

Sports

Star Tribune
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MINNESOTA'S WATERFOWL TRADITION

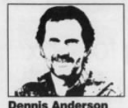
Duck opener

Minnesota's 1995 duck and goose season begins at noon Saturday. Hunting is allowed until 4 p.m., and continues a half-hour before sunrise Sunday.

Good hunting is expected in southern and western Minnesota. In the northwest, far to good numbers of ducks are present. Hunting is expected to be fair and perhaps spotty in the central and north, where average numbers of mallards are present but mallards are relatively few.

If for the weekend weather forecast, see Page 3C.

Duck hunters owe a big debt to James Ford Bell



Dennis Anderson

When an estimated 150,000 Minnesotans assemble on Saturday in marshes and swamps, along lakes and on prairie representing two or more of these waterways, they will continue a duck and goose hunting tradition that is as old as the state itself.

No state or province in North America can claim as many waterfowl as Minnesota, and few, if any, can boast of as many conservation-minded hunters.

Certainly Chesapeake Bay has its duck and goose hunting history. So, too, Louisiana, the Gulf Coast of Texas and California.

But among these and all other states in Minnesota, to which, in the year—in order—to above ducks and goose returning host.

That this environment traveled, in 1883, James Ford Bell, coming from Philadelphia to Minneapolis

not as an endorser but as a successful flour broker, Bell would assume leadership of the Washburn Milling Co., which later became the Washburn Crosby Co., which, on June 22, 1878, became the catalyst for the creation of a national flour company called General Mills.

Bell was not an endorser. But his only child, James Ford Bell, would become an endorser and a big hunter whose interest in, and love for, ducks helped shape waterfowl history in Minnesota and the world.

"When my father was a boy of 16 or so, he would walk to the marshes that existed at the time at what is now South and Park Avenue in Minneapolis, to hunt ducks," said Charles Charles Bell, one of three sons of James Ford Bell.

Anderson continued on page 3C.



Minnesota's duck hunting history includes Heron Lake, in the south-western part of the state. James Ford Bell was so enchanted with the area that in 1910 he commissioned the famous painter Louis Agassiz Taft to do this watercolor, entitled "Crescent Lake—Heron Lake."

Twins low after high pitch

Puckett's jaw broken during loss to Cleveland

By Patrick Reese
Staff Writer

Dennis Martinez was in his final tunnel Thursday before starting in Cleveland's first professional game, as 41-year-old Martinez was impressive, holding the Twins to five hits and three runs in six innings and gaining a 12-1 victory. Later, he was disconsolate.

"I got one of my best friends in baseball for this game," Martinez said. "I got behind right now. I'd like to have taken myself out of the game. It was the worst feeling in my life, when I saw

because the ball never hit his face, just above his eye. Puckett suffered a broken nose, a serious laceration inside his mouth and two loosened teeth.

Martinez was referring to a first-inning fly ball that caught the Twins' Kirby Puckett on the left side of his face, just above his eye. Puckett suffered a broken nose, a serious laceration inside his mouth and two loosened teeth.

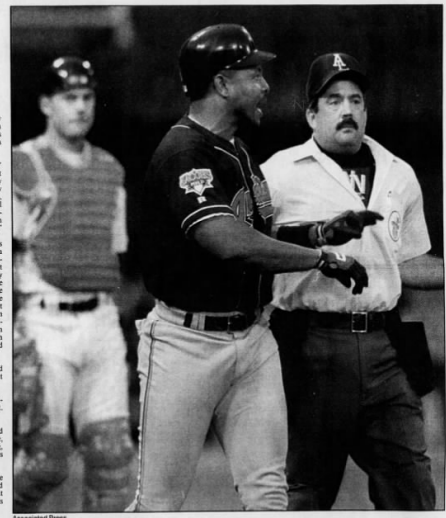
After being visited by an oral surgeon and an ear, nose and throat specialist at Fairview-Riverside Hospital, Puckett was allowed to go home Thursday evening.

"Whenever I see Kirby, we are joking around," Martinez said. "My kids love him. I always ask him for a bat. Maybe now he won't give me one."

"There was nothing personal with the pitch. I had thrown him a pitch this far [six inches] off the plate, and he had gotten some wood on it. So I was thinking, 'Jays him. I tried to get the ball inside and it went to his head.'"

Puckett staggered briefly, as though hit by a Mike Tyson punch, then crumpled into his hard dirt around the Metropolitan Club. Chuck Knoblauch, a ringer at third base when Puckett was hit, came racing to his aid.

"I saw the blood and signaled to the dugout to bring towels." Twins continued on page 3C.



Associated Press
Pigeonhole Tim Lincecum escorted Albert Belle to first base after the Cleveland player was hit by a pitch from Frankie Rodriguez in the second inning. Belle was hit after two Twins, Chuck Knoblauch and Kirby Puckett, were hit by pitches in the first inning.



Dan Barreiro

Bad season, bad ending

While the Twins took batting practice Thursday before their last home game of the 1995 season, Kirby Puckett already was talking baseball. As a Timberwolves season-ticket holder, he wanted the story on No. 1 draft choice Kevin Garnett.

"I'm just a fan of the game, man," he said. "There's when I can go and just be a fan. Boo! I never boo, man. I might feel sorry for them, but I don't boo."

A reporter, watching Puckett take some practice bats, said "You'll hurt anybody in the seats today." Puckett, smiling the Twins' recent low attendance figures, laughed. "You mean don't hurt the chairs?" he asked.

It was typical pragmatic banter from the smiling Puckett. An hour later, the million-dollar smile had evaporated and those darting eyes were deadened. They so you are, instead of over environment. What Puckett took a foulball to the mouth on Thursday, a New York kid named Frankie Rodriguez heard the sound and remembered his youth.

"I grew up in New York, man," he said. "I've seen a lot of foulballs. I've heard that same kind of shouting sound before. It was really scary to hear."

When Puckett collapsed to the turf and blood poured from his mouth, a Houston kid named Chuck Knoblauch saw the sight and remembered his youth.

"The first thing I thought about was 'Duck! Duck!'" Knoblauch said. "I was growing up watching the Astros when he got hit in the face. He was really going to be great. And he was never the same after that. Never the same. He got hit higher than Puck and his eyes were shut. The good thing for Puck is that it's not supposed to be that kind of thing. It looks like he's going to be all right. But it was so exciting to watch."

Barreiro continued on page 12C.

Griffey's slam lifts Mariners, eliminates Rangers from race

Associated Press
Ken Griffey Jr.'s grand slam in the eighth inning gave the Seattle Mariners a 5-2 victory over Texas Thursday and eliminated the Rangers from contention in the American League wild-card chase.

Mariners left-hander Randy Johnson pitched 8 1/3 innings and struck out seven en route to his 17th victory of the season. The loss dropped Texas four games behind the New York Yankees with three games to go.

4-1 victory over Oakland. The victory moved the Angels within one game of the tie Yankees in the wild-card race and kept them two games behind the Mariners in the AL West.

Houston 12-11 in 11 innings. Scott Buelter and Mike Parent hit RBI singles in the 11th to give the Cubs the edge, moving them within three games of Colorado, which lost 13-4 to San Francisco. The Astros remained one game behind the Rockies.

INSIDE

An Olympian decision
NHL players are expected to learn today if the league will shut down for two weeks in 1996 to allow them to compete in the Winter Olympics in Japan.

Mavs sign Parks
The Dallas Mavericks signed top draft pick Cherokee Parks, who is eager to join his new teammates.

Easy money
The folks who sell their tickets for Saturday's Ohio State-North Carolina game could make a financial bling.



Associated Press
A fan identified as John Murray of Riverside, Ill., was escorted off the field after he punched the ground and was wrestled to the ground by Cubs pitcher Randy Myers during Thursday's game at Wrigley Field.

Cheers for Coors
Thursday, nine members of Minnesota's Advisory Task Force on Professional Sports visited Coors Field, the Denver ballpark that is a monument to architecture, sports marketing, family fun and political savvy. By the time they left, the Minnesota group appeared ready to push for renewed debate on a new outdoor stadium for Minnesota. "This is enough to wake up a Norwegian," said state senator Dean Johnson.

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