

Mets One Away From Impossible Dream

By Gordon Beard
Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles misinterpreted or didn't hear various sounds during the heat of combat Wednesday, and it cost them dearly in the fourth game of the World Series.

Two of the mistakes came in the 10th inning, when the New York Mets scored a run to win 2-1 and take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series.

First, left fielder Don Buford broke the wrong way on a routine fly ball by Jerry Grote which fell in front of him for a double.

"I thought the ball was hit harder than it was," Buford said, "and I broke back to keep from giving up an extra base hit."

"Then I lost the ball in the glare and didn't pick it up until it got above the sun."

Shortstop Mark Belanger ran into left field when he saw Buford having difficulty, and he almost caught the ball.

"I think Grote broke his bat on the swing," said Orioles reliever Dick Hall. "It sounded loud, and I guess that fooled Buford."

After an intentional walk, pinch-runner Rod Gaspar scored from second when reliever Pete Richert fielded a bunt by J. C. Martin and hit Martin with his throw to first base.

Richert and catcher Ellie Hendricks reached the bunted ball about the same time, and brush-

ed against each other before Richert made the pickup.

"I called for the ball all the way," Hendricks said, "and maybe Pete did, too. But with all the crowd noise I don't know. The play was out in front of me."

Richert, who had to spin before making the throw, said he heard something, "but I wasn't about to listen. I just went ahead and made the play. I took it, and threw it."

Told Martin was hit on the left wrist by the throw, Richert said, "I hope it's broken."

"I'd like to see the video replay," Richert continued. "I don't know if Martin was inside the foul line while running toward first. I tried to throw the ball inside the line."

Manager Earl Weaver of the Orioles claimed crowd noise also contributed to his being ejected from the game in the third inning by plate umpire Shag Crawford.

Crawford advanced toward the Baltimore dugout after Weaver and the Orioles yelled about a called strike on Mark Belanger, and when Weaver came out of the dugout he was ejected.

"I had hollered on a pitch to Donn Clendenon, just before he

hit the homer in the second," Weaver said. "Then when Crawford called the strike on Mark, I yelled, 'hey, we want that pitch, too.'"

"When Crawford pointed his finger and yelled something," Weaver said, "I didn't know

what he said. I just went out to ask him."

"All I said was 'Shag' about three times — because he was walking away — and he turned and said I was out of the game."

Weaver, who was tossed out of four regular season games and became the first World Series manager to be ejected since 1935, said Crawford told him he was thrown out for protesting balls and strikes.

"It's funny," Weaver said "but before the series, Commissioner Bowie Kuhn told us at a meeting the umpires would bend over backwards to keep us in the game. He told us to inform our players, however, not to use profanity."

"I didn't use any profanity," Weaver said, and this was confirmed by Crawford.

Weaver indicated he may have watched part of the game from the dugout runway, emphasizing several times that he watched most of the game on television in the locker room.

As for the remainder of the Series, Weaver said, "I'll holler again if the same situation comes up. I'm rooting for us. Just because it's a World Series, I can't change. I manage the way I manage."

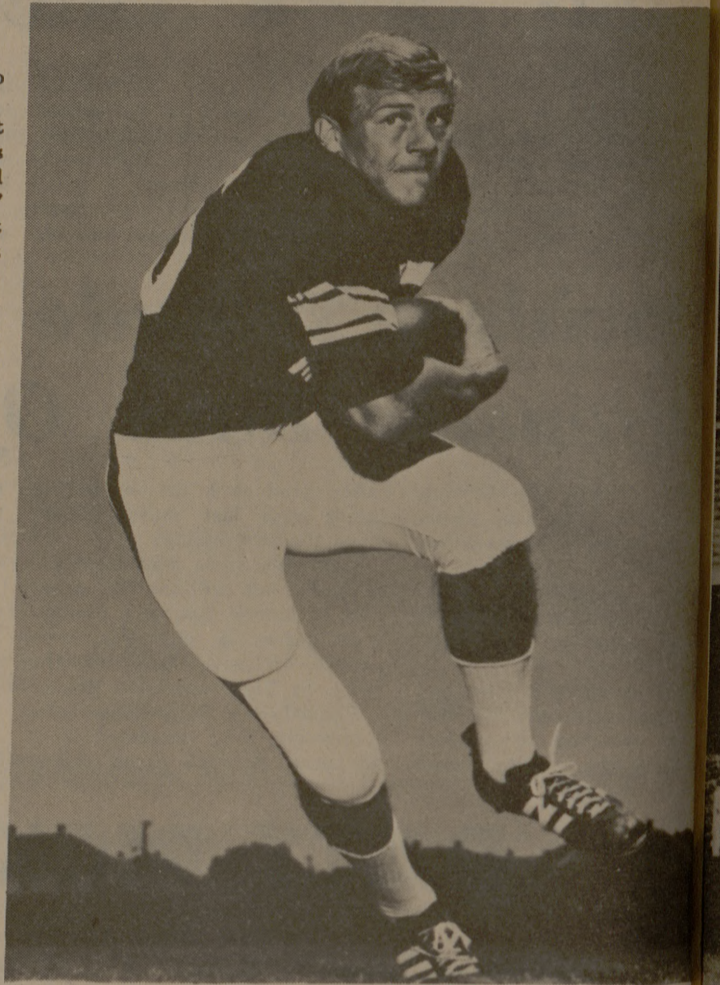
Famed Green Bay QB, Herber, Dead

C. "Arnie" Herber, 59, the Green Bay Packers' famed passing quarterback of the 1930s and early 40s, died of cancer Tuesday night in a Green Bay hospital.

He was a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame. Herber was a native of Green Bay and played with the Packers from 1930 through 1941.

He often was described as the longest and most accurate forward passer of his time and was the throwing partner in the combination of Herber to Don Hutson.

Herber completed 487 passes for more than 8,000 yards and 66 touchdowns. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame at Canton, Ohio, in 1966 and was named to the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1967.



LARRY STEGENT

What more can you say about Larry Stegent? Since putting pads for the first time against Nebraska after missing the first game against LSU, Stegent has rushed for 257 yards on 73 carries for an average.

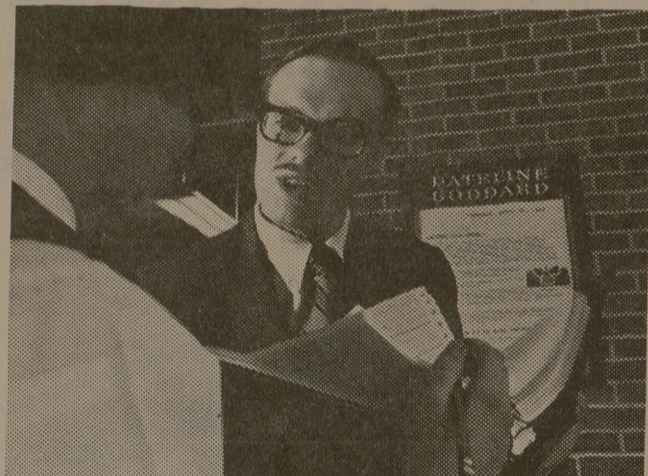
Against the Texas Tech Red Raiders he had one of his best performances to date with 127 yards on 29 carries. Based on his three games, Stegent has moved into second place among conference rushers behind Billy Burnett of Arkansas, who has played in 10 games.

Besides being a feared runner, Stegent is also a nifty passer and began this season needing only 20 catches to tie Bob Long for Aggie career record. A durable runner, Stegent has lugged the ball times in the last two games.

The 6-1, 197-pound senior tailback was an All-America gridder at Houston St. Thomas High School after two seasons as an All-State selection and Sophomore-Of-The-Year, he is a prime All-America candidate in 1969.

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STRONG TACKLE

Andy Philley, according to Coach Gene Stallings played "one of his best games ever against Texas Tech". The 6-5, 230-pounder will be starting at strong tackle for Aggies Saturday in Fort Worth.



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