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Robinson wins first as coach

Page 12 THE BATTALION

CLEVELAND (AP) — Frank Robinson, making history here. Tuesday, slammed a home run in his first at bat and the Cleveland Indians defeated the New York Yankees 5-3 in Robinson's first game as the sport's first black manager.

Robinson, batting himself second as the Indians' designated hitter, came to bat before an enthusiastic crowd of about 45,000 in the bottom of the first inning. There was moscore and the crowd was barely settled back from a 30-minute, pregame ceremony marking the occasion.

Robinson worked Yankee pitche Doc Medich to a 2-2 count, fouling off three pitches, before hitting hit homer. As the partisan crowl roared, Robinson tipped his cap a he crossed home plate. The first player out of the Cleveland dugout to meet him was starting pitche Gaylord Perry, with whom Robinson has had differences.

Perry, the winning pitcher in his 10th consecutive opening day assignment, settled down and went the distance after the Yankes jumped to a 3-1 lead in the second inning. He was helped immensely by the booming bat of Boog Powell the former Baltimore first basema Robinson now is teamed with again.

The Yankees made their only

dent on Perry when Ron Blomber and Graig Nettles singled to oper the second. Chris Chambliss dou bled them home and then scored or Thurman Munson's single. The Indians cut that lead to 3-2in

The Indians cut that lead to 3-2 in their half of the second when Powell, who had singled and moved around to third, scored on a sacrification by Jack Brohamer.

Powell had three hits, and his

Powell had three hits, and his second one was a long home rum over the centerfield fence in the fourth inning that tied the game 3-3. Then Powell sent the Indians ahead in the sixth inning when he doubled to the right field corner, scoring George Hendrick.

Powell moved to third on a fielder's choice and scored on Brohamer's single, giving the ludians a 5-3 lead. Robinson batted three other times. He grounded to third, lined deep to Piniella in left and walked.

He went to the mound only once in the ninth inning after Chamblis had flied deep to right for the second out. The Yankees had one may on base.

Then, Perry, with the crowd standing and roaring on every pitch worked Munson to a 1-2 count before forcing him to ground back to the pitcher for the final out of the game.

The crowd roared again and Robinson congratulated his winning pitcher and sometime adversary.

Three marching bands and and Army color guard were on hand for the pre-game ceremony which was hosted by former Cleveland pitcher Jim "Mudcatt" Grant.

Among the baseball celebrities on hand were Commissioner Bowie Kuhn and American League President Lee MacPhail. Kuhn was introduced and received a loud round of boos. "We're here for an historic day in baseball," he said.

"And I would like to extend a

"And I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulate the Cleveland baseball club."

As if this were a World Series game rather than a season opener, the entire squads of both the Indians and the Yankees were introduced individually, lining up along the foul lines.

Mets ease by Phillies in 2-1 debut

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Seaver pitched a six-hitter and Joe Torre drilled a run-scoring single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the New York Mets a 2-1 opening day baseball victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Felix Millan opened the ninth with a single off starter Steve Carlton. After John Milner walked. Torre hit his game-winning single

The Phillies scored first, nicking Seaver for a run in the third when Bob Boone opened with a walk. Carlton sacrificed him to second and Dave Cash drilled a long shot to right-center that glanced off Dave Kingman's glove for a double. Kingman got that run back an inning later with a home run.

Redskins sign 1st draft choice

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Redskins of the National Football League announced Monday the signing of running back Mike Thomas, their top draft choice.

Thomas, from Nevada-Las Vegas was selected on the second round of the NFL draft.