

Griffith Gave Right Answer

THERE IS A SAYING among baseball men that the deals you don't make are often the best.

Early in spring training Gabe Paul of Cleveland offered Cal Griffith of the Twins pitcher Sonny Seibert, shortstop Larry Brown and catcher Joe Azcue for pitcher Dean Chance and centerfielder Ted Uhlaender.

At the time this seemed a tempting offer. Griffith couldn't find his shortstop, Leo Cardenas. He couldn't know that George Mitterwald would be a competent back-up man for catcher John Roseboro. Chance was holding out and missing spring training.

Although Cal has great respect for Uhlaender, centerfield would be in good hands with Cesar Tovar out there.

Griffith would have received a starting pitcher, a regular catcher and an adequate shortstop and would be all right in centerfield.

But Cal said no and it turned out to be a deal that was better not made.

Cardenas filled the shortstop spot. Mitterwald met the test as a reserve catcher.

Instead of getting three regulars for Chance and Uhlaender, Griffith would have got a so-so starting pitcher and two bench warmers.

The trade that wasn't made

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