03rd VEAR - No. 31

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### Billy Martin-

### **BUS SAIDT**

### Baseball at its worst

NEW YORK - This was baseball in its worst element.

The "base" in baseball doesn't necessarily refer to that accomplished by George Steinbrenner and Gabe Paul yesterday, "Base"

means low-down, dirty, impure. It is not sufficient to pass off the callous dismissal of Bill Virdon as manager of the New York Yankees and the hiring of Billy Martin to replace him with the casual observation, "Oh well, just another example of the hazard of the profession.

The decision to dump Virdon represents cynicism running rampant. It is rotten to the core.

Could a man have done a better job than Virdon?

It's easy to forget, but think of the circumstances under which he appeared on the Yankee scene. A distant second, maybe third or fourth choice behind the Steinbrenner-Paul infatuation with Dick Williams and the clumsy charade involving him, Virdon restored balance to a chaotic situation.

A quiet, low-profile man of considerable leadership quality, Virdon quickly let the Yankees know who was boss by putting down clubhouse unrest over Paul's multi-player trade with Cleveland in early '74 and courageously moving Bobby Murcer from center to right field.

#### Gets job done

Then, perhaps to the surprise of Paul, Virdon had the Yankees in contention for their first championship in 10 years until the next-tolast day of the 1974 season. Virdon was American League manager-ofthe year in my book. Then Paul dealt Murcer for Bobby Bonds and virtually told Virdon he was expected to win a division title or else. What Paul failed to do was provide his manager with any semblance of a major league second base-shortstop combination without which it is nearly impossible to

Perhaps the glamorous nature of Paul's moves blinded many of us. I picked the Yanks to win everything this year. I was wrong, but I am firmly convinced the Yanks' collapse may not be attributed to Virdon's managerial inadequacies.

The Yankees are bitter disappointments because of brutal injuries — primarily those to Elliott Maddox, Bonds and Ron Blomberg, Bonds' bad year and the sub-par pitching of people like Doc Medich, Pat Dobson and Sparky Lyle. Dobson must feel fine today, reflecting on his intemperate blast at Virdon in which he tried to cop out for his own poor performances by blaming his man-

Bonds has been erratic all year, and his (Maddox) injuries hurt us said Medich, never less than honest. "Sparky and I are having terrible years. I don't see how you can blame Bill Virdon for our shortcomings.'

### Fatal double loss

Virdon lost his job last Sunday during that crushing, 1-0 loss Hunter suffered to Boston in the

N. Y. Times Service

Martin as their manager, the New

York Yankees are attempting to

rehabilitate a three-time loser. a

prodigal-son on parole. But before

he was discharged by the Texas

Rangers, the Detroit Tigers and

the Minnesota Twins for a variety

of Turbulent transgressions, Billy

Martin was a three-time winner.

That's all the Yankee owners are thinking about now. They'll worry

"We've chosen Billy Martin,"

says Gabe Paul, the Yankees'

president, "because of the excite-

ment he will bring coupled with the Yankee tradition." It also

would have been exciting for Chase

Manhattan to have hired Willie

about the problems later.

NEW YORK - In hiring Billy

DAVE ANDERSON

Prodigal son on parole

to be watched.

first game of the double debacle. The specific incident which cooked Virdon's goose was his failure to pinch-hit for Fred Stanley in the fifth inning with the bases full and nobody out. The Yanks failed to score, then Virdon hit for Stanley in the seventh inning and Stanley's replacement, Jim Mason, blew the biggest game of the year with a ninth inning error.

While this was going on, Steinbrenner, the new-breed emotional, fan-type owner who really would like to manage the club himself. sat in the Yankee box, directly beside the New York dugout. He leaned over to scream at Virdon during much of the ball game. The owner's tirade continued after the doubleheader, made more valid in Steinbrenner's mind with the help of liquid libation.

T'm afraid Bill Virdon lost his job today," a man close to the Yankees' and American League scene said solemnly later that

Paul got up at the 9:30 press conference yesterday morning and said he began thinking of Martin as his manager the day Billy was fired by the Texas Rangers.

We're not blaming Virdon for anything," the Yankee president insisted, while intelligent observers rolled their eyes, "not a

### Honestly costs job

don is one of the straightest shooters baseball ever has known. He never lies, cons, insults intelligence nor blames others for his own mistakes. For this he has lost his job.

Martin said he wanted to bury the batchet. To his credit, Maddox indicated to reporters, "Let's wait and see.'

Before midnight Friday, Virdon still didn't know where he stood. Both news wire services reported him out of a job, replaced by Martin, but Paul was going around, saying, "No comment." Virdon went out all class, as he had been since the first day he arrived.

### Martin capable

Billy Martin undoubtedly has outstanding managerial capacity. He is fiery, brash, egotistical, dynamic and pugnacious. He also must have everything his own way. It's his show all the way, or else.

Steinbrenner's attraction for the new man may stem from his desire to have a manager who is the owner's buddy-buddy drinking pal and off-the-field companion with whom he may talk inside baseball. The combination bears watching.

"It's a thrill coming home," said Martin, the bulldog second baseman of Casey Stengel's great Yankee teams in the early '50s.

Paul was asked if it weren't gross to fire Virdon on Old-timers Day, usually a happy, festive occa-

"We had to do it now because of availability," Paul answered How does that great Stephen

Sondheim Broadway show tune go? "Bring on the clowns, there ought to be clowns. Don't bother, they're

Sutton as a bank guard, at least

until he robbed the bank. Sooner

or later, Billy Martin will rob the

Until then. like Willie Sutton as

a bank guard. Bill Martin will be a

manager to watch, and a manager

The shame of Martin's arrival is

Bill Virdon's departure. Virdon is

a good manager, a good man. If

the Mets become disenchanted

with Yogi Berra as their manager,

Bill Virdon would be an ideal

successor in the Met image -

"But if Billy Martin had not been available," Paul explained

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 6)

calm, patient, honest.

bank. He was everywhere else.

Yankee third baseman Graig Nettles puts the tag on Cleveland's Rick Manning to thwart a steal attempt in fourth inning.

### Yankees give Martin 5-3 victory in debut

#### By BUS SAIDT Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Under the deposed regime of Bill Virdon, Sparky Llye, once known as the Count because of the royal manner in which he saved countless games as a premier relief pitcher, had become a peasant. Virdon had lost faith in

The new Yankee manager, Billy Martin, couldn't believe Sparky Llye had gone back so far.

The first time the opportunity arose in his debut as skipper of the club for which he used to fight and win, Martin went right to Llye even though the Cleveland Indians already had taken a 3-0 lead in the sixth inning on Boog Powell's three-run homer off Pat Dobson.

Sparky responded with three and a third innings of scoreless, if not quite superb, ball, the Yanks banged around Frank Robinson's own relievers for three runs in the eighth and made off with a 5-3 victory over the Indians before 43,968 oldtimers' day

"I thought Sparky looked awful said Martin, sorting through a pile of congratulatory telegrams. "I think he has to pitch a lot more to be successful. Today's game might have gotten him over the hump.

### Felt comfortable

While not criticizing Virdon in any way, Lyle obviously felt more comfortable with a new man calling the shots around the disappointing Yan-

'Maybe it looked like I was working enough by my number of appearances," he said, "but I need appearances in a row to get things all together. I'd like to pitch three or four days in a row. I hope Billy can use me Sunday and Monday. If there's one thing I don't need, it's days off after I get the feel of things with my pitches.

We went with my fastball more in this game, not as much slider. You know the story all year - one good slider and three bad ones.

"It's possible everybody put out just a little more today. They all want to get off on the right foot with a new manager. Billy is a different

CLEVELAND NEW YORK
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FRobinson on 1000 Piniello dh 5020
Manning of 4130 RWhite If 4221
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Powell 1b 4 1 1 3 GNettles 3b 4 0 1 1
Gamble dh 3 0 0 0 Brnkmn 3b 0 0 0 0
BBell 3b 4 0 2 0 Chamblis 1b 4 2 3 1
Brohamr 2b 2 0 0 0 Bladt ct 2 0 0 0
Carty ph 1010 Herrman ph 1011
Hood or 0000 Coopins of 0000
JEIlis c 4010 Alomor 2b 4011
Duffy ss 4000 FStanley ss 3000
Peterson p 0 0 0 0 PDobson p 0 0 0 0
Bibby p 0000 Lyle p 0000
LaRoche p 0 0 0 0
JBrown p 0000 .
Total 35 3 10 3 Total 34 5 12 5
Cleveland 000 003 000 3
New York . 000 002 03x-5
E-Alomar, LOB-Cleveland 7, New
York 9, 2B-Piniella, Chambliss, 3B-
B.Beil, HR-Powell (17), R.White (9).
SB-Manning.
IP H RERBBSO
Peterson 52-3 6 2 2 2 3
Peterson 52-3 6 2 2 2 3 Bibby (L.4-11) 11-3 4 2 2 0 0
Bibby (L.4-11) 11-3 4 2 2 0 0 LoRoche 1-3 2 1 1 2 0
Bibby (L.4-11) 11-3 4 2 2 0 0 LaRoche 1-3 2 1 1 2 0 LaRoche 1-3 2 1 1 2 0 P.Dobson 2-3 0 0 0 0 0 P.Dobson 52-3 7 3 3 1 3 Lyle (W 3-5) 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3
P.Dobson 52-3 7 3 3 1 3
Lyle (W,3-5) 31-3 3 0 0 1 1
T-2:46. A-43,968.

type all right. For one thing, he talks all during the game, telling the guys on the bench what he's doing and

Dobson and former Yankee Fritz Peterson had a dual shutout going through five innings, then the Indians struck quickly for three with two out, Rick Manning, who had three hits for the losers, outran a bouncer to Sandy Alomar at second.

George Hendrick ripped a single up the middle and Powell slammed Dobson's first pitch over the wall in right center for his 17th homer to give the Tribe its three-spot. Yanks respond

The Yanks bounced back with a pair in their half of the sixth, Roy White leading off with a disputed.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

and home, retreated to the bag.

Catcher Ted Frangos threw over

Poleiro's head at third allowing the

After Vince Costa was hit on the

left hand by Scott Patterson, the

fourth Brooklawn pitcher, Jeff Plun-

kett executed a suicide squeezè per-

fectly as Lloyd came home with a

"We didn't go out and beat them,"

explained Hamilton manager Chuck

Giambelluca, "they beat themselves. If we wanted it badly enough, we

would have gone out there and de-

Friday night at Mercer County Park

Post 313 had been humiliated

game-winning run to score.

critical insurance tally.

stroyed them.

### Post 313 ties Legion series

### Staff Writer

BROOKLAWN - Two suicide squeeze attempts, one of which failed fundamentally, but still brought home a run, led to a two-run eighth inning, snapping a 5-5 tie to send Hamilton Post 313 to a 9-5 victory over Brooklawn Post 72 here yesterday in the second game of the American Legion District 4 semifinal series.

Hamilton PAL's come-from-behind triumph leaves the best-of-three series tied at one game each. The deciding game will be played here today at four p.m.

winner will meet Sayreville Post 211, the Middlesex County representative, tomorrow at four p.m. at Sayreville High School in the opening game of the best-of-three District 4 championship. Sayreville is 17-7-1 and won the 'B' Division in Middlesev

Chris Barlow, playing in his last game of the season for Post 313, opened the eighth with a bad hop single tothird baseman Dan Poleiro. He moved around to third after Bob Lloyd's sacrifice bunt was thrown wildly to first by pitcher Bill Sword. Ken Sobolewski tried the first suicide squeeze attempt only to miss the ball. Barlow caught between third

# Brooklawa (5) So'kman.ss C'ricci.rt N'rdcci.ib Jones.ct Francos.c D'Indro.2b Barr.lt Poleiro.3b Kern.o Flowers.p Sword,p P'ttrson,p

to three batters in 8th.

West Windsor, losing the first game of the series, 13-1. They gave us run'

"We miss a suicide play and their guy (Frangos) throws the ball away. They gave us that run," said Giambelluca. "Plunkett, though, lays down a real good bunt and gives us a

big insurance run. Hamilton PAL, the Mercer County champion, padded its advantage with

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)

### **Phillies** crushed by Expos

Colbert golfed a Tom Underwood pitch at the knees over the centerfield fence with two runners on and one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Montreal Expos and stunning 4-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies last night at Jarry

Colbert, who was hitting for Tony Scott, slammed the left hander's fastball some 440 feet to spoil thoughts the Phillies had of gaining ground on the Pittsburgh Pirates who had lost earlier in the day to the Mets, 6-0. The Phillies remain four games behind the division leaders, and the Mets are six out now.

Underwood (11-8) was sailing along with a five-hitter and 3-1 lead and got the first batter of the ninth before giving up singles to Tim Foli and Barry Foote. Foli's single to center came after Underwood had retired 12 straight Expos.

#### Ozark stayed with hurler

Manager Danny Ozark had reliever Gene Garber warming up in the Philadelphia bulipen, but elected to have his young lefty throw to Colbert rather then bring in a right hander and force Montreal manager Gene Mauch to go to his left handed pinch hitters. The homer was Colbert's second since Montreal acquired him from Detroit.

National League home run leader Greg Luzinski smashed a two-run homer in the fourth inning to help Philadelphia take a 3-1 lead into the

### Luzinski hits No. 27

The tape-measure blast, Luzinski's 27th of the season, was the first hit off Montreal starter Steve Renko and came after the right hander had walked Garry Maddox on a 3-2 pitch to lead off the inning.

The Phillies threatened again two innings later when Luzinski tripled to open the sixth and Dick Allen followed with a walk and a stolen base. But Renko managed to pitch out of

What appeared to be the insurance run came in the top of the eighth when Jay Johnstone doubled and came around on Larry Parrish's in-

The Expos grabbed a 1-0 lead in the third inning when Jose Morales singled with one out and raced home on Bob Bailey's double to the left field corner. Bailey advanced to third on a wild pitch, but was left stranded when Larry Parrish grounded to short and Foli flied to center.

PHILADELPHIA MONTREAL
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Cash 2b 5000 PAAgnool ct 3000
Bowa ss 5010 Mackanin 2b4000
Moddox of 4108 Corter of 3010
Luzinski if 4122 JoMrales 1b 4120
RAllen 1b 3 0 0 0 Boiley # 3 0 1 1
MAndrsn rf 0 0 0 0 Foli ss 4 1 1 0
Schmidt 3b 2 8 0 0 Foote c 4 0 2 0
Oates c 2000 Frias pr 0100
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Schrmn p 0000
TScott If 0000
Colbert ph 1113
Content bis 11173
Total 32 3 4 2 Total 32 4 8 4
One out when winning run scored.
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Philadelphia 606 200 016 3
Philodelphia 600 200 010— 3 Montreal 901 000 003— 4 E—Parrish 2. Luzinski. loMorgles
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Philodelphia 600 200 010— 3 Montreal 001 000 003— 4 E—Parrish 2 Luzimski, JoMorales DP—Philodelphia 1, Montreal 1, LOB— Philodelphia 10, Montreal 7, 28—Bailey, Johnstone, 38—Luzimski, HR—Luzimski,
Philiodelohia 600 200 010—3 4 Montreal 2. Luzimski, DP—Philiodelohia 1, Montreal 1, LOB—Philiodelohia 10, Montreal 7, 2B—Boiley, Johnstone, 3B—Luzimski, HR—Luzimski (27), Colbert (2), SB—Schmidt, R.Allen,
Philadelphia   600 200 010— 3   Montreal   2   Luzimski   1   Lu
Philadelphia   600 200 010-03
Philiadelphia
Philadelphia   600 200 010-03   4   Montreal   E-Parrish   2   Luzimski, DP-Philadelphia   2   Luzimski, DP-Philadelphia   3   Luzimski, Domorales   1   LOB-Philadelphia   3   Luzimski, DP-Philadelphia   3   Luzimski, Domorales   1   LOB-Philadelphia   3   Luzimski, DP-Philadelphia
Philiadelphia

American League

## Dog show may have to move

### By J. STRYKER MEYER

HARTS CORNER - The Trenton Kennel Club may have to find another location to hold its nationally known Trenton Dog Show next year. Hopewell Township officials fear a

monumental traffic jam created by

25,000 daily bicentennial visitors and more than 15,000 who attend the TKC event at the Washington Crossing State Park. The dog show is usually held the first Sunday in May. In addition to the traffic problems, there is other Hopewell Township opposition to the one-day TKC event.

Christopher F. Bannister said yesterday he would "urge the Trenton Kennel to look for other facilities" for

He said that while the township committee was pleased to have the show in past years, the anticipated

Hopewell Township Committeeman traffic congestion in 1976, the bicentennial year, would be impossible for the township to handle.

> Bannister wouldn't be opposed to the TKC returning to Hopewell Township after next year. While there was no official com-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 6)

### Major League Baseball

### National League

New York 6, Pittsburgh 0 San Francisco 8, Houston 7 St. Louis 4, Chicago.0 Montreal 4, Philadelphia 3 Cincinnati at Los Angeles, N Cincinnati at Los Aligeres, is Atlanta at San Diego, N Standing of Teams EAST

L Pct. 43 .594 Pittsburgh Philadelphia St. Louis .454 .427 Montreal WEST L Pct. GB .645 .519 Cincinnati Los Angeles San Francisco San Diego Atlanta Houstor

Philadelphia (Carlton 10-8) at Mon-treal (Rogers 8-7), (TV-17), 2:10 New York (Seaver 14-7) and (Webb 3-3) at Pittsburgh (Ellis 7-7) and (Candelaria 4-2), (TV-9), 1 St. Louis (McGlothen 11-8) and (Reed 9-9) at Chicago (Dettore 3-3)

and (Burris 8-8)
Houston (Roberts 6-11) and
(Konieczny 5-11) at San Francisco (Falcone 7-7) and (Bradley 2-2)

Atlanta (Morton 11-12) at San Diego Cincinnati (Darcy 7-5) at Los Angeles (Messersmith 13-9)

### Results New York 5, Cleveland 3 Minnesota 4, Chicago 1 Minnesota 8, Chicago 3 Boston 7, Detroit 2 Baltimore 6, Milwaukee 1 Oakland 6, Kansas City 5 California at Texas, N

Pct. GB **Baltimore** New York Detroit 61 .430 WEST GB Oakland Kansas City Chicago .538

.453 Today's games, pitchers Geveland (Harrison 4-2) and (Hood 3-7) at New York (Medich 8-12) and (Gura 3-3), (TV-11), 1 Chicago (Koat 15-8) and (Jefferson

2-5) at Minnesota (Albury 5-6) and Corbin (5-7), 2
Milwaukee (Slaton 10-10) at Balti-

more (Cuellar 10-7) Detroit (Coleman 8-13) at Boston

Oakland (Abbott 5-2) at Kansas City (Splittorff 3-6) California (Ryan 12-11) at Texas (Hargan 7-6)