

Killebrew Kills Suggestion He Play, Manage

By TOM BIERE

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Harmon Killebrew, Mr. Big of the Twins, Monday thanked an anonymous fellow player for suggesting Harmon as player-manager of the Twins.

Then he said: "No thanks."

Killebrew, who came off the back 40 at his home in Ontario, Ore., to answer a longdistance call from The Minneapolis Tribune, said: "I've never given managing any thought because I figure I have some good playing days ahead of me."

"Also, I think the job of player-manager would be a killer."

Killebrew offered "No comment" one way or the other about the firing of Billy Martin and the job he did as manager of the Twins in 1969.

Harmon denied that he was the player who went to Calvin Griffith's office at the completion of the season to complain over Martin as a manager.

It has been suggested by several of the Twins players that Harmon was "the top star" who put the knock on Billy at the conclusion of the Baltimore playoffs.

As a list of possible managerial successors to Martin were named — Jim Lemon, Eddie Yost, Bob Schefling, Bill Ripney, Dick Williams, Billy Jantzer, Killebrew said: "Of course, Jim Lemon is a close personal friend of mine and I think he'd be a good manager, but it's not my province to pick the manager so I think I'll leave that up to Calvin Griffith."

Lemon said he talked to Griffith during the Baltimore-Minnesota playoffs about a job as manager, coach, or scout in the Twins organization.

"Certainly, I'd be interested in the managerial job now that Martin is out, but I haven't talked to Griffith lately," said Lemon, who left the Twins in the fall of 1967 to serve as Washington manager in 1968. He was fired by new owner Bob Short last winter when Ted Williams was named Senator field pilot. Lemon operated his grocery store in a Washington suburb this summer while collecting on the final year of his Washington contract.

"Griffith gave me no assurance of a job, but I'd like to hear from him again because I want back in baseball," Jim added.

Pitcher Dave Boswell, whose handshake at the hands of Martin this summer outside a Detroit box took the headlines, expressed "surprise" at Martin's ouster.

"That fight was over-published," said Boswell from his home in Joppe, Md., "but it made a good drawing card for a while."

"I don't think that fight cost Martin his job, at least I hope not. I know there were other frictions on the club affecting Martin, too."

"As a pitcher, Martin certainly treated me fairly. He gave me the opportunity to win 20 games by starting in rotation without being shunted to the bullpen whenever I lost a game. I'll be everlastingly grateful to Martin for that and I have great admiration for Martin as a manager."

Bob Allison was not available for comment on the Martin ouster, although he was undoubtedly shocked. Allison was supposedly in line to be named a Twins coach by Martin next season.

Pitcher Jim Kaat denied that he went to Griffith's office at season's end to complain of Martin, also that he indicated he would have his say during the winter. "I never said that," said Jim.

Clipped By:



jjswol

Fri, Oct 13, 2017