



# Sports Roundup

By MARK QUEEN

## Cubs Need More Ernies

LOCAL BASEBALL FANS will be able to watch some mighty fine big-leaguers perform in the flesh next Thursday afternoon at Cashman Field when the Chicago Cubs meet the Boston Red Sox in an exhibition game. But even if they were sitting in on the World Series, it would take a long, hard look to find a greater all-around performer than the guy who will be holding down first base for Chicago.

This may seem like a strange statement considering that the Cubs have been mired in the second division of the National League for 18 straight seasons. But if the Cubs could have come up with half a dozen players like Ernie Banks during that stretch, they very likely would have been up there battling for the pennant year after year.

Banks has compiled a truly remarkable record in his 12 full seasons with Chicago. He not only is the only National Leaguer to win the Most Valuable Player award two years running (1958-59), but he holds the major league record for home runs hit by a shortstop in one season (47 in 1958), the NL record for the most grand-slamers in one season (5 in 1955) and has played in 10 All-Star games. He has hit more homers than any other Cub in history, 376, which places HIM SIXTH on the all-time NL list.

## Banks "the Greatest"

WITH IT ALL, we understand that Ernie is one pro athlete who continues to approach his work with all the zest and "old college try" spirit of an amateur playing a game for the pure fun of it. During spring training, for instance, when most veteran big-leaguers can't get out of the park fast enough after the "whistle blows," they tell us Banks is likely to linger in the dug-out until the stands are cleared and then have some coach knock balls to him for another 20 or 30 minutes.

A friend of ours who watched Ernie go through this routine after a decade in the majors, remarked that it struck him funny that Banks would be the one Cub to stick around for extra practice "when actually he should have been the only one allowed to go home." But thinking it over later, our friend came to the conclusion that maybe that's why Ernie is who he is--"the greatest."

Another significant facet of Ernie's character lies in the fact that, unlike many other ball players, he seems to enjoy humming or singing along with the Star Spangled Banner when it is played before some 200 games from March through September. (See photo this page.)

## Altman Returns

DESPITE HIS LONG SERVICE with the Cubs, Banks doesn't show any signs of being ready for the boneyard (he smashed out 23 homers last year), and with power-hitting George Altman back with the club this season to bolster a "Murderers' Row" that includes Billy Williams and Ron Santo, Chicago fans are optimistic about the club's chances of finally winding up in the first division.

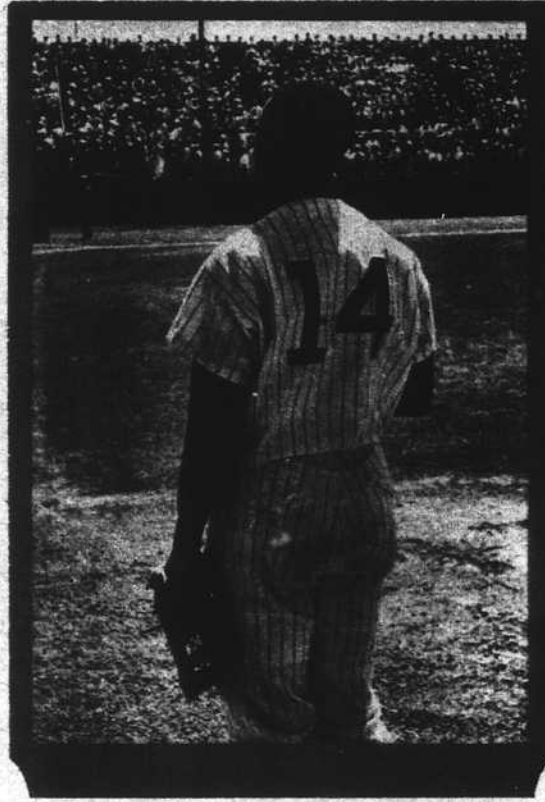
Altman, whose prowess with the bat needs no elaboration here, returns to his familiar spot in the Cub outfield after a year each with the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Mets. Head coach Al Kennedy hopes to use 6-foot-4, 195-pound George in left field if Williams can handle the center field assignment.

Billy, incidentally, led the Cubs last year in homers (33), hits (201), doubles (39) and runs scored (100).

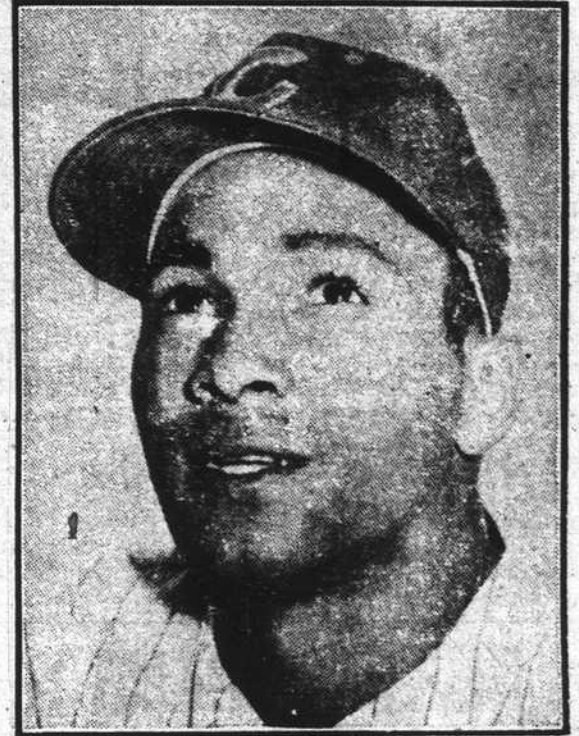
Santo also had a great year in 1964, leading the club in hitting (.313) and runs-batted-in (114). His 30 homers broke an 80-year Cub

# LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION



ERNIE BANKS HUMMING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM



BILLY WILLIAMS

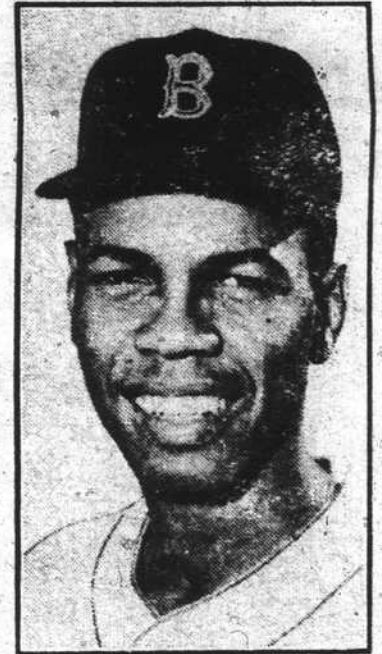
## Cub, Red Sox Stars Play Here Next Week



George Altman



EARL WILSON



Felix Mantilla

mark for third-basemen and his 114 rbi's eclipsed Andy Pafko's former record of 101. Kennedy has 14 coaches assisting him; no less, including John (Buck) O'Neil, who three years ago became the first Negro coach in the major leagues.

## Wilson Hurlled No-Hitter

WITH THE RED SOX will be several outstanding colored players who should give a good account of themselves with Billy Herman's American League club this year. They include veteran infielder Felix Mantilla, pegged for second base this season; no-hit pitcher Earl Wilson, and a promising utility man, Lenny Green.

Mantilla blasted out 30 home runs in 1964 and is a handy guy to have at the keystone sack with men on base.

Wilson, who pitched his no-hitter in 1962 for Boston, had a so-so 11-12 record for the Red Sox last year but distinguished himself by beating the New York Yankees three times.

Green is an unknown quantity, but local baseball expert George Maxwell reports that Lennie has been leading the Boston club at bat this spring with a .400-plus average.

## OFFER LOCAL KIDS JOBS AS BIG-LEAGUE BATBOYS

WANTED: BOYS, 10 to 15 years old, to serve as batboys for the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox in their exhibition baseball game at Cashman Field next Thursday, April 8, at 2 p.m. One boy will be selected for each team.

Youngsters interested in either of these two jobs should write out their reasons in 25 words or less and sign their names, addresses and date of birth. Those who would like to work for the CUBS must send their requests to the Las Vegas REVIEW-JOURNAL, Sports Dept., 737 North Main St., Las Vegas. Those who would like to work for the RED SOX must send their requests to the Las Vegas SUN, Sports Dept., 900 Commerce St., Las Vegas.

DO IT NOW! Deadline for applications is this coming Sunday, April 4. Applications will be judged on originality, neatness and sincerity. Those selected will be notified by Wednesday, April 7.