

BROOKS (Left) and FRANK ROBINSON . . . The Orioles Were Happy to Have One Robinson — Now They're Delighted With Two

Robby & Robby--Orioles' Murder, Inc.

Birds Expecting a Big Lift From Frank's Bat

By DOUG BROWN

MIAMI, Fla.

Frank Robinson is 30 years old and a ten-year major league veteran—a star—but, at this particular moment, the Orioles were treating him with shocking irreverence.

Blanked in three appearances as a pinch-hitter, Robinson was starting an exhibition game for the first time as an Oriole. In the opening inning, he belted a pitch by the Senators' Buster Narum over the left field fence.

Returning to the dugout for what he assumed would be a round of handshakes and congratulations, Frank was greeted instead by silence. For perhaps 30 seconds, no one so much as looked at him.

Robinson looked around suspiciously and quickly realized his teammates were giving him the silent treatment normally reserved for a rookie after his first major league home run.

Then Frank said, in effect, "All right, you guys, you can all go pound sand."

Satisfied that they had carried the gag far enough, the Orioles erupted into laughter and gave Robinson the belated congratulations.

The instigator of the evil plot was that noted Venezuelan imp, Luis Aparicio.

Completely blameless, however, was the fellow now facetiously referred to as "the other Robinson." What's his name? Floyd? No, no, he plays for the White Sox. No, not Jackie Robinson, either.

Luis Passed the Word

Brooks? That's it—Brooks Robinson, the Orioles' third baseman.

Anyway, Brooks was waiting his turn in the batting circle when Aparicio passed along the word to give Frank the silent treatment.

If the first few weeks of spring training are any indication, it looks like having two great players named Robinson on the same team is going to be a lot of fun.

The possibilities are unlimited. Frank and Brooks sense that already.

The other day, Frank emerged from the dugout before an exhibition and was spotted instantly by an autograph hound.

"Oh, no," Frank said, chuckling, "I'm No. 20. You want Brooks Robinson. He's No. 5. Besides," he added, enjoying his own attempt to create confusion, "I'm better looking and I've got more hair."

Nor has the intriguing match-up of Robinsons escaped the attention of television. Alertly, the National Broadcasting Company wrote a brief script for the Robinsons to be used as a promotional spot announcement before its first Game of the Week on April 16.

Announcer Curt Gowdy took Frank and Brooks aside before a recent game in Pompano Beach to get the announcement on tape. The Robinsons read the script once, then rat-

Even Clubhouse Boy Takes Shot at Frank From Mound

MIAMI, Fla.—Frank Robinson, the perennial National League leader in being hit by pitches, is in the other league with the Orioles now, but already he's getting the dustoff treatment—and from a clubhouse boy, no less.

A kid named Jaime Rodriguez, who is helping Oriole equipment manager Clay Reid during spring training, was pitching to Frank recently while a television crew was filming the slugger in action at the plate.

After Robinson pounded one of Jaime's serves over the fence, the next pitch, sure enough, came at Frank's head.

Dusting himself off, Frank muttered, "They've even got head-hunters down here."

tled it off like pros while Gowdy held the microphone. It went like this:

"My name is Brooks Robinson."

"And my name is Frank Robinson."

Brooks: "And we'll be just two of nine Baltimore Orioles to take the field against the New York Yankees when NBC telecasts its first major league baseball Game of the Week."

Frank: "The date is Saturday, April 16. See you at the ball park . . . on NBC."

"Beautiful," Gowdy said. "And on the first try, too."

There is a mischievous streak in F. Robinson. While Gowdy was getting a separate spot announcement by Brooks on tape, Morrie Siegel, the comedian of Washington's press corps, whispered something in Frank's ear.

Frank's boyish face lit up with that familiar smile. Siegel's idea appealed to him. "Okay, Frank," Gowdy said. "This is Frank Robinson of the Cincinnati Reds . . ."

He broke up, writhing on the bench and giggling.

But if things go as expected, no one is going to have more fun with the Robinsons this year than Hank Bauer, the Oriole manager. To Bauer, the ultimate in humor will be the sight of a ball leaping off one of their bats.

In F. Robby, Bauer has a man who averaged .303, 101

Robinsons Aiming to Even An Old Score With Bombers

MIAMI, Fla.—The Orioles' Robinson boys, Brooks and Frank, will attempt to remove slight tarnishes on their images when they face the Yankees this year.

In 1961, the year he carried the Reds into the World Series and was acclaimed the National League's Most Valuable Player, Frank's performance against the Yanks in the fall classic was disappointing. He collected only three hits in 15 trips for an average of .200.

And Brooks? Last year, he batted only .250 against the Yanks, compared to his over-all average of .299.

Nifty Brooks Supplies Punch, Dazzling Glove

RBIs and 32 home runs in ten years with Cincinnati before the Reds traded him to the Orioles over the winter for Milt Pappas, Jack Baldschun and Dick Simpson.

In B. Robby, Bauer not only has a man who has averaged .283 during his major league career, but one who is the best third baseman in baseball.

The Robinson parlay is prompting some optimists to predict a pennant for the Orioles. Blithely overlooking the hole in the pitching staff created by the departure of Pappas, their only question seems to be: Who will be the American League's Most Valuable Player—Frank or Brooks Robinson?

It won't be that simple—or easy—and Bauer knows it. Although he expects 100 home runs from the meat of his batting order—second, Curt Blefary; third, F. Robby; fourth, B. Robby; fifth, Boog Powell—he realizes even that won't guarantee a pennant.

Frank already has had an effect on the club. It's almost as if others are flattered to be on the same team with him.

"It's a good feeling, a feeling of security," Blefary said. "One of us has got to get to the pitcher and more than likely it'll be Frank."

'We Won't Settle for Second'

"It's just that he's here. He has picked up the club with his presence. We're not going to settle for second or third and he's the guy who's going to do it."

To Blefary and Powell, both lefthanded hitters, Frank also represents something more tangible. In the past, opponents brightly figured that by saving their lefthanders for the Orioles, they could numb the bats of Powell and Blefary and simply pitch around Brooks.

No more—not with two dangerous righthanded hitters like the Robinsons.

"In that sense," Brooks said, "Frank will mean more to Blefary and Powell because I usually hit lefthanders as well as I do righthanders."

"But, overall, Frank is going to help all of us. With a guy like him in the lineup, they can't very well pitch around one of us."

To a youngster like 22-year-old Paul Blair, Frank means something special. He figured that Robinson, as a star, might be aloof.

"He's not what I expected," Blair said. "I didn't expect him to be so friendly with rookies. I hope I can get some tips from him on how to hit that .300. He's done it for a lot of years."

Mention the name of Frank Robinson to an Oriole pitcher and his eyes light up. What does Frank mean, for example, to Wally Bunker?

"You kidding?" Wally said. "He means runs, man! And from what I hear about him, he means quite a few."

With Frank and "that other Robinson" on the same club, it could be a very enjoyable season in Baltimore.



Frank Robinson . . . Fraternizing Is Out.

F. Robby Strictly Business, No Idle Chatter With Foes

By PHIL JACKMAN

BALTIMORE, Md.—Besides being "an old 30," Frank Robinson heard other raps when he came to Baltimore from Cincinnati a half-dozen years ago. Some claimed he spent too much time in the clubhouse prior to games.

Robinson still doesn't come on the field for pre-game hitting any sooner than he has to, but highly polished shoes and a uniform that hangs just right are hardly the reasons.

You see the scene reenacted nearly every day during spring training and the regular season. A club arrives for a game in a foreign port of call and players stream out of the locker room to shake hands and renew friendships with the opposition.

"There's too much of it in baseball," F. Robby said, "particularly in the American League."

"Some guys actually show up at the ballpark early so they can get out and get their conversations out of the way."

Robinson has worked long at keeping a barrier between

himself and the enemy, but he admits to softening: "It took them (American leaguers) six years, but they finally got to me."

There is a problem with being buddy-buddy with the other guy. "There's no way you can go barreling into second base and dump a guy on a double play, like you should do, when you've been fraternizing with him before the game," Frank said.

Consequently, Robinson is in no rush to dress early and move onto the field for idle chit-chat at the batting cage. Besides, he manages in winter ball now and aspires to be the first black manager, two more good reasons for keeping players at arm's length.

In Off-Season It's Okay

While several Orioles and Tigers joked around prior to a recent exhibition game in Florida, Detroit first baseman Norm Cash happened by.

"Frank," the veteran acknowledged.

"How's it going?" Robinson fairly whispered. Neither stopped. They don't stop and strike up conversations with F. Robby; he hasn't let it go that far.

"Out of season, okay," he allowed, "but it makes no sense otherwise. How can a pitcher throw a guy tight and move him back off the plate if they were out to dinner the night before? Or one guy was out to the other guy's house?"

Frank wandered by the Tiger dugout, where Billy Martin was going through a fencing lesson with baseball writers. "Still in Baltimore, huh?" the Tiger manager yelled out.

"So far," Robinson answered. "They're still open for bids, though . . . get yours in."

"We get you over here," Martin said, "and we'd win it easily."

End of conversation. Then Robby said:

"Billy was with us in Cincinnati in 1960. . . . Came over with Gordy Coleman in the Johnny Temple deal. I liked playing with him. No funny business. He played hard. I guess he had to work extra to get where he got."

Robinson walked by a few more player clusters, saying nothing. Finally, Detroit pitching coach Art Fowler yelled over to Robby.

A Glove for Fowler

"S'cuse me," he said, smiling, "gotta go shake hands with Fowler . . . he's gotta get another glove off me. He gets one every year."

Robinson made it sound as if it's easier getting a glove out of him than a handshake. Unless you're wearing a Baltimore suit, it is.

"Yeah, there's way too much fraternizing," Frank repeated. "Even in the National League . . . guess there's too many American leaguers over there."

Now, about that "old 30" business. . . .

Bird Banter: With six games against the Tigers during the first two weeks of the season, the O's assigned scout Jim Russo to bird-dog duty as of mid-March. "If the Tigers get some pitching," Russo said, cowering, and he let you fill in the blanks. . . . Oriole trainer Ralph Salvon took the heat when Miami writer Al Levine referred to him as the "the rotund trainer," so Ralph put Al on the scale. Levine shipped the needle to 243 while Salvon, semi-crash dieting, is down to 231. . . . After a couple of years of wondering where the crowds went, the O's came in for some genuine recognition during the Florida exhibitions. They drew the top turnouts in Sarasota, Bradenton and Lakeland on one trip, but they've always been able to draw on the road. The real test, of course, will come back in Baltimore.

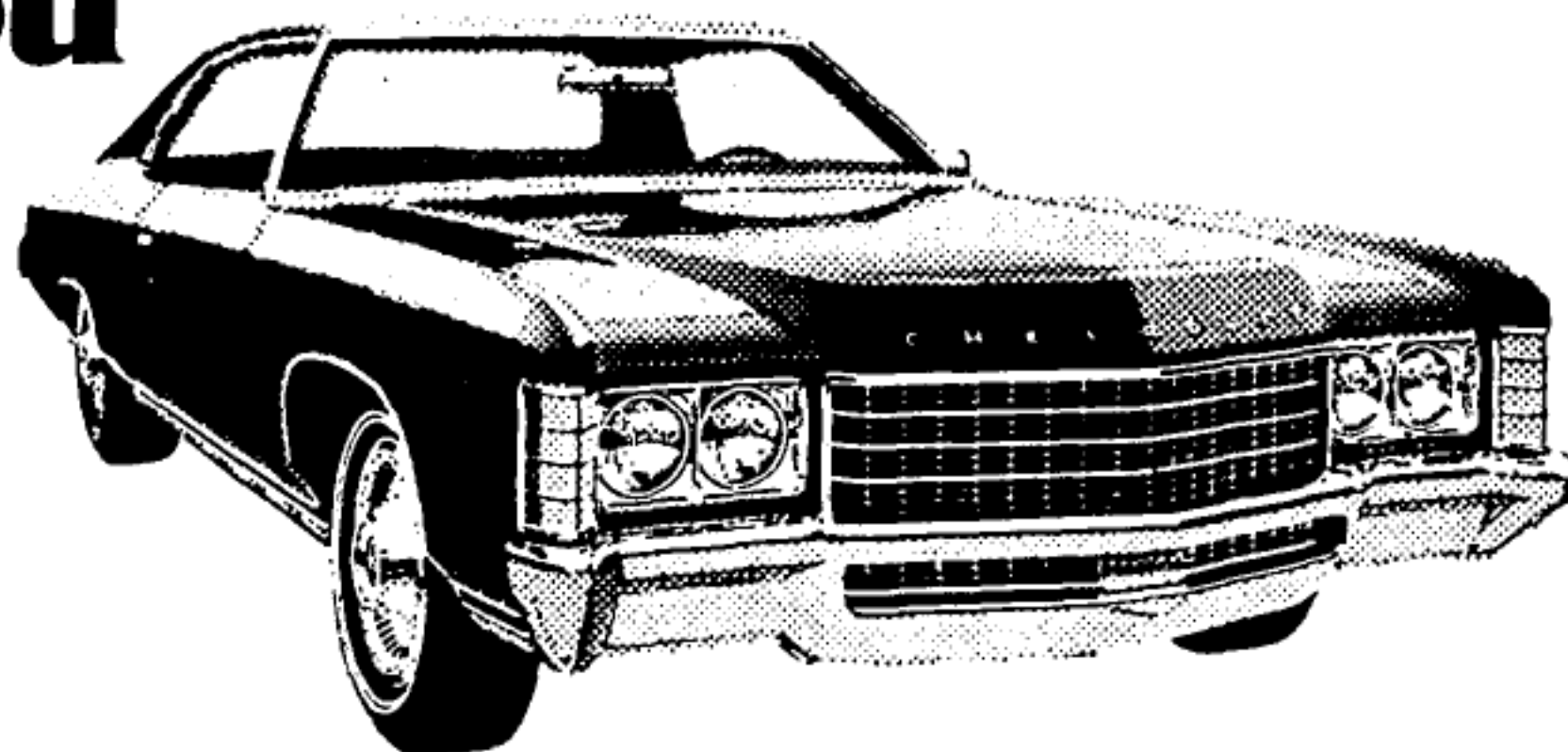
Mike Cuellar came two outs away from pitching the spring's first complete game March 22. . . . The rest of the Bird rotation, Jim Palmer, Dave McNally and Pat Dobson, all did seven frames (with varying degrees of success) the same week. . . . Terry Crowley was upset when it was suggested (by Earl Weaver no less) that he might not be with the club at the start of the regular season. Terry made the 1970 club by hitting .380, but he was about one-third as effective this time around and had a sore leg all spring. . . . The O's could end up owing San Diego a pitcher to replace Fred Beene in the Dobson-Dukes-Tom Phoebus-Enzo Hernandez deal.

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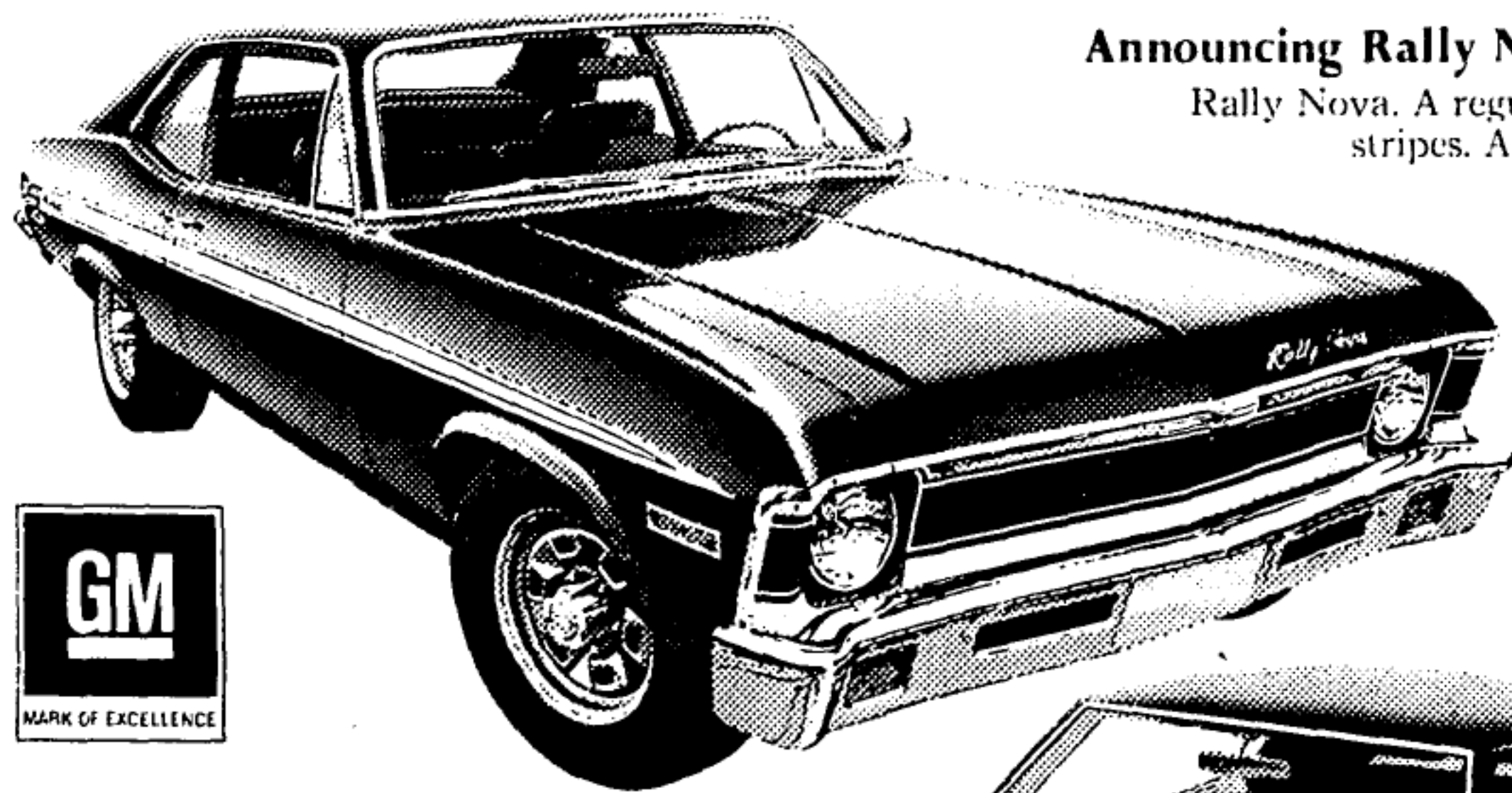
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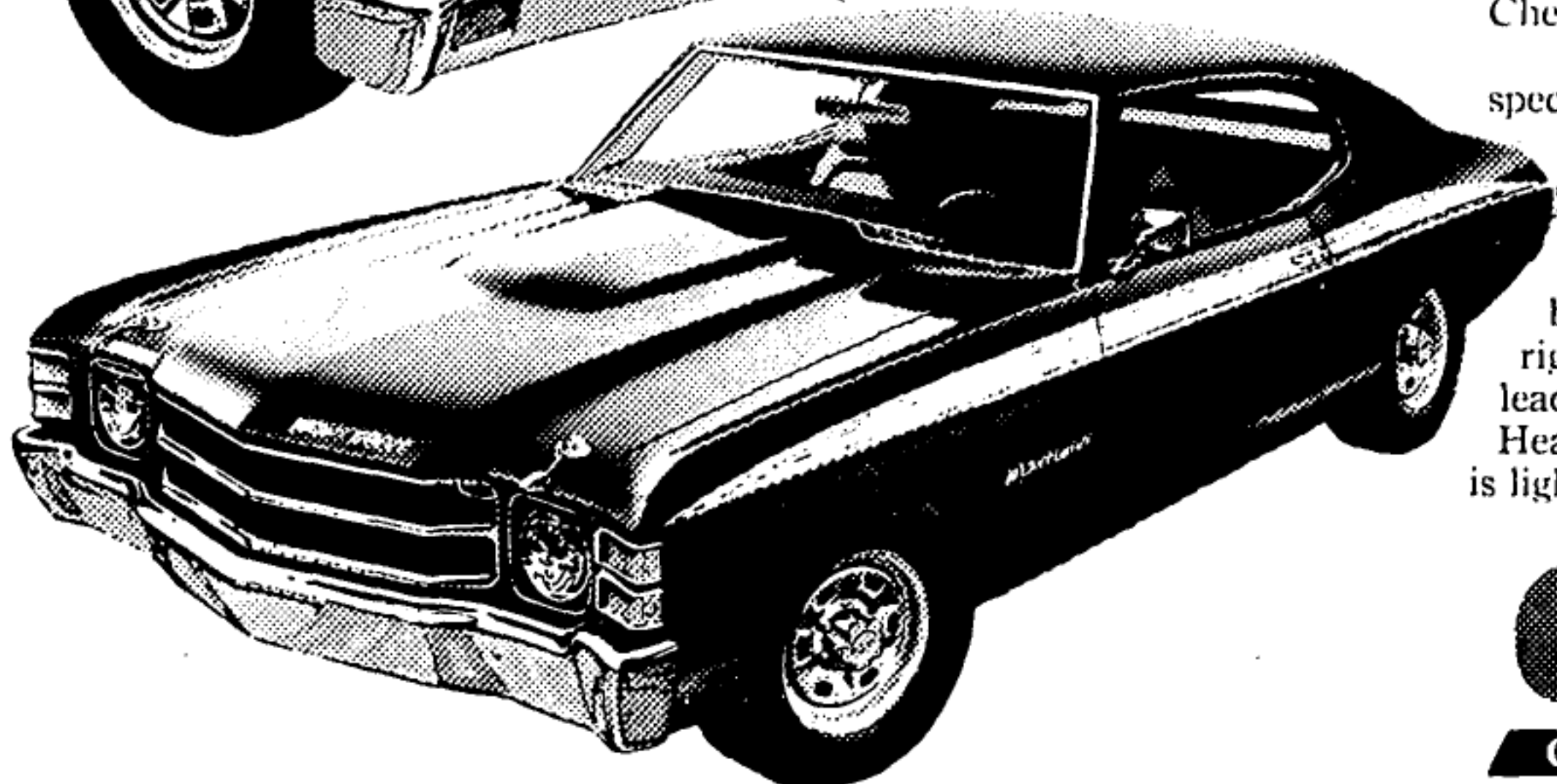
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His Personal Ambitions Might Change, Frank Robinson Says

BALTIMORE, Md.—Frank Robinson is on record as wanting to manage, but he says his personal ambitions are subject to change. He's not certain what his feeling will be later.

"Maybe I'll want to manage and maybe I won't," he said. "This is why I went to Puerto Rico—to find out what managing was all about. And I've learned things I never realized as a player. Like anything else, you really don't know how something is unless you've tried it."

F. Robby May Be Limping, But He's Angel Dynamiter

By DICK MILLER

ANAHEIM—Frank Robinson considered the question carefully before replying.

He had just hit the 534th home run of his career to tie Jimmie Foxx for the No. 6 spot on the all-time list. He had been given two standing ovations and survived a wild burst of spontaneous, affection from a big crowd when he went into the outfield to find his two children after the game.

They were in a crowd estimated at 10,000 on the field waiting for a fireworks show to begin after Robby's 12th home run of the year had tied him with Foxx.

NOW IT WAS A day later and the Great One had plenty of time to let the impact sink in. He came to the same conclusion he had the day before—the home run off Minnesota's Jim Kaat was the Angels' only hit of the day. Therefore the team had lost and the historic blow meant nothing.

"I hate to keep repeating myself," said Robby. "Some day it will mean something when I quit the game. I'll be able to sit down and say here's where I line up with the great home-run hitters."

"I can't get excited now. One guy (Hank Aaron) is going for 714. Another guy (Willie Mays) is in the high 600s and another active guy (Harmon Killebrew) is in the 500s. "No, I can't get excited now."

HE DID HAVE some exciting news for the Internal Revenue Service and Angel fans: he has decided to play next year.

This is wonderful news for the IRS. At the same time, Robby revealed the second year of his two-year contract calls for a \$12,000 raise to \$172,000.

At this writing, Robinson was leading the Angels in home runs and RBIs (42) despite five injuries (six if you want to count jamming his left hand and left shoulder on the same play).

It was at the midpoint of the season when Robby arrived at his decision to play in 1974. He had confided in spring training he would not fulfill the second year of his contract if he didn't have a good year.

"I'M GOING to play next year,"

unless something drastic happens," he said. Then he defined "something drastic" as (a) an offer to manage; (b) injuries; (c) "I fall flat on my face in the second half. I see no reason not to return next year," he concluded.

Indeed, if he can avoid nagging minor injuries, Robinson may play more than one more year. In spring training, he broke a toe in his left foot in a freak accident. Before spring training was over, he pulled muscles on the inside and outside of his left leg.

The hamstring was pulled again early in the season. Then, on June 19 he jammed his left hand and left shoulder sliding head first into second base at Chicago.

THE LEFT SIDE of Robinson's body may precede him to Coopers-town.

The home run against Minnesota July 1 came after he had been out of the lineup two days with the hand and shoulder injury. He had spent the previous 44 games as California's designated hitter.

The rule has been Robinson's salvation and the salvation of the Angels.

Would he recommend the National League adopt the rule?

"Definitely," Robinson replied. But hadn't he been against the rule when it was adopted?

"I haven't changed my thinking," said the outfielder. "I liked it. I didn't know if it would suit me as an individual. It's a good rule and will be better next year when the managers know how to handle it better."

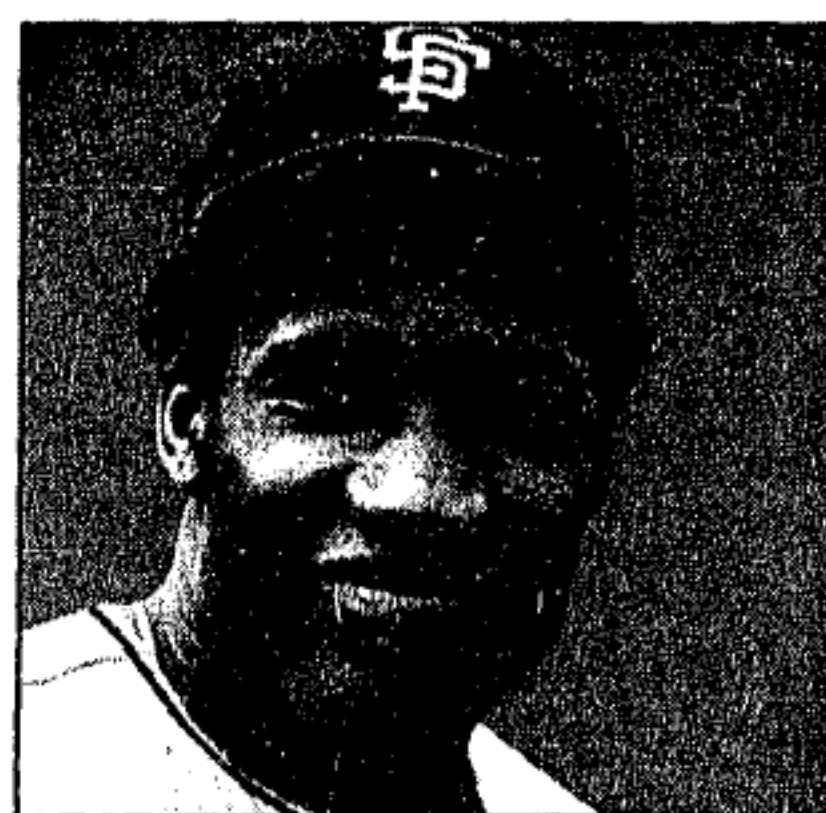
"I'VE BEEN satisfied with my role because of injuries. I haven't had to play as much as I thought in the field because of the players we've added since spring training."

"I've kind of fallen into it and enjoy it," Robinson said. "I feel stronger. I'd like to play in the field some, but it's no particular problem."

Angels' Notebook: A game be-

tween the players' wives and a team of radio people drew a crowd of 27,000. . . . Ginny Singer, Bullet Bill's wife, was the starting pitcher for the wives, but was tossed out of the game. Umpire Al Gallagher caught her using a sprinkling can on the ball. . . . Bobby Valentine's wife, Roxy, had a cast put on a leg so she would be just like her husband. . . . Bruce Christensen, once regarded as the successor to Jim Fregosi at shortstop, was traded to Phoenix, (Pacific Coast) along with a Salt Lake teammate, pitcher Don Rose, for pitcher Eduardo Figueroa. . . . If the Angels remain in contention in the Weird Weird West race until September, they will have two advantages—only 13 games on the road and Harry Dalton. The G. M. will pick up someone via the waiver route.

Dalton on the race itself: "Two things are probably going to decide it, injuries or lack of same, and who is picked up on waivers." . . . The Angels hadn't lost a single player with a pulled muscle as the season approached the halfway point. . . . Bobby Winkles' extensive spring training workouts or the Yoga exercises the players do before games may have been responsible. . . . On the other hand, Rudy May, Clyde Wright and Nolan Ryan were all bothered by back injuries. Who's fault is that? . . . Maybe someone got into the lotus position wrong. . . . The super glove, Bobby Knoop, is the new assistant baseball coach at Cal State Fullerton, which is about a Frank Robinson-sized home run from Anaheim Stadium. Knoop, who had hoped to join Winkles' staff last winter, will coach the infielders, assist in fund raising and do some recruiting for the Titans. The four-time winner of the Angels' most valuable player award will retain his present position as vice-president and general manager of the Western Tournament Golf Association.



Bobby Bonds



Joe Ferguson

Bonds, Ferguson Lead GWH List with 11 Each

By ED PHETTEPLACE

PHILADELPHIA—Bobby Bonds of the Giants and Joe Ferguson of the Dodgers are the major league leaders in game-winning hits through June 27. Each has produced the game-winning blow for his team 11 times.

Dick Allen of the White Sox and John Mayberry of the Royals lead the American League with 10 game-winners apiece.

Henry Aaron's record is noteworthy as the Atlanta slugger is in pursuit of Babe Ruth's all-time home-run record. Of the first 32 games won by the Braves, Aaron was responsible for hitting the game-winning blow in nine of them, an indication of his overall value to his team.

Designated hitters have made their presence felt in winning games. Orlando Cepeda and Frank Robinson are leading their clubs in game-winning hits. Jim Ray Hart, Tommy Davis and Tony Oliva have also won a number of games for their clubs.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

| Club | W. | L. | WH Leaders |
|--------------|----|----|--|
| Chicago | 46 | 31 | Kessinger—8 Santo—8 Williams—6 Monday—6 |
| St. Louis | 36 | 37 | Cruz—8 Brock—4 Melendez—4 |
| Montreal | 34 | 36 | Bailey—6 Jorgensen—5 Fairly—4 |
| Philadelphia | 35 | 39 | Schmidt—6 Montanez—4 Luzinski—4 Unser—4 |
| Pittsburgh | 33 | 38 | Stargell—8 A. Oliver—5 Cash—4 Stennett—4 |
| New York | 31 | 39 | Staub—5 Milner—5 Kranepool—4 |

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

| Club | W. | L. | WH Leaders |
|---------------|----|----|--|
| Los Angeles | 50 | 27 | Ferguson—11 Cey—7 W. Crawford—5 W. Davis—5 |
| San Francisco | 45 | 33 | Bonds—11 Speier—7 Goodson—6 McCovey—4 |
| Houston | 43 | 35 | L. May—6 D. Rader—6 Wynn—6 Helms—5 Cedeno—5 Watson—5 |
| Cincinnati | 39 | 36 | Concepcion—8 Bench—7 Morgan—6 Perez—6 |
| Atlanta | 32 | 45 | H. Aaron—9 Lum—4 Baker—4 Evans—4 |
| San Diego | 24 | 52 | Kendall—6 Grubb—5 Lee—4 |

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

| Club | W. | L. | WH Leaders |
|-----------|----|----|--|
| New York | 42 | 33 | Murcer—9 Nettles—7 J. R. Hart (DH)—7 Clarke—4 Munson—4 |
| Baltimore | 37 | 30 | E. Williams—8 T. Davis (DH)—7 Blair—4 |
| Milwaukee | 37 | 36 | D. May—7 Briggs—5 Scott—4 Money—3 |
| Boston | 35 | 35 | O. Cepeda (DH)—8 C. Fisk—7 |
| Detroit | 36 | 38 | Horton—5 Kaline—5 Stanley—5 |
| Cleveland | 27 | 47 | Hendrick—5 Chambliss—4 Spikes—4 |

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

| Club | W. | L. | WH Leaders |
|-------------|----|----|--|
| Oakland | 41 | 34 | R. Jackson—8 Campaneris—5 Rudi—5 D. Johnson (DH)—5 |
| California | 39 | 33 | F. Robinson (DH)—8 Pinson—6 B. Oliver—6 |
| Chicago | 37 | 32 | D. Allen—10 C. May—7 Melton—6 |
| Minnesota | 37 | 33 | R. Darwin—9 T. Oliva (DH)—7 Killebrew—5 |
| Kansas City | 40 | 38 | J. Mayberry—10 Rojas—6 Otis—5 Piniella—5 |
| Texas | 25 | 44 | J. Burroughs—6 Harrah—5 Harris—4 |

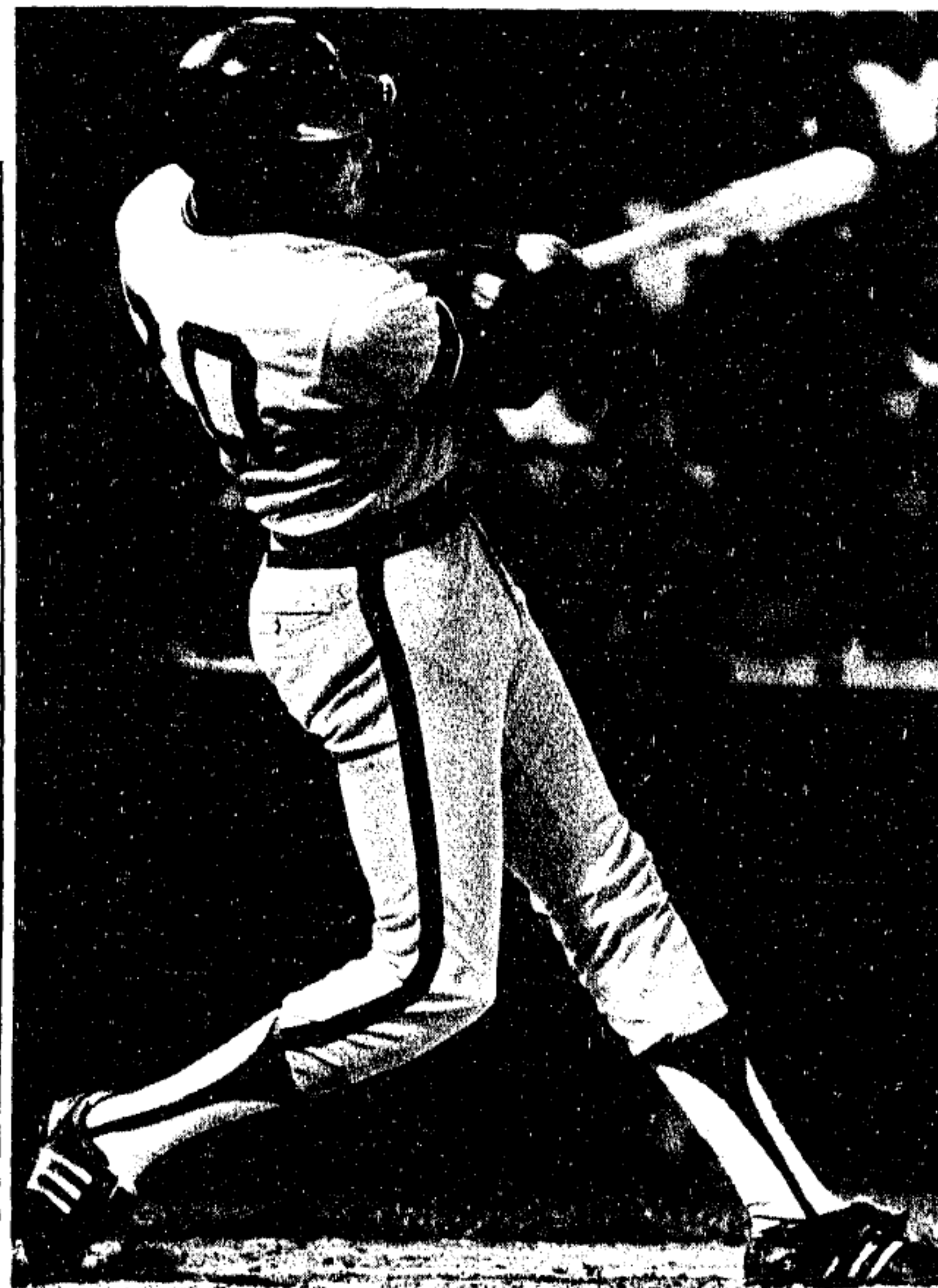
(DH)—Designated-Hitter.

GAME-WINNING HIT LEADERS

| American League | | | National League | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Player | Club | GWH | Player | Club | GWH |
| D. Allen | Chicago | 10 | Bonds | San Francisco | 11 |
| J. Mayberry | Kansas City | 10 | Ferguson | Los Angeles | 11 |
| Murcer | New York | 9 | H. Aaron | Atlanta | 9 |
| B. Darwin | Minnesota | 9 | Kessinger | Chicago | 8 |
| E. Williams | Baltimore | 8 | R. Santo | Chicago | 8 |
| R. Jackson | Oakland | 8 | Cruz | St. Louis | 8 |
| Cepeda (DH) | Boston | 8 | Concepcion | Cincinnati | 8 |
| F. Robinson (DH) | California | 8 | Stargell | Pittsburgh | 8 |
| Oliva (DH) | Minnesota | 7 | J. Cey | Los Angeles | 7 |
| J. R. Hart (DH) | New York | 7 | Speier | San Francisco | 7 |
| T. Davis (DH) | Baltimore | 7 | Bench | Cincinnati | 7 |
| C. Fisk | Boston | 7 | B. Williams | Chicago | 6 |
| Nettles | New York | 7 | Monday | Chicago | 6 |
| D. May | Milwaukee | 7 | Bailey | Montreal | 6 |
| C. May | Chicago | 7 | Schmidt | Philadelphia | 6 |
| Melton | Chicago | 6 | Goodson | San Francisco | 6 |
| Rojas | Kansas City | 6 | L. May | Houston | 6 |
| J. Burroughs | Texas | 6 | D. Rader | Houston | 6 |
| Pinson | California | 6 | J. Wynn | Houston | 6 |
| B. Oliver | California | 6 | Morgan | Cincinnati | 6 |
| | | | T. Perez | Cincinnati | 6 |
| | | | Kendall | San Diego | 6 |

(DH)—Designated-Hitter.

(*)—(Note) F. Robinson of California has 4 WH as regular player . . . also 4 WH as Designated-Hitter, total 8.



Frank Robinson . . . He'll Be Back in 1974

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How Bragan Got Braves' Job

(Continued From Page 19)

pasteboard war game.

Cut off at the pass, a reluctant O'Malley was forced to keep Alston.

The most bewildered one in the whole affair, which read like a bungled CIA plot, was Bragan. He had received mysterious orders from Rickey to fly into Milwaukee, see Perini, and take the job as Braves' manager.

A few months after that, Bobby got the ax in the middle of the season at Milwaukee.

Two years later, Bobby still didn't know what really had happened.

I sat next to him at Rickey's funeral in St. Louis in December of 1965; I asked if he felt there was anything fishy about the way he had moved into the Milwaukee job.

"STRANGEST THING that ever happened to me," drawled Bobby. "Rickey got me on the phone, told me to take the first plane I could get, and rush to meet Perini at Milwaukee. He cautioned me to take the first contract the Braves' owner offered. 'Don't haggle over salary,' the Old Man said, promising to explain later. He never got around to it."

I filled in the whole silly scenario for Bragan.

I was getting a cram course in the Dirty Tricks Department; I couldn't figure out why the owners acted this way inside the medieval cell block that is Organized Baseball.

Then old friend Walter Kennedy explained it one day. He said he had had to sit on top of his basketball league of squalling owners—the NBA—for 12 years, and it had taught him a few things.

"THE PUBLICITY that owners of teams get knocks them off balance," he said. "They get hooked on headlines, and it's a narcotic they must have in larger and larger doses."

Kennedy, a friend of 35 years, looked at the bright sunlight flooding our hotel room as we chatted. "If I had our 18 basketball owners and their lawyers here right now," he said, "and I asked for a vote on whether or not the sun was shining, I can tell you exactly how it would come out."

"Eight yes votes, eight no, with two abstentions," he laughed. "And they wouldn't even look outside to make up their minds. They would be trading votes, bickering to see how they could get together to round up enough to beat the faction they didn't like."

"A successful businessman buys a basketball team," Kennedy explained. "And the rush of attention he gets seems to tilt him off balance. It develops into a mania for headlines and publicity. They can't handle it at all—"

"Sounds like the case of Charlie Finley," I chuckled.

"EXACTLY," he said. "Men who have been successful on their own simply cannot cope with the word 'no' when you say it. That is why Finley resents the commissioner, and the president of his league; They are saying 'no' to his wild ideas a lot of the time, and he rebels."

The man who made basketball as big as it is today paused a bit before his face lit up and the words started to tumble out of him again. "I was absolutely stunned," he said, "at the way Jack Kent Cooke went bananas the very first time I had to say 'no' to him on a league matter. Jack started to choke and gurgle on the other end of the phone, and I really thought he was having a heart attack."

Cooke is the multimillionaire

owner of basketball's Los Angeles Lakers and the L. A. Kings in hockey's big league, and he is a czar who fires as many people as Finley. He is an intellectual, a one-man whirlwind, and a supreme egotist.

"AFTER I finished that phone conversation with Cooke," Kennedy went on, "it started to dawn on me that very probably nobody had said 'no' to this man since his mother had told him to stop sucking his thumb."

We chatted a bit about how Cooke compares with the Big Boys of baseball in going haywire over headlines and power, and suddenly Kennedy said, "When Marvin Kratter got bitten by the publicity bug, he had the worst case I've ever seen."

"Marvin Kratter? Not the same Marvin Kratter who bought Ebets Field, and made an apartment house out of it?"

"The same," laughed Kennedy. "When Kratter bought the Boston Celtics and sat on the bench with Red Auerbach, he came apart."

"KRATTER WAS a millionaire many times over," Walter explained, "but he was still a nobody. Oh, he got a paragraph here or there in Forbes magazine for one of his big deals, but really very few people knew who he was."

"At the very first Celtic game that the deal was made, there was Kratter down on the bench, being introduced around by Auerbach. The game was on national TV in Boston, and I was home in New York watching it. When the game started, Marvin plunked himself down right next to the coach."

Here Kennedy got into the narrative with obvious relish.

"YOU KNOW how Auerbach is," he laughed. "Every time there was a big play or a tough call by the referee, Red reacted as he always does. The TV cameramen are always ready for Red's explosions, and they picked him up every time. Only now it was different, because Marvin Kratter was on camera every time Auerbach was. All night, in fact. I remember my wife saying, 'What is that fat little bald-headed man doing on the Celtics' bench, anyway?'"

"I told her that he was Mr. Marvin Kratter, and that he had just bought the Boston Celtics."

Kennedy chuckled at the thought. "At first she didn't believe me, but then she kind of let out a little gasp, and then a little later she said, 'I just can't believe it, Walter.' She said it as if some dear friend had just passed on."

"KRATTER couldn't believe what happened, either," said Kennedy. "He called me in the NBA office about noon, and he was stuttering, he was so excited. Said his phone had been ringing off the hook all morning. 'Would you believe it, Kennedy, I am a celebrity?' he shouted to me. 'Four big deals I had hanging, and the people would not even return my calls. This morning, Kennedy, would you believe three of them called me, and it went like this: 'I seen you on television last night, Marvin. How about taking me to a Celtics' game some time, so I could meet the players? And by the way, Marvin, that deal we got on the fire, it's been cooking too long now; how about lunch tomorrow, and we'll wrap it up?'"

"From the tone Kratter used," Kennedy said, "I got the idea he was saying to me, 'Why didn't somebody tell me about this sooner?'"

I FELT SURE I knew what my old friend's punch line would be on Mr. Kratter. It came out this way:

CROSS CURRENTS

THE SPORTS CROSSWORD BY CHARLES SUMNER

FRANK ROBINSON



ACROSS

- Goaltender known as owner of stable of thoroughbreds on New England Circuit. (Two words)
- The home-run slugger with the asterisk. (Two words)
- Former prizefighter Fritz.
- Former Notre Dame and Detroit Lion great, now head of NFL Alumni Association. (Two words)
- When the New York football Giants won the 1938 NFL championship, it took a 23-yd pass reception by Hank _____, later to become an A. L. baseball umpire, to clinch the victory.
- Star of the great 1934 Alabama football team, which included Don Hutson and Bear Bryant. (Two words)
- In 1967, this UCLA back won the Heisman Trophy, but Gary never was able to make a real dent with the pros.
- Outstanding Atlanta 'Falcons' lineman John.
- White Sox front-office executive Roland.
- As his 14-year career winds down, lefty Claude was a few victories short of 200-win mark.
- Joe Tinker's DP partner.
- During 1952 season, this Detroit Tiger hurler fired two 1-0, no-hit games; one against the Senators and one against the Yankees.
- When the great Cleveland Indian pitching staff of the '50s (Feller, Lemon, Wynn and Garcia) needed lefthanded relief, Don was the man the club turned to.
- Kind of pass thrown to the man behind a wall of blockers.
- Great Notre Dame brother act; Red was a star halfback in 1909 while

"Three months later," Kennedy said with a wry smile, "Marvin was telling me how to run the league."

You might cross out the name "Kratter" in that story and write in "Finley," and you'd have about the same general idea. Or you could write in "O'Malley," and he'd fit Kratter's part without changing more than a word or two.

- Don became one of the fabled Four Horsemen in 1924.
- Jack was the shortstop of the famous "\$100,000 Infield" of the 1910-1914 Athletics, which included Home Run Baker, Eddie Collins and Stuffy McInnis.
- Baseball slang for an even match.
- Canine nickname of Philly Flyers' Bob Kelly.
- Big name in Phillies' front office.
- Race driver Yarborough.
- Recent Hall of Fame addition won or tied for league lead in homers for his first seven consecutive years ('46-'52), a feat unmatched by anyone in baseball history, including Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron.
- Tight end Billy Joe was Dallas Cowboys' No. 1 draft pick in 1973.
- Pro grid team whose 23-game undefeated string ended in 1934 championship game remembered as "The Sneaker Game" because of frozen field.
- New York Jets' lineman Billy.
- He's one of the men who throws passes to Harold Carmichael and Charles Young. (Two words)
- Ram linebacker Jack's hobby is, believe it or not, working on Jeeps.
- Paul scored the deciding goal in the first Team Canada-USSR hockey series, but later toiled in WHA.
- Swivel-hipped running back led 1958 LSU team to national championship and later entered pro ranks. (Two words)

DOWN

- Mark and Marty's favorite hockey player. (Two words)
- During 1950 "Whiz Kids" pennant drive, this recent Hall of Fame electee made three starts in final five days of season, then relieved in deciding final game for his 20th win of season. (Two words)
- What exploits outlined in 2 down will make of a man.
- Met Mike hit in 23 straight games in 1975, tying N. L. Rookie mark.
- What a brisk Brock break brings.
- After winning 1968 Minor League Player of the Year honors, outfielder Merv has joined his third major league team.

- 1953 A. L. MVP. (Indians)
- N. L. Manager Bill got first piloting chance in 1972; won division title, was fired; finished second in new job with Manager of the Year honors, and was again fired.
- Small college with big name in collegiate hockey.
- Predecessor of pictured manager.
- Nicknamed "the Chief", Mel collected 223 wins over near two-decade A. L. career, winning 20 in '34 and 22 in '35.
- Common end-zone activity following TD nowadays.
- Fred is Willie Randolph's double-play partner.
- Center field feature at Yankee Stadium.
- The team that calls Three Rivers Stadium home, for football.
- What you need for a successful rink ... or drink.
- This man follows Carrasquel and Aparicio as latest in line of quality shortstops hailing from Venezuela. (Two words)
- "Mr. Big" in Kentucky basketball circles.
- Hockey's "Red Baron." (Two words)
- An outfielder nicknamed "Old Hoss" compiled a .336 lifetime BA, primarily as a member of the Chicago Cubs during the late 20s and early 30s.
- Yankee speed merchant who, when asked how many bases he expected to steal during the coming season, replied, "I'm going to double my limit."
- Talented linebacker Steve.
- This is to bowling what an inning is to baseball.
- Reliever Dick, while a Red Soxer during 1975 pennant drive, collected 8 saves and a win in his last 13 appearances.
- In 1967, southpaw Billy pitched a one-hitter in his A. L. debut, the only hit being a ninth-inning, two-out single by Elston Howard.
- Angels' second baseman Jerry should be an inspiration to all young ball-players; having been picked on last round of secondary phase of free-agent draft.

(Solution Next Week)