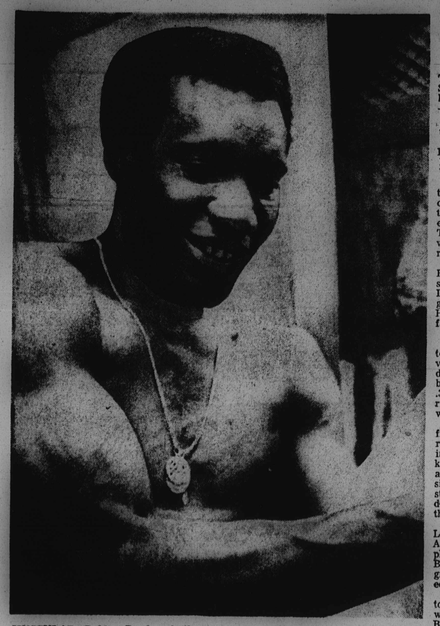
Bonds Shines In All-Star Rout



MUSCULAR Bobby Bonds of the San Francisco Giants smiles as he undresses after the All-Star game in which he hit a two run homer to help the National League in 7-1 victory over the American League in the 40th annual All-Star game. Bonds was originally left off the All-Star team by the fans voting.

By Charlie Smith

KANSAS CITY (UPI) — The story of the 44th All-Star baseball spectacle can be condensed into one word — mismatch.

And f you wish to add two more — Bobby Bonds.

Johnny Bench and Willie Davis broke the American Leaguers hearts but Bonds broke their backs.

"They threw homers joited the pro-American League crowd of 40,849 and a national television audience estimated at 30 million Tuesday night. The result was a 7-1 National League romp.

"They embarassed us," Reggie Jackson said in the shamefaced American League clubhouse. "Did you get a load of that Bonds? He's fantastic, absoutely fantastic."

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The San Francisco centerfielder, who was not voted to the starting team despite 25 homers, 28 stolen bases, 64 runs batted in and .306 batting average, pulverized the American League with his bat and his speed.

His two-run homer in the fifth was a blast that carried over the 385-foot sign in left-centerfield in sparkling Royals stadium built a 5-1 lead. And his routine single to center that he stretched into a stand-up double in the seventh left the host team dazzled.

Lauded by National League manager Sparky Anderson as "the finest player in either league," Bonds said he bore no grudges at not being elected to the starting team.

"The fans have the right to pick the team they think will win the game," said Bonds. "They're all great outfielders. I'm not disappointed at backing up those kind of guys."

National League thunder struck in consecutive innings, turning a 2-1 lead at the end of three innings into an insurmountable 7-1 margin after six.

Bench opened the scoring parade with a leadoff homer in the fourth. That was the Cincinnati Catcher's third All-Star homer, making him one of five players with that many. Only Stan Musial with six and Ted Williams with four have more. And Bench is only 25.

• • •

Bonds was inserted into the lineup when the National League took the field in the fourth for Billy Williams. "I got him in as soon as I could," said Sparky Anderson, who finally beat the American League after one All-Star and two World Series losses.

Joe Morgan led off the fifth with a double before Bill Singer retired Cesar Cedeno and Joe Torre. That brought up Bonds and his towri nsgh tro pcofa ha-r towering shot, for all practical purposes, ended the game.

Willie Davis made sure in the sixth against Nolan Ryan with another two-run homer while wearing Hank Aaron's batting helmet.

"I forgot mine," said Davis, the Los Angeles centerfielder. "I'm going to steal the helmet for a souvenir. I don't think Henry will mind."

Rick Wise, who gave up the American League's only run in the second on a run-scoring single by Amos Otis, was the winning pitcher. Bert Byleven, who was tagged for two runs -- but no homers -- in the third was the loser.

Those runs were produced by a pair of walks and consecutive singles by Cedeno and Aaron.

• • •

The AL got just five hits off seven NL pitchers.

The mid-summer classic was in doubt most of Tuesday when heavy rains fell. But the sun broke through three hours before game time and the Kansas City Royals machines swept the standing water off the artificial turf.

Batting practice was canceled, disappointing many of the early arrivals who wanted to see the likes of Aaron boom a few out of the park. The Atlanta slugger, who only last Saturday slamed his 700th career homer, was given a standing ovation when the teams were introduced. He played just three innings.

And there was a touch of irony, too. Willie Mays was sent up as a pinch-hitter in the eighth, long after the verdict was decided. It was his 24th all-star appearance, tying him with Musial for the record. But the 42-year-old New York Met was struck out by another New Yorker, Yankee Sparky Lyle.

Even thouch the game bordered on being dull, especially in the late innings, Anderson called it "the biggest thrill I've ever had in baseball. Even more than being in a World Series."

The National League now has won 10 of the last 11 All-Star games and leads the series 25-18-1.

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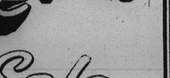

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Dems practice secret pitch for Congress game

The Democratic Congressional Baseball Team that has lost 10 of 11 decisions to the Republicans (including the last nine straight) will unveil a new and heretofore secret weapon during the annual congressional game in Baltimore on Monday at 6:30 p.m., preceding the regular Oriole — Tiger game at 8:15.

In a letter to his Capitol Hill teammates, Rep. Frank Clark (D-Pa.), the long suffering Democrat manager, revealed that "our stalwart pitchers Henry Gonzalez (Tex.) and Ron Dellums (Cal.) are developing a new pitch called the 'Watergate Blooper.'

"The baseball starts out low and slowly rises until it reaches the batter and then explodes, scattering fragments in different directions, with each fragment wanting no part of the inner core.

"It is alleged that if the Republicans can hit that pitch, they will be awarded $350,000 in washed cash by a nondescript laundry company representing an alien investment corporation."

If Bobby can . . .

NEW YORK (UPI) — Althea Gibson, winner of both the United States Amateur and Wimbledon championships in 1957 and 1958, said she would like to play in the mixed doubles of this year's U.S. Open at Forest Hills in partnership with Arthur Ashe.

Miss Gibson, who is 45, is currently the director of the Pepsi-Cola Mobile Tennis program.

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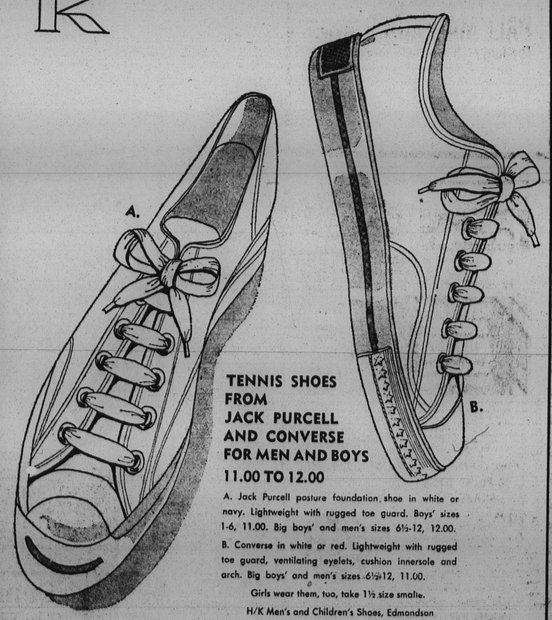

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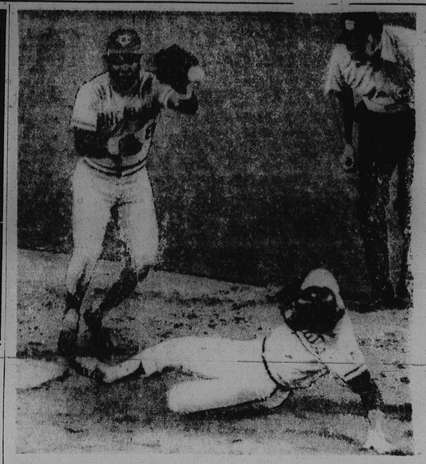

SAFE — American League's Amos Otis steals second safely in the 4th inning as National League catcher Johnny Bench was a fraction of a second late with the throw to shortstop Joe Morgan. Making the call was umpire Larry Barnett. The National League won the All-Star game 7-1.

Kuhn's Homer Neglect Miffs Aaron

KANSAS CITY (UPI) — Hank Aaron took a crack at Bowie Kuhn and although he cushioned the ran in his customary soft, polite all-star manner, he said he still thinks the Commissioner of baseball could have found time to send him a wire after his 700th home run.

Aaron said he received more than 100 telegrams after moving within 14 homers of Babe Ruth's all-time record by connecting for the 700th of his career off Ken Brett of the Phillies.

Among the congratulatory wires, said Aaron, were ones sent by National League President Chub Feeney, the Rev. Jesse Jackson of Atlanta, and even former teammate Pat Jarvis, now with Montreal, but there was no word whatsoever from Kuhn.

"I was kinda disappointed that I didn't hear anything from him at all," said Aaron. "Disappointed, you might say, and let down.

"I didn't get one from President Nixon either," he smiled, "but I never expected one from him."

Later Kuhn said:

"I'm certainly sorry that Hank Aaron was disappointed as I am sure he knows I am one of his biggest rooters. I want to lead the baseball celebration when he hits 714 and 715."

Three weeks ago, when some pitchers were quoted as saying they would "groove one" for Aaron if they had an opportunity to on the occasion of his record breaking home run, Kuhn immediately issued a public warning that any pitcher caught doing so would face suspension.

But Aaron said that warning by Kuhn was not the basis for his making public now his disappointment at not receiving a wire from the commissioner.

"I'm not agitating him and I'm perfectly serious," said Aaron, in that characteristic quiet way of his. "I mean this sincerely, regardless of how small he thinks it is, hitting that home run, it wasn't small to me.

"I feel he should have acknowledged it somehow. Frankly, it bothers me."

Aaron said he now feels he has "a good chance" to break Ruth's record this seaton.

Unlike astronaut Neil Armstrong, Aaron said he has no set phra in his mind as to what to say when and if he does break Ruth's record.

"That's something I haven't given any thought yet," he said.

"Do you think you might get a telegram from Nixon then?" a newsman asked the 39-year-old Atlanta left fielder.

"I don't know," he said. "President Nixon has enough problems."

Aaron said he was particularly moved by the wire he got from Jarvis.

"After all, he's not with our ball club anymore, and for him to take time out and send me a telegram, well, I just think that was very thoughtful of him."

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Colts trade Stukes for draft choice

The Baltimore Colts have traded veteran cornerback Charlie Stukes to the Minnesota Vikings for a high choice in the 1974 NFL draft.

Stukes, a starter in the Colts defensive backfield since 1969, started 12 games in 1972 and led the club in interceptions for the second straight year with five.

"We have four other cornerbacks and that's what makes him expendable," a Colts' spokesman said, explaining the trade of the six-year veteran just a week after defensive end Bubba Smith was dealt to the Oakland Raiders.

The other Colt cornerbacks are Bruce Laird, Lonnie Hepburn, Nelson Munsey and Rex Kern.

A graduate of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, the 6-3, 212-pound Stukes played quarterback in college and was a high scorer on the basketball team. He was also sought by professiona baseball scouts.

Stukes, 29, lives in Chesapeake, Va. (UPI)

Ex-Colt Mackey quits football

IRVINE Calif. (UPI) — San Diego Chargers tight end John Mackey has announced he is ending his 10-year football career.

"I decided it was time to turn it over to the kids and let them do their thing," said the 32-year-old Mackey, adding, "I am walking away from this game with pride."

Mackey, who played with the Baltimore Colts from 1963 — when he was a second round draft choice from Syracuse University — until 1971, said he was being considered for the coach position at Syracuse next year.

Mackey had reported to the Chargers training camp a month before he announced his retirement.

He said he still had some obligations to fulfill as president of the NFL Players Association, but he said, "I'm now free to take a vacation and relax."

Where to look for Md. birth certificates

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