

Session in Wynn's Wringer Gives Boswell Clean Start

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

Sweat poured down the face of Dave Boswell as he sat in front of his locker in the **Twins** dressing room.

He looked as if he had just pitched 12 innings on a July afternoon at Kansas City. Actually it still was early May, the weather was cool and Boswell hadn't pitched an inning that day.

But his face told how hard he had been working in the bull pen. And about that time, pitching coach Early Wynn walked by.

"We'll do that every day until we get it," Wynn said. And Boswell was quick with his answer: "That's fine with me."

In his first four starts of the season, Boswell had given up 14 earned runs in 12 3/4 innings. The righthander never had gone more than four innings.

Delivery Overhauled

Boswell, on his own initiative, had tried to change his delivery in spring training, hoping to throw more directly overhanded. But he wasn't able to control all his pitches. So now he tried to regain his natural style, with which he won 12 games in 1966.

So Wynn had him throw on the sidelines to a catcher until near exhaustion for four straight days.

"I threw," said Boswell, "until it would have caused pain to throw any more."

"Wynn has a theory, that if you throw until you're tired enough, you will revert to your natural form. It seemed to work. I found it on my second day. I kept throwing to make sure."

Wynn calls it "the wringer." It's like putting the arm through a wringer to squeeze out all the impurities in style and motion.

And it worked all right.

After resting up from his or-

Carew First Twin to Hit Homer in K. C. Since '65

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Rookie Rod Carew produced the **Twins** first home run at Kansas City's Municipal Stadium since 1965 when he hit one onto the roof of the equipment shed beyond the center field fence.

The ball traveled about 450 feet.

"It was the longest home run I ever hit," said Carew. He has hit only four home runs altogether in his career, two in the minors and one previously this year.

The **Twins** went through 1966 without hitting a homer at Municipal Stadium, the first time ever **Minnesota** has been blanked without a homer in one park for a season.

deal, Boswell made three relief appearances without allowing a run in 12 3/4 innings.

Then, in his next two starts, the righthander beat California and lost a tough complete-game pitching duel at Kansas City. His strikeouts increased as his arm strengthened, until he whiffed 11 at California for a club high this season and nine at K. C.

"Boswell pitched terrific baseball," said Manager Sam Mele after the loss at Kansas City. "He's rolling now."

It's ironic that the **Twins** would become convinced at Kansas City that Boswell had regained his full stride. It was at that Municipal Stadium last August 7 that Boswell became convinced he had troubles—and left the game with a shoulder injury.

Dave had won eight straight games and was on top of the pitching world—with a chance for 20

victories — when the ache in his shoulder started bothering him. He had been hit by a line drive in New York on July 26.

He won three games after he was hit by that line drive. But the ache increased, until finally he had to leave after the fifth inning. He started only one more game all season, but the soreness never left.

Boswell took treatments all winter to strengthen his arm and had regular medical attention. He said his arm was "stronger than ever" when he reported for spring training.

But he still had to go through the process of getting the arm back in shape for the rigors of pitching regularly. And, meanwhile, he had read a book.

Control Was Faulty

"The book was about pitching from up high," said Boswell. "I thought it would help me. So I asked Wynn to help me learn to pitch from up there this spring, instead of my natural (three-quarter) delivery."

But Dave had control problems from the beginning. He walked three batters his first two innings of the year. And after a couple of starts, he felt he wasn't throwing as hard as he should. So Wynn worked him out hard.

"I found out I've actually been favoring my arm all spring," said Dave. "But now I'm really cutting loose." So he threw harder in his next two starts, but still he wasn't throwing his pitches where he wanted them.

So finally they decided Boswell should go back to his natural way of throwing. And that's where the "wringer" came in.

"Wynn is tough," said Boswell. "But he really works hard with you."

With Boswell straightened out, Mele had three starters going well — Dave, Dean Chance and Jim Grant. The next hope was for Jim Kaat to regain his winning form.

No Short Cuts

Wynn had intended to put Kaat through "the wringer," but they were unable to get to it the first week they talked about it because of the need for Kaat as a starter. The process takes time, because it's so exhausting.

Twice Mele sent Kaat to the bull pen, then brought him back to start a day or two after he normally would have started anyway. Boswell replaced Kaat the first time it happened. Then Jim Merritt was moved into Kaat's turn in Kansas City.

"I told Boswell it was only temporary when he went to the bull pen," said Mele. "And it's the same with Kaat."

Twin Tracks: Cesar Tovar went on an extra-base binge and took over the **Twins** lead in extra bases with 67, though he weighs only 155 pounds. He slugged two home runs at California and one two days later against Chicago. During a six-game hitting streak, Tovar rapped 14 hits in 25 times at bat for a .560 pace with three doubles and a triple in addition to his homers. He drove in eight runs and raised his batting average to .336. Tovar's two-homer day at California also included two doubles, a club record for extra-base hits in one game. "It was the best day of my career," Cesar said.

Jerry Zimmerman, Rod Carew and Harmon Killebrew also ripped off hitting streaks. Zimmerman hit in six straight games after starting to catch regularly. . . . Earl Battey had been benched. Dean Chance lost his second game of the season to Chicago after winning six straight.



DAVE BOSWELL . . . Sunlight After the Storm.

CAREW

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for fear I would get picked off," said Carew. "I wouldn't get a lead. When a ball was hit toward the outfield, I wouldn't go until I was positive the ball had got through."

"I know I've got some bad habits on the bases and I've got to break them."

Carew does realize he has a problem to lick, and that's what makes the **Twins** so certain he'll overcome it and the other difficulties that are bound to be coming up for the rookie.

Now that the pitchers are refining their control, he is seeing a greater variety of pitches. At first, everyone was pitching him outside. "They had me reaching out to punch the outside pitches toward left field," said Carew. "Then they started pitching me inside."

Copying Tony's Style

"Sam told me to start expecting the inside pitches. Moving back helped me handle the inside ones. I started going up there looking for them."

And Carew reverted to a swing that he says is similar to that of Tony Oliva. Oliva also says it's similar to his—a swing that starts from in close to the body and goes out—much like a golf swing.

"Instead of pulling the inside pitches, I drive the ball into left field with that swing," said Carew.

"That's natural for me. I hit that way in the minor leagues."

Though Rod was born in Gatun, Panama Canal Zone, his parents now live in New York City. And his parents saw him as a major leaguer for the first time on his first visit to Yankee Stadium late in May.

"I lived in Panama until I got to high school," he said. "I went through the Little Leagues there. They have a very good baseball program for boys down there."

Carew signed in 1964 and batted .325 in 37 games that year for Melbourne of the Cocoa Rookie League. In 1965, he batted .303 while stealing 52 bases for Orlando of the Florida State League.

A Swift Bandit

Last year, Rod batted .292 for Wilson and stole 28 bases. So it's obvious from his record he loves to run the bases.

But Carew has had some problems with his moods in other years.

"I used to get down on myself," he said. "Vern Morgan (Wilson manager) finally taught me that I could either work hard and play in

Carew Lives Sedately—Shuns the Bright Lights

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Rod Carew is a quiet rookie, not at all startled by life in the major leagues.

He lives in plain, rather than plush, circumstances in the same apartment hotel in which teammates Tony Oliva and Cesar Tovar have been living.

"I don't go to the bright lights for entertainment," Rod said. "I like to just sit around and watch television." Carew is still a bachelor. He dresses neatly and in good taste, rather than lavishly.

the big leagues or play in the minors all my life."

The moods haven't just plain vanished. It isn't that easy. But Carew has kept them under control.

There have been times after games that he has sat with his head in his locker, talking to no one.

The **Twins** have taken care to build his confidence, not destroy it. He's been talked to firmly about his base-running—by both Mele and Martin. He's had instruction. But he hasn't been fined.

And Carew is extremely generous with his praise of those who have helped him.

"Everyone has been great," he said. "Martin, Mele, Harmon Killebrew, Cesar Tovar, Zoilo Versalles."

Victory All That Counts

And the night he got five hits in one game, the **Twins** lost. He did not celebrate.

"It's good to get the hits," he said. "But when you don't win, you don't get any thrill out of it."

Carew has convinced managers and players all over the league that he can play second base—with his wide-ranging plays to the left and right and with his good pivots on the double play.

At first, the **Twins** idea was to look at him a while and then send him quickly to Denver so he could keep playing. But he had bounced from .250 to a .342 batting average as cutdown day arrived, so the next policy from Griffith was:

"He's looked so good, we've got to keep looking at him at least until hot weather gets here and the veterans get going. Then we'll see again."

June is here, and so is Carew. Would you believe July 4? Griffith feels the **Twins** will know by then for certain if Lightning Rod Carew is for real all the way.



THE GOLD GLOVE AWARDS, presented annually by the Rawlings Sporting Goods Co., in cooperation with THE SPORTING NEWS, to the No. 1 fielders at each position in both major leagues, are displayed by pitcher Jim Kaat and outfielder Tony Oliva of the **Twins**.