

**WILLIE STARGELL . . . Bright Future If Surgeons Clicked**

## Glowing Report On Bucs' 1964 Casualty Cases

By LES BIEDERMAN  
PITTSBURGH, Pa.

The chemistry of an athlete and the makeup of a general manager blend nicely together. Every injured athlete heals rapidly in the off season; to every general manager, his own players' skills improve with each passing snowstorm.

When was the last time you heard: "I don't feel good and I look for a bad season," from an athlete.

And when was the last time you heard a club executive confess one of his highly-touted infield regulars never would hit .200?

It simply is the sacred trust of every ball player to be the picture of health in midwinter and the sacred trust of every G. M. to walk around with a song in his heart.

This is a capsule report on the five most seriously-injured Pirates of 1964 who must report in top shape to Manager Harry Walker if the Bucs intend to move up in the standings:

**Willie Stargell**—Although he missed 45 games because of injuries, the left-handed slugger still topped the team in homers and was second in RBIs.

He underwent surgery on his left knee after the season and the reports are fine. He banged up the knee in a collision at first base in May and was hampered off and on.

### Weight Major Problem

His biggest worry is his weight. Joe Brown warned him about reporting in condition a year ago and it worked. Stargell apparently was taken care of financially and California Scout Bob Fontaine is checking on Stargell's weight weekly.

**Jim Pagliaroni**—He suffered a fracture of his right thumb in batting practice in the final ten days and was sent home early. Only after he had gone was it learned how really valuable Pag is. The thumb is okay and Pag is taking off weight.

He plans to come to camp ten pounds lighter anyhow, which gives a pretty good indication that he means to carry the load behind the plate.

**Dick Schofield**—He suffers from pulled leg muscles and has missed a great many games in two years. This worries Brown and he had Schofield examined when he came to Pittsburgh recently. The medicos suggest a program of exercises.

Schofield runs a mile every day at home in Springfield, Ill. A local wag wants to know if he's trying to keep his shortstop job with the Pirates or win a spot on the Olympic team in 1968.

**Don Schwall**—His arm bothered him

### Clemente Undergoes Surgery For Removal of Blood Clot

SAN JUAN, P. R. — National League batting champion Roberto Clemente of the Pirates underwent an operation here, January 15, for the draining of coagulated blood from a bruise on his right thigh. The surgery revealed that a torn small muscle had caused the bruise.

Dr. Roberto Buso, Clemente's physician, advised the outfielder not to resume baseball activity until the Pirates open spring training. Clemente had been playing with and managing San Juan of the Puerto Rican League.

occasionally the last two years and one report said he threw his slider with an unnatural motion and hurt his elbow. The coaches have corrected this flaw.

When he's right, he's tough. He seems to be more determined than ever to recapture the rookie spell he cast as a member of the Red Sox' pitching staff.

**Don Cardwell**—Joe Brown has a big stake in this fellow's right arm because he's the pitcher the Pirates received in the trade for Dick Groat. He developed a sore arm last spring and spent most of the summer resting and pitching for Columbus (International).

### Don Drills on Links

He rejoined the Bucs in September and threw hard again and pitched some good ball. Cardwell is an assistant golf pro at Winston-Salem, N. C., and each day he walks out on the golf course and throws a baseball for 15 minutes.

**Pirate Scoreboard**: The Pirates held their first and only press conference of the winter at Forbes Field, January 19, featuring the players living in the Pittsburgh area. . . . Some of the Bucs are going to make an early start for Ft. Myers, Fla., their spring training home. Bob Friend departed, January 25, and Roy Face and Bill Mazeroski soon after. . . . Dick Stuart visited friends in Pittsburgh and spread a little of his personality around the city. He seems to be more popular now than he ever was with the Pirates. . . . Traveling Secretary Bob Rice will represent the Pirates at the annual Festival of Light pageant in Ft. Myers, February 12.

. . . The Pirates will operate six farm club teams this year: Columbus (International) with Larry Shepard as manager; Asheville (Southern), Harding Peterson, manager; Kinston (Carolina), Bob Clear, manager; Batavia (NYP), Tom Saffell, manager; Gastonia (Western Carolinas), Clyde Sukeforth, manager, and Salem, (Appalachian), George Detore, manager. . . . Don Osborn, a coach with the Pirates the last three years, will return to his old post as a managerial consultant in the farm system.

# Batley Counting Calories --There's \$1,000 at Stake

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

Earl Batley has weathered the winter storm of trade talk in the snowy headquarters of the **Twins** and it appears now he will get a chance to prove himself once again in spring training.

This has happened before, you know. Two years ago, the **Twins** catcher was rumored on his way to Baltimore in exchange for a starting righthanded pitcher. His batting average had slipped to .280.

But the talk died down and, in spring training of 1963, he buried it. The big catcher slugged 26 homers that year, his best as a power hitter. Then all it took was one more slip and the trade talk was resurrected.

That slip was in a bit of soft dirt at Cleveland on the first day of the 1964 season. Batley reinjured his right knee, which had undergone surgery shortly after the 1963 World Series. He fought bitter pain through the first half of last summer, but it was August before he was able to return to anything like his previous All-Star form.

And from the World Series until Christmas, **Twins** President Calvin Griffith talked about possible trades that nearly always included Batley, who has caught more games in the last five years than any other catcher in baseball.

"It doesn't really bother me," said Batley. "You get tired hearing about it though. And I don't want to leave the Twin Cities."

### Good Public Relations Job

Earl has good reason to want to stay here. He is well established in a public relations job with General Mills. And he even has been quoted as saying he would be "tempted to quit" if he was traded, he likes the job so well.

So Batley went to Calvin and they faced the problem squarely while agreeing on a 1965 contract. Griffith feels Batley's weight has caused most of his problems in the past, so they made a deal.

"It will cost Batley \$1,000 if he reports on February 22 to Orlando, Fla., over 230 pounds," said Griffith.

And Batley said, "If I report under 230 pounds, I get the \$1,000." Not including this weight clause, Batley took a slight cut in salary for 1965, but he remained in the \$30,000 bracket.

At the time Griffith and Batley agreed on that contract and weight clause, Batley was being mentioned in a possible six-player deal with Cleveland. By Christmas, the conversations between Griffith and Gabe Paul dropped to a whisper. After the first of the year, they ended.

"It looks like we will wait until

### First Base Job Suits Killer; He Dislikes Juggling Posts

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Harmon Killebrew feels he can make the shift back to first if he is allowed to begin working on it at the start of spring training.

But he admits it will be difficult after three years in the outfield for the **Twins**.

"I really hate to bounce back and forth from one position to another (during one season) as has happened to me in the past," Killebrew told fans at the Manchester winter baseball dinner. "It's this jumping around that really bothers me."

"If I know I'm going to play first base and I am definitely assigned the job, I can do it as long as I start working at it from the opening of spring training," **Twins** President Calvin Griffith has said. Killebrew will play first base.

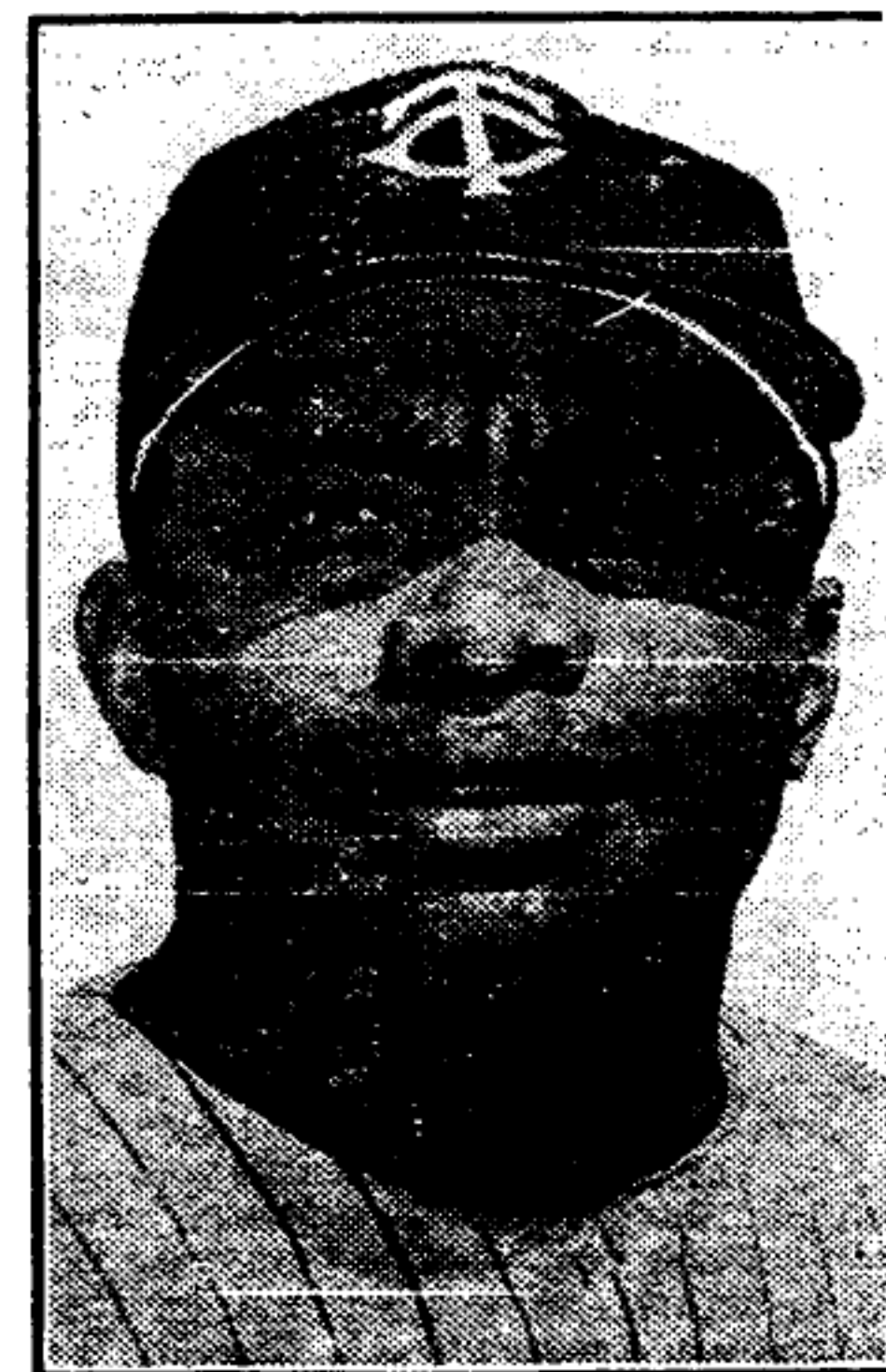
The American League home-run champ played first base part of 1960 and 1961 before moving to left field.

spring training now," said Griffith. "I definitely wanted to talk to Manager Sam Mele during the Twin Cities baseball dinner (January 25) before we did any more serious talking."

Batley is certain he can regain his old form, especially if he starts spring training at 230 instead of the 260 he started with a year ago. He is expected to play at 220.

"Maybe some persons think I am through," said Earl. "But I have to disagree. I know what I can do. If I was able to catch regularly most of last season on a bad knee, I know I can catch every day on a good knee. And my knee feels fine."

Earl became 30 years old, January 5. He pointed out that Elston Howard of the Yankees will be 35 in February and still is catching regularly. And Batley has an endurance record that



**Earl Batley**

few catchers have equaled in recent seasons.

Since 1960, he has played in 137, 133, 148, 147 and 131 games.

Last summer, he was benched twice early in the year with injuries to his knee, once in May because of a head injury, twice more because of his knee and then in August he was sidelined with an injured back.

### Late Splurge at Plate

In spite of all this, he wound up with a creditable .272 batting average, including 17 doubles and 12 homers for 52 runs batted in. But he was batting only .220 as late as July 31. On August 1, he began to break out of his slump and he put together an eight-game batting streak. He raised his average to .263 by August 14 and kept it above .250 until September, when he spurted to .272.

Batley always has taken pride in his endurance, his ability to play in spite of injuries in a day when small injuries often sideline major leaguers. And because of this, he has often felt a sting when the **Twins** talked about trading him.

Twice Earl has had his cheekbone broken by pitched balls. He has worn a special helmet since 1962 because of this. In 1963, he was struck in the forehead by a pitch, suffered a painfully injured shoulder and had knee troubles. He suffered five separate injuries that year.

### Defensive Skill Recognized

While going through all of this, Batley has three times won the Gold Glove Award, given to the top defensive catcher. Last season, with his knee hurting him every time he shifted his weight or tried to throw until late July, Batley ranked tenth among the league catchers with a .990 fielding percentage. He had 12 passed balls.

Batley has a goiter problem, which is the major reason he is troubled so much with overweight.

"Last year, Batley just put too much weight on that weak knee," said Griffith. "I think his knee will be all right after a winter of rest."

It is significant that Batley got his weight down to 229 before he started playing better.

**Twins' Tracks**: Cal Griffith was sick for nearly a week with pleurisy. . . . **Twins** traveling secretary Howard Fox is near complete recovery from a double hernia operation. . . . The **Twins** announced their tenth signing, infielder Len Boryca, who was drafted from the Boston organization. . . . Griffith will go to Orlando, Fla., to prepare the spring training camp, February 3.

## Twins' Stockholders Get Hefty Dividends

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

If dividend checks are any measuring stick, the **Twins** cleared somewhere around a half-million dollars in profit, despite an attendance drop in 1964.

The stockholders are expected to learn exactly how much the corporation made during a February 1 stockholders meeting. But they already have received \$5 per share—raising their total dividends for the club's four years in Minnesota to at least \$20.

The **Twins** paid \$3.25 in dividends while clearing a reported \$498,076 for the 1963 season, when they drew 1,406,652 fans.

In 1962, the **Twins** drew their record season attendance of 1,433,116. They cleared a reported \$817,506 and declared a dividend of at least \$6. Their dividend for 1961 also was reported at \$6 after the club drew 1,256,722 and made a profit of \$428,000.

The **Twins** financial statements are not released to the public.

### Griffith Stadium Sale Boosted '64 Income

Last summer, the **Twins** dropped to 1,207,514 fans, but increased their income through the sale of Griffith Stadium in Washington.

Thus, the **Twins** have declared dividends of at least \$20.25 per share since moving the franchise from Washington. There had been no dividends in more than a decade before the move.

There are 18,924 shares of stock in the **Twins** corporation. Gabriel Murphy of Washington owns 7,665—the biggest portion. Calvin and Mrs. Joe Haynes, Calvin's sister, each own 4,659 shares.

So at \$20.25 per share, the **Twins** have paid out at least \$383,211 in dividends during their first four years in Minnesota. Murphy, at that rate, has received at least \$155,216.25. Calvin and Mrs. Haynes have received \$94,528.75 or more.