

HARTMAN'S Roundup

By Sid Hartman

Mincher Tags Buddy, But Likes His Pitching

DON MINCHER HIT a fourth-inning home run Friday off the 1960 Charlton teammate, pitcher Joe McClain. But the Minnesota Twins first baseman wasn't surprised to see McClain score his second major league homer.

"When Joe lost last year it was because we didn't get him any runs," said Mincher. "He was the type of pitcher who never got in trouble by walking people. They had to beat him with base hits."

Del Wilber, Twins scout who managed McClain at Charlton last year, wasn't surprised to see McClain score his second major league victory.

"If it wasn't for McClain and Jim Kaat (present Twin pitcher) we wouldn't have won any games last year," said Wilber.

Turned Down: McClain, who had an 11-14 record last year, came to Charlton as an all-player package deal from the St. Louis Cardinals' Rochester farm for a total of \$14,000.

In fact, Marvin Milkes, general manager of the Charlton club, said McClain's value was estimated at only about \$100.

"The Twins could have bought McClain for \$13,000 but their scouting reports gave him only an outside chance. All of the major league clubs later turned down McClain in the player draft. It was Ed Doherty, former president of the American Association, who reacquired McClain when he drafted the right-handed pitcher and paid \$25,000 for his services."

"I've only had one bad year," said McClain. "That was in 1959 when I pitched less than 100 innings for Rochester and won three and lost eight in relief."

McClain said he didn't have any special reason for wanting to beat the Twins Friday even though they pitched him up on the Charlton roster.

"The club I would like to pitch against some day is the St. Louis Cardinals," said Joe. "They never gave me a chance to make their club before selling me to Charlton."

Not Ready: Twins manager Cookie Lavagetto seemed josh hitting him in the late innings Friday but slugger Harmon Killebrew said his leg wasn't well enough for him to hit.

"I hadn't swung a bat from the time I was hurt last week until Friday," said Harmon. "When I tried to hit today (Friday), I learned that I was real stiff. I wasn't in any shape to help the club."

Long Story: Dale Long, whose home run and single helped the Senators beat the Twins, hated to leave the New York Yankees, but at the same time he was glad the Senators thought enough of him to draft him off the Yankee roster.

"With the Yankees you have a good chance to pick up the big money in the World Series," said Long. "But on the other hand, I wasn't playing regular with them and I can play every day with Washington I might be better off."

Long, who set a record by hitting home runs in eight straight games while a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1956, has a sister who lives in Moorhead. Her name is Mrs. Ralph Christianson and she has been a Minnesota resident 15 years.

Joltings: Twenty-two hundred people bought tickets for the opener and didn't show up.

"When the Twins lost, it brought to mind the number of American league teams which lost their first game at home. And Los Angeles could make it 10 when it opens its season next week against the Twins."

Billy Gardner: Twin second baseman, thought one of the reasons for Friday's loss may have been that all the players were pressing too much because they wanted to reward the home fans with a victory.

"Tommy McKenna, the Washington trainer who was with the Minnesota Millers for years, said he has never seen small towns around the city as spirited as the Senators."

Mickey Vernon: Senator manager who was a coach with Pittsburgh last year, thinks that the Pirates can repeat as National league champions. "They won a lot of games in the late innings last year, and this may be tough to do again," said Mickey. "But this is the type of club that will be just as hungry this year."

Washington writers were bragging about the fact that their home opener in the new stadium's capital drew the largest crowd in Washington history, 26,725 compared to 24,606 by the Twins.

They Say: East Battery, Twin catcher, Camilo Pascual showed the effect of too much rest in the first few innings. He appeared tight and was pushing the ball. But he finished strong.

Eddie Lopat, Twin pitching coach: "This ball park certainly favors the hitters the way the wind blows."

Senators' Long Predicts Big Gate for Twins

Can the Minnesota Twins write another Milwaukee Braves' attendance story in their inaugural year?

"I don't see why not," said Washington Senator's first baseman Dale Long.

"The Twins are going to get support from all these small towns around the city as spirited as the Senators. We can go as high as the Senators in attendance, especially if the club goes as well as the champions. They won a lot of games in the late innings last year, and this may be tough to do again," said Mickey. "But this is the type of club that will be just as hungry this year."

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Gophers Fall 5-3 to Michigan Nine

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—The loss left the Gophers with a 9-6 season record, 0-1 in the Big Ten. Michigan, Michigan to defeat defending Big Ten champion Minnesota 5-3 in the league opener for both teams.

Timely long ball hitting and a defense that produced three double plays kept the Wolverine victory.

Hong's ninth-inning bid off Gopher pitcher Howard Natche broke a 3-3 tie produced by Jim Anderson's homer in the top of the ninth for Minnesota.

Minnesota took a 2-0 lead in the first inning on Wayne Knapp's single, two errors and a walk. Further offense was smothered when Michigan pitcher Mike Joyce pitched Gopher Cal Roloff off first base.

Natche was in control until the Michigan sixth when Barry Marshall honored after Joyce had scratched an infield single and Joe Jones singled.

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Minnesota	Michigan
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
Total	Total
5	3

Tigers Hand Angels 5th Straight Loss

DETROIT, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Tigers dealt the Los Angeles Angels their fifth straight defeat 9-1 Friday. They backed Don Moss' smooth eight-inning pitching with an 11-hit attack that included Rocky Colavito's three-run homer in the first inning.

Winning for the fifth time in six starts, the Tigers pitched for five runs in the fifth inning against Casale and Tex Clevenger. Moss led the spurge with a single and Wood drove in a perfect hit and beat it out for a hit.

The only run Moss yielded was a booming home run by the Detroit Tiger Steve Biko leading off the fourth inning.

Detroit	Los Angeles
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
Total	Total
9	1

Pender Puts Title on Line Against Basilio Tonight

BOSTON, Mass. (AP)—Paul Pender and old pro Carmen Basilio Friday finished preparations for tonight's scheduled 15-round battle for Pender's version of the middleweight title, each vowing respect for the other and some mild surprise at the 2-1 odds favoring the champion.

Pender is expected to go in at about 128 or 130 for this third defense of his title recognized in Massachusetts.

A group of fans from Billings, Mont., rode 800 miles, arriving at 4:30 a.m. to see the twins' inaugural.

Home Opener
 Opening-day attendance at Metropolitan stadium was announced at 24,606 in 63-degree weather.

This was the turnstile record. Ticket manager Charlie Lavender of the Twins estimated 2,200 persons who bought tickets did not use them.

The transplanted Twins' best opening day in Washington was 31,728 at the Yankees, April 19, 1948.

The background screen in center field could be a real help to hitters if it were a little darker. "Earl explained 'For left-handed hitters it's not bad, because it puts the ball against the dark background.'"

"But for a right hander (like Battery) it's a little harder to take. If it were extended about 10 feet more it would be perfect. For catching it's not good. The ball is visible all the way in."



'Official' Fans Top levels in baseball and politics watched the Twins bow to Washington in their home opener Friday at Metropolitan stadium. Left to right row are Twins president Calvin Griffith, Gov. Elmer L. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Griffith. Behind them, left to right, are Joe Cronin, president of the American league, baseball commissioner Ford Frick, Will Harridge, former American league president and now chairman of the board, Mrs. Cronin and Mrs. D. Meredith Wilson, wife of the University of Minnesota president.

HOW VISITING WRITERS VIEWED TWINS' OPENER

These were the reactions of national sports writers Friday as they covered the Twins' home opener against Washington.

Morris Siegel, Washington Daily News: Tonight Calvin Griffith is probably wishing the American league hadn't given him and his Twins permission to defect from Washington. Griffith in full view of 24,606 of his constituents, must have suffered one of the most embarrassing moments of his life Friday as the franchise he left for dead in the nation's capital returned in the form of a very lively group to haunt the Twins, 5-3, and blight Minnesota's first official peek at major league baseball.

Bob Adde, Washington Post: The freshman baseball representatives of Washington, who could be called the "formal Twins" of the new Minneapolis-St. Paul ball club, Friday gained a measure of respect for being left at the altar.

"Major league baseball made its glamorous (and deserved) bow in the thriving northwest; but it was a sour debut for the Twin Cities who were knocked out of the league lead by the battling Senators 5-3."

Howard Barry, Chicago Tribune: The opening day crowd of 24,606 had a chance to make the \$9,000,000 incriminated stadium shake with enthusiastic cheering from time to time during this gray afternoon, but they went home losers as Washington's new Senators beat Minnesota's new Twins 5-3.

Joseph Sheehan, New York Times: Minnesota's Twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul had their first taste of major league baseball Friday and found it bitter. In their home opener, the transplanted Twins lost, 5-3, to the new Senators from Washington, the former operating base of the team Calvin Griffith moved here last October.

Billy Ryzon, Des Moines Register: Washington's new baseball administration struck with unexpected authority Friday and blighted opening festivities for the old Senators in their new Minnesota home. 5-3.

Batley Suggests Darker Screen in Center Field

Minnesota Twins catcher Earl Batley called Metropolitan stadium a "good batter's park" Friday, then offered a suggestion—one minor change.

"The background screen in center field could be a real help to hitters if it were a little darker. 'Earl explained 'For left-handed hitters it's not bad, because it puts the ball against the dark background.'"

"But for a right hander (like Battery) it's a little harder to take. If it were extended about 10 feet more it would be perfect. For catching it's not good. The ball is visible all the way in."

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