

Sain Likes to Test Ideas -- He's Flexible Mound Tutor

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use them, fine. They have to pick out what they can use to help themselves."

This accounts for Sain's flexibility in working with pitchers. He never requires that a given pitcher fit a mold that he has worked out in his mind as the proper way to pitch. At the same time, he likes to see new ideas tried.

Probably the most important contributions Sain made to the **Twins** in the first half of the American League season, when they moved up to first place, was his suggestion that ace lefthander Jim Kaat and ace righthanders Camilo Pascual and Jim Grant carry the load during the intermittent schedule.

"I learned that in 1948," said Sain. "We were starting about once a week because of off days, and I just couldn't keep my rhythm."

Huddle With Southworth

"Manager Billy Southworth called Warren Spahn and Vern Bickford and myself together. And he told us we would pitch every fourth day from then on no matter what. Late in the pennant race that year, we pitched every third day.

"But if we had never gotten organized early that season, I don't think we could ever have done that."

Kaat, the **Twins'** opening-day pitcher, pitched 27 of the first 56 innings for the **Twins** and went on to a 2.00 ERA in his first 117 innings for six victories.

Pascual started three of the first nine games and won twice, pitching a two-hitter his third time out. He won eight games before losing one. Jim Grant forged a 7-2 record.

"The way I look at it, you look first to find one starter," Sain said. "Then you try to find a second starter (Kaat and Pascual are proven winners). If you find a third starter, you are wealthy."

"Then you work from the other end. You try to find a No. 1 reliever, a second reliever and a third reliever. Then you work toward the middle and bring the rest along as best you can."

Tough on "Middle" Pitchers

This means a difficult task for the pitchers "in the middle," and Sain knows it. These middle pitchers have no way of knowing when they will pitch.

"That's one of the toughest jobs in baseball," said Sain. "They have to be ready when they are called on. And they don't know when they will be called."

The **Twins'** veteran starters naturally liked getting so many chances to pitch. It's a good system for them. And rookie Jerry Fosnow was grateful for the chance to work

'None Smarter Than Sain, On Pitching,' Worthington

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Al Worthington, **Twins'** reliever, is completely sold on Johnny Sain's theories on pitching.

"No man alive knows more about that little baseball and how to throw it than Johnny Sain," said Worthington.

"He made a winner out of me," added Mudcat Grant, one of the **Twins'** starters. "He's given me a second curve. It's a quick, hard pitch. He can get it out of you. He has a talent. He is a great teacher."

One of Sain's major contributions to the **Twins'** success was his stand against prolonged running in the outfield. "A pitcher who runs too hard leaves his fast ball in the outfield," Sain believes.

Twin Hurlers Learn New Way of Throwing Curve

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Johnny Sain has taught at least three **Minnesota** pitchers a different way of throwing a curve, but he doesn't like a big issue to be made of it.

"The idea of pitching is to try to fool the batter," said Sain. "I don't see why a pitcher should tell the batters what he can throw. Let them find out for themselves."

Jim Grant, Johnny Klippstein and Jerry Fosnow all have been helped by the curve. Grant also has worked to improve at changing speeds.

often as a late-inning reliever. Al Worthington and Dave Boswell also were called on.

But, through this period, Sain managed also to keep the respect of the other pitchers.

When Kaat and Pascual both were injured and out of the rotation late in June, the pressure was packed onto the bull pen. Bill Pleis and Mel Nelson were pressed into service as starters in a four-game weekend series with Detroit as the **Twins** battled to defend their half-game American League lead.

"They've all been pitching so well, why not have each pitcher go something like three innings and pitch more often? That's what they do anyway," said Sain.

Relievers Mighty Busy

And that's exactly what happened. The relievers pitched 25 of 37 innings as the **Twins** won three of four games to stay inches ahead of Cleveland and Chicago. Johnny Klippstein pitched four straight days, and Al Worthington pitched in both ends of a double-header in spite of a pulled muscle in his back.

"I went around the dressing room asking for volunteers," said Sain. "I got 100 per cent. They all wanted to pitch. I have never worked with a staff that had all 11 pitchers as good as these. They all have good character. They are all mature men. You don't have to push them."

Twins' starters completed only four games in June after the **Twins** gained the league lead on Memorial Day. But reliever after reliever kept coming in. The **Twins** came from behind 16 times to win while relievers took up the slack after off days by starters.

Dick Stigman, unable to get going as the fourth starter, went to the bull pen and saved four games in June. "As a late-inning reliever, I'm up and throwing all the time," said Stigman. "It has given me a chance to get sharp. I'm happy to have a job and to get a chance to help the team."

Johnny Well Paid

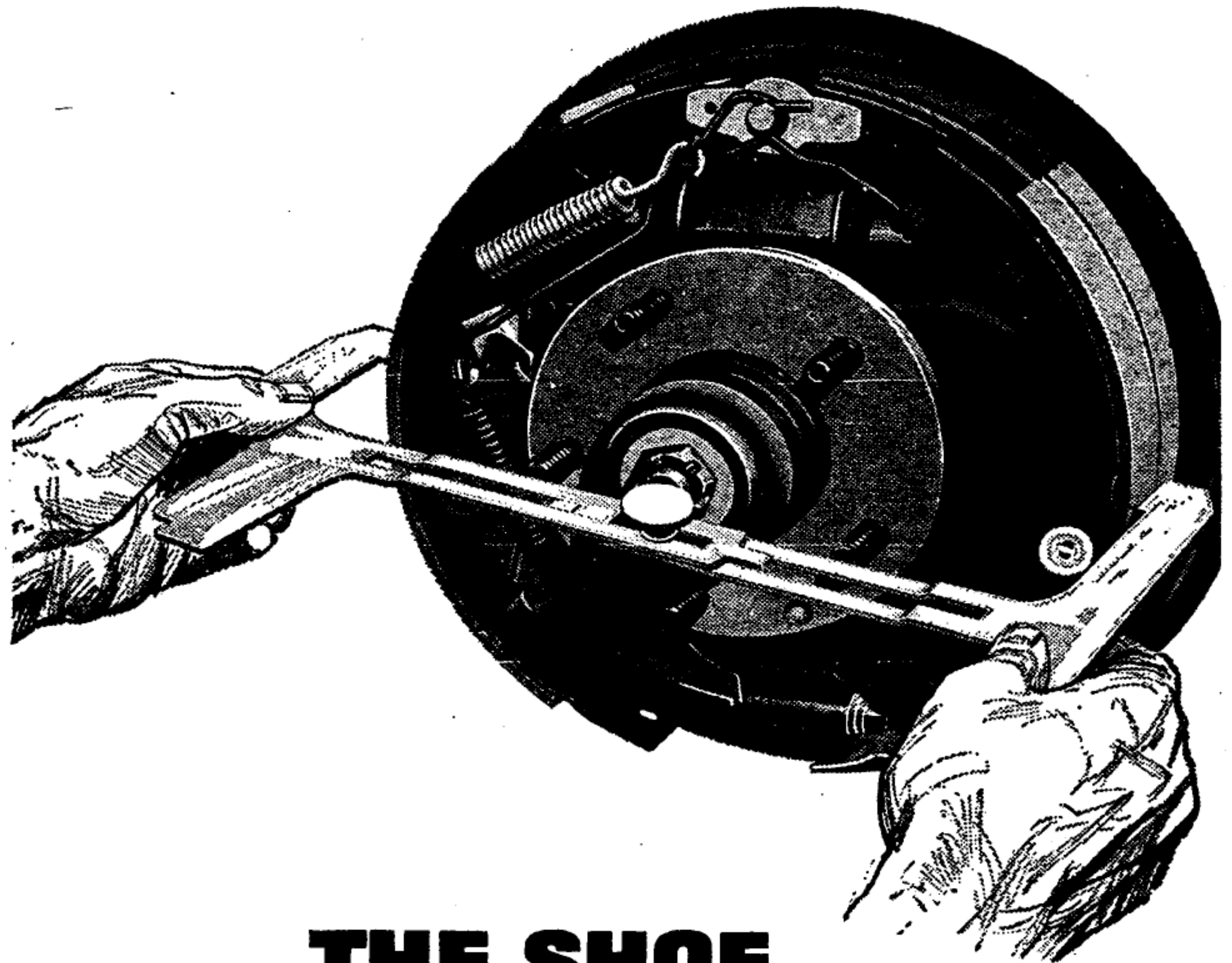
Sain is the highest-paid coach in the history of the **Twins**, at a salary over \$20,000 and probably around \$25,000. He is as interested in financial gain as anyone, but he makes no secret he missed baseball last year and is happy to be back.

Sain was traded to the Yankees during the 1951 season. After a 20-13 season in 1950 at Boston, he fell to 5-13 in 1951 and went to the Yanks for Lou Burdette and \$50,000.

And while Johnny admits his 1-0 victory over Bob Feller and the Indians in the 1948 World Series probably was his most significant triumph, he can point out two others that meant more at the time.

"In 1955, after the Yankees traded me to Kansas City, the first time I pitched for the Athletics was in Boston. It was the ninth inning, two out and 3-and-2 on the batter in a tie game," said Sain. "I had

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so many good years in Boston that the fans were rooting for me. I got out of it.

"I was beaten in the eleventh inning, but getting out of that inning in Boston near the end of my career meant a lot to me."

The other game Johnny was talking about was in Pittsburgh, and it too was a loss.

"I had hurt my arm pitching every third day at the end of 1948," said the **Twins'** pitching coach. "In 1949, I won only ten games. But in my last game at Pittsburgh, my arm felt right for the first time. I

lost, but I had all winter to believe that my arm would be okay."

Actually Sain's arm did not completely recover until 1952, when X-ray treatments did the job. He came back and had an 11-6 season for the Yankees that year and was 14-7 in 1953.

After the 1955 season, Sain retired and returned to Walnut Ridge to operate his Chevrolet dealership.

He did not return to baseball until 1959, when he coached the pitchers for Kansas City. In 1961, Ralph Houk brought him to New York. Under his coaching there,

such young pitchers as Jim Bouton, Al Downing and Roland Sheldon got their starts. Whitey Ford became a 20-game winner for the first time under Sain's four-day rotation system.

But, after the 1963 season, Sain and the Yankees could not agree on contract terms.

"I asked for so much I knew they wouldn't pay it," said Sain. "I knew there might be problems in New York. I had three good years there and I thought it might be best if I stepped out. But I really missed baseball at this time last year."