



Sports

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1D

Section D/Part 1

Just like old times for perfect Puckett

Center fielder's bat, glove help Twins capture series

By Dennis Brackis Staff Writer

Milwaukee, Wis.
The relative graybeards in the Twins clubhouse found significance in Kirby Puckett's exploits Sunday that transcended statistics. Not that there was anything mundane about Puckett's record-breaking effort in the Twins' 10-6 victory over Milwaukee.

But to those in the clubhouse the performance meant something well beyond numbers. They saw in the weekend performance (10-6-11, four home runs, seven runs scored, six RBIs) the Puckett they once knew.

"It was just like old times," Gary Geitel said. "You could see today just how important Kirby Puckett is to us. He can carry a club. He really can."

Puckett had been carrying much of anything except a 300-plus batting average before coming to Milwaukee.

He had four home runs in 58 games before Sunday, and had driven in only 16 runs since the All-Star break. Relative inexperience almost had forgotten what Puckett could mean.

"Everyone has said that when he hits the way he can, that he can really carry the team," said reliever Jeff Randa, who guided his 23rd save. "So it was good to see him hitting home runs again."

Puckett acknowledged that he had never had a first afternoon. But, as is his custom, he downplayed his accomplishments.

"It was a win. That was the most important thing," he said. "I was just happy I could contribute."

As seasoned as Puckett's contributions were, there were others who played crucial roles in the 3-hour, 37-minute emotional roller coaster.

The Twins led 2-0 after three innings, trailed 3-2 after four, led 5-3 after five, trailed 6-2 after six, and finally erased the deficit in the eighth inning.

"It didn't seem like it was going to end," said rookie Gene Larkin.

The AL West race			
	W	L	Pct.
Twins	69	63	.523
Oakland	67	65	.510
California	65	66	.496
Texas	61	69	.467

Results Sunday			
Twins 10, Milwaukee 6	Twins 10, Oakland 5	California 6, Baltimore 2	Detroit 7, Seattle 1
San Diego 7, Kansas City 1	Chicago 7, New York 4	St. Louis 1, Kansas City 1	Los Angeles 7, Houston 4

Twins' next game • Twins @ Braves 6-10 vs. Boston (Sat. 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 AM) • **KMPQ** (Ch. 13); **WCCO** (550 AM)

Blue Jays rout A's with eight-run seventh. Page 4D

Cards down Braves with ninth-inning rally. Page 4D

where he was pinch single with two out in the eighth inning drove in the go-ahead run.

"It was a big win for us. People have been talking about our road record, and we took two out of three; it maybe this will shut them up for a while."

Maybe. Because the Twins set only their first road series since taking two of three from the Braves in mid-June, they regained first place in the American League West from Oakland, which lost to Toronto.

"We kept ourselves up, even when we were behind," Kent Hrick said. "G-Man (Gaetti) was screaming in the dugout a few times, telling the guys not to quit."

And nobody did. Training 6-5, Greg Capps led off the eighth inning with a single and went to third on Puckett's fifth hit, a double into the right-field corner. Gaetti was walked intentionally, loading the bases with no out.

Dan Pines, the Braves' catcher, said Puckett reached into his Big



The Twins' Kirby Puckett was greeted by manager Tom Kelly and teammates after his first home run. The center fielder went 6-for-6 for the day.

6-for-6 a record-breaker

10 hits in 2 games sets American League record

By Jerry Zgalski Staff Writer

Milwaukee, Wis.
The afternoon's performance — 6-for-6 at the plate, two home runs, two doubles, a pocketful of club, American League and major league records — spoke for itself. So Kirby Puckett didn't really have to.

White Puckett reached into his Big

United Press International

most recently by former Twin Mickey Hatcher in 1983. Puckett now shares the major league record with Remie Stomietz, who did it while playing for Pittsburgh in September 1975.

Club records for most hits in two consecutive games, hits in one game (the previous high was five) and total AL record previously was nine, set

by former Twin Mickey Vernon in 1926. Puckett's 10 hits in two games set a new American League record.

Wild weekend

In two days at Milwaukee, Kirby Puckett went 10-for-11, with 10-11 home runs, two doubles, seven runs scored and six RBIs. Here is a recap.

Game 1 • Puckett: 1-for-1, 1 RBI
2nd inning • Home run
5th inning • Home run
6th inning • Single to right
7th inning • Ground out to second

Game 2 • Puckett: 9-for-10, 1 RBI
1st inning • Single to center, 1 RBI
2nd inning • Home run, 1 RBI
3rd inning • Single to right
4th inning • Double to left
5th inning • Double to right
6th inning • Home run, 2 RBIs

Puckett continued on page 5D

Johnson shatters 100 mark

Associated Press

Rome, Italy
Ben Johnson of Canada set a world record of 9:83 seconds Sunday in the men's 100 meters at the World Track and Field Championships, beating arch-rival Carl Lewis for the gold medal.

"I just knew I could beat him," Johnson said after cutting one-tenth of a second off the old world record.

When Johnson reached top speed after 40 meters, the race was already decided in his favor. "At 60, I just kept going," he said.

Lewis, who matched the old mark of 9:93 set by American Calvin Smith more than four years ago, could only shrug after the loss before an Olympic Stadium crowd of 66,000.

"I was not happy with my start," said Lewis, who offered congratulations to Johnson three times before the new world champion accepted the handshake.

Ray Stewart of Jamaica was third in 10:16, and Lindell Christian of Britain was fourth in 10:14.

The battle of speed also has been one of personality and style. Muscled through Johnson, elegance and Johnson continued on page 6D



Ben Johnson raced to the finish line ahead of Carl Lewis to set a world record in the 100-meter run.

Kramer's injury persists; Nelson has knee surgery

By Robert Sasseville Staff Writer

The injury didn't go away overnight, even though it has been known in Tommy Kramer's wake up Sunday morning with a pinched nerve that was truly a pain in the neck.

Nelson underwent arthroscopic surgery yesterday to remove loose particles that chipped off his kneecap when he was tackled. The other injuries were to wide receiver Anthony Carter (bruised shoulder), cornerback Hilt (sprained knee) and kick receiver Buster Rhymen (sprained ankle).

Kramer was one of five Vikings who suffered serious to moderately serious injuries in the loss that dropped their preseason record to 1-2. Running back Darin Nelson appeared to be the most severely injured.

"We'll just have to see how it goes for the next week or so," Pucker said. "I don't consider it impossible. You see people come back at different times. Injuries are all a little bit different."

It was unclear how long Kramer will be sidelined. Pinched nerves can

Vikings continued on page 7D

minimize," says NFL Players Association president Gene Upshaw.

Ab yes, the rites of autumn.

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Tennessee rallies, defeats Iowa on field goal in final seconds

Associated Press

Rosemead, Calif.
On Wednesday night, Tennessee coach Johnny Majors gave Phil Reich a scholarship.

Reich missed his coach Sunday by kicking three field goals in the final 12 minutes, including a 20-yarder with three seconds remaining that gave the 17th-ranked Vols a 21-22 victory over No. 16 Iowa before 54,600 in the Kickoff Classic.

"What more can you say about Phil

Reich in only his second collegiate game (Reich kicked two field goals and three extra points in the 1986 opener when Carlton Rivers was ineligible) coming through under pressure for way to die?" Majors said.

"This was one of the most outstanding comeback I've ever been involved in."

What also proved decisive were two extra points by Reich and Iowa's failure on a two-point conversion

after taking a 19-14 lead on Kevin Harrison's 20-yard touchdown run late in the third period.

Tennessee scored both its touchdowns in the second period as a 1-yard run by William Howard and a 39-yard run by linebacker Darin Miller after he intercepted a pass from Chuck Whitsett, one of Iowa's three quarterbacks.

Reggie Cobb, Tennessee's redshirt freshman tailback, was the game's

most valuable player and leading rusher with 138 yards on 23 carries.

Harrison scored Iowa's first touchdown on a 23-yard run after taking a short pass from Hartline in the second period. The Hawkeyes' other points came on field goals of 42, 27 and 41 yards by Rob Houghtlin.

Tennessee's winning drive began with 6:37 left after Tennessee's Cleveland returned a punt four yards to his 29. The march included a 15-yard pass

interference penalty against Iowa's James Phillips and a 16-yard pass from Jeff Francis to tight end Nate Middlefield on the Iowa 36.

After Cobb carried for those yards and a first down at the Iowa 7, with 1:18 remaining, two running plays netted six yards and the Vols let the clock run down to six seconds before calling a timeout. Reich then kicked his game-winning field goal from the

Classic continued on page 6D

Don't you hate the smell?

Another pro football season is about to begin, one that on the field holds great promise. Will Vandy

extra yards bring football happiness to Tampa Bay's Will Bruce Bowers, the linebacker with a period eye, stick it in NFL, running back? Will Bo Jackson with his chosen stamp collecting as his newest hobby? Can D.J. Denton convert the Viking into Central Division champion?

Yet two weeks before the season opener, none of those rank as the most important question. The raging question has nothing to do with

Barreiro continued on page 7D

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Barreiro continued on page 7D

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Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D

Barreiro continued on page 7D