

Mays not worried about 3,000 hits

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Willie Mays is next in line to follow Atlanta's Hank Aaron into the exclusive ranks of the 3,000-hit club. But Willie says he won't even try to guess when that will be.

"Whenever I get there, I'll take it," said the San Francisco Giants star, who was 39 this month and is in his 20th major league season. "I just hope I can keep going."

Mays added in an interview Monday. "I don't bother about the statistics."

The way he is going, the Say Hey Kid could reach the 3,000-hit total in mid-summer. Through Sunday, he had 30 hits for a career total of 2,956, was batting .288, or five points above his 1969 average, and had added eight homers to the even 600 he had when last season ended.

Mays said he was happy at the achievement of his good friend Aaron in becoming the first major leaguer ever to get 3,000 base hits that included more than 500 home runs.

Aaron got his 570th homer Sunday in Cincinnati along with two singles to raise his hit total to 3,002. Only eight other players have exceeded 3,000 hits in major league history. Ty Cobb heads the list with 4,191, followed by Stan Musial with 3,630.

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THREE NEW PROSPECTS—A&M track coach Charlie Thomas, left, and three members of the Aggie track squad greet three new prospective Aggie trackmen Friday night at Easterwood Airport. (From left to right) Thomas, Aggie hurdler David Prince, pole vaulter Bill Curnow of Mid-

land Lee, high jumper Johnny Blakney of Fort Worth Southwest, broad jumper Charlie Stidham of Dallas Crozier Tech, A&M sprinter Steve Barre, A&M hurdler and quartermiler David Morris, and manager Mike Bavarro. (Photo by Thomas E. McCullough)

Flood swings at suit's fences

By MIKE RATHET
Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP)—Curt Flood, former St. Louis Cardinals' outfielder, steps to the plate today in federal court, swinging the fences in an antitrust suit challenging baseball's controversial reserve clause.

There is a possibility that Flood himself will begin to testify on the opening day of the trial that is expected to have far-reaching

ramifications before it is finally resolved, most likely at the Supreme Court level.

The suit will be heard in Federal Court here before Judge Irving Ben Cooper, and Flood and his attorney, former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, have based their case largely on the principle that Flood has reiterated several times:

"I do not feel I am a piece of property to be brought and sold

irrespective of my wishes."

At issue is what is popularly known as the reserve clause—but which is more accurately a set of rules—that bind a player to the team that signs him until he is traded, sold or released with or without his knowledge and/or approval.

Flood's case is unique because the merits of the reserve system will be argued in court for the first time. There have been other suits in the past challenging the rules, but they wound up dealing largely with the issue of the court's jurisdiction. That will not be the case this time.

That was determined in pre-trial hearing at which Judge

Cooper ruled "the trial must encompass the factual issues raised respecting the reserve system, hailed as a blessing by proponents, condemned as destructive by antagonists."

The antagonists' line-up lists Flood; his attorneys, including Goldberg, now a candidate for governor in New York, and the Major League Players Association headed by Marvin Miller.

The proponents' line-up lists the defendants—Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, the American and National League presidents, the 24 major league club owners, and the defendants' attorneys, Mark F. Hughes and Paul Porter.

Ags take 2

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came Villanova ace Larry James on the stretch to propel the Ags to a 3:08.3 mile relay and a win over the hometown school which was clocked at 3:08.4.

The Aggies received a severe blow when Woods pulled a muscle while running the 100 meters. The San Angelo junior is expected to miss at least one week of action but might be ready for the meet of champions at Houston May 29-30.

It will, however, hurt the Aggies this weekend when they travel to Modest, California for the California Relays to challenge UCLA which claims along with the Aggies the fastest sprint relay in the country, 39.6. The Bruins also counter with a more than formidable 880 yard relay unit that plans to challenge the Aggies world championship status of 1:21.7 that the maroon set earlier this year.

Woods ran a leg on both relays and will be missed sorely.

Harold McMahon started the Aggies mile relay off with his fastest quarter out of the blocks, 47.7, although he has run a 47.4 from a running start. Willie Blackmon followed with a 47.6 and Marvin Mills a 47.3.

Curtis Mills then overtook James on the final turn to run a 45.5 anchor.

The Aggies might have really put on a show for the Pennsylvanians had not three primary performers been stricken with food poisoning the night before the meet. Assistant coach Ted Nelson said that Scotty Hendricks, Willie Blackmon and Marvin Mills all stayed up most of the night with the ailment.

Marvin nearly pulled the upset of the meet when he placed second in the 200 meters to John Carlos in 20.5. Carlos who beat Mills by about three yards ran a 20.4.

Another contingent of Aggie trackmen went to Beaumont for the weekend but bad weather hampered outstanding performances especially in the field events where the Aggies failed to mark in the high jump and pole vault.

Ronnie Lightfoot who has qualified for national in the shot put placed third in the discuss with a toss of 169-8. Lightfoot needs a throw of 175-0 to qualify for the NCAA meet in that event.

Steve Barre placed fifth in the 100 with a time of 9.8 and Donnie Rogers ran a 14.5 120 high hurdles for sixth place.

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