

Fri, July 21, 2000

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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National League

# Expos trip Mets; Braves split

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MONTREAL — Chris Widger hit a tiebreaking solo homer and a two-run double, and Dustin Hermanson came within an out of his fourth career complete game as the Montreal Expos beat the New York Mets, 4-1, yesterday.

Montreal stopped a four-game losing streak and won for the second time in 10 games. New York had won three straight after losing nine of 12.

Widger put Montreal ahead, 3-1, when he led off the sixth with a home run off Mike Hampton (9-7), and added a two-run double in the seventh.

Hermanson (8-7) allowed seven hits, retiring 12 batters before yielding Edgaro Alfonzo's leadoff single in the fourth.

After Jay Payton's two-out single in the ninth, Scott Strickland came in for his first career save, retiring Benny Aguiar on a grounder.

Vladimir Guerrero, who leads the Expos with 25 homers and 83 RBIs, missed his first start of the season due to a strained right hip flexor that has been bothering him for several weeks.

**Braves 5, Marlins 3**  
MONTREAL — Tom Glavine won in Miami for the fifth time in five years and even managed to retire nemesis Mike Redmond once, but Atlanta had to settle for a split of a doubleheader with Florida.

The Braves left pitcher pitched 6 1/3 innings, overcoming three errors by teammates to help beat the Marlins, 5-3, in the first game.

CHP Floyd broke a seventh-inning tie with a pinch-hit, two-run homer and A.J. Burnett pitched seven innings to win his 20th debut as Florida won the nightcap.

Glavine (11-5) improved to 3-4 in Miami, where he had lost five consecutive games since beating Florida on May 3, 1995.

Redmond had two hits and an RBI against Glavine and improved his career average against the lefty to .722 (13 for 18).

The biggest cheer of the night came when Derek Lee greeted John Rocker with a homer in the eighth inning of the second game.

The homer was Lee's 20th. Rocker, who had 33 saves for Atlanta in 1997, pitched two hitless innings, walked none, and struck out two, throwing 14 pitches.

Mike Bell struck out in his major-league debut, but made history as part of the first family of which three generations have played for the same major-league team.

His grandfather, Gus Bell, played for the Reds from 1953 to '61 and his father, Jay Bell, played for the Reds from 1965 to '88.

**Dodgers 6, Rockies 3**  
LOS ANGELES — Gary Sheffield and Shawn Green as Los Angeles manager Davey Johnson led the Dodgers to a win, Sheffield hit his major-league-leading 34th homer off Anaheim's Tim Lincecum.

Sheffield hit a home run in the first inning, and Green hit a home run in the fourth, and the Dodgers won 6-3.

struck out five and walked three, had gone 9-2 in six starts since his previous win.

**Giants 7, Padres 3**  
SAN FRANCISCO — Jeff Kent hit a three-run homer, raising his league-leading RBI total to 86, to help San Francisco beat San Diego.

Ryan Davis also homered for the Giants, who won for the 14th time in 17 games.

**Astros 6, Reds 2**  
HOUSTON — Jose Lima won his second straight decision as Houston beat Cincinnati.

Mark Wohlers returned to the major leagues for the first time since April 1999, making his Reds debut.

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**Twins 5, White Sox 3**  
MINNEAPOLIS — Joe Mays allowed five hits in eight innings, and Chad Allen had three hits and three RBIs as Minnesota stopped Chicago's five-game winning streak.

Mays (5-11) is 4-0 against the White Sox in his two-year career, 7-22 overall.

Paul Konerko had two hits for Chicago, but lost for just the 12th time in 41 games.

**Royals 10, Indians 6**  
CLEVELAND — Jeff Suppan pitched 7 1/3 innings for his first win in this season as his Royals drove in runs in Kansas City's win over Cleveland.

Suppan (4-6) allowed four runs and nine hits in getting his second straight victory. Johnny Damon had four hits and two RBIs for the Royals, who won 15 straight to sweep the two-game series.

**Blue Jays 6, Devil Rays 5**  
TORONTO — Carlos Delgado homered twice to tie Gary Sheffield for the major-league lead at 32, and Tony Batista hit a go-ahead homer in Toronto's Tampa Bay.

All-star starter David Wells again failed to get his first win. He gave up five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

**Angels 6, Rangers 1**  
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Seth Ertter won his fifth straight start and Scott Spiezza homered as Anaheim beat Texas.

# American League Red Sox, O's settle for split; Oakland wins

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BALTIMORE — Mark Lewis doubled in three runs in a four-run third inning and Will Clark and Mike Bordick homered as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox, 9-4, last night for a split of a day-night doubleheader.

Boston won the first game, 11-7, behind a 17-run attack that included homers by Carl Everett and Jason Varitek. Everett's home run came in his first at-bat since learning that he had received a 10-game suspension and a fine for twice bumping an umpire.

**Athletics 5, Mariners 4**  
SEATTLE — Juan Vazquez took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning but wound up losing as Mike Jeda hit a two-run double to lead Oakland past Seattle.

Seattle (11-5) led by 1-0 when he left Vazquez with one out in the seventh. Matt Soria pitched with the Oakland's first hit.

Jeremy Giambi was hit two pitches in the seventh. Soria followed with a double down the right field line for a 2-1 lead.

**Figures 5, Yankees 3**  
NEW YORK — Juan Encarnacion hit three RBIs, including a two-run single to cap a four-run sixth inning that gave the Yankees (4-11) in the first to the Yankees.

Willie Blair (6-2) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings to win for the third time in four starts as New York's Deivi Cruz went 3 for 4 with an RBI.

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# Gaskins is going for berth in 800

Temple runner's effort paid off with a 2d.

By Ron Reid  
UNIVERSITY CITY, MISSOURI  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sunday's highly anticipated 200-meter showdown between Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene continued to captivate the media and a legion of fans last night when competition resumed in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

But Elliott Gaskins, the uncelebrated 800-meter runner from Temple, more typically represented the real attraction of the competition at Horner Stadium. Like the majority of athletes who have come to the trials with a pragmatic dream, and not much else, Gaskins exemplifies the athlete whose struggle is to beat the clock.

Well, virtually a solo act. Three years after he left Temple, Gaskins was married in 1996, while he was working in Washington, D.C., for the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives.

Gaskins also was training and running then for Reebok Encave, a group of postgraduate athletes tutored by Frank Galano, the former Georgetown track and field coach.

But trying to train, after working a full-time job until 6 p.m., hardly helped Gaskins succeed at running the 800 faster than 1 minute, 46.68 seconds.

That's the personal best Gaskins recorded when he finished sixth last year in the U.S. outdoor championships, a mark that got him an invitation to compete here, even though his current season has been considerably less than awesome.

So Gaskins listened to his bride, Heather, when she suggested that he give up his job in January to devote full attention to the business of winning a place on the roster for the Sydney Olympics.

"The main thing you got to do is a complete focus on training," Gaskins said of his new situation earlier this season. "Monthly, you don't have to worry about getting a check or your work. You can do the things you may have skipped before, when you're not working."

Any advantage Gaskins might have realized by running and training full time, however, was severely diminished earlier in the season when the former Owl was slowed by a hamstring injury, a calf muscle tear, and another tear inside his ankle.

It held Gaskins to his usual, low-profile status among U.S. middle-distance runners. Not to be to be found on the world outdoor list headed by Andre Bacher of Switzerland, at 1:43.12.

Trinity Gray, the Franklin Learning Center product fresh from his senior season at Brown, holds both the world and U.S. 800-meter titles on the world list, at 1:45.30.

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Notable

# Gregg not among umpires baseball offering to rehire

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PHILADELPHIA's Eric Gregg is not among the 10 major-league baseball has offered to rehire in the group of 22 that it let go last September.

The condition is that they could come back only as part of a new labor contract and only if the umpire's old union agrees to settle its grievance.

The offer has tentatively been agreed to by the new union, the World Umpires Association, two lawyers familiar with the talks said yesterday on the condition they not be identified.

But the old union, **Phillips' Major League Umpires Association**, has not yet agreed to the offer, according to a hearing is held by **Paul Besten**, baseball's chief operating officer.

No date was set for the hearing. Outfielder **Brian Hunter** of the Colorado Rockies and pitcher **Scott Sullivan** of the Cincinnati Reds also appealed their suspensions, which means they can continue to play until a hearing is held by **Paul Besten**, baseball's chief operating officer.

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**Rich Garcia, Ken Koser, Larry McCoy, Frank Pulli and Terry Tate.**

The MLB filed a grievance to force the job to be re-evaluated. The job was re-evaluated by arbitrator **Alan S. S. S.**, the manager of Montreal's tri-A Ottawa affiliate.

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