

The Minneapolis Tribune

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Hunter's Perfect Game Fells Twins

By DAVE MONA
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

OAKLAND, Calif.—James (Catfish) Hunter, a 22-year-old right hander who moved from high school to the major leagues three years ago, moved into baseball history Wednesday night by hurling a perfect no-hit, no-run game in a 4-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Hunter's control was magnificent. He struck out 11 Twins and didn't need a single difficult fielding play behind him as he posted the second no-hitter of the American League season.

Fittingly enough, Hunter struck out the final two Twins, Bruce Lock and Rich Reese, in pitching the ma-

nor's first perfect game since Sandy Koufax did it against Chicago on Sept. 9, 1955. It was the ninth perfect game in modern baseball since 1900.

The last American League to toss a perfect game was New York Yankee right-hander Don Larsen, who did it in the 1956 World Series against Brooklyn. But it has been 46 years since Charlie Robertson of the Chicago White Sox pitched a perfect game against Detroit in a regular season contest.

At the finish last night, Reese fouled off four 2-3 pitches before taking a third ball. When Reese swung and missed at a waist-high offering, the 4,268 first-year major league fans went wild and the Oakland bench headed immediately toward Hunter to carry him off the field.

Catcher Jim Paganaroni handed the final ball to Hunter and the young pitcher doffed his cap for the benefit of the happy throng.

The victory was an offensive one as well as defensive for the loser of the 1967 All-Star game, Hunter, Oakland's leading hitter with a .400 batting average before the game, drove in three of the A's four runs, including the important first one in the seventh inning, with three hits in four at bats.

The victory moved Oakland into a third-place tie with the Twins with identical 19-12 records. It was Hunter's third victory of the year against two losses.

Oakland got three more anti-climactic runs in the

eights inning off Dave Boswell and Ron Perrano. Hunter, as if it weren't enough, singled in the final two runs with the bases loaded. Only a fine fielding play by shortstop Jack Hernandez kept Oakland from scoring more than three.

Jim Merritt will face Jim McGlothlin in Anaheim today in the opening game of a five-game series.

The no-hitter was the first thrown against the Twins since they moved to Minnesota in 1961. And, in many ways, it signified the importance of Twins' hitters.

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Jubilant Hunter: I Just Wanted to Throw Strikes

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif.—At \$5,000 a shot I'll take all the no-hitters I can get," said a jubilant Jim (Catfish) Hunter Wednesday night.

He had just fired a third strike past Minnesota Twins pitcher Rich Reese on a 2-2 count after Reese had fouled off five pitches—and recorded the first regular season perfect game pitched in the American League in 49 years.

"I just wanted to throw strikes with my last ball," said the 22-year-old Herford, N.C., native.

"It was my second perfect game," said Hunter. "I threw one back in 1963 for Pequotnas Co. in High School. I don't remember whether it was seven or nine innings."

Then the 6-foot, 192-pound right-hander patiently spelled the high school's name five times for sports writers.

"Mr. Finley (owner Charles Finley) called me and said, 'You just cost me \$5,000,'" related the Catfish. "I asked him who won it and he told me a bonus."

Hunter had three hits in four trips to the plate and singled in two of the A's three runs in the ninth.

"Sure, I was thinking about the no-hitter a little when I hit. But I wanted to get some runs," he said.

Did anybody mention the perfect game in the dugout?

"Mike Herzberger joked once, 'Didn't somebody get on base back in the early innings?'"

"A guy goes 3-0 and I look how he's treated," joked outfielder Rick Monahan.

"He didn't show more than five curves back and said catcher Jim Paganaroni, who caught him Monday, caught him Monday, 1961.

"He had an outstanding slider and threw only one changeup. The only bad pitch was a hanging slider which Harmon Killebrew

Hunter
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The A's elated no-hit battery—pitcher Jim Hunter, catcher Jim Paganaroni

TWINS BOX SCORE

	AB	R	H	E	LOB
Twins	33	3	10	1	10
Oakland	33	4	10	1	10

Twins: 1-3, 2-1, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0. Total: 10-0.

Oakland: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0. Total: 3-0.

Vikings Sign Fleming, 3 Draftees

By MERRILL SWANSON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Willie Fleming completed the cycle Wednesday, landing back with the man who started him in big-time football and with a quarterback who addresses him.

The Minnesota Vikings announced Wednesday that they signed Fleming, who they acquired from Vancouver in 1966, but whom they announced his retirement, and three draftees—Mike Freeman, Bob Goodridge and Oscar Reed.

Fleming, 29, was recruited from Hamtramck, Mich., by Jerry Burns, who then was backfield coach at Iowa. Fleming played two years for Burns before leaving school to play with Vancouver. Burns recently

was hired as offensive coach of the Vikings.

"Willie is a great athlete," Burns said, "with great speed and quickness. He did have the credentials, I hope he still has them."

Viking quarterback Joe Kapp, who was a teammate of Fleming's for six seasons at Vancouver, enlarged on those credentials.

"More than any other player I've seen in Canada, Willie was the guy who could go all the way," Kapp said by telephone from Vancouver.

"He was a running back up here, and he would beat them to the outside with speed and to the inside with quick ticks. Once he was into his secondary nobody could stop him."

"Through all our years together, he's been a terrific team player, a man with a fine attitude. "I've always felt Willie

Beliveau Loss Hurts Montreal Cup Chase

By DWAYNE NEILAND
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

MONTRÉAL, Canada—Through the last 33 minutes of that Tuesday game, Montreal forced 14 consecutive faceoffs in the St. Louis end of the rink. None of them produced goals, but they were quite indicative of the manner in which the Blues were handling on much like the North Stars were in the final eight minutes when they blew a 3-0 lead to St. Louis.

Montreal ultimately won the game 1-0 while holding St. Louis to only three shots in the final period.

"You won't find many games tougher than this one," said Tom Blake, the Montreal coach. He was referring to St. Louis' performance. What he really meant was that his own Canadians are having a tough time with a team they figured to beat easily.

Montreal, now that the series has shifted to its home ice at the Forum, will probably win the championship in four straight. Among those who feel that way is Clarence Campbell, the National

Montreal
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BASEBALL STANDINGS

(Key: Red across for victories; red down for losses.)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.
Baltimore	16	8	.667
Detroit	14	9	.609
Twins	13	12	.520
Oakland	13	12	.520
Cleveland	12	12	.500
Boston	11	12	.478
Washington	11	13	.452
California	11	14	.440
New York	11	15	.422
Chicago	7	14	.333

(T.E.R. 100; Twins 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	17	8	.679
Cincinnati	13	12	.520
Philadelphia	13	12	.520
S. Francisco	12	12	.500
Pittsburgh	12	12	.500
Chicago	12	13	.480
Los Angeles	12	13	.480
Atlanta	12	14	.462
Houston	11	14	.440
New York	10	14	.417

RESULTS WEDNESDAY
Chicago 1, Los Angeles 5.
St. Louis 2, New York 8.
Philadelphia 6, Cincinnati 2.
San Francisco 2, Houston 1.
Pittsburgh 6, Atlanta 5.

GAMES TODAY
Los Angeles, Chicago, 1-4

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PHOENIX (Oak, 8-1) at Atlanta (Chgo, 2-4) night.
PHOENIX (Oak, 8-1) at Atlanta (Chgo, 2-4) night.
PHOENIX (Oak, 8-1) at Atlanta (Chgo, 2-4) night.

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