



The Batter's Circle

By D.R. Haynes

Talent of both leagues battle in All-Star game

Editor's note: The Gamecock went to press before the All-Star game Tuesday.

It was that time of the year again, which baseball fans enjoy most next to the World Series. Major League Baseball's All-Star game was played Tuesday.

The All-Star game is a fun break in the season with baseball's best suiting up and playing to see which league has the most talent.

The starters are selected by the fans except the pitchers. The manager is determined by the pennant winners of the previous year. The manager chooses his pitching staff and his reserves. However, at least one representative from each team must be chosen to make up the team.

It is true some deserving players are always omitted from the squad, but the fans still play an important part of the game with their support.

The American League had an impressive line up featuring three Oakland starters and two pitchers.

Last year's American Most Valuable Player Jose Canseco was elected as a starter in the outfield but hasn't played at all this year because of injuries. He didn't play in the All-Star game. Canseco will report to Oakland after the all-star break but will continue to play in the minor leagues as a form of rehabilitation.

Joining Canseco in the outfield was American League top vote-getter Bo Jackson. His 1.7 million votes earned him his first all-star appearance. The Kansas City outfielder won prominence in his collegiate days as a football star at Auburn where he won the Heisman Trophy.

Kirby Puckett, who also started in the outfield, is having another fine season. Puckett of the Minnesota Twins is leading the American League in batting with a .335 average to go along with five home runs and 40 RBI.

Starting at first base was Oakland's Mark McGwire. At the break his batting average was a low .247 but has 15 homers and 53 RBI.

At second base was Texas Rangers' Julio Franco. His .332 batting average and 61 RBI gained him his first start in the all-star contest.

There was no surprise at shortstop. Cal Ripkin, who's probably still the best in his position, was one of two players representing the Baltimore Orioles.

Controversy surrounded Wade Boggs at the beginning of the season, but it has had no effect on his performance. Boggs, the Boston Red Sox third baseman, has won the batting title several times and has a .323 batting average.

Catching was Oakland's Terry Steinbach making his second all-star appearance. Steinbach was batting .319 along with four home runs through the break.

Oakland's Tony La Russa served as manager for the American League. La Russa watched his team become the first one to go to the World Series last year since the great Oakland team of the 1970s.

The reserves featured such names as Mickey Fletton of Baltimore, Jeff Lenard of the Seattle Mariners, Harold Baines of the Chicago White Sox, and Steve Sax and Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees.

The National League was also loaded with talent. The San Francisco Giants had the two leading vote-getters. Kevin Mitchell, who is having a sensational year, and Will Clark both received over 1.8 million votes by the fans.

Kevin Mitchell, who started in the outfield, already has 31 home runs and has a very good chance of breaking Roger Maris' record of 61 dingers in a season.

Teammate Will "The Natural" Clark played at first base. Clark has a .334 batting average and has powered 13 long balls on the season.

Chicago Cubs second sacker Ryne Sandberg made yet another start for the National League. He is not having a great year batting .264 with 10 home runs but was voted to start anyway.

The talented young catcher from the San Diego Padres Benito Santiago was picked. After having a good first and second year, Santiago is finding himself struggling with five home runs and a low .243 batting average.

At shortstop, and for the past several seasons was "The Wizard," Ozzie Smith from the St. Louis Cardinals. He is batting .289 with one homer and 30 RBI. I feel that Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin was ripped off at this position.

In an emotional speech Mike Schmidt announced his retirement earlier this season. Nevertheless, the Philadelphia Phillies' third baseman was voted to start. He was not eligible to play, and he was batting .203 with six home runs anyway which is pretty bad for an all-star.

Tony Gwynn, who also has won several batting titles, played in the outfield. The San Diego outfielder is batting .356 with 35 RBI so far.

Darryl Strawberry was voted to start in the other outfield position but could not play because of an injury. Strawberry has 16 home runs and 35 RBI along with a .224 batting average.

Los Angeles Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda managed the National League. Lasorda earned the honor by making a trip to the World Series last year.

The National League bench included stars such as Bobby Bonilla of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Howard Johnson of the New York Mets, Glen Davis of the Houston Astros, and Andre Dawson of the Chicago Cubs.

The All-Star game is always interesting because you never know who is going to win. But in my biased opinion, I believe the National League has always been the best.

West Germans take Wimbledon

By The Associated Press

Steffi Graf defeated Martina Navratilova to claim the women's Wimbledon crown Sunday, while Boris Becker overwhelmed Stefan Edberg to win the men's title.

It was hard to tell the victor from the vanquished after Graf again foiled Navratilova's bid for the ultimate Wimbledon record.

Graf overpowered Navratilova in the final set to win her second straight women's championship 6-2, 6-7, 6-1 on a history-making day at the All England Club.

After halting Navratilova's try for a record ninth Wimbledon singles title for the second year in a row, Graf sat in her sideline chair on Centre Court, bowed her head and sobbed.

It was a highly unusual display of emotion for the 20-year-old West German, who came under fire for her icy reaction after sweeping the four Grand Slam titles last year. But after losing to teen-ager Arantxa Sanchez in the French Open final last month, Graf was determined to crush all challengers on Wimbledon's grass courts.

"I wanted it so badly that I put a little more pressure on myself than usual," Graf said. "It's an overwhelming feeling."

No one wanted another trophy more than Navratilova, who once again was stymied in her attempt to break a tie with Helen Williams Moody and become the all-time leader in Wimbledon singles crowns.

"Basically, I got served off the court,"

"I wanted it so badly that I put a little more pressure on myself than usual. It's an overwhelming feeling."

1989 Wimbledon champ Steffi Graf

Navratilova said. "I just couldn't get the ball back in that last set."

Last year, Navratilova won the first set and led 2-0 in the second before Graf won 12 of the last 13 games.

Boris Becker completed the first West German double at Wimbledon by routing Stefan Edberg 6-0, 7-6, 6-4 in the most lopsided men's final since John McEnroe allowed Jimmy Connors only four games in 1984.

Becker blasted passing shots down both lines to beat defending champion Edberg in straight sets in a rematch in the 1988 final, claiming his third Wimbledon title in five years.

Becker, volleying flawlessly and returning served so well the Swede never had opportunities to take control with his vaunted net play, made few mistakes and won almost every crucial point.

The championship trophy was the only thing he couldn't handle. As he strolled around Centre

Court showing off the glittering cup to the crowd, he light-heartedly juggled the trophy and fumbled it — allowing the top to pop off and fall onto the grass court.

He quickly scooped the top up and tried to replace it, but could not get it to fit. Tournament referee Alan Mills came over and finally helped Becker put the lid in place.

Despite the frivolity with the trophy, Becker said this triumph was a serious matter.

"The early victories were more like a fairy tale," Becker said. "Over the past two or three years I had to work much harder than I ever had, so I feel in a way much more proud now than in my early years."

Becker, who lost to Edberg in the semifinals of the French Open last month, became the fifth male player since World War II to win three Wimbledon titles and earned \$313,500.

"I didn't play as well as last year," said Edberg, who won the 1988 title over Becker in a four-set match that lasted two days because of rain.

"Maybe I made him look better than he was." It was only the third time since the tournament moved to its present site in 1922 that both singles finals were held on the same day. The women's championship was postponed a day by rain, making it the first one ever held on Sunday.

It also was the first time in the modern era that the same women met in the finals three years in a row.



Les Alverson/The Gamecock

Another Pirate strikes out as Mets catcher Todd Hundley prepares to throw to third base at the game Saturday.

Mets remain tied for second place

Columbia split series with Augusta

By D.R. HAYNES

Sports editor

After a second-place finish in the Southern Division of the South Atlantic League, the Columbia Mets find themselves fighting for the second-half championship.

The Mets are 11-10 at the all-star break. They are tied for second with the first-half champion Augusta Pirates by 1.5 games.

The surprising Charleston Rainbows, 11-7, find themselves in first place. The Rainbows outslugged the Myrtle Beach Blue Jays Saturday by a score of 11-7.

The Mets concluded a series with the rival Augusta Pirates Saturday.

Pirate and all-star third baseman Keith Raisanen led his team with three hits including a grand slam in the 12-4 Mets loss. Raisanen collected his 12th home run to go along with 70 RBI for the season.

Pirate Robert Harris also had a good day for the Pirates picking up three hits and four RBI. Pirate Greg Sims was perfect Saturday by reaching base in all six plate appearances on three hits and three walks.

Rob Lemle served as the offensive punch for the Mets with three hits and two stolen bases.

Pirate pitcher Tim Odom picked up his third victory of the year going

five innings. Mets pitcher Chris Hill, who's record dropped to 7-4, took the loss.

The Mets topped the Pirates 6-4 in Friday's contest.

The Mets and the Pirates were scheduled to play a three-game series but started Thursday with a doubleheader to make up a game previously rained out.

Pete Schourek pitched the entire first game, improving his record to 3-6. He allowed only four hits and allowed one walk in the 4-0 Mets win. Schourek also struck out six Pirates.

Seven of the nine Mets in the batting order collected a hit. Centerfielder Rob Lemle, going 1 for 3,

scored two of the runs.

Bobby Underwood in his first start for the Pirates took the loss but pitched the entire game also.

The Pirates salvaged game two of the twin bill for the split by edging Columbia by a score of 1-0.

Pirate pitchers Ken Huseby and Jeff Neely combined for the shutout with Neely getting the win in relief. Vladimir Perez pitched a good game for the Mets striking out seven, but took the loss lowering his record to 3-5.

Outfielders Robert Harris and Miguel Valverde led the Pirates with two hits each. Jim Morrisette went 1 for 3 with a stolen base for Columbia.

Wilson names new assistant coach

From staff reports

USC's head women's basketball coach Nancy Wilson named a new assistant basketball coach on June 28.

Rosie Jones has accepted the assistant basketball coach position.

Jones' responsibilities will include recruiting and scouting.

"I'm thrilled to have Rosie on our staff," Wilson said. "I've known her for more than four years and she is a quality person as well as a quality basketball coach."

"She was an outstanding player at Central Missouri when they won the National Championship and she brings that experience and knowledge to South Carolina."

Last season Jones served as a part-time assistant coach

at Purdue. Before going to Purdue, Jones served two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Indiana.

The 25-year-old Kansas City native was a three-year starter at Central Missouri State University from 1983-'85. While at CMSU, Jones was named first team All-America and was named the Kodak's Division II player of the year.

During her three seasons, CMSU compiled a record of 104 and 21, made three Division II Final Four appearances and claimed the 1984 National Championship.

Jones received her bachelor's degree in education in 1986.

She replaces Nessie Harris, who resigned her position to begin a career in elementary education.



File photo USC Assistant Coach Rosie Jones

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