

Rodgers: NL Manager of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob "Buck" Rodgers, who guided the Montreal Expos to a surprising third-place finish in the National League East this season, has been named NL Manager of the Year, the Baseball Writers Association of America announced yesterday.

Rodgers, in his third season as manager of the Expos, received 92 points from a 24-man committee of the BBWAA, easily beating San Francisco's Roger Craig, the runner-up with 65 points.

Rodgers, the only manager named on all ballots, collected 13 first-place votes, eight for second and three for third. Points were awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

Craig, who led the Giants to the NL West title, had six firsts, 10 seconds and five thirds.

Whitey Herzog, whose St. Louis Cardinals won the NL East and beat the Giants in seven games in the playoffs, was third in the balloting

with 54 points. He had five firsts, six seconds and 11 thirds.

Davey Johnson of the New York Mets, with three points, and Jim Leyland of the Pittsburgh Pirates, with two, were the only other managers to receive votes.

Prior to the 1987 season, Montreal lost slugging outfielder Andre Dawson to the Chicago Cubs via free agency and traded relief ace Jeff Reardon to the Minnesota Twins. In addition, outfielder Tim Raines, a free agent, did not re-sign with the team until the season was about a month old.

But Rodgers kept the Expos in contention until the final days of the season. Montreal compiled a 91-71 record and finished only four games behind the Cardinals and one game in back of the second-place Mets.

The club's record was a vast improvement over 1986, when Montreal finished fourth with a 78-83 mark.

In Rodgers' first season, the Expos

were 84-77 and finished third.

Rodgers, a former catcher with the California Angels, began his managerial career with Salinas of the California League in 1975. He managed El Paso to the Texas League title in 1977, then got his first shot at a major-league managerial job in 1980, replacing the ailing George Bamberger with the Milwaukee Brewers.

He was the Brewers' interim manager from March 6 through June 6, 1980, compiling a 39-31 record, then piloted Milwaukee to the American League East second-half title in the strike-shortened 1981 season.

Rodgers was replaced as manager of the Brewers in June 1982 by Harvey Kuenn.

In 1984, Rodgers was named Minor League Manager of the Year for piloting the Indianapolis Indians to the American Association championship.

Rodgers also was a coach with Minnesota from 1970 through 1974.



Buck Rodgers

San Francisco in 1976 and Milwaukee from 1978 through 1980.

The NL Manager of the Year Award began in 1983, with Tom LaSorda of the Los Angeles Dodgers winning it. Jim Frey of the Chicago Cubs was the winner in 1984, followed by Herzog in 1985 and Hal Lanier of the Houston Astros last year.

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Robinson silent on Sixers \$697,000 offer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers have offered Cliff Robinson \$697,000 plus incentives for the coming NBA season but the free-agent forward has not responded, according to General Manager John Nash.

Nash, quoted yesterday in the Philadelphia Daily News, said he offered Robinson's attorney, Bob Woolf, a contract including a base salary guarantee and bonuses if Robinson matches his career scoring and rebounding averages.

The offer was based on a salary of \$8,500 for every game in which Robinson plays.

Robinson averaged 14.8 points and 5.6 rebounds last season. He was plagued by injuries and illness and appeared in only 55 of the 76ers' 82 regular season games.

He averaged 17.6 points and 9.06 rebounds through his first seven seasons.

"He wants to make more than last season, and this seemed like a logical way for him to achieve that goal," Nash said.

Robinson was paid between \$500,000 to \$600,000 last year.

"His problem is, he feels he's worth a lot more. Agents want telephone book numbers, but you want the players to show up and perform. We've made a zillion different offers, but they haven't accepted any of them," Nash said.

Among Robinson's problems last season were a separated shoulder that caused him to miss nearly the entire training camp and exhibition season, a nagging ankle injury and severe eye irritation

which was diagnosed as an allergic reaction.

"We're not going to overpay or reward a guy for the kind of season he had last year," Nash said.

The new season starts Nov. 6, when the 76ers host the Indiana Pacers.

In another personnel development, guard David Wingate had more X-rays taken of his injured right wrist yesterday. Temple University's sports medicine center has diagnosed the injury as a severe sprain with some swelling. Wingate was hurt in a preseason game against the San Antonio Spurs in El Paso, Texas.

Nash, Coach Matt Guokas and 76ers owner Harold Katz have 15 players remaining on their active roster, which must be down to 12 by opening day.

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