

Minneapolis

# Tribune Sports

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## After 37 innings, a split

### Twins lose 4-3 in 22; win 5-4 in 15



Eric Soderholm

After 37 innings, 51 hits, 31 walks, 16 runs, 9½ hours of playing time and countless trips to the restroom by the fans, the Twins and Milwaukee in effect split a doubleheader at Metropolitan Stadium Saturday.

Eric Soderholm's two-run homer in the 15th inning gave the Twins a 5-4 victory in Saturday's regularly scheduled game after Milwaukee had scored in the 22nd inning to beat the Twins 4-3 in the completion of Friday night's game halted after 21 innings by a 1 a.m. American League curfew rule.

In establishing an American League record for getting their money's worth, the fans saw the Twins and Brewers set an American League record of 37 innings in back-to-back extra inning games, breaking the old mark of 36 innings set by Boston and Chicago in 1961. The major league record for consecutive game innings is 40, set by Boston and Chicago in the National League in 1927.

The 22-inning first game was the longest in Twins history, both for number of innings and playing time. The longest previous Twins game was a 9½ hour, 20-inning game to Washington on Aug. 8, 1967 at Metropolitan Stadium. The modern American League record is a 24-inning, 1 1/2 hr. between Detroit and Philadelphia, July 21, 1945.

The five-hour 47 minutes it took to complete the suspended game broke the record of 5:41 set in an 11-7, 18-inning victory at Seattle, July 19, 1969.

In the first game Cesar Tovar tied a Minnesota record of 10 at bats and missed tying the American League record of 11 at bats in one game when he was walked intentionally in the 22nd inning. Steve Braun and Danny Thompson shared the 10th bats mark. Bobby Darwin tied a club record with five strikeouts, and the Twins tied a club record with 23 runners left on base.

Other records: 77 at bats for Twins, new team record; Twins grounded into five double plays, team record; most opponent double plays on grounders, five for Milwaukee; most double plays by two clubs, six to the club marks.

With 647 fans seated in the right field stands as guests of the Twins, Milwaukee didn't appear to have a prayer yesterday. Yet Milwaukee won the completion of Friday's suspended game and the Twins played a 9-1 to win the regularly-scheduled second game.

"I was praying," said Twins manager Bill Rigney. "With two outs in the 15th inning, I was praying we wouldn't have to lose two games to Milwaukee while Boston was trying to help us by beating Oakland. I was thinking about how crazy it would be to play 37 innings and come up empty."

The Twins came within one pitch of coming up empty, trailing 4-3 in the second game to Mike Ferraro's first American League home run in the 5th inning. The count went to three balls and two strikes on Jim Nettles with two outs in Minnesota's last chance. The Brewers thought it was strike three, but umpire Hank Sore called ball four. That left it up to Soderholm, who had been benched 10 days ago with a .167 batting average.

Right-hander Jim Slaton, who had pitched five scoreless innings for the Brewers, worked the count to two balls and two strikes on the right-handed hitting Soderholm.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw that fast ball riding down the pipe," said Soderholm. "I was looking for a breaking ball."

Slaton cradled his chin in his hands after the game and said: "It was a fast ball up and on the inside half of the plate. If I could throw it again, I'd prefer to have the plate a little lower and over the outside half of the plate."

That's why Soderholm moved up and closer to the plate in batting practice recently. "I was having trouble handling the slider off the outside corner of the plate," he said. "Coach Ralph Rowe suggested that I move up on the plate more to protect the outside against the slider."

Soderholm smashed his homer 370 feet into the left-field pavilion for two runs and the Twins came away with a split.

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Ron Thobald of Milwaukee crossed home plate with the winning run that ended the Brewers' 22-inning 4-3 victory over the Twins. The game, which started at 7:35 a.m. Friday and was halted by a 1 a.m. curfew lock 5 hours, 47 minutes to complete.

## Early birds get fish in opener

By Ron Schira  
Staff Writer

Deerwood, Minn. It's too hot for the sport of fishing, but governed by baseball's rules. Then the opening of Minnesota's fishing season would have been postponed by rain Saturday and an estimated 500,000 anglers would have been dry, at least.

That's not the case, of course. And the fishing success throughout yesterday was something like the rain—scattered. Ironically, the sun was out in northeastern Minnesota but the lakes on the Gunflint Trail remained partially covered by ice.

However, the fishing show went on. Jerry Fuller finally locked the doors on his tackle shop at 2 yesterday morning and there was a line of fishermen waiting when he reopened at 6 a.m. Several tackle shops a layed open all night to handle the needs of fishermen who began their pursuit of walleye at midnight.

Generally, the midnight anglers had fish to justify their last sleeping time. The fishermen who waited until daybreak had to catch their walleyes in almost continuous rain.

"We had good night fishing, with 11 fish being caught by 2 a.m.," said Mrs. Earl Faber of Tahquamenon Island in Bemidji. "By morning the fishing success started to slow down." Lack wasn't slow for Bob Tibbitts, however. The Bemidji angler landed a 12-pound walleye on Kitchie Lake. Blake Peterson of Red Lake Falls, Minn., boated an 18-pound, 5-ounce northern pike from Clearwater Lake in the Bemidji area.

The opening day hotspots yesterday were in the state's more northerly regions. Jack Cox, Baudette, said the walleye fishing on Rainy River and Lake of the Woods was "the best I've seen in 22 years here."

"I've never seen anything



Staff Photo by John Croft

Jim Dahl, 7428 Melody Dr., Fridley, strung a fish Saturday, which was opening day for walleye and northern fishing in Minnesota. He and two Minneapolis companions opened the season at Mills Lake.

like he," he said. "Almost everybody reported limit."

"Lake Saganaga is still half-covered with ice," said Kerfoot, of Gunflint Lodge on Gunflint Lake. "Our lake is still three-fourths covered."

Two fishermen from Silver Bay, Minn., landed seven walleyes on Gunflint Lake, including two in three minutes.

Fishing on Lake Saganaga, Eugene Magnuson of Two Harbors and two other fishermen landed a total of 18 walleyes that weighed a total of 136 pounds. Magnuson hooked one weighing 12 pounds, 4 ounces.

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Don Ham of St. Louis Park pulled his boat up on the west side of Mills Lake through a break in the on-shore ice. Rain, fog and wind also hampered fishermen on the lake.

## Gravalin small, but he's speedy

By Bruce Brothers  
Staff Writer

Jim Gravalin is a high school football halfback who received letters of inquiry from Nebraska, Notre Dame, Kansas and a few others schools. Jim Gravalin also stands 58 inches over five feet tall (with spikes on) and weighs 145 pounds (if you look at the scales in a generous manner).

"I'm so small," said Gravalin, "that I'm planning right now on attending Moorhead State. That way I could probably play football as well as track."

Nebraska and Notre Dame have little use for 145-pound halfbacks, but last fall Gravalin was one of the best in the No. 1 ranking in Minnesota high school football. Now he has shed his football gear and is hoping to lead the Spuds to No. 1 in track.

Gravalin had his best game of the football season in the last game, when he gained 183 yards on the ground. In that he goes an additional 27 yards in his specialty.

"My favorite event is the 220," he said. "I feel that's my best race. I like the 800 relay second best. The 100 I don't know—it doesn't appeal to me too much. I've had problems with my start this year in the 100."

The senior has twice run 10 seconds flat this year in the 100, two-tenths slower than his best at a meet, but he said the year is stronger and



Jim Gravalin

## Rain, debris halt Indy qualifying

Associated Press

Indianapolis, Ind. A. J. Foy Jr., shooting for a record fourth victory in the 500-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway race, broke an air cooler Saturday in the only run of the rain-marred opening trials session.

The five-time national champion started the 10-mile qualifying run in the last few minutes of the session but blew an engine on the first lap.

A mixture of rain, oil and fuel scrubbed most of the scheduled opening session of time trials.

After an overnight rain, the cars couldn't get onto the track until 5½ hours after the scheduled 11 a.m. EST opening.

They ran at relatively slow speed until the 2½ miles of asphalt were dry. Then most of the remaining 90 minutes was consumed by cleaning up after cars that sprayed fuel and oil on the track.

The second scheduled qualifying session will be from noon to 6 p.m. today.

Denny Zimmerman was in No. 1 position for qualifying Sunday after United States Auto Club officials ruled he had been improperly ordered onto the track.

They said Chief Steward Harlan Engler, warden Zimmerman in front of Roger McCluskey in the lineup. Zimmerman and race owner Boba Yodanis filed a protest.



Larry Batson

Frank Lane would like to go down in baseball history as the man who did not try to trade Stan Musial, but he has about given up hope.

"That story got out in 1956, made all the wire services and major newspapers and has been bouncing around ever since," said the Milwaukee Brewers general manager. "It's one of those things that everybody thinks is true because he's heard it so often. Nobody ever checks it; they just print it."

"What happened was that a player I traded away from the Cardinals (Lane) was general manager there (they told a Pittsburgh writer 'Lane tried to trade Musial, too, but Augie Busch (Cardinals owner) stopped him.'"

"The guy wrote it without checking with me or with Mr. Busch. It was a good story, but it never happened."

—then a few days later, Frank Lane, Philadelphia decided to see whether they could get away with trading Robert Roberts, so they traded a trial balloon. They looked a story that they were thinking of swapping Roberts for Musial.

"That started the whole thing up again. I called the Phillies and told them, 'I appreciate publicity, but don't do me any more favors for a while.'"

If the public found it easy to believe the Musial story, Lane had only himself to blame. He made the major league scene in 1948 as general manager of the Chicago White Sox and quickly shattered all records for body stuffing.

Three of his trades can be classified only as daylight handiwork.

Lane got left-hander Billy Pierce and cash (and cash) for a worn out catcher. Then he traded another lightly removed catcher for Nellie Fox. And, finally, he engineered a three-way deal that brought Minnie Mirowski to Chicago.

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