



PRESS MUST SAVE NATION...GREGORY

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Oft jailed civil rights leader Dick Gregory, noted Negro comedian, told delegates to the American Newspaper Guild convention last week that it was up to the press—not the courts, churches or politicians—to save this country from destruction from within. The guild later unanimously adopted a human rights report which seeks equal employment for Negroes in the newspaper industry.

Gregory, who came here from the Republican National Convention in San Francisco said: "The day is over when the Negro is going to accept freedom on the installment plan. I predict that 75 more civil rights workers will be murdered this summer plus those who have already vanished in Mississippi. "This great problem can destroy our country because it is happening from within and not without. "You (the press) are the people who are going to save this country. The churches, the courts, the politicians can't do it. Judges and politicians face re-election by whites. And the church is the most segregated form of life in America."

Greenie Hart Keeps Giants Jolly With Blue-Chip Bat

(Jim Hart has played a prominent part in the San Francisco Giants' strong bid for the National League pennant this season. The article on Hart appearing below was written for The Sporting News, the weekly "bible of baseball", by Jack McDonald.)

One of the big reasons the Giants did not get into their perennial "June swoon" this year has been the plate pyrotechnics of Jim Hart, the 22-year-old rookie third baseman. He has led the club out of some frightening batting doldrums with the explosiveness of a Willie Mays. For this, fans are calling him "The Igniter."

Alvin Dark said at the outset that if the Giants kept winning the first two months, he could afford to stay with Hart as a regular in the lineup.

But when the club was rained out of a game with the Braves recently, the Giants' manager, holding court with the press in his office, raised the point Hart had now been twice around the circuit and it was up to him to prove himself.

Prone to Strikeouts

The fact he had gotten a few big hits was one reason the Giants were 13-3 against southpaw pitching. But he struck out a lot, Dark noted, adding that he was short of healthy infielders and this was a break for Jim.

Hart met the challenge. In the space of a week, it may be said that the boy has "arrived." He was the batting star of the Milwaukee series, his two-run homer on June 13 igniting the winning spark. Hart, The Igniter, was at it again the following afternoon, doubling across the first two runs in the first inning. Then his homer in the third drew the curtain for Jim O'Toole, starter for the Reds in the series opener.

Hart was the Giant batting hero for the third straight day when his ninth-inning single off Ryne Duren, who had come in to throw only one pitch, broke up the game by scoring Willie McCovey on June 15.

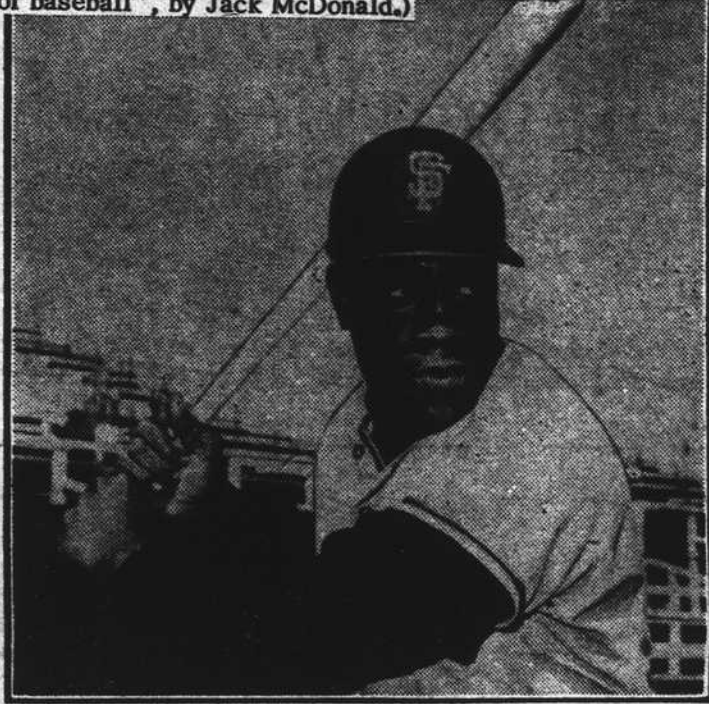
Dark hadn't counted on the Giants to hit as many home runs as a year ago. Felipe Alou and Ed Bailey took 35 homers with them to Milwaukee and Willie McCovey, he reasoned, would do well to have another 44-homer season like 1963.

Youngster Finds Power Groove

"We're a three or four-run club and have to rely on our good pitching to win," he said. But Hart may have given Alvin the happy chore of revising his forecast upward.

Hart is just finding his power. He has hit homers off some good pitchers, including Jim Bunning, Warren Spahn, Dick Ellsworth, Hank Fischer, Tom Sturdivant and O'Toole.

Unmarried, Jim is the chief bread winner of a large family. He is the second of six children, who live in the log-cabin settlement of Hookertown, N. C. His father works on a construction gang. Playing semi-pro ball at 17 for \$5 a game, or whatever he could pick up, he attracted the



JIM HART . . . Triggerman for Plate Fireworks

attention of the Pirates, Dodgers and Giants.

He got little nibbles from each, but not enough to touch off a bidding match. He signed with the Giants for a mere \$500 per month salary, at Salem in the rookie Appalachian League, where he hit .403 his first season.

The Giants sweated out the first-year draft, gambling correctly that nobody would take him because of his poor play at second base, where he couldn't pivot. The following year, at Fresno (California), he didn't set the world afire as a shortstop, though he hit .355. It wasn't until two years ago, when Springfield (Eastern) was short-handed at third base, that he got a chance to play there.

Youngster's Arm Strong

Hart is still no Jim Davenport at the position, but if you include his power, he qualifies as a junior Richie Allen right now. A hawk on furls hit around third base, he has the range and also the quick reflexes for spearing line drives. And he has a strong arm.

"I'm still troubled on slow ground balls hit straight at me," he said. And these have caused many of the errors that have made the Giants the worst fielding club in the league.

Broad-shouldered Jim has a flat, flowing swing and his general style at the plate is likened to Hank Aaron's. "I'm not Aaron as a hitter," he said, grinning. "If I look like him, it's an accident. I never saw him until this year, unless maybe on TV once or twice. My hitting style is my own."

Hart doesn't hit towering flies for homers. Most of his have been on a line. Like Aaron, though, it's

Hart's natural style to cover the outside corners. He crowded the plate and this got him into trouble when the Giants called him up last summer. In the space of seven games, he was winged twice.

First, Bob Gibson fractured a shoulder blade which hospitalized him for six weeks. Returning to the lineup, Curt Simmons plunked him in the head, knocking him cold and putting him out of action the rest of the season.

A month in the Arizona Instructional League last winter convinced the Giants Hart was no longer gun shy. In view of his case history for getting beamed, it's odd that pitchers now keep the ball outside on him. He explains this, saying, "I moved several inches back in the batter's box and they rarely pitch me inside any more."

Too Anxious at First

But what caused him to find his true batting eye in June? "I wasn't overstriding," he said, "but I was overanxious. I wait a little longer for a pitch now and I'm seeing the ball much better. It has helped a lot."

Hart still has a long way to go before getting into the .300 class with Willie Mays and Orlando Cepeda, but with his readjustments at the plate, he may soon be right up there with the leaders.

Dark said before the season started that it would be a miracle if his two rookies, Jay Alou and Hart, could crash the lineup and stick there. Alou broke in with as much poise as Cepeda and Davenport in their rookie season of 1958. Hart had more faults to overcome and still has a few, but he is advancing in long strides.



LONGEST LEAP--Ralph Boston is shown hurtling 27 feet, 5 1/2 inches during Olympic trials at Randall's Island, New York. Although leap bettered world record for running broad jump, it will not be submitted for recognition due to favoring tailwind.

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