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Chance Turns Game Ball Over to Humphrey

By SID HARTMAN
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dean Chance walked up to Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the Minnesota Twins' clubhouse after Chance had shut out the Washington Senators 2-0 Wednesday afternoon.

"Mr. Humphrey, I want you to have the game ball."

The Vice President smiled and handed the ball back and said: "Will you please autograph this for me?"

"I weakened in the last two innings," said Chance, who was 3-0 against Washington last year and now has a 10-4 lifetime mark against the Senators. "My curve ball quit breaking after the seventh inning. I didn't have real good stuff, but the big thing was my control. I could put the ball where I wanted it."

Catcher John Roseboro, the former Los Angeles Dodger who caught his first game fo rthe Twins, was concerned at the end.

"Chance's breaking ball was flat in the final two innings and not breaking down the way it did early," said Roseboro. "He was worried when the Senators had Fred Valentine on base in the ninth and Mike Epstein at the plate. He talked about what he would throw big, strong Frank Howard if Epstein did get on base. Howard then would have been the winning run at the plate."

But Epstein hit into a double play.

Twins Manager Cal Ermer was concerned when Washington catcher Paul Casanova missed the third strike on Chance in the ninth, forcing Dean to run down to first base.

"That was the worst thing for a pitcher to do at that stage of the game," said Ermer. "But you can't pass up a chance to get on base.

"Chance pitched a real strong game.

"This is the way to start!"

Associated Press

HOPEFUL YOUNG FAN LEANED OVER TWINS' DUGOUT ROOF OFFERING A BASEBALL FOR AUTOGRAPHS
Stepping into dugout after 2-0 victory is Ted Uhlaender, followed by manager Cal Ermer, right

Twins

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second-deck section which begins 462 feet from home plate.

Pascual, whom the Twins dealt along with Bernie Allen for Ron Kline last season, pitched well. He allowed just seven hits in eight innings and struck out seven with his patented "looper."

But where Pascual was good, Chance was better.

The Ohio farmer grumbled some Tuesday night when the city's dusk-till-dawn curfew kept him indoors. With nothing better to do, he slept more than 10 hours and took out his ill feelings on the Senators.

The Senators didn't get a hit until the fourth inning, when Del Unser's bunt toward third handcuffed Cesar Tovar. Unser was the only Washington base runner through seven innings.

Then Ron Hansen, Excedrin headache No. 6 singled sharply to left with one out in the eighth. Chance then got Paul Casanova to fish for an outside third strike.

Frank Coggins proceeded to single Hansen to third, giving Chance the opportunity to face Allen, pinch-hitting for Pascual.

The former Twin second baseman drilled a hard bouncer between Chance's legs, but Jackie Hernandez backed up the play beautifully and threw to first to retire Allen and end the Senators' only serious threat.

A bit of drama remained. Fred Valentine lined a one-out single to right in the ninth, but Chance, working on a 3-2 count, got Mike Epstein to bounce to Hernandez, who stepped on second and threw to first for the game-ending double play.

Tony Oliva led Twins' batters with two singles and a double in four at bats, but said he thought he would have trouble maintaining his precocious .750 batting average.

"You never know, though," he said. "This baseball, she's a funny game. Maybe Tony-O will hit .750 this year."

Jim Merritt is scheduled to face Joe Coleman in the second game of the season this afternoon.

TWIN TOPICS: Rod Carew, who got one hit and had two taken away by nice fielding plays, was spiked on the toe yesterday, but is not expected to miss any action . . .

Pascual walked Killebrew to get at Allison with two out and two on in the fourth and the strategy paid off. Allison popped to second. "That was the same pitch I hit for a home run in the eighth," Allison said. "Friend or not, Pascual wasn't going to get that one by me again."

TWINS BOX SCORE

TWINS (2)	AB	R	H	RBI	PO	A	E
Tovar, 3b-lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
Carew, 2b	4	0	1	0	6	3	0
Oliva, rf	4	0	3	0	2	0	0
Killebrew, 1b	3	1	1	1	11	1	0
Allison, lf	3	1	1	1	2	0	0
Clark, 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roseboro, c	4	0	0	0	7	1	0
Hernandez, ss	4	0	0	0	3	4	1
Uhlaender, cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
Chance, p	4	0	0	0	1	2	0
Totals	34	2	7	2	27	13	1

Washington (0)	AB	R	H	RBI	PO	A	E
Unser, cf	4	0	1	0	3	0	0
Valentine, rf	4	0	1	0	2	0	0
Epstein, 1b	4	0	0	0	8	2	0
Howard, lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMullen, 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hansen, ss	3	0	1	0	2	4	0
Casanova, c	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Coggins, 2b	3	0	1	0	4	3	0
Pascual, p	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pascual, p	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Allen, ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knowles, p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	30	0	4	0	27	9	0

Minnesota	000	001	010—2
Washington	000	000	000—0

E—Hernandez. DP—TWINS 1, Washington 1. LOB—TWINS 8, Washington 3. 2B—Oliva. HR—Killebrew (1), Allison (1). SB—Oliva.

Pitching Summary	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chance (W 1-0)	9	4	0	0	0	8
Pascual (L 0-1)	8	7	2	2	3	7
Knowles	1	0	0	0	0	1

PB—Casanova. T—2:02. A—32,063.

MOUNDS VIEW A.D. RESIGNS

Bill Gebhard, Mounds View athletic director since the school opened 14 years ago, has resigned the position, it was announced Wednesday.

He will remain at the school as a history teacher. No successor has been named.

"I found I couldn't devote myself to the two jobs," Gebhard said. "Being an athletic director in the Suburban Conference is a full-time position in itself."

'Pals' Ruin Lemon's Managerial Debut

By Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jim Lemon's two best friends on the Minnesota team —Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison — hit home runs to spoil the managerial debut in Washington Wednesday of the former Twin player and coach.

Before the 2-0 Twins victory Lemon was asked:

"You've played with and coached Allison and Killebrew. When they were in a batting slump they always came to you for advice. Will your knowledge of their weaknesses help your pitchers?"

Lemon answered: "It's the pitcher's job to set up the batters. There isn't any way I can help the pitcher regardless of how well I know Allison and Killebrew."

So Killebrew hit his home run in the sixth inning and Allison in the eighth, both off their former teammate Camilo Pascual.

"Allison hit the ball real good," said Lemon. "I didn't think Harmon's ball had enough sting to go out of the park.

"Other than the two home runs, I felt that we hit the ball better than the Twins. We just couldn't get the ball to fall.

"Dean Chance pitched our right handed power — Ken McMullen, Frank Howard and Paul Casanova real well. He had great control and didn't walk a hitter.

"But Pascual was great, too. You won't lose many games when you hold a team to two runs.

"Pascual doesn't have the fast ball he had in his prime, but he makes up for his lack of speed by being a lot smarter pitcher. Camilo is going to win a lot of games for us."

Kaat Improving

Jim Kaat threw batting practice again Wednesday and, according to pitching coach Early Wynn, the sore-armed left-hander was "throwing smooth.

"Kaat wasn't cutting loose like he did Monday at Houston," said Wynn. "We wanted him to lob the ball and not put any strain on his arm."

Kaat was happy with the continued improvement.

Kaat is on the disabled list and can't pitch until April 28.

Unser Waited

Del Unser, son of former major league catcher, Al, was drafted by the Twins in 1965 out of Mississippi State College but didn't sign. He refused to sign when he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and finally turned pro after being drafted by the Washington Senators in 1966.

"The Twins offered me $30,000" said Unser, now the Senator center fielder. "I wanted to finish school before signing. I felt I might not continue my education if I signed as a junior."

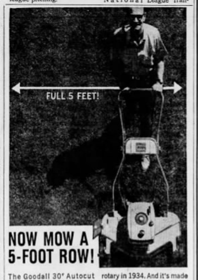
The 23-year-old native of Decatur, Ill., played for Twins coach George Case last year at York, Pa., where he hit .231.

"Unser has the tools to be a great player — he has speed, a good arm and the potential to be a good hitter," said Case. "My thinking is that Del needs more experience in the minors before he will hit major league pitching."

Montreal?

The word in informed baseball circles is that Montreal has become the favorite among National League owners for expansion, with San Diego second.

The only way Dallas-Fort Worth can get a National League franchise is to pay a multimillion-dollar territorial fee to Judge Roy Hofheinz, owner of the Houston team. Dallas-Forth Worth can't get a National League franchise unless all 10 clubs vote favorably.



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