

Baseball season opens with historic milestones

Bonds, Hernandez key in Giant win

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds hit his third opening-day home run and Livan Hernandez took care of the rest.

Hernandez allowed six hits in 7 1-3 innings, and the San Francisco Giants began their second year at Pacific Bell Park with a season-opening 3-2 win over the San Diego Padres on Monday.

Hernandez broke open a 1-1 tie in the fourth with a single that scored Bobby Estalella, who had doubled off Woody Williams with two outs.

Bonds, eligible for free agency after this season, hit a solo homer in the fifth, the 495th home run of his career.

When Bonds returned to left field in the sixth inning, the fans in the bleachers gave him a standing ovation and chanted "Barry! Barry!" Bonds acknowledged them with a tip of his cap.

Bonds also threw out Tony Gwynn at the plate in the fourth. Gwynn, who didn't play after June 23 last year and is coming back from knee surgery, was trying to score from third on Wiki Gonzalez's single to left.

Gwynn, who was sliding home, clutched his leg after the tag, but returned to right field in the bottom of the fourth. He went 2 for 4, batting fifth in the order for the first time since 1983, his second season.

Gwynn's RBI single in the eighth gave him 3,110 hits, tying new Hall of Famer Dave Winfield for 16th on the career list.

Marvin Benard added an RBI single for the Giants in the sixth.

Robb Nen, who had 41 saves last

season, struck out the side in the ninth for the save.

Williams gave up all three runs, six hits and five walks in 5 2-3 innings.

Mike Darr drove in San Diego's first run with a sixth-inning single.

Pacific Bell Park, San Francisco's jewel of a ballpark with sweeping bay views, was decked out in bunting for the opening day festivities. The field, which had been a concern after the San Francisco Demons' XFL season, was nearly pristine.

Former Giants first baseman Will Clark got one of the biggest hands of the day from the sellout crowd when he threw out the first pitch.

Notes: Gwynn became the 16th player with 20 or more seasons with the same team and made his 18th straight opening day start. ... Padres manager Bruce Bochy, who injured his ankle in a minor motorcycle accident, was on crutches and wearing a walking cast on opening day. ... It was Hernandez's third career opening day win.

Sheffield produces for Dodgers

LOS ANGELES — Gary Sheffield made peace with the fans at Dodger Stadium on Monday. All it took was one swing.

Sheffield hit Jamey Wright's second pitch of the sixth inning about 440 feet over the center-field fence as the Los Angeles Dodgers opened the season with a 1-0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Chan Ho Park, making his first opening-day start as a replacement for the injured Kevin Brown, struck out seven in seven innings and allowed five hits.

Park, who finished last season with 25 consecutive scoreless in-

nings, got the win to make first-year manager Jim Tracy's debut a success.

But the story was Sheffield, who was loudly booed by the sellout crowd of 53,154 at Dodger Stadium before the game and prior to his first three at-bats.

"I hope all is forgiven," he said afterward. "I'm not upset. I understand the fans' reaction, no matter what it may be. The bottom line is we need the fan support to get to the World Series."

"It's just good to win, that's the bottom line."

Sheffield, who criticized management and demanded a trade when his request for a contract extension was denied, was coaxed out of the dugout for a curtain call following the home run.

"A fitting ending for him, and also quite a statement by the fans of Los Angeles and what they're all about," Tracy said. "It just did my heart good to see them respond like that. I take my cap off to every one of them."

Sheffield was 2-for-2 with two walks and also made a fine running catch in the first on Geoff Jenkins' slicing fly ball in the left-field corner.

"Awesome, that's all you can say," said Mike Fetters, who allowed one hit in the eighth while striking out the side. "He's our franchise guy. He's not the enemy. Hopefully, the fans will warm up to him again."

Jeff Shaw finished with a perfect ninth for the save, and Tracy, hired to succeed Davey Johnson as manager of the Dodgers five months ago, was a winner.

"It's a very gratifying feeling, I've got to tell you," he said.

Phillies outlast Marlins in 13

MIAMI — New season, familiar frustrations. Preston Wilson struck out twice, Larry Bowa argued in vain with an umpire and Omar Daal gave up back-to-back homers.

One surprise: The Philadelphia Phillies won.

Reliever Amaury Telemaco pitched four shutout innings and scored the tiebreaking run as Philadelphia beat the Florida Marlins 6-5 in 13 innings in the teams' opener Monday.

The Phillies' 97 losses tied for most in the majors last year, when they never recovered from a 7-18 start.

Telemaco was walked by Vladimir Nunez with one out in the 13th and took third on a single by Tomas Perez. Doug Glanville then hit a grounder into the hole, and shortstop Alex Gonzalez's only play was a forceout at second as Telemaco scored.

Scott Rolen had a sacrifice fly, walked twice and hit a two-out solo homer in the seventh off Braden Looper to give the Phillies a 5-4 lead. But Jose Mesa, who blew a save on the same mound as a member of the Indians when the Marlins won Game 7 of the 1997 World Series, couldn't hold the lead.

Gonzalez singled to start the bottom of the ninth, took second on a sacrifice, went to third on a single by Luis Castillo and scored when Mesa balked with one out. Wilson, whose 187 strikeouts led the majors last year, struck out for the second time with the winning run on third to end the inning.

Catcher Charles Johnson, reac-

quired during the offseason by the Marlins, received the biggest ovation during pregame introductions. He then struck out four times and lined to left with the potential winning run at second in the 12th.

A sellout crowd of 36,146 enjoyed the sunny, 74-degree weather, if not the outcome. The defeat snapped a four-game winning streak for Florida on opening day.

Bowa, the Phillies' fiery new manager, made his first appearance of the season in the sixth inning to argue with plate umpire John Shullock. Bowa was unhappy that Shullock warned Daal after he hit Cliff Floyd with a pitch.

Bowa eventually wore a path to the mound, using seven pitchers. Florida also used seven.

The Marlins fell behind 3-0 and were hitless until the fourth, when newcomer Eric Owens homered just inside the foul pole off Daal. Three pitches later, Floyd homered.

Neither first-time opening day starter fared well. Daal, 4-19 last year, allowed four runs in 5 1-3 innings. Ryan Dempster threw 111 pitches in five innings and allowed four runs, three earned.

Philadelphia scored twice in the first. Glanville singled on the second pitch and advanced on a sacrifice, and two walks loaded the bases.

Travis Lee then hit a two-out grounder that second baseman Castillo ranged to his left to field. A good throw might have ended the inning, but Castillo's one-hopper was bobbled by Dempster covering first, and two runs scored. Lee was credited with a single, and Castillo was charged with an error.

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