

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1975

Face Aeros in playoff opener

'Second' season begins for C's tonight

By Rich Passan
Staff Writer

HOUSTON—Life begins anew for the Crusaders tonight at 8:30 at the Sam Houston Coliseum.

That's when the underdog C's try to accomplish a most difficult task—knocking off the powerful Houston Aeros in a best-of-seven series in the World Trophy playoffs.

The past, in this case the 1974-75 por-

tion of the World Hockey Association regular season, is a memory now. A bitter memory.

Gone are the numerous injuries, five postponed games and the ill-timed firing of Coach John Hanna. The future is what the Crusaders are looking at.

What counts now is the second season, the euphemistic term applied to the playoffs. The money is on the line now with

the Crusaders taking dead aim on the \$15,000 each of them will receive if they go all the way.

But the road will be rugged, particularly in the opening round against the awesome Aeros, who scored more goals and won more games than any other team in the WHA during the regular campaign.

The Aeros, defending World Trophy champions, should have an easy time with

the Crusaders. They whipped the C's in five of the six games they had this season, including all three times in Cleveland.

The Crusaders will be trying for at least a split of the first two games at Sam Houston, where they have achieved moderate success in the last three years. If they can do that and play well at the Coliseum, it could be an interesting series.

Cleveland, after playing with consist-

ent mediocrity through most of the season, has come alive in the last six weeks and, while the record is not reflected, played well.

The Clevelanders, who enter the playoffs with the worst record of the eight competing teams, won every game they had to down the stretch. The offense, which had been a sputtering misnomer

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While tension hits Elder

Nicklaus feels confident

By Bill Nichols
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jack Nicklaus approaches the 39th Masters with supreme confidence while Lee Elder battles visetight pressure as golf's first major championship of the year gets underway today at storied old Augusta National Golf Club.

Nicklaus, feeling more confident than

he's been in a long time, comes to Augusta riding the wings of two straight tour triumphs at Doral and Hilton Head. Elder will end 51 weeks of tension when he becomes the first black ever to compete here. It was a year ago next week when he qualified by winning the Monsanto Open.

"I've watched the Masters for years

on television just wishing I could play here," said Elder. "I knew it would happen someday, though."

Nicklaus' fellow pros look at him this week with reverence. For the man, they stamp The Bear as the favorite.

"Jack has to be the favorite," said

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Tribe family basks in glory of Opening Day's success

By Russell Schneider

From President Ted Bonda to club-house chief Fy Bunyak, members of the Indians' "family" basked Wednesday in the after-glow of Tuesday's most dramatic and successful Opening Day game in years.

Enjoying one of the many open dates on the Tribe schedule this month, the Tribesmen attended to all sorts of chores, though many voluntarily worked out on the still-frozen turf of the Stadium.

All will practice this morning and participate Friday in Milwaukee's home open-

er, featuring a designated-hitter-duel between the Brewers' Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson, player-manager of the Indians whose exploits on Opening Day were so lustily cheered.

Friday's game against the Brewers will take place at 2:30 p.m. (E.D.T.), and the two clubs which have been picked by the "experts" to battle for fourth place in the eastern division, play again Saturday and Sunday (also at 2:30 p.m.).

Then the Indians return home to four more consecutive open dates and meet the Brewers — and Aaron — in a three-game weekend set beginning Friday, April 18.

But for now, everybody except Robinson preferred to relive the glorious deeds of the opener.

Robinson didn't object — "I couldn't and wouldn't have asked for anything better" — but still, he said, "You know me... I'd rather look ahead than behind."

"Right now I'm thinking more about Friday than I am thinking about Tuesday."

Which is as it should be, though nothing ahead would deprive Bonda and general manager Phil Seghi of the artistic and financial success involved in the 5-3 inaugural victory over the New York Yankees.

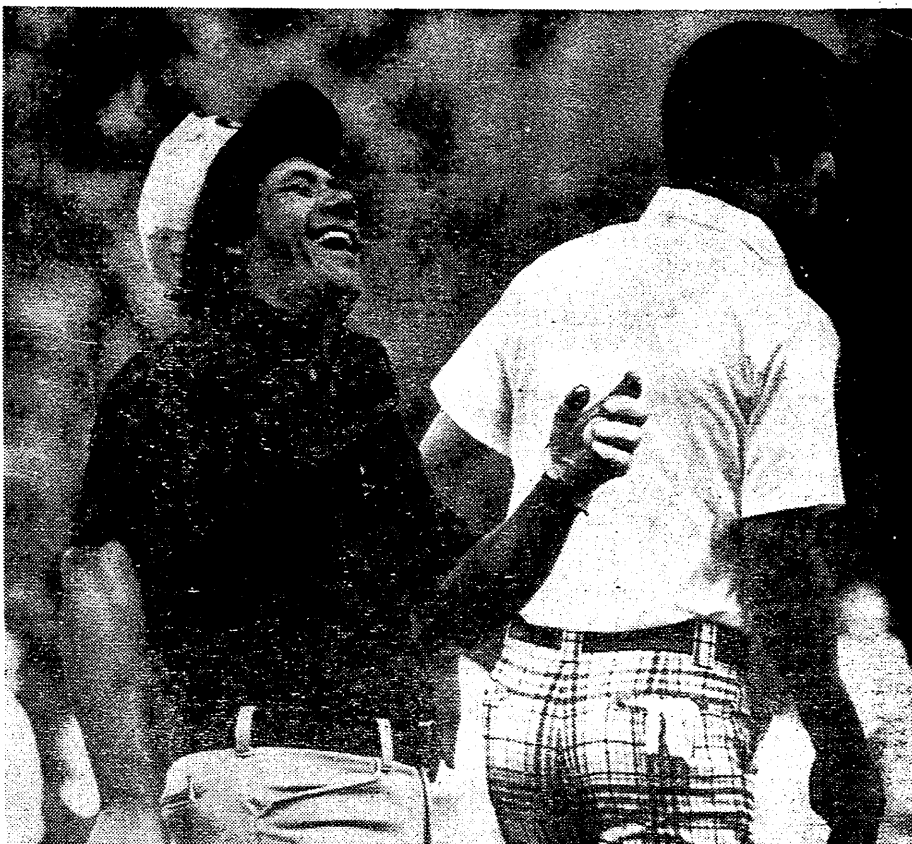
"I never dreamed Frank would break in the way he did," said Seghi of Robinson's electrifying homer, the 57th of his major league career, in his first at-bat as the Tribe's player-manager.

"In fact, I never even dared to hope he'd do what he did — but knowing him as I do after all these years, I'm not surprised by anything about that man's ability to rise to an occasion.

"Frank Robinson doing the unusual is only usual for him.

"In all my years in baseball, I've never been involved in anything more

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Associated Press

Lee Trevino laughs it up in a practice round at Augusta in preparation for today's start of the Masters tournament. Hubert Green is the golfer with his back to Trevino.

Margot Tiff signs contract with Nets

By George Sweda

Margot Tiff has returned to Cleveland, where she first learned to play tennis, as the first black woman in World Team Tennis.

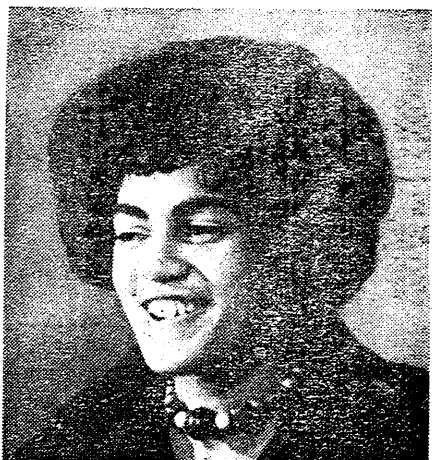
The diminutive, 5-2 Miss Tiff has signed a contract to play with the Cleveland Nets, who open their 1975 season on May 6th in New York.

In announcing her signing at a Wednesday press conference, Nets' owner Joe Zingale said, "I have not signed a good black tennis player but rather a good player."

Miss Tiff, who graduated from Shaker Heights High School, was known as "mighty mite" on the Virginia Slims mini-circuit where she competed last fall at the urging of Zingale.

She'll be the third or fourth woman on the Nets' roster, according to Zingale. "She can go as far as her ability will take her," he said. "We're giving her the opportunity to prove herself with the Nets."

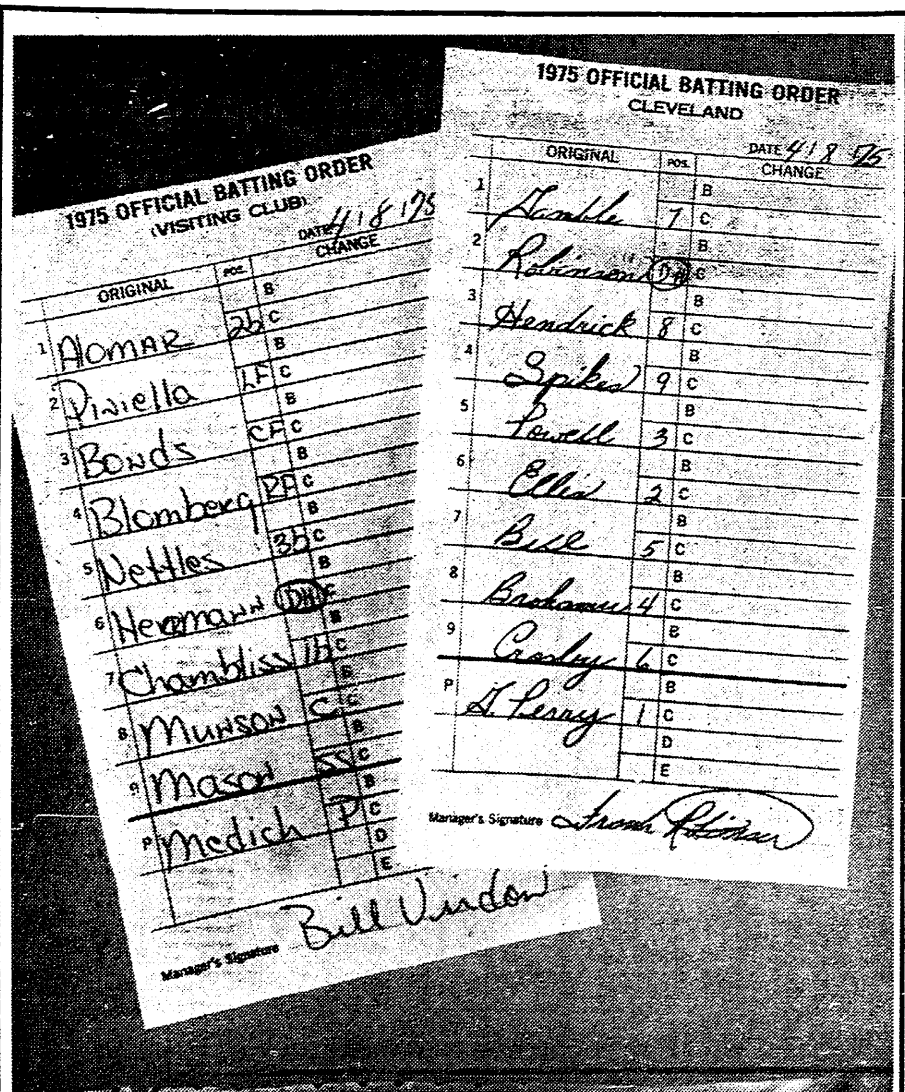
At California State University at Los Angeles, she played basketball and ran



Margot Tiff

track as well as playing tennis, earning the MVP award in basketball and helping the MVP relay team take first place in the women's nationals in 1974. She com-

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Historic Cards

Above is a photo of the official lineup cards, made out by Indians' manager Frank Robinson, and Bill Virdon the Yankees' manager, for Tuesday's opening game. They were given to Russell Schneider, The Plain Dealer's baseball writer who was the official scorer. They have been requested by baseball's Hall of Fame and soon will be on display in Cooperstown.

Reds' 2 runs in ninth shade Dodgers, 4-3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Darrel Chaney and pinch hitter Dave Concepcion cracked run-scoring singles off Los Angeles relief ace Mike Marshall in the ninth inning, rallying the Cincinnati Reds to a 4-3 victory Wednesday night, their second in a row over the Dodgers.

After Marshall quelled bases-loaded jams in the seventh and eighth innings, Ken Griffey opened the ninth with a triple and n scored on Chaney's single. Doug Flynn sacrificed and Concepcion, who didn't start at shortstop because of a pulled groin muscle, batted for winning pitcher Pedro Borbon and singled to center, delivering Chaney.

The Dodgers, defending National League champions, had taken a 3-0 lead against Jack Billingham on a walk. Jimmy Wynn's double and Steve Garvey's grounder in the first inning and Bill Buckner's two-run homer in the fifth.

Marshall, who set a major league record by pitching in 106 games last season, made his second appearance in as many games this season when he relieved starter Andy Messersmith with a 3-1 lead in the seventh after a leadoff walk to Tony Perez and Cesar Geronimo's double put runners on second and third.

Box score on Page 2-E

Major League Standings

American				National			
EAST DIVISION				EAST DIVISION			
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB
CLEVE.	1	0	1.000	New York	1	0	1.000
Boston	1	1	.500	Montreal	1	1	.500
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	St. Louis	1	1	.500
Baltimore	0	0	.000	Chicago	0	0	.000
Detroit	0	0	.000	Pittsburgh	0	0	.000
New York	0	1	.000	Phila.	0	1	.000
WEST DIVISION				WEST DIVISION			
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	Cincinnati	2	0	1.000
Kan. City	1	1	.500	Houston	2	1	.667
Oakland	1	1	.500	Atlanta	1	2	.333
Chicago	1	1	.500	S. Diego	0	0	.000
California	1	1	.500	S. Fran'co	0	0	.000
Texas	0	2	.000	L. Angeles	0	2	.000

WEDNESDAY				WEDNESDAY			
Milwaukee	7	Boston	4	St. Louis	4	Montreal	0
Minnesota	3	Texas	2	Cincinnati	4	Los Angeles	3
Chicago	7	Oakland	5	Houston	14	Atlanta	7
Kansas City	7	California	6	San Francisco	at San Diego,	and, night	
Only games scheduled				Only games scheduled			
TODAY'S GAMES				TODAY'S GAMES			
Baltimore	at Detroit	1:30		Montreal	at St. Louis	1:30	
Chicago	at Oakland	4:30		Philadelphia	at New York	2:05	
Minn.	at Tex.	9 p.m.		Pittsburgh	at Chicago	2:30	
Calif.	at Texas	9 p.m.		Los Angeles	at Cincinnati	8:05	
Chi.	at Tex.	9 p.m.		S. Fran'co	at S. Diego	10 p.m.	
FRIDAY				FRIDAY			
Cleveland	at Milwaukee			Montreal	at Chicago		
Boston	at New York			Atlanta	at San Francisco		
Minn.	at Kansas City			St. Louis	at Philadelphia		
Oakland	at Texas	night		Los Angeles	at Houston	night	
Chi.	at Calif.	night		Cincinnati	at San Diego	night	



Associated Press

Out of hibernation

Steve Swisher, left; Jerry Morales, center and Jose Cardenal of the Chicago Cubs pitch in to help workmen clear Wrigley Field of snow in time for today's opener, which was rescheduled from Tuesday.