

Brewers win AL

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Angels gamely accept their defeat

By John Hughes
State Journal sports reporter

MILWAUKEE — The California Angels left Milwaukee Sunday with no place to go but home.

"I've never been too big on watching the World Series on television," digger Reggie Jackson said wryly. But the Angels' left County Stadium, with the tiny, cowering thought that at least they had not blown the series they lost.

The Brewers were one game better than us, said center fielder Fred Lynn, who was the first player from the losing team ever to be named most valuable in a Championship Series.

"You've got to give them credit, they came back," Lynn said of the Brewers.

"We couldn't get the crumpling blow when we needed it," he said. "I looked up today and saw we had 11 hits and only three runs. That wasn't enough. I thought we should have had five or six runs by the fifth inning."

Of the Brewers, Lynn said, "We held their bats pretty much in check the whole game. But they got all their hits together. They had the big inning."

Lynn said he felt the first pang of anxiety in the series when the Brewers won on Friday, the first day back in Milwaukee after the Angels had won twice in California.

"Personally, I wanted to win that first game here," he said. "I didn't want to let them up. They've just got too many ways to beat you. I was really concerned after that."

The Angels proved to be classy losers. There was not a single hint from anyone in the losers' clubhouse that the Brewers, in the final game of the series, were anything but deserving winners.

Even second baseman Bobby Grich, who argued with the umpires that he had caught Charlie Moore's 18-foot bloop single that started the Brewers' winning rally in the seventh inning, honored the opinion of those who had seen on the television replay that he had caught it on a short hop.

"Did it bounce?" he asked. "I really couldn't tell. If it did, I'm glad they made the right call."

Third baseman Doug DeCinces, who did all he could for the California cause with three hits in the final game, sat in front of his cubicle in the

dressing room with his head down for long minutes after the game. When he got up, before even taking off his uniform, he walked the several hundred yards to the Milwaukee clubhouse to congratulate the Brewers.

Soon he was joined by teammates Rod Carew, Don Baylor, Lynn and Bob Boone. All wished the Brewers good luck.

Grich said there was no disbelief on his part that the Brewers were able to win three in a row from his club. "It's not like it's the twilight zone or anything," he said.

"The home field advantage is really big in the playoffs," Grich said. "You talk about a 19th man: that's really a 19th man. The fans here were really behind their ball club."

The man who had to be suffering

most from the defeat wouldn't admit it.

California's Gene Mauch has completed 22 seasons as a big-league manager without ever having had the satisfaction of talking about how his team won the league championship.

Talking about how his latest one lost it, Mauch fired his jaw and answered questions softly and without visible emotion.

Asked about the disappointment, Mauch said, "I'm not disappointed for me. I'm disappointed for the owner of the club, the general manager and the players. If I'm disappointed for myself, it's way down the line."

Others also expressed disappointment for Angels' owner Gene Autry.

"I'm just disappointed," yin said. "It's hard to say I'm more disappointed for one person than another."

but if I had to, I'd have to say Mr. Autry. I think everybody wanted to win for him."

"I really wanted to win for the cowboy (Autry)," Jackson agreed. Jackson, who has been on winners and losers in similar situations, said the loss to the Brewers was his toughest.

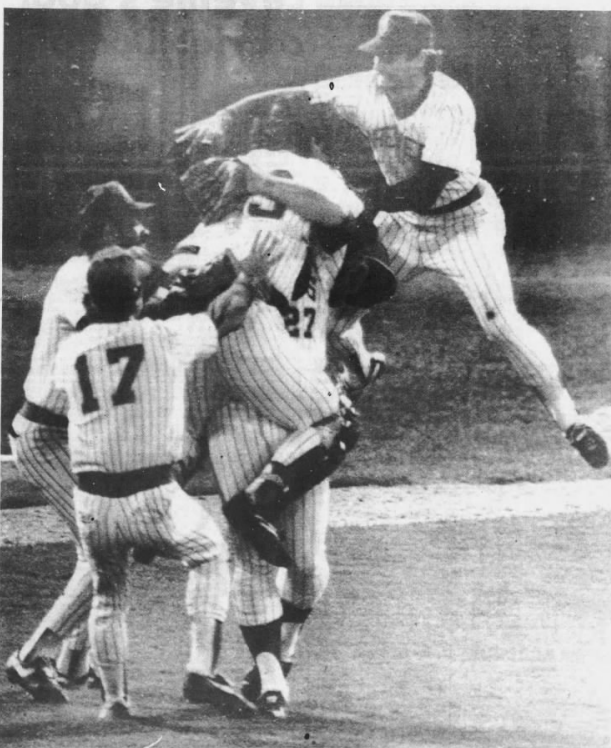
"Yeah, this is the toughest one because I didn't really play as well as I would have liked," he said.

In Sunday's finale, Jackson capped a zero-for-three afternoon by grounding into a double play in the seventh inning. "I was trying to gear myself for one more chance," he said. But the chance never came.

"I guess we'll have to use the old cliché now," he said. "Wait 'til next year."

This man (Harvey Kuenn) is like a conductor in an orchestra. He can't play a single instrument, but he sure blends everyone else together.

— Don Sutton



The celebration begins! Paul Molitor leaps to join Jim Gantner (17) and Ted Simmons as they mob Pete Ladd (27).

— AP Wirephoto

Large or small, moves paid off

MILWAUKEE — After Saturday's victory in the fourth game of the American League Championship Series, Milwaukee Brewer General Manager Harry Dalton talked about the satisfaction he got from watching "the seemingly insignificant moves" work out well.

He mentioned the acquisitions of Ned Yost, Mark Brodard and Pete Ladd — all second liners for most of the season who became heroes down the stretch or in the playoffs.

But it was the major moves Dalton made in 1982 that had the most to do with putting the Brewers into the World Series — namely the acquisition of pitchers Don Sutton, and to a lesser extent Doc Medich, and the really critical one — the switch of managers, from Buck Rodgers to Harvey Kuenn.

Talking about the manager change, Dalton said "You learn that they (the Brewers) don't necessarily have to be firmly directed, in the sense of one-way thinking. It's a club that's pretty well self-disciplined. They need someone — and I've used this expression until it's trite, I'm afraid — who has a light touch on the reins, who can give a little direction when it's sensed that it's needed, but not always trying to push himself into the middle of the picture."

"You never know what a manager is going to do until you hire him and send him out there and let him go," Dalton said.

Dalton replaced Rodgers with Kuenn on June 2 Under Rodgers, the Brewers had a 25-34 record. Under Kuenn, they finished the season 72-43.

Dalton said he came up with names of a couple other managerial possibilities before approaching Kuenn, but that, at that point Harvey was the foremost person in his mind.

"One of the people in the organization who also talked strongly to me about Harvey was (special assignments scout) Ray Scarborough, who

was one of my very closest confidantes in the whole organization, who died the first of July," Dalton said.

Earl Weaver is the first manager Dalton hired, when he was general manager at Baltimore. When Dalton moved to California he hired, in succession, Del Rice, Bobby Winkles, Dick Williams, Norm Sherry and Dave Garcia. Since coming to Milwaukee he has employed George Bamberger, Rodgers and now Kuenn.

"Some great, some good and some not so good," he summarized.

So far, Dalton has Kuenn in the "great" category.

"Immediately the club was released, the club enjoyed playing under Harvey," Dalton said. "He helped them realize what they were."

About Kuenn's future, Dalton dodged. "That's an improper question," he said. "That's an off-season decision and we're still in the middle of our season."

The Brewers were leading the American League's East Division when they acquired Sutton and Medich, so it seems logical to assume Dalton got them for insurance.

"I wasn't sure we couldn't win it without them, but I knew that if we had a chance to deepen our pitching we should do it," he said.

The Brewers got Medich from the Texas Rangers for cash on Aug. 11. He won his first three decisions for the Brewers with a 2.86 earned run average before finishing at 34.

Sutton arrived Aug. 30 from Houston for three minor leaguers and became the team's best pitcher during the pennant drive and into the League Championship Series.

"When we got Medich, we were still trying to get Sutton, but we didn't know if we could get him," said Dalton.

It's a season when all the moves seem to be the right ones — the insignificant ones, and surely the major ones.

— By John Hughes

Ladd provides added relief

By John Hughes
State Journal sports reporter

MILWAUKEE — Rollie Fingers was the decoy: Pete Ladd was the man.

When the big money was on the table in the ninth inning of Sunday's American League Championship Series finale, Milwaukee Manager Harvey Kuenn called on Ladd to save the Brewers' first trip to the World Series.

Ladd relieved Bob McClure after McClure had given up a single to California Angels' pinch hitter Ron Jackson to lead off the ninth.

The first batter he faced, Bob Boone, sacrificed Jackson to second. Then Ladd got Brian Downing on ground ball to third base and Rod Carew on a grounder to short.

"I wanted the ball," said Ladd, who also saved Don Sutton's victory on Friday and appeared in last Tuesday's loss. In those three appearances combined, Ladd faced 10 batters and retired them all — including five on strikeouts.

"I was hoping I would get it, even before the game started — if the opportunity arose," he said. "And it did, and I wanted to get in there because I knew I could get 'em out."

"I get more intense and just feeling more confident in myself," he said. "I know I can do the job."

He might not have been so sure after giving up game-winning home

runs in extra-inning games on both Sept. 9 in New York and Sept. 13 in Detroit.

"You never stop learning in this game, especially in pitching," he said. "Those games you lose, they rot over in your mind time and time again, and you learn to cope with it, and you learn how to throw to those people and get them out the next time."

Ladd became the main man out of the bullpen in the late innings because the incumbent, Fingers, was not available. Fingers announced that the torn muscle in his right forearm had healed sufficiently to allow him to pitch to a couple of batters, if needed.

But when needed, he remained on the bench in the bullpen.

Fingers' injury was first announced as a "slight tear," but he now admits it was more than slight.

Ladd said he really didn't know if Fingers was ready to pitch. But if Fingers was merely a decoy, Ladd thought he was an effective one.

"I think it's an intimidation factor," he said. "California knows that he's ready to throw. And he is a tough man to hit."

Ladd proved to be a tough man to hit, also, but he's no Fingers yet, according to Don Sutton, who more than once speaks with tongue-in-cheek.

"You know right away he's not Fingers; all you have to do is look at his feet to see that," said Sutton of Ladd.

Kuenn: The master conductor

By Bill Brophy
State Journal sports reporter

MILWAUKEE — They had been down and almost counted out last week in Baltimore, but they won the American League East title. So when they lost the first two games of the American League Championship Series to the California Angels, Harvey Kuenn couldn't be too concerned.

He had the same feeling Sunday when the Brewers fell behind, 3-1, in the deciding game of the LCS, the game which would decide the American League Championship.

"We hadn't done anything easy all year," said Kuenn after the Brewers came back to triumph, 4-3, "no why should I worry. When Ronji (Don Sutton) hit the home run in the fourth inning to pull the Brewers within 3-2, I knew we were going to win."

Kuenn wouldn't call his Wallbangers a team of destiny. "Instead," he said, "they are a team of winners."

According to his players, Kuenn is the reason why the Brewers are in line to get World Series rings. When he took over from Buck Rodgers the Brewers were one game under .500.

They finished with a 95-67 record, the best mark in baseball. Milwaukee was 72-43 under Kuenn.

They are a club that believes in their manager's laid-back philosophy and that's why they stay calm when people write they were choking against the Angels or when they fell behind in the game that would decide the pennant.

"I didn't surprise me that we came back," said pitcher Don Sutton, "because never did this club get down. Did you ever see the club moping? Down in the mouth? Did you ever see them when they weren't apologetic or playing flip?"

"This club has the most remarkable character and composure of any club I've ever seen. This club doesn't experience any emotional peaks and valleys."

When asked why the Brewers have the mental frame of mind that they do, Sutton pointed to Kuenn.

"This man is like a conductor in an orchestra," said Sutton of Kuenn. "He can't play a single instrument, but he sure blends everyone else together."

Sutton, who played for Los Angeles Manager Tommy Lasorda used to be. He doesn't believe that

much of his 16-year career, wasn't sure why Kuenn is so low-key. He just knows Kuenn is successful.

"Maybe other managers aren't as secure as he is," said Sutton. "He's a man's man. Maybe he figured he's accomplished all he could as a player and right now he wants to sit back and orchestrate other players."

Sutton was impressed with Kuenn the first day he got on the Brewer's strip on Aug. 21, after coming to Milwaukee from Houston.

"I asked him about team rules and expected to get three mimeographed pages," said Sutton. "He said, 'I got two. I'd like you to show up on time and I'd like your best effort.' I said I think I can handle that."

"I could write a dissertation on Harvey," said pitcher Pete Vuckovich. "At the time he took over we were 83, games back (actually seven) and now we're here. What else can I say?"

"He treats us like men," said Sutton of Kuenn. "He tells us what he expects out of us, but he doesn't make a big deal out of it."

"He's much like Walter Alston used to be. He doesn't believe that

people don't come to watch managers manage. He believes people come to watch players play. And he runs the 10 best men he can out there and he does a good job of keeping everyone happy."

Kuenn's happy men acted like little boys Sunday night. They belted each other in champagne. Threw mustard around the room and hugged and carried on through the night.

They were a confident bunch looking to their first World Series, which starts Tuesday against St. Louis. "We lost a lot of games the last two weeks of the season," said pitcher Mike Caldwell, the probable starter against the Cardinals in Game One. "But we won the important games we had to win and the way we came back to win this thing, no matter what happens in the World Series, we won't get down. We won't think negatively."

"This is outstanding," said Rollie Fingers, a veteran of many seasons like Sunday's victory celebration. "Oakland was great, but this is just as sweet because I didn't know if I'd get in another World Series and these guys got me there."