

Minneapolis **Tribune**

Sports/
Business

1C
Sunday
July 20
1975

Twins old-timers come home again



By Joe Souchterey
Staff Writer

The organ player was pumping out a slow and easy version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," and the tanned and agile men, most in their 60s, stood around hitting caps in the old gray uniforms the Twins used to wear on the road.

They laughed at themselves for being called old-timers and when Earl Battey rolled his big frame into the cage and his three home runs in the left field bleachers, he turned around and yelled out, "Get Calvin out here, get Calvin out here. I just took the ball downtown for Calvin."

"Ah, that feels so sweet," Battey said. "Still got a nice swing, don't

"See any big change between your teams and the current Twins?" Battey was asked.

"Big changes," Battey said. "We were huddles. See, we had mostly the same salaries and educational levels, there wasn't much cause for separation then. We were friends. And we drew people. We weren't drawing many people now."

We, Battey, Green, Camilo Pascual, Zoilo Versalles, Johnny Gory, Rene Alon, all of them used the word "we," as if their present occupations were something temporary until they can return to the ballpark. Battey lives in New York City and teaches emotionally disturbed boys how to play baseball. Green works in the security division of Ford Motor Co. in Detroit. But it is "we."

"Flake" is a fairly common word around locker rooms and ball parks. It is seldom used in a complimentary sense. A flake, most often, is a player on another team who does things the speaker considers poorly, dippy or inexplicable. Buddies aren't flakes.

Jackie Brandt, a baseball player, once drove a carload of teammates 30 miles to a place he had discovered that offered 32 flavors of ice cream. Then Brandt ordered a vanilla cone.

When Leo Cardenas was short-stopping for the Twins it took him three hours to prepare for a game. The ritual, which included polishing his own shoes and dining on fried chicken, was unalterable. To break a batting slump, Cardenas loaded all of the bats in his car and drove around a cemetery at midnight to remove the curse somebody had put on them.

When Fred Dryer was a rookie with the New York Giants he showed up for a public affair in his everyday costume — T-shirt and jeans. Next time wear a sportcoat and tie, he was told, so next time he did. But no shirt.

When storm clouds appeared, Wilf Tashy, a Baltimore outfielder, removed his spikes. They stayed off until the sky cleared. (If the Twins might adopt this habit, Sam Seccad always does it.)

Bert Rechichka, one-time Colts placekicker, didn't actually live anywhere. He'd keep a razor and a toothbrush behind the bar in one alcove, a pair of pants and some shirts hanging in the kitchen of a favorite eating place and extra shoes somewhere else. He slept wherever he was whenever he felt like it and his entire bankroll would be in his right-hand pocket at all times.

Such people brighten the lives of teammates and friends, adding spice to a routine that is regimented, grueling and often distressingly dull. Outsiders call them flakes, but they're good to have around.

"Now, it doesn't bother me when people call me a flake," Minnesota Yankee Bob Lurtzema said recently. "It's like beauty — in the eye of the beholder. Let me give you an example."

"See, I'm having a here or there with some of the other guys, closing around and laughing. At one table will be some serious people, nicely staffed and having 1.8 martinis to prove that they're regular guys. Mainly they're sitting there plotting how to get the next guy up to the leader. They look at me and say, 'Disgusting. Doesn't he know he has an image to maintain?'"

"At another table it's a bunch just like us. Relaxing, joking, having around. They look over and say, 'Hey, ol' Lurtz is an OK guy. Common as an old shoe.'"

"At a third table the people just don't relate at all. They say, 'That guy's got to be crazy.'"

"So there you are. Three opinions from the same nose. How can I let a loather me? I'd go nuts trying to please everybody and I couldn't do anything," he said.

Lurtzema closes around a lot because life's not worth living if you can't laugh a lot and sometimes because something is bothering me." But more often than not, Lurtzema comes across as a Sancho Panza, the unwitting or helpless victim of circumstances.

For instance, his final day on the New York Giants roster, Wellington Mara, president of the Giants, believes in family-style football. He



Larry Batson

Twins split two games with Yanks

By Joe Souchterey
Staff Writer

Jim Hughes won his eighth game of the year for the Twins Saturday night at Metropolitan Stadium, a 7-6 win over the New York Yankees, who twice loaded the bases but collected only four hits off Hughes.

Before that game the Twins took a 7-6 lead in the 18th inning of their suspended game, only to lose 8-7 when New York, playing as the home team, got two runs in the bottom of the inning.

Hughes was effective despite using a club record for walks — nine. He pitched himself into trouble and then called on a mixture of fastballs and palm balls to get out of trouble, something he has not been able to do through most of June and July. Last night's win was his second since May 28, the month he was the American League's Player of the Month.

Mostly what Hughes did was party 37,602 fans, the largest turnout since Eddie Bane made his debut on July 4, 1952. And for once, the Twins came back to take the lead and did not die in the sixth inning. The Yankees had two baserunners but Tom Turtner came in and got Craig Nettles in ground out.

Doc Medich went 6 2/3 innings for the Yankees and was as effective as Hughes during that span but finally wore out.

The Twins finally got to Medich in the sixth when Eric Soderholm led off with a walk and Lyman Bostock got his third single of the game, his second infield hit. Glenn Borgmann hit a single into shallow center to lead the bases and Danzy Thompson, who batted for Luis Gomez, lined a double down the right-field line that scored Soderholm and Bostock.

Up until the sixth Medich had frustrated the Twins with a hunt-a-mile here and there. Even Tony Oliva beat out a hit that Yankees shortstop Jim Mason bobbled for a moment. Medich seemed content with the one-run Yankees managed off Hughes in the third inning when Sandy Alomar walked and Bobby Bonds beat out an infield hit. Alomar scored when Roy White grounded out.

The Yankees might have had a couple of first-inning runs until Borgmann discovered that Yankee catcher Thurmon Munson came to the plate with an illegal bat. White started the inning by getting a single off Hughes's shoe and then stole second. Munson singled to right but Borgmann appealed to plate umpire Art Franzt that Munson's bat had too much pine tar on it. Franzt agreed. A foreign substance cannot be cooler than 18 inches to the next end of the bat. Munson was out and Hughes escaped the inning without a run.

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Former Twins outfielder Bob Allison, left, appeared a humorous moment with former Twins second baseman Frank Quilici, now the manager, before Saturday's Old-Timers game.

3 share Women's Open lead

Associated Press

Northfield, N.J. Sandra Post of Canada hooped the 18th hole and slipped into a tie for the lead with Sandra Palmer and Sally Little after Sandra's six-hole round of the \$55,000 U.S. Women's Open golf championship.

Each had 54-hole totals of 223, one stroke ahead of amateur Nancy Lopez, 18, of Roswell, N.M., and pro JoAnne Carner and Debbie Austin.

Miss Lopez started the day tied with Miss Post for the lead but gained a 5-over-par 77 and a three-round total of 224.

Defending champion Sandra Haynie and rookie pro Amy Alcock finished the third round at 225, in 2000 position to challenge in today's final round of the 72-hole event worth \$8,000 to the winner.

Miss Post, 27, shot a third-round 76, four over par, as the 42 pros and amateurs still in the field battled strong winds from the nearby Atlantic Ocean and struggled on the hard greens. Miss Palmer, the leading money winner on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour, tied a one-under 71 only the second sub-par effort of the tournament. Miss Little, of South Africa, using a 45-year-old putter, carded a one-over 72.

Miss Palmer, 34, from Texas, started the day five strokes behind the leader. **LPGA continued on page 4C**

Top net seeds lose in meet Edwards leads close golf meet

Associated Press

Sutton, Mass. Rookie Danny Edwards birdied his last two holes for a 68, broke out of the most tightly packed jam of players the tour has seen in years and took the lead Saturday in the \$200,000 Pleasant Valley Golf Classic.

The 24-year-old Edwards put on a fantastic exhibition of scrambling. He one-putted seven holes in a row at one stretch on his way to a three-round total of 207, 10 under par on the hilly, windswept, 7,118-yard Pleasant Valley Country Club course.

The wind was a major factor in turning this into a probably the lightest contest of the season. At one time or another in the third round, eight players either led or shared the lead. At one point, 12 players were within one stroke of each other at the top.

"I've been out here for 13 years, and in all that time I've never seen anything like it," said Don Miranda, the veteran official score for the tour.

Lee Elder, the second-round leader, Ben Crenshaw, Rod Cust and Marj LeMond were tied for second, one shot back at 208.

Chuck Courtney, Rudy Allyn and George Johnson were at 208, making eight players within two

6-2 in one semifinal. Fourth-seeded Peterson, who won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics singles title this spring under Coach Wilkinson at Gustavus, beat second-seeded Jerry Boyce of Minneapolis 6-3, 6-4.

The two will meet at 1:30 p.m. today in a best-of-five set match. At the same time, Chung Ling Chang of Taiwan will play Sue Noroworthy of Conn Rapids for the women's singles title. The No. 1-seeded Ms. Chang defeated Meg Moran of Rochester, 6-3, and No. 8-seeded

"It was a very poorly played match on my part," Wilkinson said later. "That first game made a difference. It was sort of the story of the match — I had lots of opportunities but I didn't capitalize."

Custi didn't appear upset even when he started slowly, and explained later. "You have to be confident, and you have to convey that confidence to the guy on the other side of the net. That's a part of a match. But first you have to believe in yourself."

Consequently, he said he has a good chance today against Peterson, 22-year-old just-turned pro. Peterson won his first professional effort last week, beating Wilkinson in the finale in a tournament in Aberdeen, S.D. Peterson's play this week in Minneapolis has extended an excellent summer record.

"I lost a match in the No. 1 player at the University of Iowa in March," he said. "But I made up my mind then that I wouldn't lose any more. Since then I've won 49 and lost one. I've been playing well. And I'm improving. I've been playing all the time while these other guys have coaching jobs or clubs to run."

If that's not acting like a "travis" **Tennis continued on page 2C**

Ms. Noroworthy defeated Ellie Peden of Conn Rapids 6-1, 6-0 in yesterday's semifinals.

Custi, who served first in his match yesterday, fell behind love 40. But he battled back to hold his serve, then forced Wilkinson into mistakes throughout the match with some excellent returns and passing shots.

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