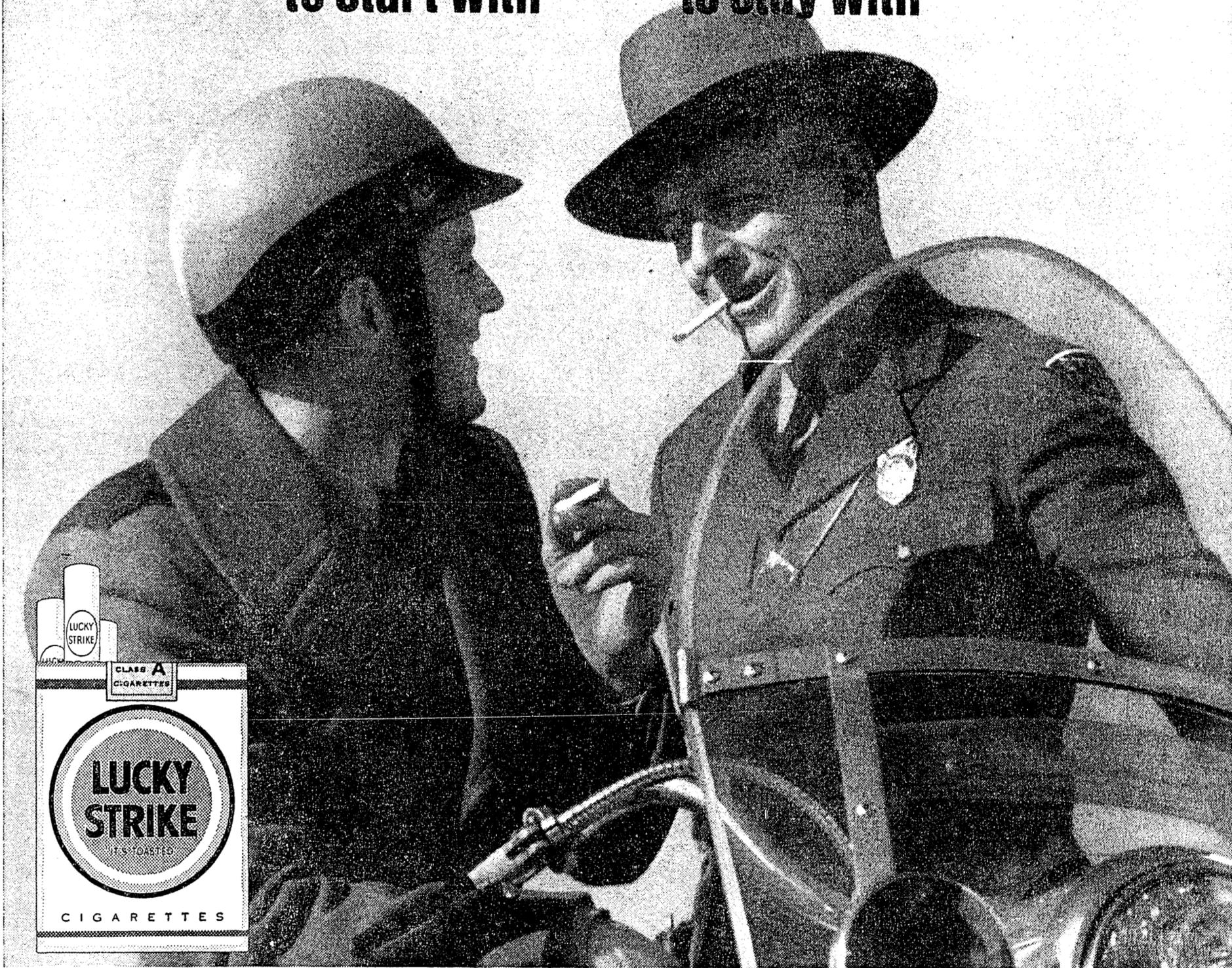


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## Tony--Or Is It Pedro?--Oliva Poses Problem for **Twins**

Cuban Youngster, Who Used Brother's Name, Carries Hot Hitting Credentials

By ARNO GOETHEL  
ORLANDO, Fla.

One of the hottest pieces of baseball property in the **Twins** spring camp is an Oliva named Pedro who wants to be called Tony.

When Oliva, now 22, signed a **Twins** contract and was ushered out of Cuba by the late scout, Joe Cambria, in 1961, he had to use the passport issued to his brother Antonio. He soon earned quite a name for his brother by leading all of professional baseball with a .410 batting average at Wytheville in the rookie Appalachian

League. Last year, he hit .350 at Charlotte (Sally) and lost the league batting title to Knoxville's Elmo Plaskett by .0001.

Allison Fixture in Right  
"We'll have to watch him very carefully," said Manager Sam Mele during the first week of spring training. "There should be a place for him on our roster, but the big question is where."

Right field is patrolled for the **Twins** by Bob Allison, one of only two American leaguers to both score and drive in more than 100 runs last year. Allison could move to center, where he won Rookie-of-the-Year honors in 1959, but that would force Lenny Green out of the lineup. Lenny has missed only nine games in the club's two years in Minnesota.

Left field, of course, is sewed up



Tony Oliva

by Harmon Killebrew, the league's top homer and RBI man.

"It's a nice problem to have," beamed Mele. "Competition is great

as far as shaking up anybody who might think his job is clinched.

"I wouldn't be averse to keeping Oliva on our major league roster, whether he plays regularly for us or not.

"We know he can hit. He has a pretty good arm and is an above-average runner.

Drilled on Ground Balls  
"Defensively his fielding has improved, but we're working with him, hitting grounders as much as an hour without a let-up. He doesn't quit."

Although he's trying to improve his English, Oliva often requires an interpreter in his conversations with Mele. Fellow Cuban Camilo Pascual has volunteered for the role.

"Oliva showed me something down

'Should Be Place for Him on Roster, But Question Is Where,' Manager Says

here a year ago," Mele recalled. "We had him playing right field in a couple of exhibition games and he hustled all the time to back up plays at first base and second base.

"When he joined the **Twins** late in 1962 (mid-September), one of our left-handed pitchers accidentally decked him during batting practice one day, but the kid got back in there with a lot of determination."

Particularly pleasing to Mele is the

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