



Sports
General news on page 10C

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1C...

No runs, no hits, no kidding

Struggling Erickson pitches masterpiece

By Jim Souhan
Staff Writer

Scott Erickson looked much the same after pitching a no-hitter as he does after taking one of his infamous shellackings. He stalked to his locker, pulled on his program uniform of jeans, black cowboy boots and T-shirt and gazed at the boxscore.

■ Erickson's no-hitter wasn't a very big surprise. Page 7C
■ Twins announcers kept quiet about no-hitter until the end. Page 7C

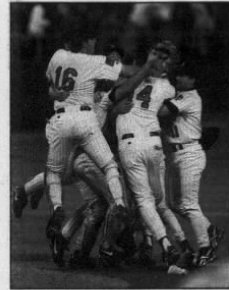
This is known as being a perfectionist. After a year and a half of sheer imperfection, after leading the league in hits allowed in 1993, this was the luxury Erickson afforded himself late Wednesday night, in a belatedly becalmed clubhouse, after pitching the first no-hitter in Metrodome history and first for the Twins since 1967.

"I don't know," he said with a wry grin. "I've been getting ragged on for two years. It's not like I was trying to prove anything."

"A no-hitter is as hard to explain as it is to throw."

Erickson couldn't stop being enigmatic, even on the most unreplicable and wondrous night of his career. He insisted he did nothing different while no-hitting and beating the Milwaukee Brewers 6-0 before 17,988 at what became a quite raucous Metrodome.

Twins continued on page 7C



Happy teammates obscured Scott Erickson as they celebrated his no-hitter.

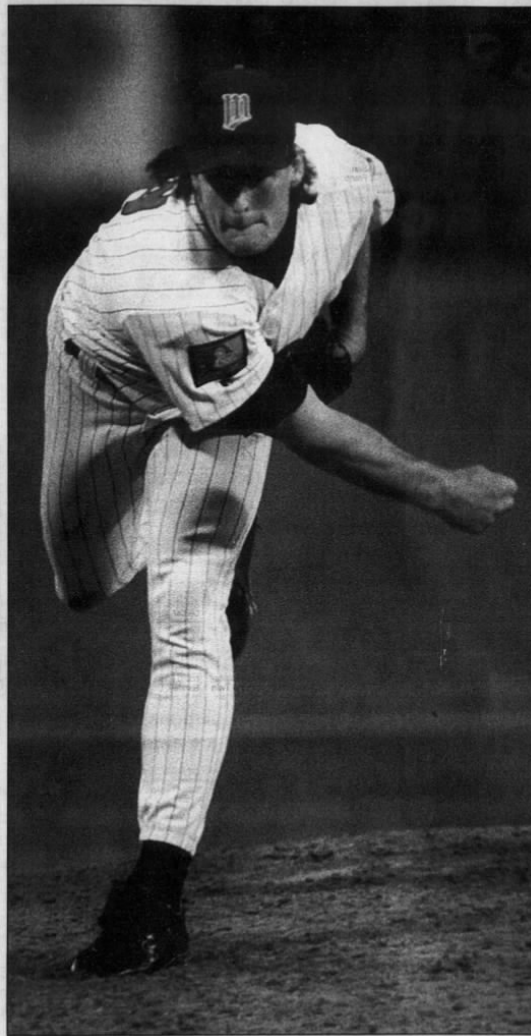
Erickson's timing was just perfect amid struggles

By Dennis Brackin
Staff Writer

For the season's first 3½ weeks, it appeared unlikely that the Twins would have any reason to congregate at the mound in celebration. After all, they began a five-game homestand Wednesday night with the worst ERA (7.41) in the majors.

But when Alex Cole closed his glove on Greg Vaughn's short fly to left for the final out in a 6-0 victory over the Brewers, the Twins had cause to rush the mound. Scott Erickson had become the first pitcher to throw a no-hitter in the Metrodome, and the first Twin to no-hit an opponent since Dean Chance defeated Cleveland 2-1 on Aug. 25, 1967.

No-hitter continued on page 7C



Staff Photos by Marvin Levinson

Scott Erickson followed through on a pitch to the plate in the ninth inning Wednesday night.



Patrick Rousseau

Marv & Harv bending plenty

Marv Wolfenson was back from a quick trip to New York when a reporter called with a few questions. Wolfenson had a question first. "Did you know Scott Erickson is pitching a no-hitter?" he said. "I'm watching it."

Stealing it off the satellite? "No, pay-per-view," Wolfenson said. "I'll give \$7.95 to Carl Pohlad."

This is more than many members of Minnesota's Legislature seem willing to give Wolfenson for the Target Center — the \$104 million arena that Wolfenson opened with his partner, Harvey Ratner, in the fall of 1990. The arena takeover bill has been struggling through a quagmire of legislative committees, and it might finally reach the House floor for its crucial test today.

Earlier Wednesday, Wolfenson had been in New York to join the NBA's Board of Governors in accepting Vancouver as the league's 29th member. A few months back, Toronto became No. 28 for an expansion fee of \$125 million, and the Vancouver group agreed to the same terms yesterday.

Wolfenson said the situation with his franchise was discussed briefly, in remarks by commissioner David Stern. There were other reports that the Timberwolves' situation was discussed at length and New Orleans was designated as the alternative site.

It had to come as a shock to Wolfenson's fellow owners that — on the day Vancouver was agreeing to pony up \$125 million for a franchise — the politicians back in Minnesota remained so incapable of rational thought that they would not approve an annual contribution of \$750,000 for an ultra-modern arena and a guaranteed 30 more years of NBA basketball.

"As I've said before, if you were to tell people, 'You build the arena and we'll throw in the first \$30 million,' you would be a hero," Wolfenson said. "They would say, 'Where do you want us to put the statue?'"

Wolfenson laughed when he said that. In occasional conversations, Wolfenson has seemed angry or puzzled or weary. Last night, he seemed more bemused by the continuing reluctance at the Legislature.

The numbers go like this: Wolfenson and Ratner put up \$30 million to build the arena, and that is gone. Marv also says it has cost \$25 million to operate the Target Center for four years, and that is gone.

The remaining mortgage on the building is \$72 million. Wolfenson and Ratner are being asked to take another mortgage for \$10 million and use that to separate the Arena Health Club from the rest of the building.

That would lower the mortgage to \$62 million. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission would come up with \$55 million of that, based on the state's \$750,000 contribution, a 10 percent ticket tax and \$1 surcharge on Target Center events. Wolfenson and Ratner would be asked to accept \$7 million in arena bonds that might be worth something, if the arena becomes profitable.

Rousseau continued on page 4C

'Us' Griak, and jokes, go on

By Nolan Zaveras
Staff Writer

Roy Griak is ready to leave for practice. It's a wonder he has the energy. No, not because the Gophers men's track coach is 70 years old. With his full head of silver and gray hair and erect carriage, he could pass for a man at least a decade younger.

But for the last hour, nonstop, Griak has been telling stories — of growing up in Duluth, and outrunning bullets as an Army grunt in World War II, and practical joking his way through high school coaching assignments in Minnesota. The accounts lift him off his chair and send him into a deep crouch and then to full attention — evidence of Griak's high-octane zest for life.

And he still isn't done. He talks of occupying the office next to former Gophers wrestling coach Wally Johnson, who sold wrestling

"Through the years, I've seen people mellow out, use excuses if their teams didn't finish well, but Roy hasn't done that. I've never heard Roy make an excuse — not ever."

Illinois coach Gary Wiencke

mats for extra income.

Said Griak: "This one day, I called him, and I disguised my voice, and I said, 'Hello, Mr. Johnson! This is Superintendent Peterson from Pine City schools, and I was wondering if you could quote me a price per yard."

"\$2.38, huh? Hmm, that's within our budget. Could we have PC in the center of the mat? In school colors, green and white? Good."

"Now, because we're sharing the expense

with Rush City, could we get the other side with KC in the center of the mat — with their school colors, purple and gold? Is that possible?"

Out of Griak's mouth comes something between a bark and a giggle. He continues.

"Wally takes awhile, and he figures and figures, and finally he says he can do it. And I say, 'Wally, you dumb Swede, this is Griak!'"

Griak continued on page 3C



Staff Photo by Charles Bjorgen

Roy Griak / A company man and a legend.

Vancouver joins NBA

NBA owners approved a franchise for Vancouver, British Columbia, on Wednesday, six months after admitting Toronto. In the 1986-88 season, Vancouver and Toronto will become the NBA's first Canadian teams since the Toronto Huskies in 1946-47, the league's inaugural season.

The franchisees must pay an entry fee of \$125 million.

Meanwhile, the NBA's main season starts tonight as four of the eight first-round playoff series begin. If the regular season is for show ponies, the playoffs are for show horses. Stories page 4C.