

# Twins sign Miller as manager after firing Gardner

The Minnesota Twins Friday fired manager Billy Gardner and hired Baltimore Orioles pitching coach Ray Miller to replace him.

Miller, the 10th manager in the Twins' history, agreed to a contract that runs until the end of 1986. For now, the entire coaching staff will remain.

At a press conference yesterday afternoon at the Metrodome, Miller, 40, said managing the Twins, "is a job that I can admit that I've coveted over the last couple of years . . . It's a relatively young club, an aggressive club, a club that has a very strong and promising future for me. I think it's the right age group for me to handle."

Miller, with three years of managing in the Puerto Rican winter league behind him, has been Baltimore's pitching coach since 1978. He has coached five 20-game winners and two Cy Young Award winners. He was in the Baltimore organization for 16 years as a player and coach.

Gardner, meanwhile, left for his home in Waterford, Conn. This had been his first major league managing job after several years in the minors.

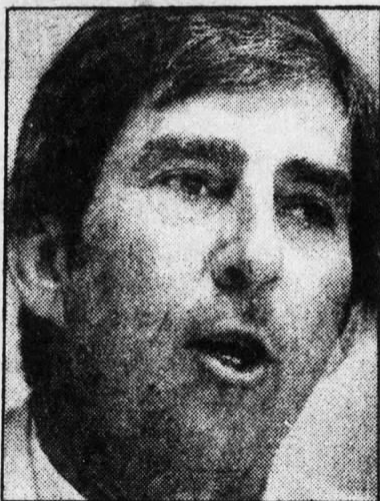
Gardner was hired May 22, 1981, when he took over after John Goryl was fired. The next season, the Twins were 60-102. Some of the current players were rookies in 1982 and Gardner stuck with them.

He said he wasn't surprised by the move. "I'd seen it coming for about a week," he said. "You don't have to be a genius to see the writing on the wall."

Twins continued on page 8A



**Billy Gardner**



**Ray Miller**

■ Players and fans talk about the news about the Twins' new manager. So does Billy Gardner. And Doug Grow's column today is about the change. Those stories in today's Sports, D section.