

Lavagetto Fired; Mele Takes Over as Twins Manager

By TOM BRIERE
The club is lacking in leadership, said Griffith. Mele, 38-year-old "Wreck a better club than we've been playing. The team is disorganized, down in spirit and generally speaking, Cookie Lavagetto.

THE TWINS LED the American league with a 9.3 record April 27, but then slumped dimly. They won 10 and lost 18 in the month of May, recently ran a 13-game losing streak and have lost 27 of their last 34 games.

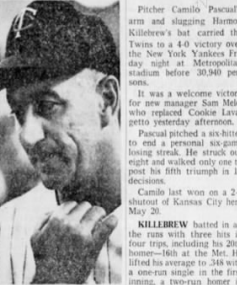
MELLE SAID, "I intend to work with the front office. Calvin told me that any time I have anything to say to the office and discuss it." The Twins' front office indicated that Joe Gordon, coach as Kansas City manager Tuesday, was not considered for the Twins' job.



Twins' new pilot Sam Mele pleased... questioning... pensive... thoughtful before game with Yankees



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Cookie Couldn't Make the Plays, So Out He Goes

THERE IS A SHARP GROUND BALL hit to pitcher Jim Kaat in a doubleplay situation. He takes a windup before throwing to second base and the relay is delayed too long.

Later the Twins have a rally going with two men on base. Kaat is trapped off second base and it is out on a throw from the catcher.

There is a ground ball hit to Harmon Killebrew at third base. He has it in both hands, but in groping for it for the throw he drops it. The runner is safe and subsequently scores.

A pop fly to hit back of first base, then another is hit there. Both should have been caught. Three players converge on each of these flies but nobody gets either of them. Runs score.

Killebrew stops a hot grounder at third and throws to Billy Martin at second. Martin has an easy double play in sight but throws wide to first and the double play fails. Runs score.

Because of these several errors, blunders and poor fielding plays, the Twins lose the last game of the Baltimore series.

AND COOKIE LAVAGETTO IS FIRED. He should have caught those pop flies. He should have committed those double plays. He should not have dropped that ball. He should not have been caught off second base.

Shame on Cookie! Through the countless incidents of this unhappy season, Cookie has had an invaluable comment: "That's baseball."

NO PLACE FOR POLITICIAN IT IS LIKELY THAT BASEBALL commissioner Ford F.死 will retire soon. Of course, nominations are in order.

Among those suggested is Richard Nixon, former vice president. With all respect for Mr. Nixon in his field, it is suggested that the commissioner is not a place for a politician.

AMERICAN CLEVER THREATENS RECORD AMERICAN TRACK COACHES THINK this country may, at last, have a mile runner capable of holding for a record.

They point to Droyal Ballou of the University of Oregon. He ran a 3:57.6 mile earlier this year, but this leaves him far short of Herb Elliott's 3:54.5 record.

WHO IS SAM MELE? Meet New Twin Boss

By DWAYNE NELLAND
Minnesota Tribune Staff Writer
Subah Anthony Mele, the new manager of the Minnesota Twins, grew up on the sandlots of Long Island without a thought of ever setting into major league baseball.

Baseball was his game, and Sam Mele made the most of his ability. He obtained a basketball scholarship at New York university and set a Madison Square Garden scoring record of 29 points one January night in 1942.

Now he is taking over the reins of a flourishing baseball team in a city which is virtually stranger to him, replacing a friend who was well liked. And the entire managerial background consists of eight games, six of which he lost.

MELE MANAGED the Washington Senators on the first day of the 1959 season, which Cookie Lavagetto spent in conference with President Calvin Griffith. Baltimore beat the Senators 2-1.

Before his major league playing career ended in 1956, Mele had played with seven clubs. He averaged 388 at the plate and 32 home runs a year, splitting his time between right and left field.

After finishing the 1958 season with Buffalo in the International league, Mele signed as a scout with Washington in 1959. When Billy Jurges left the Washington coaching staff on July 4, 1959, to become Red Sox manager, Mele replaced him.

"I DIDN'T know Cookie at the time," he recalled. "But I learned to like and respect him. I was very happy throughout 1959 and 1960 coaching under him. I never had any consuming ambition to manage any team."

When Lavagetto was called home by Griffith earlier this month, Mele managed the Twins for seven games in New York, Baltimore and Boston. He won two, lost five.

"I spent a lot of sleepless nights during that week," Mele said. "I learned what a manager must go through. The difference in responsibility between managing and coaching is enormous."

The paths which led to Mele's present post were many and curious. He did, eventually, break away from his "nail" days.

MELE SAYS TWINS handled in his "nail" days. He was delayed by injury to Marine Corps. He regretted Cookie earlier. Twins statistics, picture—all on Page 10.

from his beloved baseball enough to play baseball for New York university. Before he embarked his baseball career, however, World War II intervened.

SAM SPENT nearly a year as a marine flying instructor aboard aircraft carriers. Shortly after his discharge in 1945 he was signed by the Boston Red Sox and sent to Louisville in the American Association.

Mele missed out on Boston's 1946 American league pennant, but he joined the Red Sox in 1947. He became a close friend of Ted Williams, and to this day Sam calls Ted "one of the greatest fellows I've ever had the pleasure to know."

Growing now at 38, the 6-1, 170-pound Mele admits he is uncertain whether to stick with his battering partners. "I want them to like me," he says. "I also want them to do what I say."

During his off-season he lives in Quincy, Mass., a Boston suburb, with his wife Consueva and four children. Sherry, 11; Marilyn, 9; Steven, 6, and Marjorie, 3.

HIS CLOSEST contact with Mele is through his son, who is a pitcher. He is coached by Mele's son.

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Minneapolis Morning Tribune
Radio, TV, 14, 15
Comics, 16
SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1961

Twins' Pascual, Killebrew Combine to Stop Yanks 4-0

Pitcher Camilo Pascual's fast ball, his arm and slugging Harmon Killebrew's bat carried the New York Yankees Friday night at Metropolitan stadium before 10,949 persons.

It was a welcome victory for new manager Sam Mele, who replaced Cookie Lavagetto yesterday afternoon.

Pascual pitched a six-hitter to end a personal six-game losing streak. He struck out eight and walked only one to fifth triumph in 14 decisions.

Camilo lost won on a 2.0 shutout of Kansas City here May 20.

KILLEBREW batted in all the runs with three hits in four trips, including his 20th homer—hit at the Max. He hit his average in .318 with a one-run single in the first inning, a two-run homer in the third and a one-run double in the seventh.

The Twins dropped the second-place Yankees two games off the pace of first-place Detroit in the American league and handed pitcher Bob Turley his fourth straight loss.

MICKY MANTLE of the Yankees got two hits off Pascual. But Camilo never gave up more than a hit per inning. He pitched to Mickey Mantle in the first, Bill Skovron in the second, Mantle's single in the fifth, Mantle's double in the sixth and Yogi Berra's infield scratch off Pascual's pitcher in the ninth.

No Yankee advanced beyond second base. Pascual was fast, showed an excellent curve and effective change-up.

Pascual said, "I used my fast ball more to set up the curve I had control. Before the batter knew, I couldn't get the curve over so they waited for the fast one. Tonight, I went more with fast ball and then threw the curve for the hit without it."

Catcher Earl Battier went out for the Twins.

Twins' box score: Yankees 4, Twins 0.

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CUETO AGAINST SHEDDON TODAY
Pitchers for the second game of the Minnesota-New York series at 1:30 today in Metropolitan stadium will be rookie Bert Cueto of the Twins (0-1) vs. Rollie Sheldon of the Yankees (2-2).

In the final Sunday at 1:30, Jack Knick (16-4) will work for the Twins against Bill Stafford of New York.

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Bruton Hits Pair, Tigers Rap Tribe

CLEVELAND Ohio—Bill Bruton drove in four runs with two homers to lead the Indians to a 15-7 victory over the Cleveland Indians Friday night in a battle of home runs.

The Indians hit five homers with the bases empty, one short of a major league record. Chuck Essagian had two.

Tito Franzen, Ruben Phillips and John Romano hit one each. Colavito and Dick McAuliffe also homered for the Tigers.

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Powerful As A Lion—Quiet As A Kitten
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