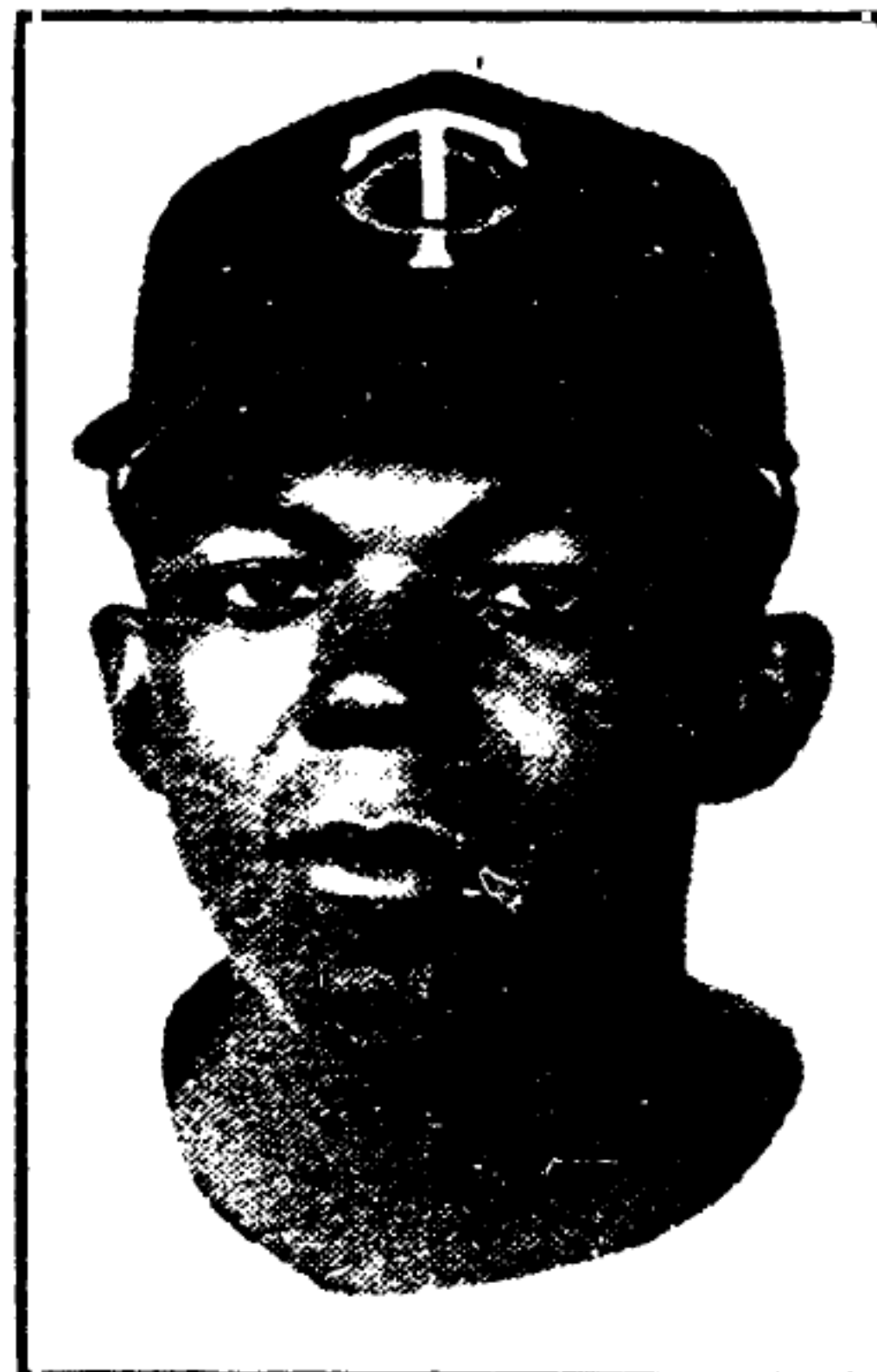


# Mele Notifies 7 A. L. Hurlers-- 'You'll Pay for Flattening Oliva'



TONY OLIVA



SAM MELE

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

That vast quantity of patience, which has served Manager Sam Mele so well, has been taxed almost to exhaustion this year.

The manager of the **Twins** has been forced to sit in the dugout and watch two incidents over and over:

1.—American League pitchers throwing at Minnesota's star rookie, Tony Oliva.

2.—His own Twin pitchers throwing away leads ten times during their first 15 losses. During their first 33 games, the **Twins** were ahead in all but five contests.

"We had a meeting in Boston," said Mele. "I told the pitchers then that whoever knocks Oliva down gets brushed off by one of our pitchers. We've got to protect Oliva or he won't know what to think. This is the only way we can stop it."

"We are keeping in mind the names of all seven pitchers who have knocked Oliva down this year."

Mele was biting off his words and snapping in a manner seldom seen after both of these problems were etched into the Memorial Stadium field during the **Twins'** first game at Baltimore.

Steve Barber, Baltimore's 20-game winning lefthander of 1963, hit Oliva in the forehead with a pitch so hard it broke a hole in Tony's helmet. Then, in the ninth inning, with the **Twins** one strike away from a 5-4 victory, Sam Bowers and John Orsino slammed back-to-back home runs to twist another **Minnesota** lead into defeat.

Warning for Barber

"Barber is going down the next time we face him," Mele said after learning that Oliva had passed a second X-ray examination. "I told Barber he was going down and he will."

Oliva was batting .392 when he was struck by Barber's fast ball on the first pitch of the third inning. In the first inning, he had singled in a run with two strikes on him. Barber had given up five hits and three runs before the beating and his control had been good.

"I thought the three pitches I threw to him in the first inning were closer than the one that hit him," said Barber. "I thought the one that hit him was belt high. He sort of ducked into it."

Oliva, Mele and plate umpire Al Salerno disagreed. Salerno immediately warned Barber and Barber therefore was automatically fined \$50. Baltimore Manager Hank Bauer was ejected from the game after arguing over the decision.

"It was my judgment that Barber threw at Oliva," said Salerno. "We are not mind readers, but we know what is going on out there. We knew the situation." When Mele was asked

## May 22 Means a Big Dose Of Trouble for Bill Fischer

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—May 22 is a date Bill Fischer would like to have legislated out of the calendar for good.

On May 22, 1963, Fischer was pitching for Kansas City in Yankee Stadium in the ninth inning of a tie game. Mickey Mantle came to bat and Fischer worked him to a count of 2-and-2.

"Ed Lopat, our manager, was riding Mantle," said Fischer. "He got Mantle so mad his whole neck was red. We had an order never to throw Mantle a good pitch in a win-or-lose situation. I got this one outside, but a little too high."

Mantle hit one of the longest home runs ever hit at Yankee Stadium on the next pitch—it hit the edge of the roof.

On May 22, 1964, Fischer gave up a game-winning home run to John Orsino of Baltimore in the ninth inning of a 6-5 Oriole victory over **Minnesota**.

## Roland Spiking Big Guns With Slider-- Brand-New Weapon

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

Five days after he tried to throw the slider for the first time in his life, Jim Roland of the **Twins** used it 30 times to stop the Yankees for 12 innings.

And after using the slider as a major weapon again in his next start, the 21-year-old lefthander found himself in Manager Sam Mele's regular pitching rotation. In 19 innings over the two starts, Roland allowed the Yankees and Orioles 16 hits and four runs.

"I never saw a pitcher pick up a pitch and use it effectively any faster," said **Twins'** pitching coach Gordon Maltzberger. "He throws a real good one. It's very natural for him."

Roland is one of three Twin lefties to begin throwing a slider this year. Jim Kaat started throwing the pitch during spring training and says it was a major factor in his first-month 4-2 record. Gerry Arrigo, rookie southpaw, is a third.

Arrigo started throwing the slider the same day Roland did, May 15, in Boston. And a week later, Arrigo also used it effectively at Baltimore. But, in the ninth inning, Arrigo let one slip out of his hand for a game-tying home run and the **Twins** eventually lost, 6-5.

For Roland, however, the slider has become a weapon for clutch situations, as it has been for Kaat.

"I'm a better pitcher now than I was before I hurt my arm last year," said Roland. "I think it's because of the slider."

Roland was on the bench while the **Twins** were batting in the fifth inning at Yankee Stadium when the decision was made to start using the slider.

## Maltzberger Instructed Battey to Call for Sliders

"I told Earl Battey (catcher) to call for a few against lefthanded batters," said Maltzberger. "I told him to watch it because he's got a good one."

It was a 1-0 game at that point. Roland used it first against Roger Maris and struck him out. It went so well he began using it against righthanded batters, too. In spite of several poor fielding plays by the **Twins**, Roland pitched 12 innings in a 2-2 game.

He was taken out for a pinch-hitter in the thirteenth and the **Twins** scored five runs that inning to present him with the victory. Five days later, he pitched well in losing, 2-0, to Robin Roberts.

Jim came up to the major leagues from the Carolina League as a rookie a year ago. He won four games, including a shutout against Chicago, before suffering an injured arm early in June. In July, he was put on the disabled list for the rest of the season.

Roland rested his arm for the rest of the summer and started building it up with special exercises after an examination in the fall.

When he reported for spring training, Jim weighed 211 pounds, far over his pitching weight of 187. Mele made him take most of the weight off before pitching.

"My arm felt great all the way through," said Roland after the 12-inning effort. "I was pitching so easy I couldn't have hurt it."



Jim Roland

## DO BASEBALL TRADES DO ANY GOOD ?

There was a day when baseball teams could trade for players of genuine talent. But today's top stars and likely prospects are as untouchable as the gold at Fort Knox. The vast majority of players traded are second-liners, or stars well past their prime.

This week's Saturday Evening Post tells what really goes on in the player market, in a forthright article on baseball's wild and woolly trading practices.

One general manager cheerfully admits to being stuck at various times with bad-check artists, tax dodgers, hypochondriacs and wife-beaters. "It's like trading used cars," he says. "Trust nobody." See why—read "Lively Market in Lame Ducks" in this week's issue of the Post. Get a copy today.

**POST**

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if he saw anything before the beating that would call for a knockdown pitch, he said:

"I saw a lot of base-hits."

Mele does not mind the brush-back pitch, but it's the inside fast ball around the head that he doesn't like. He and Tony both felt Barber's pitch was quite a bit higher than the belt.

"It can't be that low and hit me in the head," said Tony. "First pitch up there, that's kind of rough. I was hit in the head three times in three days in the Florida Instructional League, but I've never been hurt badly."

Oliva takes the brush-back pitches with his usual cheerful smile. He accepts them as part of the game, with no complaints. He has been hit in one place or another ten times since he started playing in O. B. But once, when Vic Power wasn't coaching his remarks, he added:

"Maybe sometime our pitchers take care of it."

Relievers Fail to Deliver

Finding a relief pitcher to stop enemy rallies has been an even tougher problem for Mele in trying to get the **Twins** into a winning groove. Only an onslaught of home runs kept the **Twins** above the .500 mark through the first five weeks of the season.

**Twins'** sluggers smashed 61 home runs during their first 33 games, a pace that would lead to more than 300 for the season. But the pitching staff gave up 47 homers during those same contests.

Gerry Arrigo and Bill Fischer were the pitchers of the moment in that Baltimore game. Arrigo had struck out two batters and had two strikes on Bowers when the ax fell. He was barely inside the dugout when Bill Fischer gave up the winning homer to Orsino.

"It was just carelessness," said Mele. "Arrigo threw a high pitch when all he had to do was keep the ball down. If he had missed, he still had two more balls to throw. Fischer has been getting the ball up too high all year."

But it was not just Arrigo and Fischer who raised Mele's ire. Billy

## Twins Bucked the Odds, Tossed Lefties at Birds

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Manager Sam Mele was forced to fight heavy odds when he led his **Twins** into Baltimore for a four-game series.

The Orioles had a 30-12 record against lefthanded pitching last year and were 2-2 against southpaws for this season when the **Twins** invaded Memorial Stadium. The **Twins** have only four righthanders compared to six lefties, so Mele had to start three lefties in the series.

In the first game, southpaw Jim Kaat went only five innings. Gerry Arrigo, trying to protect a 5-4 lead, retired 11 straight batters before giving up the tying home run with two strikes on Sam Bowers and two out in the ninth. The **Twins** lost, 6-5.

Righthander Lee Stange beat the Orioles, 5-1, the next day. Then in a double-header, lefthander Jim Roland was beaten by Robin Roberts, 2-0, and Dick Stigman was kayoed in the third inning of the nightcap. The **Twins** lost that one, 7-6.

Pleis, Jim Perry and Bill Dailey also have come in from the bull pen to give up hits and walks, ruining would-be victories.

In a double-header at Boston, Mele stayed with starters Jim Kaat and Dick Stigman longer than he wanted to because he did not want to turn to his bull pen.

Mele started the season full of confidence in his pitching staff. He was counting on Dailey, ace reliever of last year, and Fischer, who was drafted from Portland (Coast) after a 9-6 season at Kansas City.

Both Dailey and Fischer feel they have hurt the **Twins'** chances in the early part of the season and both probably have compounded the problem by trying too hard.