

# Sports

## Twins club Tigers 9-5 to earn berth in Series

DETROIT (AP) — The Minnesota Twins, bucking inexperience and the odds, beat the Detroit Tigers 9-5 Monday and won their first American League pennant in 22 years behind the pitching of Bert Blyleven and the all-around play of Gary Gaetti.

With the worst record of any World Series team since the 1973 New York Mets and the worst

fourth inning. Blyleven now is 4-0 in postseason, with one of those victories coming in Game 2 of this playoff at Minnesota. He struck out three and walked two before Dan Schatzeder came on in relief to start the seventh.

The Tigers' fourth run came on an eighth-inning homer by Chet Lemon off Juan Berenguer. The home run was the 14th hit in the series breaking the playoff mark set twice in NL series.

Jeff Reardon came on for the final four outs for his second save of the playoffs. He was also the winning pitcher in Game 1.

The Tigers managed a ninth-inning run on a single by Gibson, his third hit of the game.

Alexander, who won nine straight with the Tigers after he was acquired in August, kept alive a reputation for big-game failures. He now is 0-5 in postseason with an ERA of 8.10.

The Twins, who won only three of 13 road trips this season, came into the playoffs vast underdogs. They won the first two at home, however, then finished it here, ending Detroit's bid for a second World Series appearance in four seasons. When the Tigers won the 1984 World Series, Gibson was the playoff MVP.

He came into Game 5 with only three hits in 17 at-bats, though — a silent man until it was too late for the Tigers. Detroit's cleanup hitter, Alan Trammell, was just 4-for-20.

The Twins won it not only with hitting, however. The best defensive team statistically in the league, they made one fine defensive play after another to keep the Tigers off base.

Kirby Puckett said it for his teammates the night before. "Nobody expected us to do anything," he said. "... But it didn't worry us. We didn't listen."

Young and emotional, the Twins beat not only the Tigers, but also the odds to win the pennant.

## Stats don't match 12th Man chatter

By Anthony Wilson  
Sports Writer

At Friday's midnight yell practice for the University of Houston football game, the yell leaders asked several members of the 12th Man Kick-off Team to speak to the crowd. Each one took microphone in hand and proceeded to give the usual spiel.

We've all heard it before. Each one started with a hearty "Howdy," then went on to say how A&M fans were great, and how much the team appreciated their support, and how A&M's conference opponents fear Kyle Field more than any other stadium in the conference, all of which is true.

### Viewpoint

However, then the 12th Man members must have gotten caught up in the emotion and heat of the moment, because they said some incredibly foolish things.

They talked about how they were going to mash, maul, mangle and generally be all-around tough guys once they took the field on Saturday.

They were going to go out and kick a little butt and beat the ever-livin' out of Cougar High's smurf-sized returners.

Undoubtedly, Houston's James Dixon, who is 10th in the nation in kickoff returns with a 28.7 yard average, must have been shaking in his tiny red turf-shoes.

All the 5-foot-10, 185-pound Dixon did was return five kicks for 171 yards and a 34.2 yard average. In the fourth quarter, Dixon broke a return for 53 yards, the second longest ever against the 12th Man, before being dragged to the turf on a touchdown-saving tackle by kicker Scott Slater. If Slater had not stopped Dixon from scoring, his touchdown probably would have won the game for Houston.

The point of all this can best be summed up by a quote by baseball great Pete Rose. When someone pointed out to Rose that he sure seemed to enjoy talking about what an outstanding player he was, Rose eloquently said, "It ain't braggin' if you can do it."

12th Man, are you listening? You haven't proved you can do it this year, so the bragging at yell practice was totally uncalled for.

Unlike past seasons when the 12th Man was successful, its return coverage this year has been pathetic.

In A&M's three home games this season, the 12th Man has allowed 332 yards on 11 returns for a 30.2 yard average. By comparison, A&M's kickoff coverage team for away games, which is comprised of varsity scholarship players, has given up 150 yards on eight returns for a 18.8 yard average.

Another startling statistic about the 12th Man is that Slater is tied for second place on the squad in tackles with two. The leading 12th Man tackler, Brian Edwards, has only three tackles. When the kicker is the second leading tackler on the return team, one tackle behind the leader, it's not a good sign.

Even opposing returners have lost respect for the once-feared 12th Man coverage team.

Before the LSU game, sophomore running back Harvey Williams, who returns kickoffs, said, "I ought to break one against those guys."

Although Williams never got a chance to return a kick, teammate Sam Martin returned a kick 57

yards, the longest ever against the 12th Man.

It is obvious the 12th Man is not as effective as it has been in past years. Its play against Houston almost cost A&M a crucial conference win. That is not to say that they are to blame for the close score. The offense was lethargic at best. But the 12th Man has consistently let opponents start drives with excellent field position.

Therefore, the A&M coaches should give serious consideration to benching the 12th Man the rest of the season. The Aggies have three remaining home games. Two of those are against conference foes Arkansas and Texas. If A&M loses either of those games, their Cotton Bowl hopes will turn into toilet bowl reality.

The offense is having enough problems putting points on the board. The team can't afford to score, only to let the opposition score on the ensuing kickoff. The defense is playing about as well as it can, but it can only do so much when a team has great field position.

The bottom line is that it would be a real pity to lose a championship due to special team play.

## NFLPA submits tentative proposal to owners

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The striking NFL players offered Monday night to return to work if team owners agree to mediation and arbitration of their contract dispute under certain conditions.

NFL players have been on strike for three weeks, but owners have continued to stage games by using replacement players the last two weeks.

The decision by the player representatives of the 28 NFL clubs followed Sunday's breakdown in contract talks between the NFL Players Association and the NFL Management Council, the bargaining arm for the league's owners.

The conditions mentioned by NFL Players Association executive director Gene Upshaw included:

- Reinstatement of all strikers to rosters for the rest of the year.
- That the 1982 Collective Bargaining Agreement would remain in effect until a new contract is reached.
- All player representatives and alternate player representatives would be protected for the rest of the season.
- All issues currently on the table now would be submitted to mediation. After six weeks, all issues still outstanding would be submitted to binding arbitration.

"The players feel this is the way to end the dispute," Upshaw said. "If the owners are willing to agree (to the conditions), the players will return to work."

Upshaw was flanked by more than three dozen players, although a

handful of the player representatives left before the news conference without commenting. Boomer Esiason, quarterback of the Cincinnati Bengals, was among the players leaving before Upshaw's announcement.

A spokesman for the Management Council, Peter Ruocco, said in New York that the owners would have no immediate comment on the proposal.

"We haven't seen any proposal. We have no comment," Ruocco said, adding there would not be a comment Monday night.

Upshaw, asked if this was a last-move kind of offer, said: "I would think so."

"I would say, if the owners decline this, we are out for the duration, out for the year."

Jack Donlan, executive director of the NFL Management Council, had suggested mediation on several previous occasions, but the union said no each time. Upshaw said the difference this time would be that mediation would be followed by binding arbitration. An arbitrator would have the authority to reach a compromise on any point rather than choose one side or the other, as is the case in baseball salary arbitration cases.

Upshaw said he was hopeful that the players could be back in time for next Sunday's games. However, he said that if a return couldn't be worked out by then, he hoped NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle would call off a third weekend of games involving teams made up of replacement players.

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## East meets West on the keys.

Bella Davidovich was Russia's premiere woman pianist before emigrating to the U.S. This season she is touring with one of Europe's leading ensembles, the Rotterdam Philharmonic. Together with conductor James Conlon, she will perform in Rudder Auditorium Tuesday, October 13, 1987 at 8 p.m.

Mme. Davidovich has performed with the world's most distinguished conductors and appeared as soloist with the Leningrad Philharmonic for 28 consecutive years. Founded in 1918, the Rotterdam Philharmonic has played in every major European and American music center, has toured the Far East and in 1986 gave concerts in the Soviet Union. Maestro Conlon is in his fourth season as Music Director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic.

A few good seats remain for this program among the most unique ever to perform at Texas A&M. Tickets are available on a first-come, first served basis.

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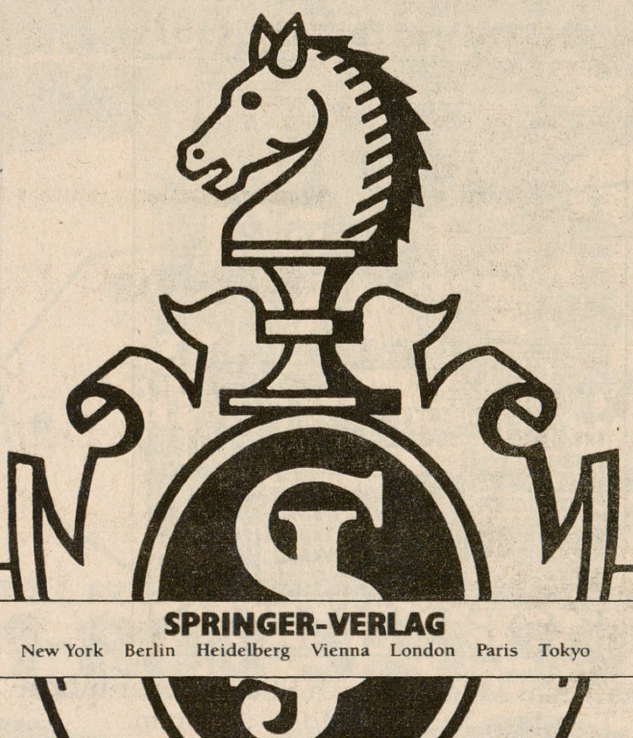
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