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Cardinals come back to win series

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — Darrell Porter and Whitey Herzog, two old friends who shared the pain of defeat in Kansas City, enjoyed the pleasure of giving the St. Louis Cardinals their ninth World Championship and weren't the least bit concerned they couldn't share the champagne. Porter doesn't drink, anyway.

But moments after the Cardinals defeated the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-3, Wednesday night in the seventh game of the World Series, fans all over St. Louis were toasting Porter as the Series MVP.

"I hope this stuff doesn't sink into my pores," Porter smiled after some over exuberant teammates poured champagne over his head.

Porter, who entered a rehabilitation center in 1980 for alcohol and drug abuse, singled home an eighth-inning run in support of the combined seven-hit pitching of Joaquin Andujar and Bruce Sutter, giving Herzog a title in only his second season at the Cardinals' helm.

"This was the most fun I've had in my career in baseball," said Porter. "It was very exciting. We weren't afraid after getting behind in the sixth inning. We knew we just had to battle back."

Herzog managed Porter for two years when the Kansas City Royals won the American League West only to lose to the New York Yankees in the playoffs. When Herzog took over as St. Louis general manager in 1980, one of the key decisions he made was to sign Porter in the re-entry draft.

"The big thing is Darrell had those great years for me in Kansas City," said Herzog. "He's caught real well and he's been throwing well since he got over his arm injury. I was really happy to get him over here."

He should be happy. Porter handled the St. Louis pitching staff artfully, was named MVP in the National League Playoffs and captured the World Series MVP with a .286 average, one homer and five RBI.

The decision left Milwaukee one victory short of completing what would have been a remarkable hat trick, three times placing their season on the line in one game. They won the American League East on the last day of the regular season, became the first AL team to win a playoff after losing the first two games, but could not overcome the determined effort of Andujar, Porter, and the rest of the Cardinals, who came back from a three-game-to-two deficit in the Series.

"It takes nothing away from a great year," said Milwaukee Manager Harvey Kuenn. "Nothing. We had a great season."

The game matched Andujar, who was struck below the right knee with a line drive only five days before, against Pete Vuckovich, an equally determined righthander, who for five innings appeared ready to frustrate the Cardinals.

Over that span he allowed eight hits and two walks, but only one run. And when Andujar committed a throwing error in the sixth to help Milwaukee take a 3-1 lead, it appeared the Vuckovich might wind up authoring another Brewer miracle.

Then in the bottom of the sixth, Keith Hernandez singled in the tying run, George Hendrick singled in what proved to be the winner, and from that point the toughest battle Andujar faced was with Milwaukee's Jim Gantner with whom he skirmished after throwing him out to end the Brewers seventh.

"I made up my mind that nothing was going to stop me or beat me tonight," said Andujar. "I told my teammates that tonight nothing was going to beat me."

Once the Cardinals went ahead, it was only a matter of time before Sutter entered the game and nailed it down as he did 36 times during the regular season.

"It's hard to believe," said Sutter. "I know it probably won't sink in for a while. I imagine I'll be hunting deer this winter and all of a sudden it will sink in and I'll let out a big yell."

Loss disappoints Milwaukee

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — When Milwaukee third baseman Paul Molitor finally returned to his locker nearly two hours after his Brewers had played their final game of the 1982 season, he was annoyed by what he saw.

He was bothered by a plastic bag that covered his street clothes — a bag placed over his clothes and those of every player by clubhouse attendants earlier Wednesday evening to protect their attire from errant sprays from champagne bottles.

But there was no champagne in the Milwaukee clubhouse. All those errant sprays came at the other end of the corridor in the St. Louis clubhouse, where the Cardinals were busy celebrating a 6-3 victory over the Brewers that gave them their first world championship in 15 years.

"I guess we won't be needing this," Molitor said as he ripped away the bag from his clothes. "I knew these were a jinx when they first put them on."

The Brewers brought a 3-2 lead in games back to St. Louis and needed to win only one of the remaining two contests at Busch Stadium to deliver Milwaukee its first world championship flag in 25 years. But the Brewers fell, 13-1, in Game 6, then blew a 3-1 lead in losing Game 7.

"In my heart," Molitor said, "I don't think the best team won but they won four of seven and that's hard to argue.

"I don't feel we played as well as we were capable. We haven't for about a month now. We pulled some things out but hadn't been playing good solid baseball. It's amazing that we were only one game away from being the best team in baseball."

But there was no shame to be found in the clubhouse of the Brewers, who came into existence as a franchise only 14 years ago as the Seattle Pilots.

"I'll keep my head up all winter," Oglivie said. "We had a great year. We played baseball the way it should be played. None of us will feel bad about how we competed in the Series. I'm not sad or frustrated. It's a game, only a game."

"I'm disappointed," added Cooper, "but I'll survive. It's not a life-and-death situation. You do the best you can and that's all you can ask of yourself. You can't go home and cry about it."

Sutter receives praise as St. Louis wins 6-3

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — With two out in the top of the ninth, Bruce Sutter's split-fingered fastball was baffling the Milwaukee batters and bleacher fans already had a leg up on the city's biggest party in many years.

The howl from the 53,000 people at Busch Stadium Wednesday night reached an earringing crescendo when Sutter struck out Gorman Thomas of the Brewers to give the St. Louis Cardinals their first World Series championship in 15 years.

Hundreds of bleacher fans, who had draped their legs over the top of the outfield wall at the start of the inning, leaped onto the field.

They were joined by thousands of others, from the box seats, who poured onto the field's artificial turf and dashed past the dozen mounted officers and handful of police dogs sent out to control the crowd.

Police were no match for fans who ran about the field. Many had their arms raised in victory salutes. Others snatched up the bases for souvenirs and only a mass of officers prevented fans from scooping up and hauling away the dirt of the pitcher's mound.

At least three different sections of the artificial turf were ripped up by the fans while officers formed a ring around home plate.

A thunderous fireworks display high over the downtown area reflected light and sound from the glass-walled skyscrapers that surround the ballpark. The pyrotechnics after the game sustained the ovation for the Cardinals' 6-3 win in the series finale.

And though Darrell Porter was named the Most Valuable Player in the World Series, St. Louis Manager Whitey Herzog had no trouble singling out another player for filling the leading role in the Cardinals' drive to the world championship.

"Bruce Sutter is the guy, more than anyone else, who turned things around," Herzog said. "When I came over here, I was pretty lucky. We already had a lot of good ballplayers. The one guy we needed was a relief pitcher.

"We had 92 victories for the season and Sutter had 36 saves and 9 wins — that's half of our victories. Anytime we got to the eighth and needed help I sent for Sutter."

Herzog did just that again Wednesday night in the seventh and deciding game of the Series against Milwaukee. And Sutter retired the last six batters in order to save the Cardinals' 6-3 win for Joaquin Andujar.

Sutter, who spent his years before joining St. Louis growing accustomed to last-place finishes with the Chicago Cubs, was enjoying the madhouse St. Louis clubhouse after the game.

"It's hard to believe," Sutter said. "I know it probably won't sink in for a while. We had a lot of ups and downs this year, but when it came down to the end we all played well and every guy did his job to bring us the championship."

Milwaukee third baseman Paul Molitor, who got his first look at Sutter and his famous split-fingered fastball during the Series, said Sutter was the difference between the two clubs.

"You take away Bruce Sutter and they're only a better than average club," Molitor said. "They're a good club, but he's such a significant factor."

Brewers' Manager Harvey Kuenn said the results of the Series were not dictated on Sutter being available and Milwaukee being without its relief ace, Rollie Fingers, who has a torn muscle in his arm and didn't make an appearance.

Herzog said even when the Brewers took a 3-to-2 lead in the Series, he believed the Cardinals would come back to win because they were playing in their own park.

"I thought after we won the second game that if we got back to St. Louis we would have a good chance of winning," said Herzog.

"I didn't really get that excited about it. I don't know why. I thought we would go out and play well. But I'm real happy we won."

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