

Pascual, After 11 Long Years, Finally Passes .500

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

It took more than 11 long years, jammed with disappointments as well as triumphs, but Camilo Pascual finally has moved his pitching record above the .500 mark.

It may sound surprising to hear that the Cuban master of the curve has earned a winning career record for the first time in his major league days. But that is exactly what happened when he defeated Kansas City, 6-4, for his fifth Minnesota victory of this year against no losses. That gave Camilo 133 victories against

Dick Siebert's College League Set for Summer

By DICK GORDON

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.

The Upper Midwest Collegiate League, brainchild of University of Minnesota baseball coach Dick Siebert, starts its second year, June 19.

There will be teams in three Minnesota communities, Alexandria, Wadena and Little Falls, with one "hybrid"—Breckenridge (Minn.)-Wahpeton (N. D.), 1964 champions.

Tryouts for players from six states will be held at the Gophers' Delta Field here on June 14-17, with some 150 collegians expected to battle it out for the 56 openings—14 to a team.

The league's baptismal season was successful and Commissioner Siebert was anticipating another such campaign even though he was disappointed that the loop received only \$10,000 from the National Collegiate Baseball Foundation.

The foundation was granted \$75,000 by the major leagues for the support of summer ball for college players. In addition to the allocation to Siebert's circuit, the foundation assigned \$30,000 to the Basin League and \$25,000 to the Central Illinois Collegiate League. The remaining \$10,000 was retained for administrative expenses.

Maybe Better Days Ahead

"We were ready to put teams in two more cities, Detroit Lake and Fergus Falls," said Siebert. "But we just didn't have enough money to do it. Actually we were better off financially last year, when we got \$12,000 from the Minnesota Twins, and Calvin Griffith also assumed all the expenses of uniforms, bats and balls."

"But at least professional baseball is behind us officially now and that's a real start. I hope some day they'll be spending about half a million for leagues like this all over the country."

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has also given its blessing to the program, while stipulating that all players must be enrolled as college undergraduates.

Because of expense limitations, Siebert's tryouts will be for collegians living during the summer in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska or the Dakotas.

All games will be played at night—on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with the race ending on Sunday, August 8. Then an all-star game, in which the championship team takes on the pick of the rest of the league, will wind things up on August 10.

Staples Back With Champs

Ex-big leaguer Ken Staples, now a Minneapolis high school coach, is back to direct Breckenridge-Wahpeton's title defense and Elmer Kohorst, St. John's University coach at Collegeville, Minn., will continue to boss the Little Falls team.

Coaching newcomers include Bob Johnson, baseball and hockey coach at Colorado College, who will head Alexandria's entry, and Johnny Erickson, Wadena manager.

Both played their college ball for Siebert. Johnson, a pitcher, was also a member of Minnesota's hockey champions of 1953-54. Erickson, a second baseman, captained Siebert's 1960 Gophers to Big Ten and NCAA titles.

As was the case last year, members of each team will hold regular day-time jobs in the communities where they play.

132 losses. It was a point he wasn't positive he would ever reach.

"I think I am dreaming and I'm afraid I will wake up," Camilo said after he had passed the .500 mark.

"I got to .500 last year, and you know what happened then," he said. "I was 9-2 last year when I got my record even (at 122-122), and I had trouble winning the rest of the season."

So Camilo doesn't even want to talk about his career mark now. When a reporter brought up the fact that he was off to his best start with a 5-0 mark and that he was leading the American League, he changed the subject.

"Never in my life was I above .500 before," he said. "I was 4-7 my first year for Washington, and I've been trying to catch up ever since."

From 2-12 to 17 Victories

There were numerous difficult days for Camilo before he became a winning pitcher. It was six years before he blossomed as a 17-game winner for the Washington Senators in 1959.

The Senor was 2-12, his worst season, as a sophomore in 1955. He was 6-18, 8-17 and 8-12 in his next three seasons—giving him a record of 28-66 before he could begin to realize the fruits of his famous curve ball.

"I used to be a great pitcher for six innings," said Camilo. "My curve was better than it is now. But I threw only a hard curve. And I didn't know how to make good use of my fast ball. That was why I used to tire in late innings."

"I would be losing something on my fast ball. If I couldn't get my curve over, they would wait and hit my fast ball."

Pascual started learning to throw the slow curve about the time he started to win for the Senators. He was 17-10 in 1959 and 12-8 in 1960 before Calvin Griffith moved his franchise to Minnesota.

Haynes Taught Him Slow Curve

"Joe Haynes (Twins vice president and former White Sox pitcher) helped me learn to throw a slow curve," Pascual said. "Eddie Lopat (Twins coach in 1961) liked me to throw a lot of slow curves."

Mr. Curve had his last losing season in 1961, when he was 15-16. Then he reached another period in his career and became a 20-game winner. He was 20-11 in 1962 and 21-9 in 1963 and 15-12 last year.

"I really became a pitcher when I learned to throw my fast ball down low and use it against my curve," Camilo said. "Haynes and Gordon Maltzberger (Twins pitching coach, in 1962-64) taught me that."

"It wasn't until then that I could win without my curve. There have been days that I have won by throwing my fast ball all day."

This has been particularly true early in the season for Pascual and this year is no exception.

"Since I quit pitching in winter

Camilo, Grant A. L.'s Top One-Two Pitching Combine

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Camilo Pascual and Jim Grant proved to be the most effective one-two pitching punch of the American League for the Twins during the first month of the season.

Pascual was 5-0 and Grant 4-0 after 34 games for a combined mark of 9-0. Closest to that mark in the league were Marcelino Lopez and Fred Newman of the Angels, who combined for an 11-4 record.

"This is my best start since my rookie year when I was also 4-0," said Grant. It also was the best start of Pascual's career.

Mincher's Pinch-Blast His First Safety Off Bob Lee

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Don Mincher's first pinch-homer of the season was the first safety he ever had hit off reliever Bob Lee of Los Angeles.

"I got him out on that same pitch several times, but this time he hit it," Lee said. The homer tied a game, 4-4, in the ninth, but Lee went on to win it for the Angels in extra innings.

Mincher was 0-for-5, plus a walk and a sacrifice against Lee before that, over two seasons. But he was not the only Twins hitter having trouble. The Twins did not score against Lee in seven tries last season and have scored only twice in three attempts this year—losing twice while winning once in three decisions.

baseball and started resting all winter, it has taken me quite a while to get really sharp with my curve," Pascual said. "The last few years I have not started striking out a lot of batters every game until July."

He has started off with winning records the last three years, but 5-0 this season by far is his best. And he had to struggle in his fifth victory more than in any of the others. In fact, he was sharp enough that he could have won two starts before that instead of getting no decision.

Won After All Night on Plane

But the fifth victory followed an all-night plane ride from Los Angeles and this obviously tired him out.

"I had no co-ordination," he said. "I threw one curve ball behind a batter, and I hit another. But I was able to come up with good pitches in the jams. It was the fifth inning, when I had the bases loaded and two outs, that I started to feel better."

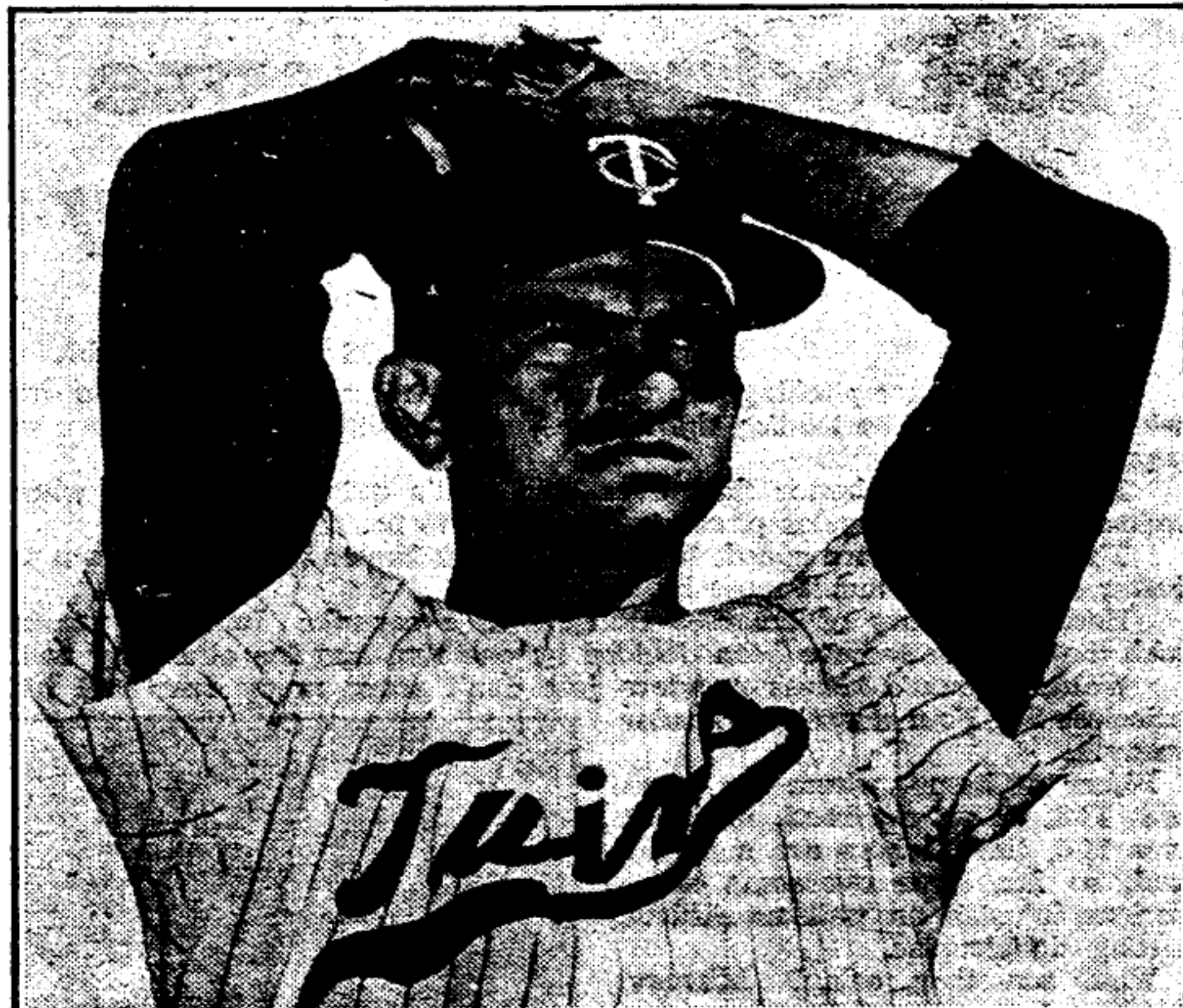
Now, at 31 years old, Pascual is starting to think in terms of a new stage in his pitching career—the transition from a "stuff" pitcher to a control artist. It's only a way of thinking for him right now, not a way of pitching, and it's all in the future.

"I am still getting by on my old pitches," Camilo said. "But I am thinking of adding a new pitch in the future. Because when I get to where I can't throw my fast ball all the time, I will need one. And if I can come up with a new pitch, I might be able to pitch ten more years."

To Stick With Curve in '65

Pascual figures it will be best if he can do this while he still is starting regularly, as Whitey Ford and Warren Spahn did, rather than wait until he starts taking regular losses. But for 1965, Pascual hopes to earn his \$46,500 salary with the most famous curve ball in the American League.

Twin Tracks: The Twins played 28 of their first 32 games against first-rate competition and then encountered a chance to "get fat" on the tailenders. . . . All of the first seven games were either one-run decisions or decided in late innings. . . . The same with seven of their first eight games against Chicago. . . . Trade conversation with Kansas City fizzled after a week of activity. . . . The Twins were eyeing pitcher John Wyatt, third baseman Ed Charles and center fielder Jim Landis while the A's wanted outfielder Jim Hall and Denver left-handed pitcher Jim Merritt, among others. . . . Bob Allison was rested for three days after appearing in six straight games without a hit.



CAMILO PASCUAL . . . May Add New Pitch

Twins Run, Ignore Base-Line Caution

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

"Go" is the order of the day for the Twins base-runners this year and green is the color.

With Manager Sam Mele directing a new assault plan and Billy Martin pushing it as third base coach, the Twins have thrown away the amber caution sign. They no longer are waiting for home runs.

Only one name has changed in the batting lineup from last year—Jerry Kindall has played second base in place of Bernie Allen. Sluggers Harmon Killebrew, Bob Allison and Jim Hall still man the middle of the order.

But base-runners are going to second—even with the sluggers at bat these days—on the hit-and-run. Zoilo Versalles, Hall, Allison, Rich Rollins and Tony Oliva are testing the arms of catchers all around the league.

Slow runners such as Killebrew and Earl Battey have scored from first base on doubles and even singles under the waving signals of Martin. With Martin, decisions are quick, and the "go" signal is on at the slightest invitation.



Sam Mele

Even Pitchers Will Get Into Act

"We'll even hit-and-run with some of our pitchers this year," Mele said. "I think it helps to run with our big men batting. They have to hit the ball somewhere and we're not leaving as many runners on third base."

After 32 games, the Twins had slugged only about half as many home runs as at the same point in 1964—32 homers compared to 61 last year.

But they were in second place, battling for the American League pennant, instead of struggling to stay in the first division as in '64.

They had stolen 16 bases—one every two games—compared to an average of one per three games last year. And they had a 5-4 record in one-run games, plus a 4-3 mark in extra-inning contests. Seven times they came from behind in late innings, with Killebrew delivering the winning blow in three of them.

Martin's Daring Calls Win Games

"You have to give a lot of credit to Martin," said Mele. "He makes up his mind and goes with his decisions. We've scored a lot of runs because of that."

A typical case was a tie game in Kansas City with Kindall on second base. Versalles hit a blooper to left-center. It was do or die for the Kansas City outfielder, and Martin sent Kindall home without caution. It worked for the winning run.

"Casey Stengel taught me to always size up the position of the outfielders before a play," said Martin. "Then, when you see the ball in the air, you can make up your mind quickly. The outfielders were deep, so I knew the ball would fall in for a hit."

In similar situations, Allison scored from first on a single, Killebrew scored on a chop in front of the plate and Versalles ran for an inside-the-park home run.

Allison was the early Twins leader in stealing bases with four. Versalles, though hampered by an injured thigh, had three, and so did Hall. Kindall had two, Oliva and Rollins each one.