31 National leaguers wear eyeglasses or contact lenses on the playing field. The survey showed there were 32 pitchers, 20 infielders, 10 catchers and eight outfielders wearing glasses this season.

Since becoming manager of the Angels, Bobby Winkles has been getting a lot of mail and it's not all from well-wishers. "I've heard from quite a few college coaches wanting to know what course they might take to get located in professional baseball," said the former Arizona State coach. "In the past," Winkles

noted, "a few former big league players found college coaching jobs, but I'm the first to reverse the process and apparently it's gotten a lot of collegiate tutors thinking professional."

JOHNSON BALK COSTLY

Reliever Jerry Johnson balked home what proved to be the winning run in the seventh inning when the Tigers edged the Indians, 4-3. "Why didn't he (umpire Don Denkinger) say 'balk' before (Detroit Manager) Billy Martin came running from the dugout?" Johnson asked. "I don't think I balked. I just dropped my hand from my glove. I guess I'll just have to put it on my hip until I'm ready."

The Rangers have sold only 1,727 season tickets, about half of what Owner Bob Short had expected.

Lefthander John Curtis of the Red Sox has come up with a new pitch that makes him more effective against righthanded hitters. "He has what I guess they call a 'cut fast ball,'" Manager Eddie Kasko explained. "It's a pitch that breaks in on the righties much like a slider."

NEW ROUTE FOR HARMON

Slugging Harmon Killebrew of the Twins is going to have to take a new route to Metropolitan Stadium. In ceremonies April 15, Mayor James King of Bloomington renamed 83rd Street, which leads to the stadium, as "Killebrew Drive." Killebrew said he never had taken that avenue to the ballpark, but indicated he would change his route in the future.

When righthander Skip Lockwood and reliever Jim Colborn joined forces in the Brewers' 4-0 conquest of the Indians April 18, it marked the fourth shutout for Cleveland in 10 games.

A two-run homer by Bill Melton in the fifth inning of the White Sox' 10-5 triumph over the Rangers April 17 was the 100th round-tripper of the Chicago third baseman's major league career.

KASKO MOVE BACKFIRES

Red Sox Manager Eddie Kasko made one of those lefthanded-right-handed decisions that backfired in the Tigers' 9-7 victory over Boston

April 16. After Al Kaline and Norm Cash delivered back-to-back doubles in the fourth inning, Kasko ordered righthanded Marty Pattin to walk the lefthanded-hitting Gates Brown to pitch to Willie Horton. However, Horton, a righthanded swinger, hit his first home run of the season.

'BIG MONEY' WILLIAMS

"Big money!" was the greeting the Orioles gave catcher Earl Williams when he returned to the dugout after hitting his first American League home run, a two-run blast that enabled Baltimore to beat the Yankees, 4-2, April 17. "I know what they mean," said Manager Earl Weaver. "They mean that 20-grand in October — the kind they've been collecting in recent Octobers but missed last year."

The Yankees, for the first time since 1963, won their first series of the season in Baltimore when they defeated the Orioles in two of three games April 18-19.

Undismayed by four defeats in the White Sox' first six games, Manager Chuck Tanner said, "Baseball isn't a day or a week. Every club in the league is going to have a stretch where they really have to hang tough. Look at the Yankees—they're expected to have a good year and they're off to a slow start. Oakland is the world champ and they're having a tough time."

OTIS COMES CLOSE

When the Royals exploded for 19 hits in a 16-8 rout of the world champion Athletics April 19, Kansas City outfielder Amos Otis missed a chance to hit for the cycle in the first four innings. Otis had a triple, single and a home run when he came to bat in the fourth inning against reliever Paul Lindblad, but he flied out to right field. "I was going for it," admitted Otis who later walked and singled in a 4-for-5 night while driving in four runs.

Indians' reliever Ray Lamb, complaining of stomach pains, underwent a hospital examination to learn that he had a "minor appendix flareup." However, Lamb was told that surgery would not be necessary unless the condition worsens.

(Continued on Page 32, Column 1)

Art Spander



An Important Old Man

SAN FRANCISCO—Outside, in the steady wind and occasional clouds of what is known as a San Francisco spring, the crowd was filing in and baseballs were flying out—the traditional sights and sounds of pre-game practice.

But inside the large room that serves for both changing clothes and changing moods, members of what the publicity department insists upon calling the "Young Giants" were laughing and talking. All except one.

Willie Lee McCovey, who hasn't been a young Giant for years, squatted on one of those four-legged stools and pulled letters—fan mail, criticism, requests for autographs—from a cardboard box.

HE SEEMED devoid of tension. At ease with the world, and especially himself. The Young Giants may be the gimmick, the vehicle that gets the attention of the media and the fans. But this relatively old one is still the key to the team.

"All I ask," said McCovey quietly, "is that I can stay healthy. The rest will take care of itself."

The rest, natch, are the home runs that McCovey, with that massive lefthanded swing, hits into the prevailing westerlies that carry from home plate over the right field fence. And the runs batted in. And the not infrequent singles.

When McCovey hits, the Giants win. It is as simple as that. And it has been for several years, even before Willie Mays took his basket catch and his ego problems to the Mets. While Mays helped lure the fans, McCovey helped win the games.

IT WAS NO coincidence that last season when Willie McCovey broke an arm in the fourth game and did not play again for two months the Giants practically dropped out of the National League. For opponents, there was nothing to fear except fear itself.

But that was not the case in the spring of '73. McCovey was back hitting homers and the Giants were, if only for a brief shining moment, back in first place.

Cincinnati Manager Sparky Anderson one late Saturday afternoon ordered his pitcher to walk Willie even though first base was occupied.

"McCovey is the best hitter in baseball," said Anderson. "I'm not going to pitch to him if I don't have to. I'd rather take my chances with someone else. Why let him beat you?"

Why indeed? So McCovey can add to his total of 384 home runs that he had at the start of this season? So he can get to the psyche as well as the fast balls of opposing pitchers? So he can help the Giants repeat that championship of those long, gone days of 1962?

"I KNOW SPARKY is an honest guy," mused McCovey, "and I appreciate what he says. But he could be psyching me out. It's nice to hear something like that about you, but it also means you can't look forward to very good pitches. Hell, all I want to do is swing the bat. If they don't pitch to me, I can't have the year I'd like to have."

But even if he doesn't, there will be memories of years he's had before. Such as 1959, when, in Seals Stadium, now the site of a discount house, he went 4-for-4 in his first game as a Giant and eventually went on to become Rookie of the Year; 1969, when, with 45 home runs and a .320 batting average, he was chosen Most Valuable Player.

Baseball, to be sure, is a game of memories, of thoughts about Babe Ruth and Stan Musial. But when

Willie McCovey stands out there on the AstroTurf of Candlestick Park, all the yesterdays don't mean a thing. Except for conversation.

"I THINK ONLY about what I'm doing now," said McCovey, now 35. "But the past does help you. Experience is everything."

"I'm so much more confident now. Sure, I look at the game differently. I'm older, not 21 like I was when I came up. I used to go into games, or up to the plate with apprehension, doubt. Now I'm confident. I guess it all comes with time."

So does a general mellowing of the personality. McCovey, in earlier days, was difficult to talk to, particularly when things were not going well. He was moody and shy and, he relates, scared.

He was also an offensive ballplayer, and when he went on defense, at first base, anything was possible. Pop flies, caressed by the breeze, would drop beyond his glove. Throws from other infielders would go skimming by, eventually to carom off the cement facade in front of the stands.

THIS WASN'T appreciated by sporting journalists in the Bay Area. They made careers of criticizing Willie. And Willie made a career of sulking. Not that he could be blamed. The way he was treated, you'd think McCovey had given away state secrets and not simply allowed a small white ball to elude his grasp.

But the bitterness has disappeared into the never-never land of time. "I have found," said McCovey, the statesman, "that words don't kill." They don't even maim.

"I have been around so long now," said McCovey, "that almost everything possible, good and bad, that could have been written about me or said about me has been done."

"I ADMIT I used to be pretty sensitive, and nobody likes to have anything bad written about him. But as you grow older you learn to know whether you're right or wrong—not worry about what someone else says is right or wrong."

McCovey also learned what it's like to be on the other side of the microphone. Literally. One winter he worked as a television sportscaster in Sacramento, 90 miles away.

"It gave me a different perspective," said McCovey. "I now appreciate the problems a TV news-caster has to go through, that commotion going on in the studio which no one ever sees."

"I interviewed Gary Nolan, the pitcher, once, and then I interviewed Debbie Meyer, the Olympic swimmer. I suddenly got the same feeling a sportscaster gets when he approaches a player. It wasn't as tough with Nolan, because I had faced him that year. But I didn't know anything about swimming, and interviewing Debbie was really a scary experience."

SORT OF LIKE pitching to Willie McCovey with the bases loaded.

"The game is still fun," said McCovey, "and if I can stay healthy, I'll go on for a few more years. Of course, I've always had leg trouble, even before I played baseball, and they always say your legs go first."

"But I take pretty good care of myself. The whole thing is winning. If you're winning, you can suffer through a bad year. But even if you're playing well, if you're losing, it's no fun at all."

As long as the Young Giants have old Willie McCovey, the game most likely will be enjoyable for everyone. Except the opposition.

Experience Providing Key To McCovey's Big Season

By HARRY JUPITER

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Willie McCovey shrugs modestly at the suggestion, but, in several respects, this may be the finest season of the Giant slugger's spectacular career.

He is leading the National League in two of the three most important batting departments—runs batted in and home runs—and, while he will not capture the batting championship, his average is an excellent one in this year of tremendous pitching achievements.

McCovey always has been a remarkable hitter, but his performance this year is especially remarkable in view of the general absence of effective hitting.

McCovey has always hit the ball hard and far, but his average this year—in the immediate vicinity of .300 at last inspection—is his best since 1959, when he won Rookie-of-the-Year honors with .354 in 52 games.

In '59, they were talking about McCovey's natural aptitude with a

bat, but a year later the National League seemed to have the big fellow under control. He dropped to .238, and had his tour of the big leagues interrupted by a brief return to Tacoma.

Experience Is Vital

"You hear a lot of talk about natural ability," said McCovey, "but I've found there's no substitute for experience. Hitting is about 90 percent knowledge.

"It's knowing the pitchers, knowing what they throw in a certain situation.

"That's why I hate to face a new guy. I have no idea how his ball moves."

It has been observed that pitchers don't exactly relish the opportunity of facing McCovey, either, whether they're newcomers or veterans.

Although McCovey claims he "hates" to face an unfamiliar pitcher, it rarely takes him long to develop a hearty interest.

"After you see a new pitcher

once or twice, you have an idea what he's throwing," McCovey said. "Sometimes it takes a few games against him before you can do anything with him, but sometimes you can catch up with a guy after a couple of times batting against him in one game.

"It's pretty unusual for a guy to show up that's a complete mystery. Generally, there's somebody on your team who's played against him someplace in the minor leagues."

Everybody has been talking all year long about the supremacy of the pitchers and/or the submergence of the hitters.

New Talent on Hill

"Part of the reason," said McCovey, "is all the good young pitchers in the big leagues today. It used to take a lot longer for guys to get regular pitching jobs in the majors. It seemed like you saw the same pitchers around year after year and, after a while, you learned what they were doing. Now it seems that every time you turn around, you're hitting against some guy you never saw before."

It may be killing most batting averages, but McCovey seems to get better and better. Today, at the age of 30, he's right in his prime, despite a pair of aching knees.

"I've had trouble with my right knee since my third year in baseball," said McCovey. "That was 1957, when he hit .281 with Dallas. 'It's something you learn to live with after a while.'"

For years, McCovey spent his winters exercising the knee. This spring he was astounded to learn that he was overdoing it.

High HR Production

"I was told that I could maintain enough muscle tone with the running and walking I normally do," Stretch said, "so I'm really doing less exercising right now than I have for years."

If there is a difference, it's a happy one. With more than four weeks left in the season, he had equaled his home-run output for 1967 and already was within eight RBIs of his total for last year.

This is the pitchers' year, but McCovey keeps reminding 'em that there still are hitters worth mentioning.

Giant Jottings: Juan Marichal had his troubles in August, despite a 4-3 record for the month. The Dodgers and Astros beat him in his last two August starts, marking the first time all season that he lost two successive decisions. The Astros scored six runs in 1½ innings against Juan on August 29, giving the ace righthander the earliest shower he's ever had. . . . Bobby Bonds had a big home stand. On August 27, he had two homers and six RBIs against the Cubs, which is a sensational night for anybody, but especially for a leadoff man. The following afternoon, he drew a bases-filled walk with two out in the ninth, forcing the winning run home in a 4-3 win over Houston.

The Giants have won 35 of their last 40 home games against the Astros. They were 6-3 against 'em at Candlestick this year and stand 47-16 against the Texans in San Francisco since Houston entered the league in 1962. . . . Overall, Giant pinch-hitters are averaging .145, but Dave Marshall is hitting .300 as a pinch-swinger with 6-for-20 and Dick Dietz is whacking a phenomenal .600 with 6-for-10 as a clutch-clouter. . . . Going into September, neither Marshall nor Bonds had grounded into a double play.



WILLIE McCOVEY gets "five" from coach Peanuts Lowrey as he rounds third base on a home run.

Benchwarmers Keep Reds Hot

By EARL LAWSON

CINCINNATI, O.—Woody Woodward had that disappointed look you see on the face of a kid who has been snubbed by the older boys.

"What's the matter, Judy," teased Pete Rose.

"That's our new nickname for Woody," whispered Pete to a bystander. "You know, Punch and Judy hitter."

"I waited in the dugout for ten minutes but nobody put a mike in my face," sighed Woodward, feigning disgust. "I thought sure they'd want me for that 'Star of the Game' show."

"They don't want you, Judy," needed Rose. "They want those sluggers."

This was the night of August 28, just after Woodward, filling in at shortstop for an ailing Leo Cardenas, had rapped out five hits as the Reds swept a double-header from the Mets at Shea Stadium.

Same Old Story

"That's the story of my life," continued Woody dolefully. "A couple of years ago, I got four-for-five when I was playing with the Braves. It was the same day Tony Cloninger socked two grand-slam homers.

"The only other time I got four-for-five, Gene Oliver socked three homers in the same game. I just can't win."

"Don't feel bad, Woody," said a grinning Dave Bristol. "You can be my 'Star of the Game.'"

Bristol, still dripping water after a trip under the shower, mopped his body vigorously with a towel.

"How about that bench? . . . Really something, huh?" exclaimed the beaming manager.

With Alex Johnson nursing a sore shoulder, Lee May had shifted to left field and Don Pavletich had taken over at first base against the lefthanded-throwing Jerry Koosman.

The burly Pavletich had responded with three hits, one of them a ringing double.

Salute From Bristol

"That's what makes this game worthwhile, seeing a guy give it that all-out effort," said Bristol. "There's Pav. He's black and blue from his knee to his hip, but he gave it all he had."

A few days earlier, Jim Beauchamp had socked a two-run homer and then had beaten out an infield hit to send home the winning run in a 6-5 victory over the Phillies.

With Vada Pinson sidelined, Beauchamp platooned in center field with the lefthanded-swinging Mack Jones.

"You saw Beauchamp run out that ball for a hit," Bristol had remarked after the game. "He sure didn't run like a guy who's suffering from the gout, did he?"

Beauchamp has the gout in his left big toe.

"I know it really pains him," Bristol had remarked, "but he

wouldn't say 'uncle' if hell froze over."

Beauchamp had grinned sheepishly when mention of the gout was made.

"I had the same thing last year and didn't know what it was," said the 29-year-old outfielder.

Down on the Farm

"I guess," he had added, grinning, "that beef I've been eating back on my farm in Oklahoma is too rich."

Coach Vern Benson listened and smiled.

"If my boy goes into professional baseball, I sure hope he has Beauchamp's attitude," said Benson.

Naturally, Beauchamp was disappointed when the Reds optioned him to their Indianapolis farm club shortly before the season's start. He had batted .347 in the Grapefruit League. Never had he had a better spring. But he didn't rant and rave when the Reds gave him his walking papers. There was no threat of quitting.

"I figured if I did well at Indianapolis, they'd bring me back once they had straightened out their roster problem," said Beauchamp. That's what happened.

Woodward, Beauchamp and Jones, all have stepped in and have done the job. So have Pat Corrales, Fred Whitfield and Chico Ruiz.

Rose watched Corrales pull a perspiration-soaked sweatshirt over his head after Gerry Arrigo had beaten the Mets, 8-3, in the first game of the August 28 twi-night double-header.

"There's a man who can do it all," said Pete, nodding toward the catcher. "He knows what's going on out there every minute."

Corrales Helps Hurler

"Corrales," continued Rose, "makes a pitcher think when he's out there on the mound. Did you see how many times he walked out there to Arrigo? He could tell when Gerry was upset and he knew what to say to calm him down."

Corrales, spelling young Johnny Bench behind the plate periodically, has been no slouch with the bat, either. He toted a .293 mark into the August 28 game with the Mets.

The music Whitfield has been making with his bat has been as



Woody Woodward

sweet as that coming out of the portable stereo he carries on trips.

During a two-week span in August, Whitfield socked six round-trippers.

"When I was in the Cardinal organization, they told me Wingo could hit," said Corrales. "Now I know he can."

The way the Red benchwarmers have responded when called upon, it won't be long before they'll be labeling Bristol a "push-button manager."

Rose Leads Attack

Bristol couldn't be getting better results if he were waving a magic wand.

"The hitting's been unbelievable," exclaimed Rose, the best hitter of them all.

As of August 28, the Reds had hit in double figures in 71 of their games.

Their team batting average was .277.

Rose, leading the league with a .348 average, had hit safely in 19 straight games. Earlier in the season, he had compiled a 22-game string.

Red Hots: Tony Cloninger pitched his second shutout in a ten-day span when he blanked the Phils, 10-0, with four hits August 27. Cloninger also chipped in with a three-run double. . . . Vada Pinson, who has been sidelined with a groin ailment, is working out again and is expected back in the lineup soon.

Nolan Erases Met Grins— Walks Off With a 5-2 Win

CINCINNATI, O.—The Mets had made the mistake of making young Gary Nolan mad.

"It was after the first two batters up got those hits to give them that run," said Gary. "I looked over into the Met dugout and everyone was smiling.

"It was as if they were saying, 'You got away with that junk the last time, but not this time.'"

This was the second game of an August 28 double-header at Shea Stadium.

Five days earlier, Nolan had beaten the Mets at Cincinnati, even though he had been unable to, as he put it, "hump up."

The smug smiles on the faces of the Met players angered Nolan. After the first two batters, Nolan retired 17 straight Mets before allowing another hit. He had yielded only five when he departed with two out in the eighth inning and Clay Carroll came on to preserve a 5-2 victory, Nolan's seventh against two losses.