

Cards clip Giants 5-3 in game 1 of playoffs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Emergency starter Greg Mathews blew away pressure and the Giants, pitching four-hit ball for 7½ innings and blooping a key two-run single Tuesday night as the St. Louis Cardinals beat San Francisco 5-3 in the first game of the National League playoffs.

Even with Mathews' effort, the largest crowd in Busch Stadium history, 55,331, had to hold on in the eighth when the Giants scored once and loaded the bases with two outs.

Reliever Ken Dayley retired Will Clark on a long fly ball to end the inning and then finished for a save.

The Cardinals, plagued by injuries and playing without ailing first baseman Jack Clark, were not hurt this time after scheduled starter Danny Cox came down with a stiff neck.

Mathews, told four hours before the game that he would pitch, responded coolly against the team that felled him a total of three times this year.

Mathews gave up three runs, two of which were earned.

He tied a season-high with seven strikeouts and walked one. Mathews, who drove in only three runs this year, also contributed a single that capped a three-run sixth for a 5-2 lead.

Todd Worrell relieved after Mathews' first walk in 22 innings, and Robby Thompson with one out in the eighth. Worrell, with a 7.36

earned run average in six games against the Giants this year, gave up a single to Jeffrey Leonard, an RBI double to Candy Maldonado and a walk to Chili Davis that loaded the bases.

Dayley, a left-hander, quelled the threat by getting the left-handed Clark on a fly ball to right fielder Curt Ford just short of the warning track.

Mathews, a second-year left-hander, and 38-year-old Rick Reuschel were settled into a 2-2 game when a blown rundown triggered the Cardinals' three-run sixth.

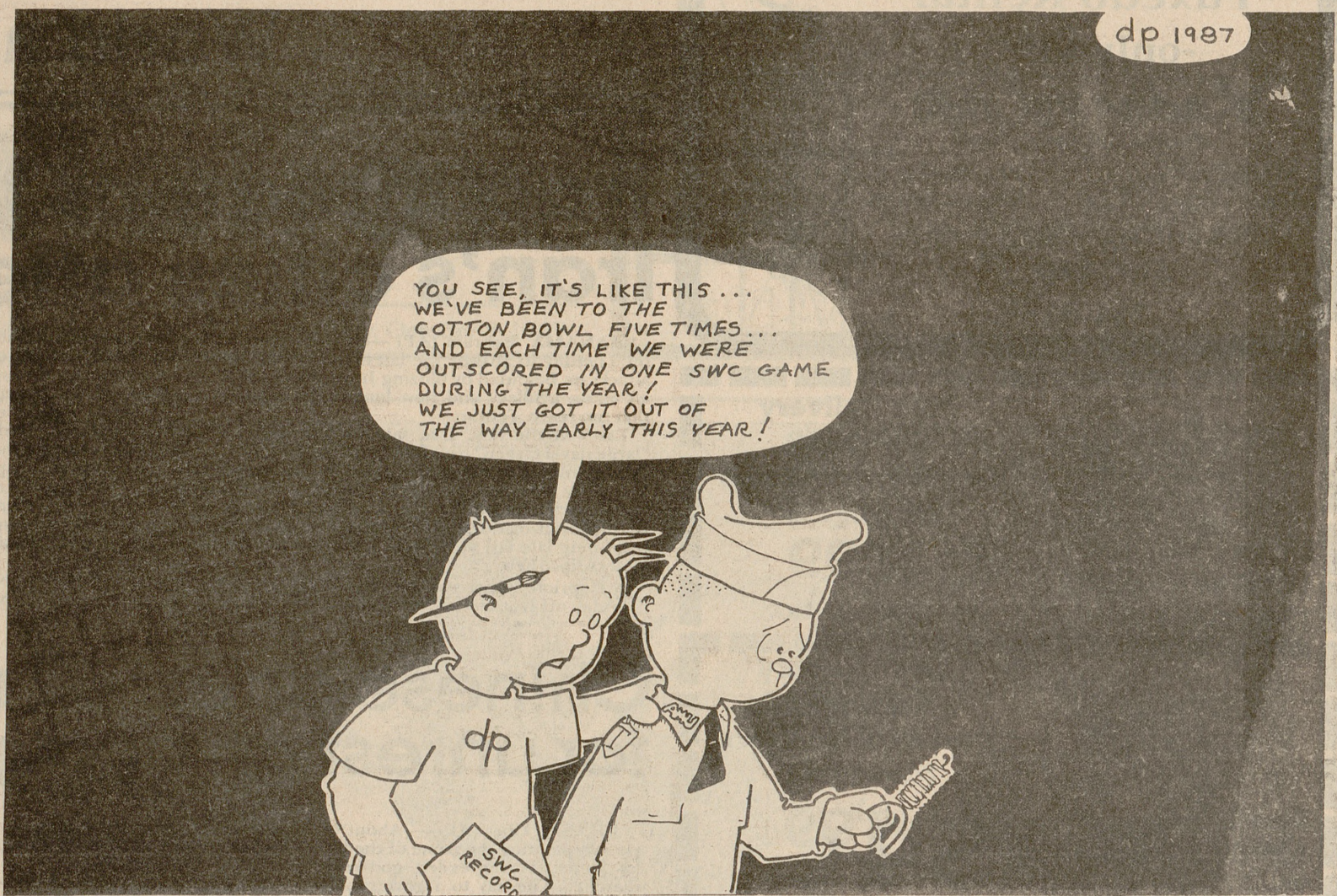
Dan Driessen doubled with one out and was then trapped when shortstop Joe Uribe grabbed Willie McGee's infield hit in the hole. But Uribe bounced a throw to second baseman Thompson for an error that allowed Driessen to reach third.

Terry Pendleton followed with an RBI single and Ford's single loaded the bases. After Tony Pena fouled out, Mathews reached out and hit a 1-2 pitch to center for a 5-2 lead.

Mathews had gone 0-2 in three starts versus San Francisco this season, allowing 14 runs on 21 hits in 16 ⅓ innings.

Leonard homered over the 414-foot mark in center field leading off the fourth for a 2-1 lead. Leonard, whose long fly out to center set up a run in the first, connected on Mathews' second pitch of the inning ending a string of nine straight batters retired by the left-hander.

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