

# Barr Is Steady as a Rock— But He Can Blow His Cool

By PAT FRIZZELL

SAN FRANCISCO—Jim Barr may be one of the most underrated pitchers in baseball. Some of his Giant teammates insist he is. Statistics tend to prove the case.

Along with a 13-9 record for a team that finished 18 games below .500, Barr in 1974 registered an earned-run average of 2.79. This was for 240 innings and 44 games.

Barr was stingiest with walks among National League pitchers who worked 162 or more innings. He walked only 47 batsmen, an average of just 1.76 bases on balls per nine innings. Throw out 10 intentional walks, and Jim's average drops to 1.39 a game.

**BARR ALWAYS** has been near the top in the control department. He placed third in 1973 with an average of 1.91 walks in 231 innings. Juan Marichal led the league then with 1.61, followed by Ferguson Jenkins with 1.89.

"I don't like to walk people," Barr has emphasized. "I'm not a strikeout pitcher. You've got to let guys hit the ball and depend on your fielders. They're trained to play their positions."

Barr led the Giants in shutouts for the second consecutive season with five and shared another shutout with Randy Moffitt. Jim reeled off six consecutive victories at one stage.

The 26-year-old righthander, the Giants' player representative, developed into a team leader, a strong, dependable, cool head.

**YET ONE DAY** last summer, when the Giants scored just one run on 14 hits and left 16 runners stranded in an 11-inning game Barr lost to the Pi-

rates, 3-1, Gentleman Jim exploded.

"It's getting ridiculous," he said. "A pitcher knows he's got to hold the other club to the minimum number of runs to stay in a game. Our hitters are just trying to see how hard they can hit the ball. Some of the guys just aren't thinking at the plate."

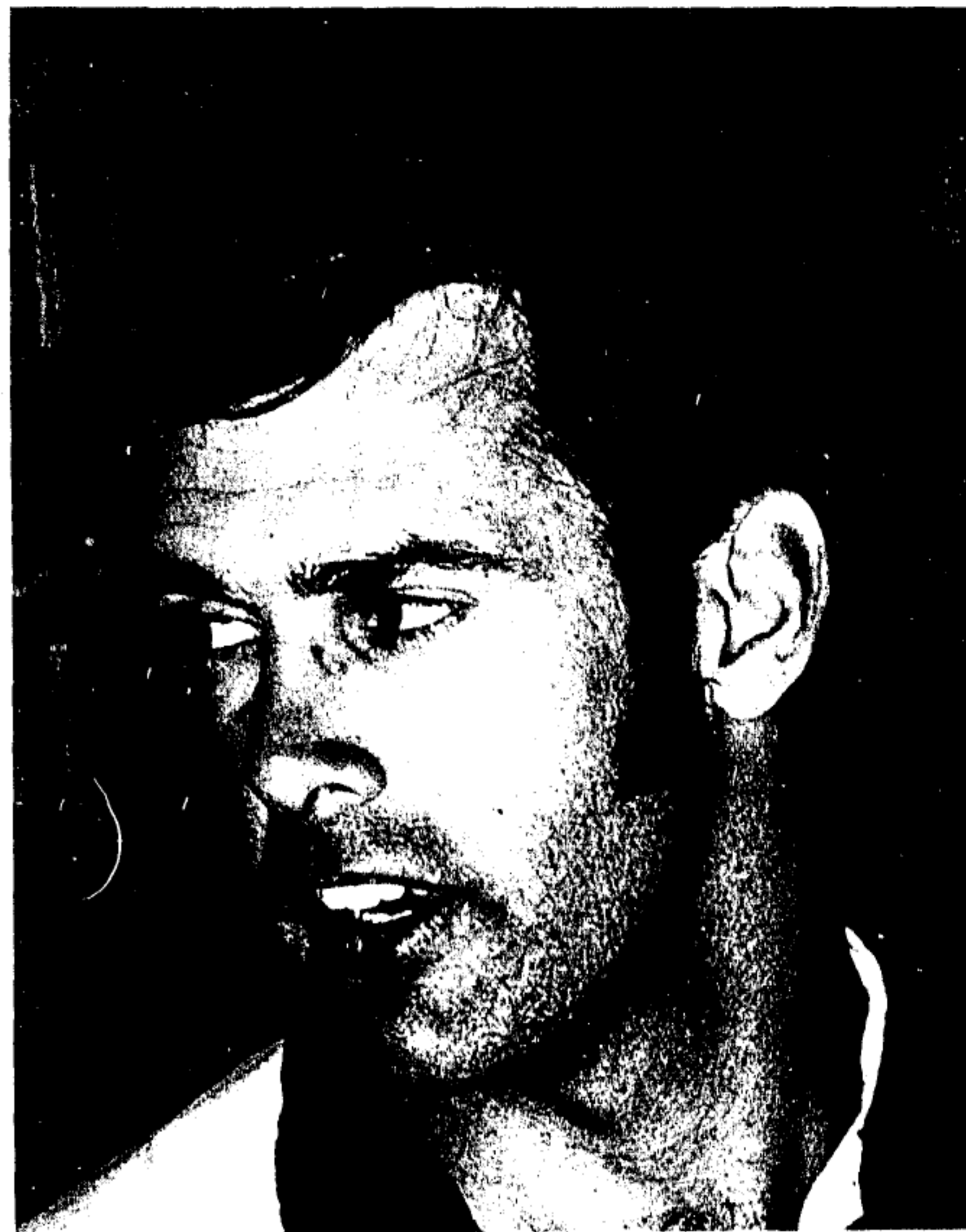
Possibly awakened by Barr's barbs, the Giants won their next three games and five of six. Jim's next start was a 5-3 decision over the Dodgers in Los Angeles. Ed Goodson, Chris Speier and Barr himself homered—the Giants' first home runs in 15 days, save for a pair by Dave Kingman.

"The team played well," Barr said after that success. "No, I don't think it was just because of what I had to say after our guys couldn't score. Maybe they were just in a lax period then."

**WHATEVER THE** effect of his outburst, Barr pitched effectively all season. He began in the bullpen, registering a couple of saves, then became indispensable as a starter.

It's safe to predict that Gentleman Jim will be a starter all the way in 1975.

**Giant Jottings:** Alan Murray's Giants' Booster Club has scheduled a farewell dinner for Bobby Bonds January 20. . . . The experiment of starting Candlestick Park games at 12:15 and 7:30 p. m. has been abandoned. . . . The Giants' 1975 day games will begin at 1:05, their night games at 8. . . . There'll be 29 after-dark games, five more than in 1974, and Candlestick's most ever. . . . Ed Goodson had the top pinch-hitting average of any Giant in 1974 with .300 (6-for-20).



Jim Barr . . . 'Some Guys Aren't Thinking'



Lee Stange

## Stange Won't Coddle **Twins'** Curvers

By BOB FOWLER

TWIN CITIES—In 10 major league seasons, Lee Stange compiled a 62-61 won-lost mark. He did manage 21 saves back in the 1960s when relief pitchers didn't pick up one as easily as a cold.

But in 1,216 major league innings, he gave up just 1,172 hits, or less than one per inning. And he walked only 344 while striking out 718.

And consider that the righthander who worked in **Minnesota**, Cleveland, Boston and Chicago didn't have a blazing fast ball, or a sharp-breaking curve. He did, however, go to the mound each time with a great amount of intestinal fortitude.

Or, as he put it, jokingly: "With the stuff I had, I had to have a lot of

guts just to get out there."

**NOW, ALBERT LEE** Stange is returning to the **Twins** as their pitching coach, a position he held for the past three years in Boston. He is returning as an instructor, confidant and diplomat.

"A pitcher and catcher usually have different philosophies on how to accomplish the same objective," Stange said. "Both want to get as much as possible from the pitcher, but a catcher might kick the pitcher in the backside and say, 'Come on, let's go,' while a pitcher might be more diplomatic."

Ironically, Stange is replacing an ex-catcher as Minnesota's pitching coach. Bob Rodgers held that job last season, while also

serving as bullpen coach, and was rewarded with a pink slip.

It also is ironic that Stange was released at Boston, reportedly because a conflict in philosophy with Manager Darrell Johnson, another former catcher.

**YET STANGE** said of Johnson, "I probably learned more about being a pitching coach from him than anyone else. I spent more time with him, for one thing. When I was Boston's minor league pitching coach, he was managing in their system."

While members of Minnesota's youthful pitching staff can expect more empathy from their coach, it's unlikely they'll be coddled.

"I don't have any different theories," Stange said. "I believe

pitchers should run, especially early in the season when it's tough to stay in shape.

"I believe they should throw every day and that those who aren't getting a lot of work in games should pitch in batting practice. It's more beneficial to pitch BP than play catch with someone in the bullpen."

**STANGE ALSO** has some ideas that were championed by his predecessor. He believes catchers and pitchers should think and work together, that part of his job is to develop such relationships, and that the fast ball is the best pitch in baseball.

"All others come after that," he said. "I believe in challenging hitters. If there are two out and no one on, you have to make the batter hit the ball. You can't walk him."

Minnesota's newest coach is excited about returning to the area where he has made his off-season home for the past several years.

"Frankly, I don't know much about our staff," Stange said. "In Boston, it seemed we saw Bert Blyleven in every game."

**"BUT I DO KNOW** we have young pitchers with good, strong arms. I like that because that means more work for me. If you have an older staff, a coach can't do much teaching."

"And that's one aspect of coaching I really enjoy. Like that one year in Boston's farm system, I really enjoyed that."

"It's challenging and often rewarding to work with young pitchers."

Certainly, the next year will provide Stange with plenty of challenges. How many rewards he receives remains to be seen.

It also remains to be seen if he can instill in Minnesota's staff that one great commodity he took to the mound when he was pitching. And that's no joke.

## Gilt-Edged Gaylord Makes Early Toss for Tribe

By RUSSELL SCHNEIDER

CLEVELAND—First, Gaylord Perry signed his 1975 (and 1976) contract, and then immediately delivered his first big pitch of the season for the Indians.

The "season," however, in this case, was the quest for the services of Jim (Catfish) Hunter, a close neighbor and friend of Gaylord during the winter months.

Perry, after inking a two-year pact calling for an estimated \$150,000 per annum, immediately was commissioned by operating chief Ted Bonda and General Manager Phil Seghi to "lay some groundwork" for the Indians' bid for Catfish's services.

**GAYLORD RETURNED** to his Williamston, N. C., farm by way of Ahoskie, N. C., where he met with Hunter two days before Seghi and Bonda arrived to make an offer they hoped Catfish and his attorney, J. Carlton Cherry, couldn't refuse.

"I don't know how much good, if

any, I did, but I tried hard," Perry reported on his meeting with Hunter. "I told him we have a good, young team that could win the pennant next season with just another good starting pitcher—a good starting pitcher like Catfish."

"And I also told him he could be the No. 1 guy, the ace of our staff if he'd like to go to Cleveland with me."

What did Hunter indicate to Perry?

**"HE INDICATED** that his decision would be based on what club offers the best deal, and I don't blame him for that," replied Gaylord.

Another "selling point" stressed by Perry was, "We're both 'country boys' and he wouldn't like the hustle and bustle of a real big city any more than I would. Cleveland is a better place to play ball."

Then Gaylord grinned mischievously and added, "But I sure wish I were in Catfish's shoes."

For the time being, at least, Gaylord definitely isn't in Catfish's shoes.

His signed contract, the richest in the history of the club for anybody except player-manager Frank Robinson, brings to 14 the number of Indians signed by Seghi for 1975.

**PERRY** reportedly has been seeking a "no cut" contract, as several other Tribesmen allegedly have signed, but that was his only "demand" that wasn't granted.

He also had been quoted last September as planning to ask for the same salary as Robinson will get (\$180,000), "plus a dollar more," but that issue died quietly in Gaylord's negotiations with Seghi.

"That's water under the bridge," Perry sloughed off the remark that created something of a tempest in a teapot when it was first reported. "I'm satisfied I've got a contract I can live with . . . I'm happy."

And well he should be. Gaylord's \$150,000 salary for each of the next two seasons is a 50 percent raise over the reported \$100,000 he was paid in each 1973 and 1974.

But, certainly, Perry deserves the additional money. His victory total since joining the Indians in 1972 is a sparkling 64, which represents nearly 30 percent of all the victories achieved by the club in those three years.

**GAYLORD WAS** particularly effective in 1974 when he won 21 games, including 15 in a row at one stretch, while losing 13. He also compiled a glittering 2.51 earned-run average, second in the American League to only Hunter's 2.49.

What's more, Gaylord started 37 games, completing 28, racked up four shutouts and hurled a total of 322 2/3 innings.

As for the Indians, hopes of land-

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