

Former Bush press secretary Tony Snow dies at 53 > Michael DeBakey, pioneer in heart surgery, dies at 99 > 8A



St. Paul PIONEER PRESS

CHEAPER WEDDINGS Frugal brides and grooms are dumping the DJs and faking the cakes, 1E

More than home runs The Twins say Justin Morneau has become a complete hitter, 1C

80 high, 60 low > See Page 12C

twincities.com

7-13-2008 \$1

A short note led to imams' grounding

Story emerging from lawsuit differs from early media reports of '06 case

By David Hanners
dhanners@pioneerpress.com

Moments after boarding US Airways Flight 300 for Phoenix, Michael McCombie, a 3M sales rep from Santa Clara, Calif., jotted a note and handed it to flight attendant Terri Boatner: "6 suspicious Arabic men on plane, spaced out in their seats. All were together, saying '... Allah ... Allah ...' cursing U.S. involvement w/Saddaam before flight. 1 in front exit row, another in first row 1st class, another in 8D, another in 22D, two in 25 E & F."

six Muslim imams, or prayer leaders, returning home from a conference in Minneapolis. Within minutes of getting McCombie's note that November evening in 2006, the plane's captain had the men removed from the flight because of "safety concerns." Within hours, the airline reversed itself, determined that the men posed no risk, offered to book them on another flight and apologized.

Within days, though, the incident at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International

The men in question were **IMAMS' GROUNDING, 5A >**

Vote 2008

Wanting funding for outdoors, they woo youth online

Backers fear state's young voters will skip amendment question on ballot

By Dennis Lien
dlien@pioneerpress.com

Outdoors crowd? Check. Arts folks? Good. Environmentalists? Count on it. Young voters? Whoa!

Not only whoa, but what if? What if younger voters come out in force in November and vote for a favorite candidate — say Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama — and leave other ballot questions blank?

with a capital P for Vote Yes Minnesota, the campaign blanketing the state with appeals to vote for a constitutional amendment increasing the state sales tax and dedicating the extra money to outdoors and arts concerns. Because constitutional amendments require a majority of all votes cast to pass, blank boxes become "no" votes.

"People who don't vote on a constitutional amendment

That could be a problem **WOONG YOUTH ONLINE, 5A >**

Obama, McCain split over energy overhaul

But experts find faults in both plans

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — John McCain and Barack Obama are offering voters very different views of America's energy future.

Obama envisions the federal government funding alternative-energy development and mandating lower fuel consumption. McCain sees a less direct federal role, relying on government incentives and market forces to boost energy sup-

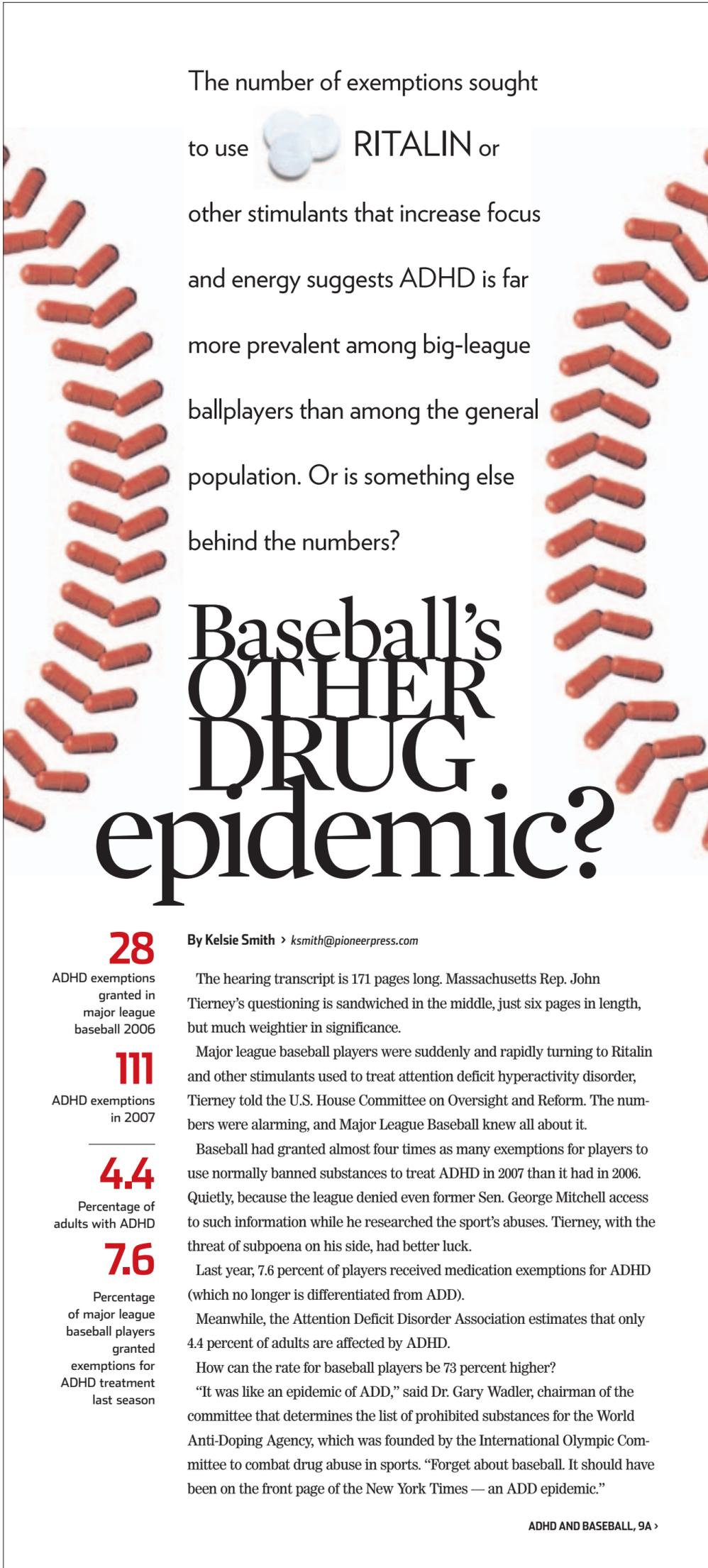
plies and promote efficiency. Both candidates are similar in one respect: They pledge a comprehensive overhaul of energy policy. But they offer sharply divergent plans that analysts often find confounding and impractical.

"They both have ambitious goals but less than ambitious means," said Bruce Bullock, director of Southern Methodist University's Maguire Energy Institute.

ENERGY PLANS, 7A >

The number of exemptions sought to use  RITALIN or other stimulants that increase focus and energy suggests ADHD is far more prevalent among big-league ballplayers than among the general population. Or is something else behind the numbers?

Baseball's OTHER DRUG epidemic?



28	ADHD exemptions granted in major league baseball 2006
111	ADHD exemptions in 2007
4.4	Percentage of adults with ADHD
7.6	Percentage of major league baseball players granted exemptions for ADHD treatment last season

By Kelsie Smith > ksmith@pioneerpress.com

The hearing transcript is 171 pages long. Massachusetts Rep. John Tierney's questioning is sandwiched in the middle, just six pages in length, but much weightier in significance.

Major league baseball players were suddenly and rapidly turning to Ritalin and other stimulants used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Tierney told the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform. The numbers were alarming, and Major League Baseball knew all about it.

Baseball had granted almost four times as many exemptions for players to use normally banned substances to treat ADHD in 2007 than it had in 2006. Quietly, because the league denied even former Sen. George Mitchell access to such information while he researched the sport's abuses. Tierney, with the threat of subpoena on his side, had better luck.

Last year, 7.6 percent of players received medication exemptions for ADHD (which no longer is differentiated from ADD).

Meanwhile, the Attention Deficit Disorder Association estimates that only 4.4 percent of adults are affected by ADHD.

How can the rate for baseball players be 73 percent higher?

"It was like an epidemic of ADD," said Dr. Gary Wadler, chairman of the committee that determines the list of prohibited substances for the World Anti-Doping Agency, which was founded by the International Olympic Committee to combat drug abuse in sports. "Forget about baseball. It should have been on the front page of the New York Times — an ADD epidemic."

ADHD AND BASEBALL, 9A >

PIONEER PRESS ILLUSTRATION: STEVE THOMAS



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See the best of the week in Pioneer Press photography.



GETTY IMAGES: GREG FIUME

Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Adam LaRoche was diagnosed with ADHD in high school but had stopped treating the disorder. The first baseman says he had trouble focusing at the plate and in the field, and now he's back on medication.



GETTY IMAGES: STEPHEN DUNN

Chicago Cubs reliever Scott Eyre works on his delivery during spring training. Eyre is among major league players who have discussed having ADHD.



GETTY IMAGES: CHRISTIAN PETERSEN

Former Houston Astros star Craig Biggio takes a swing in a 2007 game against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Now retired, the second baseman has acknowledged taking medication for ADHD. For those who suffer from the disorder, medications such as Ritalin and Adderall act as stabilizers, helping them focus.

CONTINUED FROM 1A

> ADHD and baseball

But it was little more than a sidelight during baseball's highly publicized scandal with steroids, one that peaked with the release of the Mitchell Report two months earlier.

Is it possible that one of every 13 major league baseball players has ADHD, a rate of about two per team? One of every 370 athletes has a U.S. Anti-Doping Agency exemption for the disorder.

At that rate, there would be about four exemptions in all of major league baseball.

Last season, there were 103. How did baseball let this happen? And will the changes MLB has made be enough?

Tierney asked baseball Commissioner Bud Selig during that House committee meeting to justify the increase in ADHD exemptions, and in a winding answer, Selig responded, "We are reviewing that right now, trying to break down exactly why it happened and how it happened."

DRUG-EXEMPTION PROCESS

Baseball has slightly altered its drug-exemption process this year, but it contends this has nothing to do with possible abuse.

A player diagnosed with ADHD who wants to take a banned substance is supposed to first seek an exemption from the league's program administrator, Dr. Bryan Smith, and then renew it annually. Until this year, a player who failed a drug test still could seek an exemption from Smith if a doctor had diagnosed the player with ADHD and prescribed a banned substance. If Smith granted the exemption, the positive test would be expunged. Last season, he denied 13 requests.

This year, on Feb. 1, a memo appeared in Twins assistant general manager Rob Antony's inbox:

No more retroactive exemptions.

According to Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president of labor relations and human resources, this is for the player's benefit, because he won't have to wait and worry about whether Smith will grant an exemption after a failed drug test — he'll know the answer will be no. Then again, you can argue that some worrying was better because at least there was a chance for a retroactive exemption.

"There was no 'loophole' here," Manfred wrote in an e-mail to the Pioneer Press. "The only players who got (exemptions) had a prescription before the test and Dr. Smith determined it was medically necessary."

Manfred declined to say how many retroactive exemptions were granted last year.

During a spring training team meeting, according to Twins union representative Michael Cuddyer, doctors explained the exemption process. Cuddyer said he hadn't heard about increased ADHD exemptions until Tierney brought it up at the congressional hearing.

"I'd heard of greenies and amphetamines, but as far as prescribed things, I didn't know," Cuddyer said. "For one, I didn't know you could get it if you didn't need it. I guess you just go to a doctor and have them write you a prescription

WHAT IS ADHD?

According to the Attention Deficit Disorder Association's Web site, www.add.org, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is "a condition resulting in symptoms of inability to maintain attention, impulsive behaviors and/or motor restlessness."

Linda Anderson, the association's president, said though ADHD is often also referred to as simply ADD, all forms of the disorder involve some degree of hyperactivity.

THE EXEMPTION PROCESS

Before the change

- A player could be diagnosed with ADHD or other disorders requiring treatment with a banned drug from any physician.
- Baseball's independent program administrator had sole power to grant or deny exemptions.
- A player could get a retroactive exemption after testing positive for a banned substance he had a prescription for at the time of the positive test.
- The program administrator did not release a report outlining the number of exemptions granted and the disorders in which they were granted.

After the change

- A player can be diagnosed with ADHD or other disorders requiring treatment with a banned drug from any physician.
- Baseball's independent program administrator has sole power to grant or deny exemptions.
- No retroactive exemptions.
- The program administrator will release an annual report outlining the number of exemptions and the disorders for which they were granted.

... It shocked me a little bit because I didn't know anybody in here that's ever gotten something prescribed when they didn't really need it."

Citing medical privacy, Antony wouldn't disclose whether any current Twins have — or have applied for — exemptions for any banned substance. He did say, "I have heard that we don't have many issues with this."

Twins infielder Brendan Harris, who has been with five big-league organizations, said he had heard of players without ADHD taking medications prescribed for the disorder. "There's a dependency that guys get when they use it, I'm sure, like anything that's a drug of addiction," Harris said. "They wouldn't take it if it didn't help in some way. The season's so long, it's such a grind, concentration — day game after a night game, whatever — is a problem. Maybe it helps and then ... when they don't need it, they take it again, and it's a dependency issue."

While stopping short of blaming abuse for the increase in exemptions, Cuddyer said he supports the changes in the exemption process. He also said he would support any step baseball takes toward becoming a drug-free sport.

"Clean it up," he said. "If they proposed blood testing, I'd be all for it. I'd never oppose it, just because I want to see the same thing the fans want to see — a clean game."

HOW MEDICATIONS WORK

Adam LaRoche knew something wasn't right. While playing for the Atlanta Braves, he had trouble focusing during at-bats and on defense.

Once, the first baseman didn't notice a batter running hard to first on a routine ground ball. LaRoche, now with the Pittsburgh Pirates, played the ball slowly, and the runner beat him to the bag. The media called him lazy, and the next day he was benched.

Later, in an interview with the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph, LaRoche said he told manager Bobby Cox: "I've got to admit, I'm out of it a lot of games. ... I'm thinking about hunting all the time."

LaRoche, who had been diagnosed with ADHD in high school but long ago had stopped treating the disorder, went back on medication. Other major leaguers who have discussed their ADHD include retired Houston Astros second baseman Craig Biggio, Chicago Cubs reliever Scott Eyre and Pirates pitcher Tom Gorzelanny, now in the minors.

"There is something very curious about why baseball has a predilection for individuals who have ADD."

Dr. Gary Wadler, chairman of the committee that determines the list of prohibited substances for the World Anti-Doping Agency

For those who suffer from ADHD, medications such as Ritalin and Adderall act as stabilizers, helping their minds focus on tasks. Ritalin, Adderall and other ADHD medications are central nervous system stimulants. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Ritalin is "more potent than caffeine and less potent than amphetamines" and "has a notably calming and focusing effect" on those who suffer from ADHD.

For those without ADHD, medications such as Ritalin and Adderall can be powerful stimulants. In a 2005 report, Dr. Stephen Hinshaw, chairman of the psychology department at the University of California-Berkeley, said ADHD medications would boost performance by increasing focus and energy. For a baseball player without ADHD looking for a boost, the effects can be similar;

increasing focus and energy, staving off sleepiness and keeping them alert, said Linda Anderson, president of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association.

But there are dangers to medications such as Adderall (which is made with amphetamines) and Ritalin (which does not contain amphetamines but produces similar effects) when used improperly. During the 2005 congressional hearings on steroids in baseball (before the sport banned amphetamines), Wadler submitted written testimony that read:

"Acute side effects include increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, reduced appetite and weight loss, insomnia, headaches, convulsions, hallucinations and paranoia, and death may also occur ... heart attacks, heart rhythm abnormalities and heatstroke. Chronic side effects include uncontrollable and abnormal movements of the face and jaw muscles, compulsive and repetitive behaviors, paranoid delusions, systemic vascular disorder and nerve damage."

Wadler also wrote: "The position that the players' association has taken with respect to amphetamines certainly leads one to suspect that they too are endemic in baseball."

In November 2005, Major League Baseball added amphetamines and other stimulants to its list of banned drugs.

The 2006 season was supposed to mark the end of the uppers era. That year, MLB hired Smith, a University of North Carolina team physician for 10 years, to be its program administrator. Smith, who does not grant interviews, rules alone on exemptions.

Is there a chance all of the 2007 exemptions were legitimate?

Anderson said the sudden increase is puzzling, that no data suggest athletes are more prone to the disorder. But, she said, you can't call it abuse

unless you break down how each player was diagnosed.

"You really have to have a comprehensive assessment," Anderson said. "That has to be done by someone who actually knows what ADHD looks like."

Wadler says the dramatic increase from 2006-07 raises concerns about the legitimacy of ADHD exemptions.

"It certainly raises the questions (of abuse)," he said. "You don't want somebody with a handicap being prohibited from playing elite sports, (but) you don't want somebody developing a pseudo-disorder as a way of taking a prohibited substance."

According to Manfred, exemptions are granted only when "medically necessary." If that's true, Wadler said, the number of ADHD exemptions should decrease in 2008.

Changes earlier this season to the Joint Drug Agreement between Major League Baseball and the players union no longer will keep exemption information private. In addition to increased testing, Smith will issue a report that is released to the public detailing the number of tests given, which drugs resulted in positive tests and the number of exemptions with corresponding ailments.

"If it didn't drop," Wadler says of exemptions for 2008, "there is something very curious about why baseball has a predilection for individuals who have ADD."

THE SOLUTION

Wadler says the solution to all this is to follow his organization's lead. He says baseball needs to outsource its drug testing to an agency such as the U.S. or World Anti-Doping agencies.

Here is how the World Anti-Doping Agency's process works, according to Wadler:

- An independent panel reviews medical information for an athlete seeking an exemption.
- If the panel decides the ath-

lete suffers from the disorder in question, an exemption is granted and the panel looks for alternative forms of medication that are not banned.

• If none exists, the athlete can take the banned substance, but the panel will monitor the athlete's use of the medication to make sure it's taken properly.

"That's very different than saying, 'Here's a note from my doctor,'" Wadler said.

Asked whether that's what baseball is doing, Wadler responded, "Rather than putting it negatively, I'll say I think they need to meet (the World Anti-Doping Agency's) standard."

WADA issued a news release after the congressional hearings earlier this year lambasting baseball for a lack of independence from the program administrator and criticizing the league for not testing blood.

Baseball shot back with its own news release that included this comment from Selig: "The structure of the independent program administrator was a substantial step forward for our program and, as Senator Mitchell recognized, with refinement that structure could provide true independence for the program. WADA does not have a monopoly on independence in the world of drug testing."

A monopoly, perhaps not, but Wadler sees league standards in no way comparable to WADA's.

"They keep on moving incrementally toward many of the things I testified about (in 2005), but at the end of the day, independence and transparency are the operative words," he said. "I just chaired a meeting for two days in Montreal reviewing the prohibited (substances) list for 2009, and we have a dozen people all over the world spend two-plus days discussing every substance."

"There is no way professional sports have the wherewithal to do that, either financially or otherwise. That's not their forte, and so I think this whole notion that they can do it in-house and keep tweaking it to silence the critics — it's not the way to go. Ultimately, they have to bite the bullet. Ultimately, they will because they're going to realize that, no matter what they do, they can't keep the pace."

Phil Miller contributed to this report.



PIONEER PRESS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: RICHARD MARSHALL

TV highlights

Exhibition baseball: Red Sox-Reds
1 p.m., ESPN
LPGA: Kraft Nabisco Championship
5 p.m., ESPN2
TV listings: E2

Sports

Golf E8-9
Scoreboard E10

THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006



Bill James, senior baseball operations adviser for the Red Sox, stands outside the modest house in Lawrence, Kan., that serves as his office.

Numbers cruncher

When it comes to baseball statistics, analyst Bill James wrote the books

By Kelsie Smith
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

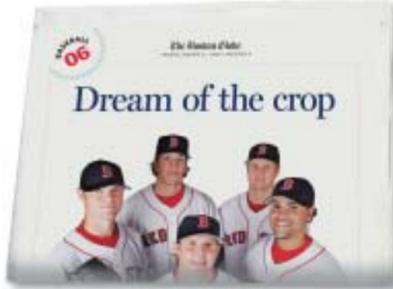
LAWRENCE, Kan. — You can't MapQuest 445 Tennessee St. Not technically, anyway.

It's on a block that doesn't actually exist, the street ending where it runs into "The Kaw" — what locals call the Kansas River. But drive east down Fifth Street — past Mississippi, Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio until the curve in the road at Fifth and Tennessee (here in Lawrence, the streets are named from east to west in the order in which they entered the Union) — and there it is, shoved into an awkward corner lot, 15 feet from the train tracks, another 15 from the river.

The house is simple white, with wood siding, cobalt blue trim, and a clue that gives Bill James away — resting atop a cobblestone pillar, an oversized baseball.

Perhaps it's fitting that the most mysterious member of the Red Sox' front office works at this mystery address in Lawrence, Kan., a quiet corner town some 1,470 miles from 4 Yawkey Way.

The godfather of modern baseball statistical



Coming tomorrow

An in-depth look at the Red Sox' talent-laden farm system highlights the baseball preview section.

analysis, James is among a growing number of sabermetricians (a term he coined) being hired publicly by major league teams. The 56-year-old broke onto the scene with his revolutionary "Base-

ball Abstract" in 1977, a book he produced annually for 12 years.

His ideas have been lauded and laughed at, excoriated and extolled, but here in this small, Midwestern world, James listens to none of it — the bad or the good. He just works. The house-turned-office is simple. A few prints hang randomly on the walls and some baseball memorabilia lines the mantle. Homemade bookshelves constructed of raw boards resting on stacks of bricks stretch from floor to ceiling and trace the walls of James's office. Boxes are strewn about the floor, an old computer monitor sits abandoned on a table, and papers cover the desk — it's five rooms filled with a lifetime of obsession.

The humble little house didn't always sparkle. According to James's wife, Susan McCarthy, a tall, slender redhead who works from home as an artist, the place was in such bad shape a few years ago that the insurance company refused to cover it unless they fixed it up.

"It really did look bad. It just needed to be painted and the yard looked terrible," she recalls, sitting in the much more stately living room of the James's

JAMES, Page E6

NFL puts clamps on dancing

Rule change goes after excessive celebrations

By Ron Borges
GLOBE STAFF

ORLANDO, Fla. — The NFL used to worry about hang time. Now they'll have to worry about dance time.

Among the 15 new rule proposals passed yesterday by the league's 32 clubs was the banishment of "prolonged or excessive celebrations" as well as celebrating while a player is on the ground. This is an attempt to forestall the antics of Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson, Dallas Cowboys receiver Terrell Owens, and Carolina Panthers wide receiver Steve Smith, all of whom have used what were called "props" by Competition Committee co-chairman Jeff Fisher. Props, among other things, are now banned and will result in a 15-yard penalty. In addition, any dance deemed too long by game officials will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after a warning.

"We're now requiring them to stay off the ground and they can't use the ball as a prop [as in cradle the baby] or any other prop," Fisher said after the rule change was approved, 29-3.

How a celebration will be deemed too long was not defined but Fisher and co-chairman Rich McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons, said it will center around interfering in lining up for the next play, especially after a touchdown.

"This is something that should never have to be called," McKay said of the "Dance Fever" rule, "because the official has to warn the player that it's gone on too long first. If it continues, it gets to the delay of game rule."

What will be called are celebrations done by a player on the ground, effectively banning snake dances and Smith's row-boat celebration of last season.

"The rule is don't go to the ground to celebrate and don't use a prop . . . and the ball is a prop,"

NFL MEETINGS, Page E2



Terrell Owens's end zone shenanigans could cost the Cowboys dearly this season.

Inside

Shuffled off in Buffalo

Stumbling Bruins go down to defeat in their eighth and final meeting with Sabres. **E5**

New York state of mind

Ryan Gomes-led Celtics take a big bite out of the woeful Knicks in the Big Apple. **E5**

Strange love?

Davis Love will erase painful TPC memories by playing Masters tuneup at BellSouth Classic. **E8**

Men's Final Four

Saturday, at the RCA Dome
George Mason vs. Florida, 6:07 p.m.
LSU vs. UCLA, 8:47 p.m.

[MARCH MADNESS]

Women's Final Four

Sunday, at TD Banknorth Garden
North Carolina vs. Maryland, 7 p.m.
Duke vs. LSU, 9 p.m.

At UCLA, success is a family business

DAN SHAUGHNESSY



LOS ANGELES — This is a Final Four without a No. 1 seed. It's a Final Four without a representative from the Big East or the ACC. It's a Final Four without Duke, UConn, Memphis, Villanova, or traditional powers such as North Carolina, Michigan State, Syracuse, Georgetown, and Indiana. Ticket brokers say the demand for the weekend games is relatively soft.

Let's look at what we do have in Indianapolis this weekend. We've got America's new team, an 11 seed named after one of the Founding Fathers (George Mason). We've got a Florida

team coached by Billy Donovan and led by a big man who is the son of tennis great Yannick Noah. We've got a bunch of kids from Louisiana led by a round-headed wonder known as "Big Baby."

Oh, and we've got UCLA. *College basketball royalty.*

Young fans should not be expected to know this. The Bruins have won only one NCAA championship in the last 31 years and that was in 1995.

But baby boomers still think of UCLA as the signature program of college basketball. And that is because of John Wooden and his 10 national championships won between 1964 and 1975. They took a year off in 1966 and again in '74. Otherwise it would have been 12 straight. They were the New York Yankees and Montreal Canadiens of college basketball. They were collegiate cousins to the Boston Celtics.

SHAUGHNESSY, Page E2



PAUL SAKUMA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Howland is quick to call attention to the man responsible for the UCLA program: John Wooden.

Four on floor: Tar Heels are running the show

JACKIE MACMULLAN



CLEVELAND — So North Carolina has punched its Final Four ticket to Boston, and if the Tar Heels let loose and do their thing, sprinting and trapping and overplaying passing lanes and running *every single time* they get the chance, then it will be an entertaining weekend — and the Tar Heels could well be in line for a national championship.

Coach Sylvia Hatchell has asked her team to adopt one simple philosophy: when in doubt, push it harder. She confessed the other day, "I lie awake at

nights thinking how we can speed up the game a little more." In an ideal Tar Heel world, her team would average 115-120 possessions.

Let it be duly noted that Carolina lost only one game this season — to Maryland, in overtime. The score was 98-95, a game in which the Tar Heels shot 49 percent from the floor, took 75 field goal attempts, and shot 27 free throws. The Terrapins' strategy was hardly to take the air out of the ball; they hoisted 85 shots and got to the line 28 times. They hold the distinction as the only team that can lay claim to being able to run with their ACC rival.

Maryland and North Carolina will meet again Sunday night in Boston, with a chance to play in the championship Tuesday. The last time the teams met, in the ACC tournament, the Tar Heels prevailed, 91-80.

MacMULLAN, Page E3

Mitchell tabbed to head steroid investigation

FROM WIRE SERVICES

Major League Baseball will investigate alleged steroid use by **Barry Bonds** and other players, and plans to hire former Senate majority leader **George Mitchell** of Maine to lead the effort.

A baseball official told the Associated Press yesterday that plans were to be announced at a news conference today. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because commissioner **Bud Selig** had not made his intentions public. Selig's decision to launch the probe comes in the wake of "Game of Shadows," a book by two San Francisco Chronicle reporters detailing alleged extensive steroid use by Bonds and other baseball stars.

Some in Congress have called for an independent investigation. Mitchell, a Maine Democrat and a director of the Red Sox, has been a director of the Florida Marlins and served on an economic study committee that Selig appointed in 1999.

Sizemore gets deal

The Indians locked up their center field position into the next decade, agreeing to a \$23.45 million, six-year contract with **Grady Sizemore**. His deal has the most guaranteed money for a player with less than two years of major league service, \$200,000 more than the Red Sox guaranteed shortstop **Nomar Garciaparra** in a five-year deal agreed to in March 1998. "I didn't expect it to happen this fast," said Sizemore, 23. "Last year, I was just trying to make the

team." Sizemore batted .289 with 22 homers and 81 RBIs in 158 games last season. He also scored 111 runs, had 22 steals and became the second Indians player to record 20 doubles, 10 triples, 20 homers, and 20 steals in the same season . . . Dodgers second baseman **Jeff Kent**, who turned 38 this month, agreed to an \$11.5 million, one-year contract extension through 2007 with an option for 2008.

DL for Burnett

Toronto righthander **A.J. Burnett** won't make his first two starts of the season and will go on the disabled list. Burnett signed a \$55 million, five-year contract during the offseason, three years after elbow surgery . . . **Adam Eaton** left his final spring training start for the Rangers in the second inning

in Surprise, Ariz., feeling pain in the same finger that sent him to the disabled list in San Diego last season. Eaton was scheduled to pitch the Rangers' second game Tuesday against the Red Sox but said he probably would miss several starts. "I knew something was wrong right away," said Eaton. "When they came out to visit me at the mound, they put the ball in my hand, and I couldn't even squeeze it." . . . The Padres are leaning toward putting first baseman **Ryan Klesko** on the disabled list because of a sore left shoulder . . . Closer **Eric Gagne** pitched on consecutive days for the first time this year, throwing a scoreless eighth in the Dodgers' 4-3, 10-inning win over Washington in Vero Beach, Fla. Gagne threw 11 pitches to four batters, allowing a hit and striking out two . . . **Livan Her-**

nandez, who had offseason surgery on the right knee that hampered him for much of 2005, allowed two runs — only one earned — in six innings, the final tuneup for his Opening Day start against the Mets Monday in New York. He also hit a two-run single . . . The Indians decided to keep **Kelly Shoppach** as their backup catcher, despite his hitting .156 this spring, and **Ramon Vazquez** as a utility infielder . . . Pitcher **Byung Hyun Kim**, who strained his right hamstring running the bases Tuesday, was placed on the DL.

Appier sent down

The Mariners assigned veteran righthander **Kevin Appier** to their minor league camp, a move that gives him time to get healthy and possibly return to the majors. Appier, 38, was a nonroster invitee

who hasn't pitched in the major leagues in 23 months because of elbow trouble. Seattle also optioned shortstop **Mike Morse** to Triple-A Tacoma, choosing to keep nonroster invitee **Roberto Petagine**, 34, as a possible utility player. Petagine helped his cause by hitting a two-run, ninth-inning homer yesterday in a 10-10 tie with Kansas City in Peoria, Ariz. Petagine, who signed Feb. 21 after the Red Sox released him, entered yesterday batting .429 (18 for 42) with five doubles, two home runs, 10 RBIs in a .500 on-base average in 22 spring training games. **Jamie Moyer**, scheduled to start Seattle's opener Monday, allowed eight runs, eight hits, and two wild pitches in five innings. **Tony Grafano**, claimed off waivers from the Red Sox Tuesday, hit a grand slam in the second inning.

In James, Sox have man who wrote the books

► **JAMES**
Continued from Page E1

massive, vintage Victorian home on Ohio Street, just a few blocks from the office. "Bill was supposed to be taking care of getting someone to mow, and he let months go by. He just doesn't like to take care of stuff like that."

What James does like to take care of are numbers, at least some of them.

"I'm utterly uninterested in any numbers that aren't connected to baseball," says James, who majored in English and economics at his beloved University of Kansas. "If you put a dollar sign in front of it, I don't understand it. Math requires discipline. I work by obsession rather than by discipline."

In Kansas, James practices his obsession alone, saying he's "too damn disorganized" to hire the help he needs (and, pausing quizzically asks, "Are you looking for a job?").

And so the place is quiet. That is, except for the seven trains that rumble by each day on the tracks right outside the office window, shaking the shelves but going completely unnoticed by James as he talks about his work with the Red Sox.

Writing his ticket

This is James's fourth year as senior baseball operations adviser for the Sox. What that title means, or, rather, how much weight it carries, has been widely speculated. Does James affect daily rosters? Does he suggest shifts in the outfield in the middle of games?

Go ahead and ask him, but good luck getting a straight answer. Bill James is not a yes-or-no kind of guy. He will let you in, but just a little. No names, of course. No specifics. But shortly after returning from an eight-day trip to Fort Myers, Fla., in February, James described one of the 16 "work projects" he picked up at spring training.

"There's a player on our team who we might keep or who we might trade," he generalizes. "And there's an issue about his performance last year about which we need specific information. The specific information is, do players who have this tendency ever get over it or is it permanent?"

"I need to study that, and I need to get that done within a week or two because I need to send it to [general manager] Theo [Epstein] because Theo needs to make a decision. Is this guy going to stay with us or do we involve him in a trade?"

His work today, it seems, has come a long way from that first Abstract, which wasn't exactly a success. James doesn't remember how much it was or how many he sold, but McCarthy remembers all too well — at \$3.50 a piece, the "1977 Bill James Baseball Abstract" sold about 50 copies.

The second abstract fared slightly better, according, of course, to McCarthy, who remembers it sold more than 100 copies. James, whose last full-time day job was working at the Stokely-Van Camp pork-and-bean plant in Lawrence in the late 1970s (where he worked as a security guard and boiler room attendant, among other things), bumped up the price a whole 50 cents, a testament to the fact that, for him, this was about passion before profit (McCarthy says James wasn't sure what he was doing was worth any money, so he had a hard time charging people for it). But by the sixth edition, James had an agent, a book deal, and a little peace of mind.

"It finally allowed him to think, 'Yes, I can really do this,'" McCar-



DAVE KAUP/GETTY IMAGES

Surrounded by reference materials piled on homemade bookshelves, Bill James analyzes baseball players for the Red Sox in a home-turned-office more than 1,400 miles away from Fenway Park.

thy says. "Up to that point, it was still questionable because he certainly wasn't making enough money when it was self-published. It was a huge deal for us because neither of us ever had any money at all. Now we had some, and we were able to buy a house."

James does remember that book deal. He remembers feeling relief that the burden of self-publishing was gone. Talking about it, though, his tone is matter-of-fact. But ask him about his days working for agents on arbitration cases, and you see glimpses of that 11-year-old boy in Mayetta, Kan. (population about 300), who fell in love with baseball in the summer of 1961.

He tries to explain why arbitration was so fun. He proceeds haltingly, as he often does, changing directions in midthought, searching for an applicable analogy.

"It's sort of like playing lacrosse or stairwell field hockey or some game that nobody else played, but you loved it and played it all the time," he says. "Everybody told you what a crappy game it was and why don't you play basketball or something normal. And then, all of a sudden, you're in a situation where there's a million dollars on the table and everyone has to play a game of stairwell field hockey with you. It's kind of like, 'Hey, this is fun. All these guys are trying to play my game.'"

Behind the scenes

James no longer plays alone. Today aspiring sabermetricians form groups across the country as Jamesian philosophy becomes more widely accepted. But perhaps the two most important Bill James devotees are John Henry and Epstein. Henry first read a James abstract in the early 1980s and says as an adult he waited for new Bill James books like he waited for new Beatles albums as a kid. "In the summer of 2002 Theo [Epstein] and I were discussing the future GM," Henry wrote in an e-mail. "[Theo] was standing in the doorway of my office, smiled and said, 'We should hire Bill James to be our general manager.' While he was being lighthearted about it, both of us knew that what was called 'Moneyball' was really 'Jamesianball.'"

Henry found James's e-mail address, and sent him an introduction and an offer all at once. He asked, among other things, sim-

ply, "Why don't you work in baseball?" and added, "We're intent on building an open, warm, and exciting working environment for the best in the game on and off the field. With or without you, we are going to be building on what you have introduced to the game we love."

James had been working on the fringes of professional baseball for more than 20 years when he got that first e-mail from Henry. He had arbitrated and secretly consulted for other teams, including the Royals in the 1990s. In those days, admitting James might be right was a Major League Baseball faux pas (he says there was "very strong resistance" to his ideas in the organized baseball community for about 15 years), so part of his agreements with teams was silence, and that didn't bode well for James, who responded to an e-mail requesting an interview with, "Oh, I talk to everyone." His early work with teams was frustrating and unsuccessful, a pattern he has broken since joining the Sox. And while Henry's pitch was

quite compelling, James says he didn't need to be convinced.

"I was always battling the fact that people didn't really understand what I was talking about," James says. "Theo and John Henry understand what I'm saying usually before I finish the sentence. When I tried working for other teams . . . I was talking gibberish."

Then, trailing off in notable Jamesian fashion and slipping into an impersonation, he adds, "It was a failure to communicate, in the words of Cool Hand Luke. Did you ever see 'Cool Hand Luke?'"

In Boston, communication is not a problem. When James was hired in November 2002, the Sox didn't hesitate to make it public. Assistant GM Jed Hoyer says announcing James's hiring was never a question.

"Why hide it?" Hoyer says. "It's something we're very proud of. We want to hire the best employees possible and from our standpoint why would we hide that?"

"One thing with Bill is he's been a lightning rod for contro-

versy, because there's a lot of conflict surrounding the sabermetric community, and he's considered kind of the godfather of that, but he doesn't care what people think about him, say about him. In that aspect I think he's perfect for Boston. He's unflappable."

James says he feels welcome to voice his opinions to the front office, but generally waits until someone asks. How important is he to the Sox? "If I were to drop dead it would be quite awhile before the Red Sox noticed." Do they make moves you don't recommend? "Yes, sometimes I'm filing a minority report," such as this spring, when James argued vociferously against one player and the Sox invited him to spring training nonetheless.

Feeling at home

Many of James's opinions are vented in the requisite quarterly reports. The first three years James worked for the Sox, one of those reports was a free agent analysis submitted to Epstein shortly before Thanksgiving. This year, because he "had a different relationship with the committee that was steering the Red Sox" during Epstein's absence from the team, James didn't submit a free agent analysis.

Generally, though, the report details every player who might be a free agent in the upcoming season, an estimate of what he will sign for, and James's comments — longer comments on players whom the Sox might be interested in, "one-word" comments on the others. (Henry says James's reports are so valuable that "a long time from now" James should publish them in their entirety).

A project James was working on after returning from Fort Myers involved comparing players' strikeout rates in the minor leagues with their strikeout rates in the majors. James predicts a player strikes out more in the majors than in the minors "almost 100 percent of the time." He is trying to find out how the numbers relate so scouts have a guidepost for determining if a prospect should be moved down the list based on their current strikeout percentage.

It's the kind of thing James loves — it's the work he loves from the place he loves. It's walking down Massachusetts Street (Lawrence's downtown, chosen be-

cause the town's settlers were from Massachusetts) without being noticed. It's KU basketball, and keeping stats at his son's Little League games. And, after all these years and all those books (26), it's about still loving baseball. Sure, this place feels a world away from Fenway, but it was here that James grew up in harmony with one fundamental Boston tradition.

A Kansas City As fan as a child, James read "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant" annually, and he's been quoted as saying, "Kansas City hates the Yankees more than Boston does." He also made sure his children (Rachel, a sophomore at Hollins University in Virginia; Isaac, a senior at Lawrence's Free State High School; and Reuben, a sixth-grader) got the message, reading the book at least twice to each of them.

McCarthy says the kids always knew their dad was famous in the baseball world but didn't realize how famous until he got the Sox job. Rachel is the only one in the family who reads stories about her father (her parents stopped long ago), and Isaac is the only one sabermetric-minded.

So when your own kids don't really think you're all that big of a deal, and you live in a town where celebrity reaches its zenith on the floor of the Jayhawks' Allen Fieldhouse, a baseball stat guy, no matter how genius, enjoys unbridled anonymity.

"I realized the other day that Isaac's best friend has no idea who I am," James says laughing. "That's fine. That's perfect, actually."

Serious approach

Perhaps it's that humbling existence that keeps James so modest. As the inventor of the Runs Created stat, and Major League Equivalency, which predicts how a minor league player will perform in the majors, along with several others stats, James's contributions to baseball are undeniable. Still he remains hesitant to claim his work has any real value.

His two favorite hobbies — baseball and crime novels — are things he says "respectful academics wouldn't touch." Whatever causes James's self-effacing style, he says it's left him "spending a lot of time declining invitations to take myself seriously." But writing 26 books is serious business, and James admits a staid approach when it comes to his passions.

"I'm every bit as serious about trying to figure out baseball as an economist is about trying to figure out the economy," he says. "[When I read crime novels], I'm just as serious about trying to figure out what happened there as an academic is trying to figure out something about cancer research. It's not that I really believe it's important. I'm not under some illusion that this actually makes any difference. I just take a very academic interest in things that are not academically appropriate."

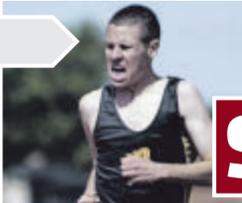
Academic or not, James's work has secured his place in baseball lore and, at present, in the Sox' front office. And when the senior baseball operations adviser does drive the 51 miles from Lawrence to the Kansas City International Airport, and takes the inevitable two-flight trip to join his colleagues on Yawkey Way, Henry says James's presence turns grown men into little boys.

"When he arrives for a stint in Boston, it really feels like baseball's wizard has arrived," Henry says. "There is a feeling of wonder and awe from those of us who really appreciate Bill's genius and demeanor. He is one of a kind."

Track & field >> Triple gold in Apple Valley >>

SEE PAGE 8C

Burnsville's Rob Finnerty,
Class AA 1,600-meter champion



SPORTS C

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Sunday 6-8-2008

Belmont Stakes > Win: Da' Tara; Place: Denis of Cork; Show: dead heat

'I had no horse'

Big Brown tires as long shot Da' Tara denies sweep

By Joe Drape
New York Times

NEW YORK — This was supposed to be the day a proud but tattered old sport was to be suspended in a state of pure beauty and awe. Big Brown, the undefeated colt who had crushed all comers, was supposed to run off with the Belmont Stakes and be anointed Saturday as the 12th

Triple Crown champion and the first since Affirmed had swept the series in 1978.

His trainer, Rick Dutrow, had said so. No, he had guaranteed it, saying last week that Big Brown's victory here in the mile-and-a-half Test of the Champion, as the Belmont Stakes is known, was a "foregone conclusion." So, when jockey Kent Desormeaux approached the final

turn and asked Big Brown to engage those booster rockets that had sling-shot him to victory in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, a hot and sweaty crowd of 94,476 stood and roared, anticipating that he would swoosh past the grandstand and into immortality. Instead, nothing happened. Big

BIG BROWN DENIED, 7C >



ASSOCIATED PRESS: DENIS PAQUIN

Big Brown's jockey, Kent Desormeaux, removes his helmet after pulling his horse up near the finish of the Belmont, ending their Triple Crown bid.



Tom Powers

Vikings' Shiancoe ready to roll, not talk

Tight end Visanthe Shiancoe is remarkably upbeat for a fellow who slipped down a black hole in the Vikings' Kick-Ass Offense last year. But if there is one thing the disappointing 2007 season taught him, it's this:

"The team has major potential," he said Friday. "That's what I learned last year. We could be a big wrecking machine in this league."

And instead of sitting around wondering why the Vikings are paying him \$18.2 million to block instead of catch passes, Shiancoe embarked on a plan of action. He became determined to run faster, more precise routes in 2008. I guess he figures that he'll be so wide open that the quarterback will have to throw him the ball.

"I'm a lot slimmer and a lot faster," he said. "I'm down to 243, and I'm running cuts really well. We've been catching balls after practice. I'm a lot faster. The way I change directions, it's crazy."

OK. "I mean, our offense struggled a little bit. It's part of the process. Coach Childress brought in a lot of new people. This is our second year all together. The receivers know what the quarterback is going to do. The quarterback knows what the receivers are going to do."

I just wish the quarterback knew what the quarterback was going to do. But we'll see.

For a team that specialized in dump passes last season, you'd think a few more of them would have found their way to the tight end. Especially to the tight end who was signed for five years and \$18.2 million. Yet Shiancoe ended up with 27

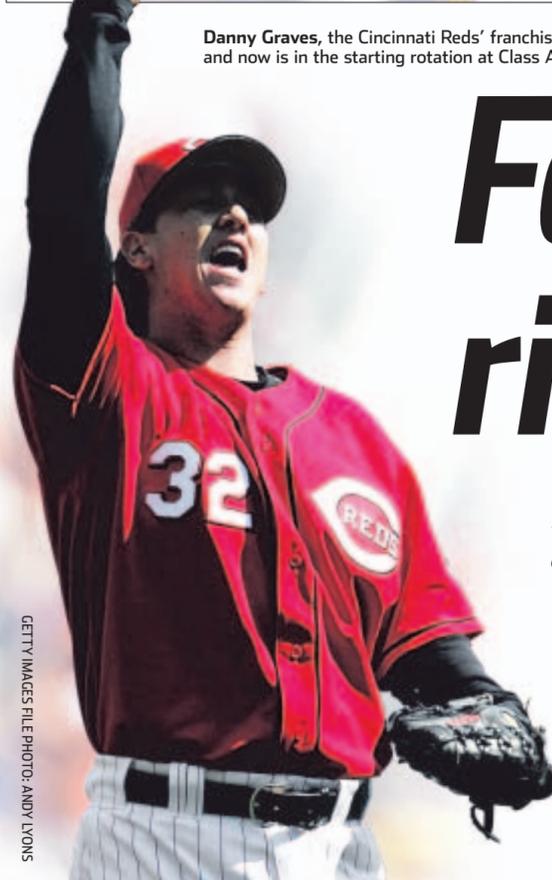
TOM POWERS, 10C >

Twins spotlight > Danny Graves



ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE: SHAWN DOWD

Danny Graves, the Cincinnati Reds' franchise leader in saves with 182, began this season at the bottom of the Twins' farm system and now is in the starting rotation at Class AAA Rochester.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO: ANDY LEVINS

Fallen star rises anew

Former all-star Danny Graves rediscovered his spark and is working his way up through the Twins' system.

By Kelsie Smith
ksmith@pioneerpress.com

In the Rochester Red Wings' clubhouse, manager Stan Cliburn's team gathers for a meeting. Things haven't been going so well for the Class AAA squad, and there are issues, Cliburn says, that need "to be ironed out." He takes his turn, then opens the floor to his players.

The first to speak up in a room peppered with young men dreaming of their first big league call-up is a 34-year-old pitcher look-

ing for one more shot.

Danny Graves knows what these kids want. Once a premier major league closer, he's been there, done that. And then, one season removed from an all-star year, Graves lost his job.

More than two years since his last major league appearance, Graves signed with the Twins late in spring training and has worked his way up from Class A in an attempt to resurrect his big-league career.

FALLEN STAR, 12C >



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Baseball

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AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS: HOANG DINH NAM

Danny Graves, the first Vietnamese player in major league baseball, changed his outlook after his first visit to his homeland in 2006 since leaving as a 14-month-old.

CONTINUED FROM 1C

> Fallen star

And so, when Graves tells his teammates to have fun, that the respect you have for the game will come back to you, that you must play each game as though you'll never play another, it's not just overused hyperbole — it's what he knows.

"The game," Cliburn says, "has humbled this man."

LOSSES PILE UP

Perhaps you remember Danny Graves, the former Cincinnati Reds closer who in 2004 compiled 33 saves by midseason, who was a two-time all-star and was the first Vietnamese player in major league baseball.

Or perhaps you just remember that moment in 2005 that garnered so much national attention, when a fan allegedly hollered a racial slur at Graves, who was struggling mightily for Cincinnati, and Graves responded with an obscene gesture. Two days later, the Reds telephoned the pitcher who had saved a franchise-record 182 games in nine seasons and told him he'd been cut.

The year before, Graves had recorded 41 saves, but the year before that, the Reds had asked the right-hander to move to the starting rotation, a failed experiment that left him with decreased velocity and a loss of sharpness on his pitches. When he was cut, Graves' earned-run average had swollen to 7.36.

Graves finished the season with the Mets, and in 2006 he signed with Cleveland, but the Indians designated him for assignment in May. He signed with Colorado before the 2007 season, but the Rockies released him during spring training.

Amid his baseball troubles, Graves was working through a divorce from his now ex-wife, Andrea, the mother of his four children (three sons and one adopted daughter). The grief of separating from his wife caused him to wish away his days at the ballpark, looking forward instead to his postgame social life.

"At the time, you really don't think that once you step between the lines it's going to bother you, but obviously that's a lot of wear and tear mentally," Graves says in a telephone interview. "We have children together. It just beat me up. I just kept going out there trying to play, thinking I was OK, but now I know deep down that there was no way."

Somewhere, though, between losing his job with the Reds, losing his wife, being cut by the Rockies, and accepting that after establishing himself as one of baseball's top closers he had to start over, Graves fell in love with baseball again.

PEACE AT HOME

The awakening of Danny Graves started in the 2005 offseason, the very same time Graves and Andrea decided to split up, when he found himself going out most nights and one or two drinks turned into a few or more, when he was through with the Mets and didn't know where he'd end up once pitchers and catchers reported in February.

That same offseason, Graves, with his mother, Thao, and Andrea by his side, traveled to Vietnam.

The son of an American serviceman and a Vietnamese mother, Graves left the country when he was 14 months old, shortly before Saigon fell during the Vietnam War. He had never been back, and his mother, scared that talking about her life there would lead to trouble for the family she left behind, didn't tell her children about her homeland.

Walking across fields dotted with land mines, looking to give his birthplace a piece of himself, marked the beginning of



Graves, left, was accompanied by his mother, Thao, and then-wife, Andrea, during the trip to Vietnam.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO: JOHN GRIESHOP
Graves hangs out with his three children before a July 2004 game in Cincinnati.

Graves renewed love for the game and simple appreciation for his everyday life. He went to Vietnam to build baseball fields, and he left with perspective.

"You see these people that live over there, and the way that they live," Graves says, "it's like these people have absolutely nothing, and they're absolutely the happiest people ever and the nicest people ever."
"They don't care about materialistic things, they don't care about money, they're just happy to be living and happy to be a family, happy with what they have. It goes to show that sometimes we can get so spoiled over here and don't think that we need everything, but we don't. That's why going into this year playing baseball, if it wasn't going to happen, then it wasn't going to happen. I wasn't going to lose sleep over it."

A FRESH START

After spending 2007 in the Independent League, Graves e-mailed about 20 general managers in January. He asked for a last chance, said his drinking was under control and he had found peace after his divorce. He was ready, mentally and physically, he wrote, to pitch again. Graves got three or four thanks-but-no-thanks responses and, from Twins GM Bill Smith, one maybe.

"Over the course of a year, we get a ton of e-mail," Smith says. "Once in a while, something just strikes you. It was a heartfelt letter that said 'I've made a lot of changes in my life, and I'm looking for one last chance.' Once in a while, you see that and you think, 'well, what the heck.' It didn't cost us anything to bring him down (to throw for scouts in Fort Myers). You might get lucky on the field, and maybe something benefits him off the field."

Throwing in front of senior adviser Terry Ryan, minor league pitching coordinator Rick Knapp and vice president of player personnel Mike Radcliff, Graves "made enough of an impression for us to

sign him and give him that chance," Smith says.

Graves began in extended spring training, the first time he'd been there in his career. He moved to Class A Fort Myers, then to AA New Britain and finally to Rochester.

"The timing of everything," Graves says, "was almost like it was on time for Danny Graves."

When he arrived in Rochester, Cliburn had a question for the reliever — would he start?

Starting baseball games does not bring back good memories for Graves, who went 4-15 with a 5.33 ERA during his season as a Reds starter and who says he "always told myself that if I ever had to start again I would probably retire." But throughout his evolution as a person, Graves has evolved as a pitcher. Unable to throw in the mid-90s as he did during his closer days, Graves says, he has finally learned how to pitch, throwing four pitches for strikes with a hard-sinking fastball that induces ground outs.

So when Cliburn asked about starting, Graves said yes. He's now 2-1 with a 3.99 ERA in six starts for the Red Wings and, to his own surprise, "it turns out that this is the most fun I've had. I love starting now."

There isn't much about baseball Graves doesn't love, and he is quick to let his young teammates know how lucky they should feel. Cliburn says the veteran has brought a new chemistry to the clubhouse, that he offers advice to anyone who wants it and that he immediately became a team leader. Graves enjoys sharing his experience with his team, but he still hopes that sometime this season he will find himself with a new one.

"I saw Tom Kelly when he came in the other day, and he was kind of joking with me, saying, 'Wow, you're making every stop, huh?'" Graves says of the Twins' special assistant and former manager. "I said yeah, and we both simultaneously said, 'We have one more to go.'"

Major League Baseball statistics

American League

Batting									
TEAM	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BA	
Texas	2241	351	638	146	12	77	336	.285	
Boston	2191	321	618	132	7	68	303	.282	
New York	2096	273	567	124	9	59	266	.271	
TWINS	2119	285	572	107	18	38	272	.270	
Toronto	2141	261	562	102	40	64	262	.262	
Tampa Bay	2059	275	539	91	12	60	264	.262	
Detroit	2044	278	528	114	10	58	269	.258	
Kansas City	2093	220	539	112	8	33	207	.258	
Los Angeles	2097	262	535	97	9	51	249	.255	
Oakland	2063	273	527	103	13	43	258	.253	
Chicago	2074	275	504	102	4	76	269	.253	
Seattle	2074	249	521	104	7	52	233	.251	
Baltimore	2055	252	515	99	11	65	238	.251	
Cleveland	2041	269	494	116	4	56	258	.242	

INDIVIDUALS									
Player, Club	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG	
Bradley, Tex	196	41	66	18	0	13	317	.337	
Mauer, TWINS	197	37	66	14	1	2	27	.335	
Matsui, NY	214	32	71	12	0	6	29	.332	
Hamilton, Tex	255	44	82	16	3	17	68	.322	
Ordanaz, Det	224	34	70	15	9	38	313	.313	
Koltchman, LA	215	27	67	13	0	6	30	.312	
Damon, NY	221	37	68	18	2	6	27	.308	
Lopez, Sea	244	29	75	16	1	5	32	.307	
Young, Tex	255	48	78	17	1	6	31	.306	
Kinsler, Tex	256	53	78	15	2	8	36	.305	
Quisenberry, Bos	226	39	68	14	7	39	301	.301	
Youkilis, Bos	223	39	67	16	2	9	36	.300	
Gullien, Det	197	26	59	16	0	5	27	.299	
Morneau, TWINS	23431	70	210	43	299				
Pierzynski, Chi	199	25	59	16	1	4	23	.296	
Ipiton, TB	214	37	63	16	1	4	35	.294	
Murphy, Tor	245	35	72	20	1	7	39	.294	
Betancourt, Sea	211	28	62	17	1	3	20	.294	
Quentin, Chi	207	40	60	9	116	53	290	.290	
Abreu, NY	233	30	67	13	3	7	39	.288	
Suzuki, Sea	254	42	73	9	3	3	17	.287	
Crosby, Oak	192	25	55	11	0	12	33	.286	
Markakis, Balt	221	31	63	12	0	10	28	.285	
Dye, Chi	214	31	61	12	110	24	285	.285	
Elsbury, Bos	190	42	54	5	3	4	22	.284	
Jeter, NY	221	30	62	9	3	3	27	.281	
Polanco, Det	204	28	57	13	0	2	17	.279	
Oversbay, Tor	202	27	56	11	1	5	24	.276	
Gomez, TWINS	237	35	65	10	3	5	24	.274	
Hunter, LA	223	31	61	15	2	7	29	.274	
Iwamura, TB	249	34	68	9	1	4	17	.273	
Cabrera, NY	203	21	55	7	0	6	27	.271	
Roberts, Balt	229	32	67	17	5	4	21	.271	
Cabrera, Det	218	26	59	13	8	34	243	.271	
Young, TWINS	230	31	62	10	4	0	19	.270	
Crawford, TB	246	40	66	7	4	4	31	.268	
Pedroia, Bos	259	36	69	16	0	4	29	.266	
Ibanez, Sea	229	28	61	15	1	8	37	.266	
Crosby, Oak	243	34	60	10	3	35	294	.264	
Rios, Tor	250	36	66	14	2	3	24	.264	
Hill, Tor	205	19	54	14	0	2	20	.263	
232	32	61	15	0	5	26	263	.262	
Renteria, Det	206	24	54	5	1	4	25	.262	
Suzuki, Oak	204	26	53	8	0	1	15	.260	
Anderson, LA	232	25	55	11	0	12	33	.256	
Teahen, KC	213	25	55	8	3	6	20	.258	
Sizemore, Clev	230	36	59	13	212	31	257	.257	
Jones, Balt	211	21	54	11	2	4	26	.256	
Guerrero, LA	209	25	53	11	2	7	29	.254	
Guillen, KC	235	39	60	10	7	38	253	.253	
Cabrera, Chi	249	36	63	9	0	3	20	.253	
Ortiz, Bos	210	36	53	10	0	13	43	.252	
E. Brown, Oak	222	30	56	9	2	5	37	.252	
Miller, Balt	222	32	55	6	0	11	31	.248	
Huff, Balt	228	32	56	15	1	9	31	.246	
Mora, Balt	222	27	54	10	110	33	243	.246	
Bartlett, TB	202	19	49	4	1	0	11	.243	
Beltre, Sea	228	30	54	9	0	13	28	.237	
Ellis, Oak	199	27	47	10	2	5	18	.236	
Peralta, Clev	209	36	49	10	0	11	21	.234	
Barton, Oak	193	28	44	7	3	3	19	.232	
Pena, TB	207	27	47	7	11	35	227	.232	
Canó, NY	225	23	51	13	0	4	19	.227	
Mathews, LA	225	27	51	8	1	6	28	.227	
Thome, Chi	196	27	41	9	0	12	31	.209	
Konerko, Chi	200	22	41	6	0	7	26	.205	
Swisher, Chi	205	30	42	6	1	5	16	.205	

Pitching

TEAM	W	L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
Chicago	34	26	545.1	490	177	422	3.33
Oakland	32	24	547.0	485	189	430	3.46
Toronto	32	31	568.0	516	190	459	3.47
Tampa Bay	36	25	548.2	503	201	403	3.77
Los Angeles	38	24	551.1	548	181	347	3.87
Boston	38	26	565.0	527	239	460	3.95
Cleveland	28	33	541.0	551	177	380	4.01
Baltimore	30	30	544.0	532	232	341	4.15
TWINS	31	30	550.2	625	157	330	4.30
New York	30	31	540.0	553	196	397	4.40
Kansas City	24	37	540.0	551	187	398	4.53
Seattle	22	39	536.2	523	227	341	4.70
Detroit	24	36	528.0	542	260	331	4.82
Texas	31	32	566.1	639	268	349	5.10

INDIVIDUALS									
Pitcher, Club	W								



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN DOMAN

New Vikings quarterback Donovan McNabb gets a squirt of water from Joe Webb after getting the go-ahead to participate in Thursday's practice.

Vikings training camp >

McNabb hit and miss in his first practice with Vikings

QB misfires early but finds Berrian for 50-yard strike

By Jeremy Fowler
jfowler@pioneerpress.com

MANKATO, Minn. — From 50-yard completions to ducks crashing into the grass, Donovan McNabb made just about every throw in his first full practice with

the Vikings.

The Vikings will take a few errant passes in favor of McNabb's on-field presence.

McNabb was one of nearly 20 players who missed the first three days of practice because of the pending collective bargaining agreement, which the players formally ratified Thursday.

After sitting out 45 minutes of practice time while CBA paperwork was processed, McNabb hit the field in time for offensive work against seven- and 11-man

defenses.

The results were mixed. Several of McNabb's early throws were off target — it's the first practice, he later reminded — but he discovered his touch during the first blitz drill, connecting with wide receiver Bernard Berrian for a 50-yard gain down the left sideline.

"We made a lot of big plays today, but some plays we want back," said McNabb, who missed

HIT AND MISS, 3C >

1991 MINNESOTA TWINS > World champions reunion

Replaying Game 7

REUNION WEEKEND

What: The Twins will celebrate the anniversary of the 1991 World Series championship

Where: Target Field

TODAY VS. WHITE SOX > 7:10 P.M.

- First 10,000 fans will receive a Kent Hrbek/Ron Gant bobblehead
- Pregame photo sessions on Target Field Promenade from 5:30-6 p.m. Scheduled to attend: Rick Aguilera, Mike Pagliarulo, Randy Bush, Mark Guthrie, Terry Leach, Paul Sorrento, David West, Kent Hrbek, Tom Kelly, Scott Leius and Kevin Tapani (subject to change).
- Pregame ceremony featuring the greatest moments from the 1991 season
- Seventh-inning stretch performed by members of the 1991 World Series championship team

SATURDAY VS. WHITE SOX > 6:10 P.M.

- First 10,000 fans 18 and older will receive a DVD of Game 6 of the 1991 World Series
- Pregame photo sessions featuring Twins alumni on the Target Field Promenade from 4:30-5 p.m. Scheduled to attend: Terry Crowley, Chili Davis, Greg Gagne, Andy MacPhail, Wayne Terwilliger, Scott Erickson, Junior Ortiz, Brian Harper, Dick Such, Dan Gladden, Gene Larkin, Jack Morris and Al Newman (subject to change).
- Ceremonial first pitch thrown by Jack Morris
- Pregame ceremony: An introduction of the 1991 World Series championship team and speeches by Tom Kelly and Dan Gladden
- Seventh-inning stretch performed by members of the 1991 World Series championship team

SUNDAY VS. WHITE SOX > 1:10 P.M.

- First 15,000 fans will receive a 1991 World Series champion button
- Ceremonial first pitch thrown by Puckett Scholars
- Pregame ceremony: A special tribute to Twins legend, hall of famer and hero of the 1991 World Series, Kirby Puckett.
- Seventh-inning stretch performed by members of the 1991 World Series championship team



Twenty years removed from the Twins' last World Series title, Jack Morris and Tom Kelly relive the final game > Pages 6-7C



PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTOS

Pitcher Jack Morris, center, leaps out of the dugout to welcome home the only player to cross the plate in Game 7. LEFT: The cover of the next day's Pioneer Press shows Morris hugging Dan Gladden. Relive Game 7 on Pages 6C-7C.

CUDDYER TO TRY FREE AGENCY: "It doesn't mean I don't want to come back." > ANGELS 7, TWINS 1 > Page 5C



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EPISODE #3 TONIGHT!

> FOLLOWING THE TWINS-WHITE SOX GAME @ 10:30PM ON **FSNORTH**.

1991 MINNESOTA TWINS > World champions reunion weekend

Twins 1 / Braves 0 (10 inn)

As the fans grew exhausted, Jack Morris got stronger. "I said: 'We're not losing. If it takes until the sun comes up tomorrow morning, we're not going to lose.'"

By Kelsie Smith
ksmith@pioneerpress.com

A camera pans the Metro-dome.

There's the plexiglass and Bob Casey's voice, the Hey Song and the dingy white roof. There's a spry-looking Bobby Cox, a 25-year-old David Justice. There's Dan Gladden's mullet and Chuck Knoblauch's rookie grin. And there's Tom Kelly, thin and fit and youthful at 41 years old, being introduced at home plate.

"Hey, no glasses," Kelly, now 60, says when he sees his younger self run onto the field. "Where are the glasses?"

Jack Morris and Kelly needed 19 years, nine months and four days to get here, to a boardroom in Target Field, where they are watching Game 7 of the 1991 World Series.

Morris estimates he's watched this game 10 times, Kelly three, but before this July day in 2011, two weeks before the Twins were gathering members of the '91 team for a 20th anniversary reunion at Target Field, Kelly and Morris never had watched it together.

THE HOURS BEFORE

The morning of Oct. 27, 1991, Morris sat with his parents and his two young sons eating breakfast when he felt the eyes of his father, Arvid.

"He's watching every bite I'm taking. Just watching, just staring at me," Morris says. "Finally, I looked at him and said, 'What?' He goes, 'How you doing?' My dad asks me, 'How you doing?' A very open-ended question. My dad would never ask me something like that. I said, 'Dad, I feel great. I got a great night of sleep. Don't worry. We're going to win.' He looked at me, and he got this smile on his face, but I don't think he believed me. To this day, I don't think he got what I was trying to tell him. He was so nervous."

"Dads," Kelly adds, "are like that."

So are managers. By the time Morris took the mound against the Atlanta Braves that night, he'd thrown 273 innings that season. He'd started Game 1 (seven innings, five hits, two runs, 100 pitches and the win) and Game 4 (six innings, six hits, one run, 94 pitches and a loss, though not his), and all of that made Kelly nervous.

"Especially when we got to the ninth inning," Kelly says, "I thought, 'How many innings is he supposed to pitch?'"

If it were up to Morris? All of them.

A little girl in a white dress appears. She is 7-year-old Jacqueline Jaquez, and with microphone in hand she sets the stage for the brilliance to come with a chills-inducing rendition of the national anthem.

Earlier this year, Morris watched Game 7 with Braves starter John Smoltz for an MLB Network special, and as Jaquez began to sing, Morris says, Smoltz told him, "I was warming up in the bullpen with (Atlanta pitching coach Leo) Mazzone, and I looked at him and said, 'If she can do that, then I can pitch this game.'"

Already, the 1991 World Series was one of the best ever played. Before Game 6, a 4-3 Twins comeback win, Kirby Puckett told his teammates, "You guys should jump on my back tonight. I'm going to carry us." He hit a game-winning home run in the 11th inning.

"My father told me, and I think he was right, he said that each game is like you're reading a book," Kelly says. "You've got Chapter 1 or Game 1, and then 2, and it's getting better and better and better and better and better."

THE 1ST

Braves leadoff hitter Lonnie Smith steps in and takes Morris' first pitch for a ball.

"That's a strike," Morris says as he notices his younger self glaring at home plate umpire



PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTO

Jacqueline Jaquez, a first-grader from New Hope, looks back at Braves manager Bobby Cox as she walks to the mound area to sing the national anthem.

Don Denkinger. "Already working the umpire, first pitch." Kelly talks about his own sense of calm during Game 7. He had his best pitcher on the mound. He had the best lineup he could ask for up against Smoltz. His defense was as he wanted it, and his hope at that point, he says, was that he wouldn't have to make a decision that would affect the outcome of the game.

"You want the players to decide who wins. You don't want the manager to decide who wins," he says. "But it did come down to a few things."

And when Kelly says that, Morris raps his index finger on the table, asks that the game be paused. He wants to say something he's said many times over the years, but never directly to Kelly.

"He put his ass on the line by leaving me in there, and you don't realize it at the time," Morris says. "You start reflecting back about the reality of the situation, and even me, if I was managing, I'd say to myself, 'Man, I've got Rick Aguilera, who's done a pretty damn good job. What do you do here?' And he did something that 99 percent of the baseball world wouldn't do, and without him doing it, I wouldn't be sitting here today."

Justice singles to begin the inning. Morris hasn't picked off a runner all season, but he throws over to first more than once.

Holding runners, Morris recalls, was a skill he finally had learned that season, thanks to catcher Brian Harper. For most of his career, Morris had been blessed with catchers who stopped the running game. Harper, a converted outfielder, was different.

"Harp was the first guy to teach me the need for the slide step," Morris says. "I was horrible at holding runners on, but with Harp, I had to learn. He wasn't going to throw too many people out. I had to give him at least a chance."

Justice is on second after a groundout, and Morris fans Brian Hunter on a high fastball.

"You don't want to try to live up there," Morris says. "Because if he hits that, it's going all the way."

THE 3RD

Up walks Mark Lemke, who

ended up batting .417 in the '91 World Series, to start the inning. He works the count full, laying off a pitch Morris put right where he wanted it.

"Lemke was a good player," Kelly says, "but he was hitting way over his skis."

Next up was Rafael Belliard, and Morris, even now, knowing the outcome, is annoyed. "These are the kind of guys that always bothered me. The Belliards and the Lemkes," he says. "The typical power hitter I always figured I had bullets for; but these guys, nothing was safe. They could hit from the top of their head to the bottom of their shoes because they're swinging. They're hacking."

Belliard reaches out for a pitch down and away, and slaps it into right field.

"Like that right there," Morris says. "Look at that pitch."

Kelly interjects, explaining his philosophy with those scrappy hitters: Pitch them up, and most likely they'll hit the ball in the air but not with enough power to clear the fence.

"You're probably right," Morris says. "Why didn't you tell me that?"

Belliard scoots safely to second when Morris' inside pitch to Smith skips off Harper's glove.

"He missed it," Kelly says of the passed ball. "Now if Harp only misses one or two a game, that ain't bad."

Smith walks, putting runners on first and second with one out before Terry Pendleton hits a fly to short left field, where Gladden catches it.

Morris points out the sliding pants Gladden is wearing under his uniform, and Kelly reveals they weren't so much for sliding.

"He's just trying to make his ass look bigger," the manager deadpans.

THE 4TH

In the fourth, Morris unleashes a changeup — a particularly slow one — for a called strike two to Justice.

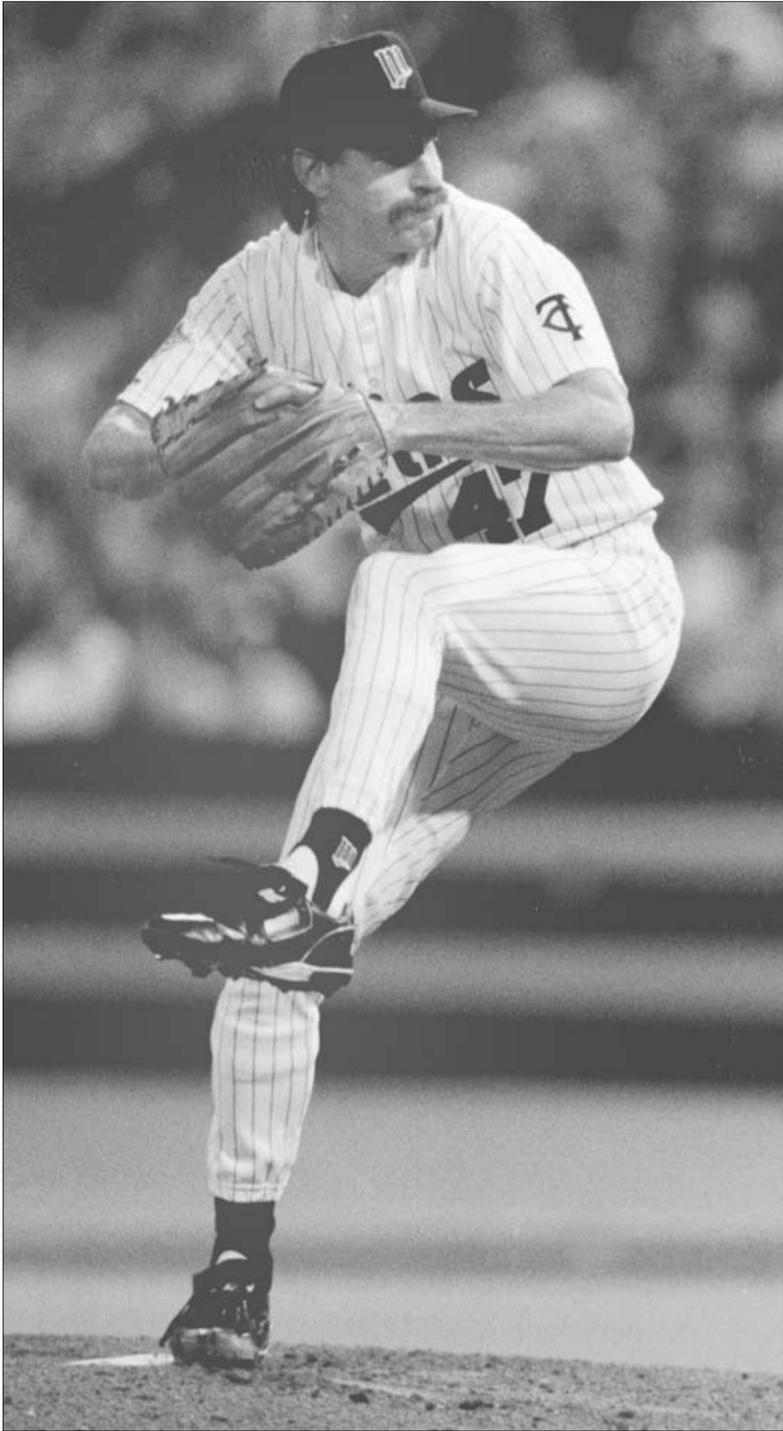
"That was sweet," Morris says, and Kelly counters with, "What doo-doo."

"That," Morris goes on to say, "is the greatest changeup ever."

"That," Kelly says, "was real doo-doo."

Justice strikes out swinging on a forkball.

Smoltz later told Morris that Braves hitters had predicted a difficult night if Minnesota's



PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTO

Jack Morris matches scoreless innings with John Smoltz and Atlanta's bullpen for 10 innings.

starter had his forkball working early. Morris did, and he said using that pitch effectively early allowed him to catch Braves hitters off guard with his fastball in later innings.

Sid Bream flies out, and Hunter takes his first pitch. Denkinger calls it a ball.

"That's terrible," Kelly says. "Get Denkinger on the phone here."

THE 5TH

Through four innings, each starter had given up only three hits, and the sold-out Metro-dome was so loud, Morris says, that if you couldn't read your teammates' lips or interpret their hand signals, you were out of luck.

On the mound, though, Morris found some sort of calm in the fury.

"It was so loud," he remem-

bers, "it was almost peaceful."

Above the field, his mother could not find that same peace. She was, Morris says, a nervous wreck, and about the time her son took the mound to start the fifth inning, Dona Morris left her seat to use the restroom and never returned. She stood in the concourse for the remainder of the game, judging her son's outing by the fan reaction. To this day, Morris says, he doesn't believe his mom has mastered the courage to watch Game 7.

Lemke starts the fifth with a single, and, as he settles in at first base, Morris looks over at him, purses his lips and shakes his head.

"What are you going to do?" Morris asks. "I look at him like, 'You little (expletive).'"

Belliard sacrifices Lemke to second, and that brings up Smith, who takes a big swing

and misses for strike one.

"Lonnie still can't hit that," Morris says.

Smith regroup and drops down a bunt. Third baseman Mike Pagliarulo charges and throws to first, pulling Kent Hrbek off the bag. Atlanta has one on first and third with one out.

About then, Morris says, he realized one run would almost certainly decide the game and, thus, the World Series.

"You start to think, 'Hey, just get me one, I'll figure something out,'" he says. "At least start there, and if I need 10, I'll tell you about it later."

That sends Kelly into a fit of laughter. It's a reference to a Morris start earlier in the season when the right-hander gave up nine runs in his first three innings against Detroit. Trailing 9-0, Morris returned to the dugout and hollered, in com-

plete seriousness: "Boys, get me 10. I've never lost with 10."

Pendleton pops out to short-

stop Greg Gagne. Then, with Ron Gant batting, Morris bounces a 1-2 pitch in the dirt. Harper can't handle it, and the ball bounces back toward the pitcher. Morris scoops it up and sees Lemke cheating off third. He throws to Pagliarulo.

An errant throw could have scored Lemke.

"I don't know why I threw it," Morris says. "I should have been taken out of the game for throwing that ball right there."

"That," Kelly says, "is what I was thinking."

Third-base umpire Terry Tata rules Lemke safe, but Morris escapes the jam, freezing Gant for a called strike three. Morris responds with a big, cross-body fist pump.

"This is where I get a little fired up. Big old fist pump," he



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Pinch-hitter Gene Larkin lofts a fly into left field that went over the head of drawn-in Braves left fielder Brian Hunter with the bases loaded in the 10th inning.

says. "Do you know what the truth is? I was more excited that Denkinger called it."

THE 6TH

As Morris begins the inning, the camera pans to the dugout, where a svelte Ron Gardenhire, the team's third-base coach, is tossing a helmet in the air. Kelly is standing next to him but soon retreats to the tunnel behind the dugout.

Kelly jokes, "I'm going to go throw up."

Morris offers his manager some relief, using just nine pitches to retire the side in order. In doing so, the starter throws another one of those changeups, this one to Hunter.

"He had all those pitches to throw, slider, fastball, split-finger thing," Kelly says, "and he's throwing that doo-doo over there."

"That's because they took it," Morris argues. "It was a free pitch."

"Yeah, they took it," Kelly comes back, "for ball one."

THE 7TH

Through six innings, Morris has thrown 84 pitches. Kelly didn't keep track of pitch counts then. Instead, he said, in a game with no clock, managers kept track of the time.

"You're going to laugh at me, and you're going to say, 'Boy, that's stupid,'" Kelly says. "There was a thing years ago that if the game got to two hours and 10, 20 minutes, you better keep an eye on your pitcher. I'm serious. Whether they'd thrown 100 pitches or 80 pitches or 110, 120, whatever it was, it didn't seem to matter. It seemed like two hours and 10, 15, 20 minutes, things started to get shaky."

Morris got stronger. At one point in the seventh, Morris remembers, he looked up at the fans. For hours already, they had been screaming and standing, and now they were exhausted.

"I grew up in the Cities, I was a Minnesota sports fan," Morris says. "I was thinking about the Vikings, I was thinking about all the Super Bowl losses. I was a (Fran) Tarkenton fan, I was a Joe Kapp fan, but I remember how disappointed I was as a Minnesota fan when we lost. Now I'm looking at everybody, and they're spent. They're literally drained. And I said: 'We're not losing. If it takes until the sun comes up tomorrow morning, we're not going to lose.' I never had so much will to win a game as I did that day."

He retired the side in order again that inning. He had thrown just nine pitches in the sixth inning, 11 in the seventh and would need only eight each in the ninth and 10th.

"No wonder we didn't score," Morris says. "It was sick, the stuff that he was throwing out there. He was hitting his spots. I bet he didn't make three, four mistakes the whole game."

That took Morris 20 years to realize. Kelly experienced live.

"The anxiety level was very high, trying to score a run," Kelly says. "If we could score one run, we were probably going to win, but we couldn't score a run. It was getting to be very disturbing. I tried all the tricks and I couldn't get a run on the board, so I decided, well, I'll just wait it out."

A camera zooms in on Smoltz, hat off, head in his hands, on the bench. And then the picture moves to Minnesota's bullpen, where Aguilera is standing on a mound, tossing the baseball from his hand to his glove, preparing for an outing that would not come.

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The play made Smith a pariah in Atlanta, but the leadoff hitter has maintained he wasn't duped by Knoblauch and Gagne. If he had been, he's said, he would have slid into second base. Instead, Smith has said, he lost the ball off Pendleton's bat and was worried Puckett would run it down in the outfield. Kelly and Morris say they believe him.

"This nonsense here, he didn't go for any deke. He just didn't know where the ball was," Kelly says as a replay flashes on the screen. "Lonnie, in my mind, he made a mistake by not knowing where the ball was. Should he have scored? Yes, probably so."

A Gant groundout brings up Justice with runners on second and third and one out.

Justice batted just .259 with two extra-base hits (both homers) during the '91 World Series, and though other Braves had more success against Morris, none worried the starter more than Atlanta's right fielder.

If the Braves had won Game 7, Morris says, Lemke would have been MVP, but Morris treated the infielder more like a pest than a threat. Justice, he says, "could ruin your day." So when Kelly made his only mound visit, with Justice due up in the eighth, Morris knew what was coming and, he insists now, he didn't disagree.

Bream hits a grounder to Hrbek, who fields the ball cleanly and throws home, where Harper is standing on the plate for the second out of the inning. Harper fires back to first, where Hrbek catches the ball to complete the inning-ending double play. The big first baseman celebrates by spiking the baseball into the turf.

In the bottom of the inning, Randy Bush hits a pinch-single. One out later, Knoblauch singles, moving Al Neuman (pinch-running for Bush) to third. And that is where the duel ends. Cox pulls Smoltz for reliever Mike Stanton, who works free of the jam.

Until Morris and Smoltz watched Game 7 together earlier this year, Morris says, he never paid attention to what the opposing starter did. When he finally watched Smoltz's 7 1/3 innings, he was amazed.

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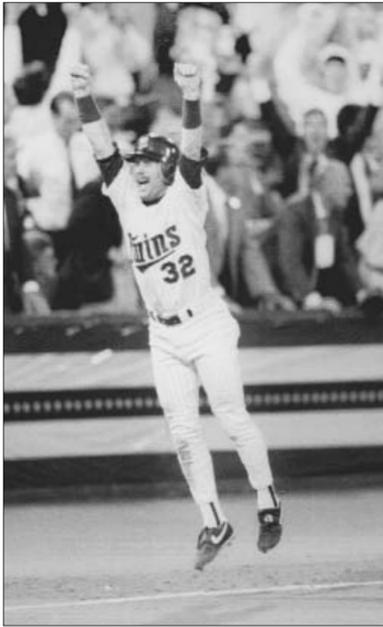
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ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Dan Gladden leaps in celebration before trotting home with the winning run.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Manager Tom Kelly holds the World Series trophy, his second as the Twins' manager.

And after the pesky infielder strikes out, Morris thinks to himself, "I win."

The quick inning was enough to convince Kelly his starter wasn't through. Still, he walked up to Morris, who'd thrown 118 pitches, in the dugout after the ninth and said: "That's all. Can't ask you to do any more than that." He told Morris that Aguilera was ready, but the manager was really just waiting for Morris to claim the 10th.

When Morris did, Kelly threw up his hands, turned away and said, "Ah, hell, it's only a game."

Down the third-base line,

where Aguilera had been standing the previous inning, the closer is

Kings 4 / Wild 3 >> Another hard-to-figure loss >>

SEE PAGE 5C



SPORTS C

twincities.com St. Paul Pioneer Press

METRO EDITION • SPORTS EDITOR MIKE BASS MBASS@PIONEERPRESS.COM 651-228-5108

Sunday 3-8-2009

The fog

As Corey Koskie tries to return to baseball, he can't help but feel bitterness toward a team whose doctors took a hazy view of his post-concussion symptoms

slowly lifts



After suffering from post-concussion syndrome for 2½ years, Corey Koskie finally has reason to smile as he attempts a comeback at age 35. The Twins let him use their spring training facilities to prepare for the World Baseball Classic.

By Kelsie Smith
ksmith@pioneerpress.com

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Here, steps from the crowds and the autograph seekers, beside fields gleaming with prospects and ballplayers prepping for a brand-new season, Corey Koskie plods across a deserted infield. Two mismatched bats (one stamped with Justin Morneau's name) are slung over

his shoulder, evidence of how far he is from the major league camp going on just steps away.

A few fans ask for autographs, a couple wish him well, but the only person concerned where Koskie is headed is his 8-year-old son, Bradley, who trudges along behind his father's broad frame and familiar loping footsteps.

There is a deliberateness about Koskie, a kind of symbolic solitude

on a Friday morning in late February, two years and eight months removed from his last major league game, when a fall in foul territory caused a concussion, whiplash and years of debilitating post-concussion symptoms.

Since, Koskie, 35, has been on a trying odyssey, a solo hunt for answers about his lingering issues

COREY KOSKIE, 8C >



With his 8-year-old son, Bradley, right, at his side, former Twins third baseman Corey Koskie waits his turn in the batting cage at the Twins' facility in Fort Myers, Fla. PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS: CHRIS STANFIELD

For this man in blue, spring is fun and games

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Umpire Tim Tschida remembers young Matt Tolbert of the Twins sort of wobbling to the plate during an exhibition game last spring.

"That Tolbert, he's wound pretty tight anyway," Tschida said with a chuckle. "I said hello to him and he tried to say hello back. But it sounded more like a cough. I told him, 'You need to relax. This



Tom Powers

isn't the electric chair. This is supposed to be fun.' "I have sympathy for young players because I was a young

umpire for a long time. I'll try to give them a little confidence. They don't have to earn their stripes with me."

Tschida, from St. Paul, has been a major league umpire since 1986. He's in the sweet spot of his career in that he knows exactly what to expect and how to pace himself in spring training.

"Umpires are like starting pitch-

ers," he explained. "I'll work the plate five times in spring training. A starting pitcher will work about five times. He'll build up his stuff like we do. I have noticed a need to be leg-strong as soon as you get here. That's different than it was 15 years ago. But they're playing at a little better pace now."

Tschida loves spring training. No one screams at him. The

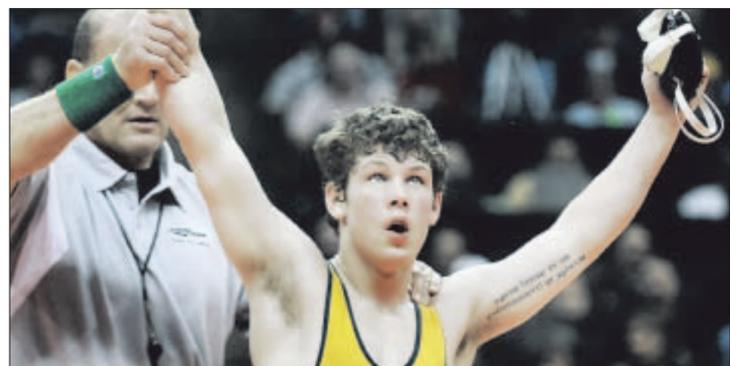
games mostly are in the afternoons. And he has a nice place in Fort Myers.

"Best month of the season," he said. "Beautiful weather, a little golf ..."

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire gets thrown out of so many ballgames each summer that's

TOM POWERS, 10C >

Minnesota high school wrestling tournament



Robby Fisher of Bloomington Kennedy/Jefferson wins the marquee matchup of the state meet, triumphant after a 10-5 decision over Destin McCauley of Apple Valley. In the Class AA team championship match, Apple Valley rolled past Albert Lea 62-6. Page 15C

Minnesota boys swimming and diving meet

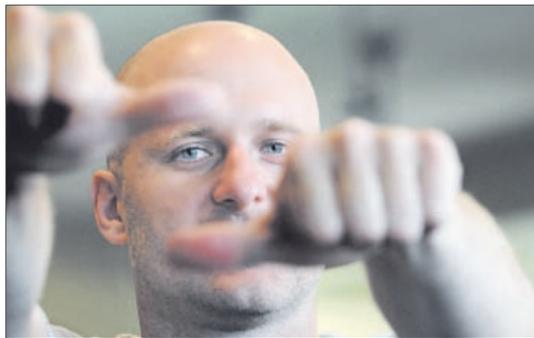


Nathan Yueh of Breck/Blake celebrates his victory in the 200-yard freestyle. Yueh also won the 500 freestyle and swam on two winning relay teams as Breck/Blake won the Class A team title, ending St. Thomas Academy's string of state championships at four. Page 13C



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN DOMAN

Koskie responds to a question from his 8-year-old son, Bradley, at his Medina home last summer during his recovery.



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN DOMAN

Koskie shows how early in his recovery period it was impossible to spread his arms apart and bring them back together and touch his extended thumbs.



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN DOMAN

Koskie works with ARPwave creator and chief proponent Denis Thompson, who applies electrodes to Koskie's neck at his Burnsville office. ARP is an acronym for Accelerated Recovery Performance, a system in which mild electrical current is used to help the body repair itself.



SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS: CHRIS STANFIELD

In Fort Myers, Koskie steps into the batting cage and swings, and he is strong and surprisingly fit. His bat speed, he says, is good. His mechanics are coming back. He hits some line drives, a few deep fly balls, and on the last pitch of his first round, he lets loose with a home run swing.

CONTINUED FROM 1C

> Corey Koskie

and then his future, waiting for the symptoms to subside while dealing with a disturbing feeling that the sport to which he had given so much of his life had deserted him when he needed it most. In the next two weeks, Koskie would make Canada's World Baseball Classic roster and sign a minor league deal with the Chicago Cubs, narrowing his pursuit of answers to a search for just one more — whether his baseball career has passed him by.

On this day, he stands outside a fence, hoping to find out when his batting practice pitcher is coming to throw. For a week, he has been at this, the batting practice, the ground balls. He ambles from one field to another, across the neatly trimmed grass, finally stopping near third base.

His big white sneakers tap the red dirt at the position he used to own, the place beyond his grasp since that benign-looking tumble almost three years ago. In the distant background, baseballs thump into catchers' mitts while pitchers throw in the bullpen, coaches bark orders at impressionable infielders. But here at a field in the farthest corner of the Twins' minor league complex, Koskie is alone.

The 35-year-old former Twin is used to that.

THE SICKENING FALL

The videotape has been watched too many times — hundreds, even. No matter how often it's rewatched and restarted, the results are the same. Koskie, playing his usual third base for the Milwaukee Brewers in a non-descript game on July 5, 2006, tracks a foul ball, spins around and lands awkwardly. That's it.

The headaches, dizziness and nausea settled in immediately, and when they didn't subside, no one seemed to understand why. It has taken Koskie almost three years to strip away the effects of that fall and, an even more difficult task, to peel away all of the voices telling him he's fine, that the symptoms he tried so hard to labor through were make-believe.

"I was told by a Brewers official that my brain was pretty much 95 percent healed," Koskie said of Milwaukee's response in the months following his fall. "That what I was feeling was all mental."

For weeks after the concussion, Koskie said, the Brewers' doctors explained away his incessant lethargy and sudden nightly need for 12 hours of sleep — both common issues for concussion sufferers — as laziness. He said the team told him he should keep working out, and Koskie — who only later was told that physical activity not only inhibits recovery from post-concussion syndrome but also draws out its symptoms — lis-

tened.

He spent most of his days in a nauseated fog, describing it as "a glass separating me from the rest of the world. Like looking out a window, you know what's out there, but you're just not there."

Take a simple game of catch in September 2006. Home and trying, but failing terribly, to recover, Koskie pushed himself outside to his driveway. Bradley wanted to play catch, and Koskie wanted to feel better.

One of Bradley's throws veered toward his dad's shoulder, but by the time the major league infielder was able to react to the toss from his then-6-year-old son standing 60 feet away, the ball was long past Koskie, clanging into the garage door behind him.

"In my conversation with a Brewers doctor, I said, 'I'm feeling a lot better, but still . . .'" and I kind of explained that story," Koskie recalled. "And he said, 'Well, Corey, you haven't played baseball for about three months now, and you're going to be a little bit (rusty).'"

"I looked at him and I said, 'No, I can catch a ball. I can catch a baseball from a 6-year-old kid at 60 feet. You can't tell me that just because he threw the ball off target I'm not going to be able to catch the ball. Major league baseball isn't that easy where all of a sudden in three months you're not going to be able to catch. I've listened to you all this time, but that's ridiculous. That is flat-out ridiculous.'"

Koskie, in the midst of his post-concussion haze, said he finally woke up to at least one thing.

"That's when I really got frustrated with these doctors," he said. "That's when I knew these guys had absolutely zero idea."

Asked if the Brewers knew well enough how to handle post-concussion syndrome when Koskie was injured, assistant general manager Gord Ash declined to comment, citing medical privacy. He added that nobody else with the Brewers could comment, either. Asked if the Brewers told Koskie his symptoms weren't real, Ash again said he couldn't comment. Asked finally if baseball's awareness of, and ability to deal with, concussions and their aftereffects were adequate, Ash offered an answer:

"It's certainly not a condition or a topic that was well addressed or occurred that often," he said. "But I think once it became apparent that it wasn't just isolated cases, baseball has done a credible job of putting a program in place."

Since Koskie's fall, Major League Baseball has experienced an increase in concussions, and the league has become more informed about brain injuries. But at the time of his concussion, Koskie claims, no one — not his agent, not the Brewers and not the players association — knew what to do with the third baseman's overwhelming symptoms.

Not until the 2008 season did Major League Baseball recommend that

teams staff a neurological consultant and submit all players to baseline neurological testing. This offseason, MLB hired its own expert, Dr. Alex Valadka, vice chairman of neurosurgery at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, to be available to all 30 teams for concussion-related inquiries.

Still, MLB vice president of public relations Pat Courtney said in an e-mail, these are only recommendations. Care for players who have suffered concussions is up to individual teams. Like Ash, MLBPA head Don Fehr said last week that baseball has done a better job of understanding and dealing with concussions in the past couple of years.

Less than a month after his fall, Koskie underwent the baseline test, called the ImPACT test, now employed by most major league teams. The Brewers hadn't started baseline testing their players, so Koskie's results were compared with those of the general population, a group of about 30,000 people, he said. Of that number, Koskie said, 99.5 percent fared better than he did.

"As a professional athlete, you pay people that are supposed to protect you in these certain situations, and nobody wanted to touch me with a 10-foot pole. I went to the players association, my agent, I'm trying to grasp at anything, and I'm just not getting anything from these guys," Koskie said. "I didn't really push the envelope with Milwaukee. I was like, it's my career, my life, I'm going to figure this out for myself."

A NEW SYMPTOM

Koskie spent the rest of the 2006 season and all of the 2007 season on the disabled list. Following the 2007 season, the Brewers declined his \$6.5 million option for 2008. Koskie is emphatic that he doesn't want to be a bitter ballplayer, but as issues with Milwaukee escalated — he and the team are still wrangling over payment of his medical bills — a new symptom emerged.

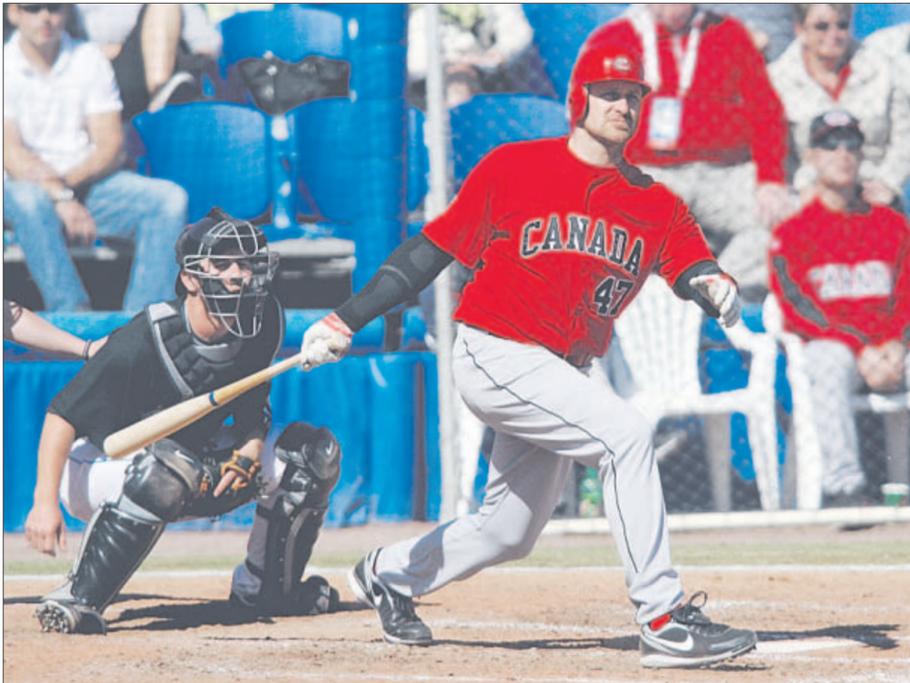
Concussions are known to affect a sufferer's psychological state, and eventually Koskie had trouble getting over things. He was irritable and had a hard time calming down.

"All that stuff with the Brewers was just consuming me," he said, "and that's just not me."

Speaking about the Brewers, Koskie's sentences were choppy and guarded. He searched for a way to explain how his relationship with the team evolved and eventually ended. He aimed for diplomacy, explaining that since his concussion the medical understanding of brain injuries — in baseball, at least — has improved.

Ash said the team has no hard feelings toward Koskie, and though it's clear Koskie wants to feel the same, it's just as obvious he doesn't.

In his search for answers, the Canadian turned to hockey, a sport ahead of



GETTY IMAGES: J. MERIC

In his first professional game since July 2006, Koskie doubled, walked and scored three runs as Team Canada's designated hitter Tuesday in an exhibition game against Toronto. He also was hit by a pitch and just averted a collision at home plate.

baseball in its knowledge and treatment of concussions. He talked to Minnesota native and Calgary Flames defenseman Jordan Leopold, whose career almost was cut short by concussions. He spoke to the father of former NHL most valuable player Eric Lindros, whose son's career was so hampered by concussions and injuries that he averaged only 58 games a year over his 13 NHL seasons.

"That's the thing that was really frustrating for me," Koskie said. "When I look back at it, I shouldn't have had to make those calls. Somebody should have protected me in there."

Lindros and Leopold assured Koskie that his symptoms — headaches, dizziness, nausea, acute pain at the base of his skull, and days when half of his face and the bottom of his right foot were numb — were real. Their words left Koskie hopeful that, maybe, another league's medical staff held his solution.

"I'd give this information to the team trainers and say, 'Hey, you know what? This is what I'm feel-

ing. Why don't you give the hockey trainers a call and see what they tell you?'" Koskie said. "They never called any of them."

So Koskie continued on his own, learning more about post-concussion syndrome and his individual symptoms. In all, he consulted "five or six" neurologists, "three or four" general physicians, three physical therapists, an osteopath, a neurological chiropractor and his home computer.

But the computer screen bred headaches and nausea. He could read for only five minutes before his symptoms overwhelmed him. He slogged through his search alone mostly, he said, because his wife, Shannon, was busy with the couple's three young sons.

"For a year after my injury, I was in my own little personal prison," he said. "I couldn't go to the mall, I couldn't do anything. I couldn't watch TV."

This winter, Koskie met Twin Cities physical therapist and whiplash specialist Dr. John Groves. By then, many of Koskie's concussion-related symptoms had subsided, but the neck pain remained. Groves loosened the

muscles at the base of Koskie's skull, and the third baseman credits this with erasing the last of his symptoms.

Dr. Paul Comper, a neuropsychologist at the Toronto Rehab Center and consultant for the NHL Players Association, said most concussion sufferers recover from their symptoms in a matter of days, weeks at the most, with just a small percentage suffering indefinitely. For those with lasting post-concussion syndrome, time is the most essential healer.

Koskie came to Fort Myers hoping to force an end to this part of his life. Either he could still play, or the two-plus seasons he had been away had left his skills too deteriorated.

Whatever the result, this time, baseball had to give him the answer.

SKILLS RETURNING

His batting practice pitcher ready to throw, Koskie empties his pockets onto the grass at Bradley's feet and picks up a bat, the one with the Justin Morneau moniker.

At 8 and 6, respectively, Bradley and his brother Joshua remember when

with a home run swing. The ball caroms off the top of the batting cage, and Koskie mutters some frustrations.

Still, all of this is a staggering leap from seven months ago, when, sitting in the basement of his Medina home, Koskie said, "At one point, I'm going to start going for some walks and see how that goes."

Then, even walking symptom-free marked a good day. For months after his concussion, the back of Koskie's hand throbbled with a constant bruise because, unsteady, with a warped depth perception and a wobbly stride, his hand would smack into door handles each time he walked into a room.

"I'd be at the dinner table," Koskie said, "and I'd knock over a bottle while I was grabbing for a fork."

Patients with long-term post-concussion syndrome continually labor through unyielding symptoms despite tests that show no problems. In those cases, Comper said, the key is to monitor the patients and be especially careful not to alienate them by claiming their symptoms are all in their imaginations.

"When you try to talk people out of their symptoms or explain everything away, it's not doing that person a service. It's really just driving a wedge between them and the road to recovery," Comper said. "Manage the recovery as opposed to dictating it, because you can't dictate it. You can't just say, 'This is when you have to get better. You should be better by now.' You can't. It doesn't work that way."

FEELING UNWANTED

Koskie arrived in Fort Myers wary of his health, his ability and his future. His goal of coming back to baseball centered upon playing for his native land in the WBC, but when Canada released its provisional roster this winter, Koskie's name wasn't on it.

After 2½ years of being unable to muster even a 15-minute bike ride without getting sick, Koskie had spent the fall playing 18 holes of golf and the winter on ponds, playing hockey with his boys. Then, just when he was ready to pick up a bat, he already had struck out.

He came to Florida, anyway, hoping to convince his country — and perhaps himself — that baseball hadn't evaded him. He worried the sun, which caused his symptoms to run so rampant in 2007 at Milwaukee's spring camp in Arizona that he couldn't drive himself to the ballpark, would feed a return of the headaches, nausea and fatigue.

Right away, Koskie's glove was untrustworthy, his swing unfamiliar. He wore his sunglasses constantly to block the bright rays from resurrecting his misery. Slowly, his bat started to connect, the ball found his glove, and his sunglasses came off.

Morneau — who never forgot that Koskie gave him "six bats, a box of batting gloves and a little advice" dur-

"For a year after my injury, I was in my own little personal prison. I couldn't go to the mall, I couldn't do anything. I couldn't watch TV."

Corey Koskie

ing his first batting practice after signing with Minnesota a decade earlier — began frequent communication with Team Canada general manager Greg Hamilton. The all-star first baseman and British Columbia native passed along how Koskie looked at the plate and in the field. "Anybody who's been through what he's been through," Morneau said, "but especially somebody you know, makes it even more special when they're able to come back."

A week before WBC camps opened, Canada came through, putting Koskie, an Anola, Manitoba, native, on its final roster.

FEAR SEEPS IN

Nine innings into the biggest step of his comeback, in his first professional game since July 2006, Koskie doubled, walked and scored three runs as Team Canada's designated hitter Tuesday in an exhibition game against Toronto.

Months ago, this type of return to the field would have been a dream, but afterward Koskie was conflicted. In Koskie's first at-bat, a Mike Maroth offering hit him in the shoulder, and fear seeped into Koskie's consciousness.

Late in the game, that fear grew when he charged toward home. A spot-on throw from the outfield could have produced a collision at the plate, but the ball veered up the third-base line and Koskie crossed home standing.

"I was going up there, and I was like, 'I hope I don't get hit in the head,'" Koskie said. "It's in the back of my mind. I can't play baseball like that. I didn't really even think about getting hit in the head, but I did all of these interviews the day before, and the reporters were asking me all of these questions about 'What if?'"

After the game, he was rattled and weary. The hit by pitch, the near play at home, the two consecutive days of hard work under the South Florida sun, had his mind spinning and some of his symptoms returning.

This — the WBC, the minor league deal, had all been the plan — and it was progressing better than Koskie could have hoped. But with his family

back in Minnesota and his head a bit hazy, Koskie wasn't reveling in his quality at-bats and his hard-hit double. Instead he was thinking about going home, once and for all.

He got on the team bus feeling sick, but got off it minutes later feeling better. By Wednesday morning, his fear also had subsided. Koskie realized the symptoms he had thought were concussion-related probably were caused by mild dehydration, from not drinking enough water.

His optimism, though cautious, had returned, and he started Wednesday's game at third base, going 0 for 1 with a walk.

When Koskie is done with Team Canada, he'll report to the Chicago Cubs' camp in Mesa, Ariz. But after his first game back Tuesday, when he was scared and feeling sick, Koskie was asked if he would consider retiring after the WBC, and his wariness showed.

"As of today, yeah," he said. "There's the whole thing of running, sliding, all that stuff. I don't want to go back where I was the last two years."

After all those months of symptom-shortened floor hockey games with his boys, "watching" TV with his eyes closed and knocking over bottles and cans at the dinner table, Koskie would be happy, he said in Fort Myers last month, to go home and simply live again.

"I can look at myself in the mirror. I know where I stand," Koskie said. "If I'm overmatched, I'm overmatched. I'll turn around and pack it in."

SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION

According to the Web site for the ImPACT test, the baseline neurological test used by most major league teams, the following are symptoms of a concussion and of post-concussion syndrome.

CONCUSSION: Headache, nausea, balance problems or dizziness, double or fuzzy vision, feeling sluggish or "foggy," change in sleep patterns, concentration/memory problems.

POST-CONCUSSION SYNDROME: Chronic headaches, fatigue, trouble sleeping, personality change (e.g. increased irritability, emotionality), light/noise sensitivity, dizziness when standing quickly, short-term memory problems, difficulty in problem solving and/or general academic functioning.

— From www.impacttest.com



SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS: CHRIS STANFIELD

It took former Twins and Brewers third baseman Corey Koskie a long time to learn what had happened to him and why doctors couldn't answer his questions and give him the help he needed.

Sports

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Sunday 2-21-2010

A model for Mauer

Joe Mauer might want to heed Cal Ripken Jr.'s advice before taking his contract negotiations into the season.

By Kelsie Smith
ksmith@pioneerpress.com

In 1991, Cal Ripken Jr. redefined conventional thinking about what a shortstop could do with a bat. He hit .323 with 34 home runs and 114 runs batted in (all career bests) and was named the 1991 American League most valuable player. The next season, 1992, was the last in his four-year deal with Baltimore, a city readying to

open a brand-new ballpark, Camden Yards, that April. Ripken grew up in Maryland. He was beloved by the fans, firmly rooted in the community and a pillar of the Orioles franchise. He and his agent, Ron Shapiro, were expected to negotiate the richest contract in team history.

Sound familiar? Substitute the name Joe Mauer for Cal Ripken, catcher for shortstop, Minnesota for

Baltimore, Target Field for Camden Yards, Twins for Orioles, 2009 and 2010 for 1991 and 1992.

One name you can leave the same. Shapiro.

Over the course of 333 days from the Orioles' first offer in '91 to Ripken signing on the dotted line in August '92, Shapiro negotiated the shortstop's five-year, \$32.5 million

A MODEL FOR MAUER, 4C >



PIONEER PRESS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Men's short track >



MCT: GEORGE BRIDGES

Apo Anton Ohno smiles after winning his seventh Olympic medal, a bronze.

Ohno makes heavy medal history

Bronze makes him most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Trailing the South Koreans and a pair of Canadian brothers, Apo Anton Ohno had to rally on the last lap to make history.

With the gold and silver out of reach, Ohno scooted furiously past Charles and Francois Hamelin to earn a bronze in the short-track 1,000-meter final Saturday night, making him the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian.

"I really had to fight," he said. "I can't wait to watch the tape and see how I came back from last place to win bronze."

Lee Jung-Su of South Korea won his second gold in Vancouver and teammate Lee Ho-suk earned the silver. The Koreans claimed four of the six short track medals awarded.

"Once I advanced to the front, all I could think of was just staying there," Lee Jung-Su said.

Ohno's seventh career medal

HEAVY MEDAL HISTORY, 9C >

WOMEN'S SUPER G >

MEDAL RUSH



GETTY IMAGES: MICHAEL KAPPELER

Lindsey Vonn picks up her second medal at the 2010 Olympics, a bronze in Saturday's super G race. She won gold in the downhill on Wednesday.

Vonn bags her second medal, a bronze in the super G, giving U.S. team a record seven medals in Alpine skiing



ASSOCIATED PRESS: CHARLIE RIEDEL

At the bottom of the hill, Vonn celebrates her finish in the super G. She finished 0.74 seconds behind gold medalist Andrea Fischbacher of Austria after backing off during the second half of the race.

By Tom Powers
tpowers@pioneerpress.com

WHISTLER, British Columbia — Perhaps Lindsey Vonn didn't get the gold she wanted Saturday, but it still has been an incredible Olympics for the United States' Alpine skiers. Vonn's bronze in the super G was the team's seventh medal, and that's already two more than the team's previous best Olympic performance.

"Yeah, it's been pretty cool," said Jim Tracy, coach of the women's ski team. "After all the big events I've been involved in over the years, this is by far the most rewarding, for sure. It's pretty spectacular."

Vonn was America's best hope in Saturday's only Alpine medal event, and she came through. Poor Julia Mancuso, who had two silver medals in her first two events, drew the unfortunate assignment of skiing first. She had no information on the run, other than the usual once-over inspection. At 10 a.m., the sun wasn't even fully covering the run. That made her something of a crash test dummy.

"Well, there definitely is more sun on the course," she said of the later skiers. "But it is so hard to say what the difference is because you can't tell if you don't get to run in the light. I just wish I had more information."

Still, Mancuso's first run held up for a good 45 minutes. She ended up ninth. After she finished, Mancuso radioed whatever course information she could glean back to her three teammates for their runs. Vonn, racing 17th, grabbed the lead for a while and was so joyous

MEDAL RUSH, 9C >

2010 VANCOUVER OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES COMPLETE COVERAGE, PAGES 8-9C

Tom Powers: Don't count Vonn out

Though Lindsey Vonn's best events are behind her, she shouldn't be dismissed as a medal contender. Page 1A

What's this, a hot streak?

The U.S. curling teams, after abysmal starts, both won again Saturday and clung to slim hopes of advancing to the medal round. Page 8C



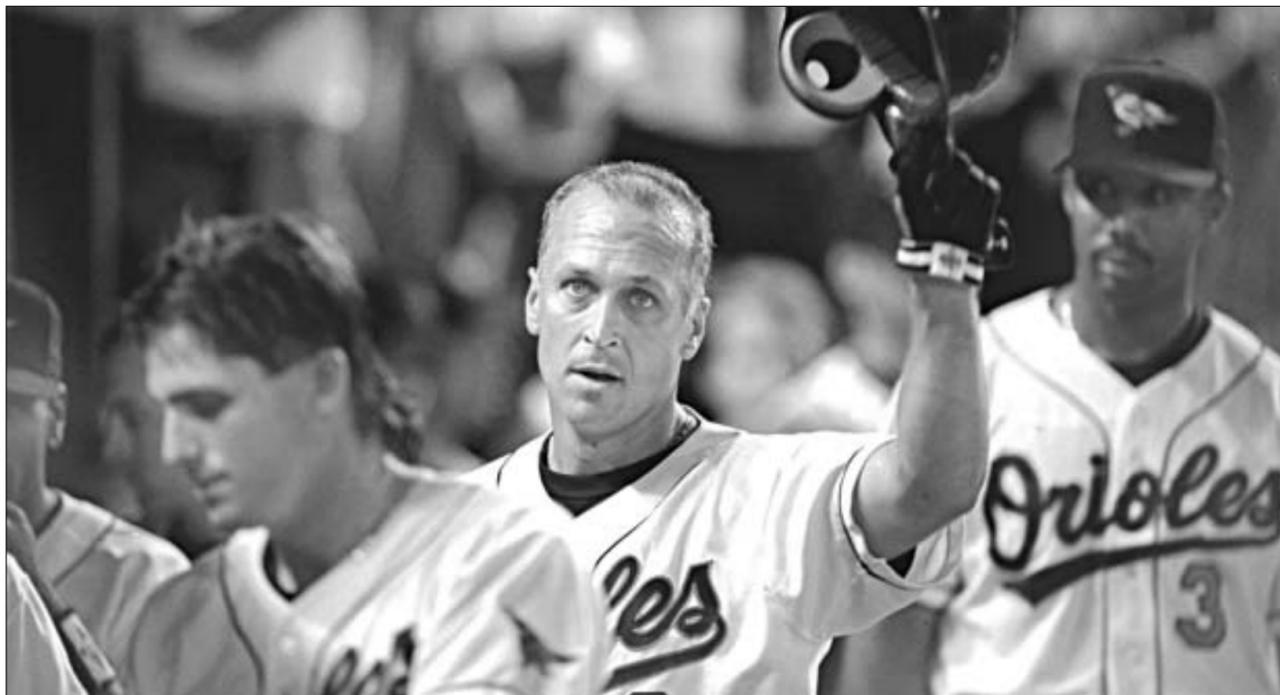
What to watch >>>

- > Men's hockey > The United States faces Canada in the marquee group matchup of the Games.
- > Alpine skiing > Bode Miller seeks medal No. 3 of these Games and Ted Ligety defends his title in the men's super combined. Schedule and TV listings, Page 9C

Baseball

4C F twincities.com St. Paul Pioneer Press

Sunday 2-21-2010



ALLSPORT FILE PHOTO: DOUG PENSINGER

Cal Ripken Jr. was the homegrown face of the Baltimore Orioles, as Joe Mauer is with the Twins, when he was negotiating a long-term contract.

CONTINUED FROM 1C

> A model for Mauer

deal with the Orioles. Just as he's negotiating a deal for Mauer.

The Twins and Shapiro (like the Orioles and Shapiro then) have been tight-lipped about Mauer's contract negotiations. But Ripken's post-MVP year provides a window highlighted with remarkable similarities, valuable lessons and rare insights. Reached last week on his cell phone in Baltimore, Ripken recounted that nearly yearlong process, offering some telling truths and subtle warnings for Mauer, as the three-time batting champion and the rest of Minnesota's pitchers and catchers officially report to spring training today.

'THAT IS CRAZY'

While unpacking boxes of cleats and chest protectors in the Twins' spring training clubhouse Friday, Mauer paused to consider the parallels between Ripken's '91-'92 seasons and his own life at present — the MVP award, the new ballpark, the hometown hero. With it all laid out for him, he leaned against his locker, crossed his arms and, in typical Mauer fashion, offered up a simple, "Huh. That is crazy."

And then, with a simple answer to a simple question, Mauer's story took another Ripken-like twist.

Asked if he is averse to negotiating during the season, Mauer replied, "I'm not."

"I'm not going to set any deadlines or anything like that. Like I said before, I'm going to let it happen when it happens," he said. "I think we have a good plan of attack. Obviously, I need to focus on this year and get ready for baseball, and that's what I'm going to do. I'll know what's going on, but I'm not going to be the one that's in the heat of things. I'll know everything, but I'm not going to let it be a distraction."

That's what Ripken — who during his playing days was praised, just as Mauer is now, for his even-keeled approach to the game — thought, too.

"You care, and you really want it to work out," Ripken said. "By putting negotiations into the season, the best way I can describe it is that it was a roller-coaster feeling. Your emotions were high and anticipation was high when you thought that you were close to a deal."

Shapiro declined to comment on any similarities between Mauer's negotiations and Ripken's, but his response when told that Ripken felt distracted by the contract talks was telling nonetheless.

"There's no question that we tried to protect Cal from the distraction by telling him as little about the negotiation as possible, but he knew it was going on, and there's no question in my mind that it did distract him," Shapiro said. "No matter how much we tried to protect him, probably the only way we could have prevented it or protected him from the distraction would have been

TWINS SPRING TRAINING >>> FIVE BURNING QUESTIONS

1. Will Joe Mauer re-sign with the Twins? He's a three-time batting champion, a two-time Gold Glove winner and the 2009 AL MVP. He's also set to make, perhaps, about \$20 million per year in his next contract. The consensus is that Mauer will be a Twin long past 2010, but the story of the offseason will be the story of the season until Mauer either signs or moves on from Minnesota.

2. Was J.J. Hardy's 2009 debacle really just an aberration? The Twins hope Hardy will be their first power-hitting shortstop since Roy Smalley, and those hopes hinge on the 27-year-old rebounding from a 2009 season that was so bad that the Brewers sent him to the minors at one point. In 2008, Hardy batted .283 with 24 home runs (in '07, he hit a career-high 26 homers) and 74 runs batted in 146 games. In 2009, he hit .229 with 11 homers and 47 RBIs in 115 games.

3. Is the Francisco Liriano winter ball evolution for real? After going 5-13 with a 5.80 earned-run average and being demoted to the bullpen in 2009, Liriano struck out 47 hitters in 37 innings in the Dominican winter league this season. In the winter ball postseason, he went 3-1 with a 0.49 ERA in seven starts. As manager Ron Gardenhire said at TwinsFest, "He could be our ace in the hole."

4. How will Joe Nathan's surgically repaired elbow respond? Nathan's month-by-month ERA in 2009 rose from 0.00 in June, to 1.69 in July, to 2.46 in August, to 4.77 in September. In September, he gave up four home runs, more than in the rest of the season combined, but he hesitates to blame his late-season swoon on the bone chips he had removed from his elbow in the offseason. Now that he has the elbow cleaned up, Nathan said, he's not worried it will be a problem in 2010, though he admitted he will have to work through some scar tissue this spring. The Twins hope all that will be in the past by Opening Day.

5. Who wins the third-base job? Count on no recurrence of the Joe Crede experiment in 2010. That leaves in-house candidates Danny Valencia (third baseman of the future, and GM Bill Smith would like the future to be now), Brendan Harris, Nick Punto and Matt Tolbert to vie for the job this spring.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO: JED JACOBSON
Joe Mauer shares more than an agent with Ripken as he enters a post-MVP season in a new stadium but with his future yet to be decided.

not having the negotiation go on during the season."

RIPKEN'S ERROR

In his book, "The Power of Nice: How to Negotiate so Everyone Wins, Especially You," Shapiro wrote that Ripken's contract negotiations started with a chasm between the team and the player. The Orioles offered four years at about \$20 million total. Shapiro asked for five years and about \$50 million. By spring training in 1992, the sides had made significant headway: According to multiple published reports from that time, the Orioles offered Ripken a five-year deal worth \$30.5 million.

Ripken wasn't fully satisfied but believed the sides were so near an agreement that the deal would be final soon. With that in mind, he made what he now calls the biggest error of the entire process.

"I let it kind of leak into the season," he said. "It was a big mistake from a strategic standpoint on my part."

The Orioles broke camp and Ripken set out on a daunting task — trying to repeat his epic 1991 season while dealing with contract negotiations.

In 1991, Ripken's 85 extra-base hits were the second most for a shortstop in history, his 34 homers third best at his position of all time. Despite early career grumblings that

at 6 feet 4 he was too big to be a shortstop (again, sound familiar?), he also won his first Gold Glove in '91 and was the first shortstop in 50 years to hit 30 homers and 40 doubles.

He opened the '92 season in a funk, hitting just one home run in April while driving in 11 runs. With a shaky start to his post-MVP campaign, the roller coaster ride Ripken spoke of began.

"It seemed like when (my season) started out pretty well, the contract negotiations kind of heated up, and Ron would say we're close," Ripken said. "Then all of a sudden, I'd go 0 for 8, and it seemed like it would shut down. It was hard to keep your focus. You were anticipating that you were going to get this thing taken care of, and then it would just linger and linger and linger. I don't know if it was anyone's fault or not, but it wasn't a good situation to be in."

Ripken batted .250 in April, .264 in May and in June heated up, hitting .327 with four home runs. But at the all-star break, his focus took its biggest tumble. Then-Orioles President Larry Lucchino, who negotiated Ripken's contract for the team, sent the shortstop a letter, Ripken recalls, that said something to the effect, "Let's get this done now."

To a negotiator, that could mean something else than it did to Ripken, who thought the note meant a deal was

imminent.

"I thought we were going to get it done in like the next 10 days," he said. "That turned out to be the most distracting part, because you put together everything and you'd get up and running in anticipation that it's going to happen, and nothing happened at all."

Ripken batted .178 in July and .218 in August, and hit no home runs in either month. As the stress heightened, he wavered on his approach with the media. Where he once had answered contract questions with a standard, "I leave the negotiating up to the negotiators," he faltered, admitting to reporters that the contract talks had messed with his focus.

On Aug. 20, he told the Washington Post, "I thought I could deal with this more effectively than I have."

At some point, Ripken recalls telling Shapiro to stop the negotiating until after the season, but in his book, Shapiro wrote that earlier in the summer, he and Lucchino had decided on Aug. 24 — Ripken's 32nd birthday — as their deadline.

On Aug. 22, in the midst of a 53-game homerless streak and with a .136 average in his past nine games, Ripken was dropped to fifth in the batting order. It was the first time in more than two seasons that the usual No. 3 hitter had batted anywhere lower than

fourth in the lineup.

Two days later, Shapiro and Lucchino hit their deadline. On his birthday, Ripken signed a five-year, \$32.5 million contract. At the time, it was the richest total contract in baseball history and only \$2 million more than the Orioles' spring training offer.

All those months of stress and distraction, of plummeting on-field results and dashed hopes, had been over \$2 million in post-playing career compensation, a four-year salary of \$500,000 a year for a front-office job after Ripken retired.

FACE OF FRANCHISE

Ripken and the Orioles' situation then was unique, just as Mauer and Minnesota's is now. Lucchino, now president of the Boston Red Sox, recalled that the Orioles knew Ripken wanted to stay in Baltimore, and Ripken knew the Orioles wanted him to stay as well.

There was pressure, Ripken admitted, from the players association to sign a deal of significant term and salary, and Lucchino had to stomach paying a single player a record salary when his ballclub had gone 67-95 in 1991. But no matter the challenges, Lucchino said the Orioles understood Ripken's importance to the organization and to the region.

"It was a very, very important thing for us to show Cal the respect and show our fans the commitment," Lucchino said when reached at his office last week. "He was well aware that we saw him as the iconic face of the franchise and we wanted him to stay. We wanted to show him respect and appreciation for a long time to come. I think it proved to be a win-win proposition for him and for us."

Ripken's story is, in the end, a happy one. He got his big free-agent deal — though in his book Shapiro contends his client would have earned upward of \$40 million on the open market — and he got to stay home. He finished his career, of course, just as he started it, in an Orioles uniform.

But in 1992, Ripken couldn't see all of that. Now, with nearly 20 years of hindsight, he wishes things had gone differently that year, and subsequently hopes his history won't repeat itself in Minnesota this season.

"If there was ever a situation that there's a perfect marriage, it is Joe and Minnesota and the new stadium," Ripken said. "It just makes all the sense in the world. Level heads need to prevail so that that happens."

The advice he'd like to offer Mauer, though, is strong.

"I know that if I had to do it all over again, I would not let it leak into the season," Ripken said. "I would say, let's revisit this at the end of the year, after everything's done. I couldn't stay directly focused all the way with the business side continuing to go up and down."

Told of that warning and asked how well he knows the hall of fame shortstop, Mauer said, "He's a great guy." Then a pause, a smile and a thought from the catcher:

"He always tells me, if I need anything, give me a call," Mauer said. "I might have to do that."

Baseball report

Damon to join Tigers

From news services

The Detroit Tigers and Johnny Damon have reached a preliminary agreement on an \$8 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press on Saturday.

Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski confirmed Friday the he had made a contract offer to the outfielder, but Dombrowski did not return messages seeking comment on Saturday.

Damon, 36, hit .286 with 24 homers for the New York Yankees last season. He likely will bat leadoff for the Tigers, filling the void left when Detroit dealt Curtis Granderson to the Yankees.

The contract is subject to a physical.

Delgado has surgery: Free-agent slugger Carlos Delgado is expected to be sidelined for four months after undergoing hip surgery in Colorado.

David Sloane, Delgado's agent, told the New York Post and Fox Sports Net that the outlook is good and the first baseman plans to play this season.

Delgado played in 26 games for the New York Mets last season before undergoing hip surgery in May. He played winter ball in Puerto Rico and was working out while trying to latch on with a team but his hip was still bothering him.

Dr. Marc Philippon, who also repaired Alex Rodriguez's hip last year, operated on Delgado in Vail on Wednesday. Sloane says in reports posted on the Post and Fox Sports Net Web sites Saturday that Delgado already is riding a stationary bicycle.

Photogenic White Sox: Ozzie Guillen's role in a reality television show seems natural because of the Chicago White Sox's manager's spontaneity.

But having Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Ken Williams as sidekicks? That's the plan, as MLB Network announced Friday that it has selected the Sox's front office as the focus of its "The Club" series that will feature a behind-the-scenes look from spring training through the trading deadline, as well as off-the-field activities.

The first show is scheduled to air July 4.

Arbitration tally: Two-time National League Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum received the biggest pay increase in salary arbitration as raises for players dropped back to their usual level after a sharp spike in 2009.

Eligible for arbitration for the first time, Lincecum earned a 17-fold increase from \$650,000 last year to an average of \$11.5 million under a two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants. That was by far the largest percentage hike for players in arbitration, according to a study by the Associated Press.

The 128 players in arbitration averaged a raise of 121 percent, down from the record 172 percent increase last year.

Owner: Mets aren't broke: Principal owner Fred Wilpon attacked the perception that the Mets are broke and ran out of money to sign free agents this offseason. When asked if the team would have enough money to make a push for key players before the trading deadline, Wilpon nodded.

"The answer is yes," he said. As for the money question, Wilpon added, "I think we have the third-highest payroll in baseball? Second or third. So that answers that."

The Mets are second at approximately \$140 million, trailing only the Yankees.

Briefly: Major League Baseball has added 12 performance-enhancing substances and 30 stimulants to the banned list in its Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

• Houston extended the contract of general manager Ed Wade through the 2012 season.



CHARLEY WALTERS

RYAN REGRETS NOT GETTING TWINS OFFENSIVE HELP, PAGE 2C

VIKINGS

WITH THE ROSTER STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE, A LOOK AT THE HOTTEST POSITION BATTLES, PAGE 7C

15

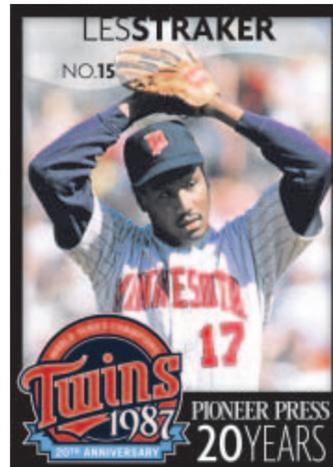
20 DAYS - 20 PLAYERS WORLD SERIES CHAMPS

Les Straker, SP: First Venezuelan-born pitcher to start a World Series game

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ANGELS 4, TWINS 3

Bullpen can't save Silva's gem

Izturis again plays hero for Angels

BY PHIL MILLER Pioneer Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — All those games where the Twins' hitting went through one frustrating 1-2-3 inning after another? Those might have been the good ol' days.

Because pain is much worse than frustration.

Carlos Silva was spectacularly effective Saturday night, and the Twins' offense creaked to life just enough to provide what appeared to be sufficient run support. But the one aspect of the Twins' game that has been steadfastly effective all season — its preserve-the-lead bullpen — went haywire at the worst moment possible.

Pat Neshek suffered the worst outing of his season, surrendering four runs and coughing up a lead for just the third time all year, and Minnesota lost 4-3 to the cruelly opportunistic Angels. The Twins' fifth loss in six games dropped them back to .500 on the season at 58-58 and kept them 6 1/2 games back of Cleveland in the American League Central and six behind Detroit.

Although Neshek took the loss, he hardly was the main culprit. The Twins squan-

TWINS LOSE, 10C

Up next: Twins at Angels, 2:35 p.m. today, WFTC Ch. 29, KSTP-AM 1500

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP



PGA field chasing Woods again

Three-time champion Tiger Woods holds a three-shot lead over his nearest challenger after three rounds. Coverage on Page 15C

LEADER BOARD

Table with 2 columns: Name and Score. Tiger Woods -7, Stephen Ames -4, Woody Austin -3, John Senden -2

SPOTLIGHT JEFF REARDON

Control and confidence made Jeff Reardon an all-star closer and a critical part of the Twins' 1987 World Series champions. But his son's tragic death sent Reardon into an emotional tailspin from which he and his family are still trying to recover.



STEVE MITCHELL, SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS

"It's getting a little better," former Twins closer Jeff Reardon says of the depression he sank into after his son Shane died of an overdose in 2004. Reardon's problems drew national attention after the former all-star robbed a Florida jewelry store in 2005.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Reardon and wife Phebe celebrate on the Metrodome field after Reardon earned a save in Game 7 of the 1987 World Series. Reardon will take part in next weekend's Twins celebration of the 1987 champs.

SEEKING RELIEF

BY KELSIE SMITH PIONEER PRESS

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

Laughter here is rare. Real smiles, the kind that make their way into the grief-weary eyes of Jeff and Phebe Reardon, come infrequently, most often brought on by a memory, an escape to a more bearable time.

On this muggy Florida afternoon, the Reardons sit in Jeff's trophy room surrounded by memories. Pictures and awards line the shelves: photos of a world champion closer, mobbed by his teammates on the mound two decades ago; of that same black-bearded pitcher, with the Boston Red Sox, hoisted onto the shoulders of Roger Clemens after breaking the

all-time record for saves; of a young, smiling couple, a slight brunette and her broad-shouldered husband, pointing to the Metrodome crowd after Game 7, a crowd they will return to next weekend for the 20th anniversary of the Twins' 1987 world championship.

JEFF REARDON, 8C

MINNESOTA TWINS 1987 WORLD CHAMPIONS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Friday's pregame: Saluting the best plays of the 1987 season

Saturday's pregame: Ceremony featuring all participating members of 1987 team

Sunday's pregame: Induction of Gary Gaetti into Twins Hall of Fame

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

Publication Date: 08/12/2007

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SAVING HIS OWN LIFE

Jeff Reardon

(continued from Page 1C)

Now, finding that joy is almost impossible. It comes for a moment, in another memory, one that brings life to their eyes — the thought of a little boy, 4 years old, being tipped upside down by Bert Blyleven, the catcher he had just stuffed into his tiny pockets spilling out onto the clubhouse floor.

For a moment, the joy lingers, but the smiles are quickly replaced by reality. That little boy, who would have been 24 this December, is gone. The memory that brought them comfort only seconds ago now reminds them only of their pain.

Sandwiched between baseball-playing Jay and ice hockey-playing Kristi, Shane Reardon never developed an affinity for sports, at least not outside of the water runners and water skis he used at his family's home on Onota Lake in Pittsfield, Mass.

Instead, the middle Reardon child grew to love music and hoped to someday produce rap albums. Eager to support their son's dream, his parents had Shane's closet in the family's Palm Beach Gardens home soundproofed, the walls lined with thick foam padding.

The thought of his son's future brings fleeting excitement to Reardon's voice. Like all the other memories, though, this one gives way to the present.

"Some of it," Reardon says, "we took down."

Shane was outgoing, popular, never had a problem making friends or finding a girlfriend — "beautiful girls," his father mentions. He loved life, Reardon says, so much and, sometimes, too much.

In high school Shane began drinking and taking drugs. Jeff and Phebe knew they had to change their son's path. They researched special schools and found one in Cummington, Mass., just 17 miles from Jeff's hometown of Dalton.

The Academy at Swift River is described on the school's Web site as a "private college preparatory therapeutic boarding school ... (specializing) in educating troubled teens struggling with behavior, emotional issues, or academics."

Shane was there for 14 months. He spent time outdoors, became a campfire expert, and he did, his parents say, get clean. He returned to Florida with a tattoo on his chest, a cross with the word "salvation" inked on top of it.

"Not everybody makes it through the program," Reardon says, "so he was real proud of himself for that. We were proud of him, too."

Shane moved back to Palm Beach Gardens, to the street his family has lived on since 1980. He spent a couple of months mulling what would come next and learned of Full Sail, a college in Orlando, Fla., that offers degrees in music business and recording arts. Ranked one of the top five schools in the nation for its music program by Rolling Stone magazine, Full Sail seemed perfect for Shane.

His older brother, Jay, lives in Orlando, just 2½ hours from Palm Beach Gardens, and so Jeff and Phebe approved. It was the summer of 2003, and it seemed, albeit briefly, Shane's future was nothing but bright.

In August, though, came a warning sign. Shane was arrested in North Palm Beach for possession of marijuana. Still, the Reardons believed he could handle college. Home for the holidays that year, Shane invited Serge Tchekmeian, a childhood friend from those troublesome high school days, over for Christmas dinner.

During the meal, Tchekmeian, whose family still lives in the Reardons' neighborhood, told Jeff he was clean now and that he wanted to move to Orlando, live with Shane and get a job there.

"We both quizzed him, 'Are you still doing bad stuff?'" Reardon recalls. "He said, 'No, no, I'm all straight. I straightened my life out.' I'm sure Shane knew; he could have told us, too. We'll never know the real truth, but we know how Shane was acting. After that kid moved up there, Shane was sort of a different person."

Less than two months after that Christmas dinner conversation, on Feb. 21, 2004, Shane Reardon was found dead in his Orlando apartment. He was 20 years old.

Reardon doesn't remember who called to tell them; he just remembers hearing Phebe scream. When she told him, he punched a hole through the wall.

The most maddening details were yet to come. According to published reports in the Palm Beach Post, police found alcohol and drugs in the apartment. Tchekmeian told police he'd come home and thought Shane was drunk.

Reardon says Tchekmeian put Shane in the shower, trying to wake him. When that didn't work, he left Shane on the couch but didn't check on him for hours, until a friend came over and noticed Shane had turned blue.

"Maybe I'm going to exaggerate," Reardon says, "but when somebody's still alive and you put him in the shower, you don't just leave him on the couch and stay right there and pay no attention to him. He was still alive, for hours. Pick up the phone, call 911."

Someone finally did, but it was too late. Paramedics pronounced Shane dead at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



STEVE MITCHELL, PALM BEACH POST

JEFF REARDON'S CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	W-L	SV	ERA
1979	Mets	18	20½	12	4	9	10	1-2	2	1.74
1980	Mets	61	110½	96	32	47	101	8-7	6	2.61
1981	Mets/Expos	43	70½	48	17	21	49	3-0	8	2.18
1982	Expos	75	109	87	25	36	86	7-4	26	2.06
1983	Expos	66	92	87	31	44	78	7-9	21	3.03
1984	Expos	68	87	70	28	37	79	7-7	23	2.90
1985	Expos	63	87½	68	31	26	67	2-8	41	3.18
1986	Expos	62	89	83	39	26	67	7-9	35	3.94
1987	Twins	63	80½	70	40	28	83	8-8	31	4.48
1988	Twins	63	73	68	20	15	56	2-4	42	2.47
1989	Twins	65	73	68	33	12	46	5-4	31	4.07
1990	Red Sox	47	51½	39	18	19	33	5-3	21	3.16
1991	Red Sox	57	59½	54	20	16	44	1-4	40	3.03
1992	Braves/Red Sox	60	58	67	22	9	39	5-2	30	3.41
1993	Reds	58	61½	66	28	10	35	4-6	8	4.09
1994	Yankees	11	9½	17	9	3	4	1-0	2	8.38
16 Seasons		880	1132½	1000	397	358	877	73-77	367	3.15

ABOVE: Shane Reardon, left, was the second child of former Twins pitcher Jeff Reardon and his wife, Phebe. His older brother Jay and younger sister Kristi were standout athletes, but Shane became a music enthusiast and was enrolled at Full Sail, a college with a nationally recognized music program, when he died of a drug overdose at the age of 20 in 2004.

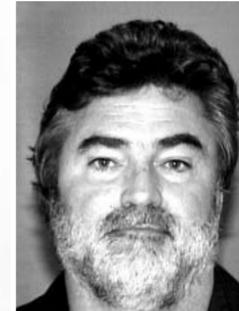
LEFT: Many of the trophies and souvenirs from Reardon's baseball career are on display in a trophy room in the family's house in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Reardon pitched in two World Series and was selected to four all-star teams.



JOE ROSSI, PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTO

"I've had a hard time since my son died. I think stupid things, like I shouldn't have a good time. Why should I have a good time when he's not around?"

— Jeff Reardon



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO
This mug shot was taken Dec. 26, 2005, the day Reardon was arrested for robbing a jewelry store in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Reardon says he remembers very little of the incident.



DAMON HIGGINS, PALM BEACH POST FILE PHOTO
Reardon and Phebe share a kiss on Aug. 28, 2006, after Reardon was acquitted of the jewelry store robbery by reason of insanity. Reardon was on 13 medications at the time of the robbery.

the scene. Jay was called to identify his brother's body.

The hours that passed between that shower and the 911 call haunt Reardon. In his despair, he blames himself, and he blames Tchekmeian. "I have such a hatred for him," Reardon says. "I wish him the worst ever. I knew the kid growing up, and he lied to us, at our Christmas dinner. I'm sure he tells other people 'Hey, I didn't change (Shane), he changed himself,' but I know, I know he was behind it."

Perhaps that's the helplessness of a father's broken heart. In an online memory book started by Phebe, which the family still writes in, Tchekmeian has left Shane a couple of messages. The first affirms, in some way at least, what Reardon believes.

"Shane, I'm sorry I didn't write sooner, it doesn't really matter cause I talk to u all the time. I didn't know about this and now that I do, I hope to write u often. It's been almost 2 years since the day that I should have saved u. I think about u everyday and think about what beats (music) u would be making right now. U were my best friend, role model, and above else, my brother. I miss u more than u could ever know. ... Love, Serge"

The Palm Beach Post reported that an autopsy showed Shane died as the result of a lethal overdose of methadone, a synthetic narcotic used to ease the effects of withdrawal from drugs such as heroin. The autopsy also found traces of the painkiller Oxycodone and Xanax, a commonly used anxiety medication, in Shane's

system.

Jay and Kristi spent some time at home after Shane's death, but Jay soon returned to Orlando and Kristi to Tabor Academy in Marion, Mass., where she attended high school. That Jeff and Phebe were left to grieve alone, Reardon says, was for the best.

For a time after Shane's death, Reardon tried to be strong, but then, he says, "all of a sudden I just fell flat on my face."

Though his home is in the PGA National housing developing in Palm Beach Gardens, with a golf course literally in the back yard, Reardon stopped golfing. He quit fishing, too. He hadn't kept in touch with many teammates, but the relationships he did maintain faded.

"Jeff became somewhat of a recluse after his son passed away," said Sal Butera, Reardon's teammate in Minnesota and Montreal, "which I can understand."

Soon Reardon couldn't get out of bed. His trademark beard, normally neatly groomed, became scraggly and unkempt. He'd have days where he never changed his clothes and refused to take a shower.

Hoping for relief, the Reardons traveled up to Onota Lake for the two summers after Shane passed away. Relief didn't come. Instead, Reardon was bombarded with images of his son — Shane on the beach lighting fireworks for the Fourth of July, manning the campfire, riding the wave runner, water skiing.

It was too much. Reardon spent most of his time shut inside his darkened bedroom. When the family left after the

summer of 2005, it never went back. The pain was inescapable, and the house was sold.

"It was just too hard," Reardon says. "It brought back too many good memories. There were so many things he loved. The other two loved it, too, but I would always think of being out there with the three of them."

In the months after Shane's death, both Jeff and Phebe were overcome by their grief. By the time Christmas came, the Reardon home, usually decked in lights and tinsel, remained bare. They put up the tree, but that was all Jeff could take. He refused to let his family decorate it.

Like many things in the two years after Shane's death, Jeff doesn't remember demanding a bare Christmas tree. Things were getting pretty dire in the Reardon house, but it wasn't until one year later, during December 2005, that Jeff hit bottom.

By then, Phebe was jerked from her haze to tend to her husband. Early that month, he had come home and told her where he'd been — out on the Beeline Highway.

a busy thoroughfare in Palm Beach. He said he stopped his car on the side of the road, got out and stepped in front of an oncoming truck. The truck swerved, and Jeff thought better of his plan, returned to his car and headed home.

Another time, he took a knife from a kitchen drawer and later told Phebe she shouldn't be worried because he didn't "take the good knife."

"It's hard to tell really when it got so bad because I was so bad," Phebe says. "We were both struggling. I really didn't realize it until he tried to kill himself. That's when I said we've got to get you to the doctor."

Reardon, who still has no recollection of the knife or the highway incident, checked into a mental health hospital for about a week. While he was there, doctors increased his depression medications. It wasn't until later, once his mind was a bit more clear, that Reardon realized that, after his release from the hospital, he was taking six medications for depression each day.

More bad news came three days before Christmas. Blockage in one of Reardon's arteries required an emergency angioplasty. By Dec. 26 — one day after what Reardon calls "the hardest of any day," three days before what would have been Shane's 22nd birthday, and on the day

Reardon drove the 10 minutes from his house to The Gardens Mall in search of a coffee maker — the four-time all-star was on 13 medications for his heart and his head.

Hamilton Jewelers is tucked away on the second floor of The Gardens Mall, across from the Gap, down the way from the food court and near Sears. It was here, in this ultra-normal shopping center, that Jeff Reardon, owner of 367 major league saves, admittedly lost his mind. Confused and bedraggled, the quiet family man parked his car, ignored jewelry stores near the building entrances and wandered into Hamilton Jewelers. He handed an employee (who would later tell police she thought Reardon was a deaf mute) a hand-scribbled note that said, according to reports, that Reardon had a gun and instructed the woman to put money and jewelry in the bag and no one would get hurt.

The woman placed \$170 in a jewelry store shopping bag and handed it to Reardon, who turned and left the store. When Reardon reached the parking lot he realized something had gone terribly wrong.

"I just walked out casually, started going to my car," Reardon says. Then he looked into the bag in his hand. "I walked right up to a security guard and said, 'I think I did something stupid.' He said, 'What do you mean?' I said, 'There's money in this bag.' I said, 'Maybe I robbed a store or something.' I didn't know." Reardon was arrested, but not before police were forced to draw their weapons

on him because he didn't put his hands up when told to. He had no gun in his possession and says he had around \$600 already in his wallet. According to a story in the Palm Beach Post, Reardon told officers on the way to the police station, "I'm sorry. I did it. I robbed them. I don't know what I was doing. I'm out of my mind. It's the medication. I'm sorry."

Reardon was held overnight in jail, where officers told him he spent the entire time shaking in his cell, as if he were scared.

Reardon does not remember spending the night in jail. He doesn't remember being ushered past cameras and into court for arraignment. He doesn't remember going into the jewelry store. He doesn't remember writing the robbery note and points out, "The note that they had, it was like a first-grader wrote it. I am very neat. If you see my autograph, you can read it."

"I was floored," Phebe says. "This is so out of character. I knew something was really wrong. Jeff's never done something even remotely like that in his life."

Former Minnesota teammate Tim Lander calls Reardon "quiet almost to the point of being shy," and now the introverted reliever was pushed into the newspapers at his most desperate time.

Perform a Google image search for Jeff Reardon and peppered between pictures of him on the mound, in uniform for one of his seven major league teams, you'll find photos of a gray-bearded, disheveled man standing in a courtroom, of the same man in an orange jumpsuit, posing for a mug shot.

The court agreed with Reardon's post-robbery explanation to the police and, on Aug. 28, 2006, found Reardon not guilty by reason of insanity.

Almost a year after his acquittal, Reardon sits in his kitchen, talking about his love for Minnesota, how great the fans were, how much his family enjoyed living there, how he now wishes he'd never left the Twins after the 1989 season, and he wants to send a message to the people who meant so much to him.

"I would like the people in Minnesota to know, everyone needs to know, that I was actually crazy to do that," Reardon says. "It was from medication. There are probably doubters out there that think I really tried to get away with it. Come on, I had \$600 (in my wallet) and they gave me \$170. That's ridiculous."

When Reardon re-entered the mental health hospital he'd been in earlier that month. During a monthlong stay, he says, he received electroconvulsive therapy (or ECT), commonly known as electroshock therapy, three times a week.

"The ECTs continued, at a less frequent rate, in outpatient form until two months ago. The treatments are believed to help ease severe depression. For Phebe, the side effects sometimes made things only worse.

When Reardon woke after an ECT, his mind would be foggy. At times, Phebe says, he would "not even know who I was." For hours afterward, his memory would remain hazy. Once, after being helped to the car outside, Reardon climbed in, looked at Phebe and asked, "Did something happen to Shane?"

"It was really upsetting," Phebe remembers. "That was awful. I told him, I said, 'Shane died, Jeff.' I couldn't believe he forgot that. That's how serious it is, what the ECTs do to you."

Reardon remembers phone numbers of childhood friends he hasn't called in 40 years, he remembers the address of the home where he lived in Eden Prairie, and he remembers the last pitch he threw to save Game 7 of the 1987 World Series — a backdoor curveball to Willie McGee, who slapped the pitch to third base for a groundout.

But to this day, there are significant parts of the two years after Shane's death that Reardon simply does not recall. "I just don't remember," he says. "I wish I did remember. I wish I remembered everything but my son dying," he says. "I remember that for sure. I wish I'd forget that, but you never forget something like that."

Today, the unkempt gray beard that that police department mug shot is neatly trimmed and much darker. The 13 medications have been cut back to one, and slowly, the days are becoming more bearable for the 51-year-old Reardon.

He still doesn't play golf, the fishing poles remain untouched and most days he busies himself with simple, mundane errands. He can't bear the thought of having fun, not without Shane.

"I've had a hard time since my son died," Reardon says. "I think stupid things, like I shouldn't have a good time. Why should I have a good time when he's not around?"

For Kristi and Jay, he tries. This week, the Reardons will return to Minnesota for the first time in a decade. Jay has already picked a day to go to Valleyfair, but he and his father won't be playing in the team's golf outing Friday.

"I'll do anything when they're around, but having fun myself ..." Reardon says, his voice trailing off, "although Jay loves golf and he's a scratch golfer. He would have wanted to play in that tournament, too. He knows I'm going to get out there pretty soon. It's getting a little better."

A little better is about all the Reardons hope for. "I don't think it will ever be much better," Reardon says. "We're doing better, obviously. I cry a little less. I'm able to enjoy things with my other kids, but it will never be the same again."

"It just doesn't happen that way."

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