

Hal Asks

By Hal Lebovitz
Sports Editor

Everywhere he turned there were microphones. Microphones and photographers and reporters and flashbulbs and TV cameras. The crowd around him swelled and moved as he moved. Not even a head of state could have had more attention.

And the questions from the interviewers... over and over he heard them... the same ones and silly ones and some attempts at provocation. It was enough to make a

strong man shout, "Get away, already," and try to head for cover.

But he graciously took it all, handling himself with patience, dignity and intelligence. A top-drawer diplomat, a public relations expert could have taken lessons.

And when Frank Robinson was introduced to the crowd shortly before the first pitch and they cheered him he took off his hat in acknowledgment and waved to them.

And when he came to bat he forgot all the cameras and the microphones and

Was it fiction....?

everything but that Yankee pitcher and the little white ball and he concentrated and he hit it. He hit it over the fence. Fiction? Storybook stuff? No, it was real.

And after he ran around the bases and tagged home plate he didn't forget the people, the 56,204 who had cheered his name earlier and who had come to witness his managerial debut on this bitter-cold day. He stopped and took off his cap again and waved to the multitude. And even if you were frozen the heart pounded faster and the blood flowed quicker from the thrill.

And his players rushed out to share that moment with him. And who was the first? Gaylord Perry, who had made his rookie days as a manager uncomfortable.

And when the game finally was over and Gaylord Perry had tossed out the

Also inside

Yanks' Viridon—Page 4-G

Schneider Around—Page 5-G

Other photos—Page 7-G

More sports—Page 8-E

final batter it was Robinson who rushed out to put his arm around the winning pitcher.

And all the while the cameras kept grinding, recording it all for history. And when it was over there were the microphones again and more flash bulbs and the reporters and the TV cameras and to the end he handled himself with class and with style.

A magnificent debut. A storybook debut. A virtuoso performance.

Many happy returns, Frank Robinson.



Gaylord Perry greets manager Frank Robinson at home plate after Robinson homered in his first at-bat as pilot-designated hitter. At right, Robinson congratulates game winner Perry after the last out as photographers rush in.



The Plain Dealer/Robert E. Dorkson

Robby's homer ignites Indians



Boog Powell scores on Jack Brohamer's single in the sixth inning and is congratulated by Oscar Gamble.

By Chuck Heaton

Gaylord Perry was pulling his sweaty undershirt over that balding dome. Boog Powell was calming his nerves in the jam-packed Indians' dressing room with a foamy drink.

Both had been mighty contributors to the Tribe's opening day victory before one of the most enthusiastic turnouts to grace the Stadium in a long time.

Perry had pulled out of early trouble and gone the distance to stop the New York Yankees, 5-3, on a bone-chilling Tuesday.

Powell had provided the big bat. The towering first baseman rapped a home run, double and single, drew a walk, scored three runs and drove in a pair in this explosive debut in a Cleveland uniform.

The two veterans wanted to talk about

Frank Robinson, however, rather than their own performances. They agreed that the manager's dramatic first inning home run had been the most important single incident in one of the club's most exciting get-away days ever.

"He (Robinson) took the pressure off with that home run the first time up," declared Perry who has been at odds with the manager on a couple of occasions in the past. "I know he was nervous and excited before the game.

"That hit took the pressure off him and everybody else. I'm very happy for him, that the game turned out this way."

Powell wasn't completely surprised when Robinson came to the plate in that first inning and drove the ball over the left field fence.

"I was hoping for him and had in the back of my mind how super it would be if he could do just that," said the first baseman. "I was screaming along with everyone in the dugout when he hit the ball.

"It reminded me of the 1966 World Series." Continued on Page 5-G

Crusaders must set early tempo

By Rich Passan
Staff Writer

HOUSTON—There are 60 minutes in every hockey game, of course, but there will be none more important to the Crusaders than the first 10 when they open up their drive for a World Trophy championship here Thursday night against the Houston Aeros.

"The key to beating Houston will be the first 10 minutes of the first period," said Cleveland coach and general manager Jack Vivian Tuesday. "That has cost us two games down there this year.

"We're going to have to set the tempo during that time because they're going to be coming after us, there's no doubt about it," continued Vivian.

"They jumped on us all three times down there during the regular season and we were able to come back just once. We'll need plenty of discipline against them."

In order to shut off the potent Houston attack in the early stages of the game, Vivian is planning on sending in only one forward and hanging two back.

That's what Vivian meant by setting the tempo. By keeping two forwards back, the Aeros won't be able to get any break-aways.

"One thing we won't do is get into a scoring contest with Houston," Vivian promised. "We might send in only one man the whole game. We've proved we can score against them when we have to."

There's no argument there. The Crusaders have scored 16 goals in three

Continued on Page 4-G

Lee Elder is pleased by Masters galleries

By Bill Nichols
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga.—Lee Elder admits he's not a baseball fan nor does he know Frank Robinson very well, but does admit to the similarity in their situations this week.

Although the 40-year-old Elder doesn't like the word barrier, both he and the Indians manager have crossed a couple of dandies this week. Robinson, of course, became the first black major league manager officially in Tuesday's opener at the Stadium and Elder is the first black ever to receive an invitation to the Masters.

"I don't really care for baseball,"

said Lee at a massive news conference Tuesday, "I saw the old Washington Senators play once, but I'm not a fan.

"I can only congratulate him (Robinson) for what he achieved and I hope he feels the same about me.

"I was with Henry Aaron at a golf tournament last year and we talked, but not about any barriers," added Elder. "He congratulated me and that was about all.

"No, I don't feel like any great man in history because I'm the first to play in the Masters and that's the way I like it. I wouldn't have taken a special invitation to

Continued on Page 6-G



Major League Standings

American EAST DIVISION				National EAST DIVISION			
CL	B	BAL	D	MIL	K	SEA	STL
CLEVE	1	0	1.000	Montreal	1	0	1.000
Boston	1	0	1.000	New York	1	0	1.000
Baltimore	0	0	.000 1/2	Los Angeles	0	0	.000 1/2
Detroit	0	0	.000 1/2	Pittsburgh	0	0	.000 1/2
Milwaukee	0	1	.000 1	Phila.	0	1	.000 1
Kansas City	0	1	.000 1	St. Louis	0	1	.000 1

WEST DIVISION				WEST DIVISION			
CA	HO	ATL	SD	MIN	PHI	MON	NY
California	1	0	1.000	Cincinnati	1	0	1.000
Houston	1	0	1.000	Houston	1	1	.500 1/2
Oakland	1	0	1.000	Atlanta	1	1	.500 1/2
Chicago	0	1	.000 1	San Diego	0	0	.000 1/2
Kan. City	0	1	.000 1	S. Fr'nco	0	0	.000 1/2
Texas	0	1	.000 1	L. Angeles	0	1	.000 1

TUESDAY
CLEVELAND 5, New York 3
Boston 5, Milwaukee 2
Minnesota 11, Texas 4
Kansas City of California, and due to rain
Oakland 3, Chicago 2
Only Games

TODAY'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Boston, 3:30 p.m.—Broberg (8-4) vs. Lee (17-13)
Minnesota at Texas, 9 p.m.—Decker (16-14) vs. Bibby (19-19)
Kansas City of California, 10:30 p.m.—Brites (5-7) vs. Singer (7-4)
Chicago at Oakland, 11 p.m.—Bennett (12-13) of Kogut (17-13) vs. Holtzman (17-7)

THURSDAY
Baltimore at Detroit
Chicago at Oakland, night
Minnesota at Texas, night

TUESDAY
New York 2, Philadelphia 1
Atlanta 2, Houston 0
San Francisco at San Diego, and due to rain
Only games

TODAY'S GAMES
Montreal at St. Louis, 1:30 p.m.—Ripps (15-22) vs. Forsch (7-4)
Los Angeles at Cincinnati, 8:05 a.m.—Messersmith (26-6) vs. Bingham (19-11)
Atlanta at Houston, 9:35 p.m.—Reed (10-11) vs. Richard (2-3)
San Francisco at San Diego, 10 p.m.—Barr (13-9) vs. Jones (6-22)

THURSDAY
Philadelphia at New York
Pittsburgh at Chicago
Montreal at St. Louis, night
Los Angeles at Cincinnati, night
San Francisco at San Diego, night

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