

Just A 'Human Jam'

Traffic Not Fouled Before The Game

By Enquirer Staff
 THE MONUMENTAL traffic jam everybody predicted for the river front area on opening night of the stadium never materialized. In fact, the real jam, a human jam, was on the pedestrian overpass over Ft. Washington Way after the game. It was about the only entrance or exit fans were familiar with.

At 7:15 p. m. reporters duly noted from the club level of the stadium that you could have driven an automobile 75 miles an hour on I-75 downtown and not have had to slow down. The situation at 8:05 p. m., scheduled start of the game, was about the same.

"They were all scared off," said Don Wehmeyer, supervising stadium engineer for the city. "They didn't drive here and they didn't take the loop buses. They all parked uptown and walked."

The city's parking lot at ground level west of the stadium was only about half filled at game time and never did fill completely. Plenty of parking spaces also were available in the parking garages adjoining the stadium.

THE CONVERSATION around the batting cage before game time worked its way around to a discussion of the hitting background in center field. When the question was put to Tommy Helms, who's struggling along at .215, he quipped: "Don't ask me about things like that, ask those guys who hit the ball."

Tony Perez, who is hitting the ball better than any other Red, says the background is bad.

"They'll have to paint that concrete behind the center field wall," he said. "You really lose the ball when it comes out of there."

The spot Tony referred to was the walkway and lobby-like area below the loge boxes.

MORE THAN 30 newspapers from across the nation, about 15 area radio stations and local and Atlanta television stations were on hand for the first game in the Stadium. Among the newspapers represented were The New York Times, San Francisco News, San Francisco Sun, Atlanta Journal and papers from Indianapolis, Dayton, Toledo, Louisville, Lexington, Huntington and Charleston.

AFTER PITCHER Gary Nolan became the first Red player to hit a batting practice homer in Riverfront Stadium—a shot to left field—someone suggested that the blow might earn Nolan, who is batting .086, a pinch-hitting role Tuesday night.

"Yeh, and they'll prob-

ably offer me a \$100,000 raise," quipped Wayne Granger, the Thin Man of the Reds bullpen, who later matched Nolan's homer feat. Then, after Nolan homered again, Granger hit a second one.

Despite it all, though, manager Sparky Anderson didn't order either one to grab a bat and hit for Tony Perez or John Bench during the game.

THE ROGER BACON High School marching band, under the direction of Mr. Wes Neal, performed before the game, and drew a loud round of cheers when it spelled out "R-E-D-S" in center field.

RELAX, THOSE OF YOU who feared for the Crosley Field groundskeepers' jobs when it was announced the Riverfront Stadium would have an AstroTurf infield. The grounds crew, manning brooms instead of rakes, was kept quite busy SWEEPING the turf around the dirt base areas.

And, gramma, gramma, mom and dad, when did you think you'd be seeing them sweeping the grass at the old ball park?

WHAT WILL the stadium mean to downtown? Well, at 3:45 p. m. Tuesday two hours and 20 minutes before game time, people were standing to get into Vine Street and Mills restaurant on Fourth street. Jack Gearding's new Stadium Club on Walnut Street also had a standing room crowd as well as a sign that read: "Hit the sign with a home run—win 56 gallons of whiskey."

THE FRONT ROW of the baseball press box was one of the opening night misfires. It was situated so far back that none of the occupants could see home plate without stretching his neck.

AFTER SPENDING the first third of the season at Crosley Field, pitcher Jim McGlothlin said he felt right at home in Riverfront Stadium.

"The playing area and field dimensions are almost the same here as they were in Anaheim (where the red-head hurled for the California Angels before coming here)," said McGlothlin.

"It resembles Anaheim a lot in playing area."

THE MOUND in the new stadium proved to be less than of big league quality. Jim McGlothlin, the Cincinnati starter, was complaining to pitching coach Larry Shepard about it after the second inning.

Pat Jarvis, the Atlanta pitcher, had even more trouble with it. He wound up falling on his back a couple of times and often would stumble off onto the AstroTurf.

NEITHER THE public address system nor the scoreboard is completely finished, which was obvious, but the fans didn't seem bothered by the inconveniences.

THE NEW STADIUM looks like it will be a natural for hanging signs and banners. Two in evidence Tuesday were "Hi Reds, From Aztec, Ind." and "Perez's Pounders."

KUHN THINKS his decision to return the All-Star vote to the fans is working out quite well, despite criticisms from some quarters. "Not only have fans voted with sophistication," says the commissioner. "But they have used imagination. I'm referring specifically to the heavy vote for Rico Carty." Carty, of course, is the Brave outfielder who wasn't even listed on the printed ballot, from the start of the season Carty has led the league hitters, but has pulled a heavy write-in vote, perfectly legal.

dining - harness racing
LATONIA
 Race Course

Florence, Ky. — U.S. Davidson Airport Rd., Est. of 1925

Sign Up Free for 70 Mercury Montegos To Be Given Away July 6

For Ring Reservations Call 371-0200



POST TIME 8 P.M.

Tri-County Speedway
FRIDAY, JULY 3
 Firecracker "100" Mid-season championship
SATURDAY, JULY 4
 Stock Cars
 11 7 p.m. Fireworks Both Nights Race 8 p.m.
 777-5141