

THE SWISH FAMILY ROBINSON

Birds' Oh-Boy Belter



BROOKS ROBINSON . . . No. 1 With Baltimore Fans

Diamond Whiz, Model Citizen: That's Brooks

Third Sacker Among Elite at Bat, in Field; Popular Oriole Star Backs Charity Causes

By JOHN STEADMAN

BALTIMORE, Md.

All that's recognized as class in personality and professional ability is exemplified in the characteristics of Brooks Calbert **Robinson**, Jr., who befits success like the glove he wears.

Robinson, apart from being the American League's All-Star third baseman, carries himself in a manner that suggests he's more inclined to be a model citizen first and a baseball performer later.

In both respects, he's first-rate. The image he has created for himself and the team he represents, the Orioles, brings only admiration from an adoring public which too often in the past has found its muscled heroes have clay feet.

Never the popoff, locker-room lawyer or dugout complainer, he has established himself as the most revered Oriole to show up in Baltimore since the franchise was restored in 1954.

In a way, **Robinson** is the young "Stan Musial" of Baltimore. He's adept in all phases of the game, a popular figure off the field who will lend his services to any and all charitable causes and this, plus the fact he's part owner of a restaurant, makes him somewhat comparable to the venerable St. Louis Cardinal, who has conducted himself with glowing distinction over these many years.

Peak Performance in '62 Season

Brooks **Robinson**, who had his greatest season in 1962, is just now coming into the prime of what should be a bountiful career. He was among the league's foremost hitters last season, checking in with a .303 batting average, plus 23 home runs and 85 runs batted in.

His magic with the glove, making sprawling stops on balls which rocket off enemy bats, has earned him the label of "Mr. Impossible."

Coming in on topped hits or fielding bunts, where the ball has to be handled and thrown in one sweeping motion, is a play **Robinson** makes without peer. He grabs the rolling ball, jumps in a move toward first base and makes the throw.

It's a commonplace occurrence with **Robinson**, but certainly one of baseball's most symphonic maneuvers the way he executes it.

Perhaps the richest tribute ever uttered about **Robinson** came from a neutral observer, Umpire Ed Hurley, who said, "He plays third base like a man who came down from a higher league."

As an individual, discounting his play, Hurley offered an-

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Floyd Packs Dynamite on Small, Wiry Frame

Every Major Club Passed Up Chisox Socker as '54 Prep Grad; Verdict: 'He's Too Small'

By EDGAR MUNZEL

CHICAGO, Ill.

Basketball and football are games now completely monopolized by big men. On the hardwood court, only the towering goons have a chance and, on the gridiron, beef and brawn are prime requisites not only for success but sheer survival.

However, in baseball there still is a place for the good little man. And no one in the game today illustrates it more convincingly than **Floyd Robinson** of the White Sox.

Floyd is the smallest of the three **Robinsons** now maintaining the traditional greatness of that name in baseball.

Floyd stands only five feet, nine inches, but there's a lot of dynamite packed in his 170-pound frame. So much, in fact that he was the No. 2 run producer in the American League last season, topping all the big muscle men except Norm Siebern in the combination of total runs scored and runs batted in.

Robby drove in 109 runs and scored 90 himself for a total of 199. Subtracting his 11 homers, which are duplicated in runs scored and RBIs, Robby produced a total of 188 tallies for the light-hitting Pale Hose.

Led Loop with 45 Doubles

He finished third in the American League in hitting with .312 and also led the circuit in doubles with 45. As a matter of fact, that total of 45 established a White Sox club record for doubles, surpassing the mark of 43 previously shared by Earl Sheely (1925) and Bibb Falk (1926).

Robby virtually swept all White Sox batting honors. He led the team in hitting (.312), in RBIs (109), in hits (187) in total bases (285), in doubles (45) and in triples (10).

That this was accomplished by a 26-year-old in only his sophomore year in the majors is surprising enough. But far more amazing is the fact that it was achieved by a young man who originally was passed up by every club in the major leagues.

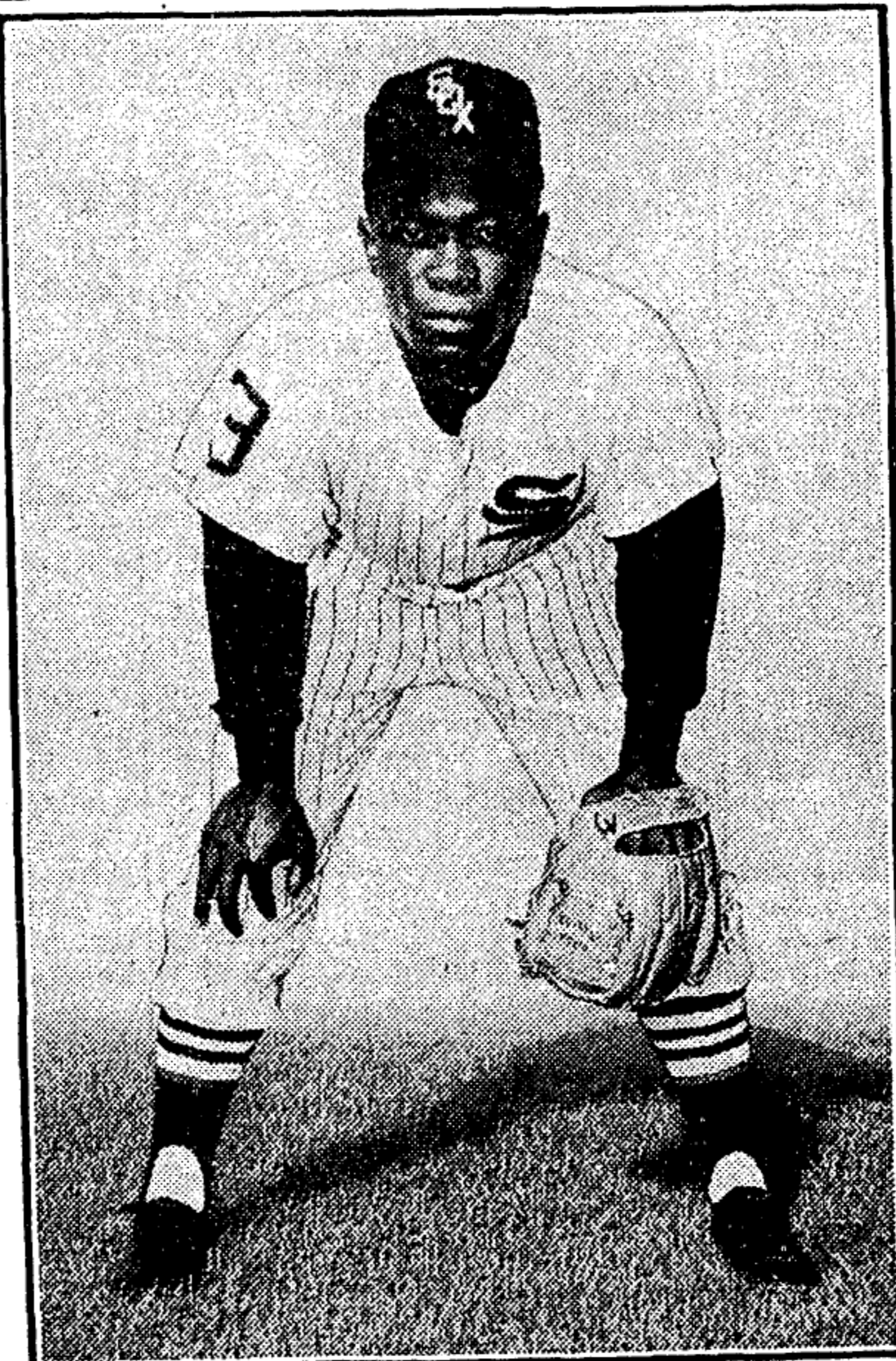
The reason? Every big league scout who watched him perform for San Diego High School was convinced that **Floyd** was too small.

In his senior year in high school, Robby hit .508. But once the scouts took a look at his size—5-7 and 155 pounds at the time—they turned away. That was 1954.

Snubbed by the majors, Robby took the next best thing. He signed with his home-town team, the San Diego Padres. All he received for signing was a paltry \$500. That first

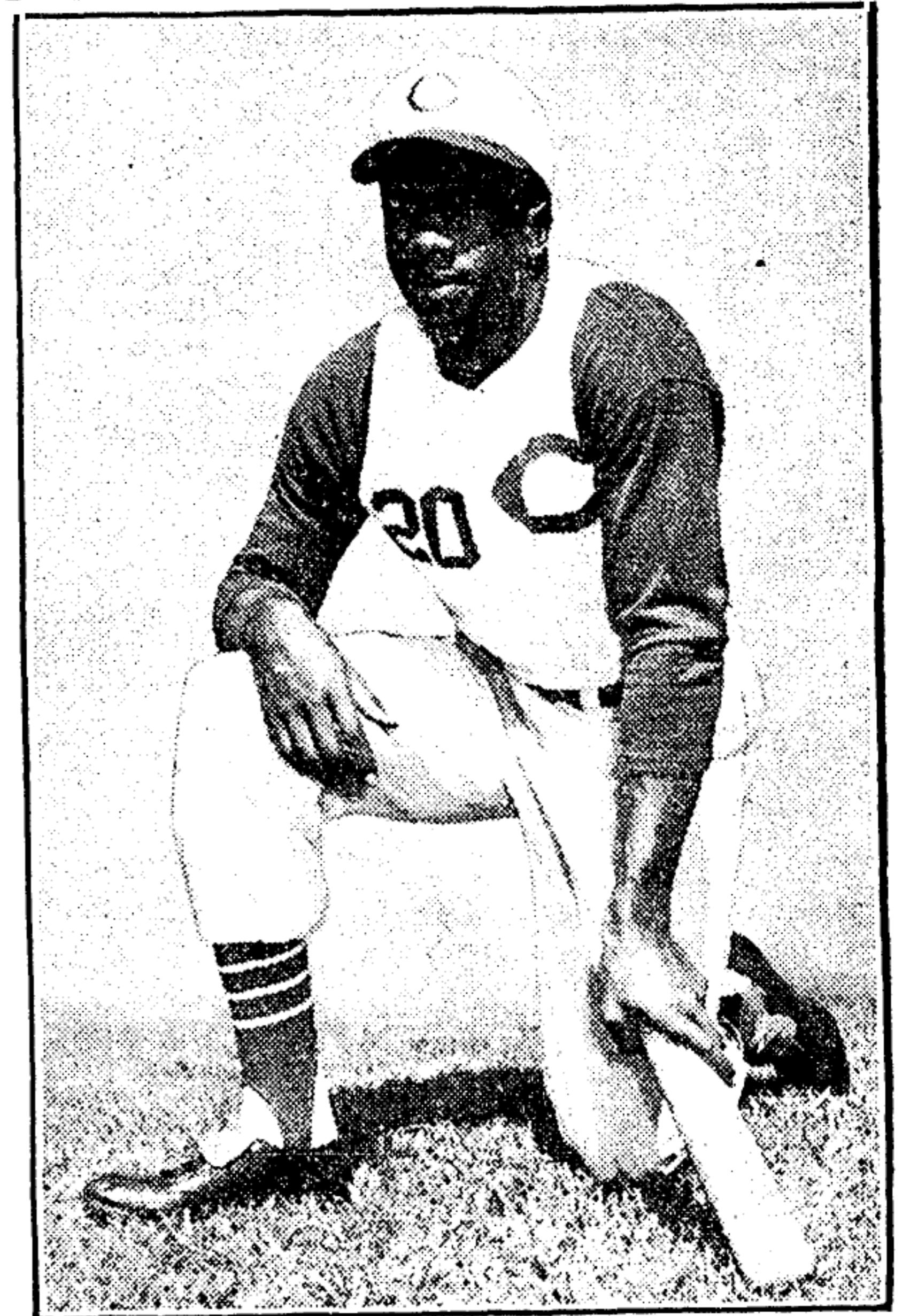
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Chisox Cannoneer



FLOYD ROBINSON . . . Red-Hot Run Producer

Rhineland Rocket



FRANK ROBINSON . . . Triggerman of Reds' Attack

Frankie Drops Bombs as Cincy King of Clout

'As Robby Goes, So Go the Reds,' Fans Chant; 'He Carried Us Most of Season'—Pilot Hutch

By EARL LAWSON

CINCINNATI, O.

Late in August of this year, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds went into the tenth inning tied at 3-all in the finale of a four-game series at Crosley Field.

One was out and two Red runners were on base when Dodger Manager Walt Alston ordered an intentional pass to Vada Pinson, filling the bases.

Up to the plate stepped **Frankie Robinson** to face Dodger Righthander Larry Sherry.

Minutes later, the near capacity crowd of 26,852 fans who jammed the cramped confines of Crosley Field roared with delight as **Robinson** sent a Sherry pitch rocketing over the scoreboard in left-center field for a game-winning home run.

Red fans have grown accustomed to seeing **Robinson** deliver the clutch hit. It's not without reason that they chant, "As **Robinson** goes, so go the Reds." Actually, the 27-year-old Red slugger comes as close to being indispensable as any player in the league.

And it came as no surprise that this year, when the pressure was greatest, **Robinson** should respond with the finest season of his seven-year career with the Reds.

Picked by Writers as '61 MVP

In 1961, the league's writers rewarded **Robinson** with the National League's Most Valuable Player Award as he led the Reds to their first pennant in 21 years.

"And," says Red Manager Fred Hutchinson, "Robby is even more deserving of the honor this year, even though we didn't repeat as pennant winners."

"Last year," pointed out Hutch, "Robby had plenty of help. This year he had to carry the entire load most of the season." In 1961, Pinson had hit .343, the No. 2 mark in the league. This year his average dipped to .292.

And in 1961, Gene Freese socked 26 homers and drove home 87 runs. This year, Freese, after fracturing his right ankle in spring training, went to the plate only 42 times. His only extra-base hit came in the final game of the season.

"Hutchinson runs out of superlatives in attempting to describe **Robinson**. The Red's slugger's 1962 record explains why.

This year, for the third time in a row, Robby led the National League in slugging percentage. His mark was an enviable .624.

The 134 runs he scored topped the league and set a new

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