

# Twins Shock Critics, Ink Smalley, Wynegar

By PATRICK REUSSE

ORLANDO, Fla.—The Minnesota Twins opened spring training after a remarkable policy change assured Manager Johnny Goryl of two of his most important players for the seasons ahead.

When Goryl departed for his winter residence in Orlando last October, he said Twins President Calvin Griffith had assured him strong efforts would be made to sign catcher Butch Wynegar and shortstop Roy Smalley to long-term contracts.

A look at the Twins' track record in such cases might suggest there was no way Calvin would open the vault enough to prevent Wynegar and Smalley from becoming free agents after the 1981 season.

Griffith had made promises to Manager Gene Mauch about not letting free agents walk away. But only Jerry Koonsman and, much to Calvin's regret, Mike Marshall, were prevented from doing so.

So it was a shocking development when, in late January, the Twins signed Wynegar to a five-year, \$2.3-million contract. It came only after a long-distance shouting match between Calvin Griffith, who questioned the deal, and his son Clark, who was among the executives urging the new direction (along with Vice-Presidents Bruce Haynes and Howard Fox).

The Twins suggested the Wynegar signing represented a renewed commitment to competitive baseball in Minnesota, but the immediate reaction was that one signing was not enough to sway public opinion.

Negotiations with Smalley, who figured to be more expensive than Wynegar, went dead in the water because of a disagreement over a no-trade clause. It appeared that Smalley was headed for arbitration on February 16.

Instead, that was the day the Twins called a press conference to announce Smalley had signed a four-year, \$2.45-million contract. Smalley thus surpassed Wynegar as the highest-paid player in the history of the franchise.

Smalley accepted the contract without the no-trade provision, but said, "I will be disappointed if the Twins decide to trade me. This is a super contract for my family and for me. Without sounding egotistical, I'd also like to congratulate the Twins; I believe they have retained a valuable employee."

The contract made Smalley the highest-paid shortstop in the American League—at least until Rick Burleson gets together with the California Angels. Smalley will receive \$450,000 in 1981, \$600,000 in 1982 and \$700,000 in '83 and '84.

"We had been agreed on the money part of the deal for quite some time," Smalley said. "While we were arguing about the no-trade clause, these other contracts kept com-

ing in, the arbitration decisions in favor of Jason Thompson and Rick Cerone. I started to wonder: 'Am I asking for enough?'"

"After awhile, it becomes almost a moral issue: How much is enough? I wanted to stay in Minnesota, and decided what we agreed on was enough."

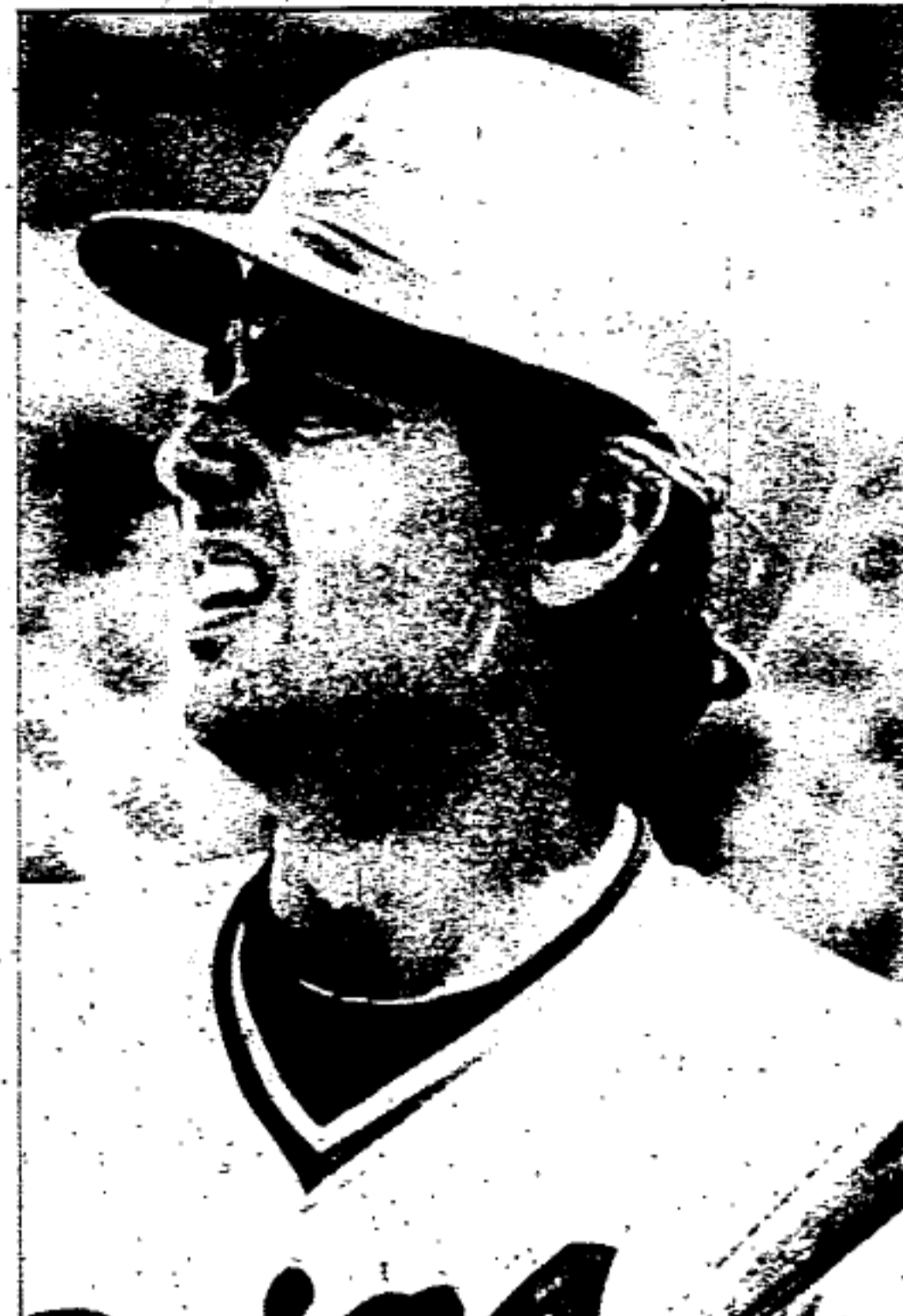
Smalley's wife, Christine, is from the Twin Cities, and the assumption in the Twins' front office was that she was the one who would convince Smalley to sign the contract.

"I've read that, but in truth, it was Christine who became the most upset when the Twins wouldn't go with the no-trade," Smalley said. "She told me a couple of times, 'Let's forget the Twins, and I had to calm her down. I want to stay here; I want to have my son raised in Minnesota.'"

The Smalleys are the parents of six-month-old Jeffrey. He attended the press conference, and tried on a much-too-large batting helmet. "I'm glad he doesn't have a swollen head like the old man," Smalley said.

**Doubletakes:** There's speculation that Smalley will be moved to first base, perhaps in 1982, but he said, "I signed this contract as a shortstop, and I would like to remain there for the duration of it. Maybe I can sign the next contract as a first baseman. I'm 28 and I think I can play some of the best shortstop in the American League the next four years. But the idea of first base after that is appealing. It would be nice to put in a few years where all you had to worry about was hitting."

Third baseman John Castino won his arbitration case. He will receive \$210,000 rather than the \$150,000 offered by the Twins.



Roy Smalley ... Surprise signee.

## No Pain, Says Baumgarten

By BOB MARKUS

SARASOTA, Fla.—Ross Baumgarten could hardly wait for spring training to begin. So he didn't. When Chicago White Sox pitchers reported to camp February 23, the 25-year-old lefty had already been in Florida and throwing for more than three weeks.

More important, he was throwing without pain for the first time in almost a year. "It couldn't be better," enthused Baumgarten. "There's no pain at all."

The 1980 season was painful for Baumgarten in more ways than one. After beating Baltimore, 5-2, in his first start of the year, the young lefthander won only one more game all season—and he had to throw a one-hitter at the California Angels to win that one.

Significantly, the only run in that 1-0 victory was unearned. The White Sox seldom scored when Baumgarten pitched, so his 2-12 record is deceiving. He generally pitched well, ending up with a 3.44 earned-run average.

But every time he pitched, he paid for it. He pitched the entire season with what was finally diagnosed as a torn trapezius muscle behind the left shoulder.

"The only times it would feel close to normal," he recalled, "is when I'd spend the afternoon in a chiropractor's office. He'd loosen up the arm and give it full mobility but as soon as I'd throw again, I'd reinjure it and it would be as if I never went."

It was not always possible to go to his chiropractor on game days, Baumgarten says, "because sometimes we'd be on the road and sometimes I couldn't get an appointment. In a couple of instances, I did go on game days and I'd be able to pitch nine innings."

The normal pattern, however, would be "that in the first inning or two my arm would be tight and stiff, then it would loosen up for a couple of innings, and by the fifth or sixth inning the pain would come."

At that point, Baumgarten would ask to be excused. "I know it must have looked at times like I was begging out of games," he says, "but I had talked to (Manager) Tony LaRussa and Ron Schueler (pitching coach) and come to a complete understanding. I would go as long and as hard as I could. Tony asked for my complete honesty and I gave it to him."

As soon as the season ended, Baumgarten began preparing for 1981. "I started working out with Herm Schneider, our trainer, on a weight-training program the week after the season ended," he said.

"It wasn't until the middle of December that I could do all the exercises and not feel that area of the shoulder that had been bothering me. But I got to the point where the pain stopped and the shoulder is perfect now. I've been throwing since January 5 and there's no pain at all."

Perhaps a bit painful to the White Sox was the arbitration decision reliever Ed Farmer won. Arbitrator Ted St. Antoine of the University of Michigan accepted Farmer's request for \$495,000 rather than the \$300,000 the Sox offered.

**Sox Yarns:** Negotiations with announcer Harry Caray hit a snag when Board Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said that Caray jumped his price \$25,000 after the Sox had dug into their pockets to match his 1980 salary. Caray indignantly denied it. "I never raised my price," he said. "In fact, I lowered my figure." Reinsdorf also announced that the Sox planned to bring back controversial Jimmy Piersall as color man on broadcasts and he said that the deal with Cablevision to televise home games was off.

The White Sox picked up free agent catcher Marc Hill, who was not selected during the re-entry draft. Hill was with San Francisco and Seattle last year. The Sox also signed Dewey Robinson, Tony Bernazard, Todd Cruz, Mike Squires, Lamarr Hoyt and Lamar Johnson.

## Jays Counting on Cage Star Ainge

By NEIL MACCARL

DUNEDIN, Fla.—There were only seven Toronto Blue Jays remaining from the original flock selected in the American League expansion draft when the team assembled here for its fifth training camp.

Of the seven, designated hitter Otto Velez is senior in service, having spent all of the four previous years in a Jays uniform.

Both outfielder Alvis Woods and lefthanded reliever Jerry Garvin spent part of one season in Triple A. Righthander Jim Clancy was promoted to the Jays midway through their initial season.

Catcher Ernie Whitt, utilityman Garth Iorg and lefthanded reliever Mike Willis spent parts of two or more seasons in the minors.

If there is one individual who'll be in the spotlight this spring, it's Danny (Two Sport) Ainge, the Brigham Young University basketball star. He has been designated by Manager Bobby Mattick as the man to replace Roy Howell at third base.

The 21-year-old, who opted for baseball over basketball and has a three-year contract, has never had a full spring training. Nor will he this time. He won't arrive until fulfilling his commitments to basketball at BYU.

Neither Mattick nor General Manager Pat Gillick has the slightest doubt about Ainge's defensive ability. The big question concerns his hitting. His major league average is a mere .239, and he has a total of 23 runs batted in on 419 at-bats, scarcely the production expected of a third baseman.

Until Ainge arrives, Mattick intends to use center fielder Rick Bosetti, and utilitymen Ken Macha and Iorg at third. Bosetti started in pro ball as a third baseman. Since Mattick is well aware of his capabilities in the outfield, he can give Bosetti some playing time for his hitting. This will also

give Barry Bonnell, Woods, Lloyd Moseby and rookie Jorge Bell more opportunity to play.

"We gave up more walks than any team in the league, and accepted fewer," he pointed out, "and I want to do something about that."

The worst offender from the standpoint of control was Clancy, who yielded a league-leading 128 walks, and also had 20 wild pitches.

Batting instructor Bobby Doerr will be preaching discipline to the Jays' young hitters because only first baseman John Mayberry and Velez walked with any regularity in 1980.

The Jays did show marked improvement defensively last year, turning 206 double plays and reducing their errors from 158 to 128.

But Alfredo Griffin made 37 errors, more than any other shortstop in the American League, and also had a terrible base stealing record. He was thrown out 23 times against 18 steals.

Mattick's pitching plans are unsettled. He has two excellent young starters in Clancy and Dave Stieb, each capable of winning 15 games. Jackson Todd, 5-2 after being promoted from Syracuse (International) in August, looms as the No. 3 man.

The Jays desperately need Paul Mirabella to develop consistency in order to have a lefthander in the regular rotation. Mirabella was winless from May 18 until the next to last day of the season.

The best bet as a fifth starter is Joey McLaughlin. He was taken from the bullpen in midseason when the Jays ran short of starters.

**Jays Chatter:** In an effort to bolster their Syracuse farm team, the Jays signed outfielders Leroy Stanton, Gil Kubski, Mark Thompson and Bruce Boisclair, just back from Japan.

# Twins' Punch Centers on Smalley

By PATRICK REUSSE

TWIN CITIES—During the early weeks of the 1979 season, the name of Roy Smalley appeared consistently at the top of the American League's batting race. The average fluctuated between .360 and .390, a shocking development when stacked against Smalley's career average of .251 in 3½ previous seasons.

The national media descended on the Minnesota Twins' shortstop, demanding an explanation for this amazing turnabout. He was asked if he had sold his soul to the devil, if he would submit to a saliva test, all that clever stuff.

"It was as though I was supposed to be embarrassed by the success I was having," Smalley said. "After awhile, all the cute questions started to irritate me."

After awhile, American League pitchers sent the reporters searching elsewhere for clever stories. The pitchers found the solution to Smalley: no fastballs in the strike zone.

When the crash came, after June 30, it was severe. Smalley's average to that point was .364; afterward, it was .178. He wound up at a disappointing .271, but still had spectacular power totals for a shortstop—24 home runs, 95 RBIs.

Despite the second-half collapse, Smalley was voted the Twins' most valuable player by the local baseball writers for the second consecutive year, but there was some resistance.

"Smalley is the only player in history to become a most valuable player candidate and a contender for the next season's comeback player of the year award in the same season," said one reporter.

As the 1980 season opened, the Twins' chances to have a competent offense centered on one issue: Is Roy Smalley, at 27, one of baseball's rising stars, or is he the paper tiger of the second half?

His average a month into the season, .260, would indicate the pitchers still have Smalley befuddled, but it is a deceiving statistic. The Twins were off to a slow start, but not because of Smalley, who was in the middle of virtually every big inning the team put together.

"I'm hitting every bit as well as I did at any time last season," Smalley said. "Last year, everything I hit good was a hit, and I had more than my share of pop flies drop in front of outfielders. This season, I'm having line drives caught."

"I'm being pitched tough, just as I was the second half of 1979. But I'm adjusting to that. I realize that I'm not going to get a fastball over the plate very often, even when I'm ahead on the count. I used to have to work for walks. Now, the pitchers don't seem to mind if they walk me. They would rather do that than give me a fastball I can drive."

"That's okay. If I can start a big inning, or keep a rally going with a walk, I'm satisfied. The two categories I like to do well in are runs scored and runs batted in."

In those areas, Smalley was almost on pace with his first-half figures of last season. Through 24 games, Smalley had six home runs and had produced 27 runs (runs scored plus RBIs, minus home runs). At the same juncture in 1979, he had five homers and had produced 31 runs.

And Smalley was averaging almost one walk per game. With Ken Landreaux batting behind him against righthanded pitching, the pitchers frequently had to pay for the walks to Smalley. But when a lefthander pitched, John Castino or Ron Jackson was hitting fourth, and walking Smalley seldom hurt.

The Twins' early record against righthanded starters was 11-5. Meanwhile, they lost their first eight decisions against lefthanders.

"When Papa Jack (Jackson) starts hitting—and he will—the lefthanders aren't going to have such an easy time against us," Smalley said. "We're not off to the start we would like to be, but I still feel good about this team. I feel good about myself. I'm comfortable at the plate. But where I'm the most confident is in the field."

At 6-2, 195, Smalley is somewhat oversized to be a shortstop, and scouts for rival teams have frequently questioned his range. The knock doesn't stand up in the face of statistics.

Last season, Smalley set an American League record with 572 assists. He also participated in a league-record 144 double plays—out of the 203 turned by the Twins. And, for the third consecutive season, he led the league in four defensive categories—assists, put-outs, total chances and double plays.

"I played in every game last year and, when you do that, you're going to get a lot of chances," Smalley said. "Right now, I feel better playing shortstop than I ever have. I feel quicker, and the main thing is that I'm very aggressive. I go after the ball expecting to make every play."

"The scouts used to tell me Smalley couldn't go to his left," Manager Gene Mauch said. "But he's gone

behind second to throw out runners a half-dozen times already."

Smalley, at the urging of Mauch, plays farther toward second than almost any other shortstop. This occasionally causes balls to bounce through the normal shortstop area for hits and brings up questions on Smalley's range. But the record says the radical positioning, depending on the pitcher and hitter, allows Smalley to throw out more runners than any other shortstop.

A three-year weightlifting program has caused Smalley to grow to the point that some people, including his manager, expect that eventually he will have to move off shortstop, perhaps to first base.

"I hope that is a long way off," Smalley said. "Playing shortstop is very important to me. I like being in the middle of all those plays."

**Doubletakes:** Veteran designated hitter Jose Morales went on the disabled list with a pulled rib cage muscle and Jesus Vega was recalled from Toledo (International), where he was hitting .423. Pitcher Terry Felton, 0-3 with a 7.13 ERA, was returned to Toledo and pitcher Albert Williams was recalled.

Twins President Calvin Griffith has attempted to fine Ken Landreaux \$50 for wearing his pants too low, covering a Twins' insignia on the blue socks. Calvin long has been feuding with his players over the vital issue of how much stirrup to show on the socks. Player rep Mike Marshall was checking with the players' association on the legality of the fine. . . . Mauch also fined Landreaux an undisclosed amount for failing to hustle and kept him out of the lineup for two games in Baltimore.

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