

At Zoilo's House, Everyone's Happy!

MVP Gets a Flood of Calls-- Wife Cares for 4 Daughters

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

Zoilo Versalles lounged on his king-sized bed and answered call after call on his white princess telephone.

It was 9:30 a.m., and he was due for a speaking engagement more than 100 miles away in a few hours. But this was his day—the day he was officially announced as the Most Valuable Player in the American League.

He had a right to take it easy in his Scotch plaid pajama bottoms and white shirt, even if they were incongruous.

"Josefa," he said with a big smile to his pretty 22-year-old wife, "how about some coffee for the MVP?"

His question was more in good fun than in a rogance. And his wife was happy to comply. She was in the midst of dressing her four daughters—3½ years and under—while answering calls from neighbors and looking after reporters and television cameramen on the side.

"Zoilo was so very happy when he heard," she said. "It's wonderful. I was worried. I wasn't sure he would get the award."

"Our neighbors haven't started coming over yet. They know how busy we are. They have been very nice to us. We talked about getting a bigger home. But Zoilo didn't want to move. He likes it here too much."

Tight-Knit Clan

The Versalles family is a tightly-knit clan of Cubans who revolve around Versalles, the spectacular shortstop of the **Twins**. The MVP's father, Zoilo, Sr., and the shortstop's uncle, Ramon, live with them in their three-bedroom rambler in Bloomington, Minn.—the home suburb of Metropolitan Stadium.

Josefa, more than any of them, remains in the background. She plays the part of the dutiful housewife when reporters and broadcasters come around. But her charm and friendliness are more evident when she talks about managing her four young daughters and the adjustments required of a Cuban family making its home in **Minnesota**.

"They are learning to talk in both English and Spanish," said Josefa. "Amparito, the oldest, won't be four until April. But she already can speak pretty well in both languages. It doesn't seem hard for her."

"Sometimes I will tell them to do something half in English and half in Spanish. It doesn't seem to bother them."

Keep Them Smiling

While Zoilo got dressed, Josefa prettied up her daughters in pig-tails. While Zoilo was being interviewed in front of television cameras with Amparito on his lap, Josefa sat on the side and smiled at her daughter—making sure she kept smiling for the cameras.

Josefa was content to remain in plain slacks and a white blouse while Zoilo took his bows. In the kitchen, Zoilo, Sr., and Uncle Ra-

Martin Hopes He'll Benefit From Zoilo's Great Season

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—**Twins** Coach Billy Martin, who personally conducted Zoilo Versalles to the Most Valuable Player award, was hoping he would get a pretty good raise out of the shortstop's success, too.

"I hope Mr. Griffith (**Twins** President Calvin Griffith) thinks I did a good job," said Billy. "All I can say is I did my best."

"The raise I get—and I hope it's a big one—goes into the bank for the rainy day. I never have been a fellow who saved money. Now, with a new home and a young son (Billy Joe), I just have to. I also have to make it now."

Billy was quick to praise Versalles.

"He did the job. I could only talk to him. He had to produce on the field, not me. Give him the credit. He deserves it."

mon made espresso coffee for other guests.

The Versalles house is a white frame home in a pleasant suburban neighborhood. It is surrounded by a cyclone wire fence, and it includes a large yard—which, of course, is a playland.

"All summer long, we have ten or 11 kids playing in the yard," said Zoilo. "It is wonderful for the kids because of our fence. The people next to us and across the street and all around are wonderful."

In the midst of Zoilo's big day, a man delivered a truckload of steel I-beams.

To Improve Basement

"That's for our basement," explained the shortstop. "We are going to build an apartment downstairs for my father and uncle. They really get you in taxes if you add onto the house. So we are going to build two or three rooms in the basement."

Also living in the Twin Cities is Lazaro, brother of the shortstop. He has been here since 1961. Zoilo's father and uncle came to the United States last summer from Cuba. And there are plans to bring two more of the Versalles family to America. Zoilo was married during the



ZOILO VERSALLES is the Most Valuable Pop father, Zoilo, Sr., and his four children (left to as well as the Most Valuable Player to his right)—Ester, 2; Angela, 1; Amparito, 3, and family which includes his wife, Josefa; his Luz Marie, 3 months. —Minneapolis Tribune Photo

summer of 1961, his rookie season with the **Twins**. The family has grown quickly—Amparito, then Ester (now 2½), then Angela (1½) and finally Luz Maria, three months old.

But everyone seems to enjoy everyone else in this family. The Versalles house always seems to be gay.

"I have had a lot of morning sickness when I was expecting," said Mrs. Versalles. "Zoilo was good. He would always get up and help me in the morning. Then he would go back to bed."

Requires All Morning

"With four girls, I have to spend all morning getting them ready to go out in the afternoon."

Chatting with neighborhood women over coffee is one of Josefa's favorite pastimes.

"We always drink espresso coffee in our family," she said. "That's what we drank in Cuba. But I keep American coffee for our friends when they are here. I keep the sack of Cuban coffee in an old empty American coffee can."

"One time by mistake I put a lot of espresso coffee in the big pot for American coffee and served it to some friends."

"Boy," they said, "this is terrible coffee."

While Zoilo was still in bed, **Twins** President Calvin Griffith called him.

"Hello, boss," he said. "Thank you very much (on receiving con-

gratulations). This is a wonderful day."

"I suppose this will make it tough on me when contract time comes," Griffith said.

"You know me, boss," he said. "We always have gotten along well. I'm not going to try to get rich all at once."

With this statement, Versalles in effect started his contract negotiations, which probably won't be completed until sometime in January. But he was following the policy that Twin stars Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison always have followed—be fair with Griffith and he will be fair.

He was making something in the neighborhood of \$30,000 last year. He's a cinch to go over \$40,000.

Versalles is the first MVP in the history of the Griffith organization—including all of the Washington Senator team. He also is the first Cuban to receive the honor in either league.

Last Visit to Cuba

When the shortstop married Josefa, he was in Cuba for the last time. That was in 1961—before he reported for spring training.

He jumped the club in the midst of confusion that summer—stayed out of uniform for a month. It wasn't until Josefa joined him that he settled down. And financial difficulties that he was having about that time long since have disappeared.

"You have to learn everything,"

said Zoilo. "I learned. My paycheck always is sent to the bank. I never see it. Josefa is good at handling money. I never have any trouble any more."

One of the first things Zoilo did was to call Billy Martin, the **Twins** coach who predicted before last season that Zoilo could win the MVP.

"He told me that about a year ago at this time," said Zoilo. "Then he told me again and again all winter. After I was fined by Mele (Manager Sam Mele), we got everything cleared up and I was happy. That meant a lot."

"Whenever I was feeling low, Billy would pat me on the back. He told me to pull harder. When I was batting only .230, Billy was still telling me I could win the MVP."

Quickened Bat Pace

"I didn't really start thinking it was possible until I started hitting in August."

But Zoilo said the biggest thing Martin taught him was to keep thinking of winning, not of himself.

"The big thing was we won the pennant," he said. "And we almost won the World Series."

"Every man on this team was the most valuable. We have a lot of ball players good enough to win this award."

Evidently he was not the only one who thought so. Six **Twins**—Tony Oliva, Jim Grant, Earl Battey, Jim Hall and Harmon Killebrew—were among the top 15 in the voting.

Johnnie Walker Red
...smooth enough to be the world's largest selling Scotch

