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Mauch was different right from the start



Staff Photo by Richard Oleson  
Gene Mauch always kept his eyes on the ball — even during the final lining of his last game as manager of the Minnesota Twins.

His enthusiasm departed with his players

By M. Howard Goffard  
Staff Writer

When Gene Mauch was hired to manage the Minnesota Twins in 1976, his arrival was hailed with typical jock hyperbole as a second coming. Mauch had played for and managed the Minnesota Millers in 1959 and 1961, and after that he had spent 18 years managing big league teams, and now he was inheriting a team that included such promising or proven talents as Larye Spivey, Larry Hale, Rod Carew, Bert Blyleven, Bill Campbell and Tom Brunner.

Over the next three years those men would leave, and with them went the enthusiasm of those who had heard Mauch's arrival. Gene Mauch, it seemed, was the enthusiasm of Gene Mauch himself.

His was a strange and emotional odyssey that befitted a man whose intensity was remarkable even by the standards of most big league managers. He was different right from the start. He came to Minnesota with a three-year contract — a shocking breach of tradition by Calisto Tanzi, who had always preferred giving single one-year contracts to men who were in no position to say no.

Mauch started each spring with genuine enthusiasm, helped by the fact that he would only stay away. Well before the 10 p.m. he would run his hair and put his equipment.

In 1977, with Brunner, Hale and Brunner leaving, he was offered the managerial job at California, and he would have gone if not for Tanzi's refusal to let him. The next year, with Carew packing his bags, he called his players together and laid them out that he wouldn't be back the next year. The next day he agreed to a three-year extension of his contract at \$1 million a year. He would have been glad to get around that he wouldn't finish the year out here, that he was disgusted with players who didn't care and couldn't be motivated.

Not caring was the one thing that Gene Mauch couldn't tolerate. Although there were those who insisted he had declined to be a 54-year-old — 23 of them spent as a major league manager — he continued to create the sort of success that made both players and fans adore him before his petulance.

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Goryl appointed interim manager

By Tom Brice  
Staff Writer

A 28-year career in professional baseball as minor and major league player, minor league coach and manager and major league coach culminated Sunday for John Goryl when he was named interim manager of the Minnesota Twins.

Goryl, 46, married, a native of Lincoln, N. J., and now a resident of Orlando, Fla., replaced Gene Mauch, who resigned unexpectedly yesterday.

"Mauch talked to me Thursday about the possibility of finishing the season," said the bar-tending Goryl, an infielder who played for the Twins in the 1950s and later managed in the Twin minor league farm system for 12 years before taking the big club as coach for the second time in 1979.

"But I wasn't officially informed that the Twins staff (President Charles Gifford) talked to me Saturday. I was delighted at the opportunity. I played and coached under Mauch and I have the greatest admiration and respect for him. I only hope I can contribute to the team's success."

Wilfong: 'We made him quit'

By Tom Brice  
Staff Writer

The Twin clubhouse resembled a morgue Sunday immediately after a 7-0 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers and Manager Gene Mauch's announced resignation.

Perhaps second baseman Bob Wilfong best summarized the reaction of the majority of players when he said, "This club is messed up. We made him quit. If he can't motivate this club, nobody can. I know we're not as bad as we're making out."

Outfielder Rick Seefeldt, Mauch's protégé and a 26-year-old rookie who has projected the outgoing manager as a fatal illness, was choked up and almost in tears.

"I'm disappointed that he didn't say 'I quit' with a grace in his voice," he added. "He helped a lot trying to make it in the major leagues. I was a lot that man."

About the Twin interim Manager John Goryl, Seefeldt said, "I played for him in the minor leagues. He was tough, but I think he has learned a lot from Mauch."

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Changes offer hope as Kicks start play-offs

By Bruce Brothers  
Staff Writer

Washington, D.C. In April, when the Minnesota Kicks were favored to win their fifth straight division championship and Roy McCrabbin was the coach and Geoff Barnett was the backup goalkeeper, Bruce Brothers was little more than insurance for the front line and Ted DeLeon went over to the roster.

Things change. The Kicks, 2-2 leaders in Washington in their season finale at RFK Stadium, got short of the division in the, dominated McCrabbin along the way and shifted Barnett to position as assistant coach. They emerged, Sun suggest, only to finish with a 16-

1 record for second place behind Dallas.

And after Saturday's Dallas victory over Chicago, yesterday's game didn't even matter except to decide which team would oppose which in the upcoming play-offs. For the record, the Kicks open their two-game, first-round, N.A.S.L. play-off series against Dallas at Met Stadium at 8 p.m. Wednesday, then conclude the series Sunday night in Texas.

Also for the record: They will enter the play-offs with the knowledge that Atlanta was dismissed as one of the most-dangerous strikers in the league and DeLeon, a prominent acquisition from Atlanta, can be counted on in goal when necessary.

DeLeon was called on yesterday to begin a match for the first time in 47 games when regular goalkeeper Tim Lester was retired because of a broken shoulder. The 4-foot-4 American shock off his prematch nervousness and state-of-the-art kept Minnesota in the game during the first half.

"It's still good to play again," DeLeon said. "In 10 or 20 minutes at the end of the game, I think we may not get better. It's hard to look for pretty much the first half today. As if any of my first-half saves were reflexes."

Nine of his 19 saves came in that first half, as John Gifford led the Diplomats on an offensive charge before 21,833 RFF spectators. DeLeon

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