

# Pascual and Kaat End Twin Holdouts in Good Shape

By MAX NICHOLS

ORLANDO, Fla.

Jim Kaat and Camilo Pascual, ace pitchers of the Twins, reported in good shape after holding out into the second week of March for better salary terms.

Manager Sam Mele said it was possible both would be able to pitch in exhibitions within ten days after they reported.

"I don't want either of them to get hurt, so we will be careful," said Mele.

Pascual, who has won 56 games in the last three years for the Twins, was only two pounds overweight when he signed on March 9. He went to the mound the first thing the morning he reported and threw for ten minutes, then began spinning curves.

## Jim Drilled at Rollins College

Kaat, who reported on March 11, had been pitching in batting practice in workouts with the baseball team of Rollins College, which is near Orlando. He also had been playing handball at the University Club in Orlando. "I've been throwing for 30 minutes at a time—longer than some of the Twins' pitchers," said Kaat.

"Both will have time to get ready for opening day," said Johnny Sain, Twins' pitching coach. "Camilo looked very good the first time he threw—considering it was his first day."

Sain wants each starting pitcher to go nine innings at

least once before the end of the exhibition season. He feels both will be able to get ready for that.

"These two pitchers have good heads on their shoulders," said Sain. "You don't have to worry about them. They know what they have to do to get ready. That's why they are such good pitchers. They will be ready."

## Camilo Avoids Salary Slash

Pascual avoided a cut, signing for his 1964 salary of \$46,500. Kaat received about an \$8,500 raise, signing for an estimated \$26,000. Kaat won 17 games last year and has won 45 games the last three years.

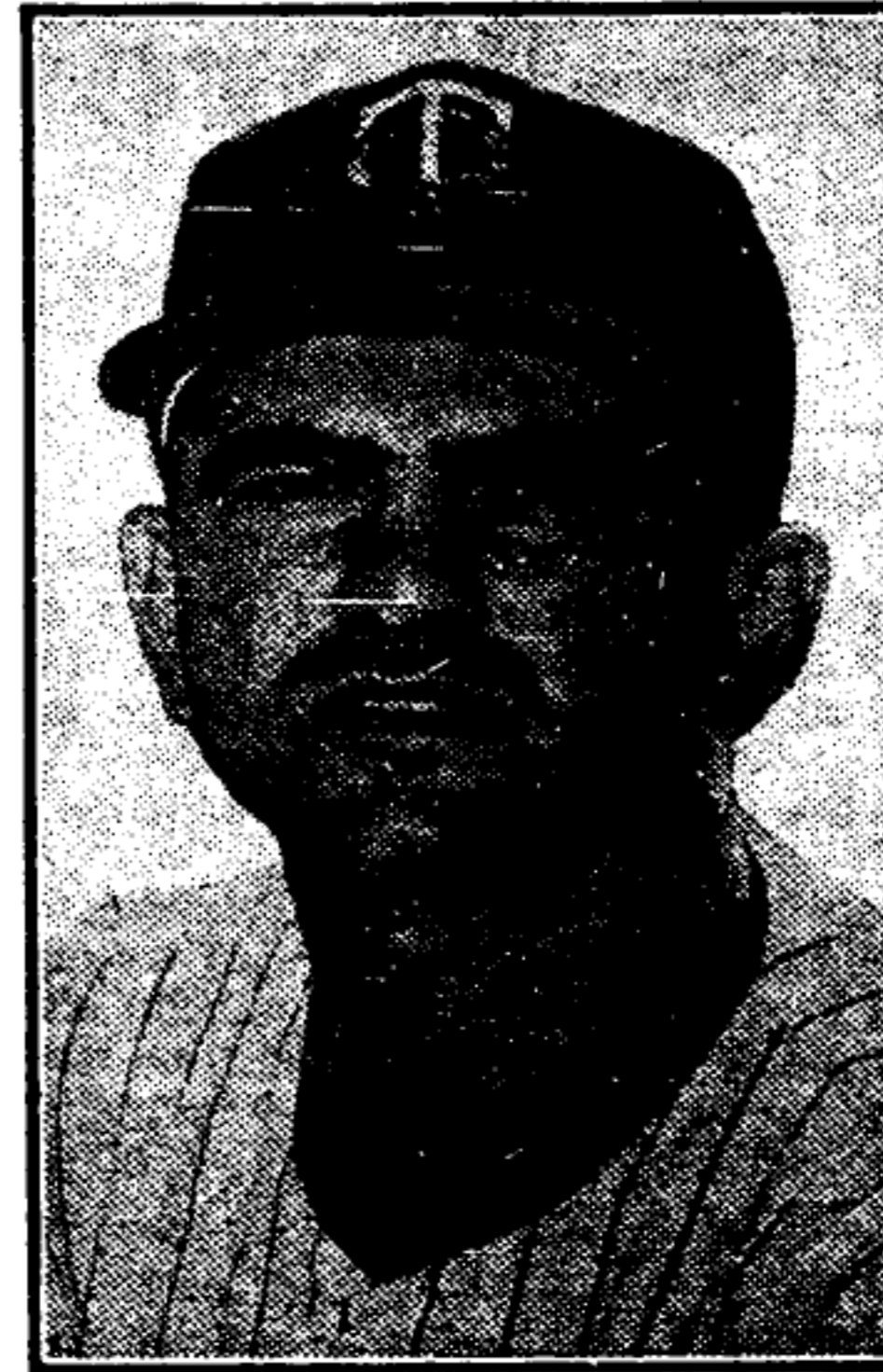
"I didn't get the \$30,000 I asked for," said Kaat, "but I got about what I hoped to get. It was a good raise and I am very happy."

Griffith had offered Kaat \$23,000 before the two finally got together in Orlando and worked out a compromise.

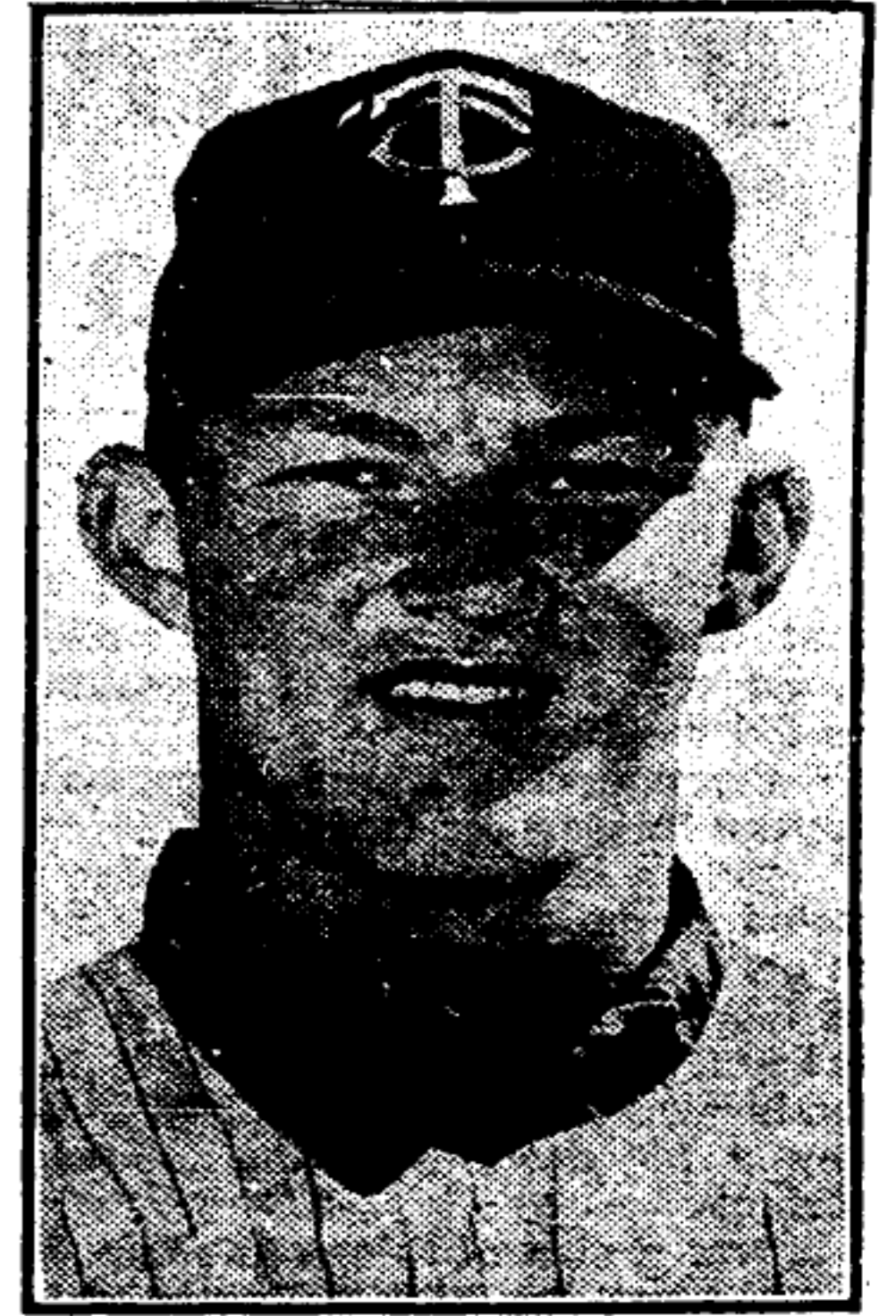
"I'll have to say this," said Griffith. "Kaat makes a very good case for himself. He is sound in his argument, not emotional. I think a player should try to get as big a raise as he can when he has a good year. I respect his right to negotiate."

Griffith said Kaat's first request for a \$12,500 raise to \$30,000 was the highest raise any player had ever asked him for. It was Kaat's first holdout battle, but it was the third for Camilo in four seasons.

Pascual held out in 1962 and 1964.



CAMILO PASCUAL



JIM KAAT



THE BOWLING BALL is not out of place because Frank Robinson (left) and Jim O'Toole of the Reds are members of the N. L.'s team for the Baseball/Bowling Championships.

## Majors' Squads To Compete for Bowling Honors

By RON YOUNG

TAMPA, Fla.

March 30 is the one night in the year when hitters are looking for strikes just as much as pitchers. That's the night of the \$6,000 Major League Baseball/Bowling Championship at Tampa's East Gate Lanes.

More than 200 of baseball's biggest names—players, coaches, managers, umpires, sports writers and sportscasters—will be taking aim at cash jackpots worth \$3,000 in individual championship events.

The highlight, however, will be a unique all-star team match in which ten American leaguers will bowl against ten National leaguers. The team match will be taped for the second consecutive year by NBC-TV for its "Sports in Action" show, April 11, at 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

### Series Managers Competing

This year, there will be added dramatic impact because the World Series managers will be participants in their new baseball roles.

Johnny Keane, who managed the Cardinals to the world championship, will bowl with the A. L. as the new manager of the Yankees, while Yogi Berra, last season's pilot of the Yankees, will roll with the N. L. as a new player-coach with the Mets.

The A. L. team also will include Dave Wickersham and Bill Freehan of the Tigers, Floyd Robinson and Dave

### Trophy for Best Singles

TAMPA, Fla. — THE SPORTING NEWS Trophy, a special award for the high singles game, again will be a coveted prize in the baseball tournament. Curt Simmons of the Cardinals rolled a sizzling 222 to earn the award last year.

Nicholson of the White Sox, Jim Gentile and Wayne Causey of the Athletics, Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison of the Twins and Don Zimmer of the Senators.

Other keglers on the N. L. squad will include Alvin Jackson of the Mets, Ken Boyer and Curt Simmons of the Cardinals, Jim Bunning and Johnny Callison of the Phillies, Jim O'Toole and Frank Robinson of the Reds and Joe Torre and Milt Bolling of the Braves.

In the team competition, the scoring is cumulative with each player rolling one frame. Members of the winning squad receive \$200 apiece. The losers each get \$100.

The National leaguers triumphed last year by a score of 137-101.

A special trophy to honor the memory of the late Fred Hutchinson, former manager of the Reds, will be awarded for the first time this year. The trophy will be presented to the winner of the singles championship in the "A" Division for active players.

Dwight Siebler of the Twins will be out to capture the \$500 first place for the second straight year and become the initial winner of the Hutchinson Award. Last year, Siebler defeated Lee Stange, then a teammate and now with the Indians, for the title.

Other winners were Red Schoendienst of the Cardinals and Walt Swihart of WFLA-TV, Tampa.

## Passed-Up Valdespino Sprints To Catch Twins' Star Parade

By MAX NICHOLS

ORLANDO, Fla.

After watching six teammates in five years of Triple-A ball pass him to become Twins' stars, Sandy Valdespino feels it's time to catch up.

This 5-8 Cuban outfielder is built like a fireplug at 170 pounds and runs as if he is going to a fire. He improved enough as a hitter to win the International League batting crown last year and he started fast in spring training this year.

"I finally learned last year to hit the ball to all fields," said Valdespino, whose real first name is Hilario. "I used to pull the ball all the time and I grounded out a lot on outside pitches. Last year I started hitting outside pitches to left field and I batted .337."

Lefthanded all the way, Valdespino improved his throwing enough to up his record from four assists in 1963 to 16 last year. He has shown the Twins he can play all three outfield positions and is hoping to make the club at least as a utilityman.

"Sandy might be able to help us as a pinch-hitter," said Manager Sam Mele. "We need a lefthanded hitter for that job. And he might make a good one because he doesn't strike out much. He hits the ball somewhere."

### Sandy Learns Hard Way

Valdespino played in the same outfield with Tony Oliva at Dallas in 1963. But though Tony has proved to be one of the best in the major leagues at hitting to all fields, Sandy said he was unable to learn to spray hits from Tony or any other player.

"I just had to learn from experience—the hard way," said Sandy. "It took me a long time. But I feel I am ready now. I can help this club if they give me a chance. If the Twins need a leadoff batter, I can help there, too. I have batted lead-off all my life."

"If they want me to pinch-hit, that's fine. I think I could do a good job."

Sandy broke into Triple-A ball with Charleston (American Association) during 1960 and that was where he started teaming up with future stars of the Twins.

In addition to Oliva at Dallas, Sandy was a teammate of pitcher Jim Kaat, first baseman Don Mincher, outfielder Jim Hall and shortstop Zoilo Versalles at Charleston. He batted .267.

In 1961, Sandy batted .302 for Indianapolis. He also played 51 games for Syracuse in 1961 and was a teammate of Rich Rollins there. He batted .278 and .284 in two years at Dallas before blossoming into the



Sandy Valdespino

leading hitter in the International loop for Atlanta last summer.

A smiling little guy with a cheerful greeting for everyone, Valdespino started right out to prove he was ready when intrasquad games started in the Twins' spring camp.

He played all three outfield positions and he hit safely in three of four games. Then when the exhibitions began, he rapped four hits in his first five times at bat. One hit was a double.

"In my early years, I had a reputation for not having a good arm," said Valdespino. "But I think I have learned through experience to use my arm better. I think I can throw well enough now to play center field if I have to do it."

### Seven Versatile Candidates

Valdespino is one of seven highly-versatile players trying to land jobs with the Twins at least as utilitymen.

Other players with outfield experience include Frank Kostro, Joe Nosssek, Cesar Tovar and Jay Ward. Tovar will get a long look as a possible regular second baseman, since he also has played all infield positions except first base.

Nosssek has been working out at third base this spring after playing there in the Florida Instructional League. Ward and Kostro both have experience in the infield as well as the outfield.

Jerry Kindall and rookie Bill Bethea both are versatile infielders. Bethea has played shortstop and second base. Kindall, a five-year veteran in the

### Second Base Plans Upset, Griffith Looks for Trade

ORLANDO, Fla.—An ingrown toenail on Bernie Allen's left foot and a delay in the reporting of Cesar Tovar have set back plans of the Twins to settle their biggest question mark—second base.

Allen, the regular second baseman until he was injured last June, had a knee operation last autumn. He figures he needs a month to get it into condition, but he was unable to run the first two weeks of spring training because of the problem with his big toe.

Tovar, acquired in a trade with Cincinnati, has not played second base more than a few games at a time since 1962. He showed a wide range after reporting on March 11 from his native Venezuela, but he admits he has been "only so-so" in the past on the double play.

So Calvin Griffith, Twins' president, once again is looking around to trade for a second baseman.

majors, can play all four infield positions.

*Twin Tracks:* Cesar Tovar did not report from his native Venezuela until March 11, saying he had trouble getting a visa. . . . Jim Grant was the first Twins' starter of last year to display sharp pitching, facing only ten batters in three innings against Houston. . . . Zoilo Versalles started out bunting at least once in each intrasquad game and in the first exhibition. . . . Rich Rollins, Harmon Killebrew and Jim Hall all hit the ball sharply in early games. . . . Killebrew came up with a clean pickup of a throw in the dirt from third base and then made a diving stab of a line drive. . . . He is trying to relearn his way around first base after three seasons in left field. . . . Dwight Siebler and Dick Stigman, annual late-starting pitchers, will be given chances to hurl against Twins' farmhands at Melbourne, Fla., because they have asked for extra work. Siebler, who was unable to find his sharp stuff in time to help the Twins last spring, has been throwing much more freely this year. . . . Tests on the shoulder of reliever Bill Dailey showed he does not need an operation, but he still is having a painful time trying to regain his pitching form. He is taking treatments. . . . Mel Nelson, former Angels' lefthander, was among the sharper pitchers in the intrasquad games.