sports

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Martin may soon return to Yanks for third time

by Milton Richman UPI Sports Editor NEW YORK — Nobody knows Billy

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Martin better than George Steinbrenner. That's what he thinks anyway.

"He has a history," Steinbrenner once said. "He'll take over a club that's not doing so well and move it up quickly the way he did with Minnesota, Detroit and Texas, but then the club will go to pieces. That's his history. It wasn't any different here with the Yankees. He's great when it comes to motivating the players but after awhile, I don't know what it is - he just can't do it anymore.'

Twice, Steinbrenner had Martin in his employ and twice he has let him go. In 1979, the year before Martin took

them over, the A's finished last in the American League West. His first year with the club, Martin boosted Oakland all the way to second place and in last year's split season, he got the A's into the play-

This year, though, it all came apart. The A's have no chance of finishing bet-ter than fifth and "Billyball" is only a vague memory.

Martin's contract has three years to go with the A's, but his bosses, Roy Eisenhardt and Wally Haas, won't stand in his way if the Yankees and the Indians would like him to manage for them.

Eisenhardt has clearly demonstrated how the A's feel about that by giving his permission to both Steinbrenner and Gabe Paul to speak with Martin.

If Steinbrenner could get Martin to manage the Yankees again, it would take some of the pressure off for the wretched showing the club made this year. And if Paul manages to sign Martin, he'd at least be doing something about the flagging interest in Cleveland about the Indians.

Steinbrenner, naturally, has the better chance of the two to get Martin for any number of reasons, not the least of which is that Martin has always considered himself a Yankee first, last and always.

"They remind me of two moths going after a flame trying to destroy them-selves," one veteran front-office man said. "They can't live with each other and they can't live without each other. From what I hear, the people running the Oak-land ball club will throw a party the day Billy leaves.

As for Oakland officials' response to that statement, all they would say is "no comment." Gabe Paul said the same thing. Suddenly, everyone's saying "no comment" as if some major crime has been committed, when all that has happened is that Steinbrenner and Paul have both asked permission to negotiate with Martin and that permission has been

granted. That's no crime.

Martin is the one responsible for the story getting out. He told the Oakland Tribune the Yankees and Indians had asked permission of the A's to talk to him and he planned to talk to both Steinbrenner and Paul.

From the sound of it, Martin is conveying the impression he wants to go. On the other hand, he's not that happy about the A's giving their permission so easily. He gets the feeling they're trying to tell him something.

If he does manage the Yankees a third time, he'll still have one more time to go before equaling the late Danny Mur-taugh's record. Murtaugh piloted the Pirates four different times. Apart from Murtaugh, Bucky Harris is the only man ever to manage the same club as many as three times. He did that with the old Washington Senators.

"Every time Bucky got fired, Clark Griffith felt badly about it," Twins' own-er Calvin Griffith says about his late un-cle and adopted father. "Clark never could forget Bucky was the 'Boy Wonder' who managed the Senators to a world championship in 1924 and to a pennant again the next year. Clark was very sen-timental about it."

Padres down Astros behind 'hot' pitcher

United Press International SAN DIEGO — San Diego Padres pitcher Tim Lollar, plagued with a slight fever, said he ex-pected to get "kicked" by the Houston Astros.

Instead, he became only the fourth pitcher in the history of the Padres franchise to win 15

games in a season as San Diego downed the Astros 3-0 Tuesday night.

"Lollar went out there with a 101.6 fever," said San Diego manager Dick Williams. "The last thing he told (pitching coach Norm) Sherry is 'I'll probably get my rear kicked tonight.

'In the sixth, when he walked two batters and I sent Norm out to the mound, he asked if he could start the inning over and take his eight warmup

throws again." Lollar, 15-9, who went seven innings and gave up only four hits: "I didn't think I would have too much. I had pretty good control, but as far as I'm concerned, that's all I had. For the past few days, I've had a really bad sore throat and the glands in my neck have been inflamed. I've had all the

general flu symptoms." On the overall season, Lollar said: "I felt there were no limitations as to what I could do. Games

like tonight help. You don't have anything when you go out there, but you manage to win anyway. I've let some games get away from me that I shouldn't have. I think I can improve. "The only goal I have is to make this team a

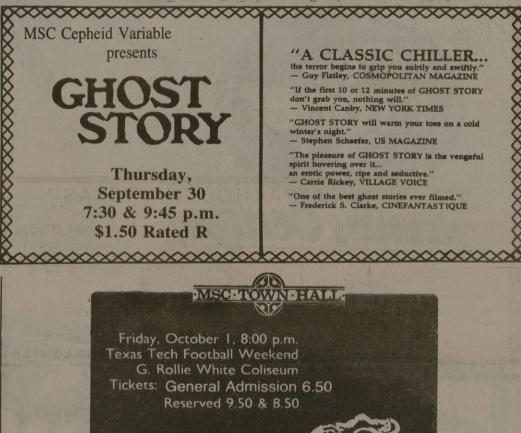
contender year in and year out. We're the only team in the division that hasn't won (the division title). Next year and the year after, we're going to be a team to reckon with.

San Diego came alive in the seventh when pinch hitter Kurt Bevacqua singled off Knepper's glove to score Luis Salazar from third base and ignite a

three-run inning. Salazar opened the inning with a single to center and raced to third as George Hinshaw leg-ged out a roller towards third. Bevacqua then bounced back to the mound and the ball kicked off Knepper's glove for a hit as Salazar scored the game's first run.

Hinshaw reached second on the play and even-tually scored on an error by first baseman Ray Knight. A single by Gene Richards drove in Bevacqua with the third run of the inning.

Luis DeLeon pitched the final two innings, allowing only one hit to earn his 15th save.



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k NFL players on winning streak, may attempt network shutdown

United Press International WASHINGTON — On a win-ing streak, the NFL Players Association upped its record to 3-0 Tuesday in unfair laborractice disputes with the

A National Labor Relations Board administrative law judge ruled the NFL is guilty of unfair abor practices for refusing to icrease ive the union copies of player tracts and non-monetary details of network television con-

ruling to the full NLRB. While "ecstatic" over the deci-sion of Judge Julius Cohn, Ed Garvey, union executive director, agreed the appeal could keep the matter unresolved for a

year or more. "This is just a recommendation by an administrative law judge," said Jim Miller, spokes-man for the NFLMC. "These recommendations are routinely

overturned.' Two previous NLRB rulings

also went against the NFL.

NFL's contracts with the three major television networks. "We want to know if there was a 'What happens in case of a

strike?' clause either in the con-tract, or in a memo leading to If the NLRB rules the work tract, or in a memo leading to the contract," said Garvey. "We know the networks are paying the league for games not televised and we're reasonbly sure

Garvey said the union may

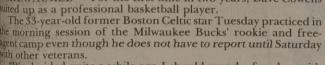
picket them. He said the picket-ing would be an attempt to shut down the networks because union employees would not cross

stoppage an unfair labor prac-tice strike, all players on strike would be guaranteed their jobs when it ends and would be paid of the amounts. We want to for games not played during the know the details of the pay- strike.

Contract negotiations are to resume Thursday afternoon in Washington. The last talks were held Sunday in New York with



Council, the league's negotiat-ng arm, said it will appeal the leading to the signing of the Cowens attempting to regain old form



"We decided quite a while ago I should spend a few days with m before (regular) camp and he wanted to come," said Coach Ion Nelson, a former teammate of Cowens at Boston.

Cowens quit two years ago, citing a number of nagging physical uries and a lack of desire to continue playing after spending orethan a decade as one of the league's most dominating players. The biggest question mark is his health.

The Bucks gave up point guard Quinn Buckner in gambling wens can shake off the layoff.

Nelson, who runs rugged training camps and stresses fitness, ed what he saw Tuesday.

"It (his conditioning) was good," said Nelson. "It shows that he's en working for four months on his own. "He's certainly not in NBA playoff shape but I would say from that I saw, he will be like a typical veteran coming into camp who worked in the off-season.

Nelson said he thinks it is important that he work with Cowens, to he sees as a power forward and not a center, so he can troduce him to the Bucks' system.

Nelson said he expects a decision by today from the Philadelphia bers on what they will do about Steve Mix.

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