

The Minneapolis Tribune

• Crossword 55

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• Cryptique 55

Twins Fall 1-0; Birds Lead 2-0

By DAVID MONA
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

BALTIMORE, Md.—Carl Morton's 11th-inning pinch single, inches over the glove of Minnesota second baseman Rod Carew, scored Doug Powell from second with the only run as Baltimore defeated the Twins 1-0 Sunday to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-five American League playoffs.

This was to have been the year of the hitter, but Dave Boswell and Dave McNally, two of the 20 game winners in the major leagues this year, turned in two excellent pitching performances.

McNally, the Billings, Mont., native who won his first 12 decisions this year, gave up three singles in the first four innings and didn't allow a hit the rest of the way. Minnesota advanced only one runner as far as third base.

Boswell received a standing ovation when he left the game in the final inning in favor of Ron Perranoski. Perranoski gave up the winning hit.

Baltimore, which came with only one of the final three games to clinch a World Series position, had morning looks at victory before Morton's hit. All that stood between the Orioles and victory was the 24-year-old Baltimore native, Boswell, and his classy assortment of pitches.

This was a suitable season for Boswell in a myriad of ways, but if yesterday was to have been his final performance, it may well have been his best.

Baltimore had men on base in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth and eleventh innings.

The Orioles had runners in scoring position in the second, third, fifth, eighth, ninth and eleventh innings. Despite the pressure from probably the most explosive team in the American League, Boswell coolly escaped each situation with the finesse of a "Miltonian" regular.

When Doug Powell reached second and Dave Johnson stood on first with two out in the 11th, Twins manager Billy Martin decided to bring in the 23-year-old, Perranoski, to pitch to Ernie Henderson.

It was obvious that Baltimore manager Earl Weaver would have someone pinch-hit for Henderson, but by that time it appeared that a fresh Perranoski would have a better chance than the living Boswell.

Morton, who would play regularly for a majority of major league teams, tossed a 1-1 pitch from Perranoski inches over the glove of a batting Carew. Boswell, the strongest runner in Baltimore since Alan Arnette, got to George Metkewald and home plate at the same time as

Eller, Winston Destroy Packers' Starr

Vikings Belt Pack 19-7

By MERRILL SWANSON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

The Pack is Back, all right. Flat on its back, Bert Starr is particular.

The Minnesota Vikings flattened the Green Bay quarterback eight times Sunday and squashed the Packers 19-7 before 60,740 spectators in the sun and glare of the University of Minnesota's Memorial Stadium.

It was a significant victory for a number of reasons.

It moved the Vikings, who started the season with an embarrassing loss to the New York Giants, into a tie for the lead in the National Football League's Central Division with a 2-1 record.

It showed that the Vikings do have the ability to play ball-control football when they have to—the yesterday when the passing game that had been their No. 1 weapon in 1968 sputtered.

And it indicated that perhaps those hundreds of thousands of bumper stickers stating "The Pack Will Be Back" might be wrong. The Packers were not, the entire one Pack of old,

especially in the first half when they failed to penetrate Viking territory.

True, the Vikings defense had a lot to do with that, forcing two fumbles with fierce tackles and intercepting a pass. But the Packers contributed to their problem with crippling penalties, inability to get the key first down, and generally poor offensive play.

The Vikings managed to hold a 13-0 lead in those first 30 minutes, not very much considering the opportunities they had. As it turned out, Fred Cox's four field goals—two in each half—made the difference.

But, again, the defense might have had something to do with that.

The Packers were tough, especially on short yardage situations. Their offense gave Minnesota the ball in Green Bay territory three times in the first half and twice in the second. The defense forced the Vikings to kick a field goal.

To stop the Vikings on the third occasion was almost too much to ask of any defense. A pass interception by Bobby Bryant and a personal foul on Forrest Gregg (preventing his ejection from the game) put the ball on Green Bay's six-yard line.

Two shots by Dave Gribbon put the ball in the end zone and Cox's conversion gave the Vikings a 13-0 lead.

Because of the defense, that turned out to be enough to see. But the offense definitely could have scored more.

Quarterback Joe Kapp was by no means the same power bar was in his seven-touchdown performance against Baltimore a week ago.

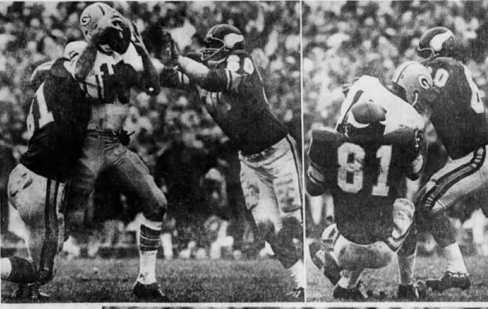
Twice Joe missed Gene Washington when a pass on the mark would have meant a touchdown. Twice his passes were dropped when they would have meant first downs. Far too often, Kapp was forced out of the pocket, bumped and hindered by the Packers' rush.

Kapp was downed only once in the first half and would have been three more times but for his strength in leading off the rush and throwing in spite of . . . even while falling.

They just deferred in very well," Kapp said later. "But pass rush certainly was better than I anticipated."

He didn't worry about everything, but the second half, passing only six times and completing two for a total of 61 completions in 20 attempts.

He went instead to his



Bert Starr struggled but proved no match for Vikings Carl Eller (81) and Ray Winston. With Eller making a 14-yard individual catch and Winston going for the ball (top photo), the two had no trouble downing the Green Bay quarterback for a career-high loss in the second quarter.



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Twins
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Mets Top Braves in Slugfest

By DWAYNE NETLAND
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Ga.—In a continuation of events so unusual that even manager Gil Hodges found them hard to explain, the New York Mets accomplished with their bats what they failed to do with their pitching Sunday.

The Mets smacked 13 hits to flatten Atlanta 11-4 and take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series for the National League baseball playoff championship.

The Braves used six pitchers and tried just about everything, but the Mets defense. When everything failed, the Mets looked like the greatest destroyer of Atlanta since Lou William Sherman became the city's first urban renewal director 110 years ago.

"I don't know what happened to our pitching," Hodges said. "I guess neither I nor anyone else realized that Jones, Agre, Garret, Shanley, Jones and Boswell could pitch that well."

It was Hodges' poker-faced way to referring to the fact that the Mets are more than a team of golden arms, a fact that Atlanta manager Luman Harris was aware of before the playoff began.

The series shifts today to New York's Shea Stadium, where it will be terminated today, Tuesday or Wednesday. The way things are going, it likely will end today when Gary Gentry of the Mets pitches against Atlanta's Pat Jarvis.

"I haven't given any serious thought to my pitcher for the Tuesday game," Hodges said. "I'm just glad to get out of here with two road victories and get back to Shea."

Hodges wanted very much to let Koosman pitch his way out of the jam in the fifth. He didn't want his bullpen until the Braves had picked up three runs. "He deserved a chance at the victory," Hodges said. "But he just made too many fat pitches."

Koosman went out to the mound with the Mets leading 9-1. He got the first two hitters out, then threw a good pitch which Fritz Miller tapped to first baseman Ed Kranenburt.

Showering himself from his follow-through, Koosman was a step late in covering first base and Miller was credited with an infield hit. Koosman then valiantly left-handed bailing Tony Gonzalez, a costly oversight since he now had to face the dangerous Henry Aaron.

Mets
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