

For Latino fans, Sosa puts the 'Home' in home run

By Ken Ellingwood
Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO - From a press box perch at Qualcomm Stadium, Tijuana sportswriter Rafael Gonzalez Martinez pondered the continuing twists in Sammy Sosa's remarkable duel with Mark McGwire for the single season home run record.

Despite McGwire's 63rd home run on Tuesday, which put him on top once again, Gonzalez knows how his countrymen south of the border want the tale of these dueling "jonroneros" to turn out.

"Mexico hopes Sosa does it because he's Latino," said Gonzalez, who covers sports for the respected weekly newspaper Zeta. "He reflects well on Latin people."

Though a world away from Sosa's homeland in the Dominican Republic, the border with Mexico is proving an auspicious place for the Chicago Cubs slugger to turn up this week during one of the final legs of the frenzied race. Interest in Sosa is cresting among California Latinos and in sports-crazy Tijuana, where Sosa T-shirts are showing up and many are trumpeting their heartfelt pride in a fellow

Latino who has carried himself with grace and good humor under intense daily pressure.

"Everybody wants Sammy, Sammy, Sammy," said Paulo Aguirre Cortes, who hosts a sports talk show on a Tijuana radio station.

Of course, nearly everyone at this week's Cubs-San Diego Padres series is hoping to catch a glimpse of history in the making. (Sosa struck out four times Monday, a day after tying Southern California-bred McGwire at 62 home runs. After McGwire hit No. 63 Tuesday, Sosa again went homer-less.)

No other U.S. big-league ballpark sits closer to Latin America than the Padres' home field, and few offer a better vantage for watching how a mere home run race can serve as a prism for culture and nationalism - not to mention the universal glee in seeing records smashed and smashed again.

At jammed news conferences as the four-game series opened here this week, nearly half the questions were delivered to Sosa in his native Spanish - an unusual number and a sign of how Sosa mania has taken hold.

3 more newspapers call for Clinton to quit; others defer decision

By Rita Ciolli
Newsday

Three dozen newspapers had already called for President Clinton's resignation but Monday, one of the largest, USA Today, and two other influential voices, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, raised the volume by adding their names to the list.

"Bill Clinton should resign now," said an editorial in USA Today, which has a national circulation of 2.1 million.

In contrast, in an editorial headlined: "City to Bubba: Hang in there," the New York Daily News told Clinton to "finish the job you were hired for." The Miami Herald condemned Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. "This was and is a political lynching," said the paper.

But are such editorials just adding to the noise about a story the public is telling pollsters it wants to go away? Or are they a warning of riptides for the White House?

"After a weekend like this people are looking for all sorts of barometers to what people are thinking. There is some distrust of polls, so institutional opinions like that of newspapers tend to gather weight over time," said Joe Stroud, who was editorial page edi-

tor of the Detroit Free Press for 25 years. "It does tend to snowball. In some ways these controversies take on a life of their own."

The growing number of editorials about what consequences Clinton should face will likely prompt even more editorial boards to take a stand.

There is some distrust of polls, so institutional opinions like that of newspapers tend to gather weight over time

Joe Stroud, former editorial page editor of the Detroit Free Press

Among the papers favoring resignation are the New York Post, Denver Post, Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel and the Seattle Times.

"If I were in the White House I would be concerned that some newspapers have called for resignation or impeachment," said Creed Black of Miami, a journalist who in his 40-year career was the editorial page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the head of publisher and editorial writing associations.

Black said the editorials at this stage aren't really reflecting public opinion but helping to form it. "The newspapers are leading and informing and molding public opinion right now," he said.

"We have some voices for resigning immediately, some for letting the impeachment process play out and there are others who think that Ken Starr and the independent counsel law are the problems," said Mike Zuzel, an editorial writer at The Columbian in Vancouver, Wash., describing the debate at his paper over what stand to take.

While almost any sampling of editorial opinion will show severe disapproval for Clinton's behavior, most are saying it is just too soon to take a

position on what the consequences should be for the president. "You are not just talking about Bill Clinton here. You are talking about the institution of the presidency," said Margareta Downey, editorial page editor of the Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal. "It is not something you respond to with a gut reaction." However, she added, the fast-moving events are being monitored closely. "That doesn't mean that next week we won't make a decision," she said.

Tuesday's edition of the Long Island, N.Y., newspaper Newsday warns in its editorial against hasty calls to judgment. "We're not prepared to agree that the president should remain in office come hell or high water," the editorial says. "But we think those who have called for his immediate resignation are trying to avoid one of the people's fundamental responsibilities in this democratic society ... Demanding his resignation, at least at this stage, is asking him to take all of us off the hook, not to mention a queasy Congress."

Study finds 'Gulf War Syndrome' symptoms in soldiers who weren't there

By David Brown
The Washington Post

The physical complaints known as "Gulf War syndrome" are not only common among Gulf War veterans, they're also frequently reported by soldiers who never went to Iraq, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, according to new research.

The fatigue, moodiness, memory problems and musculoskeletal pain many Gulf War veterans complain of are not likely to be explained by toxic exposures, exotic infections or other "risk factors" peculiar to the war, a team of epidemiologists report in Tuesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Epidemiologists from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta surveyed four Air Force units in 1995 and found that 45 percent of Gulf War veterans had chronic physical complaints. However, about 15 percent of soldiers who had never been deployed to the Gulf had the same problems, the researchers found.

Further, people reporting illness showed nothing unusual on physical examination or laboratory testing, and the Gulf War veterans among them had nothing notable in common, such as military occupation, exposure to combat, or the place where they had spent most of their tours.

Altogether, the study "suggests that the multisymptom illness we observed ... is not unique to (Gulf War) service," the authors of the study wrote.

Soon after the end of the Gulf War in 1991, numerous soldiers - primarily in reserve and National Guard units - reported they were suffering from an illness characterized by tiredness, difficulty concentrating, muscle and joint pain, and, less commonly, diarrhea, skin rashes and breathing problems. Some believed they had transmitted the problems to family members.

The number of people with such complaints is unknown, although in recent years about 100,000 people (out of 697,000 deployed to the Gulf) have signed up for medical exams offered by the federal government. Several large-scale epidemiological studies are underway to determine the exact prevalence and severity of chronic illness in Gulf War veterans.

In the new study, the CDC researchers defined the "chronic multisystem illness" as the presence, for at least six months, of at least one symptom from at least two of the following categories: fatigue; mood and cognition problems; and muscle or joint pains. Mood and cognition problems included feelings of depression, difficulties concentrating or finding words, and insomnia.

The researchers surveyed members of four units: two Air National Guard detachments in Pennsylvania

(including one that was among the first units in the nation to report an outbreak of Gulf War syndrome), and two units in Florida, one reserve and one active-duty. In all, about 1,200 Gulf War veterans, and about 2,600 servicemen who had never gone to the Gulf, were queried.

Forty-five percent of Gulf War veterans fit the case definition for the illness, with 39 percent having mild or moderate cases, and 6 percent severe ones. In the non-deployed group, 15 percent had complaints fitting the definition, but only 1 percent were severe.

The researchers also examined 158 members of the original Pennsylvania unit that had reported illness soon after the end of the war. Even though nearly two-thirds were ill, the exams were most notable for the general paucity of abnormal findings, the researchers write. The scientists also tested the soldiers' blood and body fluids for about 30 different pathogenic microbes, as well as for evidence of exposure to anthrax and botulinum toxin vaccines that some Gulf War soldiers received. A few people tested positive, but they were as likely to be in the healthy as the unhealthy group.

"It is clear that the distribution of cases among (Gulf War) veterans and non-deployed personnel in this study cannot easily be explained by risk factors unique to Southwest Asia," the researchers concluded. "What could explain the unusual distribution of the chronic illness?" "Stress comes to mind as something that could plausibly have had more of an effect on people who went to the Gulf than people who did not, but which could be present in both groups," said Keiji Fukuda, a CDC physician and epidemiologist who led the study. "That's an easy example."

He added, however, that the study did not finger psychological stress as the cause of the symptoms (as some other scientific experts have). Although the researchers found no higher prevalence of pre-deployment medical problems in the ill veterans than the well ones, Fukuda said there may be other variables researchers should consider.

Some observers think that Gulf War syndrome represents the usual health problems in the population that have been magnified by widespread attention to a "mystery" illness. There is indirect evidence for this theory in the study. Of the more than 3,700 soldiers surveyed, 99 percent reported at least one symptom as a "current health problem," suggesting that symptoms in general are very prevalent. Of the four units sampled, symptoms were most prevalent in the original Pennsylvania Air National Guard unit, which has been the object of much media attention and several scientific studies in recent years.

Records show CIA funded Tibetan Program, Dalai Lama in '60s

By Jim Mann
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - For much of the 1960s, the CIA provided the Tibetan exile movement with \$1.7 million a year for operations against China, including an annual subsidy of \$180,000 for the Dalai Lama, according to newly released U.S. intelligence documents.

The money for the Tibetans and the Dalai Lama was part of the CIA's worldwide effort during the early years of the Cold War to undermine Communist governments, particularly in the Soviet Union and China. In fact, the U.S. government committee that approved the Tibetan operations also authorized the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

The documents, published last month by the State Department, illustrate the historical background of the situation in Tibet today, in which China continues to accuse the Dalai Lama of being an agent of foreign forces seeking to separate Tibet from China.

The CIA's program encompassed support of Tibetan guerrillas in Nepal, a covert military training site in Colorado, "Tibet Houses" established to promote Tibetan causes in New York and Geneva, education for Tibetan operatives at Cornell University and supplies for reconnaissance teams.

"The purpose of the program ... is to keep the political concept of an autonomous Tibet alive within Tibet and among foreign nations, principally India, and to build a capability for resistance against possible political developments inside Communist China," explains one memo written by top U.S. intelligence officials.

The declassified historical documents provide the first inside details of the CIA's decade-long covert program to support the Tibetan independence movement. At the time of the intelligence operation, the CIA was seeking to weaken Mao Tse-tung's hold over China. And the Tibetan exiles were looking for help to keep their movement alive after the Dalai Lama and his supporters fled Tibet following an unsuccessful 1959 revolt against Chinese rule.

Tibetan exiles and the Dalai Lama have acknowledged for many years that they once received support from U.S. intelligence. But until now, Washington refused to release any information about the CIA's Tibetan

operations.

The U.S. intelligence support for the Tibetans ended in the early 1970s after the Nixon administration's diplomatic opening to China, according to the Dalai Lama's writings, former CIA officials and independent schol-

The purpose of the program ... is to keep the political concept of an autonomous Tibet alive within Tibet and among foreign nations, principally India, and to build a capability for resistance against possible political developments inside Communist China

US intelligence memo

ars.

The Dalai Lama wrote in his autobiography that the cutoff in the 1970s showed that the assistance from the Americans "had been a reflection of their anti-Communist policies rather than genuine support for the restoration of Tibetan independence."

The newly published files show that the collaboration between U.S. intelligence and the Tibetans was less than ideal. "The Tibetans by nature did not appear to be congenitally inclined toward conspiratorial proficiency," a top CIA official says ruefully in one memo.

The budget figures for the CIA's Tibetan program are contained in a memo dated Jan. 9, 1964. It was evidently written to help justify continued funding for the clandestine intelligence operation.

"Support of 2,100 Tibetan guerrillas based in Nepal: \$500,000," the document says. "Subsidy to the Dalai Lama: \$180,000." After listing several other costs, it concludes: "Total: \$1,735,000." The files show that this budget request was approved soon afterward.

A later document indicates that these annual expenses continued at the same level for four more years, until 1968. At that point, the CIA scrubbed its training programs for Tibetans inside the United States and cut the budget for the entire program to just below \$1.2 million a year.

In his 1990 autobiography, "Freedom in Exile," the Dalai Lama explained that his two brothers made contact with the CIA during a trip to India in 1956. The CIA agreed to help, "not because they cared about Tibetan independence, but as part of their worldwide efforts to destabilize

all Communist governments," the Dalai Lama wrote.

"Naturally, my brothers judged it wise to keep this information from me. They knew what my reaction would have been."

The Dalai Lama also wrote re-

the Dalai Lama's entourage at Dharamsala, the city in northern India that has served as the Dalai Lama's headquarters and the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile.

A brief internal history of the CIA's Tibet operations shows that the Eisenhower administration first formally approved covert support to the Tibetan resistance in September 1958, at a time when the Tibetans were conducting guerrilla raids against Chinese army units.

The U.S. intelligence operations were overseen in Washington by the executive branch's top-secret "303 Committee." On May 20, 1959, only a few weeks after the unsuccessful Tibetan revolt, the 303 Committee approved the first covert support specifically for the Dalai Lama, who had just arrived in India. These covert CIA programs were re-approved several times during the 1960s.

In 1964, the CIA decided that one of the main problems facing the Tibetans was "a lack of trained officers equipped with linguistic and administrative abilities."

The files show that the Tibetans were keeping close track of U.S. policy toward China. In fact, they sometimes had a better sense of what Washington was about to do about China than did the rest of the world.

On Dec. 6, 1968, a month after Richard Nixon was elected president but before he took office, the Dalai Lama's brother told a senior State Department official that the Tibetan exiles were afraid "of an accommodation the United States might make with the Chinese Communists."

Undersecretary of State Eugene V. Rostow told him not to worry. Rostow said that "we (the United States) would not make any accommodation with the Chinese Communists at the expense of Tibet."

Over the next four years, the Nixon administration carried out its opening to China, and the CIA's Tibetan operations were shut down.

The U.S. government now provides some financial support for Tibetans, but openly and through other channels.

In recent years, Congress has approved about \$2 million annually in funding for Tibetan exiles in India. Congress has also urged the administration to spend another \$2 million for democracy activities among the Tibetans.

The same 1964 memo speaks of "continuing the support subsidy to