

Yankees: management ego conflict

United Press International
NEW YORK — By now, George Steinbrenner is getting used to it. He has heard himself called an egotist before, so it doesn't bother him anymore. He's not thrilled with the description but isn't losing any sleep over it, either.

For the past year and a half, baseball people have been wondering how long it would be before the Yankee owner's forceful personality clashed with that of his field manager, Billy Martin, no shrinking violet himself.

Now, enter a third party, Reggie Jackson. While still working for the Oakland A's, he once said, "If I ever played in New York, they'd name a city bar after me."

The only other ballplayer ever to be named an object of such affection was Babe Ruth, so that gives you some fair idea of Reggie Jackson's ego.

In Nevada, where they make the odds on the pennant races every year, no line has been established yet for this year, but you can bet your house, car and guitar the Yankees will be favored in the American League East. There doesn't seem to be any question they're going to win. The only question is by how much.

Joseph A.W. Iglehart raises another question, though. In case you don't know Joe Iglehart, he's a prince of a guy. He's been in baseball the past 22 years, as board chairman of the Orioles first and then as a stockholder with the Yankees, and now he's getting out because he's unhappy.

Iglehart told Maury Allen of the New York Post he thinks the world of George Steinbrenner personally, but objects to the \$3 million deal Steinbrenner made for Jackson. Iglehart questions how much Jackson will help the Yankees.

"I think one of the really big problems with the Yankees will be how the three biggest egotists in baseball, George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson, will get along," said Iglehart.

When I called George Steinbrenner in Tampa and asked him about that, he had this to say:

"Joe Iglehart, without a doubt, is one of the finest gentlemen I've ever met in my life, in sports or out. The only scar his departure leaves with me is that I hate to see him no longer part of the Yankees. He is an utterly decent man.

"As for my being an egotist, if wanting to win a world cham-

ampionship as badly as I want to win one for New York makes me that, then I am an egotist. In this same regard, I'd be disappointed if Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson weren't also. A great competitor or athlete feeds on ego, consciously or subconsciously. You think Babe Ruth wasn't an egotist? Or Joe DiMaggio or Ted Williams? And what about Muhammad Ali? That's what made them all so great."

The Yankee owner doesn't see any conflict among Martin, Jackson and himself. He feels the chief responsibility rests with the leadership at the top, meaning himself, and no matter what else you say about Steinbrenner, his track record for leadership is good. Outstanding, in fact, even if he does happen to bowl over a couple of tenspins now and then.

Remember when the Yankees got Doc Ellis. Ellis wore braids with the Pirates. Steinbrenner would never stand for anything like that. There was bound to be a confrontation. But there never was one. Dock Ellis won 17 games, was Comeback Player of the Year and even became the Yanks' player rep.

Similarly, Oscar Gamble was no problem, either. With the Indians, he refused to cut his hair for three years; with the Yankees, he cut his hair and it stayed cut.

Everybody also said nobody could handle Billy Martin. But George Steinbrenner did. The two had some differences of opinions, but none so serious that it interfered with the operation of the ball club.

One more thing about the deal for Reggie Jackson—Gabe Paul, the

Yankees' president, was said to have vigorously opposed signing Jackson. Paul claims that's not so at all.

"I was one hundred per cent for it," he says. "Why, I even made the first contact, calling him in the middle of the night in Phoenix. Our job is to get talent and handle it. Look, I happen to think Reggie Jackson is a good fellow, but what we're interested in is good ballplayers. If we want nice boys, we'll go to the church steps and find 'em there."

Women's team back home

After two tough losses on the road, the women's basketball team will be glad to be back in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The women host Wharton Junior College tonight at 8.00.

The two losses to Texas and Sam Houston even the team's record at 8-8. Texas defeated the Aggies 79-73 and Sam Houston won 80-73.

"I was real pleased the way the team played against Texas," Coach Kay Don said. "The players were real aggressive. I think if Von Bunn had been full strength, we would have won."

Bunn, the second leading scorer on the team, has missed three games due to a pulled leg muscle.

The leading scorer on the young team is Margaret Byrne with an 11.9 per game average. Bunn is averaging 10.2 and Cindy Gough has averaged 9.4 points per game.

Rifle team is undefeated

The Texas A&M rifle team opened the 1977 season with a 202 point win over Sam Houston State.

The Aggies won 2617-2415. James Beal led the Aggie attack with a score of 536. Other scores reported by the Ags were Robert Mansford (527), Brett Armstrong

(526), Mike Winzeler (521), Eric Johnson (507) and Glenn Celerier (477).

The team is undefeated in the Southwest Rifle Association and heads to El Paso this weekend to compete in the UTEP Southwest Senior Invitational.

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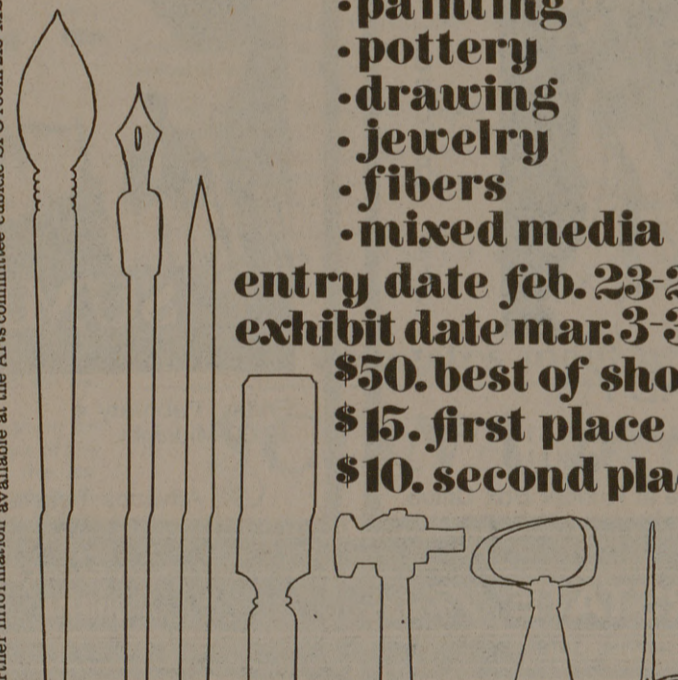
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further information available at the Arts committee cubicle SPO room 216 MSC

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Registration — Still open in the Craft Shop. Organizational Meeting February 3 at 7:30 P.M. in Room 226 in the MSC.

Most workshops begin the week of Feb. 7. For more information call 845-1631.

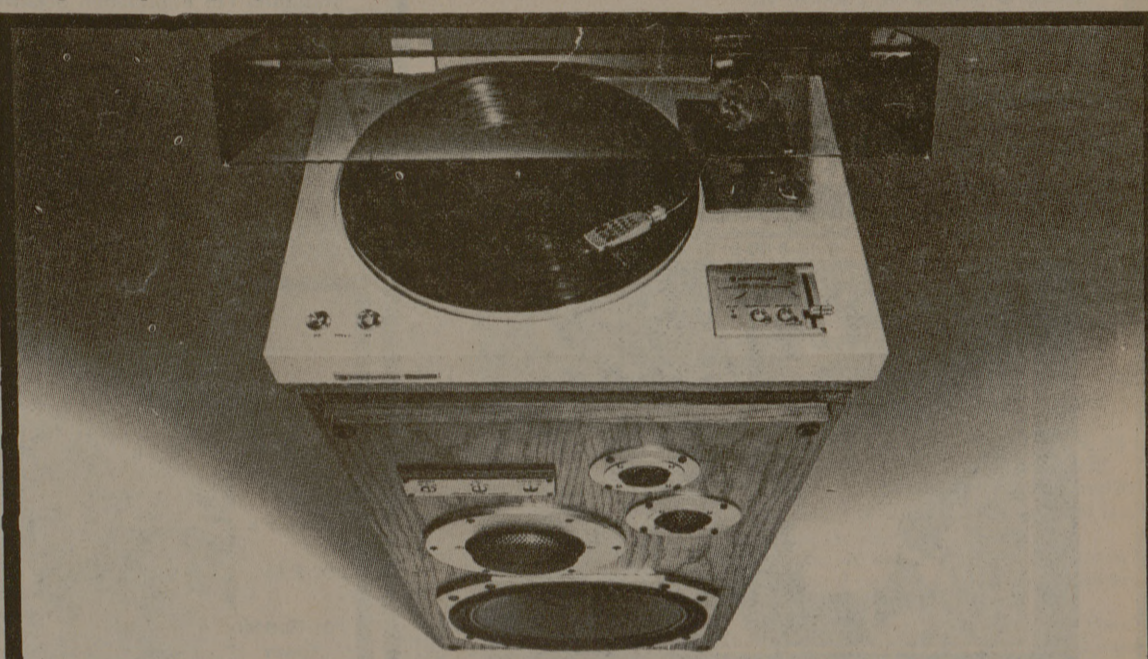
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