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Beaming Calvin: I Guess We Showed Them, Didn't We?

By BOB FOWLER
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Minnesota president Calvin Griffith was happy with his team's 8-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday in the opening game of the World Series.

"I guess we showed 'em something, eh?" Calvin beamed after the game. "We had been billed as only a power-hitting team, but we showed the Dodgers some speed and some pitching.

"Jim Grant pitched a marvelous game. And I think they'll see more of the same when Jim Kaat and Camilo Pascual do the pitching.

"And we got the first stolen base of the Series (Versalles pilfered second in the sixth). All we listened to were stories about their speed. Well, now we have some, too."

Griffith was almost as pleased with the big crowd and the sunny weather.

"What a day, what a day," he added. "The biggest crowd (47,797), a beautiful day and a victory, I couldn't ask for more."

Los Angeles president Walter O'Malley wasn't as jovial as Griffith.

"Sure it would have been nice to get that first win," he said. "But we're not done yet. We've scrapped all season for our triumphs and we can do it here, too.

"I still think our big three pitchers (Don Drysdale, Sandy Koufax and Claude Osteen) give us an edge. "We'll bounce back, you'll see."

Dodger vice - president and general manager Buzzie Bavasi concurred with O'Malley.

"I said we'd win the Series in four straight," he said. "And I still think we will, by taking the next four in a row."

Twin farm director Sherry Robertson talked about the play of Zoilo Versalles.

"He's the complete ballplayer," Robertson said. "He can hit, and hit with power, he can run and he's great defensively. I guess the Dodgers found out why he was voted the team's most valuable player."

Baseball commissioner Fred Frick watched the game with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey.

"The beautiful day reminded me of the time in 1960 when we were discussing Minnesota's entry into the American League," Frick recalled. "There was some dissent that the area didn't have a long enough summer season to allow a baseball team to operate.

"But local persons proved with average temperatures that cold weather wasn't a problem. I guess today proved them right."

Dodgers Praise, Slur Mud's Work

Some of the Los Angeles Dodgers' hitters were quick to credit, some ready to slur the pitching of the Twins' Jim Grant Wednesday.

"Grant showed me mostly fast balls," said homer-hitting Ron Fairly. "I hit a 2-0 fast ball for the homer. He had good stuff, but I didn't see many breaking balls."

At the next locker, Willie Davis mentioned that Grant's stuff "wasn't that good. We hit some shots off him, but they were caught," Willie noted.

Fairly interrupted. "Give him credit; he won."

The scoreboard read 8-2 for the Twins over the Dodgers in the first game of the World Series at Metropolitan Stadium.

Veteran Jim Gilliam of the Dodgers nodded in agreement that Grant pitched a good game. Asked to compare him with the National League's best, Junior remarked "He beat us, that's all I can say."

Young Jim Lefebvre, the Dodgers' second baseman, was encouraged by his first World Series appearance, if not the result of the game.

"We hit Grant; we can play this club," he said.

Lefebvre explained the sixth inning play when he let Don Mincher's pop fly drop to force the faster Jimmie Hall at second.

"I work the play on a sign from shortstop Maury Wills," Lefebvre advised. "He looked at the man on first and the batter, deciding which is the man of greater speed. If the slow man is at first and the hitter is fast, we'd catch the ball, of course."

Wills said the Met Stadium grounds are soft enough to gamble on the play.

"At Chavez Ravine," Wills advised, "the ground is so hard the play is risky. The ball might hit and bounce to the moon, and the runner at first could reach second before it came down."

Wills was not heartbroken at not stealing a base, since the situation never presented itself. He did single in the seventh inning and beat out a bunt in the ninth inning to become the only two-hit Dodger.

MRS. MELE: 'BUT WE WON'

Newsmen Invade Mele Household

Special to the Minneapolis Tribune

QUINCY, Mass. — Mrs. Sam Mele, as unemotional and as pleasant as her managerial husband, had planned to spend a quiet, relaxing day Wednesday watching the Twins and Dodgers in the opening game of the World Series.

The Mele's four children rushed home from school at 3 p.m. to watch the game with their mother on the family's colored television set.

But a horde of newspapermen and photographers made things slightly hectic in the Mele living room.

"It wasn't the most comfortable situation," said Connie Mele. "But we won. That made me forget everything else."

Mrs. Mele said she saw her husband only twice on the television screen—when he brought out the pre-game lineups and when he rushed out to congratulate winning pitcher Jim Grant.

"I knew it was him then only because I saw No. 14," she explained.

The Mele's fifth child is expected at any moment. "It's on a day-to-day basis right now," said Mrs. Mele. "The doctors had set yesterday as the day . . . so we'll just keep waiting."

Mrs. Mele, wise in the ways of baseball, said the Twins' six-run explosion off Don Drysdale in the third inning proves the Dodgers' 23-game winner "is only human.

"It was nice to see the guys score six runs," she said, "but, you know, you can never get enough runs."

A listener cracked that she sounded much like her husband with that statement. "I get a lot of indoctrination," she chuckled. "Sam calls me two or three times every day."

To Catch . . .

Zoilo Versalles slides, Lefebvre has ball

. . . a Thief?

Zoilo goes in, Lefebvre waits for tag

Well, Not . . .

Lefebvre attempts tag, but Versalles hits bag

. . . Little 'Z'

Zoilo has first steal of Series

Baseball Brass Fascinated by Versalles' Play

By JOHN WIEBUSCH
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

The howling, partial thousands at Metropolitan Stadium Wednesday were infiltrated by hundreds of somber, impartial baseball officials.

The somber, impartial baseball officials were drooling, however, over a 155-pound shortstop with a name that still baffles foreign (non-Minnesota) announcers.

Zoilo Versalles was dazzling as the Indian Summer day. The Twins' choice for the American League's Most Valuable player hit a three-run homer that signaled the downfall of the Dodger's Don Drysdale, singled in another run and stole second base on a pitchout.

"He's the kind of shortstop— well, player, really — that all club owners dream about," said Bob Carpenter, the man who controls the Philadelphia Phillies.

"He can run, hit, hit with power and field. That's the kind of fellow you'd like to have around."

Gene Mauch, the Phillies' manager, was impressed most of all by Versalles' stolen base. "Everybody here knew he was going to steal and they (the Dodgers) pitched out," said Mauch. "And the guy still gets in there safely."

Paul Richards, until 1962 an American League manager, is the general manager for the affluent Houston Astros. Before the Series started, Richards said he thought the National League was stronger than the American League because it had the pitching super-stars. He had mentioned pitchers like Sandy Koufax, Jim Maloney, Bob Veale, Bob Gibson, Juan Marichal and Drysdale.

Any second thoughts about that, Paul? "Anytime you hit a pitcher like Drysdale the way the Twins did today, you've got something," said Richards.

"The most amazing of all is that Versalles, in '61 he was just like a spoiled little baby. That was the year he left the Twins for a month or so, wasn't it? But what a turnabout now."

Ed Short, general manager of the White Sox, was blase.

"It's just like the regular season," he said. "The Twins killed 'em with power and speed.

"They did it just like you have to — get clutch hits, capitalize on an error (Jim Lefebvre's bobble on Jim Grant's sacrifice in the six-run third inning), then run 'em down. When things are going right that's a tough combination to beat.

"And that Grant. You know how he killed us this year (five wins over Chicago). When he gets runs he doesn't get beat."

The man with the deepest second thoughts was San Francisco manager Herman Franks. But for a couple "might-have-beens" and a 13-game Dodger winning streak, he could have been in the third base dugout.

"The Twins have a fine team," said Franks. "The scouts who watched them for us said that. They do all the things you have to do to win baseball games.

"When Mele can bat a guy like Versalles leadoff you know he's got something in that lineup. But any team that's got pitchers like the Dodgers can never be counted out of any Series."

Franks, a look-alike for broadcasting's Joe Garagiola, looked forlornly onto the field. "It would have been fun to have played the Twins here," he sighed. "We'd both have put on quite a show. Maybe next year."

ZOILO HEARS CHANT

'Go-Go' Cries Don't Needle Dodgers' Wills

Maury Wills, the premier base-stealer of all of baseball in 1965 with 94 thefts, did not blame the fans at Met Stadium for taunting him with a "go-go" chant to the Twins' Zoilo Versalles in the seventh inning.

"I don't think they were needling me," Wills declared. "The fans — Twin partisans, mostly — came to be entertained. This is not like a bull fight, where the fans come to see a killing.

"They know Zoilo can run. They wanted him to go."

Wills said Versalles might have been erased on a true throw.

"Versalles' steal came on a pitchout," Wills explained. "The throw was a bit wide, still we had a close play. A throw on the bag, and Zoilo probably would have been out."

Versalles said he heard the crowd cheering him on to steal a base.

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