



Holyoke Millers' manager George Farson, left, chats with Ed Gilliam, the newest Miller.

Millers hit by rain . . .

Dempsey on mound tonight

By MIKE BOGEN
Union Staff

So the Holyoke Millers are rained out. Guess it's a good time to clean out the briefcase and look through some old notes that never made it:

THE MILLERS WILL play a single game at 7:30 tonight and a doubleheader Thursday night against the visiting Jersey City Indians.

Mike Dempsey, the most effective Holyoke starter of late, will oppose Jersey's Frotz Lund tonight, with Jeff Barker and Dave Smith scheduled to go Thursday night if manager George Farson sticks to his rotation.

Dempsey, who only became a starter after the Millers lost Mark Bombach to Spokane and sold John Hannon, has completed half of his eight starts and has a 5-3 record with a 3.62 earned run average.

MIKE HENDERSON'S FIANCEE, Kalen Kelley, arrived for a two-week visit at the start of the current homestand, and since then the Millers' shortstop has gone on a bat tear.

Henderson's collected eight hits in 17 trips in the last four games, including

three doubles and a triple (half the number of extra-base hits he had in the club's first 75 games) to raise his league-leading average to .354.

He also made one spectacular (possibly game-saving) play at third base (he's there temporarily while an injury heals).

It's hard to tell if Henderson's showing off for his fiancee or for a visiting sportswriter, which Kalen is back home in Burlington, Iowa.

CENTERFIELDER MARSHALL EDWARDS is really hitting his stride these days. Edwards has raised his average from .232 (after 40 games) to .265 by hitting .300 (45-150) in the last 39 games. His got his 13th double Monday night and leads the league with eight triples.

Edwards, who stole his 20th base in 24 attempts Monday, is still the premier defensive centerfielder in the Eastern League.

SPEAKING OF OFFENSE, it looks like there'll be no letup by leftfielder Jeff Yurak.

Yurak, who struggled through last season and didn't start to hit until the tail end of the year, was hitting only .265 with

three doubles and four homers after 22 games this season. Since then, though, he's raised his average to .315 by hitting at a .331 clip in the last 57 contests. He's added 11 doubles for a total of 14 and now has 13 homers.

The leftfielder started switch-hitting this season, and is hitting from both sides of the plate with authority.

CATCHER RON JACOBS is another who has made a marked improvement since the early going. Jake had only 10 hits in his first 57 at-bats, but has come on to garner 39 safeties in his last 135 trips (a .288 average) and has raised his season's mark from .175 after 22 games to .253 after 79.

MILLER MATTER— Steve Splitt seems to be in one of those times when he just can't get a break. . . although he's getting enough hits to keep his average from falling, he's also seeing balls hit right at people, fielders making great plays on him and getting beat by a quarter-step at first. . . Steve Gres is still on the mend from his thigh injury. . . the day off Tuesday should help him.

NL moundsmen . . .

Lasorda tabs Blue, Seaver, Grimsley

NEW YORK (AP) — San Francisco's Vida Blue and Montreal's Ross Grimsley, a pair of 11-game winners, and Tom Seaver of Cincinnati, making his 11th All-Star appearance, head the National League pitching staff chosen Tuesday by Tom Lasorda.

Lasorda, manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, also picked Pat Zachry of New York, Steve Rogers of Montreal, Rollie Fingers of San Diego, Bruce Sutter of Chicago, Tommy John of Los Angeles and Phil Niekro of Atlanta for next Tuesday night's mid-season classic in San Diego.

Ron Guidry and Rich Gossage of the New York Yankees, Jim Palmer and Mike Flanagan of Baltimore, Frank Tanana of California, Jim Kern of Cleveland and Matt Keough of Oakland were selected Monday by New York's Billy Martin, the American League manager. He said he will add an eighth pitcher later this week.

The starting catchers, infielders and outfielders for the Nationals and Americans, determined by nationwide fan balloting, are to be announced Wednesday.

Seaver, 33, has pitched in seven All-Star games, 12 innings worth, without a decision. In his first All-Star appearance as a member of the Reds a year ago barely a month after being traded to Cincinnati by the New York Mets, he was nicked for three runs two of them earned on four hits in two innings.

This season he's 9-5 with a 3.27 earned run average and his first no-hitter. "It didn't come as a particular surprise to be selected. I've been pitching well since the opening month of the season," said Seaver, who started out with three no-decisions, then was 0-3 before turning things around.

Zachry, who went from the Reds to the Mets in the celebrated trade he was 3-7 before the trade, 7-6 after it went

into the Mets' Tuesday two-night doubleheader against Philadelphia with a 9-3 record, by far the best on the New York staff, and a 3.32 ERA.

He expressed delight at being selected, but continued to shrug off the comparisons with Seaver. "I'm just another pitcher on the Mets," Zachry said. "I'm not Tom Seaver's replacement and never was. I just wish everybody would leave Tom and me alone."

"It's an honor being on the same team with him," he added. "Being an All-Star is a personal goal. It's not something you talk about, but something you keep in the back of your mind, something you want to do."

Blue, the cheerleading left-hander on the crest of the Giants' resurgence in the NL West, is 11-4 with a sparkling 2.14 ERA in his first season in San Francisco. He's making his fourth All-Star appearance and was the winner in the 1971 game, when he pitched for the AL's Oakland A's.

Grimsley, 11-5 with a 2.87 ERA, is making his All-Star debut in his first year with the Expos. The southpaw went from Baltimore to Montreal via the free-agent route after the 1977 season.

Rogers, 10-7, has the league's best ERA among starters, 2.06. The Expos' all-time winner has not allowed more than three runs in any game this season. He was also a member of the NL's 1974 All-Star team.

Fingers has a league-leading 19 saves to go along with his 4-7 record and 3.04 ERA. He's an All-Star for the fifth time, the previous four with the A's. Sutter, 5-3 with 10 saves and a minuscule 1.98 ERA, is a second-time All-Star.

John, a left-hander making his second All-Star appearance he represented the AL's Chicago White Sox in 1968, is 9-6 with a 3.90 ERA. Niekro, 9-9 and 3.29, is now a three-time All-Star.

★ ★ ★



ROSS GRIMSLEY . . . 11 wins

★ ★ ★



VIDA BLUE . . . an all star in both leagues

★ ★ ★



TOM SEAVER . . . picked again

★ ★ ★

Postponement violates principle . . .

'You run no matter what'

By DICK OSGOOD
Union Staff

The decision to postpone Tuesday's Fourth of July road races through downtown Springfield has brought strong criticism from runners against promoters of the races, Third National Bank.

"Don't they know that road races are never cancelled?" inquired Paul Oparowski, who drove down from Exeter, New Hampshire only to learn that because of rain the races had been postponed until Sunday, July 16, at 10 a.m.

Decision to postpone the races was made by Dick Driscoll, who is in charge of marketing at the Third.

It was his belief that because of the rain not many would show. He certainly has found out differently.

"I've been involved in road racing for eight years," explained Oparowski, an ex-East Longmeadow High and Bates College athlete, and "have never encountered a cancellation. I've run in a blizzard and a near-hurricane," he said.

There were some runners, according to Oparowski, who were planning a protest run because of the postponement.

Another voicing displeasure over the postponement was veteran AAU commissioner Walter Childs of Hampden.

"I received a call at about noon from one of the bank people," said Childs, "and just couldn't believe they decided to call the race off. I remember a Thanksgiving a few years ago when there was a big snow storm. Yet, 1800 showed and competed in a race in Manchester, Conn."

"We're really sorry that we inconvenienced anyone," explained Diane J. Gallan, an assistant vice-president at the Third. "We just felt that in the long run the new date and time would be more beneficial to the runners."

Over 500 had pre-registered for the two races (3.2 and 5.9 miles) and because post-entries were being accepted, a field of close to 750 was anticipated.

The Massachusetts Special Olympics was to benefit from the entry fees and still will, according to Ms. Gallan. The Special Olympics provide sports training and athletic competition for the mentally retarded.

"I'm all for special causes," noted Oparowski "and for that matter I'm sure all runners are. It just gets a little touchy when you

travel so far and find out a race is off. A lot of us would have been perfectly willing to run for the kids.

"The point is," Oparowski continued "the day was perfect for a road race. It was 58 degrees, just like it was for this year's Boston Marathon when (Bill) Rodgers ran a 2:10. It may have been a terrible day to watch, but it was a great day to run."

Childs, who has been the AAU commissioner for close to 40 years, said that he received several calls from irate runners, many saying they wouldn't come back when the races are rescheduled on July 16.

Does Oparowski plan to boycott the races? "I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt," he answered "but I'm not really sure whether I'll run on the 16th. There may be another race."

Others contacted at the scheduled starting point near Court Square expressed their disappointment.

Hundreds reportedly arrived between 1:30 and 2:30 only to be informed by a sign that the races had been postponed.

"It's the principal behind the sport," offered Oparowski, "You run no matter what."



Explosive Ilie fined, suspended



ILIE NASTASE . . . fined \$5,000 and put on the wagon for three months

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — In what he called a love letter, Ilie Nastase of Romania was fined \$5,000 and suspended for three months Tuesday for several instances of misconduct in Grand Prix tennis tournaments.

Announcement of the disciplinary action came moments after the 31-year-old Nastase had bowed to Holland's Tom Okker in the quarter-finals of the Wimbledon tennis championships 7-5, 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

Nastase said the notice came to him in a "love letter" from Bob Briner, executive director of the men's International Professional Tennis Council.

"I had written them a letter asking that they hold up on a decision until after I play Wimbledon because I thought I had a chance to win," said Nastase, who won the U.S. Open in 1972. "I think it was fair they did so. I did not plan to play Grand Prix tournaments after Forest Hills, anyhow."

The reference was to the U.S. Open, which this year moves from Forest Hills to Flushing Meadow, another neighborhood in the New York borough of Queens. He will be ineligible for this event but will be permitted to play in the World Championship Tennis Invitational at Forest Hills next week.

He said he intended to compete there. He also may continue to play with the Los Angeles Strings of World Team Tennis. He is a player-coach on the team.

The Pro Council, made up of player representatives, tournament directors and administrators of national tennis federations, is the controlling body for the major men's tennis tour, the Grand Prix.

The council cited Nastase for a pattern of "aggravated behavior" which constituted a major offense under the body's code of conduct. Under the code, the maximum is a \$10,000 fine and a year's suspension.

This marks the first time a player has been sus-

pending for a period that would keep him out of a Grand Slam event. Other Grand Slam events are Wimbledon, the Australian and French championships.

The official disciplinary action cited offenses at tournaments in Houston, Palm Springs, Calif. (twice), St. Louis, Richmond, Va., the U.S. Open and Wimbledon (twice) during the last 2½ years.

It did not specify the offenses but Nastase has a long history of berating umpires, linesmen and opponents and using profane language and ungentlemanly gestures on the court.

Probably his most flagrant and widely publicized violation occurred in a stadium match in the U.S. Open at Forest Hills two years ago against Germany's Hans-Juergen Pohmann.

Nastase won the match then, but before it was over he had run the gamut of his emotions. He swore at spectators, at a linesman and at his German opponent. He spat at Pohmann and swung a racket at the umpire.

The crowd hissed and hooted him while his wife, Dominique, fled the stadium in tears.

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