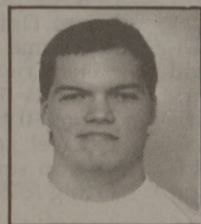


Double Trouble

Robinson's life deserves recognition

With all of the controversy surrounding major league baseball this year, it's a wonder that any of the positive occurrences during the season have received any attention at all.



DON NORWOOD
Sports Writer

Robin Yount's 3,000th hit, the Atlanta Braves' run for another National League West pennant and Tony LaRussa's miracle worker act in Oakland have all been reminders of yesterday's game, one that was unencumbered by inflated television contracts and gargantuan egos.

But how ironic it is that, with such a desire by those around baseball to wax nostalgic over the game, the anniversary of one of the most important events in the history of professional sports is passing without even an off-hand acknowledgment.

Forty-five years ago, Jackie Robinson walked onto Ebbets Field for the first time, carrying the weight of an entire race and the future of America's pastime on his formidable shoulders.

To some players, Robinson is a hero, and deservedly so. To many other major leaguers, though, Jackie Robinson is a name that is nothing more than vaguely familiar, someone they should know about but can't recall.

Considering the idea that some current major leaguers, both black and white, do not know who Robinson is is mind-boggling. A former star running back at UCLA, Robinson was one of the most talented athletes ever to step on a playing field in our country, a two-sport standout when Bo and Deion were gleams in their fathers' eyes. And no other major league baseball player has had to labor under the type of pressure Robinson did, as he had to battle opposing players, fans and owners. That's a highly significant and important legacy, one that lives on to this day.

Unfortunately, many people today either have forgotten about the hardships experienced by black baseball players in the first half of this century, or they are simply uninformed. As Hank Aaron eloquently pointed out in his autobiography, "I Had a Hammer," black players in the Southern League frequently received death threats describing how they would be shot during the game from the outfield bleachers.

Even in the 70's, when Aaron was

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Junior covers two positions for Lady Aggies

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

If you think volleyball looks like an exhausting sport, try viewing it from Genny Wood's point of view.

Wood, a junior from San Antonio, has been pulling double duty for the Lady Aggies during the young season, playing key roles at both setter and outside attacker.

As if that were not enough to worry about, she is also one of only two team members to play a total of 30 games throughout Texas A&M's seven matches this year.

Those 30 games have seen Wood dive headfirst into her new job. Besides leading the team in assists, assist average and service aces, she demolished her old personal record of five kills in a game with 11 against Southwest Texas, and is only three behind team leader Elizabeth Edmiston in digs with 86.

What it all amounts to for Wood is accepting a tremendous amount of responsibility. So far, she seems to be handling it with aplomb.

"I enjoy playing both positions," Wood said. "It's been different going from totally running the offense to running it and being a part of it. You have to think about what will be open and what will work."

"I enjoy doing everything. I enjoy for coach (head coach Al Givens) to be able to utilize me both ways. I don't mind doing it all. I just love playing the game."

Although her college experience has only come at setter in the past, Wood's high school and club days provided her with a chance to be an all-around star. The former San Antonio Player of the Year finished her career at Clark High School as a AAAAAA all-stater and two-time all-district performer, and earned a spot in the National Elite Camp in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Junior Genny Wood digs a ball off the floor in a victory for the Lady Aggies during the 1991 season. Wood has become a valuable part of the A&M volleyball team this season, playing both setter and outside attacker because of a new offensive format.

Those credentials are impressive enough to speak for themselves. But even though her prep experience is hard to match, Wood said life as a two-position star at the college level follows a more long and winding road.

"I was a hitter and setter in high school," Wood said. "If you didn't know what shot was open, you'd just hit it as hard as you could. In college, there's a lot more thinking rather than just natural ability."

But natural ability helps greatly. And in Wood's case, that natural ability is something Givens is happy to feature with his 5-2 Lady Aggies.

"I felt confident Genny would be able to handle the extra work load," Givens said. "She's not where we want her to be now, but I think she will be."

"She's got all the shots. She just needs to develop that (higher) level of confidence."

Wood's confidence took a hard blow Sept. 11 in A&M's home loss in five games to California. Completing a game with no kills on 12 attempts and only 22

assists would tend to do that.

Being the realist that she is, Wood was matter-of-fact in analyzing her worst match of the year.

"I was not playing like myself," she said. "I knew it, and the others around me knew it. I knew I had to pick myself up and try to encourage the others. It's really the hardest thing to do."

"Against California, it was just one of those days for me."

Her statements about that match exemplify the pressure Wood puts on herself. But while that type of pressure might seem oppressive, Givens described it more favorably.

"She's real critical of herself," he said. "She puts pressure on herself, but most good athletes do."

"I think I'm my own worst enemy," Wood said. "It's good in a way because I'm self-motivated. I don't need someone to push me."

Wood's determination shows on the court, both in practice and in matches, where she seems to have an endless well of energy from which to draw. That kind

of physical output is essential as the season drags on and five-game matches become the rule rather than the exception.

"This is the strongest I've felt ever, really," Wood said. "I worked real hard over the summer. (A&M strength and conditioning coach) Mike Jenkins worked with me a lot. It's helped me to do the different roles."

"Physically, there's no problem (with Wood)," Givens said. "She's probably our most fit athlete."

The Lady Aggies' tireless worker will be a key player the rest of the season, as 1992 has seen A&M jump out to their best start since their last NCAA Tournament season in 1986. For Givens' crew to capitalize on their fast start, Wood will have to remain at the forefront. And no one knows that better than Wood herself.

"For me, I've just got to concentrate every day in practice," she said. "I have high expectations for myself, and I've got to be consistent at every part of my game."

"However the team needs me, I've got to fill that spot the best I can."

Dolphins down Browns with late scoring drive

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — The Miami Dolphins gave hurricane-weary south Florida a welcome distraction Monday night, overcoming a furious Cleveland rally and beating the Browns 27-23 on Mark Higgs' 1-yard touchdown plunge with seven seconds left.

Dan Marino drove the Dolphins 84 yards in 68 seconds to the winning touchdown, setting it up with passes of 22 and 18 yards to Fred Banks. A roughing-the-passer penalty was tacked onto the first reception.

Higgs' touchdown, his second of the night, wrecked Cleveland's three-touch-

down fourth quarter. The Browns, trailing 20-3 early in the quarter, came back to lead 23-20 on David Brandon's 32-yard fumble return and Bernie Kosar's touchdown passes to Michael Jackson and Mark Bavaro.

Bavaro, who missed all last season with a knee injury, caught the go-ahead pass on Kosar's dumpoff with 1:18 to play, setting the stage for Marino's heroics.

The Dolphins' scheduled opener against New England was postponed last week while south Florida struggled to recover from Hurricane Andrew, which ravaged the area south of Miami three weeks ago.

The extra week off didn't seem to bother Marino, who had used some of his free time to help his teammates distribute food and supplies to hurricane victims. He completed his first seven passes, including a perfect 25-yard scoring pass to Mark Duper and a 45-yard pass to Robert Clark that set up Higgs' 7-yard TD run.

Marino also passed 47 yards to Tony Martin in the third quarter, setting up the first of Pete Stoyanovich's two field goals.

Marino completed 25 of 35 passes for 322 yards, leaving him eight completions away from passing Johnny Unitas for fourth place on the all-time completion list.

Despite the loss, the fourth quarter

marked an encouraging turnaround for a Cleveland offense that had allowed 11 sacks in a 14-3 loss at Indianapolis last week.

Kosar completed 19 of 28 passes for 230 yards and was sacked twice — on consecutive plays that stalled a drive to the Miami 30 in the second quarter. His 60-yard pass to Jackson set up Cleveland's first touchdown of the season, Jackson's 6-yard catch midway through the fourth quarter, and got the Browns back in the game.

Miami's final drive was aided by the knowledge that a field goal would tie the game, because Matt Stover missed the extra point following Bavaro's touchdown.

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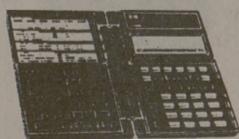
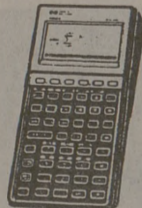
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