

American League wins All-Star game, develops trend over National League

TORONTO (AP) - OK, now it's the American League's turn to gloat just a little.

It took nearly 30 years, but it seems safe to say the AL has something going here after beating the National League 4-2 Tuesday night for its fourth straight All-Star victory.

Let's say a trend is developing. "Hey, Tony La Russa is serious about this," Toronto's Joe Carter said of the AL manager. "This is not just an exhibition game. He doesn't like to lose."

There was a time when all the AL did was lose, lose and lose some more in this game. That's when guys like Willie Mays, Hank Aaron and Roberto Clemente were leading the way. The NL had power, speed and pitching. It was high-tech baseball.

The NL won 19 of 20 All-Star games from 1963-82, including 11 in a row. It was more or less an NL convention.

"The National League was winning every year so they would go out

and think they were going to win," said Tony Gwynn, the NL's starting center fielder. "Now the American League has that attitude. They're playing more intense. Maybe they just got mad. Now it's their turn."

While the NL has lost its big boppers of the past, the AL won the game by sending up three potential Hall of Famers in the third inning against loser Dennis Martinez. It was as simple as that, really.

With one out and the NL leading 1-0, Rickey Henderson and Wade Boggs singled. Cal Ripken followed with a 416-foot homer to center field. That's all La Russa and his talented bullpen needed.

Even the rather docile capacity crowd of 52,383 at the SkyDome seemed to get a charge out of Ripken's rising liner.

"It's Cal Ripken's world and I'm just passing through," said Boggs, a .346 lifetime hitter.

Ripken, the All-Star MVP, was indeed a big hit at the SkyDome for

the All-Star festivities. He hit 12 of the AL's 20 homers in the Home Run Derby on Monday.

"I was concerned being in the home run derby," said Ripken, who leads the AL with a .348 average.

The NL pulled to 3-2 in the fourth inning on Andre Dawson's home run and had a chance to tie it in the sixth when another future Hall of Famer made a big defensive play.

With runners on first and third and one out, Paul O'Neill hit a grounder to Cecil Fielder at first. Will Clark broke for home and was called out when 43-year-old catcher Carlton Fisk blocked the plate, took the throw and made a two-handed tag. It was the kind of textbook play a guy like Johnny Bench used to make for the other guys.

"I think the manager over the last four years has made the difference as for how the players motivate themselves," Fisk said of Tom Kelly, the winning manager in 1988, and La Russa.

Players

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he is halfway to completing his masters' degree, and added that he would return to Nebraska to finish his degree if he can't latch on with a professional team.

"If basketball doesn't work out, I'm prepared to come back here and finish," he said.

A co-captain last season with Scales, Reid averaged 10 points and five rebounds per game, while leading the team in assists.

Moody, a guard who was a cata-

lyst in the Huskers' late-season stretch drive to the NCAA Tournament, also said he wants to play professionally, although it may not be in the NBA.

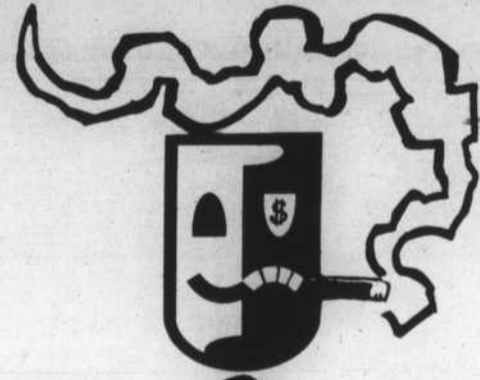
"My immediate plans are to finish out school in the fall semester," he said. "After that, I'm working on a tryout with the USBL and the WBL."

The United States Basketball League and World Basketball League are considered stepping stones to higher levels such as the CBA and NBA, Moody said.

"I sent some tapes out, and a team in New York and a team in Connecticut both indicated some interest," he said. "They said I could definitely play, and that's a great incentive for me."

Moody played in all of Nebraska's games last year, averaging five points and two rebounds per contest. He may best be remembered by Husker fans for his game-tying three-point shot against Oklahoma in the Big Eight Tournament, which sent Nebraska to an overtime victory.

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