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Twins

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The strong throw from Tony Oliva to right field. It was strictly no contest. Mitterwald had no chance to hold the ball as Powell sent George Bamberger.

"We battled them all the way," Martin said after the game. "But still it's a little bit to swallow."

The game was the eighth in a series between the two evenly-matched teams which was decided by a single run. It was the sixth time the Orioles won one of these encounters, suggesting that perhaps one team is slightly more equal than the other.

Bob Miller, who pitched the Twins into a first-place tie with Oakland July 4, and pitched the penultimate clinching game in Kansas City Sept. 22, will face right-hander Jim Palmer at 1:00 p.m. today in the Twins last stand.

The blame for the two extremely lousy games in Baltimore hardly can be laid upon the pitching staff.

Four Twins regulars went missing in both games. Harmon Killebrew, Alvin Dark, Rich Reese and Leo Carls were out of the lineup.

Mitterwald came within inches of that goal in the 10th when he drove a ball over the center of the right-field fence.

That chance wanted, the Twins had just seen a filtration with scores. On that Oct. 11, McNally came within one pitch of securing Baltimore to the clubhouse.

With two outs in the top of the 11th, McNally walked Killebrew with two straight balls after he had built a 2-2 count. It was one of five walks for McNally in the two games.

McNally, who said later that he had "good stuff" all the way, then walked Oliva on four pitches as both his fast ball and curve temporarily strayed from the strike zone.

Three straight balls to Allison brought the crowd alive and Baltimore manager Earl Weaver to the edge of the dugout steps.

But McNally threw a called strike to take off some of the pressure. Allison fouled off the next two pitches and then to left on the next one to end the Twins final out.

McNally retired 21 of 22 batters between the fourth and 11th innings. The only man to reach base during that period was Carver, who drove one of the five walks issued by the Baltimore left-hander.

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"We had a million chances to win both games in Baltimore. You can't say for two better-than-average games than we got from Jim Perry and Dave Boswell. All we needed was a sacrifice fly Sunday and we would have won the ball game."

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BALTIMORE'S BOOG POWELL RAN FAST TWINS' CATCHER GEORGE MITTERWALD TO SCORE WINNING RUN SUNDAY.
Dave McNally, winning pitcher, walked in on-deck circle at right in 11th inning.

'McLucky' McNally Hurls Nickname Away

BALTIMORE, Md. (AP) — Dave McNally has his nickname of "McLucky" finally.

Even the needling Baltimore townsmen, who gave him the moniker early in the season, had to back off when McNally stopped the Minnesota Twins 4-0 on a magnificent three-hit performance Sunday.

It was an effort equal to McNally's mop-up duty against the Twins on May 23 — one of the left-hander's 15 consecutive victories at the start of the season.

During that streak, the Orioles called time and again to let McNally pitch. McNally was lifted after Baltimore trailing.

That's when "McLucky" was equipped. But the 26-year-old hurler, who has won 42 games in the past two seasons, shook off the lead in a show of brilliance.

After giving up a lead-off single in the fourth inning to Tony Oliva, McNally pitched his last over the final eight frames. He entered 21 of 22 batters during one stretch.

"This is the first time I ever pitched 21 innings," McNally said. "I don't feel tired. But I don't feel tired. But I don't feel tired."

That's when he issued a pair of two out walks and again to a 3-0 count before Bob Allison lined out on a 3-2 pitch.

McNally asked for a new ball after a visit to the mound by pitching coach George Bamberger.

"That's one of manager Earl Weaver's idiosyncrasies," McNally said.

"When Bamberger came out, he told me to change balls," McNally said. "I told him the one I had felt all right. But after I threw another ball, I heard Earl Weaver whistle, and I knew what that meant. I changed balls."

Whatever he let McNally do, an old timer, but two on and two out in the ninth, continued he would have struck along with the pitcher in the 11th, even had Allison reached home.

McNally was in the on-deck circle again when Earl Weaver's pinch single scored Boog Powell with the winning run.

Umpire Ed Ruge indicated Powell had touched the plate after the collision and legs, but McNally was playing safe.

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HE ALMOST QUIT Miller Pitches for Twins Life

By DAVE MOON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

It is ironic that Bob Miller is the pitcher in which the Twins' final hopes should rest this baseball season.

It is even more ironic since the odds against Miller's being with the Twins were prohibitive.

Why didn't Miller think he would be with the Twins in 1969?

a. He thought he would be traded.
b. He thought he would be sold.
c. He thought he would be released in the expansion draft.

d. He planned to retire.
e. All of the above.
The answer is all of the above.

Miller, a veteran of 11 major league seasons, had his worst year in 1968. Not only didn't he win a game, but he wasn't considered good enough to merit a chance.

Although he was only 29 years old, he was relegated to "mop-up" duty, something usually reserved for the 19-year-old rookies.

Last year was a lost year as far as Miller's career. Miller said Sunday: "I didn't feel like a pitcher any year and I have to be honest."

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