

Heftier Stick Fattens Allison's Swatting Mark

Twins' Walloper Slows Swing, Switches to Stand-Up Type Stance to End Lunging

By MAX NICHOLS

ORLANDO, Fla.

Bob Allison's labor to change his batting stance and adjust to a club-like bat is beginning to bear the sweet fruits of base-hits and RBIs.

It's a process that started during the middle of last season at the request of **Twins'** President Cal Griffith and Manager Sam Mele. The **Minnesota** slugger hopes that after a full spring training to work on adjustments, he'll raise his batting average and maintain his production of home runs and runs batted in.

The 6-4, 210-pound right fielder, who ranked fifth in slugging percentage in the American League with .511, is swinging a 36-inch, 35½-ounce bat, one of the bigger bludgeons in the majors. He formerly used a 33-34 ounce bat.

And Allison has switched from a slight crouch to a straight-up stance. He plants his feet closer together by a few inches. The total effect is to keep him from lunging at the ball.

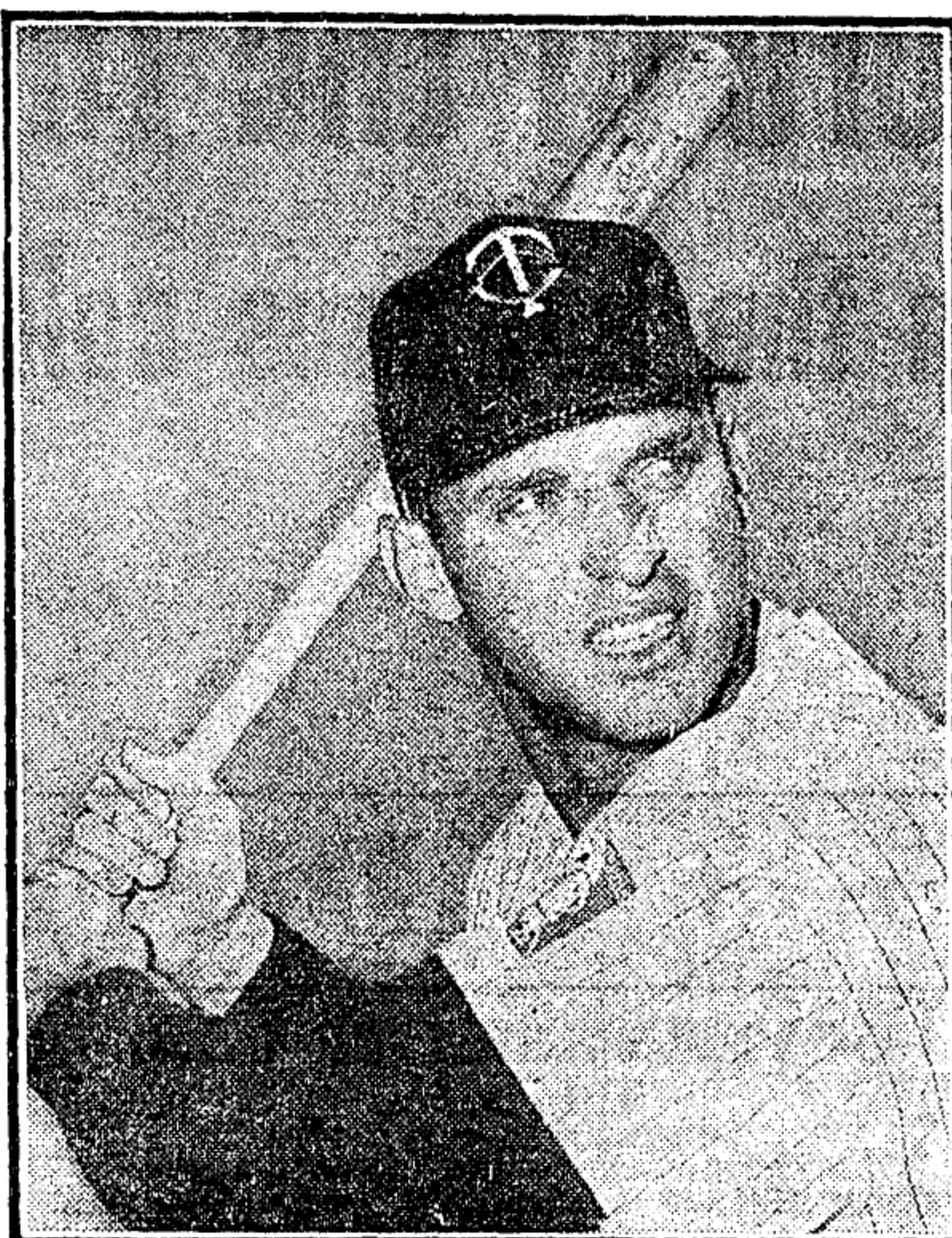
Pulled Too Many Drives Foul

"The idea of the heavier bat is that it will slow down my swing," said Allison. "It should help me keep from swinging the bat too fast and overpulling. I'm not just trying to take a short swing. I'm trying to hit the ball hard. But the heavier bat should help me take a more even swing."

Going into the final stages of the Grapefruit season, Allison was batting .292, well over his .255 lifetime batting average. And he was leading the **Twins** with 11 runs batted in. He had three home runs, one of which bounced off two cars and clear across the street beyond the left field fence at Orlando's Tinker Field.

Griffith says this has been "by far Bob's best spring" since he became a regular with Griffith's Washington Senators in 1959.

When Bob first made the change last summer, he found that he had a difficult time controlling the big bat. When he started his swing, he could seldom hold it up and conse-



BOB ALLISON . . . New Sock Technique

quently he would sometimes strike out on bad pitches. He wound up with 115 strikeouts and 84 walks to go along with his 29 homers, 102 RBIs and .266 average.

It took a lot of self discipline for Bob to stay with the new stance and big bat.

With the new strike zone in effect, Bob was worried about striking out even more.

"I never look at my batting average," Bob has often said. "It's not that important. But I would like to cut down on

Bob Shifts Bludgeons, Picks Heavy Model and Plants Feet Closer Together at Plate

my strikeouts." And he figures that if he hits the ball more often, he has a better chance for more base-hits.

This spring, Bob struck out only eight times in his first 48 official times at bat. He walked 14 times.

Bob also has maintained his nickname of "Mr. Clutch," which his teammates gave him last year for his timely hits. He drove in or helped produce important runs in five of the **Twins'** first seven exhibition victories and he drove home runs during three late-inning rallies which fell short of victories.

In addition to the batting adjustment, Allison is starting the 1963 season in the best condition he has ever been in during spring training. At one point in March, he weighed only 208 pounds.

Picket Displays Stronger Wing

"That's the lowest I have ever weighed in baseball, or even in my football days at Kansas University," said Bob. He played at 220 pounds last year.

"I just hope I can stay strong at that weight later on in the season. Right now I feel very strong."

Allison also is encouraged about the progress of his throwing arm. He had one of the best kept secrets of the 1962 baseball season when he injured his right elbow in August. He told no one so that base-runners wouldn't take advantage of his throwing arm, which cut down nine runners last year and 14 the year before.

This was especially important in 1962 because the **Twins** were in the pennant race until the final nine days of the season.

So far this spring, Bob has felt no pain in his throwing arm. In the first exhibition game, he threw out Detroit's Bubba Phillips at third base when Phillips tried to advance from first on a single to right.

"I didn't throw as hard as I could," said Bob. "I just tried to get it there. I will build it up gradually until all the old power is back in my wing."

Farmhands Hall and Lasher Win Jobs With Twins

Hurler Leaps From Class C in Nabbing Rescuer Post; Flyhawk Beefs Up Bench

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

The **Minnesota Twins** broke spring training camp hoping they had bolstered their bull pen and bench by promoting two farmhands, Fred Lasher and Jim Hall, to their major league roster.

Lasher, a side-armed righthander trying to make the big leap from Class C, earned Manager Sam Mele's late-hour recommendation with four consecutive scoreless relief appearances, three of them within five days.

After giving up six hits and three runs in a three-inning stint against Detroit his first time out, the 6-4 rookie checked the Senators, Yanks and Phillies without a run and a total of three hits in his next four outings.

Although his fast ball has zip, Lasher's best pitch of the spring was a side-arm curve that had the Phils' Don Demeter looking at a third strike.

This is the pitch that has earned Lasher the nickname "Whip" from his teammates.

Lasher Earns New Delivery

Under the tutelage of pitching Coach Gordon Maltzberger, Lasher also has been perfecting a three-quarter overhanded delivery and showed confidence throwing from either angle.

Now only 21, Lasher last season earned a berth on the Northern League all-star team while with Bismarck-Mandan. He fanned 132 over 113 innings in 41 games. In the little more than two seasons since the **Twins** signed him out of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., he has 309 whiffs in 274 innings, allowing only 205 hits.

It should have come as no surprise when Hall survived the **Twins'** last cut before their opener. The lean flychaser has made every club that's

Vet Reliever Moore Twirls 9 Hitless Frames in 3 Stints

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Veteran Relief Pitcher Ray Moore of the **Twins** qualified for the Grapefruit League Hall of Fame—if there were such a structure—with a consecutive streak of nine hitless innings.

The 36-year-old righthander did it over three appearances. He started with a four-inning scoreless job against Cincinnati, holding the Reds without a hit in the last two frames. He followed with four hitless innings against Washington, then finished the job in three innings against Pittsburgh.

Over the nine innings, he walked three and fanned eight. "If they get around to building that Hall," Moore retorted to needling teammates in the clubhouse, "tell 'em to build it near Upper Marlboro, Md. (His home)."

had him under contract since he signed with the former Washington organization in 1956. He was on the Dallas-Fort Worth (Coast) roster when he was boosted.

Hall is making his bid at 25 after having his advancement slowed by illness and Uncle Sam.

He was signed after his Gastonia, N. C., club finished in the runner-up spot in the 1956 American Legion national tourney.

Hall Made Smashing Debut

Hall broke in with Superior in the Nebraska Rookie League with a .385 average and was promoted to Wilson (Carolina) in 1957. After only nine games with Charlotte (Sally) in 1958, he was sidelined by tonsillitis, then sent to Fox Cities (Midwest).

After Hall hit .245 with Chattanooga (Southern) in 1959 and .227 with Charleston (Association) in 1960, a hernia operation and six-month Army hitch limited him to 30 games split between Syracuse and Toronto (International) in 1961.

He finished another ten-month service obligation last August and finished the 1962 season with Vancouver (Coast), hitting .313 in 24 games.

During the last winter, Hall was reunited with his Charleston manager, Del Wilber, who piloted the **Twins'** entry in the Florida Instructional League. Hall won the batting championship with a .351 average and was

Black Friday for Twins: 17-Inning Defeat and Killer Beaned by Pitch

By ARNO GOETHEL

ORLANDO, Fla.

From beginning to end, it was Black Friday for the **Minnesota Twins**.



Harmon Killebrew

A promotional stunt backfired, none of the home forces could clear the fences in a home-run hitting contest, their No. 1 slugger was hit in the head by a pitch and they lost a 17-inning game.

The day started spectacularly when three sky-divers, members of the Orlando Paragators Club, were scheduled to leap from a plane at 7,000 feet, plummet 5,000 feet in a free fall and land behind second base at Tinker Field.

The three dare-devil parachutists—all veteran jumpers—dropped on schedule, their trails marked by smoke shooting from their boots, but a strong wind proved too troublesome.

Parachutist Thrown Against Wall

Closest to the target was Jim Godwin. Fluttering like a leaf in the wind, Godwin just missed straddling the left-center fence, then was slammed into the wall with a bone-jarring crash before bouncing to the ground.

He was taken to a hospital, where examinations revealed nothing more serious than a severe backache. One chutist landed just outside the park; the

other came to rest in a huge tree about three blocks from the field.

Mickey Vernon, manager of the visiting Senators and two-time American League batting champion, was the only entry in the pre-game hitting contest to homer off Pitcher Sid Hudson.

Best of the **Twins** was Executive Vice-President Joe Haynes—a former pitcher, yet—with a clout that dropped just short of the left field fence.

Gaffers Take Cuts in HR Contest

Other participants were Sam Mele, Ed Fitz Gerald, Floyd Baker, Eddie Yost, Taft Wright, George Myatt, Monte Weaver, George Case, Hudson and 66-year-old Joe Fitzgerald.

The wind which hampered the sky-divers also thwarted the would-be homer hitters.

In the sixth inning of the anti-climactic game, Harmon Killebrew was struck in the back of his head with a Tom Cheney pitch. His batting helmet prevented serious injury and he was back in the starting lineup two days later.

The injury to the sky-diver and Killebrew's accident prompted Jim Lemon to look askance at a chance to enter the game as Harmon's replacement in left field.

"No thanks," Lemon demurred. "Not with the way things are going out there today."

The miserable day ended with the Senators winning in the seventeenth, 3 to 2. The deciding run was unearned, of course.

Another Clark Griffith Standing By

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—There'll be a Clark Griffith with the **Twins** about June 10. This Clark Griffith is the 21-year-old son of Cal Griffith, the **Twins'** president. He was named after Cal's uncle, the late Clark Griffith, owner of the franchise for many years.

Young Clark spent ten days at the **Twins'** Orlando camp and then returned to Dartmouth College to finish the semester. When it's over, he'll join the **Twins'** front office.

Ralph Terry. It was a typical Killebrew clout, clearing the 30-foot eye drop in dead center field at Orlando, 412 feet from home plate. . . . Seven months to the day after his August 26 no-hitter against Kansas City, Lefty Jack Kralick went all the way in blanking the Orioles on six hits for his first route-going performance of the spring. . . . In 12 games at the remodeled Tinker Field in Orlando, the **Twins** attracted 28,965 fans, an average increase of almost 700 over their 17,938 total for ten games a year ago. . . . The **Twins** were claiming the Grapefruit League overtime championship after five extra-inning games, ranging from ten to 17 frames.