

Odds & INNS



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

On the road in Indianapolis...

Fashion plates: In at least one regard, the competitors at the late and hardly lamented Pan American Games resembled those who compete for attention at whatever bistro happens to be fashionable this half-hour. How? Both worry about the labels they wear.

A case of creative tension

It might be an exaggeration to call the United States Cycling Federation the New York Yankees of the amateur sports world—but then again, it might not be. At the vortex of this particular maelstrom is Eddie Borysewicz, the controversial national men's coach who over the last decade has developed the U.S. into an international cycling power.

Eddie live!

Borysewicz is not exactly slipping off quietly into the night, and before he departed these Games, he expressed just what he felt about the changes that are going on in cycling. He talked generically of unnamed interlopers cutting in on his action, and then declared: "After the [1984] Olympic Games, all the politicians saw the money coming in and wanted to be big shots."

The bright side

It was hard to miss Rhonda Faehn at the gym competition over the weekend. In a sport in which most of her peers stand less than 5 feet, she is a giant oak in a forest of saplings. True, Faehn is only 5-4, but that makes her a half-foot taller than reigning U.S. star Kristie Phillips.

Talking about little people...

... consider the case of Alefina Pryakina, who is 4-7, weighs 68 pounds, and is a rising gymnastic star in the Soviet Union. She was third all-around at the European Junior Championships last year, third in this year's USSR national championships and is expected to be a vital element on the Soviet team at the World Championships in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in October.

On the sidelines

Gymnast Phoebe Mills attended a postmeet press conference wearing her teammates' wristwatches strapped up her right arm. "A new style," she joked, but the laughter could not mask the disappointment she felt inside. Mills, who is from Northfield, did not compete here because of a heel injury.

The deepest cut

Former NBA star Rick Barry came here to cheer on the U.S. women's basketball team, but he was not able to applaud. His left arm was in a cast. Barry, who worked out with the women in Colorado Springs to help prepare them for the Games, told us: "I got undercut by one of the girls and ended up with a broken hand and a fractured forearm."

And finally...

... this makes us wonder how he would have done if he were healthy: Tim Daggett, who won the all-around bronze medal in the men's gymnastics competition here, returned home to California and visited a doctor in hopes of learning why he was not feeling so well. The diagnosis: mononucleosis.

Tension mounts, but so does a grand streak

MILWAUKEE—The pressure doesn't seem to be getting to Paul Molitor, who is still cool on the trigger, but the level of suspense was turned up a notch here Sunday.



Jerome Holtzman On baseball

Retired on routine fly balls in his first two trips, Molitor played the cat-and-mouse game in his third at-bat with Kansas City's Charlie Leibrandt. He guessed right and tomahawked a hard single to left field to lengthen his consecutive batting streak to 38 games, fourth longest in modern baseball history.

Unlike the first two games of this weekend series, when Molitor hit safely in the fourth and first innings, he didn't connect until he led off the fifth. The partisan County Stadium crowd of 33,887 showered him with cheers as he stood alongside Royals first baseman George Brett while the ball was being retrieved and thrown into the Milwaukee dugout, the latest souvenir in the Brewer star's quest for the heroic 56-game record achieved 46 years ago by Joe DiMaggio.

"He jammed me the first two times," Molitor said later, referring to Leibrandt. "I didn't want it to happen a third time."

And so Molitor, a first-ball, fastball hitter, had his bat cocked and ready when Leibrandt opened with another slider on the inside half of the plate. There was absolutely no hesitation. It was the pitch and location Molitor expected, and he hit it solid, a drive that bounced about 15 feet in front of left

fielder Lonnie Smith.

"I like to come out swinging," Molitor explained, "because you know the pitcher wants to get ahead on the count and will throw a strike. I'm not a good two-strike hitter. Most of my hits come early in the count."

The first two times up, Molitor was retired on Leibrandt's second pitch. He broke his bat in the first inning when he fled to Willie Wilson in left-center. In the third, he got under another inside slider and went out on a fly to Smith in shallow left.

"He usually pitches me away," Molitor said. "That's how he gets me out. But I thought he'd come inside again. The key is not to squeeze the bat too tightly. It was a great feeling to see the ball go through."

The hit enabled Molitor to pass Tommy Holmes of the old Boston Braves. Holmes had a 37-game streak in 1945.

Leibrandt, who has a good sense of fair play, acknowledged he had mixed emotions. "It's good for the game," he conceded. "I'd like to see him it keep going. The last thing I wanted to do was

walk him. But I wasn't going to lay it in for him. He was going to have to earn it. I was trying to give him my best pitch. But it was a bad pitch. It was flat. It hung up there for him."

It was a half-hour after the game, and Leibrandt stood among a cluster fans outside the visitor's clubhouse with his parents, Charles and Anne of suburban Glenview. They admitted they were rooting for Molitor—with reservations.

"It was okay if he got a hit," said Mrs. Leibrandt. "As long as he didn't score." But Molitor not only got his hit, he also scored the run that broke a tie and gave the Brewers their first lead at 5-4. Although Molitor was hitless thereafter—he walked in the sixth and took a third strike in seventh—the Brewers won 10-5, their sixth victory in the last seven games.

"We gave it a good shot here," said Leibrandt, referring to teammates Danny Jackson and Bret Saberhagen, the other two Royals starters in this series. "We'd like to have another shot at him when he comes to Kansas City."

Monday is an open date for the Brewers. Ken Schrom, a breaking-ball pitcher, will make Tuesday night's start for the Indians. Molitor has had excellent success against him—8 hits in 21 at-bats lifetime.

The Brewers have six more games on this homestand, three against Cleveland, starting Tuesday night, and three more against Minnesota. Neither the Indians nor the Twins have better than average starting pitchers. If Molitor succeeds against them, his streak would be at 44

games when the Brewers arrive in Kansas City Sept. 1.

By then, he would have passed Ty Cobb, who batted safely in 40 consecutive games in 1911, and equaled the 44-game streak achieved by Pete Rose in 1978. Only the great DiMag had a longer streak.

Molitor continued to express doubt about catching DiMaggio.

"It's far, far way," he said during a press conference after Sunday's game. "Going from 37 to 38 really doesn't make that much difference. It's not significant in comparison to the record." Then he laughed. "The streak survived one more day."

As for the pressure, he said there was more tension in the Friday night game here than in either the Saturday or Sunday games.

"I felt a lot more relieved after Friday, because it was the first game here. I really had trouble controlling my emotions and staying on an even keel. There was a lot of pressure. It was our first game back [after an eight-game road trip]. I didn't want to disappoint our fans."

As the designated hitter, Molitor doesn't play on defense and often goes into the clubhouse between at-bats. He did this after his hit off Leibrandt in the fifth and opened the door to see if his wife, Linda, and their 3-year-old daughter, Blaire, were outside.

"They were there," Molitor said. "And my daughter had an ice cream cone with a double scoop. We told her before the game that if Daddy gets a hit, she can have two scoops."

Molitor makes it 38 as Brewers rip Royals

From Chicago Tribune wires MILWAUKEE—The Milwaukee Brewers' Paul Molitor, hitless in his first two at-bats, led off the bottom of the fifth inning Sunday by lining a Charlie Leibrandt slider to left on the first pitch, extending his hitting streak to 38 games.

And, for the third straight day, he received a standing ovation, this time from a County Stadium crowd of 33,887.

Oh, yes. The Brewers won the game, 10-5, over Kansas City. "Thirty-eight—I was thinking about that today," said Molitor. "That's a long time, you know, and those numbers still seem far away out there."

Only Ty Cobb with a 40-game streak in 1911, George Sisler with 41 straight in 1922, Pete Rose with 44 straight in 1978 and Joe DiMaggio with 56 straight in 1941 stand ahead of Molitor.

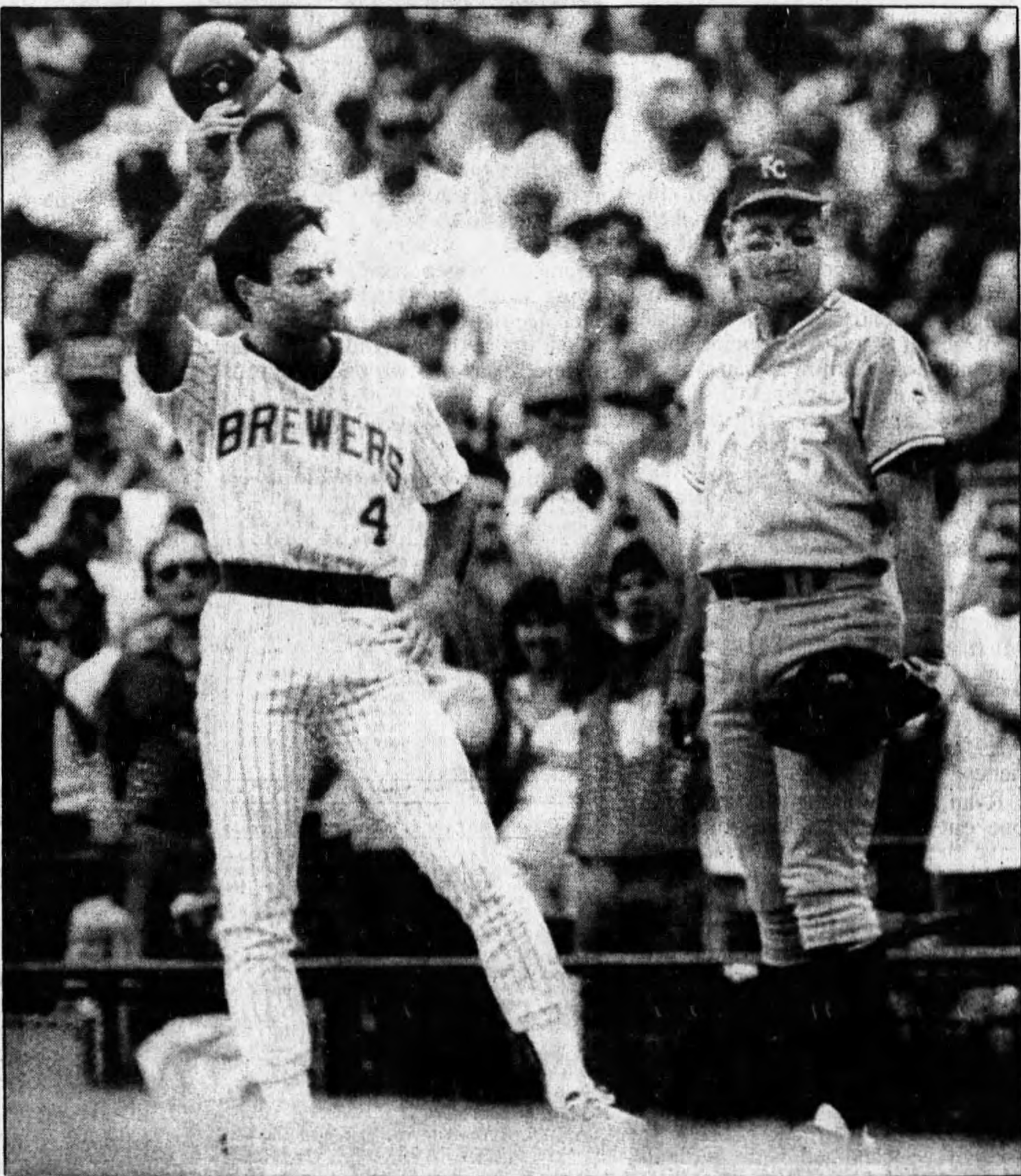
"This was an emotional one, like watching 'The Babe Ruth Story' or something," said Brewers manager Tom Trebelhorn.

In his fourth at-bat, in the sixth, Molitor walked. He struck out in the seventh to finish the game 1 for 4. He is 67-for-160, a .419 average, during his streak.

The Brewers got big contributions from Greg Brock and Bill Schroeder, who had four hits and three runs batted in apiece.

Schroeder singled, stole second, moved to third on Ernest Riles' in-

Molitor's streak 38 His fifth-inning single off Charlie Leibrandt breaks Paul Molitor's tie with Tommy Holmes at 37 straight games.



The Brewers' Paul Molitor acknowledges a standing ovation after his single Sunday extended his hitting streak to 38 games. Another noted hitter, George Brett, looks on.

field single off reliever Bob Stoddard and scored on a wild pitch to give the Brewers a 6-5 lead in the sixth. Juan Castillo followed with an RBI single, scoring Riles.

Schroeder made it 9-5 with a two-run double in the seventh.

"Treb [Trebelhorn] has shown a lot of confidence in me," Schroeder said. "Now I'm just letting it fly, and good things are happening to me."

Table with columns: Kansas City, Milwaukee, AB, R, H, B, Errors. Lists stats for various players like Wilson, Seitzer, Brett, etc.

Table with columns: Kansas City, Milwaukee, Game-winning RBI—None. Lists stats for Stoddard, Riles, etc.

Table with columns: Kansas City, Milwaukee, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Lists stats for Leibrandt, Seitzer, etc.

BRIEFS

The Big 10 will ask a federal judge this week to order sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom to reveal the names of any Big 10 athletes they sign to contracts, the Atlanta Constitution reported. "It's relatively simple," said Big 10 attorney Byron Gregory. "Our position is that the 10 universities have the right to conduct their programs free of jeopardizing their position by the action of these agents. The key here is the concealment issue. The agents have signed student-athletes with the intent to mislead the universities and conference into believing that these students are eligible athletically when they in fact are not."



U.S. sprinter Roddie Haley looks a bit bored Sunday at a warmup for this week's world championships.

Hungarian Tamas Darnyi's world record, his second of the competition, highlighted Sunday's final day at the European Swimming Championships. Darnyi was timed in 2 minutes 0.56 seconds in the 200-meter individual medley to better Canadian Alex Baumann's mark of 2:01.42 set at the 1984 Olympic Games. Last Tuesday, Darnyi, 20, set a world record in the 400 individual medley with 4:15.42.

Former javelin world record-holder Fatima Whitbread may withdraw from the world championships in Rome this week because of a strained shoulder. "I've had almost every treatment possible to cure the problem, but it's still there," she said.

Richard L. Bloch, Phoenix Suns chairman of the board, would neither confirm nor deny reports that the NBA team is up for sale. The Suns have struggled through three consecutive losing seasons and recent drug indictments against some current and former players. "The damage to the

franchise was enormous, but we will recover," Bloch said. Stories began circulating last week that the team was on the market for \$45 million. "I get these questions every six months," Bloch said. "We're not running a classified ad for basketball franchises."

Mexico's Raul Alcala took the overall title in the Coors International Bicycle Classic in Colorado. Alcala, of the 7-Eleven team, topped the individual standings in the 1,385-mile race with a combined time of 57 hours 7 minutes 14 seconds.

Sheldon Larson, 27, of Boulder, Colo., won the 32d Pikes Peak Marathon in Colorado Springs. Larson beat out more than 1,000 runners and finished in 3:41:57. Dan Dickenson, 27, of the Reebok Track Club won the Hispanic half-marathon for the third straight year, covering the 13.1 miles in New York City's Central Park in 1:06:57.

Greg Barton of the U.S. won his second gold medal in the World Championship canoe races at Duisburg, West Germany, winning the 10,000-meter single kayak event in 43:53.22.

Didier Pironi, a former Formula One auto racer, was one of three Frenchmen killed Sunday during an international offshore powerboat race. Pironi, 35, was at the wheel of his 40-

foot boat, Colibri, when it overturned on the second lap of the 175-mile race around the Isle of Wight off southern England. Conditions were described as calm when the boat, one of 58 in the race, crashed at a speed approaching 115 miles per hour, killing all three crew members. No other boats were involved. The two other victims were Bernard Giroux, a well-known motor-racing commentator for French television, and Jean-Claude Guenard, the No. 2 driver in the boat. Portuguese soccer player, Paulo Navalho, collapsed and died during an exhibition match against a United Arab Emirates team in Lisbon. Navalho, 22, fell flat on his back just minutes into the game and was dead on arrival at a suburban hospital. Cause of death was not immediately known.

Team Canada cut forwards Wendel Clark of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Cam Neely of the Boston Bruins and Derrick Smith of the Philadelphia Flyers; goaltender Patrick Roy of the Montreal Canadiens and defenseman Rob Ramage of the St. Louis Blues and Brad McCrimmon of the Flyers. The cuts were made before Mark Messier scored twice and set up two other goals in Team Canada's 4-2 exhibition victory over Czechoslovakia Sunday in Hamilton, Ont.

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

