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Extra Spark Helps Twins

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—BACK IN THE GOOD, old school days we learned that the best way to get a spark was to employ a well-charged battery. . . . And that's one of the reasons the Minnesota Twins reign today as baseball champions of the American League. . . . When Sam Mele inherited the manager's role of the one-time Washington club in 1961 he brought them limping home in ninth place. . . . The Twins gradually pulled up to seventh in 1962 and then surprised even themselves by galloping home second in 1963. . . . Last season, the Twins had the American League batting champion in Tony Oliva, the home run leader in Harmon Killebrew and the best slugging team in the junior circuit. . . . Yet the club fell apart and wound up sixth. . . . One of the reasons was bone-head base running and a team which led the league in bobbles—both actual and mental. . . . When this mess was over Owner Calvin Griffith fired all of Mele's coaches and hired Johnny Sain to tutor the pitchers, Jim Lemon to impart knowledge to the hitters and Billy Martin to work in the coaching box and light a fire under the infielders. . . . Mele, himself, was given a pay cut. . . . Sam gave Grant confidence and enough extra knowhow to become a 21-game winner and Martin pushed, and pulled, Zoilo Versalles until many of the experts say the Twins shortstop could well be the American League's "most valuable player." . . . The word around the baseball scene was that Martin, one-time "bad boy of the New York Yankees, and a friend of the Griffith family, was brought in to take over as manager when Mele faltered. . . . Martin has always insisted he has no designs on Mele's position. . . . "A guy said to me I'm like a gun in back of Mele's head," Martin said. "I told him what manager doesn't have a gun in back of his head. Sure, I'd like to manage some day. I think every intelligent ballplayer who wants to stay in baseball would like to become a manager. But I want to win more than anything else. Even more than being a manager. If I wanted to take over the club, I'd be rooting for Mele-to-lose, wouldn't I?"

DEPT. OF SMALL TYPE —
Washington relief pitcher Ron Kline set a new club record for appearances. . . . Upon accepting an award from the grandstand managers club, Kline quoth: "I want to thank all of the Senators' starters for making this award possible."

Pride's Important Thing

MELE, OF COURSE, HAS DONE a fine job leading Minnesota to the pennant by a seven-game margin. . . . Yet it is no secret that the club lacked spark until Martin came along and infused that elusive commodity. . . . Martin never was a big guy but he acted like one. . . . He was always ready to put up his dukes and battle for what he thought was right. . . . "You've got to be a bit conceited in this game," Martin says. "I have tried to get it across to the players that if you don't believe in yourself, nobody else will. I tell the hitters they are better than any pitcher they face. The most important thing Sam and the coaches have done, I believe, is getting the guys to develop a feeling of pride in the letters across their chests. I tell them there's nothing as bad as losing. Be a good winner, sure, but don't be a good loser." . . . Martin likes to think of himself as an infield coach. . . . "I live with them and think with them," he explains. "I work with all of them but my big project is Zoilo Versalles, our fine shortstop. Zoilo needs special handling. He is a little more sensitive than the others. He needs a kind word, a compliment, a show of friendship. Some times he has to be sat on, though. He was more confused than bitter when Sam had to fine him for insubordination after taking him out of a game during spring training." . . . On that instance Versalles tried rather halfheartedly to field a ground ball and Mele told him to sit on the bench. . . . The shortstop replied, "I sit on the bench for Martin, not for you." . . . Those words cost him a \$300 fine and that instance probably made Minnesota a better ball club. . . . Afterwards Martin took him aside and said, "Nobody will blast you when you give 100 per cent. You only gave half an effort. That means you have no pride in your work, no respect for yourself, no feeling for the team." . . . Later Martin admitted, "He understood and he's had pride in his work ever since." . . . Substitute first sacker Don Mincher pointed this up with, "Everybody wants to win, but Billy makes you try harder, makes you give a little extra."

Slugger Finds Range

THE PRIDE OF THE TWINS' sluggers, Harmon Killebrew, seems ready to take some of that gloss off Los Angeles pitching. . . . The stocky, 213-pound long baller missed 48 games this season because of a dislocated elbow. . . . He finished with 25 home runs — his lowest since becoming a regular in 1959 when the club was still in Washington. . . . It was the first time he had hit less than 31 homers in a season and came on the heels of three straight American League home run titles with 48, 45 and 49 homers the last three campaigns. . . . Killebrew seems to have found the range with two home runs in the last two days of the 1965 schedule and three in his final five games. . . . His log now shows 297 career homers putting him in the top dozen of active major league sluggers. . . . Mele isn't conceding a thing to the National Leaguers. . . . He says, "We haven't hit the homers we have in the past, but we've got more speed and still have some pretty good hitters." . . . Tops on this list must be Oliva, who reigns as AL batting champion for the second year. . . . "Two for two in this grouping is beyond reproach. . . . Oliva got off to a horrendous start and was hampered by an injured finger most of the way. . . . However, he won the bat title going away with a .321 average — second best in the majors. . . . He had hit .323 as a "freshman." . . . Grant, the 21-game winner and Twins Series starter, tries to regard the first contest as "just another game." . . . The ex-Cleveland Indian reasons, "I'll just do the best I can. Sometimes even when you have your best stuff you get hit hard and sometimes you win even when you're not the sharpest." . . . Meanwhile, the argument still rages on whether Dodger pitcher Don Drysdale throws a spitter. . . . Milwaukee manager Bobby Bragan says he took a poll of his hitters after Drysdale's three-hit win over the Braves last week and came up with a total of 36 "saliva" pitches by the big fellow. . . . "The crime is," says Bragan, "that with all that other good stuff he can throw, Drysdale has no use for a spitter."

The Story Teller's Corner

FOR A GAG the other day when the Twins voted on their World Series shares, they ticketed a half share for relief pitcher Shorty Pleis because "he's only half size."

THIS IS A REAL FISH story. George Holland dropped his bait can into the Derwent River, near Sheffield, England then dropped his car keys trying to recover the can. . . . Worse followed. He fell into the river trying to recover the keys. He had to force a side window to get into his car and, without keys, had to short the ignition to start the engine. But he couldn't turn the wheel since the anti-theft device on it was locked. . . . "The whole affair," George said, "was a triumph for the fish."

DUFFY DAUGHERTY, Michigan State football coach, is a delightful fellow. . . . Daugherty was at a banquet where the audience gave a standing ovation to Dr. John Wilson, a former Michigan State star who went on to become a Rhodes Scholar. . . . "I just want to say I could have been a Rhodes Scholar, too," said Daugherty, "except for my grades."

Series Opens With 'Mild Rhubarb'

LA Brass Predicts Easy Time

By JOE REICHLER
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL (AP) — The makings of a mild rhubarb seemed to be fomenting today as right-handers Jim (Mudcat) Grant of the Minnesota Twins and Don Drysdale of the Los Angeles Dodgers clashed in the opening game of the 1965 World Series.

The weather prediction was for mild, cool temperature but the air in the vicinity of the batting cage during the Twins workout Tuesday was a little warm, especially around Manager Sam Mele.

Usually a mild-mannered gent, Mele took off on the Dodgers because of a prediction by Los Angeles General Manager Buzzie Bavasi that his team would sweep the Twins in four straight.

"The Dodgers are in for a surprise," Sam retorted hotly. "They've got my guys a little disturbed by their comments. And I don't mind saying I'm not happy about what they said, either."

"Cracks like that have a habit of coming back to haunt a guy. I think all they did was fire up the guys a little more."

Bavasi had been quoted as saying: "I think three or four clubs in our league would have won the pennant over there. I don't think the competition from the Twins will be any tougher than the Yankees when we beat them four straight in 1963."

Easy going Walt Alston was not very happy over Bavasi's remarks, either. The diplomatic manager of the Dodgers attempted to ease the situation.

NO ATTENTION

"Don't pay any attention to what Bavasi says," Alston soothed. "Our guys know it won't be easy."

"I hope we can win it — whether it's four or seven. I'll be happy to take it in any number of games."

The odds-makers have made the Dodgers an 11-10 choice in the opener and a 7-5 favorite to capture the Series.

Both managers plan to use only three starters, no matter how long the Series lasts. The second game on Thursday will be a southpaw duel between the Dodgers' Sandy Koufax and the Twins' Jim Kaat. Both threw lightly in the bullpen Tuesday.

"No, I have no bad effects after pitching last Saturday with two days' rest," said Koufax, who is troubled by an arthritic condition in the elbow of his pitching arm. "There is no swelling and the arm feels fine."

Koufax, of Jewish faith, will spend most of Wednesday in a temple, observing the Yom Kippur holiday.

OTHER TEAM

The other team is the Los Angeles Dodgers, and men like Harmon Killebrew and Tony Oliva and Zoilo Versalles are swinging at the pitches of Don Drysdale, and it all seems a

Los Angeles	
Walk 33	.286
Gilliam 3b	.280
W. Davis cf	.238
Fairly cf	.274
Johnson if	.258
LeFebvre 2b	.251
Parker 1b	.238
Roseboro c	.233
Drysdale p	.23-12

Minnesota	
Versalles ss	.273
Valdespino if	.261
Oliva if	.321
Killebrew 3b	.269
Hall cf	.285
Mincher 1b	.297
Batterly c	.208
Quince 2b	.217
Grant p	.21-7

Crestview's CC Winner

Crestview won a three-way meet in cross country at Possum Run yesterday in competition with Lexington and Malabar.

Crestview gathered 33 points to 39 for Lexington and 50 for Malabar.

Don Snyder of Crestview was the top runner with a 10:40 clocking.

Ken Karsmizki was the top Malabar finisher, as he placed fifth with an 11:12 clocking on the two-mile course.

CROSS COUNTRY
Scoring: Crestview, 33; Lexington, 39; Malabar, 50.

CRESTVIEW
1. Don Snyder, 10:40; 2. Dave V. Fadden, 11:04; 3. R. Eichberger, 11:16; 4. Charles Conroy, 11:26; 5. Barry Naugle, 12:00.

LEXINGTON
1. Mike Cooper, 10:54; 2. Ernie Hall, 11:11; 3. Dave Roberts, 11:26; 4. Chuck Stone, 11:49; 5. Mike Walker, 11:51.

MALABAR
1. Ken Karsmizki, 10:52; 2. Jerry Meder, 11:30; 3. Dan Burton, 11:33; 4. Bob Current, 11:35; 5. Jay Booth, 12:04.

Substitutes Help Speed Recovery Of Linemen

(CLEVELAND (AP))—Injured linebackers Galen Fiss and Vince Costello should be ready to start Saturday night when the Cleveland Browns face the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Probably helping the pair make quick recoveries from leg injuries received in the Browns' loss to St. Louis Sept. 26 were their replacements, Sidney Williams and Dale Lindsey.

"Both of these men came through in great fashion for us," said Coach Blanton Collier after the Browns defeated Philadelphia 35-17 last Sunday.

Williams, from Southern University and a 16th draft choice, filled in for Fiss at the right linebacker spot. He intercepted a pass early in the game and pounced on Tim Brown's fumble on the two-yard line to set up the touchdown that wiped out a 17-14 Eagles' lead in the fourth quarter.

His performance was worthy of a game ball—presented by Fiss, the team captain.



BIG BATTERY — Batterymates for the Los Angeles Dodgers as they get ready to challenge the power of the Twins of Minnesota are Pitcher Don Drysdale (right) and Catcher John Roseboro of Ashland. They face the task of taming the power of Killebrew and Co. in the opener of the World Series, today in Metropolitan Stadium. (Unifax Photo)

Some Fans Full, Too

Series Still Unbelievable

By GEORGE MOSES
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL (AP) — All signs pointed to a World Series opening here today, but you could find a surprising number of people in this North country who weren't quite ready to believe it until Jim Grant fired the first pitch to Maury Wills.

Sure, the big leagues came to this land of 10,000 lakes in 1961 when the Washington Senators became the Minnesota Twins.

But a World Series was something that happened in places like New York and San Francisco, and men named Mantle and Mays played in it. Now here it is, at Metropolitan Stadium in suburban Bloomington.

little unreal to more people than would care to admit it.

In fact, the favorite question this summer when the Twins grabbed the American League lead and wouldn't let go was, "are the Twins for real?"

They were, and now the hotels are full, the restaurants are full, Metropolitan Stadium is full, and, inevitably, a few of the fans are full, too.

The 90 per cent of the fans who couldn't get any of the 46,000 tickets will be watching on television. The Series is expected to disrupt practically all local business.

It also appears to have made an honest man of the weather

man. The entire month of September, in this northernmost Series site, was nasty enough to send ducks south—cold, windy and rainy. But when the Twins won the pennant, the sun came out and it got warm—relatively speaking. A high of 65, and no rain, with a hitter's wind from the northwest is the outlook.

Flag-draped and baseball crazy Minneapolis and St. Paul are two cities along the Mississippi who feud about many things but who get together on the Twins, the only team named after a state until the Los Angeles Angels recently moved to Anaheim and became the California Angels.

Plymouth High Downs Two Teams

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth won in cross country against Attica and Lucas here yesterday.

The Big Red scored a low of 30 while Attica had 42 and Lucas 56.

Winning first place for Plymouth was Steve Ruckman with 10:59. Second and third also went to Plymouth with Jon Daup touring in 11:13 and Rod Huston in 11:33.

Lucas took fourth and fifth with Bill Yarnell's 11:42 and Ray Miller's 11:43.

CROSS COUNTRY
Scoring: Plymouth, 30; Attica, 42; Lucas, 56.

PLYMOUTH
1. Steve Ruckman, 10:59; 2. Jan Daup, 11:13; 3. Rod Huston, 11:33; 4. Tim Rook, 12:15; 5. Horst Renz, 12:40.

ATTICA
6. Wise, 11:47; 7. Davis, 11:53; 8. Stephenson, 12:06; 9. Chenell, 12:29; 10. Williams, 12:30.

LUCAS
4. Bill Yarnell, 11:42; 5. Ray Miller, 11:43; 6. Larry Sipe, 11:51; 7. Gerry Neff, 12:43; 8. Stone, 12:54.

Bobcats Win

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Falcons Stressing Defense In Drills

With Roosevelt Robinson and his Ashland High teammates invading Arlin Field Friday night for a battle with the Malabar Falcons, it's understandable that Malabar coach Al Ward declared, "We're going to spend 70 per cent of our time this week on defense."

But it's not only the anticipation of the all-Ohio halfback that has the Falcons running rigorously through their defensive paces. Much of the emphasis on defense this week is the result of Malabar's 18-16 loss to Wooster, last Friday.

"We were fairly well pleased with the offense last week," Ward said, "but we were very displeased with the defense."

Ward indicated a special unhappiness with the performance of the Falcon tackles and ends, and hinted that a few defensive changes might be made before Friday's Cardinal Conference clash.

Ward conceded that Robinson, who has tallied 72 points in four games, is one of Malabar's big concerns, but cautioned that the "Arrows aren't a 'one-man team.'"

"WE CAN'T key on him," Ward said, "their offense is so versatile."

Ward also indicated that he felt the Malabar offense was progressing. He singled out for praise the work of offensive backs Wilbur Lanier and Bob Scurlfield.

Also the recipient of special praise from the Falcon mentor was substitute quarterback Dave Hahn, who came into Friday's game in the late stages of the fourth quarter and sparked a sustained touchdown drive with a snappy passing attack.

Ward commented that Hahn, who had seen no offensive action before Friday night, may be used more extensively against Ashland.

"WE'VE GOT to have a more balanced attack," Ward declared, adding that Hahn's fine passing might be the necessary ingredient.

Despite the convincing manner

Spangler, Clay Win Golf Event

Bill Spangler and Bill Clay combined for a score of 28 to take the top spot in the Tuesday Morning league best-ball tournament at Twin Lakes, yesterday.

Spangler had an actual score of 44 and Clay fired a 42 on the nine-hole test.

Charles Betz, with a 39, and Clay's 42 took the individual low gross and low net crowns.

Betz, Don Trout, George Thompson and Earl Griffith were the members of the league's winning team.

Defends Title

LONDON (UPI) — Brian Curvis, British and Empire welterweight champion will defend his titles against Scotsman Sammy McSpadden at Cardiff Nov. 18 or 25, it was announced.

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