Martin-Jackson dispute a memory

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — For a year and a half they bickered in public — Billy Martin, the managing genius, and Reggie Jackson, the superstar.

Their disagreements often embarrassed New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner and, more recently, new club president Al Rosen.

And for a year and a half, the tempestuous Martin barely clung to his job. He won two American League pennants and a World Series while running the Yankees on the field, but his position almost always was in jeopardy.

Finally, he delivered the ultimate insult to Jackson and Steinbrenner. And Monday, Martin resigned. Rosen named Bob Lemon, the one - time Cleveland Indians pitching ace who was fired last month as manager of the Chicago White Sox, to replace him.

The final episode reached a climax Sunday night.

Jackson was suspended for five days because he did not follow Martin's orders while at bat. He returned to the club Sunday in Chicago and told reporters after the game Martin had not spoken with him since he reported back.

Martin erupted at O'Hare Airport as the Yankees waited for a flight to Kansas City, raging at Jackson and Steinbrenner, claiming "They deserve each other — one's a born liar and the other's been convicted."

The reference to Steinbrenner dealt with the owners' conviction for making illegal campaign contributions.

Despite Martin's denials, both writers who reported the outburst, Murray Chass of the New York Times and Henry Hecht of the New York Post, stood by their stories.

The union between Martin and the Yankees was like a beautiful marriage gone bad. Martin always said he "loved" the Yankees. He said Monday he would "always be a Yankee."

When he replaced Bill Virdon as manager three years ago and put on Yankee pinstripes for the first time since he played beside Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford, Martin said it was the job he'd always wanted

He soon was on his way to challenging the record of his old mentor, Casey Stengel, whose unparalleled success included five straight pennants and World Series titles. His first full season as Yankee Manager ended with the club winning its first pennant in 12 years.

Throughout his stormy tenure as Yankee manager, there was little harmony among Martin and his players or Martin and the front office. He communicated with the players through his coaches, an old Stengel ploy resented by the new breed of player. He clashed repeatedly with Steinbrenner, though tensions between the two cooled this year when Rosen replaced Gabe Paul as president.

Much of the unrest on the Yankees resulted from Steinbrenner's off - season spending sprees for high - priced superstars — most notably Jackson, the $3 million right - fielder whom Martin was restrained from punching during a dugout dispute last year in a nationally televised game in Boston.

Martin accused Jackson of not hustling on a fly ball. Jackson went on to become the World Series hero, hitting home runs in his last four at - bats.

But the bitterness remained between the two.

At one point last year, Steinbrenner felt Martin lost control of the team and the respect of the players and reportedly was set to fire him. Paul persuaded Steinbrenner to retain Martin and issued a statement in the press box in Detroit that read:

"There will not be a change in our organization regardless of what has been said. We don't feel there's a better manager than Billy Martin and we want the Yankees to have the best."

Rosen made a similar statement this year when a newspaper report had Martin again on the firing line. The front office said Martin's position was safe, at least through the end of the season.

Olympics dispute continues

DUBLIN, Ireland — Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, said Wednesday Los Angeles has made fresh proposals for the hosting of the 1984 Summer Olympics.

"I understand fresh replies to our questionnaires have been dispatched," Killanin said in a telephone interview but pointing out he would have to await their arrival before commenting.

Killanin did however stress that it is up to Los Angeles to discover a compromise solution so that it could host the games and that the rules will not be changed.

"The rules stand," said Killanin. "We have granted them an extension to Aug. 21 to sign the contract. It is now completely a matter for Los Angeles."

Los Angeles was the only city to offer to host the games and after more than six months of wrangling Mayor Tom Bradley — the leader of the effort to bring the games to his city — last week asked the City Council to withdraw the city's offer, saying there no longer appeared to be any hope of an agreement.

His announcement left the future of the 1984 games up in the air, with the IOC saying it would have to look for another host city if Los Angeles, the only bidder, backed out.

At the crux of the dispute between the IOC AND Los Angeles are rules 4, 51 and 52 which state that the city bidding for the games must bear full financial responsibility. The Los Angeles City Council wants to protect its taxpayers by shifting the responsibility to private business.

This would require a change of Olympic rules — a change which Killanin said would not be considered.

The council though has not yet voted on the request. Council members said the Olympic rejection move would be passed if it came to a vote, but Council Leaders favored allowing the deadline to expire, "and make them reject us instead."

Following Bradley's decision to give up further attempts to reach an agreement, Killanin offered to extend the deadline and meet with city leaders in Europe.

Bradley's statement Monday appeared to reject the offer, unless there is some change in the IOC position.

"I think it would be wise for both sides to clearly establish prior to any such meeting that there are new elements that we would talk about," Bradley said.

Bradley's news secretary, Tom Sullivan, said the mayor sees no point in resuming negotiations without some clear signal from the IOC that it is willing to accept the city's demand that the games be organized by a private committee.

He and other Olympic proponents had to overcome resistance from voters and taxpayers who fear the expense of hosting the games. They promised that the games will cost the city treasury nothing, that all financial responsibility will be borne by a private group legally incapable of committing the city government to cover its debts.

The IOC's rules require the host city to assume complete financial responsibility for the games, and the IOC has refused to deal with the private group.

In New York, City Controller Harrison Goldin recommended to Mayor Edward Koch that the city lead an effort to secure the 1984 games as a Northeastern Regional Project, spreading them out through the heavily populated corridor between New York and Boston and thus spreading the costs.

But Killanin would not be drawn into saying whether he was optimistic whether a solution would be reached before the deadline.

"All I will say at this stage is that there will be games in 1984. But I can't tell you where."

He said no date had been set for a meeting between the IOC and Los Angeles delegates in Europe before Aug. 21.

"I've heard no more about it since it was first mentioned," he said.

No meeting is expected for at least two weeks, however, because of Killanin's commitments.

Weaver not concerned with standings

ARLINGTON, Texas — Baltimore manager Earl Weaver may read the American League East standings but only casually.

"I don't know anything about Boston (the division leader)," he said this week. "You can't do anything about the other games going on. I know we've been playing good ball and if we keep winning we'll pick up when the other people lose."

The Orioles move 11 games over .500 and within 9½ games of the Red Sox with a wild 10 - 6 victory over the slumping Texas Rangers Monday Night.

"We've been there all year long," Weaver said. "We've been playing well. We just need to be there when it's all over."

The staggering Rangers, coming off a 17 - 8 drubbing by Milwaukee that followed a blast by team owner Brad Corbett, had tied the game 5 - 5 with a run in the bottom of the eighth when rookie Gary Gray, playing in his third major league game, singled in Bobby Bonds.

But Baltimore broke the game open with a five - run ninth inning. Lee May boosted things by singling in two runs. Pat Kelly followed with a single, his 1,000th major league hit, to drive in pinch - runner Carlos Lopez. Mark Belanger added a run - scoring sacrifice fly and Larry Harlow greeted reliever Jim Umbarger with an FBI single to cap the inning.

The loss was Texas' seventh straight, which puzzles both Weaver and Texas Manager Billy Hunter, Weaver's ex - third base coach.

"Texas is just in a slump," Weaver said. "They hit Milwaukee when they (The Brewers) were hotter than fire. I think the Rangers will get straightened out. But Kansas City is a hell of a ball team at home. The Rangers will get out of their slump. The key for Texas is to not get too far behind the Royals.

"I don't really know what's wrong," Hunter said. "I don't seem to have a bag of tricks. I was encouraged some by the way we came back. I was even encouraged in the bottom of the ninth when we came back (Texas scored on Juan Benequiz' double)."

Don Stanhouse, 5-5, the third Baltimore pitcher, earned the victory. Scott McGregor got the final out for his first save.

Eddie Murray's solo home run leading off the seventh gave Baltimore a 5 - 4 lead. Baltimore scored two in the first, one in the third and one in the fifth to take a 4 - 0 lead.

Rono wins steeplechase in African games

ALGIERS — Henry Rono of Kenya lived up to his reputation as the world's greatest distance runner this week by winning the 3,000 - meter steeplechase by about 100 meters in the African games.

Rono clocked 8 minutes 15.8 seconds, 10.4 seconds slower than his world mark of 8:05.4.

He is the first person to hold simultaneous world records in the 10,000, 5,000 and 3,000 meters and the 3,000 meters steeplechase.

The Silver and Bronze Medals also went to Kenyans, James Munyala ran second, closely followed by another Rono, Kiprotich, who is no relation to Henry.

Henry Rono began the race at the back of the pack as is his custom, and moved up to a middle position halfway around the first lap. He clocked the first lap in 1:05 and moved out in front, falling back now and then to play cat and mouse with the pack.

As he did so, Kiprotich, or "small" Rono, pumped forward with piston - like strides to run a close second. The "Rono Duel" exchanged first and second place like dominoes throughout the second lap, with Munyala a far third, closely followed by Ethiopian runner Yohannes Mohammed.

It also was a day for newcomers as Hassan Keschief from Sudan proved he is the one to watch in sprints by winning the men's 200 meters in 20.7 seconds.

Keschief, 23-year-old electrical engineering student at the University of Oregon, delighted spectators here July 20 by winning the men's 400 meters in his first major international competition.

In the women's 200 meters, Hanna Afriye of Ghana clocked 23.01 for the gold medal. Kehminde Vaughan, the 16-year-old Nigerian who won the women's 100 meters, placed second in the 200 in 23.7.

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'Gangster' Webster tells his story

Walter "Gangster" Webster, well - known entrepreneur is in the words of "street" people "too smart" to have been caught with illegal narcotics.

Yet within a two - week span, city dope cops twice report having the goods on Webster.

What is going on?

"Gangster" and friends talked freely with AFRO reporters. Their view is that the raids on Webster are part of a white police conspiracy to dredge up evidence against indicted Police Colonel James H. Watkins.

But before you hear from Webster, listen to these words from a distinguished jurist.

"What we are seeing in this age when we are supposed to be living under the rule of law is a police reign of terror in the black community.

"White police officers — who are active and practicing racists — have unleashed on black people the most blatant lawless law enforcement since slavery."

The voice of George L. Russell Jr. was quivering with anger.

Mr. Russell, a former Supreme Bench Judge, had just finished interviewing more than two dozen people.

The people who converged on Judge Russell's Jackson of not hustling on a fly ball. Jackson went on to become the World Series hero, hitting home runs in his last four at - bats.

But the bitterness remained between the two.

At one point last year, Steinbrenner felt Martin lost control of the team and the respect of the players and reportedly was set to fire him. Paul persuaded Steinbrenner to retain Martin and issued a statement in the press box in Detroit that read:

"There will not be a change in our organization regardless of what has been said. We don't feel there's a better manager than Billy Martin and we want the Yankees to have the best."

Rosen made a similar statement this year when a newspaper report had Martin again on the firing line. The front office said Martin's position was safe, at least through the end of the season.

Walter 'Gangster' Webster

Fourth District Democrats' anniversary

The Fourth District Democratic Organization of Baltimore, Inc. will celebrate its twentieth anniversary Friday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at their new headquarters located at 2257 Madison Ave.

The Organization was founded in 1958 by Sen. Verda F. Welcome and a small group of her supporters.

The Organization is composed of members who meet year - round without recess. Many persons who are presently serving in high elective and appointed positions got their start in this Organization.

The Organization's regular monthly meeting is Monday, July 24, was candidates night. Persons running for state - wide, as well as local office, were in attendance.

They included Steny Hoyer, for Lieutenant governor; Edger Silver and Milton Allen, for Supreme Bench; Dwight Pettit, for state's attorney; Elmer O. Harris, for Clerk, Baltimore City Court; Ron Riley, for clerk of circuit court; James Cofield, for clerk, Superior Court and Doug Srnds, for House of Delegates, 41st District.

arrested, said her troubles began July 14, when her car was stopped by a gang of white men who approached her with drawn guns.

"I had just dropped off my friend who works at Mondawmin Shopping Center and I was en route to the bank to make deposits and get change for the weekend.

"They searched my car for more than a half - hour while we were standing there, with our hands on the top of the car.

"After all that time, one of the policemen, who had cursed us and called us all kinds of n s, whispered to another cop.

"Later one of them said, 'here it is on the seat.'

"My friends — Darlene Butler and Jennie Epps — were watching them, but one of the cops told her to stop watching. That's why we know they planted what they claim to be drugs in the car.

"I don't drink, I don't use any type of drugs, and I certainly don't know anything about selling drugs. So why would a small pack of so - called drugs be on the front seat of my car?

"Would it take 30 minutes to find drugs on the front seat of a car in the view of everybody who is not blind? So whatever they said they found they put it there."

Miss Thompson said police wanted her to tell them what she knew about Colonel Watkins. "I don't even know Colonel Watkins," she declared.

Miss Thompson said her problems with police have a deeper meaning.

"When I couldn't tell them — anything about Colonel Watkins, they asked me to tell them what I know about Walter Webster.

"When I told them I love him and intend to marry him they told me they would 'get me' and they haven't stopped yet."

Miss Thompson said she and Webster, also known as 'Gangster,' have been friends for years and plan to marry.

As reported previously by the AFRO, Mr. Webster was arrested July first and charged with narcotics violations, when police raided his home in the 1600 block of East Madison Street.

"According to Webster, Narcotics Det. Charles Smoot approached him on June 28 and asked him (Webster) what does he know about Watkins.

"I told him to go to hell and he promised he wouldn't forget me. So he and his henchmen busted in my house, flashing guns, using all kinds of profanity, broke up my furniture, busted up glass tables and just wrecked the place."

Mr. Webster said after his arrest on July 1, one of the members in the rading party said "I guess you will tell us what we want to know now, that's the only way you can help yourself."

Mr. Webster said he understood the "help your self" hint as an invitation to talk about Watkins.

"Hell, I haven't seen Watkins in three years," Mr. Webster declared. "Not since I came out of Atlanta."

That was in reference to a Federal prison term growing out of a narcotics conviction, from which Mr. Webster was released three years ago on parole because of what Federal officials said was good progress in rehabilitation.

Mr. Webster also voiced the opinion that his telephone line was illegally tapped — as did many of the other complainants — because the day he visited Judge Russell's office, the raiders burned into his home the following night and again charged him with the possession of drugs.

"How in the hell would I be dumb enough to have drugs in my house when these people have repeatedly threatened to get me?

"But you know what, they said they found drugs. And you know what also; they put them there."

Judge Russell recalled that a recent complaint by a former Internal Investigation Division Detective that members of a Federal and City Narcotics Squad literally took drugs from suspects, sold them, or planted them on other innocent people, after beating and abusing "alleged drug dealers.

"Apparently they have not stopped this practice, even today," Mr. Russell charged, adding that the stories he has been given suggest that "police investigators assigned to the State's Attorney office have launched a vicious campaign against the black community in an effort to fix evidence to prop up flimsy charges against Colonel Watkins."

Ms. Norma Thompson

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