

Mets, Strawberry begin annual fights early

MIAMI (AP) — The New York Mets held a closed-door meeting Wednesday and reached an uneasy truce with Darryl Strawberry, a day after he blamed Manager Davey Johnson and some teammates for the club's problems last year.

"I don't think anybody likes to have derogatory things said about them," said Johnson, Strawberry's prime target. "But I don't want to drag this out and make it any bigger than it is."

The storm started Tuesday when an advance copy of Esquire magazine's April issue appeared in the Mets' clubhouse, containing a story about Strawberry.

In the interview, he said Gary Carter and Keith Hernandez "quit" last season and he had some uncompromising comments about teammates Wally Backman and Len Dykstra.

Of Johnson, he said, "I always wonder how many games this team

would have won if Whitey was managing," a reference to St. Louis Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog.

The Mets failed to repeat as World Series champions last year when they were beset by injuries and off-field problems.

This year, the Mets came to camp healthy and seemed anxious to go about the business of regaining their position. They have been made the favorites, and had hoped to avoid the kind of confrontation that Strawberry sparked.

The Mets held a 20-minute meeting at their spring training camp in Port St. Lucie, Fla., to discuss the latest trouble. The team then drove four hours to Miami for an exhibition game against Baltimore.

Strawberry did not talk to reporters in Port St. Lucie and brushed past them before playing against the Orioles.

"It's over" is all Strawberry said. He got mixed boos and cheers when he batted.

Richie Bry, Strawberry's agent, offered a possible solution to avoid future problems.

"As long as players talk to the press they are going to sometimes say things that they regret — and sometimes be quoted out of context — and my answer to that is not to talk to the press at all," Bry said in a telephone interview.

While the Mets wanted to forget this latest off-the-field rumbles, they did not seem ready to forgive Strawberry.

"He's a moody guy," said Carter, who did not attend the morning meeting. "He says one thing one day, another thing on another. That's Darryl."

"I know myself. I've proved myself," Carter said, responding to Strawberry's remarks that he

stopped playing hard during last September's National League East race. "But it's history as far as I'm concerned."

Strawberry and Johnson have had several disputes in the past. There was a highly publicized incident in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series when Johnson removed Strawberry for a pinch hitter, and Johnson fined Strawberry twice during spring training last year.

Earlier this spring, Strawberry was fined again for missing a team photo session.

In the Esquire story, Strawberry said Johnson had one set of rules for him and pitcher Ron Darling, and another set for the rest of the team. Strawberry also charged that Johnson made managerial moves last year that had the team wondering what was going on.

McGwire shines in Athletics' win over Giants

From the Associated Press
Mark McGwire hit two home runs, including a towering three-run shot to center field in the ninth inning, as Oakland defeated the San Francisco Giants 7-5 Wednesday in exhibition play.

McGwire's first homer, a solo shot off Mike Krukow, came in the second inning. The three-run homer came off Craig Lefferts and cleared a 30-foot fence in straightaway center field, 430 feet from home.

"The public address announcer said he's never seen anyone hit a ball over that fence, and he's been here 21 years," Giants Manager Roger Craig said of McGwire's long homer.

Twins 10, Tigers 7
Randy Bush started Minnesota's four-run third inning with a double, and the defending World Series

champion Twins defeated Detroit. Jack Morris, the first of four Tiger pitchers, gave up six runs on nine hits in the three innings he worked.

Twins 6, Royals 5
Sal Butera's bases-loaded walk off Luis Aquino snapped a ninth-inning tie, and the Twins split squad beat Kansas City. Tom Brunansky hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning to give the Twins a 4-1 lead.

Red Sox 2, White Sox 1
Jeff Sellers and Ed Lynch each pitched three shutout innings, and five Boston pitchers combined on a four-hitter as the Red Sox beat Chicago.

Braves 6, Expos 2
Gerald Perry drove in two runs with a double in Atlanta's three-run fifth inning, and Rick Mahler

pitched three scoreless innings as the Braves won their third in a row.

Astros 4, Expos 1
Rafael Ramirez hit an RBI triple in Houston's two-run sixth inning, leading the Astros to a 4-1 victory over the Expos split squad.

Cardinals 3, Blue Jays 1, 11 innings
Mike Laga singled to break a 1-1 tie in the 11th inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals defeated Toronto.

Cubs 1, Angels 0
Rick Sutcliffe allowed five hits in five scoreless innings, combining with three other pitchers on a seven-hit shutout.

Yankees 10, Rangers 3
Jose Cruz hit his first homer of the spring season, leading the New York Yankees to a 10-3 victory over Texas. Mike Pagliarulo also homered.

Phillies 4, Pirates 3
Darren Daulton's two-run triple helped Philadelphia rally from a 1-0 deficit to a 4-3 victory with four runs in the fourth inning against Pittsburgh.

Dodgers 6, Reds 5
Dave Anderson's RBI single capped a two-run eighth inning that carried unbeaten Los Angeles to a 6-5 victory over Cincinnati.

Mets 11, Orioles 6
New York won its first exhibition game after four losses as Barry Lyons sparked a seven-run eighth inning with a two-run double. The Mets had 19 hits.

Mariners 11, Indians 5
Brick Smith had two doubles and a home run as the Mariners beat the Indians.

Nation's worst team is proud and feisty

EDINBURG (AP) — This team must really love basketball.

It has been more than a year since Pan American's Lady Broncos won a game, and their reputation as the worst team in the nation follows them everywhere.

Players say some teams don't even bother to warm up before playing the Lady Broncos, who ended their regular season at 0-26 and 0-9 in American South Conference play.

Despite their sixth-place ranking in a field of six, they get a shot at the conference title Thursday night against third-place Southwestern Louisiana, 17-10 and 5-4. Louisiana Tech hosts the tournament in Ruston, La.

Statistically, it should be the Lady Broncos' last gasp of the year. Yet something other than the thrill of victory kept them picking themselves up from drubbing after drubbing as the cellar got deeper and deeper.

"If they weren't so feisty, we probably would have folded a long time ago," said Becky De Los Santos, a volleyball coach who inherited the team last summer after the previous coach quit. "They're a proud group."

One of their most humiliating losses came Feb. 22 at Louisiana Tech. Without ever playing their five starters, the Lady Techsters defeated Pan Am 98-21.

Lady Techsters coach Leon Barmore's decision not to use his starters moved Pan American Sports Information Director Jim McKone to write a letter to Barmore thanking him for the act of mercy.

"You could have run up 200

points on us," McKone wrote. "You could have gained a national record. You could have netted a lot of ink nationally. Instead, you did the absolutely right thing."

"I have written sports for daily papers since 1949, and we have the worst team I have ever covered, in any sport, at any level. But they are human beings, trapped by unfair circumstances."

The Lady Broncos were not prepared for what awaited them this school year, when Pan American joined the newly formed ASC in NCAA Division I.

Suddenly, the Lady Broncos contended not only with nationally ranked teams in the conference, but also faced four Southwestern Conference schools. They were schools with six-figure budgets backing their women's basketball programs and longer histories of taking women's sports seriously.

The Lady Broncos were used to last year's fare of smaller National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics schools, NCAA Division II and III teams and junior colleges. Even so, they ended last year at 7-17.

Pan American, with a total women's basketball budget of \$52,118, just couldn't compete in the new conference, particularly in the area of scholarships.

When Ms. De Los Santos took over the Lady Broncos last summer, she learned the previous coach had not recruited anyone. By the time Ms. De Los Santos was able to call high schools around the state, all of the potential players had signed with other teams.

Floyd is ready to win after narrow Doral loss

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — For just a moment, the look was there.

Ben Crenshaw saw it. He saw it in the eyes of Ray Floyd, and Ben knew he had his work cut out for him.

"Raymond chipped in on 16 and he got that look in his eyes. And when Raymond gets that look, you know the game is on," Crenshaw said.

As it developed, Crenshaw was able to prevail, rapping in a birdie putt on the final hole to win the Doral Open last Sunday. Floyd finished two shots behind.

But the look that is back in Floyd's eyes is a worrisome thing for the other members of the PGA Tour.

"I've heard about it. Other players have talked about it. But I don't know what 'that look' is," said the 45-year-old Floyd.

"If I knew what it was, I'd try to get it more often," he said.

It's one of the phenomena of the pro tour. It's an expression of grim determination, of combative aggress-

sion, of single-minded concentration that settles over Floyd's face when he is at his best and in title contention.

It was never more evident than in his 1986 U.S. Open victory. To one degree or another, it's almost always there when he wins.

And the fact that it was in evidence only a few days ago makes Floyd a prime contender in the \$700,000 Honda Classic that gets under way Thursday at the TPC course at Eagle Trace.

"The way I played last week was very pleasing," Floyd said.

"I had the feeling things were coming together. I won't say I've got everything in order. But I've sure got it moving in the right direction."

"This certainly gives me hope that in the next few weeks I'll be able to make some good things happen," Floyd said.

He is in a 144-man field that includes defending champion Mark Calcavecchia, Sandy Lyle of Scotland and Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

Celtics nip Spurs 119-118

BOSTON (AP) — Dennis Johnson hit two free throws to put Boston ahead by a point with 15 seconds left and blocked Jon Sundvold's shot with two seconds remaining to give the Celtics a 119-118 NBA victory over the San Antonio Spurs Wednesday night.

Johnson scored Boston's last six points after San Antonio used a 10-point run to take a 116-113 lead with 1:31 to go.

His jumper and layup put the Celtics ahead 117-116 with 56 seconds left. Mike Mitchell, who led San Antonio with 20 points, then made a

jumper to give the Spurs a 118-117 lead with 37 seconds remaining. Johnson was fouled by Frank Brickowski after grabbing an offensive rebound and sank the winning points.

Boston's Danny Ainge fouled Johnny Dawkins with six seconds left, forcing San Antonio to put the ball in play near midcourt. After a timeout, it went to Sundvold at the top of the key but Johnson swatted his shot away and time ran out.

The victory was the Celtics' 18th straight against San Antonio since Jan. 5, 1980.

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Attention Seniors!

Interested in representing the Class of '88 as Co-Class Agent? Responsibilities for Class Agents include writing Class letters, attending Association of Former Students Council meetings twice yearly and planning your five-year Class reunion. Class Agent elections will be held at the Senior Induction Banquets April 4 & 5.

**Pick up descriptions of Class Agent responsibilities and an application at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.
**You must fill out an application to be eligible to run.
**A MANDATORY informational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 at the Clayton Williams Center.
**For more information, call Frances Jones, 845-7514.

THINK TWICE

Before You Leave For Spring Break

Be sure to secure your house or apartment using the following tips:

- * Make sure locks on doors, sliding glass doors and windows are in place and operating correctly.
- * Do not leave keys hidden outside your home or notes indicating you are away.
- * If possible, take all valuables with you.
- * Engrave personal property with an identifiable number. Make an inventory of property and leave a copy with a friend or relative.
- * You may wish to use an automatic (on-off) timer on a lamp.
- * If possible, ask a trusted friend to watch your home. Leave a number where you can be reached.
- * If your home has been entered, don't "tidy up." Call the police immediately.

For more information on crime prevention, come by the Off Campus Center located in Puryear Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 845-1741.

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