

# Harwell's Famous Editorial

(Continued From Page 18)

tographs, Take Me Out to the Ball Game—all of them are baseball.

Baseball is a rookie—his experience no bigger than the lump in his throat—trying to begin fulfillment of a dream. It's a veteran, too—a tired old man of 35, hoping his aching muscles can drag him through another sweltering August and September. For nine innings, baseball is the story of David and Goliath, of Samson, Cinderella, Paul Bunyan, Homer's Iliad and the Count of Monte Cristo.

Willie Mays making a brilliant World Series catch. And then dashing off to play stick-ball in the street with his teen-age pals—that's baseball. And so is the husky voice of a doomed Lou Gehrig saying: "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth."

Baseball is cigar smoke, hot roasted peanuts, THE SPORTING NEWS, winter trades, "Down in Front," and the "Seventh Inning Stretch." Sore arms, broken bats, a no-hitter, and the strains of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Baseball is a man named Campanella telling the nation's business leaders:

"You have to be a man to be a big leaguer, but you have to have a lot of little boy in you, too."

This is a game for America, this baseball!

# Cardinals Could Use Help At Shortstop, Behind Dish

By BOB BROEG

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Late in spring training, when the Cardinals fielded their obvious opening-day lineup for an exhibition against the White Sox, a reporter looked over Manager Red Schoendienst's batting order and asked:

"If you had your choice of one player from the club's championship past to insert in the lineup, who would it be?"

Red grinned, recognizing Walter Mitty when he was interviewed by him, and went along with the fantasy.

"Marty Marion," he said without hesitation, then paused and said, "Or maybe Walker Cooper."

Now as anyone old enough to appreciate the Huckleberry Finn of baseball can understand, Schoendienst grew up in Cardinal territory, a farm and mining community called Germantown, Ill. He read and heard about many earlier Redbird heroes, including Rogers Hornsby, Frank Frisch, Dizzy Dean, Joe Medwick and Chick Hafey, all

in the Hall of Fame, and he played with a Hall of Famer, too.

Stan Musial, of course.

Schoendienst would like to have Musial's big bat in his lineup any time.

"And Stan was a heckuva fine base runner, a good outfielder and a very good first baseman," said Schoendienst, "but . . ."

But Red was putting first things first—his concern over shortstop and catching as the Cardinals' primary problems for the 1971 campaign.

There were others, of course, including most certainly pitching and a bullpen from which no righthander had surfaced in Florida as a reliable game-saver.

## Simmons Should Improve

But in a year when both the front office and field management felt the Redbirds had improved their defense, shortstop and catching loom as questionable.

Chances are that 20-year-old Ted Simmons, playing his first full season in the majors, will improve on the mechanics of catching, especially handling low pitches and blocking the plate properly. The point is, at the outset the switch-hitting kid represents neither all-round strength nor experience behind the plate. And, engrossed in helping himself as a receiver, Simmons still has to prove he can hit in the majors.

At shortstop, partly as a result of losing Richie Allen's home-run bat, the Redbirds hoped to have a hitter who would be bashful-batting Dal Maxvill's defensive equal. At this writing, that hope is not to be fulfilled.

Hustling Ted Sizemore, acquired from Los Angeles to strengthen the St. Louis infield, not only was handicapped by a weak left hand, the result of early February surgery to remove a bone chip, but he also appeared to lack satisfactory range to his right.

Even when he was unable to grab a ball properly because of the scar tissue at the base of his palm, Sizemore dutifully was taking special practice at going to his right and trying to get enough on his throw to make the shortstop's most difficult play.

There's no doubt that Sizemore could play second base very well and hit better than Julian Javier, but Javier, in turn, hits better than Maxvill.

A Marion, a master shortstop who was about a .265 hitter and once won a Most Valuable Player award (1944) with his glove, would strengthen any pitching staff with his defensive brilliance and not embarrass the attack, either.

## Cooper a Power Hitter

Walker Cooper not only was a strong-throwing good receiver, but also a power-hitting catcher.

Schoendienst, playing the game of make-believe to the end, smiled wistfully and said, "Maybe Simmons will become a Cooper."

"He's only a kid. And we know Sizemore is a good player who'll fit in somewhere."

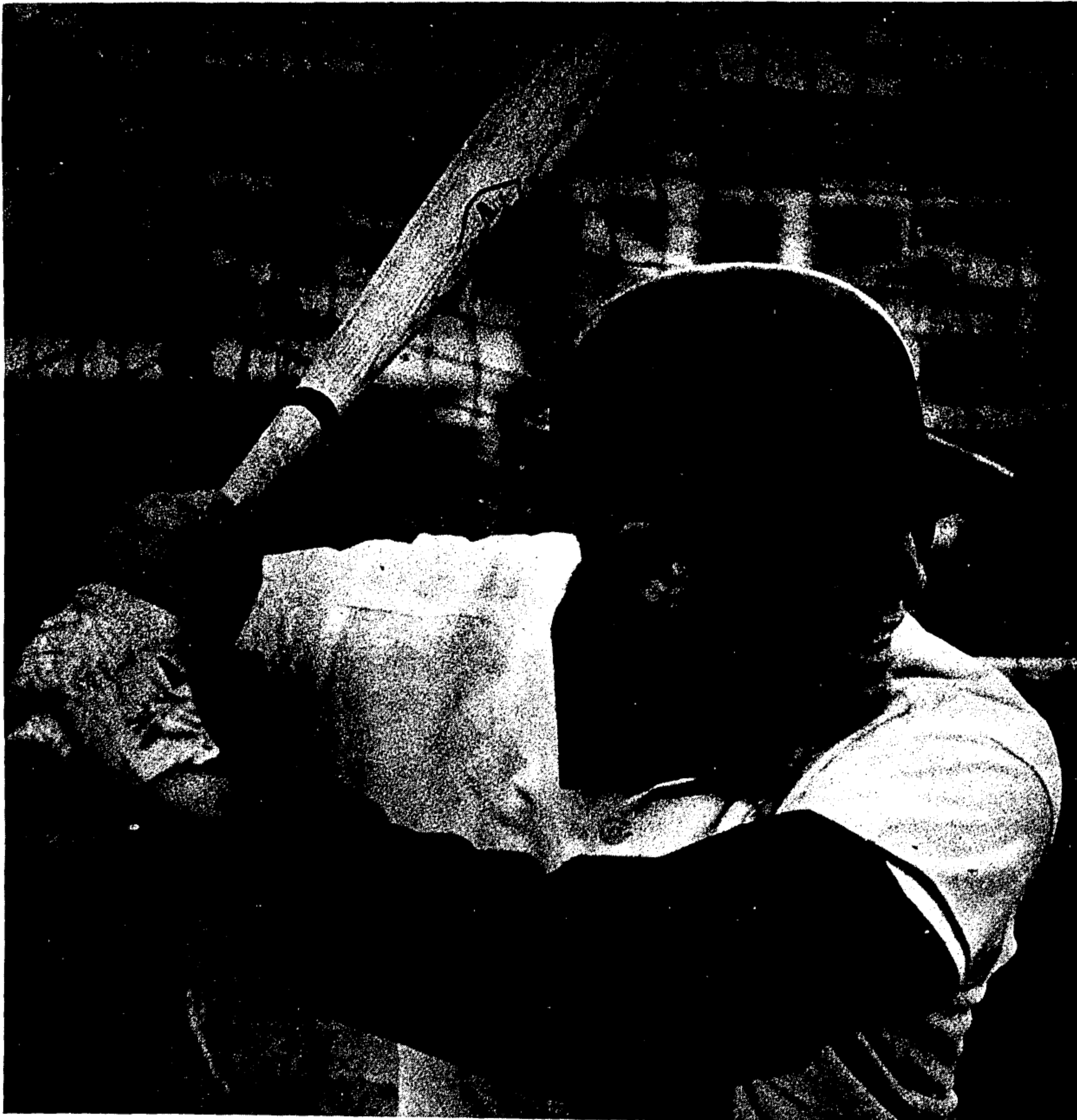
"Come to think of it, if I had that one player to choose from to help immediately, I think maybe I'd take Cooper first and Marion second because I could always play Maxvill at shortstop or a fine-fielding kid (Milt Ramirez) we just sent out for more experience."

What player would your favorite club need most now? The best overall or, as in the Cardinals' case, the best at a particular position?

**Redbird Chirps:** Simmons' wife gave birth to a 6-pound, 8-ounce son, Jon MacArthur Simmons, March 22 at Southfield, suburban Detroit. The young catcher, twice earlier on the run to make military commitments, flew home to be with mother and son for a day. . . . Little Fred Norman, making a pretty good impression in the bullpen with a lefthanded screwball, left camp at the same time because his father was ill in San Antonio. . . . When the Cardinals made their first roster cut March 23, they sent out Ramirez and second baseman Tom Heintzelman, outfielder Jorge Roque and pitchers Jackie Strippling and sorearmed George Winslow. Schoendienst, praising the batting potential of Heintzelman, a 24-year-old Vietnam war veteran, found smiling agreement from a visitor, former major league lefthander Ken Heintzelman, the infielder's father.

Javier released a statement through the Cardinals' office that as a result of a three-day trip to St. Louis with his wife, he had reached agreement with the government over back income taxes. Originally Uncle Sam said Hoolie owed \$85,000, but the second baseman said his tax accountant indicated that a compromise had been reached.

. . . When the Cards ended a five-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati, 5-2, March 23, Jose Cardenal went 4-for-4, including two doubles. The Cuban expatriate, who is nearing American citizenship, extended his string to seven successive blows when he doubled and had two singles in three official trips as the Cards defeated the White Sox the next afternoon, 3-2. At one point in the two-game stretch, Cardenal and Joe Hague, batting 4-5 in the St. Louis lineup, owned 12 consecutive hits. The string ended when the Chisox handed Cardenal an intentional walk in the seventh inning and Hague proceeded to fly out.



## Hitter's Season

We wish all the Big Leaguers a great year in 1971. Of course, we have to single out the hitters. They get our special attention. Perennials like Mays. Pros like Torre, Carty, and Santo. And all the rookies we hope will make it big.

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# Cards Pick a Winner—Workhorse Simmons

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—Harness racing had **Ted Simmons'** late father, Finis. And the sport now has his two brothers, Jim and Ned. But the trotters and pacers lost out to baseball when it came to **Ted**.

How? **Ted** liked horses, too. He had been around them a lot because his father owned and trained them for years—and even drove the buggies in races. **Ted's** brothers are deeply involved now as owners and trainers, and Ned still drives.

One day **Ted** announced that he was tired of being the general flunky around the stables. He had to clean them out regularly. And the privilege of walking the horses in a circle wasn't enough. So Pop **Simmons** finally gave in to young **Ted**.

ONE MORNING, as **Ted** drove a buggy along the rail, another buggy was being clocked in a workout from the opposite direction.

"He was coming fast and trying to pull up, finally, when he saw I wasn't getting out of the way," **Ted** related. "I finally managed to pull off the rein just in time. I might not have been killed, but the horse would have become hamburger meat and I probably would have been crippled."

When Pop **Simmons** arrived on the scene, he quickly pulled **Ted** out of the buggy and said, "That's all for you."

And so workhorse **Ted** stuck with baseball, even though he had been most successful as a back in football and loved—and still loves—hockey. He even had a brief flirtation with golf. That was when he played for the Cardinals' Modesto (California) farm club.

THE PLAYERS were permitted to fool with birdies and bogeys only on Mondays, always an off day. But **Ted** said he'd sneak out a few extra times a week—especially after shooting a 92 on his first attempt.

"I said to myself—this just has to be my game," he related. "But I kept getting worse and worse." **Ted** has quite a temper, which he manages to keep in check, so it was no surprise that he became a club thrower.

"I wanted to break 90 so badly," he said. But things got worse. Finally, after an umpire asked him how his golf game was going, between innings of a baseball game, **Ted** explained his links slump and made the arbiter an on-the-spot offer he couldn't refuse.

"I sold him a \$150 set of golf clubs, almost brand new, for \$70, and I haven't played golf since," **Simmons** said. He always has liked challenges.

**TED HAS BECOME** one of baseball's best-hitting catchers, even though he has had only three full seasons in the majors. It has to be a rarity for a catcher to hit over .300 in his first three full seasons in the majors—but that's what **Ted** did. Some researchers have gone back more than 40 years without finding a receiver who did what **Simmons** did.

Last season, **Ted** was caught in the early-season swoon that gripped so many teammates. But he zoomed from .200 to .290 in about a month—and he was still charging fast through September as St. Louis' pennant bid fell short.

How did a workhorse receiver who should be bogged down by September hit so well and play so well in the last four weeks?

"IT WAS THE thought of the

\$25,000 (for winning a World Series) and the Series ring," he said. "I had never been on a team that won anything in pro ball. A second at Tulsa was the closest."

**Simmons** wound up with .310 last year. He was .313 lefthanded and .305 righthanded. "That was a great shot in the arm—batting over .300 from both sides," the tough competitor said.

**Simmons** finally is admitting the effects of catching day in and day out, and if hot prospect Marc Hill can hit enough to make the majors, **Ted** said he'd be happy to take on the new challenges of playing first base, or even third base or left field. "I wouldn't be the greatest first baseman or left fielder, but I'm not afraid to go after the ball," he said.

THERE WERE challenges for **Simmons**, fast becoming a top receiver, as far back as his Little League days. And this thirst for wanting to become involved with tougher and tougher competition almost cost him his girl friend, who now is his wife—the former Maryanne Ellison.

The father of attractive Maryanne, Russell Ellison, managed a kids' team and he chose **Simmons** in the annual grab-bag draft. However, when the team was assembled, **Ted** suddenly decided that all he could become was a big fish in a small pond. So he joined a team made up of older boys.

Before long, Maryanne's father began to refer to her young suitor as "unreliable" and "undependable." But **Ted** moved on to the crack Kowalski Sausage and Baloney Co. team in Detroit.

BROTHER JIM, who was a top football player and now weighs 260, got **Ted** to switch-hit at 13. Jim and brother Ned taught **Ted** all they could. Sister Nina couldn't help on the diamond, but she became an expert hair stylist (and long-haired **Ted** might need one now at times).

"They'd whistle whiffleballs at me from 30 feet away," **Ted** recalled. "I'd swing hard all the time

and I'd hit some balls well. But they'd yell to me, 'Just try to hit the ball all over and relax. You're not going to be another Harmon Killebrew.'"

What was that? Kid brother **Ted** told Jim and Ned what he thought about that comparison with non-agile Killebrew and challenged them.

"I challenged them even though I knew they could handle me like a muddie," **Simmons** said.

TED'S BROTHERS had to shape **Ted's** early career because Pop **Simmons** was too busy with harness horses. The father never did get a chance to see **Ted** play in the major leagues. He died three years ago.

By the way, about that name, Finis. . . it seems that **Ted's** grandmother had decided on five children. His father became No. 5, thus the name Finis. But it wasn't the end. Grandma did have one more child.

**Simmons** scored all four touchdowns for Southfield High in a 28-24 loss to highly ranked Royal Oak. "I ran all over that night, carrying about 30 times for about 250 yards," **Ted** said. "But I ran the 100 in 10.3 then."

He averaged around 20 points in basketball.

"I was Mr. Big Stuff in high school," said **Ted**, who drove a motorcycle as a prepster.

Maryanne nodded, noting that he dated other girls in high school. "I didn't sew him up until our sophomore year in college," she said.

That was Michigan. Maryanne, an art student who does top work in lithography, already had enrolled at Michigan State, so **Ted** prevailed on Michigan officials to switch her.

**Ted** carried his plea to Michigan baseball Coach Moby Benedict, and the Cardinals' catcher still chuckles when he thinks about Maryanne's late-registration form, which was stamped "In the interest of collegiate athletics."

**TED NEVER DID** play college baseball—he's 1½ years from a de-

gree. A bonus of about \$50,000 from the Cardinals, who had 10th pick in the regular draft, lured him away. He was disappointed that the Birds, on scout Mo Mozzali's recommendation, had drafted him. For one thing, the Cardinals still had Tim McCarver, a veteran of three World Series and hardly an oldster.

**Simmons** figured he was a Tiger from the start. But ironically, the Tigers, who had 14th pick, settled on a St. Louisan, pitcher Jim Foor. Ron Blomberg was No. 1 that year and John Mayberry, another Detroit, was No. 5.

**Ted** even worked out with the Tigers when he was still in high school. He recalled warming up Orlando Pena's forkball in the outfield at Tiger Stadium—and veteran Pena reminded **Ted** of that after the Cardinals obtained him last year.

IN SHORT order came big seasons at bat at Modesto, Tulsa and then St. Louis. **Ted** hit .304 with 77 RBIs in 1971 for the Birds. And in 1972, an All-Star Game selectee, he finished with .303 while driving in 96 runs, socking 16 homers (a Cardinal record for a catcher) and 36 doubles.

What made the difference in 1972 was his .277 mark swinging righthanded. He had hit just .224 righthanded in 1971, and thought of giving up switching.

**Simmons** credits George Kissell, now a Cardinal coach, and Mozzali, who was a good hitter himself, for much help with the bat in his early years in the minors. Kissell "taught me how to be humble and he showed me that I didn't really know everything about baseball," **Ted** said.

Hal Smith, who had caught so well for the Cardinals, and the late Mike Ryba, the one-man gang, helped him considerably with his catching. Chances are **Ted** would have been drafted much higher had he not had such a poor reputation as a defensive catcher in high school.

"BUT TEDDY worked hard and

strengthened his arm by throwing daily in the outfield, from right field to left," Kissell said.

"Now," said Harry Walker, a Bird tutor last year, "Ted gets rid of the ball about as quickly and accurately as any catcher in the game."

Said Joe Torre, a top ex-catcher himself, "He's still not the smoothest catcher, but he gets the job done. He's throwing better and catching better. And he's about as strong a human being as I've ever seen. He's so durable."

"That's tough, catching every day in August and September. He's the nucleus of the future of this organization (**Ted** is 24). He has all the leadership qualities. And he can take corrective criticism the way it's meant."

COACH VERN BENSON said **Simmons** has displayed more patience as a batter than most players his age.

"Ted always seems to have a knowledge of what he's trying to do," Benson said. "He doesn't strike out too much and he doesn't often look bad at the plate. And he's so good at adjusting with one or two strikes."

**Simmons** wears a sleepy-eyed look ("I've been called Sleepy more times than **Ted**"), but he insists on playing every day—he was in 152 games last year. He realizes that the big money lies in playing every day and putting several good years back to back.

THE PATIENCE **Simmons** had learned helped in '72 when he played so long before signing his contract. The mail on the subject was heavy and there were some who warned **Ted**. "You'll become another Curt Flood." But most letters were sympathetic to him. **Simmons** later said the signing hassle did bug him, but his stats hardly showed that.

In '72, **Simmons** led the club with 11 game-winning RBIs and he broke Walker Cooper's RBI record for a Cardinal catcher with 96. Cooper had 81 in 1943. To toughen up his righthanded swing before the 1972 season, **Ted** threw footballs lefthanded and shot basketballs and hockey pucks lefthanded. He even carried his son Jon (now 3) lefthanded. For a righthanded batter, the left arm is the lead or control arm.

Speaking of son Jon, the little guy obviously is unaware of his father's unusual strength. **Other**wise, he wouldn't have gone into a rage when, with Pop on the road, he demanded that his mother buy him a catcher's mask while in the hardware store.

"I THOUGHT \$8 was too much to spend for a mask, but he kept demanding and he got one, and now he wears it all the time," Mrs. **Simmons** said.

**Ted** loves soap operas ("Days of Our Lives" is the best and "The Doctors," "Somerset" and "Peyton Place," come right after."). He also loves food, especially Italian food such as fettucelle parmigiano (noodles loaded with cheese and butter).

But he has to watch his weight. So he shies from Maryanne's fine baking. She's a slim one and she eats sweets on the sly, so as not to tempt **Ted**.

"But every now and then I find cake and candy wrappers around," he said. "She likes those Ding Dongs. And when I found some of the silver wrappers in the trash can the other day, I told her, 'So you've been in the Ding Dongs again.'"



Ted Simmons . . . Golf Just Wasn't His Game

# Slimmer Simmons Fattens His Swat Figure

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—Ted Lyle Simmons may be regarded by many, including Tom Seaver and Joe Torre, as the best "pure" hitter in baseball, but even the Cardinal catcher was surprised by his torrid start at bat this season.

"I've never started out quite this well anywhere," Simmons said. "Usually it takes me a month or two or even longer to really get going, but I've always hit—and I suspect I always will."

After three weeks of the season, Simmons was at .419 with 18 runs batted in and four home runs. In what for him was a disappointing 1976 season, he hit .291 with just five home runs and 75 runs batted in, his lowest total since his first full season as a regular—1971.

A CAREER .297 swinger who challenged for the National League batting crown in 1975 with a glittering .332 mark, 27-year-old Simmons is as realistic as they come. He has known slumps, horrible ones. And he realizes no one avoids slumps.

"It's the nature of the game—slumps," Ted said. "I'll get cold again, too. It's up and down like a roller coaster. The key to the thing is to maintain some sense of sanity. Whether you go 10-for-12 or 0-for-30, you can't go off your rocker either way."

"Knowing you are going to be in there every day, no matter what, also is a big help when you're going through a slump."

Simmons has not come up with any secret potions to bring about such a sizzling start that helped bring him the N.L.'s first Player of the Week award this season (only Vic Harris, since departed, managed to cop such an award for the Redbirds last season).

PERHAPS THE 10-pound weight loss requested by Manager Vern Rapp helped considerably. Ted went from 213 to 203. He likes to play at 205.

"I'm sure that at least psychologically, it had a lot to do with how I started," he said. "You just feel good when you lose 10 to 12 pounds. It gives you a certain kind of freedom of movement."

"You might not recognize it, but it can help the swing and quickness. It's really hard to judge the effect. People do notice when you've lost weight, and they tell you about it."

One time teammate Torre has referred to Simmons as not only the best "pure" hitter in baseball, but the "best hitter, period."

There was a time when Simmons had a serious hangup about swinging righthanded. In fact, he was just about ready to give up switching until fellows such as Ken Boyer talked him out of the idea.

IN 1970, WHEN he spent the second half of the season with the varsity, Ted hit .268 lefthanded but a mere .169 righthanded. That's when he began getting ideas. Those ideas—about quitting batting righthanded—gained impetus in '71 when he batted a fat .339 lefthanded and a paltry .224 righthanded.

But the big breakthrough came in 1972 after Simmons worked hard in the off-season to strengthen his righthanded swing. He did it by shooting basketballs, swinging ice hockey sticks and throwing footballs—ALL LEFTHAND-ED.

So it was .314 lefthanded and .277 righthanded in 1972 and .313 lefthanded and .305 righthanded in '73. There was a bit of a falloff in '74 when he hit .287 lefthanded and .241 righthanded.

But in the last two seasons, he actually hit better righthanded than lefthanded even though, of course, he went to bat much more often against righthanders than against southpaws. It was .336 righthanded to .329 lefthanded in 1975 and .311 righthanded against .279 lefthanded last year.

What's more, in 1975 no fewer than 12 of Ted's 18 home runs came off lefthanders.

"IT'S REACHED the point where I don't care who's pitching, a righthander or a lefthander," Simmons said. "It's such a nice feeling."

Simmons has noticed that opposing managers no longer are in a hurry to switch to a lefthanded reliever when Ted is due to bat.

Ted's older brothers, Jim and Ned, made him a turn-

around hitter. Ted said that Mickey Mantle was an influence, too.

"At that time (when Ted was 9 or 10), I mean Mantle was 'Chum Baby,'" Simmons noted. ("Chum Baby" is Detroit slang for athletic hotshot.)

Regarding switch-hitting, Stan Musial was in a kidding mood when he spoke at a luncheon honoring Simmons as the St. Louis Sportsman of the Year in 1974.

"Ted is a great ballplayer, with Lou Brock the backbone of our club," said The Man. "But I wish I'd had it as easy as Ted and Red Schoendienst (also a most productive switch-hitter). Why, instead of hitting only .330 lifetime . . ."

ANOTHER FACTOR in Simmons' hitting consistency is his low strikeout total. His high as a major league regular was 57 whiffs in 1972. And in the last three seasons, he certainly has been the model of consistency regarding strikeouts. In each of those three years, he struck out exactly 35 times.

That coincidence amazed Simmons, just as it did when he was told that Musial had exactly as many hits at home as on the road, 1,815 each way, and that The Man once had a 5-for-5 day all on first pitches, and another 5-for-5 day against five pitchers.

Because Ted is so strong and makes contact so consistently, he often is asked why he doesn't hit more home runs. He had a modest total of 82 going into the current season, with these totals in succession for his full seasons: 7-16-13-20-18-5.

He made it clear that his fast start in homers this year would in no way alter his thinking about hitting or his swing.

"NO, I CAN'T hit home runs like a Kingman or a Luzinski or a Schmidt," he said. "That's not my approach. But I don't strike out like they do. If the home runs come, they come."

Simmons explained his low strikeout totals.

"A good hitter usually makes contact before two strikes, so obviously he doesn't get two strikes very often," Ted observed. "I'm sure Musial didn't strike out often in his big years."

Simmons was so right. In The Man's top year of many great campaigns, 1948, he batted .376. He had 230 hits in 155 games, including 46 doubles, 18 triples and 39 home runs. He drove in 131 runs. He even stole seven bases. His slugging

average was a stupendous .702. And the secret? In 694 plate appearances that season, Musial went down swinging only 34 times!

Pitchers in the distant future may have another powerful Simmons to reckon with.

"HE (MATTHEW) was never small," said wife Maryanne of their No. 2 son, who turned one year old in March.

Matthew should have been named Bronko or Rocky. He looks that powerful already. Not that his 6-year-old brother, Jon, is any slouch, either.

Torre is among many observers who see Simmons becoming an even better hitter. Joe noted that Ted is only 27 and the experts tell you that a hitter's prime years are 28 to 32.

"I know I can improve," said a confident Simmons. "I keep storing information about pitchers."

But aren't the pitchers able to store information about hitters?

"Then it boils down to matching abilities, drawing on reserves," said Simmons, who'd be a good guy to bet on in any showdown with even the top pitchers around.

AND HOW ABOUT Simmons on defense?

Ted feels that he has improved greatly behind the plate. His manager, Rapp, a former catcher himself, agrees, especially after Ted's great spring when he nailed numerous would-be base thieves.

Besides, Rapp wondered why Simmons had the bad rap as a receiver for so long.

"He had only nine passed balls to five for Johnny Bench last year, and he had more assists than Bench (66 to 60)," Rapp said. "I think somebody was looking for somebody to blame something on."

Simmons figures that his sharp improvement as a catcher is a result of a combination of things. Like knowing who runs and who doesn't. What a pitcher's best pitch is. A matter of maturing, of time and experience.

"I HAD TO LEARN to catch in the major leagues, so I had to take my lumps—I was out there in the open," Simmons said. "Besides, in my last year in Triple A, I was the designated hitter and didn't get to catch."

Simmons has done pretty well in a few shots at first base. And he can handle third base and the outfield in a pinch. But mostly, look out for his bat.



THE SIMMONS CLAN, Ted, wife Maryanne and open date at their Creve Coeur townhouse in sons Jon, 6, and Matthew, 1, enjoy an early-season suburban St. Louis.

## Scott Challenging McBride for Card Outfield Post

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS—For a guy who was picked about 1,000th in the June, 1969, free-agent draft, Tony Scott was doing all right.

With the season more than a month old, the fleet center fielder was batting .395 for the Cardinals and was threatening to take heralded Bake McBride's job on more than a temporary basis.

Scott reached a high point with a big day at bat in his home city, Cincinnati. He had been held to a single in the first game of the series in

the Queen City. But after an open date, he went wild. He began the downfall of Woodie Fryman, who often has been tough on the lefthanded-oriented St. Louis batting order by hammering a home run in his first time at bat.

LATER HE COAXED a walk that figured in a big four-run inning that wrapped up Bob Forsch's fifth victory. And he was to cap the elite performance with a two-run single.

What made the plate showing all the more delectable was the fact that Scott's mother, Thealo, never

had watched Tony play baseball anywhere at any age level until the Cardinals' early-May invasion of Riverfront Stadium.

"She was always so busy with church work and raising such a big family (six boys, three girls) that she never had time to come out to our games in Little League on up, even in pro ball," Scott said. "But we made up for it by going to church on Easter."

Scott certainly did not show any stage fright, even though he left 30 passes, about evenly divided among relatives and friends. Not to

mention some paying fans from his alma mater, Withrow High, and his old neighborhood. His son, Tony, Jr., 2, was among the witnesses.

SCOTT, MONTREAL'S No. 42 pick in the draft, was no great shakes in the one year he played high school baseball. And he was a mere 155 pounds when he came out of high school. Scouts want them big.

But scout Terry Boyle was interested enough.

"I didn't get a cent for signing with the Expos," Scott said. "They even took back the pen I signed the contract with."

Actually, Scott classified his first major league home run, coming before the home folks in a big victory over the world champion Reds, as only his No. 2 thrill. His top thrill: a two-run double that beat Bob Gibson and the Cardinals in the 1975 season opener in St. Louis.

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# Young Hurler Hand Rated Rangers' Prize Catch

By RANDY GALLOWAY

ARLINGTON, Tex. — With some of baseball's biggest names shuffled around during the winter meetings, the eight-player transaction involving the Rangers and Indians didn't have an earthshaking impact.

But from the Rangers' point of view, the trade could cause some later tremors, particularly where Rich Hand is concerned.

There's no question that the 23-year-old righthander was the key name involved. In fact, the deal was held up a couple of days because of Indian President Gabe Paul's reluctance to include the young pitcher in any package.

## Williams Impressed

But finally the trade was worked out. With the addition of Hand, Manager Ted Williams has another promising young arm for a promising mound corps.

Williams has been impressed with Hand's ability and he will give Rich every opportunity to make the starting rotation.

"And that's all I can ask for," said the Bellevue, Wash., resident. "I was real surprised about being traded and, at first, had some mixed emotions about it. But now I feel it's the greatest thing that ever happened in my baseball career."

## Eager to Pitch for Ted

"I have very high regard and respect for Ted Williams and I don't think he would trade for me if he didn't have confidence in me as a pitcher. That's what has been lacking all along. I feel I've had the confidence in myself and my ability, but other people haven't had that confidence, or at least enough to give me every start and leave me alone when I get in there."

"I think that's what he (Williams) has in mind, and that's the greatest thing that could happen to me."

Hand says he has no gripes with his treatment in the Indians' organization, except for last season when he was shipped out to the minors in mid-season, going to

Wichita (American Association).

"They just left me there to rot," he noted. "I was 8-2, threw a no-hitter (against Tulsa) and had a 1.89 earned-run average, but they didn't bring me back until the 40-man limit was dropped. By that time, I had thrown so much that I was really physically depleted. I didn't do too well, and that made me mad."

## Potential Evident

In Hand's first season with the Indians, he had a 6-13 record with a poor club, but with four saves and several one-run losses it was obvious the potential was there. Then, last season, he hurt his arm in spring training, which meant a slow start. By mid-year he appeared to be back on the beam.

"I came out of it and no one on the club was pitching better than me," he said. "I had a five-game stint where I started, and we won four of the five and I was 1-1 with the only loss being 2-0 in Boston

against Sonny Siebert. But right after that, they sent me down."

## Perfect Control

Hand feels the arm trouble in spring training actually turned out to be a blessing. "I guess primarily you would call me a fast-ball pitcher, but then, after I had my arm trouble, I knew I couldn't overpower people. I had to work on my control, on just getting the ball over, in order to get people out. So I came up with better control than I had ever had and even after my arm came back, I still had it."

In appearances against the Washington Senators the past two seasons, Hand admits he was not especially effective.

"But even though I wasn't at my best when I pitched against them, I'm glad I showed Mr. Williams something anyway. I think he's going to be a fine man to play for. I know some guys who have played for him and they enjoyed it and learned a lot."



Rich Hand

"Actually I've met him twice and both times it was in situations where he was giving some hitting tips. I know, just in 10 minutes those times, I learned a great deal."

# Southpaws Stir Wrath of Redbirds' Simmons

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — When Ted Simmons gets a chance these winter days, he'll throw a football lefthanded 10 to 20 times a day. He'll shoot a basketball lefthanded over and over. And if there's a hockey stick around, he'll swing it lefty.

The Cardinal catcher is thinking lefthanded, even to the point of holding and rocking his eight-month-old son, Jon, lefthanded.

There's a reason for all this wear and tear on the left arm: Simmons' No. 1 project in spring training and during the regular 1972 season will be to boost his batting average swinging righthanded against lefty pitchers.

"Ken Boyer (batting coach) and Bob Kennedy (player development director) pointed out that I had to try to build up my left hand because

that's the hand that controls the bat when I'm swinging righthanded," the 22-year-old Simmons said.

Has Ted noticed any improvement?

"Yeah, the left hand seems a lot stronger already—I've reached the point where I can throw a football 40 yards," Simmons said.

Carrying the baby is no light matter. He weighs 22 pounds.

"He looks like Norm Bulaich—that's how husky he is," said Simmons, who was quite a football player himself in high school.

## .224 Vs. Southpaws

Simmons, who also is doing 100 situps a day, is intent on improving his mark against lefties. He was only a .224 swinger against lefthanders last season.

His .339 mark against righties lifted him to .304 overall—not bad at all for his first full season.

In 1970, there also was nearly a 100-point spread. Ted was .268 against lefties but .169 against righties and thus had to settle for .243 overall.

Simmons talked about his winter program while watching one of his favorite sports—hockey. Ted was in St. Louis to put in some military reserve duty and took in a Blues' game.

He has a special interest in hockey because back home in Detroit, he and his wife Maryanne became good friends of the Sid Abel family. Abel, now Blues' general manager, has a daughter, Linda, who went to school with Ted and Maryanne. In fact, Linda and Maryanne were in each other's wedding parties.

## Seaver Toughest to Hit

"I'm glad I got over .300 after hitting .243, but I have to get working on my righthanded hitting as soon as I get to Florida," said a determined Simmons.

Ted, a switcher since he was 13, didn't have to face many tough lefties in the minors and what success he had against southpaws in the bushes was rather misleading because of the short distance to the fences in some parks.

Lefties may be tough on Simmons, but he picks a righthander as the toughest pitcher for him—Tom Seaver.

"I'm just glad I don't have to bat righthanded against him," Ted said. Simmons not only came through at bat last season, he also progressed behind the plate much faster than most observers expected.

"But I still will be working a lot

on such things as handling those low pitches," Simmons said.

Ted got more than his share of key hits in a 1971 season that produced seven homers, four triples and 32 doubles. He had 77 runs batted in. He always had a sharp batting eye, as witness his low strike-out total of 50 last season. He walked 37 times.

Simmons is babysitting this winter while wife Maryanne completes her work toward an art degree at the University of Michigan. Ted, who has been a speech major and might like to take a stab at broadcasting eventually, is three semesters away from a degree.

He is thinking of buying a home



Ted Simmons

in St. Louis, perhaps next year, and if he does, he'll complete his studies at St. Louis U. or Washington U.

## Sizemore Will Stay

Simmons' name wasn't even mentioned in trade talk because rival clubs realize they would be wasting their time. Ted Sizemore was much in demand but the Redbirds aren't about to part with him, either.

In an effort to bolster the righthanded punch on the club, General Manager Bing Devine was huddling on the phone with Donn Clendenon, who had been cut loose by the Mets.

**Redbird Chirps:** Joe Cunningham, former Cardinal standout who had been ticketed to manage Cedar Rapids (Midwest), instead will work in the Birds' front office. He'll be in charge of special projects and promotions, including the speakers' bureau. Gary Geiger, player-coach at Tulsa (American Association), last season, will pilot Cedar Rapids. . . . Former player Johnny Lewis was named administrative coordinator of player development and scouting. Lewis had been assistant sales and promotions director since late 1969. . . . The Cardinals have passed the million mark in season ticket sales for the sixth straight year. Sales had topped \$1,200,000 by early December. . . . Reggie Cleveland will receive the Sheridan Rookie of the Year Award at the St. Louis Writers' dinner January 24. Sandy Koufax will receive the Dr. Robert F. Hyland Award for meritorious service to sports.

# Oakland Contract Binds A's

(Continued From Page 34)

cago story to a \$300,000 penalty clause if the A's moved.

"There is no such clause," Nahas said. "There is, however, an injunctive clause in relation to his baseball team playing in Oakland throughout the contract. In other words, it isn't just that the rent for those seasons is important, but the interest of the community is taken into consideration as well, and he is obliged to field the team at the Coliseum."

Perhaps more important to Finley is his radio-television package, which has only one more year to run. It pays him \$1.1 million a year. He pays only \$125,000 a year rent for the baseball stadium as against 5 percent and gets a share of the concessions and the parking fees.

This deal has helped the A's become a successful franchise, if not the runaway success the league and

Finley had hoped for when he moved west from Kansas City before the 1968 season. The A's never have drawn a million in Oakland.

With Vida Blue and a divisional championship in hand, the A's were headed for the magic million mark last season. Attendance took a nose-dive in September and they finished with 914,993.

On the surface, this doesn't look too impressive. But only four teams in the American League drew more than a million in 1971. The A's, who raised ticket prices before the season, also had an increase of 136,638 over 1970.

## Ill-Planned Moves

Attempting to move a franchise that has made money every one of the four years it has been in Oakland seems absurd on the surface, but a historical perspective must be maintained.

Ever since the vote in 1967 to allow Finley to flee Kansas City, many American League decisions have seemed ill-planned. League owners had to quickly reverse themselves and expand two years earlier than planned because they failed to anticipate the anger of U. S. Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.).

Then the league moved an expansion team into Seattle and stumbled out only one year later. Now the nation's capital is without a baseball team because the A. L. voted to move the Senators to Dallas-Fort Worth. A few real-life senators, not to mention some representatives, are asking for another team in Washington, and these are the fellows who write antitrust laws.

Perhaps what the American League needs most now is a little stability of the type enjoyed by the National League, which had 11 of 12 teams over the million mark last season.



Charles Finley

# Simmons Rushes Back Into Cardinal Lineup

By RICK HUMMEL

ST. LOUIS—It wasn't that he didn't like the food in the press box, although Ted Simmons said he lost four pounds. It wasn't that he didn't appreciate the more expansive view offered from watching baseball games from on high. It was that Simmons was going slightly crazy with the inactivity caused by the broken bone in his left wrist.

So Simmons pushed himself. An estimate that he would miss six weeks of the season made no difference to him. He took batting practice less than three weeks after the injury and asked reporters not to write about it because the team doctor had ordered that he not do any hitting until after he'd had another chance to look at the X-rays.

Ted also participated in fielding practice wearing a specially-designed canvas brace on his hand. And just more than four weeks after the injury, Simmons was back at his old stand as the Cardinal catcher.

SIMMONS, WHO was hitting .321 with 18 homers and 52 runs batted in when he went out, came back in probably the only style he could. On his first at-bat against the Braves, he sliced a run-scoring double to left field. Later, he added a single, and it seemed nothing had changed.

"I can hit," said Simmons afterward. "I always have and I guess I always will."

During the 28 games of his absence, in which the Cardinals won

11 and lost 17, the theme of the clubhouse was that everything would be all right "as soon as we get Teddy back."

Sure enough, the Cardinals pasted the Braves, 7-3, that night, marking only their second victory on a week-long home stand. Unfortunately, the next night the euphoria generated by Simmons' return ran headlong into the woefulness of the Cardinal bullpen and the Braves scored a 13-4 victory.

SIMMONS CALLED his 29 days on the disabled list "annoying" as much as anything.

"Never, under any circumstances, have I had to stay out for this long in my life," he said. "And I couldn't do anything about it."

Manager Ken Boyer had indicated that Simmons might return first as a part-time left fielder, fearing that Simmons' hand wouldn't be strong enough for that pitch-after-pitch pounding as a catcher and that the switch-hitting Simmons would be able to bat only righthanded for a while.

But after Simmons had handled hard-throwing Silvio Martinez for 15 minutes in the bullpen one night and had hit 10 balls over the Busch Stadium fences—five from each side of the plate—Simmons was activated the next day.

FOR THE SECOND time in a month, pinch-hitter Roger Freed (.227) was optioned to Springfield (American Association). For the time being, rookie Terry Kennedy, who did well in Simmons' stead, stayed with the Cardinals as a precautionary measure.

"We can't get him back for 10



Ted Simmons . . . Ripping the Timetable

days if we send him out and we find that Ted can't catch," said Boyer.

However, Boyer added that there now are no plans to play Simmons in left field this year. Last season, when Steve Swisher had a hot streak, Boyer caught Swisher against lefthanded pitchers and spotted Simmons in left.

"But," said Boyer, "the only thing the outfield thing does is create the opportunity for a sore arm."

Indeed, Simmons did strain his

throwing arm last year in jockeying back and forth.

What happens next year if both Kennedy and Simmons are here as catchers is still open to question, although the most popular speculation has Simmons going to left full time—with the retirement of Lou Brock—and Kennedy catching full time.

THE POTENTIAL problem in that is that neither Kennedy nor Simmons run well and teamed with Ken Reitz in the bottom half of the lineup, they would make for

a slower lineup. Another consideration is that at only age 30, should Simmons be switched to a new position? He already is the All-Star catcher.

Additionally, Busch Stadium's artificial surface makes it almost imperative that the outfielders be quick. With several major league teams having no good catchers, let alone two, the Cardinals might at least have to entertain offers for Kennedy. They desperately need pitching help, especially in the bullpen. Their relievers had just 13 saves this season and only one in the 45-day period since June 10.

Cardinals Notes: Boyer on the bullpen: "They've all had a chance to go out and hold a run lead. The thing is we're not any closer to an answer down there. You just keep hoping."

No reliever had an earned-run average under 3.00 and three of their number—Darold Knowles, injured Buddy Schultz and George Frazier—had ERAs over 4.00. Meanwhile, starters John Denny and Bob Forsch finally got back in the win column after each had faltered for more than a month.

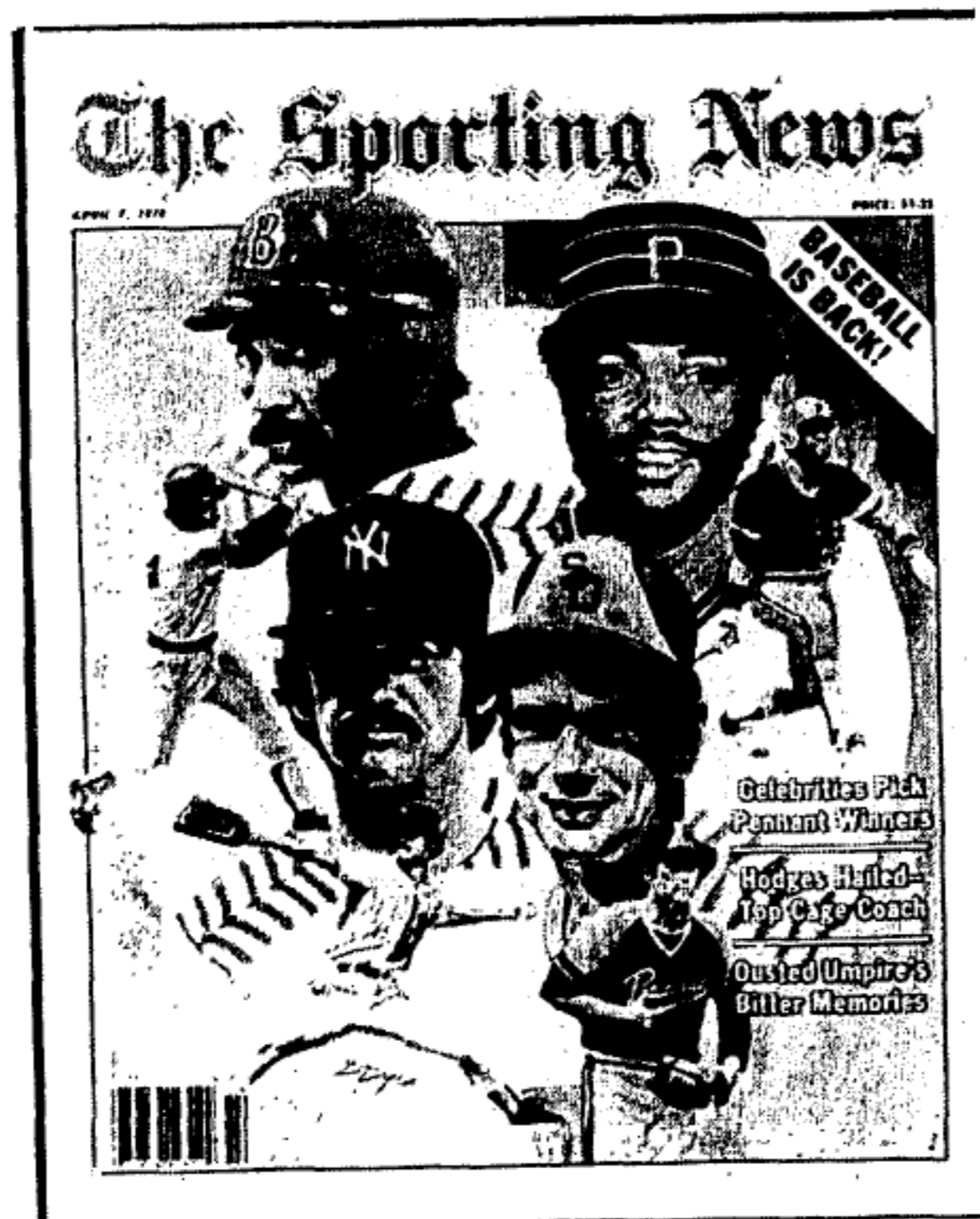
Lefthander Bob Sykes, who underwent a serious blood clot operation on his left shoulder, was sent to Class A St. Petersburg (Florida State) to work his way back into form. . . . New-look department: Bernie Carbo shaved his beard off on the request of his 86-year-old grandmother. "She said I was beautiful and I was hiding it," deadpanned Carbo. . . . Schultz began growing a beard.

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