

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It was a chilly reception weatherwise for the Minnesota Twins Thursday night when the club arrived in the Twin Cities for the home opener of the 1962 season.

They stepped off a plane from Kansas City to see a six-inch snowfall greeting them — a sight not exactly unprecedented in Minnesota's fickle April weather, but certainly unwelcome at this particular time.

Thursday's snowstorm which deposited the six-inch cover on Metropolitan Stadium forced postponement of the Twins' opener this afternoon against the Los Angeles Angels.

And it threatened to shove the lidlifter back even another day — possibly to Sunday. As Stadium Manager Billy Robertson put it, "It looks like we should be happy if we can play by Sunday."

But President Calvin Griffith hopefully went ahead with plans to open against the Angels Saturday afternoon. However, this was dependent upon the snow melting today and the field drying sufficiently to permit play Saturday.

Grounds crews were hard shoveling the snow off a tarpaulin covering the infield Thursday afternoon and this morning, but the outfield was certain to be soggy even if the snow melts today. It was already too soft to put renewal equipment on it.

Today's forecast called for partly cloudy skies and the temperature around 40 degrees.

The club planned to work out this morning in the University of Minnesota Fieldhouse.

The Twins returned from their season-opening three-game series at Kansas City which saw them take the series, two games to one.

Thursday, Minnesota outslugged the Athletics 9-5 and won behind some stellar relief pitching by 21-year-old rookie right-hander Joe Bonikowski.

The young hurler pitched 5 1/3 innings of light relief to gain the decision. He came on in relief of starter Don Lee with the scored tied at 4-4 in the last of the fourth inning. He finished up, permitting only one run and three hits the rest of the way.

In support, the Twins scored twice in the fifth on Bob Allison's two-run single to break the deadlock. Two more tallies in the seventh cinched it for Minnesota.

Catcher Earl Battey had played the first Twins run with his second homer of the season in the second inning, a solo blast. Three more Minnesota runs came across in the third on Lee's single and doubles by Lenny Green and Vic Power.

Hannon Killebrew and Rich Rollins also had doubles for the Twins while shortstop Dick Howser had a three-run inside-the-park home run for the A's.

Only 854 persons paid to see the game, the smallest crowd ever to see a major league baseball game in Kansas City. A biting wind gusting up to 35 miles an hour and a 45-degree temperature kept the crowd down.

If the Twins and Angels can play Saturday, probable starters will be left-hander Jim Kaat (9-17 last year) of Minnesota and righthander George Wilt (0-1) or righthander Ryne Duren (6-12) for Los Angeles.

Rollins, the rookie third baseman, led the Twins in the Kansas City series with a whopping .558 average. Power hit .417, Battey, .308, Green .273 and Allison .250. Rollins and Allison each drove in four runs.

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Sun, Apr 13, 2014