

Broadcaster legend dies after long illness

By R.B. Fallstrom
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — One of most distinctive voices in sports has been silenced.

Jack Buck, who in nearly five decades as a broadcaster rose from Harry Caray's sidekick to a St. Louis institution, died Tuesday night after a long hospital stay. He was 77.

"He had a great life," said Joe Buck, who joined his father in the booth in 1991 and called the Cardinals' victory over the Anaheim Angels for Fox. "He didn't waste one minute of one day. He packed two lifetimes into one lifetime. He went from poor to wealthy in his lifetime, yet he never changed."

Buck underwent lung cancer surgery Dec. 5. He returned to Barnes-Jewish Hospital on Jan. 3 to have an intestinal blockage removed and never left the hospital. Joe Buck said his father went in and out of a coma several times the last few weeks.

On May 16, Buck underwent another operation to eradicate a series of recurring infections, including pneumonia, and was placed on dialysis. Joe Buck said his father died with his family by his side.

"He made us proud every day," Joe Buck said. "He battled for his life."

Jack Buck began calling Cardinals games on radio in 1954, teaming first

with Caray. Nationally, Buck called Super Bowls, World Series and even pro bowling for CBS, ABC and NBC.

"It's a sad day for the game of baseball," Arizona Diamondbacks manager Bob Brenly said. "He was baseball for a lot of people who grew up in the Midwest."

The gravel-voiced Buck, a heavy smoker for decades, authored several memorable calls.

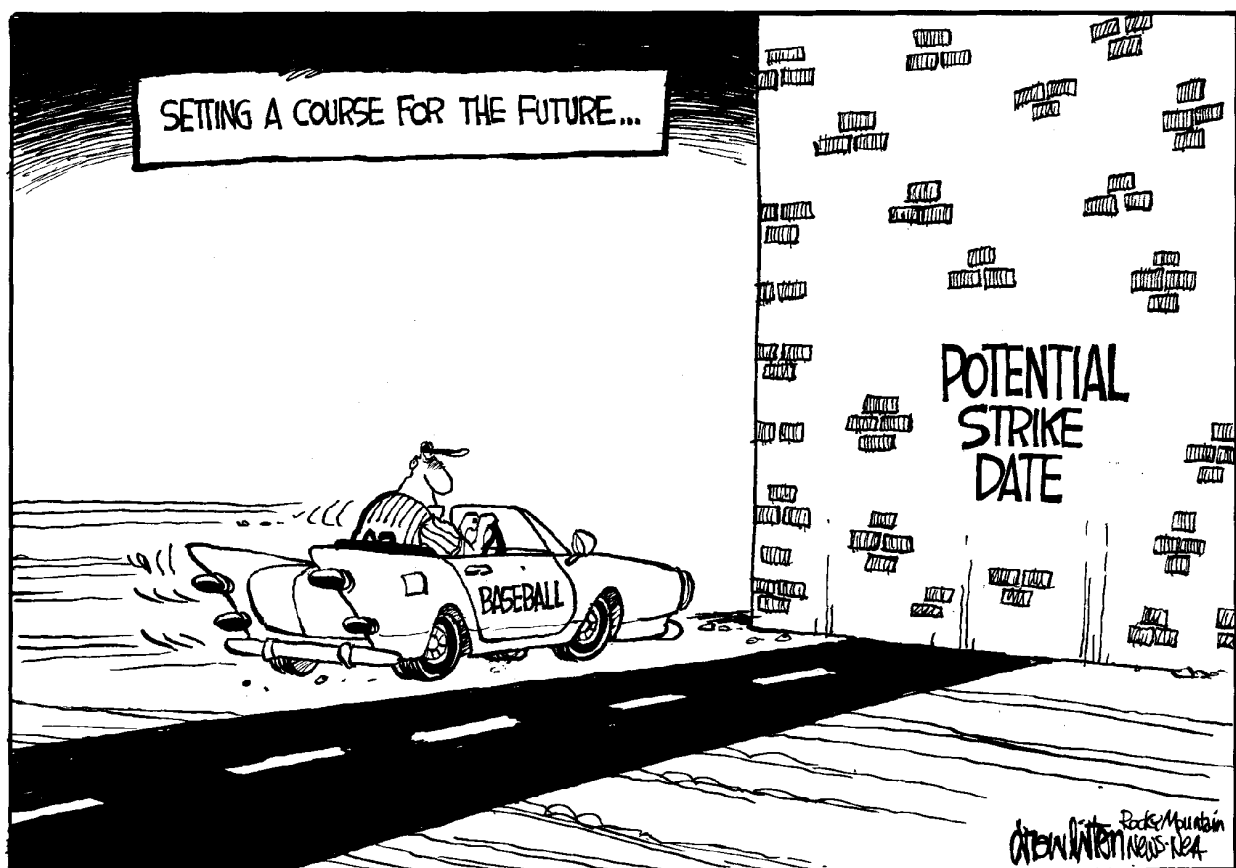
After a gimpy Kirk Gibson hit a game-winning two-run homer off Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in Game 1 of the 1998 World Series, Buck was incredulous: "I don't believe what I just saw!"

Buck was also behind the microphone for the first telecast of the American Football League and at the NFL championship "Ice Bowl" in 1967.

In St. Louis and throughout the Midwest, it was Buck's calls of Cardinals games that made him a beloved figure. His signature call after Cardinals victories: "That's a winner!"

In 1998, the team unveiled a bronze sculpture outside Busch Stadium of Buck's likeness behind the microphone.

"There only is and always will be just one Jack Buck," said former Cardinals' slugger Jack Clark.



baseball scoreboard

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	41	29	.586	—
Montreal	36	33	.522	4 1/2
Florida	35	34	.507	5 1/2
New York	34	35	.493	6 1/2
Philadelphia	29	38	.433	10 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	39	29	.574	—
Cincinnati	38	30	.559	1
Pittsburgh	32	37	.464	7 1/2
Houston	30	39	.435	9 1/2
Chicago	29	39	.426	10
Milwaukee	25	45	.357	15
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	43	26	.623	—
Los Angeles	41	28	.594	2
San Francisco	38	30	.559	4 1/2
Colorado	33	37	.471	10 1/2
San Diego	30	40	.429	13 1/2
American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	44	23	.657	—
New York	44	26	.629	1 1/2
Baltimore	32	36	.471	12 1/2
Toronto	28	39	.418	16
Tampa Bay	24	44	.353	20 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	40	30	.571	—
Chicago	35	35	.500	5
Cleveland	34	36	.486	6
Kansas City	25	42	.373	13 1/2
Detroit	25	43	.368	14
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	42	27	.609	—
Anaheim	39	28	.582	2
Oakland	38	31	.551	4
Texas	27	41	.397	14 1/2

Racetrack holds shoot-out

The Sherman County Speedway held its first annual Bomber and Stock Car Shoot-out on Saturday at the racetrack.

The speedway heavily promoted the race, and gave a larger than usual purse to the winners, \$500 for stock racers and \$350 for bombers. There were 52 cars competing.

A Goodland man, Jared Smades, won first in the bomber division.

Bombers: Heat 1: Jared Smades, Goodland; Ed Wright, Colby; Jordan Blackwill, Quinter; Billy Phillips, Menlo; Eric Smith, Goodland. Heat 2: Mike Giesenhagen, Colby; David Schemm, Sharon Springs; Johnny Ohrman, Colby; Alex West, Goodland; Allen Snethen, Levant. Heat 3: Earl Shannon, Atwood; Keith Stegman, Lamar; Wayne Williams, Wiley, Colo.; Val Gallintine, Goodland; Marshall Hoppe, Goodland; T.J. Yarger, Goodland. **Main race:** Smades, Giesenhagen, Shannon, Schemm, Williams, Wright, Malson, Blackwill, Stegman, West.

Hill, Sharon Springs; Dustin Bussell, Imperial, Neb.; Wheat Lippelman, Colby; Randy Long, Wiley. Heat 2: Randy Tipton, Weskan; Michael Meyer, Sharon Springs; Ryan Wark, Colby; Justin Beakley, Lamar; Brag Wagner, Colby. **Main race:** Tipton, Hill, Maughlin, Meyer, Long, Wark, Lippelman, Beakley.

Modified: Heat 1: Brady Coen, Wiley; Wayne Houston, Aurora; Darren DeLoach, Lamar, Colo.; John Icke, Colby; Milo Lippelman, Oberlin; J.D. Greshman, Bennet, Colo. Heat 2: Gerald Deines, Weskan; Frank Perez, Lamar; John Fabrizius, Holyoke, Colo.; Ron Maloney, Kinsburg, Colo.; Kevin Wark, Colby; Brian Garrett, Westminster. Heat 3: Monty Nurdyke, Holly, Colo.; Dick Brack, Longmont, Colo.; Jeff Tubbs, Colby; Matt Fabrizius, Wakarusa; Michael Keiss, Denver; Dwayne Dechant, Lamar. **Main race:** Coen, DeLoach, Dechant, Fabrizius, Maloney, Icke, Greshman, Brack, Lippelman, Tubbs, Nurdyke, Houston, Keiss, Garrett, Deines, Perez, Fabrizius.

Cruisers: Heat: Bruce Plumisto/Clinton Hankersmith, Colby; Andy Potter/Matt Phillippi, Goodland; Alex West/David Roeder, Goodland; Chris Harris/ Devin Koehn, Colby. **Main race:** Plumisto/Hankersmith, Ed Wright/Dennis Kurth, Colby; Harris/Koehn; Potter/Phillippi; West/Roeder.

Stock: Heat 1: Shannon Maughlin, Dighton; Ron

Volunteers pay to work at U.S. Open

HUTCHINSON (AP)—There'll be no shortage of volunteers for the U.S. Women's Open golf championship at Prairie Dunes Country Club.

By the middle of last week, 2,139 people had signed up for the right to greet the competitors at the airport, empty trash barrels, clean golf balls and serve beverages at the biggest annual event in women's golf.

For adults, who account for about 2,000 of the volunteers, there's a \$95 charge to volunteer. The charge for children is \$25.

The fees go toward uniforms, meals and a temporary building in which volunteers will be able to eat and take breaks during the event July 4-7.

Tommi Ann Foust, who became volunteer coordinator for the event nearly two years ago, said about 75 percent of the volunteers are from the Hutchinson area.

But the rest will be coming in from far and wide — at least 31 states and Canada.

"The USGA told us it would happen," she said.

Gary and Donna Swaim will fly in from Nashville, Tenn., to volunteer. Donna is a member of the Executive Women's Golf Association, a non-profit organization designed for "career-oriented women interested in golf."

She said the time and expense to travel from Tennessee will be worth it.

"We like to travel to play golf, so this isn't that different," she said.

Donna will serve as a marshal on the 14th hole. When Foust told her she needed people for the ecology duties, Donna signed Gary up for that.

"When I told him he'd be picking up trash, he said, 'Uh, OK,'" Donna said. "We're such golf nuts, we don't care what we'll be doing."

The ecology committee is chaired by Hutchinson attorney Jim Gilliland, who initially thought the duties would include "making sure the stands didn't disturb the precious flowers or something," he said.

Instead, it meant attending to trash and portable rest rooms. Eventually, portable rest rooms were removed from the job description.

"I guess I got a break there," he said.

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