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Three-run Oliva homer off Wood nips Chicago

By John Gilbert
Staff Writer

If someone wanted to explain how baseball can be zany, bewildering and exciting all in one inning, the eighth inning of Wednesday night's 8-2 Twins victory over the Chicago White Sox should be filed away under Exhibit A in the archives.

It was in the eighth, with the Twins trailing 1-0 and doing little but cutting and slashing without success at Wilbur Wood knuckleballs, that Tony Oliva caught up with one of the fluttering pitches. He drove it 416 feet into the bullpen in right-center for a three-run home run that turned the game around.

Until the eighth the action in the game centered around Wood, the tough left-hander who already has won 11 games this year, and Ray Corbin, Minnesota's hard-throwing right-hander who is now 5-0 for the season and has won 10 straight over two years. The two worked reasonably to avert trouble, with Corbin facing much more danger.

Still, the only run Corbin allowed to that point was Bill Sharp's lead-off homer in the seventh, and the game rolled into the eighth still a tight pitcher's duel.

With two out in the top of the eighth Dick Allen, who had doubled, was on second and Ken Henderson, who had walked, was on first.

The count was 1 and 2 to Ron Santo, although catcher Randy Hundley thought it was 2 and 2. On the next pitch Allen and Henderson were running. Santo tried to hold back on his swing, but the video tape replay showed he went all the way around, albeit at half speed.

Taking no chances that plate umpire Hank Morganweck might be calling ball three (which would have been ball four) Hundley rifled a throw to third. But third baseman Eric Soderholm, seeing Santo's swing, had started jogging for the dugout and the throw went skittering down the left field line. At this point Morganweck had not called strike three, deliberating over whether Santo had swung or not.

In the confusion Allen crossed home plate with a tentative second Chicago run and Henderson tried to score too but was blocked out at home by Hundley's aggressive tag. Hundley jumped up to argue the by-now absurd goings-on and Corbin, already there, gave his catcher a shove that sent him sprawling. It twisted Hundley's right knee and he had to leave the game.

Along about then Morganweck consulted with first base umpire Marty Springstead, who calmly ruled that Santo had swung, striking out and ending the inning before any runs could be counted. Chicago

Twins
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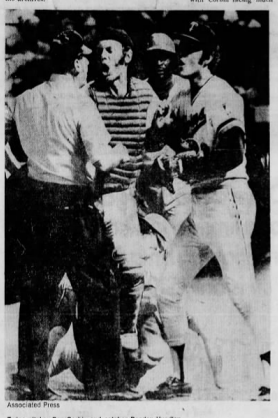

Associated Press

Twins pitcher Ray Corbin and catcher Randey Hundley argued with plate umpire Hank Morganweck over a called strike to Chicago's Ron Santo during the eighth inning Thursday night at Metropolitan Stadium. Silling on home plate was Chicago's Ken Henderson. The Twins won 3-2.

11 putts on front 9 give Floyd golf lead

United Press International

Akron, Ohio

Ray Floyd shot a 5-under-par 65 on the Firestone Country Club course Thursday, including a 29 on the front side, to take the first-round lead of the $170,000 American Golf Classic.

A stroke behind at 66 is Buddy Allin, with Jerry McGee another shot back at 67 and Jim Ferriell next at 68. Host pro Bobby Nichols led a group of six in at 1-under-par 69. Arnold Palmer is one of 14 golfers in at 70 while Hale Irwin, who won the U.S. Open Sunday, suffered through a 7-over-par 77.

Floyd started with birdies on five of his first six holes on the 7,180-yard layout. He added another on the eighth to make the turn in 29, breaking the previous record of 31, held by 15 golfers.

Floyd, who also holds the 72-hole record at Firestone, a 268 when he won this event in 1969, used only 11 putts on the front nine and only 27 for the round.

"I can't remember ever having a better putting round," said Floyd, who added that he also had "a lot of makeable putts on the back side that didn't drop."

He birdied the 400-yard first hole by hitting an eight iron to within six feet on his approach shot and sinking the putt. He dropped a 5-footer on the second hole, a 25-footer on the fourth, a 70-footer on the fifth, a 6-footer on the seventh and a 35-footer on the eighth.

Allin, winner of two tour victories this year, toured the rugged Firestone south course without a bogey and had birdies on the 5th, 11th, 16th and 18th.

Golf
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Moses signs

Moses Malone, the 6-foot-11 basketball player who led his Petersburg, Va., high school team to 50 consecutive victories, signed a grant-in-aid scholarship Thursday to attend the University of Maryland. Malone scored a record 896 points his senior year, was recruited by the Utah Stars of the American Basketball Association and listened to more than 300 college offers before deciding on Maryland.

Finley sells Tams to ABA, cites health as reason

Louisville, Ky.

The American Basketball Association announced Thursday it has purchased the Memphis Tams franchise from Charles O. Finley, but took no definitive action toward merger with the National Basketball Association.

The sale price for the Tams was not disclosed.

Finley said he was giving up professional basketball for health reasons. "My doctors have advised me that I must reduce my work load substantially," he said.

Finley, who purchased the team in June, 1972, suffered a heart attack last August, prompting him to sell his National Hockey League team to the NHL. He said he would continue as owner of the Oakland Athletics, the 1972 and 1973 baseball world champions.

Tarkenton picks Vikings over WFL gold

By Sid Hartman
Staff Writer

Spurning lavish overtures of the World Football League, Francis Tarkenton signed a multi-year contract Thursday to play quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings.

One WFL club offered Tarkenton one-third ownership in the team plus a salary far in excess of what the Vikings pay him. Another WFL club offered the 34-year-old, former Georgia star three times his Viking salary.

But money wasn't a big factor to Tarkenton who has played the past two years with Minnesota after being traded back by the New York Giants.

"I had pleasant negotiations with Max Winter (Vikings manager) whom I have admired for years and who has been one of the key figures in building the Vikings to their present stature," said Tarkenton, who has started working out for the eighth straight year at Port Royal Plantation, S.C.

"I don't imagine Max and I had to talk for more than 30 minutes to come to an agreement. Max didn't have knowledge, as far as I know, about my offers from the WFL. I never mentioned the offers to Max until after I had signed the contract. I had made up my mind months ago that I wasn't going with the new league no matter how good their offer was.

"I actually took a cut when I returned to the Vikings three years ago from New York. I wanted to come back and prove that I could make a contribution to a winning and solid football team. In this case, the Vikings are paying me a fair salary. But it isn't any earth-shaking figure. The amount of money they are paying me won't break the bank. It is a fair contract, one that I'm happy with.

Tarkenton Winter

That's all that counts.

"Many people work in jobs all of their lives and never get positions that bring happiness. This is one thing I have with the Vikings. It's fun to look forward to the football season. Happiness is more important to me than the significant amount of money the new league was willing to pay.

"The contract is for more than one year. It means that I'll finish my career with the Vikings."

Tarkenton said he is sure the Vikings will have another good football team in 1974. "We're fortunate to have one of the strongest organizations in football, with good owners like Max and great leadership from Bud Grant, one of the best coaches in football."

Tarkenton said he was hopeful and optimistic that there wouldn't be a player strike. "I have to believe we have good, level heads on both sides of the table," he said. "The owners and the players will come to an agreement soon."

Winter, who still has 15 veteran players to sign, called Tarkenton "the best quarterback in pro football. We are confident Tark and the rest of our fine team will put us back in the play-offs again."

NBA fails to pick new commissioner

United Press International

New York, N.Y.

The National Basketball Association's Board of Governors adjourned Thursday without deciding on a successor to Commissioner Walter Kennedy.

"No date or site has been set for a possible later meeting to decide on a new commissioner," said an NBA spokesman, "but possibly there will be one later this summer."

The owners met in executive session yesterday afternoon attempting to decide between Alan Rothenberg and Henry Steinman, then tabled further discussion on a new commissioner. Kennedy resigned as commissioner last summer but agreed to serve until June, 1975, if necessary.

Budget for women's sports at university is increased $47,000

By Gerri Williams

A substantial budget increase for women's sports at the University of Minnesota has been allocated for the 1974-75 academic year.

The increase — more than $47,000 — will bring the total budget for intercollegiate athletics for women to $97,000, easing a precarious financial situation.

However, the money may prove to be temporary. There is no assurance of future increases for the department. In fact, the role of women's sports on campus — and who will pay the bill — is becoming a subject of university debate.

"We are making a request to the Legislature to get the women's sports department funded on a permanent basis," said George Roth, executive assistant to the vice-president for state and federal relations. "But there is no guarantee beyond this school year that the money will be there."

"We've had to exist on part-time instructors, volunteers and teaching assistants," said Dr. Eloise M. Jaeger, director of the School of Physical Education and Recreation. The intercollegiate athletics for women program is part of the school.

Dr. Jeager said $87,000 of the program's budget will be used to add several full-time instructors to the staff. The remaining $10,000 will be used to pay part of a maintenance fee for the use of university athletic facilities.

The program's entire budget last year was $28,000.

Women's sports at the University of Minnesota, and at colleges across the county, have been the focus of controversy in recent months.

Some specific complaints of women athletes at the university are inconvenient hours for practice facilities and frequent cases of women having to pay their own travel and lodging costs at athletic events.

In May, the Twin Cities Student Assembly (a student government group of elected officials who serve as the student "arm" of the university Senate) filed a complaint against the university with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the complaint, the group urged the government to cut off federal aid to the university because of its "large scale pattern of discrimination against female athletes." The alleged discriminatory practices violate a written policy of the Board of Regents forbidding discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

The complaint claimed that although women comprised 42 percent of the total student body, less than 1 percent was available for women's sports in 1972-73, compared with a $2.2 million budget for men's sports.

Intramural sports, in which both sexes may participate, are funded through appropriations from the university

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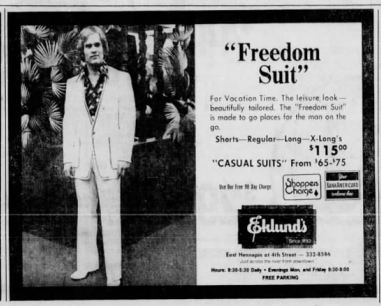
Dr. Eloise M. Jaeger



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