



# Sports

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## Mariners torpedo Twins 11-7

By Jay Weiner  
Staff Writer

One game does not make a baseball season, but it sure makes a difference.

All winter long, all spring long, the propaganda was strong, the mood supposedly was cast. The Twins, it appeared, would rely on speed, defense and pitching while picking their offensive spots.

"Vice versa," Billy Gardner said.

"We played loose." And he was talking about Tuesday night when he chose to rely on power and very little else.

Before the largest baseball audience in Minnesota history, 52,274, the Twins started their American League season by letting the Seattle Mariners slip through their hands 11-7.

It was not an ideal first impression. Instead, it was an opening muffle with a collection of ailments.

Gary Gaetti, the rookie third baseman, almost hit three home runs. He had to settle for two.

Dave Klinge, the right fielder, almost executed a show-top catch. He had to settle for a home run and the memory of two botched plays. "It really took away from my evening," he said of his fielding.

Mickey Hatcher, the left fielder, almost held on to a bloop single, but ultimately let it go. He had to settle for a margin of defeat. He had to

settle for a location near his left eye.

Sure, the Twins fought back from being on the short end of 4-1 score in the fourth inning. Sure, they charged back from a 10-4 disadvantage to make things interesting by the end of the eighth inning.

But the Mariners, whom the Twins need to beat to establish some credibility in the A.L. West, scrambled better, according to Twins starter and loser Pete Roeder for five runs in

five innings and then assaulting the team's top middle-inning reliever, Bobby Castillo, for five more runs in just a two-inning span.

Meanwhile, the Mariners were getting 7½ innings and 10 strikeouts from their left-handed starter and winner, Floyd Banister and a sully save from Mike Stanton. Banister, a free agent at season's end and desired by every team with a healthy checkbook, suggested his performance was inconsistent last night. The Twins could have claimed the

same.

Roeder pointed to a two-run third-inning single by Mariners second baseman John Cruz, off a down-the-middle foulball, as the disasterly mistake he would have preferred to avoid.

Gardner pointed to the Jim Mauer base-loaded single in the seventh inning, just out of Hatcher's reach, as the difference. Mauer, the Mariners' ace, said, although no one had yet been

## Stars have new role as favorite in playoffs

By Dan Steneking  
Staff Writer

North Stars defenseman Bill Nyrop's hockey uniform was black with sweat Tuesday. So were the uniforms of most of his teammates who had finished the last workout before last night's best-of-five Stanley Cup playoff series against Chicago at West Center.

"If you don't work, you don't sweat," said Nyrop.

The North Stars recent playoff record has been built upon the work ethic. Minnesota has had a roller-coaster regular season record the last two years. They have slumped in December and sputtered now and then.

But they have been a consistent playoff team, at home and in the enemy's rink. Two years ago, they knocked Montreal out in the quarterfinals, winning three times in the Forum. Last year, Minnesota was in Boston for the first time in 14 years and reached the finals against the New York Islanders.

Those successes have earned Coach Glen Sather's team a favorite's label in this year's spring tournament. It is a new role.

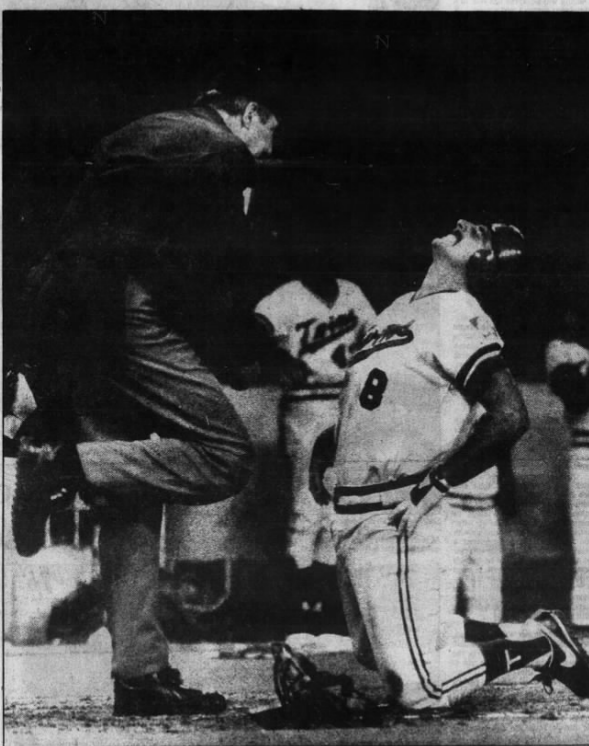
"It is different when you are favored," said Nyrop, who knows the feeling. He was always favored when he played with Montreal, helping the Canadiens win three straight Stanley Cups until he retired for two years after the 1978 season.

"Tougher? I don't know about that. The playoffs are always tough. This series with Chicago could be the toughest we have. It is a challenge and that is what you remember in June and July, the challenges you had and how you handled them.

The Stars split with Chicago during the regular season, winning three, losing three and playing to one tie, which the rules don't allow in the playoffs.

Despite being 500 against Chicago, the team exudes a confidence about eliminating the Black Hawks.

"I think we are aware of how well Stars continued on page 5D



Staff Photo by Regene Radzicki  
Umpire Bill Haller told Gary Gaetti in no uncertain terms that he had failed in his second-inning attempt to stretch a triple into an inside-the-home run Tuesday night at the Metrodome.

## NCAA penalties called inconsistent, selective

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles exploring the problems plaguing college athletics.

By Gordon S. White Jr.  
New York Times

New York, N.Y. Minutes after the 1800 Dapper Dan high school all-star basketball game had ended in Pittsburgh, two NCAA enforcement officers noticed that Sam Perkin, one of the most tightly recruited athletes in the game, was

missing, along with the head coach from the University of San Francisco.

Suspecting that an attempt had been made to hide Perkin so that other coaches would not have a chance to speak with him, the NCAA officers went to Perkin's hotel and, in true detective style, stalked out the lobby.

Their patience was rewarded, according to David Berni, the director of enforcement for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. At 3

a.m. a van driven by a San Francisco coach stopped in front of the hotel. Perkin got out and entered the building.

The two NCAA officials went to Perkin's room, where he admitted that the San Francisco head coach and an assistant had whisked him off to a restaurant and hotel and dined him, a violation of NCAA rules.

Seven months later San Francisco, which had just finished serving a one-year probation for breaking

NCAA rules, was given one more year's probation. The dinner was one of eight violations of NCAA rules that led to the second probation period for the Doos.

San Francisco did not even have the satisfaction of getting Perkin. The Brooklyn-born forward, who now lives in Latham, N.Y., went to the University of North Carolina, where he is now starting for the NCAA champion Tar Heels.

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## Storms postpone 6 baseball openers

Associated Press

Chicago, Ill. The late-breaking winter storms that forced postponement of six baseball openers Tuesday reminded the argument over whether it wouldn't be wiser to open the major league season in domed ball parks or warm-weather cities.

"That raises a sore spot and upsets me," said Chicago White Sox Manager Tony LaRussa, whose team has been covered out of both games of its scheduled season-opening series against the Boston Red Sox.

Both yesterday's game, rescheduled once to today, and Thursday's game will be made up, a club spokesman said, although no date had yet been determined.

"Can you imagine California playing at Oakland?" asked LaRussa. "Two warm-weather cities. And what about Seattle opening at Minnesota? Two teams with games. It just doesn't make any sense."

And that fact was not lost on LaRussa's Sox. White Sox co-owner Jerry Reinsdorf, another opponent of opening the season in cold-weather cities.

"I think it's outrageous that Minnesota and Seattle both can open in domes, but are playing each other," said Reinsdorf. "And that Oakland and California play each other in warm weather."

"But California doesn't want to schedule a lot of games at home while the kids are in school and they don't want to be playing at home when the (Los Angeles) Dodgers are gone," added Reinsdorf. "That's ridiculous."

Other American League openers postponed involved Texas at New York, Toronto at Detroit and Cleveland at Milwaukee. In the National League the New York Mets at Philadelphia and Montreal at Pittsburgh were postponed.

Near blizzard conditions with snowfall predicted to reach 13 inches in New York forced the postponement of the game between the Rangers and Yankees. The Yankees are not scheduled to play until tomorrow.

The Tigers announced yesterday that today's home opener and tomorrow's game against Toronto had been called off. The postponement was the second in two days the opener had been delayed because of temperatures in the 20s.

An old argument of fans wanting an early opening day of games no longer holds because most important games are televised and fans would just as soon sit home and watch their favorites on television rather than brave snow, rain, wind and cold at some ball park.

Probably the most important factor of losing a home opener to the weather is the loss of fans and revenue.

Storms continued on page 5D

## Jumping on Metrodome Bandwagon is hard for the doubters



Joe Soucheray

Running all out, clutching my hat to my head and pumping wildly with my free arm, I still couldn't catch the Metrodome Bandwagon. It braked to a stop outside the Metrodome Tuesday evening and unfolded 52,274 partygoers who can claim the distinction of being able to see a baseball game in Minneapolis while similar contacts were snuffed out in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, New York and Philadelphia.

Through the revolving portal they rushed into the cozy inn that the fans among us cartwheel — new team caps with every team — the inn just of Jim Tracy's Little Big Band. Tracy's wandering minstrel

performed at the old Met. They performed in the Metrodome as well, showing up here and there in the stands between innings, their leader identified by a Greek letter's cap. Occasionally they have been able to coax the audience into swaying.

But among the thousands of human mysteries that are beyond me is why we still have Jim Tracy's Little Big Band when the Metrodome has been equipped with the most thunderingly efficient sound system of any stadium in the universe. Tracy is a fine fellow and he has brought music to the ballpark, past and present, but why not show off the new

gear and perhaps limit the Little Big Band to a serenade or two in the outer concourses?

It's merely a suggestion, offered in good faith. Another might be for Calvin Griffith to give the public address man, Bob Conry, a long-term contract. Last night it was Conry who made an announcement after someone had thrown a cherry bomb onto the field in the eighth inning.

"That was not too smart," Conry said, for it seemed to be a crowd that needed to be told so much, laggard and stoned from too many months of back slapping.

College athletics  
Is winning everything?

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I'm trying, I really am. A gentleman I admire and trust has warned me to broaden my perspective regarding the covered baseball and football facilities lest I come off as generally sour.

"You do not want that, do you?" said the man I admire and trust.

"Why, no, I don't," I said, checking my palms for heat. I'm happy about many things and plan to move along to them when the dome opening recesses itself."

"Go get em," said the man I admire and trust.

As I mentioned, I have been trying to catch the Metrodome Bandwagon, that careening and unbalancing contraption that seems to be powered by the force of a good civic sense. You see it everywhere, even in the cafeteria of this newspaper, where yesterday noon, in honor of Opening Night, the food handlers wore baseball caps and hung bunting above the salad bar.

There was a popcorn popper up there, too, but the tune it played suffered from a weak battery.

Deeper into downtown yesterday afternoon I encountered a solitary just Soucheray continued on page 5D