

NL even wins fictional game

CLEVELAND (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates' outfielder Dave Parker of the National League was voted an imaginary game hero and some 15,000 real baseball fans eased their frustration at cancellation of the Major League All-Star Game with a deafening chorus of boos.

That's how Clevelanders celebrated the passing of Tuesday's scheduled date for the 48th mid-season classic.

"We always want more, but this is great, just great," said Jeff Kinsbach, a disc jockey from WMMS-FM, who led the booing Tuesday evening aimed at Municipal Stadium.

"These people are true Clevelanders. This is out of pride ... to show people that we are tired of being stood up, tired of being made a joke of," he said.

Joel Rothstein, promoter for the Wild Horse's rock band who played to the crowd at the city's All Nation's Festival, said the Wild Horses thought of the idea for the booing.

"We're treating this seriously. We have a decibelometer, a notary public and have an affidavit ready to be signed and submitted to Guinness for a record," Rothstein said.

The 30-second boo was recorded at 130 decibels, 20 decibels higher than the accepted pain level. Rothstein said he doesn't now if a record exists for the loudest boo.

Earlier Tuesday, Parker and his mates walloped the American League 15-2 in a Strat-o-Matic baseball game played at the Stadium's home plate with a game board and statistical cards.

Strat-O-Matic pits hitters against pitchers by comparing ratings for power, speed and defensive ability. In most cases, results are believable.

Trappings for the game of make-believe were real enough: Hall-of-Fame pitcher Bob Feller threw out the ceremonial first dice; local favorite Rocco Scotti bellowed both the Canadian and American National anthems; Municipal Stadium's scoreboard was lighted to showed progress of the game and Cleveland Plain Dealer sports columnist Dan Coughlin acted as official scorer.

The game — the only one in town because of the strike — drew plenty of attention, but the 77,000 ticket holders to the indefinitely postponed real contest stayed away. Some 58 diehards cheered in the lower sections of the cavernous stadium.

On this day, the National League assaulted the record book, ripping 17 hits, including four home runs and three doubles. The American League was held to two runs on four hits.

The Nationals were held close for three innings by American League starter Len Barker of the Cleveland Indians. In the fourth, a two-run homer by Philadelphia's Manny Trillo gave the Nationals all they needed. They added 12 more runs battering five American League pitchers.

Realistically, the National Leaguers have won 17 of the last 18 meetings, including a 4-2 victory last year at Los Angeles.

Atlanta Braves' reliever Rick Camp hurled a scoreless fourth inning and benefited from three runs in the fifth for the pitching victory.



SPORTS REPORTERS and photographers jockey for position around home plate at Cleveland Stadium Tuesday afternoon, the site of a fictional All-Star Game that replaced the real one

scheduled for Tuesday night, but postponed. The National League triumphed 15-2 with Dave Parker being named the most valuable player.