

# Martin's career marred by controversy

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sions between the two cooled considerably this year when Al Rosen replaced Gabe Paul as club President.

Many of the seeds of unrest on the Yankees were planted when Steinbrenner went on off-season spending sprees for high-priced superstars the past two seasons. Most notable of those acquisitions was Jackson, the \$3 million right fielder whom Martin was restrained from punching out during a dugout dispute last June 18 in a nationally televised game from Boston. Martin had accused Jackson of not hustling on a fly ball. Jackson went on to become the World Series hero by hitting home runs in his last four at-bats but the bitterness always existed.

At one time last year, Steinbrenner felt Martin had 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 on June 20, while the Yankees were in Detroit, Paul issued a statement in the press box at Tiger Stadium 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 issued a similar statement this year when a local newspaper report had Martin once again on the firing line. The Yankee front office indicated Martin's position was safe at least through the end of the season.

Winning the World Series did not solidify Martin's shaky status this season. A sign of more trouble began during the winter when the Yankees obtained relief pitchers Rich Gossage and Rawly Eastwick in the free agent draft, causing Cy Young Award winner Sparky Lyle to

complain about his apparently diminished workload.

In fact, during the first two months of the season, Martin appeared to call on Gossage more often in the key spots. Meanwhile, Martin frequently referred to Eastwick as "George's Boy," while ignoring the ex-Cincinnati righthander for long periods of time before a trade in mid-June sent him to Philadelphia.

Martin also had run-ins with outfielder Mickey Rivers, pitcher Ed Figueroa and catcher Thurman Munson. His troubles with Rivers resulted in an early-season incident in which the moody center fielder was benched for three games for lack of hustle. Martin engaged in a shouting match with Munson during a plane flight home after the Rivers benching, but the manager later apologized to the catcher and team captain.

Figueroa openly criticized Martin on two occasions for not pitching

enough. Their differences widened Sunday June 18 when Figueroa was secondguessed by Martin for serving up a game-winning home run to California's Ron Fairly in the ninth inning. Martin claimed he had told Figueroa to pitch around Fairly, while Figueroa, who walked out on the team during last year's World Series after being passed up for a starting role, countered that he was an experienced enough pitcher not to need such advice.

Martin previously held managerial jobs at Minnesota, Detroit and Texas. He won division titles with the Twins in 1969, the Tigers in 1972 and the Yankees in 1976. He was also fired in all three cities.

In all three places Martin enjoyed success on the field but inevitably was fired because of his disputes with the front office. At Minnesota, he once punched out one of his pitchers, Dave Boswell, in a bar. At Texas, he slugged the club's public relations man, Burt Hawkins.

# Yanks comment on Martin

United Press International  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The New York Yankees, almost to the man, recited a litany of "No comment" following the abrupt resignation of Manager Billy Martin Monday.

Roy White, Sparky Lyle, Lou Piniella, Gary Thomasson and Coach Yogi Berra did not wish to discuss Martin's demise. Reggie Jackson, the longest of thorns in Martin's side, delivered an unsolicited "no comment" when approached simultaneously by three writers.

"I don't have one. I don't have one. I don't have one," Jackson told the reporters. "Thank you and have a good day. I've answered your question already."

New York bullpen ace Rich Gossage questioned the timing of the alleged voluntary resignation.

"It can't help us," said Gossage. "It's somewhat of a surprise but then it doesn't surprise me. It comes at a bad time because we just started getting back in our winning way."

"He (Martin) was always over-fair with me," added center fielder Mickey Rivers.

The Kansas City Royals, who fell in the American League Championship Series to the Martin-led Yankees each of the last two years, were kind to their greatest tormenter.

"It's too bad," said shortstop Fred Patek, "I know the players

were impressed with his managerial structure. I would want that job — there's too much garbage going on over there. I'm glad to see (new Manager) Lemon get the job but I don't see him have to go through the garbage."

"You can't make it in this business on bad health," former kee now Royal pitcher Lee Gura said of Martin. "The hell catch on with another club somewhere. I'm sure haven't heard the last of him."

"I'll miss him," said center fielder Amos Otis. "I thought he was a manager. I didn't like him as a person and he didn't like me but he was one hell of a manager."

# Rose ties streak record

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds slammed a seventh-inning single into the record books Monday night — tying Tommy Holmes' modern National League record of hitting safely in 37 straight games.

Rose's key hit was a single on a 1-1 pitch off Mets righthander Pat Zachry to left with one out. He will have a chance to break the record when he goes up against the Mets' righthander, Craig Swan, tonight. The record-tying hit drew a

three-minute standing ovation from the crowd, which chanted, "Pete, Pete," Holmes, watching from the press box, stood and applauded.

Holmes, an outfielder with the Boston Braves, who finished his career with a .302 lifetime average, set the record in 1945, surpassing the then-modern National League mark of 33 straight games set by Rogers Hornsby in 1922.

Willie Keeler of Baltimore, who coined the phrase, "I hit where they ain't," batted in 44 consecutive games in 1897, but modern records are recognized as beginning in 1900.

There have been only three modern streaks longer than Rose's, topped by Joe DiMaggio's major-league mark of 56 straight games set in 1941. The other streaks in the modern era were 40 consecutive games by Ty Cobb of the Detroit Tigers in 1911 and by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns in 1922.

Rose flied out harmlessly to cen-


ter field in the first inning of the night's game, grounded routine forceout in the second and lofted another fly ball to end the fifth.

He then ambled to the what might have been chance in the seventh. "I wanted to reach out to every one of their hands, but I was losing my hat so I had to be losing my hat."

Rose also led off the eighth with another single before he belted his fifth home run — a 3-3 tie off loser Skip Lockwood.

When it was over, after he had dropped a 5-3 decision, Cincinnati Reds, the fans' heads in wonderment. Rose easily won over the crowd, but his biggest Holmes. "All this week reborn," said Holmes, who community relations for

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## Bethea back

United Press International  
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The No. 1 draft choice of the world champion Dallas Cowboys returned to training drills Monday, apparently recovered from an ankle injury that had kept him out for several days.

Larry Bethea, a defensive lineman from Michigan State, worked out in pads with the offensive and defensive lines.

Cowboy officials said starting right guard Tom Rafferty suffered calf injury while working out in those drills and was forced to leave the afternoon session.



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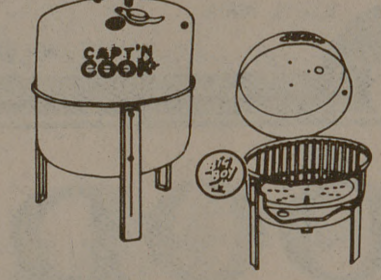
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