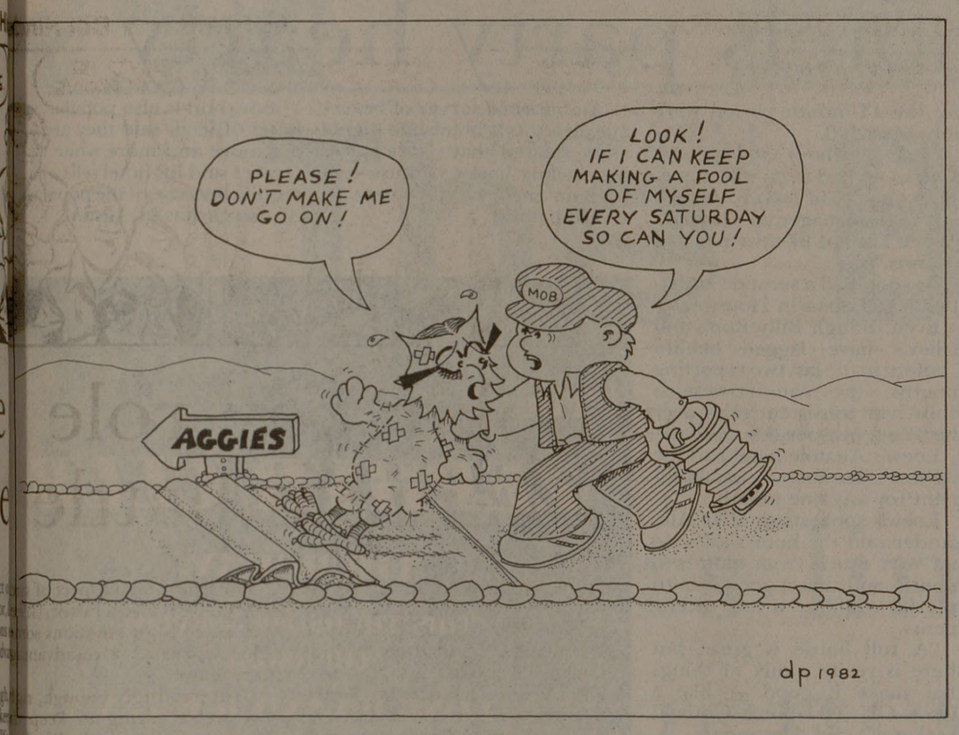


# Busch has happiness on tap after victory

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — He had been turned off once before, completely disenchanted with the modern-day ballplayer.

Not anymore, though — this made up for everything.

"I've never been happier in my whole life," bubbled Gussie Busch, the St. Louis Cardinals' 88-year-old owner, and it was written clearly all over his face.

He had waited for it 15 years, ever since his Cardinals won their last world championship by beating the Boston Red Sox in 1967.

"I was sure this team could win it and they didn't let me down," he glowed. "Wasn't it absolutely wonderful the way they did?"

It was if you were a Cardinal fan. But, it wasn't so wonderful if you were rooting for the Brewers.

They had struggled so hard the past three weeks, first to capture their division title on the last day of the regular season by winning from the Baltimore Orioles after losing three in a row to them, then nailing down the first pennant in their history by sweeping three straight from the California Angels, after dropping the first two to them.

But the Brewers finally were stopped by the Cardinals after they had led in the Series three games to two, and if that didn't sit especially well with all those magnificently enthusiastic supporters of the Brewers in Milwaukee, it was positively perfect for all those pulling so hard for the Cardinals, particularly Gussie Busch.

He never talks about it, but many in baseball still remember how disgusted he was with what he perceived as the greedy and venal attitude of big-league ballplayers. He made his feelings known 10 years ago with a public statement, and subsequently approved the deal which sent future Hall of Famer Steve Carlton to the Philadelphia Phillies.

For a time Busch had his fill of baseball. Later, however, his enthusiasm for both the game and his players manifested themselves again.

You should have seen him Wednesday night in the Cardinals' clubhouse, proud as punch over what his "boys" had done.

He glowed as he stood on a raised wooden platform along with his manager, Whitey Herzog, catcher Darrell Porter, the World Series MVP, and General Manager Joe McDonald, waiting for Bowie Kuhn to present the ornate world championship trophy to the winning World Series team.

"I don't know what to say," said Herzog in accepting the trophy. "I feel about as good as you can feel. I'm just happy to bring the championship to St. Louis and Mr. Busch."

Porter hadn't had time to take off his catching gear yet.

"This was the most fun I've ever had in baseball," Porter said.

Someone told him that he had been named the World Series MVP.

"I appreciated it," he said. "I love it. This whole thing is so exciting, so wonderful, I can't believe it."

Later, after the presentation ceremony was over and he had stepped down from the platform, Busch was confronted by Bud Selig, the Brewers' owner. Selig, 48, looks like a boy alongside Busch. His eyes were misty as he congratulated the older man.

"I'm glad for you," he said, shaking Busch's hand. "I know how much this means to you. Your team played very well and you, your manager and your players are to be congratulated."

"Thank you," Busch replied. "You are a great sport to come over and tell me all this."

On his way back to the Brewers' quarters, Selig, who brought major-league baseball back to Milwaukee 13 years ago, said he was disappointed but very proud of his team.

"It was a great year for us," said the Brewers' owner. "We won our division, we won the pennant, and we went to seven games in the World Series. We came within one game of winning it all. I guarantee you there will be another time. We'll be back."

Among the celebrants in the Cardinals' quarters was Red Schoendienst, a coach with them now who managed them the last time they won a world championship in 1967.

"This has been my seventh World Series and every one of them has gone seven games," he said. "There's no feeling in the world like winning a World Series."

# Martin firing ends Billyball

United Press International

OAKLAND — If Billy Martin decides to manage in 1983 — and there is a chance he might decide to sit the year out — chances are it will be with the Cleveland Indians, but don't bet he doesn't wind up tith the New York Yankees for a third time.

Those are the only two clubs which have shown interest in the much-traveled Martin, who was fired from his sixth job Wednesday by the Oakland A's. Indians President Gabe Paul, an old friend, already has talked once with Martin — while he was still the A's manager — and chances are he will talk with him again, and very soon.

Martin was fired twice by the Yankees and now once each by the Minnesota Twins, Detroit Tigers, Texas Rangers and A's. Oakland President Roy Eisenhardt gave Martin, whose contract runs through 1985, the bad news Wednesday and said he would honor their agreement.

So Martin is not exactly penniless. Over the next three years, should he decide not to work, he will collect a total of $750,000. In addition, there is a $600,000 home in Blackwood, an Oakland suburb, that was given to him outright by the A's a year ago in a gesture of gratitude for turning the Oakland franchise around.

But as in every other city where he has managed, Martin wore out his welcome with the A's and Eisenhardt, in announcing his firing, said "one must recognize the inevitability of change as a solution for difficult circumstances, even when no party may seek or want a change."

That was Eisenhardt's polite way of saying the A's no longer could afford Martin's behavior no matter how much he had done to improve the club.

At the bottom of Eisenhardt's decision to fire Martin was the latter's insistence on keeping old players past their prime because they were his friends, an incident in which he walked out in the middle of a game because he was upset at the way the A's were playing, and, a temper tandrum in which Martin wrecked his ballpark office when the club refused to renegotiate his contract.

So, now Martin is gone from Oakland, and the search begins for a replacement.

Under reorganization, Eisenhardt plans to move in and assume some of the general manager's duties, which Martin also administered, with the help of a seasoned adviser, probably Bill Rigney.

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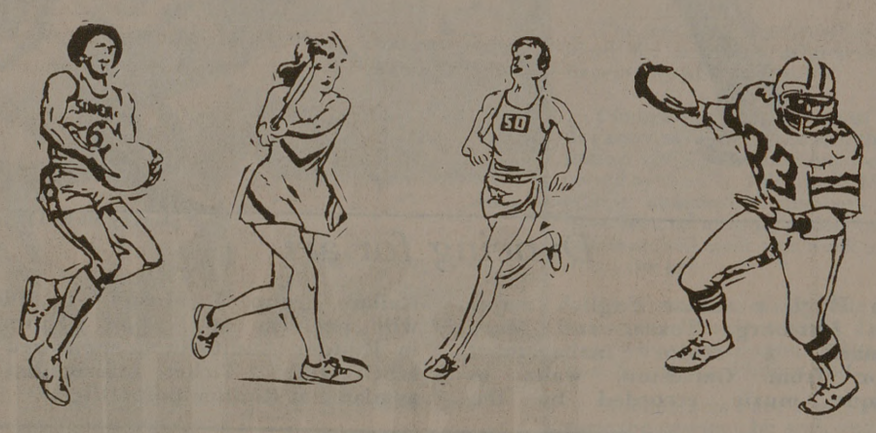

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