

Killebrew, Aaron tie in homer contest; Twins demolish Braves 10-2 on 14 hits

By Dick Cullum
Staff Writer

Two of the good guys of baseball took 10 swings apiece at the inviting left field fence in Met Stadium Thursday night, and it came out even at three home runs for Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves and three from Harmon Killebrew of the Twins.

In their first five swings they hit a home run apiece against the pitching of Coaches Ken Silvestri for Atlanta and Bob Rodgers for the Twins. In their second set of five swings each reached the left field seats twice.

The slugging contest preceded the exhibition game between the two teams, which also turned into a slugging contest. The Twins banged out 14 hits to overpower the Braves 10-2.

The prize was to have been \$250 to the winner, but each received that amount to go to their chosen charities. In addition President Calvin Griffith of the Twins donated \$500 more to Aaron's charity fund.

This was an easy victory for the Twins, before a noisy crowd of 7,116 in a game delayed 35 minutes by rain.

When play action started Aaron made two appearances as the designated hitter, then retired in favor of the Braves' other home run hitter, Davey Johnson. Aaron had popped to Gomez and fouled to first baseman Joe Lis. Killebrew did better. He waited for a base on balls,

flied to left and singled to left, driving in Bobby Darwin with the Twins' ninth run.

Then Killebrew also retired after the hit that completed the scoring in the Twins' big, six-run fourth inning. It included triples by Darwin and Eric Soderholm, a double by Phil Roof and five singles. Darwin's triple drove in

two runs. He also hit a solo homer in the third inning to lead the assault off Atlanta pitcher Max Leon, who surrendered nine runs and 12 hits in four innings.

Meanwhile pitcher Bill Butler, a recent arrival from the Twins' farm in Tacoma, held the Braves under firm control. In his six innings he allowed one

earned run on five hits, and he struck out six.

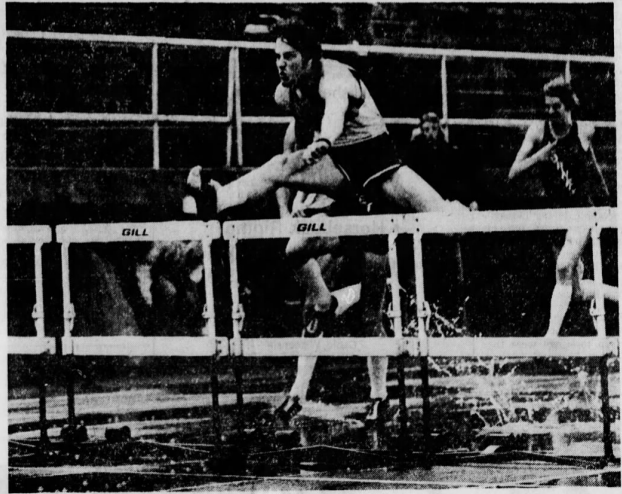
The Braves' only run during his reign was scored on Vic Correll's double in the second inning after Marty Perez had singled.

Manager Frank Quilici kept his top strength in the game until victory was secure. Manager Ed Matthews of the Braves,

on the other hand, gave many of his regulars a rest from the outset.

Truth is this was not the best team the Braves could present, but Hank Aaron was here and the Twins' fans had no other great interest.

The Twins will open a three-game home stand tonight against the Yankees.



Staff Photo by Powell Krueger

Winging in the rain

Jefferson's Dave Johnson splashed his way to first place in the 120-yard high hurdles in the Region E high school track meet Thursday with a time of 15 seconds

flat. Edina-East won the meet, 29½ points ahead of second-place Jefferson. (Details—page 6C.)

Twins clobber Braves 10-2



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