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## TOM KELLY RETIRES

**Tom Kelly turned in his first lineup card as the Twins manager on Sept. 11, 1986, in a game against the Texas Rangers.**

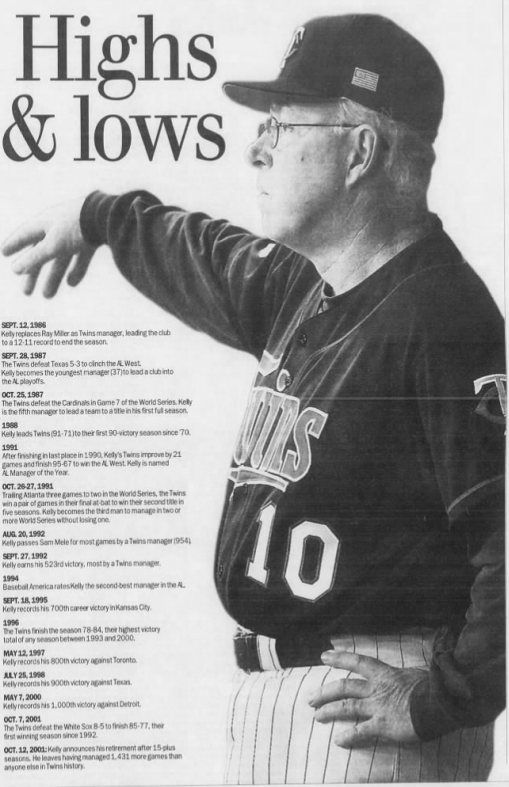
**A year later, Kelly hit his first home run in his first fall season as manager.**

**Bum made through downtown Minneapolis a World Series champion again in 1991.**

**Kelly batted .161 in 49 games with the Twins in 1975.**

In 15-plus seasons, Tom Kelly's teams ranged from the best to the worst of major league baseball. A look back at his tenure as the Twins' manager.

# Highs & lows



**SEPT. 12, 1986**  
Kelly replaces Ray Miller as Twins manager, leading the club to a 12-11 record to end the season.

**SEPT. 28, 1987**  
The Twins defeat Texas 5-3 to clinch the AL West. Kelly becomes the youngest manager (37) to lead a club into the AL playoffs.

**OCT. 26, 1987**  
The Twins defeat the Cardinals in Game 7 of the World Series. Kelly is the fifth manager to lead a team to a title in its first fall season.

**1988**  
Kelly leads Twins (91-71) to their first 90-victory season since '70.

**1991**  
After finishing in last place in 1990, Kelly's Twins improve by 21 games and finish (95-67) to win the AL West. Kelly is named AL Manager of the Year.

**OCT. 26-27, 1991**  
Trailing Atlanta three games to two in the World Series, the Twins win a pair of games in their final at-bat to win their second title in five seasons. Kelly becomes the first man to manage in two or more World Series without losing one.

**APR. 26, 1992**  
Kelly passes Sam Mele for most games by a Twins manager (954).

**SEPT. 27, 1992**  
Kelly opens his 523rd victory, most by a Twins manager.

**1994**  
Baseball America rates Kelly the second-best manager in the AL.

**SEPT. 18, 1995**  
Kelly records his 700th career victory in Kansas City.

**1996**  
The Twins finish the season 76-84, their highest victory total of any season between 1993 and 2000.

**MAY 12, 1997**  
Kelly records his 800th victory against Toronto.

**AUG. 28, 1998**  
Kelly records his 900th victory against Texas.

**MAY 7, 2000**  
Kelly records his 1,000th victory against Detroit.

**OCT. 7, 2001**  
The Twins defeat the White Sox 8-5 to finish 85-77, their first winning season since 1992.

**OCT. 12, 2001**  
Kelly announces his retirement after 15-plus seasons. He has been managing 1,431 more games than anyone else in Twins history.

**OVERHEAD**  
*Comments on the day of Tom Kelly's retirement.*

**KELLY, on his greatest memory:**  
"Two of them. In '87, we played the Royals on a Sunday afternoon and then we were going down on a road trip to Texas and Kansas City to finish the season. On that Sunday afternoon before the game, the fans about 12 minutes before I ever took the lineup card were beginning to stand and clap and cheer. That was pretty good. And, of course, when we came back from Detroit, came back to the Dome. That was quite a memorable moment for me. I think for all the fans and players. All the fans especially, that was very special."

**CARL FORLAD, Twins owner:**  
"He told me two or three weeks ago that he was thinking about it. I told him not to have too hard because even last year he had mentioned that casually. But he decided to stay. I told him that I wanted him to think about it for a couple more weeks and then I'm going to try and talk you out of it."

**FORLAD on Kelly's role in selecting a new manager:**  
"Well, Kelly's going to stay with the organization, so I hope Terry Ryan will be calling on Tom for his opinion."

**KENT HERRER, infielder if he was surprised by Kelly's retirement:**  
"I was surprised as heck. I played golf with him last Monday and he made no mention. I've talked about a lot of serious things with him, but he never made mention to me that he wasn't going to be managing anymore."

**KEVIN KENNEDY (Fox analyst and former major league manager):**  
"He was a tough manager to manage against. He always kept you guessing. Knowing he didn't have the most talent, he kept everyone busy doing the little things. I think he was a great teacher of the fundamentals, and really respected the way he had to learn prepared to compete right in and right out."


**BRIAN BURKE, ESPN analyst and former major league player:**  
"He was kind of surprised [by the call] after the year they had. After all the seasons they have taken in the past five or six years. He has a great year and then stops down."

**McRAE, on playing Kelly's teams:**  
"You enjoyed playing against the Twins because you knew he would not do anything to embarrass the game of baseball. Even if they were in first place, the Twins battled. They were well-coached and played the game the way it was supposed to be played. They worked on fundamentals every day. Took batting practice and infield practice and he'd get better."


**DAN GLADEN, former Twins left fielder and current WCCO Radio broadcaster:**  
"I'm happy for him if he's happy. I think most of all, the managers that managed against him are going to miss him. He's a good pitcher or good hitter. He's competing against other good players. I think managers around the league are going to miss managing against Tom Kelly."

**BERT BLUMEN, former Twins pitcher, current Twins TV analyst:**  
"He was a manager, and he was a player's manager. I think the players will miss that. Some people are ready for a change, some people are not."


### The faces of TK




**1. The stoic**  
Sitting quietly in the dugout in 1987, watching the players celebrate on the Microphone suit after the Twins captured their first World Series by defeating St. Louis in Game 7.




**2. The players' manager**  
Telling Jack Morris he was removing him after more consecutive errors in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series against Atlanta. Kelly removed Morris from the game, then sent the right hander out for the 10th—and received—nothing.



**3. The joyful**  
Breaking from his normal stoicism to leave the dugout and hug Terry Pickett after his home run in the bottom of the 11th gave the Twins a 4-3 victory and a 3-1 win in the Series.



**4. The protector**  
Making one last field on May 2 this season to console the Yankees' Chuck Knoblauch and avoid Minnesota fans after they threw the left field area with others.



**5. The taskmaster**  
The star. This was the quietest Kelly look, a clearly, straight-ahead gaze that was generally his only form of protest for a questionable umpire's call against the Twins.

Star Tribune file photos