

# Kindall 13th Twin to Respond In Pinch to Save Cliff-Hanger

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

It was the ninth inning and the **Minnesota Twins** were trailing Washington, 3-2. The Metropolitan Stadium scoreboard lights had just registered victories for American League contenders Baltimore, Cleveland and Detroit. The **Twins** lead was in danger of being cut to four games by an eighth-place team. Manager Sam Mele had three pinch-hitters to send up in place of the pitcher—.217 hitting Jerry Zimmerman, .197 hitting Jerry Kindall and .000 hitting John Sevcik. He also was considering pitcher Jim Grant, "a pretty good hitter."

## Denver Farm Team Keeping Twins Aloft With Fresh Players

By MAX NICHOLS

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If the **Minnesota Twins** can limp all the way to the American League pennant, they will have to give an assist to their Denver farm club.

Four times so far the Minnesota club has called on Denver to replace injured or faltering **Twins**. And while the Denver team of the Pacific Coast League once was reduced to four able-bodied pitchers, every Denver grad contributed to the **Twins'** pennant campaign.

As the **Twins** opened a 14-game mid-August road trip, they were seeking ways to call up a fifth man from Denver—25 home run hitting outfielder Andy Kosco.

Jim Merritt, left-handed pitcher who was leading the PCL in everything but selling popcorn, was No. 4 in the parade from Denver to the Twin Cities. He stepped right into the **Twins'** starting rotation with sharp performances against Baltimore and Boston.

### Quilici Went Right to Work

In mid-July the **Twins** had called up second baseman Frank Quilici, plus pitchers Dwight Siebler and Garry Roggenburk. Quilici stepped right into the infield, playing 21 games at second base and two at shortstop without an error before taking a rest. Siebler and Roggenburk helped the heavily worked relief pitching staff.

"Merritt looks better than I have ever seen him," said Manager Sam Mele. "He has shown me he knows how to set up a batter."

Merritt was expected to join the **Twins** starting rotation at the beginning of the season after a 13-17 record last year with the cellar Atlanta club of the International League.

His major league debut was delayed when he was sent to Denver.

At Denver he won 13 games and lost eight before being called up, leading the league with 13 complete games, 190 innings pitched and 171 strikeouts.

### Raised Arm and Won

But after pitching 8½ innings without a decision against Baltimore and then beating Boston for his first major league win, he said he was sharp in only his last five games at Denver.

"I was winning, so I was getting by," said Merritt. "But it wasn't until I started pitching with my arm higher—more overhand—that I started pitching real well. Now my fast ball is moving more and my curve is breaking better."

Merritt said he discovered that he was dropping his arm too far while watching Denver teammate Pete Cimino.

"Cimino was having trouble,



Jim Merritt

and I asked him if he didn't used to pitch with his arm higher," said Merritt. "Then I thought: 'That's what I'm doing myself—dropping my arm.'"

Merritt allowed Boston only four hits and two runs in six innings before rain delayed that game one hour and 35 minutes. Because of the long delay, Mele brought in a relief pitcher to finish a 9-3 victory.

"I just hope I can help this club win the pennant," said Merritt. "I feel like I am ready. I wanted to make the club this spring, but going back to Denver was a big help since I got to pitch there until I was straightened out."

### Calling for Help!

Merritt was called up when Camilo Pascual was placed on the disabled list. Siebler was recalled when Dave Boswell went on the disabled list because of mononucleosis.

Roggenburk was called up to replace lefthander Jerry Fosnow. And Quilici was needed to replace Bernie Allen. Both Fosnow and Allen went to Denver.

A lefthander who had an operation on his elbow last year, Roggenburk gained his first victory in relief with five and one-third innings of shutout baseball at Washington.

Roggenburk was sent to Denver when his elbow developed soreness this spring. He compiled a 9-3 record, mostly in relief, for Denver in 71½ innings.

"My elbow was so sore I couldn't pitch for a week," said Roggenburk. "Then I started throwing again and gradually it got better. It bothered me once this summer, but a shot of cortisone helped. It feels very good now."

Quilici was batting .277 for Denver. He batted .234 in his first stretch of games for the **Twins**.

With Harmon Killebrew and Camilo Pascual nursing injuries, this might have been the point the Twin snowball started downhill.

"I chose Kindall because he can hit the ball out of the park once in a while," said Mele.

And Kindall did.

Thirteen different **Twins'** players have driven home tying or winning runs in Minnesota's campaign for the pennant. It's been that kind of year. Kindall became No. 13 that day.

On the first pitch Kindall slugged a Howie Koplitz pitch over the left field fence—a hard-hit line drive to tie the score, 3-3. It was his fourth time at bat in three weeks.

### Victory March Under Way

Three batters later, Jimmie Hall singled home the winning run. And three days after that, the **Twins** were ahead of the league seven and one-half games—their biggest lead since they first moved ahead Memorial Day.

"I took extra hitting before that game," said Kindall. "This is something a utility player has to do when he is at home. On the road there is no chance to come out early for extra swings."

"We find a different way to win every day," said Bob Allison, who stepped into Killebrew's shoes as the **Twins'** No. 4 hitter. He whacked his seventeenth and eighteenth home runs, plus a triple, within three days as the **Twins** stretched their lead.

"This club is a bunch of fighters," Allison said. "We don't have time to watch the scoreboard the way we play them. We are too busy trying to win each game to worry about the pennant race. Every game we play is a World Series game."

The American League leaders played 47 of their first 110 games down to the final innings before they were decided. They won 30 of those games—sometimes in the eighth inning at home, sometimes in the ninth inning and nine times in extra innings.

They came from behind to capture 26 of their first 70 victories—14 times in the seventh inning or later.

### Not a One-Man Drive

No player on this club has dominated the clutch hitter role, as Brooks Robinson did last year for Baltimore. Harmon Killebrew drove in winning or tying runs seven times before being sidelined with an elbow dislocation. He was the leader. But Allison's point was that this has been no one-man ball club.

Allison himself has driven the winning run home three times in the seventh, ninth and twelfth innings.

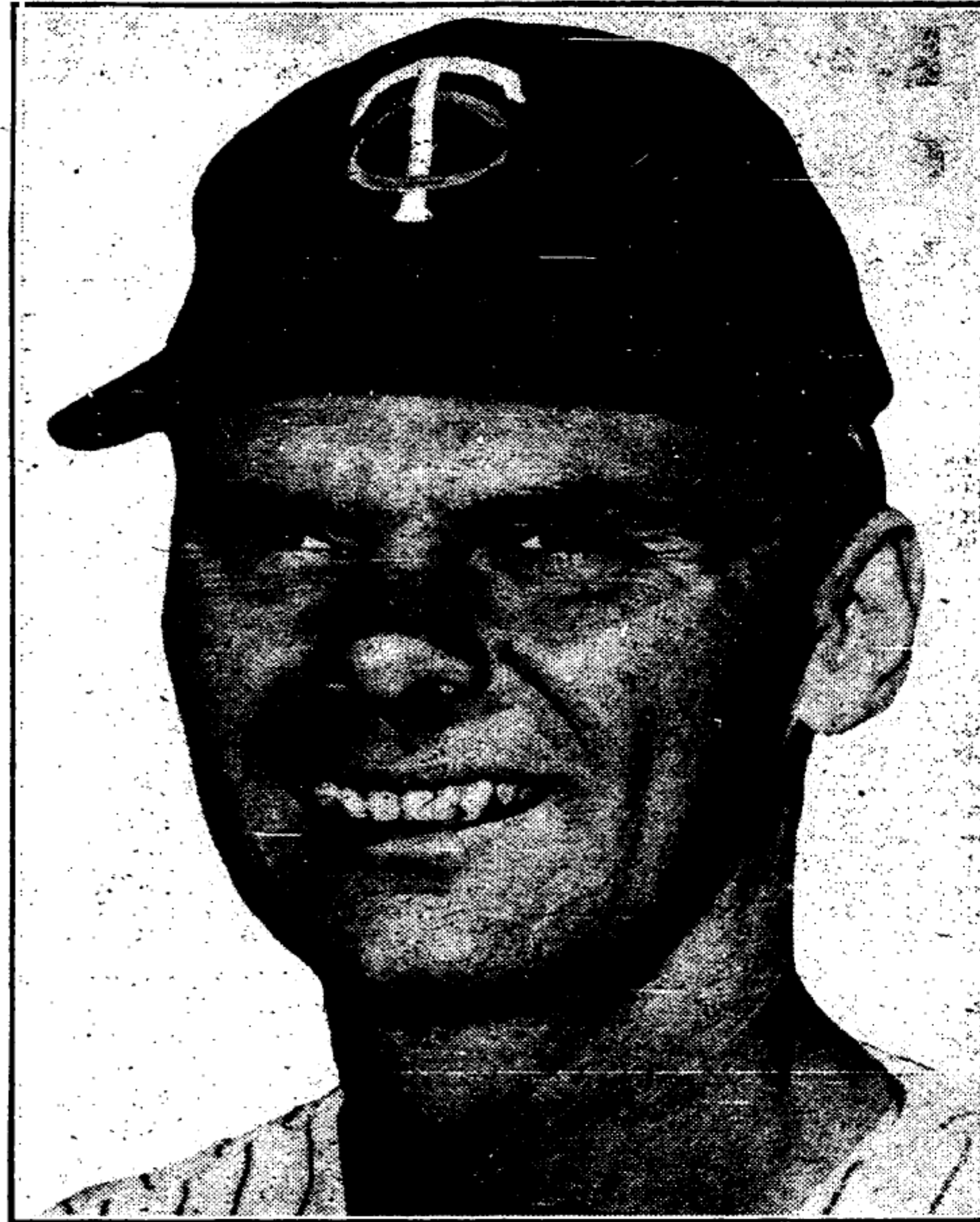
Don Mincher, Jim Hall, Tony Oliva and Zoilo Versalles all have driven home winning runs four times each in late innings. Joe Nosssek, a part-time outfielder-infielder, did it three times. Jerry Zimmerman, reserve catcher, drove home the first winning run of his life in Detroit.

Even Cesar Tovar and Bernie Allen, two players now with the **Twins** Denver farm club, contributed with late-inning hits that won games or tied games that became victories.

"We're a better team with Killebrew in there," said Mincher, who is replacing Killebrew at first base. "But with him out of the lineup all we can do is go out and play the best baseball we can."

Mincher's four winning hits all were home runs. Of his first 15 homers, seven contributed directly to building winning margins.

In 1963 the **Twins** lost Killebrew



JERRY KINDALL . . . Comes Up Swinging

for a month in the spring and they were able to win only 11 games against 15 losses without him.

"Harmon makes us a first-class club because he's a first-class player," Earl Battey said at the time. "We feel first class just being on the same team with him."

The **Twins** evidently have matured in their confidence in themselves. Their respect for Killebrew has increased, but they have produced rather than pressed in his absence.

### Pep Talk By Harmon

"Every man on this club has done his job," said Manager Sam Mele. Killebrew, standing in a winning clubhouse with his elbow swollen all out of proportion, appeared as happy as if he had delivered the winning hits:

"The way these guys are hitting, I may not be able to get back in there," Harmon said.

In the seven games right after Killebrew's injury, numerous players came through—including Battey. He suffered his ninth injury of the year—a wrenched knee—and came back the next day to replace Zimmerman, who suffered two smashed fingers.

Shortstop Zoilo Versalles slugged three home runs in three days. Tony Oliva hit in five of his next six games. Nosssek whacked a three-run homer—his second of the year. Hall drove home the winning run twice, once on a home run.

When Battey's knee was wrenched, it worried Mele. This meant the **Twins** would be facing more lefthanded pitchers since Allison was

### Pascual's Loss Being Offset By Four Guys Named Jim

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Even though Camilo Pascual may be out for the season, the **Twins'** pitching picture is "Jim Dandy" for the first time since mid-June.

The **Twins** went into the second week of August with four healthy starters for the first time since Jim Kaat started pitching with a strained arm. It has worked out that all four starters are named Jim—Kaat, Jim Grant, Jim Perry and Jim Merritt, who was recalled from Denver.

the only righthanded power hitter, compared to Hall, Oliva and Mincher from the other side.

"Maybe I should put Rollins at second base and Nosssek at third base to get more scoring power in the lineup," he said. But he went with Kindall at second base for defense, and the **Twins** continued winning.

**Twin Tracks:** Dick Stigman, who took a heart-breaking loss by giving up a three-run winning home run to Baltimore's John Powell, came right back four days later to win a come-from-behind victory over Washington by striking out five of the last six hitters. . . . **Twins** pinch-hitters were leading the league in getting on base, reaching 55 times in 159 tries for a .346 on-base average.

## Boswell, Up From Sickbed And Injury, Rejoins Twins

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Dave Boswell returned from his sickbed and a car accident to the Minnesota **Twins**, certain he would be ready to pitch by the time he was taken off the disabled list. He was expected to be eligible, August 16. And with two double-headers on the **Twins'** schedule that week, he was expected to be ready to pitch.

Boswell went to the hospital early in July with mononucleosis. Then he went home to Baltimore to rest. While in Baltimore he was in an auto wreck in which he suffered a tiny cut over his bruised right eye and a bruised left shoulder.

"I've been throwing," said Boswell. "And I've been running. My bruises won't bother me. I'll be ready to pitch." The 20-year-old rookie was a regular starter when sickness stopped him. He was 6-4.