

Roland Flipper Ship-Shape, But He's Too Heavy

By MAX NICHOLS

ORLANDO, Fla.

Spring training was no more than two days old when Manager Sam Mele of the Twins was grappling with his first problem.

Jim Roland, southpaw rookie pitching whiz last year until he suffered an arm injury on June 5, showed up at Tinker Field with a sound arm but an overgrown stomach. Mele immediately became concerned that the extra weight might throw Roland off stride or in some other way strain and re-injure his flipper.

"Roland is about ten pounds overweight," said Mele. "It's mostly around his stomach. We're getting after him to get that extra weight off. I told him not to throw any longer than he feels his arm will take."

Mele said all of the pitchers and catchers who showed up for the beginning of spring training were in good shape, with the exception of Roland. This 21-year-old lefty took deep X-ray treatments and special exercises through the winter to help heal the arm that fashioned a 4-1 record before his injury.

Mele handles nearly all of his problems in much the same way—approaching the situation directly, yet using enough tact to assure the player he is on his side.

Mele is starting his third full season with the confidence of a man who has enjoyed success and also withstood a few setbacks without sounding retreat. He now has the feeling he knows how best to prepare his Twins for the season in spring training—and how to maintain leadership once the season starts.

Conditioning All-Important

"I think we went north for the start of the season the last two years in about the best shape we could be, considering our weather conditions," said Mele. "The main thing is to get everyone ready."

"I'll be popping up all over the field just as I always have, to make sure no one has a tendency to get lazy. But we probably will be operating much the same as we have the last two years."

Mele said he has two main objectives for spring training: 1. to mold his infield into a better line of defense with mostly the same players he had last year; 2. to get his power hitters to cut down on strikeouts.

"We finished eighth in defense last year," said Mele. "I know the players we have can play better than that, because they were second in defense two years ago."

Mele had his problems early last season, suffering through a stretch of two victories and ten losses during the first two weeks of May. But he maintained confidence in the Twins and his players responded by rebounding from the slump and battling for the lead until the Yankees ran away from the league after July 4.

227 Victories for Mele

Since he became manager on June 23, 1961, Mele has piloted the Twins to 227 victories against 190 defeats, a .544 percentage. That's one of the top records for active managers. The Twins won 91 games each of the last two years.

And he went through the entire 1963 campaign without fining a player.

"I think the players know I can be tough and draw the line if I have to," Mele said during a midwinter



Jim Roland

conversation. "If they are fair with me, I am fair with them."

Mele can be tough. He levied a \$100 fine against Billy Martin shortly after he became manager. But he relies chiefly on his ability to communicate with the players. Just as he moves all over the field in spring training, he moves all around the locker room talking to players during the season.

"I want to know what the players are thinking," Mele once said. "I think they are relaxed when they know what I am thinking."

Sam Knows How to Needle

One of Mele's favorite tricks in "shaping up" a player is to "kid him on the square," as Mele says. If he knows a player is staying out too late or breaking other rules, he injects the verbal needle.

"I did that once last year," Mele told a Minneapolis reporter, "and I saw the player's eyebrows lift. I knew he got the message."

And Mele figures if the Twins get his message this year concerning defense and strikeouts, they can improve their 13-26 record of 1963 in one-run verdicts and battle the Yankees for the American League pennant.

Twin Tidbits: Jim Kaat and Garry Roggenburk, both of whom had arm trouble last year, threw with ease

Twins Solve Racial Problem With Shift to New Quarters

ORLANDO, Fla.—President Calvin Griffith of the Twins has solved the club's spring training segregation problem here and closed the door on racial discrimination in major league baseball.

The Twins became the last major league team to arrange for integrated housing facilities during spring training when they moved from the **Cherry Plaza** Hotel to the Downtowner Motel, March 4.

"We've been working on this for a long time," said Griffith. "We have been talking with Frank Flynn, owner of the **Cherry Plaza**. But when he told us he had to give us a final answer of no, we had to move out."

"We liked it in the **Cherry Plaza**. If the situation ever changes and the **Cherry Plaza** integrates, we probably will move back."

Howard Fox, the Twins' traveling secretary, indicated that the decision of the Minneapolis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to picket the Twins' home opener, April 21, provided strong impetus for the Twins to move.

Griffith, Fox and other front-office personnel will remain in the **Cherry Plaza**. Unmarried players and married players whose wives are not in Orlando moved to the Downtowner. Married players always have been allowed to live out of the club hotel. Manager Sam Mele and his coaches will follow the players' rules.

Negro players whose wives are not with them moved from the Sadler Hotel in Orlando to the Downtowner. The Twins' new home is a seven-story motel, about a year and one-half old, across the street from the Orlando City Hall on the main shopping street.

Because of limited dining facilities, players will be given meal money and will be allowed to eat where they choose.

"A lot of clubs have been doing this for years," said Fox. "But we have always liked the club policy of having the players sign hotel checks during spring training. That way we could be sure they are getting balanced meals."

The Twins' move was expected to end an investigation of the Twins' housing facilities in Orlando by a three-member review board called by the Minnesota State Committee Against Discrimination. MAX NICHOLS.

during their first stints in batting practice. "Kaat looked very loose," said Manager Sam Mele. . . . Mele told Earl Battey to exercise his knee only as long as the catcher thought it felt strong until the knee was used to the daily workouts. . . . Battey had an operation last fall along with Harmon Killebrew. . . . Catcher Joe McCabe was late reporting because of a two-week stint in the Army reserve, and relief pitcher Bill Dailey was late because he had to drive his wife to Virginia. Dailey's wife is expecting. . . . Farmhand pitchers Dave Boswell, Don Gregson, Jim Merritt, Ted Sadowski and Bill Whitby joined the Twins' roster hurlers for the drills. . . . Players on the roster reporting were Gerry Arrigo, Pete Cimino, Gary Dotter, Bill Fischer, Kaat, Fred Lasher, Dennis Lortscher, Chuck Nielson, Jim Ollom, Jim Perry, Bill Pleis, Roggenburk, Roland, Dwight Siebler, Lee Stange and Dick Stigman. . . . Catchers in camp were Battey, Paul Ratliff and Jerry Zimmerman.

DIAMOND FACTS and FACETS

Culled by RAY GILLESPIE

John F. Steadman in the Baltimore News-Post

Though the opening of the baseball season is still several weeks away, here are some things to hope for in 1964: Hank Bauer—Yankees in Orioles' uniforms; Gil Hodges—Daylight; Yogi Berra—That the laughs will be with him, not at him; Charlie Dressen—Self-operating back-slapper; Jim Gentile—Bats to break but no bills to pay for same; Sandy Koufax—More soft-touches



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WALTER ALSTON
... Leo Who?



STAN MUSIAL
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like the Yankees; Mickey Mantle—One physically-sound season; Al Kaline—That every hit be a base-hit; Walter Alston—A managing job somewhere else—for Leo Durocher; Warren Spahn—Eternal youth; Stan Musial—Contentment; Ted Williams—Record bonefish.

Bud Shrake in the Dallas Morning News: Satchel Paige says a pitcher should pitch every day to keep his control. . . . "A good pitcher is a guy who, when the count is 3-and-2, figures the hitter is in the hole—not the pitcher," said the one-time American League twirler.

George T. Davis in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner: A great deal has been written about football sidetracking baseball as the National Pastime, but Red Patterson of the Dodgers has figures to argue this claim. . . . "The Dodgers, only one of 20 clubs in the majors, outdrew the entire National Football League in 1963," Red said. . . . "In our 162 games, at home and on the road, we drew 4,173,444 fans, while all of the NFL clubs drew 4,163,663. . . . I realize the NFL schedule had only 92 dates, but there were 14 teams (not only one) involved."

Max Kase in the New York Journal-American: It needed only a "yes" from Stan Musial to seal the NBC baseball TV post but The Man suddenly vetoed the deal to take the job as U. S. Commissioner of Physical Fitness.

Dick Pezdirtz in the Miami News

Stan Musial, who collected 3,360 base-hits during a 22-year major league baseball career with the Cardinals, did all his hitting from an unorthodox corkscrew batting stance. . . . And wouldn't you know it?—He puts a golf ball the same way. . . . "I dunno why I address a putt in such a twisted, crouching stance . . . force of habit, maybe," said Stan recently during a round of golf at the Country Club of Miami. . . . "My putting stance may look kind of funny, but it feels good to me."

Gordon Cobbledick in the Cleveland Plain-Dealer: An indication of the esteem in which one Leo Durocher is held by his immediate superior was seen when an interviewer, soliciting Walt Alston's opinion on a question under discussion, asked, "What does Leo think about it?" . . . And Alston answered, "Leo who?"

Jack Hernon in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Don Hoak, now 36, announced: "I am going to play one more year with the Phils. . . . I was going to give it up, but Gene Mauch asked me to come back for another year. . . . He said I could be a coach, or a player-coach, or just a player. . . . I told Gene that if I came back to the Phils, I didn't want any special treatment."

Grapefruit Games on Majors' Docket

Wednesday, March 11—Red Sox vs. Indians at Tucson; Angels vs. Cubs at Mesa.

Thursday, March 12—Angels vs. Red Sox at Scottsdale; Giants vs. Cubs at Mesa.

Friday, March 13—Indians vs. Giants at Phoenix; Angels vs. Cubs at Mesa; Dodgers vs. Mexico City Tigers at Mexico City (night).

Saturday, March 14—Orioles vs. Yankees at Fort Lauderdale; Red Sox vs. Giants at El Paso, Tex.; Reds vs. White Sox at Sarasota; Indians vs. Cubs at Mesa; Twins vs. Tigers at Lakeland; Pirates vs. Athletics at Bradenton; Indians vs. Angels at Palm Springs; Braves vs. Senators at Pompano Beach; Colt 45s vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Mets vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg; Dodgers vs. Mexico City Reds at Mexico City (night).

Sunday, March 15—Yankees vs. Orioles at Miami; Red Sox vs. Giants at El Paso, Tex.; White Sox vs. Reds at Tampa; Cubs vs. Indians at Tucson; Tigers vs. Twins at Orlando; Athletics vs. Pirates at Fort Myers; Indians vs. Angels at Palm Springs; Senators vs. Braves at West Palm Beach; Phillies vs. Colt 45s at Cocoa; Cardinals vs. Mets at St. Petersburg; Dodgers vs. Mexico City Tigers at Mexico City (morning).

Monday, March 16—Orioles vs. Braves at West Palm Beach; Red Sox vs. Indians at Tucson; Pirates vs. White Sox at Sarasota; Cardinals vs. Tigers at Lakeland; Athletics vs. Senators at Pompano Beach; Cubs vs. Angels at Palm Springs; Reds vs. Twins at Orlando; Yankees vs. Colt 45s at Cocoa; Phillies vs. Mets at St. Petersburg.

Tuesday, March 17—Orioles vs. Colt 45s at Cocoa; Giants vs. Red Sox at Scottsdale; Tigers vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Athletics vs. Braves at West Palm Beach; Cubs vs. Angels at Palm Springs; Twins vs. Yankees at Fort Lauderdale; Senators vs. Pirates at Fort Myers; Cardinals vs. Reds at Tampa; Dodgers vs. Mets at St. Petersburg.

Wednesday, March 18—Orioles vs. Dodgers at Vero Beach; Red Sox vs. Cubs at Mesa; Senators vs. White Sox at Sarasota; Indians vs. Giants at Phoenix; Tigers vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg; Athletics vs. Yankees at Fort Lauderdale; Twins vs. Braves at West Palm Beach; Colt 45s vs. Reds at Tampa; Mets vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Angels vs. Hawaii at Indio, Calif.

Thursday, March 19—Twins vs. Orioles at Miami; Indians vs. Red Sox at Scottsdale; Colt 45s vs. White Sox at Sarasota; Mets vs. Tigers at Lakeland; Angels vs. Giants at Phoenix; Angels vs. Hawaii at Indio, Calif.; Pirates vs. Yankees at Fort Lauderdale; Senators vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Reds vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg; Dodgers vs. Braves at West Palm Beach.

Friday, March 20—Dodgers vs. Orioles at Miami (night); White Sox vs. Pirates at Fort Myers; Cubs vs. Indians at Nogales, Mex.; Reds vs. Tigers at Lakeland; Senators vs. Athletics at Bradenton; Angels vs. Giants at Phoenix; Angels vs. Hawaii at Indio, Calif.; Yankees vs. Braves at West Palm Beach; Colt 45s vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Mets vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg.

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