

56,204 see Robby's storybook debut



Indians' player-manager Frank Robinson hits a home run on his first time at bat this year

By Russell Schneider

Only Jackie Robinson would have been happier — and prouder — than Frank Robinson yesterday.

With an incredibly dramatic home run in his first at-bat as major league baseball's first black manager, Frank, along with Gaylord Perry and Boog Powell, led the Indians to a 5-3 victory over the New York Yankees in the season opening game.

A crowd of 56,204 fans cheered themselves hoarse in the appropriately-decorated Stadium, and gave the Indians a spine-tingling standing ovation at the end.

It was the kind of a debut for Robinson that even Hollywood wouldn't dare manufacture.

Robinson's homer gave the Tribe a short-lived, 1-0, lead in the first inning, and another homer by Powell, who also doubled and singled, tied the contest at 3-3 in the fourth.

Thereafter, Perry was superb, holding the Yankees to only three more scattered hits while the Indians rallied for two runs

in the sixth with Powell and Jack Brohamer making major contributions.

Powell's one-out double scored George Hendrick, who had walked, and then, with two out, Brohamer slashed a single up the middle for an insurance run.

"Any home run is a thrill, but I've got to admit, this one was a bigger thrill," acknowledged Robinson, who was hounded

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by photographers throughout the game, and surrounded by writers, broadcasters, and cameramen in his office afterwards.

Robby unloaded on a 2-and-2 pitch from Yankee starter and loser Doc Medich. "It was a fast ball, low and away," he said, describing the offering.

It was the 575th homer of Robinson's career, now entering its 20th season, and also the 2,901st hit for the 39-year-old player-manager who vows this is his final season as a player.

When Frank reached the plate, he tip-Continued on Page 2-G

Weyand recommends \$500 million

ARMY CHIEF ASKS MORE VIET AID

From Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the Army chief of staff, has recommended to President Ford that the United States rush additional military aid to South Vietnam for the defense of Saigon, administration officials reported yesterday.

According to reports circulating within the administration, Weyand, who returned last weekend from South Vietnam, has recommended Congress be asked for at least \$500 million in emergency military aid for South Vietnam. This would be \$200 million more than the \$300 million in additional aid already requested.

Reflecting the report he gave to President Ford over the weekend, Weyand told congressional committees yesterday South

Vietnam could not survive without additional U.S. military aid.

The general, talking with reporters after a closed-door appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, was somewhat less emphatic on whether South Vietnam could survive if given additional military aid.

That, he said, is "a very difficult question," but he said there was a "chance" South Vietnam could survive with sufficient aid.

"There is no question in my mind but that they will fight," he said of the South Vietnamese forces. He told the congressional committees South Vietnam is now drawing up a defensive line north of Saigon.

"They have been through a very traumatic experience," he said, "but they are getting an opportunity to put it back together again, and I think they will."

Meanwhile, Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., charged on the Senate floor yes-

• 3,000 to 4,000 more Vietnamese orphans to come to U.S. Page 4-A.

• Thieu tightens grip after bombing. Page 8-A.

terday morning that he had been "reliably informed" that "secret agreements" exist between the United States and South Vietnam that have never been acknowledged and that President Ford only heard about recently.

Without giving any details, Jackson said the secret agreements "envison fateful American decisions." He called on Ford to make public the commitments.

Neither the White House nor the State Department had any immediate comment, but the State Department spokesman referred newsmen to comment by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on Saturday in which he said the United States had no "legal commitment" to come to South Vietnam's support but rather a "moral commitment."

"I told Weyand that if I voted for one more cent in military aid to South Vietnam I would be run out of my state and I come from a very conservative state," said one senator, who asked not to be identified.

Meantime, Assistant Secretary of State Philip Habib, appearing at closed-door session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, agreed with Weyand that South Vietnam might survive given more aid.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., a foreign relations committee member, disagreed, calling more American aid a "boondoggle." He said the South Vietnamese "had the fourth largest air force in the world and they left it and ran for cover. It's sickening. The military ineptness!"

Humphrey, vice president during the time of the greatest buildup of U.S. forces in South Vietnam, told reporters later, "I'm not going to vote for one damn dime

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State pensions resist curb on investments

By Robert J. Caldwell
Plain Dealer Bureau

COLUMBUS—Concerned by paper losses totaling about \$450 million in Ohio's four major state retirement systems, a state legislator is trying to force the systems to adopt a more conservative investment policy.

The "losses" for the retirement systems, which have assets of \$6.2 billion, are based on a comparison of the purchase price of common stock and its current market value.

Directors of the retirement systems, who argue that their investments will pay off over the long haul, are resisting any effort to further restrict their investments in common stock.

State Rep. Thomas R. Gilmartin, D-15,

of Youngstown, chairman of the House Select Committee on Retirement, is pushing legislation that would reduce from 35% to 20% the amount of total assets the retirement systems can invest in common stock traded on major stock exchanges.

In a legislative hearing last night, representatives of the retirement systems opposed the Gilmartin proposal.

In recent years, some financial experts have criticized the retirement systems for adhering to an overly conservative investment policy.

"It just seemed a sort of compromise figure between what the retirement systems want and what some of us think they should have," he said.

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Lorain minority hiring pact offers recruiting, training

By Pauline Thoma

An agreement signed by Lorain yesterday is aimed at increasing minority employees to 22% of the municipalwork force.

The "affirmative action" resolution, passed by City Council and signed by Mayor Joseph J. Zahorec, is effective immediately. It offers greater opportunities to get on city payrolls to five minority groups—Negroes, Spanish, American Indians, Orientals and Eskimos.

The legislation authorizes Zahorec, Safety Director William H. Mills and Service Director Elio Jacobozzi to enter into a hiring, recruiting and training program with the Lorain NAACP Youth Chapter, the Cityview Community and Young Ministers Negotiating for the Poor.

The city employs 655 persons full time. Of those, 493 are white, 52 of Span-

ish descent, 72 are black and the remainder of various ethnic backgrounds.

Zahorec explained yesterday that the increased effort toward greater representation of Lorain's population mix on the city payroll followed complaints by minority groups that there was discrimination in spending federal revenue sharing funds.

"They listed 11 different complaints, so we have stipulated goals we are going to reach in those areas," he said. "It took us many days to agree to this, but we recognized there are problems and that something had to be done about them."

Census figures also have helped the city respond to its people, said Community Development Director Sanford A. Prudoff. "More concise figures reflect migration of blacks from the South and Spanish from

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Plain Dealer sketch/Edward S. Freska

Uncle Sam calls

Expo 75 at Cleveland's new Aviation High School is seeking to recruit those with technical skills to the armed services. Pupils from area high and vocational schools toured the show yesterday. Expo 75 emphasizes career openings. The show ends today. Photo on Page 5-C.

Channel 61 to go off air

By Raymond P. Hart

Channel 61, Cleveland's first commercial independent UHF television station will shut down April 25.

It will leave the air at 12:30 a.m. after a rerun of the "Perry Mason Show." It will be the first Cleveland TV station to close.

The decision on WKBF-TV came yesterday when the parent Kaiser Broadcasting Co. of San Francisco announced that it has agreed either to sell the assets of Channel 61 to United Artists Broadcasting of New York or to exchange the assets for an equity interest in Channel 43 (WUAB-TV) here, which is owned by United Artists.

No money figures were revealed and the precise action to be taken will be announced later.

"Kaiser Broadcasting has operated WKBF at a loss since January 1968," Don B. Curran, president of Kaiser Broadcast-

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The Plain Dealer

LOTTERY

match game

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