



**Sid Hartman**

The Twins continued their policy Tuesday of refusing to permit a large crowd for big opening-day crowds. They have now lost three of the last four home openings before large crowds: In 1979 33,529 saw them lose to California; in 1980 they beat California before 38,288; last year they lost to Oakland before 42,858 and last night they lost to Seattle before 52,278, the largest home crowd in history.

Twins Owner Calvin Griffith liked everything but the score.

"One thing we learned tonight," said Griffith, "is that they can hit home runs in all fields. I bet you thought that the home runs would be hit to the short right-field fence (27' at the foul-line). There are going to be a lot of home runs hit in this Metrodome."

Calvin was unhappy with the defense and starting pitcher Pete Rose and reliever Bobby Castillo, who both "kept getting their pitches up."

Griffith saved special praise for Gary Gantli, who hit two home runs and just missed another. He was called out at home on an inside-the-park effort. "I said before that Gantli has Korman Killen-type power," said Griffith. "He can hit the ball out of any park."

There was one surprise in the starting line-up: Mickey Hatcher started in left field in place of Gary Ward, who was the designated hitter. The Twins were showcasing Hatcher and, possibly, catcher Dutch Wyegar to Toronto representatives. Toronto officials were in Minneapolis to see their team play one of two exhibition games against the Chicago White Sox.

Twins Executive Vice President Howard Plet has been talking to Blue Jays officials about a trade for either pitchers Dave Stieb or Jim Clancy. The Blue Jays must be interested as General Manager Pat Gillick and former Manager Bobby Mattick, now a chief scout, wouldn't be here to watch the series with Seattle.

**Melochio signs**

Gaetano Melochio and center Bobby Smith of the Minnesota North Stars have been playing out their options this season. But yesterday Melochio opted for a contract, signing a three-year agreement with Minnesota.

"If Gilly had not been able to sign today (Tuesday) we wouldn't have talked until after the playoffs," said Melvin Krimm, Melochio's agent.

Melochio was happy to have the contract off his mind. There are no plans to talk to Smith until after the playoffs.

**Name fears Esposito**

Tony Esposito broke a finger on his right hand a week ago and won't be in the nets for the Chicago Black Hawks when they face the Minnesota North Stars tonight in the opening round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Murray Bannerman, who was in the nets Sunday when the Black Hawks beat the North Stars 4-3, will work again tonight.

North Star General Manager Lou Nanne doesn't wish his friend Esposito back, but...

"I won't be unhappy if we don't see Esposito the entire series," said Nanne, a teammate of Esposito's at South St. Marie, Ontario. "When Tony is on his game, he is the equal of any goaltender in the NHL. He has had the experience of Stanley Cup competition and has always played well against us. I recall the first year the Islanders won the Stanley Cup. They had to beat Tony in overtime of a first-round game to advance. Bannerman was tough against us, though. And he played well against St. Louis last Saturday."

Nanne thinks the North Stars, 3-2-1 with the Black Hawks this year, have an advantage in the series because, "we are a much more disciplined team. We don't take stupid penalties like they do. Al Secord is a solid hockey player. But he is one of the Black Hawks who likes to take some of those dumb penalties, the type that will help our strong power play. He does play a physical game. But he would be better off if he would keep his hands to himself once the whistle blows."

**New contract for Dutcher**

Once Minnesota basketball Coach Jim Dutcher completes his recruiting this year, he and Athletic Director Paul Giel will sit down to work out a multi-year contract.

Dutcher will be on the last year of a three-year contract next season.

"I told Paul I'd rather wait until our recruiting is over for this year before we discuss a new contract," said Dutcher. "The recruiting next season would be tough if I didn't have a contract beyond the 1982-83 season. And it is always uncomfortable for your assistant when you're on the last year of a contract."

Dutcher plans to sign three recruits on April 15, the first day players can be signed to national letters of intent. They are 6-foot-11 John Shanley of Birmingham, Mich.; Eric High School; Marc Wilson, a 6-2 guard from Aberdeen, Md.; and Dave Dakota, a 6-5 forward from Chicago.

"We want to sign at least one more guard and one more forward," Dutcher said. "We will have a good chance to recruit Horace MacMillan, the Quincy, Fla. forward. I visited him last week. And we are talking to Bernard Jackson, the player of the year in Chicago and a couple of other outstanding guards."

**Lettings:**

Calvin Griffith continues to let players who leave here. Pete Macchia was released by the Chicago White Sox and Glenn Adams by Toronto. Both left the Twins as free agents after last season. And Ron Jackson, who was traded to Detroit, will start the season with California's minor-league team in Spokane. He has a one-year contract with the Angels.

Garry White, the former Gopher full-back, has signed a one-year contract as a free agent with the Buffalo Bills. Randy Sonnenfeld, former Gopher tight end, has signed as a free agent with the San Diego Chargers. Quarterback Steve, cornerback Walt Williams and tight end Bob Brewer, visiting free agents, have until April 15 to present offers from other teams for the Vikings to match. None has brought an offer yet and are expected to wind up with the Vikings. Dutcher received a telegram from the athletic director of Arizona State asking if he has any interest in the basketball position there. Dutcher has no interest.

Erin Golden, Gopher basketball guard Marc Ball is registered at the University for the spring quarter. He still is on scholarship.

Bill Coffield, former Wisconsin coach, will appear at Dutcher's basketball camp this summer. Tom Davis, the former Boston College coach now at Stanford, and Dick Walters, Evanston coach, turned down the chance to succeed Coffield. The Wisconsin coach is expected to be Bob Doerwald, former Indiana assistant under Bobby Knight, who has been at Illinois State. He can have the Badger position if he wants it. The bad weather delayed the start of Gopher football practice again Tuesday.

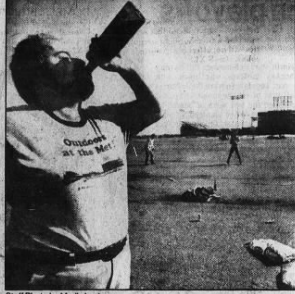
North Star president John Kirt says there will be no developments regarding an indoor soccer team here until the end of the Major Indoor Soccer playoffs. The North Stars said all but 2,000 seats in fans who bought playoff tickets for the first seven games. Most of the 2,000 tickets for tonight's game were gone late yesterday.



Staff Photo by Neil McGehee  
As a guy hawked T-shirts, Randy and Pam Krzmarzok of Sleepy Eye, Minn., circled the Metrodome with signs of protest.



Staff Photo by Martin Levinson  
At Metropolitan Stadium, members of the "Save the Met" group staged a sit-in near the left-field bleachers.



Staff Photo by Martin Levinson  
Dave Anderson stated his third Tuesday afternoon in the Metropolitan Stadium parking lot, where he and friends from Cottage Grove had a tailgate party before going on to the Twins baseball game at the Metrodome.

**All were counted in Domesday Book**

It wasn't a sellout, but most of the Metrodome's 64,711 seats were filled Tuesday night for the Twins' American League opener with Seattle.

There were the civic leaders, for whom the dome was a symbol of pride in accomplishment and hope for the city's future.

There were the protesters, whose signs and shouts were in the air long after the matter was taken out of their hands.

There were the curious, who wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

And finally there were the fans. And a long-awaited baseball game.



Staff Photo by Neil McGehee  
Looking like refugees from a B-52s concert, Erin Golden, left, and Zhamneta Borisov came wearing "dome-do's."

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