

Concepcion's home run brings NL yet another victory, 4-1

United Press International
 MONTREAL — American League President Lee MacPhail may call it one of the greatest miracles in sport, but there was nothing wondrous about the National League's 11th consecutive triumph in baseball's All-Star game.

The National League, employing a grand combination of good pitching, timely hitting and sharp fielding, registered a 4-1 victory over the American League Tuesday night before a crowd of 59,057 at Olympic Stadium, extending their domination of the midsummer classic.

The victory, the 19th in the last 20 for the NL to boost its overall mark to 34-18-1, was simply the product of old-fashioned, hard-nosed baseball — a fact even the beleaguered MacPhail would find hard to deny.

Presented with several opportunities to score, the spiritless AL came up empty on almost every occasion, stranding a total of 11 runners.

Cincinnati ace Mario Soto, who struck out four in two innings, Montreal's Steve Rogers, who rebounded from a shy first and hurled three strong innings to earn the victory, and Philadelphia's Steve Carlton, who fanned four in two innings, admirably carried the bulk of the pitching load for the NL.

Shortstop Dave Concepcion, who unloaded a two-run homer off loser Dennis Eckersley of Boston with two out in the second inning, supplied all the offense required, while NL stalwart Pete Rose and Montreal catcher Gary Carter knocked in the insurance runs.

The fielding exhibited by the NL was also not to be overlooked. In the eighth inning, third baseman Ray Knight of Houston turned a wicked grounder by Robin Yount into a fielder's choice and shortstop Ozzie Smith of San Diego robbed Lance Parrish of an infield hit with two runners on and two out to further frustrate their rivals.

"If we can continue to bring great ball-players to the All-Star game and the guys who want to play, we feel we can keep on winning," said Concepcion, who was awarded the Commissioner's Trophy as the game's most valuable player.

"This makes me feel like a winner again. I'm

really proud to be on the All-Star team. I've been in the league for 14 years and played in the World Series, but winning the MVP in the All-Star game is a really big thrill for me."

Montreal first baseman Al Oliver, who has played for both leagues in the prestigious event, believes the attitude of the NL is the key to its success.

"There's no question about it, there was more enthusiasm on the National League squad," said Oliver, who chipped in with two hits and a run.

Montreal's Carter, whose single in the sixth inning scored teammate Al Oliver with the NL's fourth run, said: "I can't pinpoint one thing, but there's a lot of intensity and confidence in the clubhouse before the game. And when we get between the lines, that has to have an overwhelming effect on our victory."

Kansas City third baseman George Brett, a member of the losing side at the All-Star game on seven different occasions, is still at a loss to explain the reason for the AL's failure.

"It's a difficult question to answer," he said. "I know as much about that as I know about the guys who go into space for five days and come back again."

Brett had two hits in the contest before leaving in the fifth inning.

The AL had jumped to an early lead when Oakland speed merchant Rickey Henderson slapped Rogers' second pitch of the game into left field for the first of his three singles, moved to second an out later on Brett's single and advanced to third on a wild pitch, before scoring on Reggie Jackson's sacrifice fly.

But Concepcion wasted little time before striking back, unloading a 335-foot blast just inside the left field foul pole on a 1-1 pitch from Eckersley in the second inning after Dale Murphy of Atlanta had drawn a walk with two out to become the NL's first base runner of the game.

The NL upped its edge to 3-1 in the bottom of the third when San Diego's Ruppert Jones slammed a pinch-hit triple off the right-center field wall and, after Montreal's Tim Raines walked and stole second, came home on a well-executed slide on Rose's short sacrifice fly to right.

NCAA meeting

Final Four sites awarded, tourney expanded

United Press International
 MISSION, Kan. — Rewarding sites that have been profitable to the Division I basketball championships, the NCAA is returning its finals to popular sites.

The NCAA Tuesday awarded the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans the 1987 Final Four and booked Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo., for the 1988 semifinals and championship games.

The decisions, made by the Division I basketball committee, still must be approved by the NCAA Executive Committee at a meeting next month.

"Many great basketball games in previous NCAA tournament have been played in Kansas City, including an exciting triple overtime game between Kansas University and North Carolina (1957). We'll have another great event."

The 1988 game will be the 10th NCAA championship to be played in Kansas City.

The date for the 1987 semifinals and final are March 28 and 30, with the 1988 Final Four being played April 2 and 4. Next year's final will be at Albuquerque, N.M., the 1984 championship at Seattle, the 1985 title game at Lexington, Ky., and the 1986 Final Four will be at Dallas.

representative of the Midwestern City Conference against the Eastern College Athletic Conference's Metro champion and the Ivy League winner vs. the East Coast Conference representative.

In the other double-header, the Eastern College Athletic Conference North champion would play the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference representative and the Trans-America Conference winner would meet the team from the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

"The committee feels this ex-

panded field provides every conference that meets the criteria for automatic qualification a chance to compete for the championship," Gavitt said. "At the same time, it creates a balance in the 48-team bracket of 24 automatic qualifiers and 24 at-large selection."

"The procedure for selecting the conference that would compete in the preliminary games would be reviewed each year, and there probably would be different conferences participating in these games each year."

Softball pitcher signs with A&M

Texas A&M softball coach Bob Brock has announced the signing of pitcher Darlene Lowery of Fruitland Park, Fla., to a national letter of intent.

The Aggies, who won the final Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national championship in May, now will have three pitchers on a staff which features senior left-hander Lori Stoll and senior right-hander Shan McDonald.

Lowery, a right-hander, earned a spot playing for the Orlando Rebels at the age of 15, and in 1981 led her team to the American Softball Association women's national championship. Her 1982 Rebel record is 32-3-1 and she will pitch for the Rebels at the 1982 World Games held this month in Taiwan.

At 16, in order to play winter ball, Lowery joined a men's fast-pitch team. She was the team's only pitcher, throwing from a distance of 46 feet instead of the 40 feet thrown in women's softball.

Lowery earned varsity letters in basketball, volleyball, softball and track and field during her Largo High School career.

"I was impressed by the facilities, academics and friendliness of the campus," Lowery said. "I also wanted to be part of a defending national championship team."

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