



Starting Lineup

Gamble, lf Robinson, dh Hendrick, cf Spikes, rf Powell, lb Ellis, c Bell, 3b Brohamer, 2b Crosby, ss G. Perry, p

# Robby embarks on new career

**By Russell Schneider**  
Frank Robinson's thoughts today, when he launches his major league managerial career, will be on Jackie Robinson "as they always are every time I put on my uniform."  
But otherwise, the Indians' opener against the New York Yankees in the Stadium at 2 p.m. means "only the start of a new career for me, although I realize

it's something special to my family and a lot of other people," he said.  
Robinson bantered with Cleveland and New York writers Monday and sloughed off efforts to compare his "breakthrough" with that of Jackie Robinson's — as baseball's first black player — in 1947.  
"I think 1947 was much more important than tomorrow (today)," he said. "It was a breaking period for black people

coming into baseball, and how many followed depended upon Jackie's conduct.  
"But that's not the case now. What and how I do doesn't mean nearly as much as what and how Jackie did."  
Then, still exchanging quips with the writers, Robinson said he plans to quit

baseball, no matter how successful he is as a manager, in 1980.  
"I want five years as a manager, but that's all," he said. "Even if I last that long, I won't go beyond five years because I want to relax and enjoy life."  
"It's a decision I made this spring.

Nothing prompted it, I just decided. It's not the managing, it's the life itself."  
And when that time to quit comes? Then what will he do?  
"There's nothing I want to do outside  
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Warming up

Indians' co-captain Frank Duffy, whose injured rib cage will keep him on the bench today, will be wearing battery-heated gloves while he cheers his teammates. Even when he's in the lineup the shortstop intends to wear them while he awaits his turn at bat—until the weather warms up.

# Leduc feels loose for start of playoffs

**By Rich Passan**  
He scored 35 goals this season. His team is in the World Trophy playoffs. All's well in Richie Leduc's world, right?  
Wrong.  
"The season I had gave me a degree

of satisfaction," said the Crusaders' hard-working center iceman. "But I'm hard to please. I like to do more and more. What happens in the playoffs is important.

"If I do rotten in the playoffs, I'll be very disappointed. The playoffs are the big thing now," continued the outspoken Leduc, whose 35 goals and 66 points led the C's.

"I'm not satisfied with the way we played as a team this year. We had a losing record which is kind of a shame because we've got so much talent. With our players, we never should have finished as badly as we did," the likable Frenchman went on.

"We should have finished closer to New England than we did. We were lucky to make the playoffs. We're making it through the back door. Who's kidding who?"

Don't for a minute think Richie is wiping away the regular season. "I want to go into the playoffs knowing I scored those 35 goals," he said. "The season is still with me, pushing me into the playoffs.

"I've felt very good the last two

# 52,526 see Reds trip L.A. in 14

CINCINNATI (AP) — George Foster's infield single in the 14th inning delivered Cesar Geronimo with the winning run Monday and the Cincinnati Reds edged the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1 in the opening game of the 1975 baseball season.  
A crowd of 52,526, the largest ever for a regular season game here, turned out in sunny, 50 degree weather. The turnout was the seventh largest in Reds' history.  
The previous attendance high was set

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# Maddox, White hurt

# Ailing Yankees arrive

By Chuck Heaton

One of the spring training debates at the training quarters of the New York Yankees revolved around first base. Who would open the season there — Bill White or Chris Chambliss?

Bill Virdon was noncommittal on the subject. The manager would just say, "You'll find out on opening day in Cleveland."

And now as it's turned out, the soft-spoken Virdon never had to make the decision. White has a thumb injury and will be on the bench. So it will be the left-handed hitting Chambliss at first.

As Virdon brought his club into the Hollenden House on Monday night one reporter still wondered who would start against the Indians today at the Stadium if both were healthy.

"No sir, you're not getting me into that," replied the manager with a grin. "Why ask for controversy?"

White won't be the only Yankee stalwart out of action. Elliott Maddox, a big man in the New York surge into second place in the Eastern Division of the American League last season, also has a hand injury.

That means Bobby Bonds, the off season acquisition from the San Francisco

Giants, will get the call in center. The talented outfielder has been in right field through most of the spring.  
"Bonds has started to hit and look like himself the last few games," said Virdon. "I'm happy about that."  
Then the manager tried to piece together a probable batting order. The fol-

lowing is what he came through with but admitted that it was subject to change.

Sandy Alomar, 2d base; Lou Piniella, lf; Bonds, cf; Ron Blomberg, rf; Graig Nettles, 3d base; Ed Herrmann, dh; Chambliss, 1st base; Thurmon Munson,

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# Major League Standings

American EAST DIVISION				National EAST DIVISION			
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB
CLEVE.	0	0.000	—	Montreal	1	0	1.000
New York	0	0.000	—	Chicago	0	0	0.000 1/2
Baltimore	0	0.000	—	New York	0	0	0.000 1/2
Boston	0	0.000	—	Phila.	0	0	0.000 1/2
Milwaukee	0	0.000	—	Pittsburgh	0	0	0.000 1/2
Detroit	0	0.000	—	St. Louis	0	1	0.000 1

WEST DIVISION				WEST DIVISION			
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	1	0	1.000	Cincinnati	1	0	1.000
Oakland	0	0.000	1/2	Houston	1	0	1.000
Texas	0	0.000	1/2	San Diego	0	0	0.000 1/2
Chicago	0	0.000	1/2	S. Francisco	0	0	0.000 1/2
Minnesota	0	0.000	1/2	L. Angeles	0	1	0.000 1
Kan. City	0	1.000	1	Atlanta	0	1	0.000 1

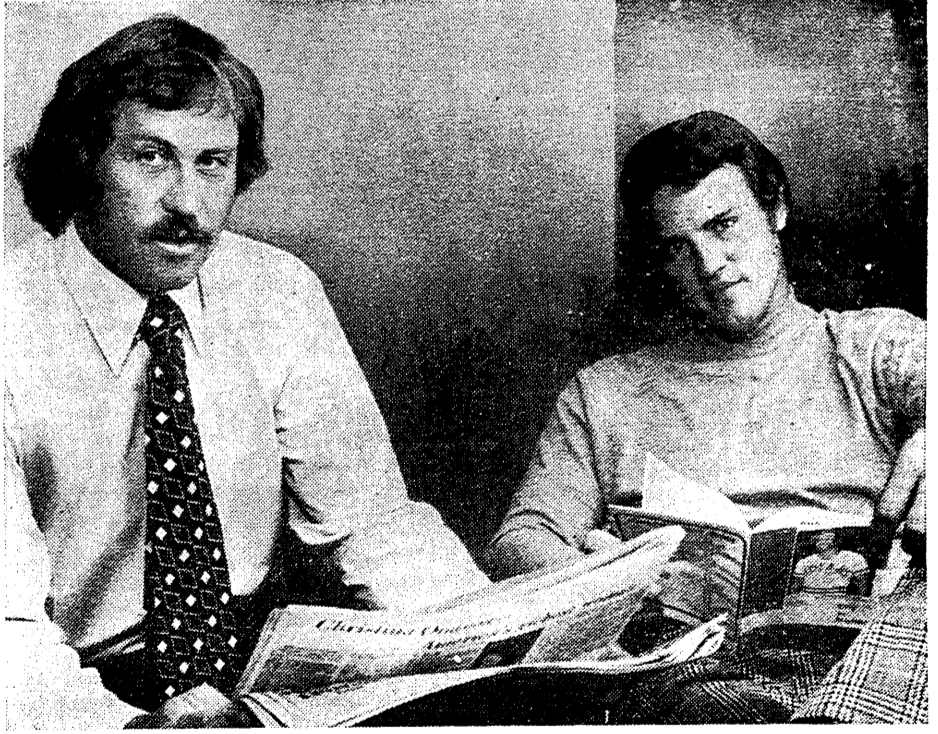
MONDAY  
California 3, Kansas City 2  
Only game scheduled.

TODAY'S GAMES  
New York at CLEVELAND, 2 p.m.—Medich (12-15) vs. G. Perry (21-13) 40,000  
Milwaukee at Boston, 2 p.m.—Slyvester (17-17) vs. Jenkins (14-19)  
Chicago at Oakland, 11 p.m.—Wood (20-19) vs. Bute (17-15) 25,000  
Baltimore at Detroit, ppd., snow  
WEDNESDAY  
Kansas City at California, 10:30 p.m.—Spittorth (13-19) vs. Singer (7-4) at Tacoma  
Minnesota at Texas, night  
Milwaukee at Boston

MONDAY  
Cincinnati 2, Los Angeles 1 (14 innings)  
Montreal 8, St. Louis 4  
Houston 6, Atlanta 2

TODAY'S GAMES  
Philadelphia of New York, 2:05 p.m.—Carlin (16-13) vs. Seaver (11-11) 25,000  
Atlanta at Houston, 8:35 p.m.—Carra (16-8) vs. Griffin (14-19)  
San Francisco at San Diego, 10 p.m.—Bart (13-9) vs. Jones (8-21) 40,000  
Pittsburgh at Chicago, ppd. Hill Wed., snow.  
Only games scheduled.  
WEDNESDAY  
Montreal at St. Louis  
Los Angeles at Cincinnati, night  
Atlanta at Houston, night  
Pittsburgh at Chicago, ppd. Hill Thurs., snow

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Catfish Hunter, left, and Yankees' opening-day pitcher Doc Medich relax after arriving from Florida.

★★★

## plain talk

BY CHUCK HEATON

### The opener—that special feeling

"Play Ball" for opening day was more than 24 hours away but already there was a ripple of excitement moving through the Stadium on Monday. The big park had come alive as the Indians took part in a final tuneup and workmen swarmed all over the place to put on the final touches for the beginning of the 1975 season.

There is something very special about the start of a new campaign. The aroma of hot dogs is particularly enticing. Hot coffee never tasted so good and the peanuts and popcorn are mouth-watering.

The home club hasn't lost a game. Hopes run high. After all, there have

been miracles before. The reality of August and September are far ahead.

It's a day when "Take Me Out to The Ball Game" tops the hit parade. Even the players get caught up in the whirl of excitement — and not just the neophytes.

Butterflies will be present for everyone. Even for Frank Robinson who will be in the lineup for his 20th opener, but his first as manager of a major league ball club.

"Opening day is always special," explained Robby who was surrounded by reporters throughout the practice and then conducted a long session in his office off the club house. "This is the new season and the hopes that go with it.

"Except perhaps for the first year

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