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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1968 ** 25

CAL ERMER, SHOWN IN 1967 WHEN HIRED
Twins skipper was fired Monday

Griffith Releases Ermer, Delays New Selection

By DAVE MONA
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Minnesota Twins president Calvin Griffith Monday fired manager Cal Ermer in a move which came as a complete surprise to nobody.

A bit more surprisingly, Griffith postponed naming a new manager until after the World Series and before the expansion draft meetings Oct. 15.

Finally, Griffith announced the dismissal of four Twins coaches, Early Wynn, George Case, John Goryl and Bob Oldis.

Griffith said he decided last Friday that Ermer would not be back in 1969. He listed several faults with Ermer's managing, but said the main problem was that Ermer didn't have control of his players.

Ermer was Griffith's hand-picked successor to Sam Mele on June 9 of 1967. Ermer, a veteran of 17 minor league seasons, piloted the Twins to a second-place finish in 1967 and a disappointing seventh-place finish this year. He compiled a 145-126 record in his 1½ years as manager.

Ermer, contacted at his rented Edina home yesterday afternoon, had nothing to say about the firing. "I only wish it could have turned out differently," Ermer said. "I enjoyed the area, and the fans here are the greatest anywhere.

"I don't regret at all being associated with the Twins."

Ermer said he plans to attend the World Series and to go from there to his home in Chattanooga, Tenn. "I'm not sure what I'll do," Ermer said. "I intend to make some calls to see what might be available in the major leagues."

While Griffith said he would still like to talk with three people concerning Ermer's replacement, most of the talk at yesterday's press conference revolved around former Twins player and coach Billy Martin.

"Billy did a heck of a job at Denver this year," Griffith said. "The big thing is his temperament. He got kicked out of eight games, and you don't help your team by getting kicked out of the game. Of course my uncle, Clark, was kicked out of 30 games one year.

"I'm looking for a take-charge type of manager," Griffith said. "Martin was a tough coach. I'm sure he'd be a tough manager. But you've got to realize there's a difference between being tough and obnoxious."

Griffith said he would talk to Martin in the next several days and that he planned to talk with some people "about Martin." Griffith also said he planned to ask several other teams for permission to sound out other managerial candidates.

Griffith said Ermer "did a fantastic job in the minor leagues for us, but a guy can have the reputation of a bearcat in the minors and still not be firm enough in the majors.

"The problems are a lot different up here. I'm convinced from what I've read and observed that Ermer wasn't firm enough with his players.

"Some of our players

Griffith
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Minneapolis Tribune Photo by John Croft
TWINS PRESIDENT CALVIN GRIFFITH SPOKE
Releasing of Cal Ermer, coaches was announced Monday

Boilermakers, USC Lead in Grid Ratings

From The Tribune's Wire Services

Purdue, Southern California and Penn State stand 1-2-3 in both the Associated Press and United Press International weekly ratings, but there is little similarity the rest of the way through their selections of the nation's best football teams.

Purdue served to unite the two polls, since the Boilermakers were No. 1 in AP's but last week but No. 2 to Notre Dame in UPI's. Purdue flattened the Irish 37-22 to get all but three of AP's first place votes; all but one of UPI's.

Southern Cal got the remaining first place votes in both polls, while Notre Dame fell from second to fifth according to AP and from first to eighth in UPI's view.

After Penn State, UPI has UCLA fourth, followed by Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio State and Notre Dame. In AP's opinion, those four teams are reversed in position, running from fifth through ninth, with Florida fourth.

UPI has Florida 10th, right behind Louisiana State. LSU is 10th in the AP poll. Both polls agree that Alabama is 11th, but they don't agree on any others up through 20th.

Both polls went along with the undefeated teams at this early stage of the season.

	AP
1. Purdue (17)	(5-0) 991
2. Southern California (3)	(5-0) 944
3. Penn State (1)	(5-0) 868
4. Florida	(5-0) 847
5. Ohio State	(4-0) 806
6. Oklahoma	(4-0) 759
7. Kansas	(5-0) 717
8. UCLA	(4-1) 713
9. Nebraska	(5-0) 677
10. Alabama	(4-0) 673
11. Louisiana State	(4-0) 582
12. Houston	(4-0) 581
13. Arizona State	(4-0) 580
14. Tennessee	(4-1) 180
15. Ohio U.	(5-0) 177
16. Texas A. & M.	(4-1) 97
17. California	(3-2) 87
18. Mississippi State	(4-1) 37
19. Arkansas	(4-1) 29
Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Auburn, Boston College, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, North Texas State, Ohio University, Oregon State, Penn State, Toledo, Virginia Tech, West Virginia, Yale.	

	UPI
1. Purdue (10)	(5-0) 197
2. Penn State	(5-0) 178
3. UCLA	(5-0) 171
4. Kansas	(5-0) 163
5. Nebraska	(5-0) 162
6. Ohio State	(4-0) 142
7. Florida	(5-0) 141
8. Southern Cal	(5-0) 97
9. Notre Dame	(5-0) 82
10. Louisiana State	(4-0) 67
11. Alabama	(4-0) 61
Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Arizona State, Arkansas (2), Boston College, Colorado, Georgia Tech, Houston (1), Kansas State, Michigan State (2), N. Tennessee (1), Mississippi (2), Missouri (1), Oklahoma, Oregon, Stanford, Texas, Michigan, Texas Tech, Oregon State, Air Force.	

SAN JUAN SET FOR DAVIS CUP

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)— San Juan, Puerto Rico was selected Monday as the site of the Interzone Davis Cup tennis final between the United States and the winner of the West Germany-India series.

The dates of the Interzone final will be determined later this week. The winner will meet defending champion Australia for the Cup.

India faces West Germany at Munich in the Interzone semifinal, Oct. 4-6.

The announcement of San Juan's selection was made by Bob Malaga, executive secretary of the United States' Lawn Tennis Association.

GARY CUOZZO
Happy with Vikings

VAN BROCKLIN HAS 'NO COMMENT'

Is Hecker 'Out' at Atlanta?

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — The Atlanta Falcons apparently plan to decide this week whether to fire coach Norb Hecker or give him the rest of the season to snap his football team out of a slump.

Monday the Atlanta Journal said it has been told that former Minnesota Viking coach Norm Van Brocklin may replace Hecker. An executive of another National Football League team said he believes Van Brocklin already is on the Falcons' payroll.

Atlanta officials have agreed, it was learned yesterday, that an announcement on Hecker's status should be made in the next few days.

The Falcons reportedly have been considering a change for some time because of criticism of the team's losing streak, which has reached 10 games.

Van Brocklin, who coached Minnesota from its start in 1961 until he left the Vikings after 1966, is a controversial figure. He once quit for 24 hours, and before he left for good a personal feud developed between him and former Viking quarterback Fran Tarkenton, now with the New York Giants.

Van Brocklin told the Journal by telephone from Minneapolis: "No comment."

The decision is up to Rankin Smith, insurance company executive who owns the Falcons.

"Anytime you are losing, you hear a lot of rumors," Smith told the Journal.

Hecker, former Green Bay assistant, said, "I haven't been told anything.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm the coach until they make a change. But these rumors make it difficult for the coaching staff."

Hecker was given a four-year contract when he was hired to coach the newly organized Falcons in 1966, and it was extended a year, reportedly giving him financial security through 1970.

"Just say I'm not too worried about looking for a job," said Hecker.

Smith has blamed many of Atlanta's problems on the fact that "we blew the draft in 1967" when none of the 1966 college standouts chosen by the Falcons wound up on the team.

He reportedly has given orders to go with youngsters this year, and Hecker has been shuffling players all fall. The only offensive back that was in summer camp and started against San Francisco Sunday was quarterback Randy Johnson.

Cuozzo Happy Despite No. 2

By MERRILL SWANSON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Gary Cuozzo left Baltimore when it became evident he wasn't going to take away John Unitas' job (and who could?).

He left New Orleans when he could get no assurance that he would be No. 1 quarterback, even though he was the best one the Saints had.

And now he's No. 2 in Minnesota, but hardly unhappy enough to be looking elsewhere.

Cuozzo has completed seven consecutive passes for the Vikings while playing against Atlanta and Chicago. He almost pulled out a victory against the Bears, but Joe Kapp still is starting Viking quarterback.

"Bud Grant has been more than fair with me," Cuozzo said Monday. "My injury (to his left shoulder) set me back quite a bit. And Joe has done a fine job; he definitely deserves the starting job.

"Naturally I want to play. If I didn't, I wouldn't have come from Baltimore to New Orleans to here."

There is no doubt that Cuozzo wants nothing more than to be a starting quarterback in the NFL. He probably would have been at New Orleans if the Saints could have blocked for him.

"I talked to Tom Fears," he said, "and asked if I could have the job all the time until I lost it. He said he would have to play it by ear.

"I felt like I had earned the job. But apparently they were not ready for a pocket, passer."

Bill Kilmer, a scrambler, now has the starting job with the Saints. The Saints got Minnesota's first - round draft choices for 1967 and 1968. The Vikings got a quarterback who is happy and willing to help.

"I like the Vikings," Cuozzo said, "I like the whole situation here. I'm willing to help Joe and Joe is willing to help me.

"Sunday I wanted to win more than anything . . . to win for the Vikings, to feel I was contributing. It was not a selfish thing by any means."

When Cuozzo was called in the 27-17 loss the Vikings' offense was in a bad rut. After a spurt in the first quarter that yielded nothing, the Vikings produced only three points and four first downs (one by penalty) in the second and third quarters.

There were many in the crowd who felt Cuozzo should have been in there long before that, since Kapp was not having a

Cuozzo
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FACE STARS TONIGHT AT MET

Ruel 'On Spot' With Canadiens

By DWAYNE NETLAND
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

He is a pleasant man with a quick smile, often joking about his squat build. But under Claude Ruel's jolly facade is the sobering realization that he has inherited the toughest job in professional hockey.

Ruel is the new coach of Montreal's defending Stanley Cup champions who play the North Stars in an exhibition game tonight at Metropolitan Sports Center.

Having just turned 30, Ruel is the youngest coach in the National Hockey League. He also has the best material in the NHL, the most demanding fans and the gnawing thought that where is there for him to go but down?

Montreal has won more league championships, 15, and more Stanley Cups, 13, than any team in the NHL. Last season it swept the Eastern Division title and won 12 of 13 playoff games in a romp to the Stanley Cup.

That was under Toe Blake as coach, however, and now Blake has stepped up to the role of assistant to general manager Sammy Pollock. Ruel was plucked out of a flock of applicants to replace him.

Ruel stands 5-foot-8 and weighs 230. He never played in the NHL, although he might have made it had he not lost an eye in a junior game.

Many of the current Montreal players worked under Ruel when he coached the Junior Canadiens. But many more have never had contact before this season with Ruel and some of them, like Henri Richard and Gump Worsley, are older than their coach.

In spite of this handicap the word from Montreal's training camp was that Ruel ran a tight ship, establishing his authority quickly and whipping the veterans into good shape.

The Canadiens beat the Chicago Black Hawks 2-1 Sunday night at Chicago on a pair of second-period goals by Bobby Rousseau and Jacques Lemaire in an abrasive game that much

North Stars
Continued on Page 27

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