



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

★ SPECIAL **2,131** COVERAGE ★

Immortal Cal

He touches home with victory lap

By Ken Rosenthal
Sun Columnist

It was a victory lap for the ages. Rafael Palmeiro and Bobby Bonilla pushed Cal Ripken out of the Orioles' dugout, and off the game's all-time Iron Man went.

Down the right-field line, shaking hands with fans in the front row, into the outfield, greeting the grounds crew and police officers. Above the center-field wall, where fans tumbled out of the bleachers as he leaped to slap them live.

Ripken's mother, Vi, leaned against his father, Cal Sr. Earlier, Senior had clapped and waved from his luxury box. Now he stood in his suit, hands behind his back, this incredibly tough man, biting his lower lip to fight back tears.

Junior had done it. One more time, the banner had dropped from the warehouse, revealing the number so many thought unattainable. The number 2,131. Never have four digits produced so many tears.

Grown men cried at Lou Gehrig's retirement ceremony 56 years ago, but those tears were born out of tragedy, the knowledge that Gehrig was seriously ill. These tears were born out of joy. And hometown pride. And love.

The game was delayed 22 minutes, 15 seconds. For a while, it seemed like play would never resume. For a while, it seemed Camden Yards would crumble from emotion.

He's just always there, you know? That's what was so celebrated, that's what this was all about. He's there when his team needs him. There now that his sport needs him. And there for a city that lost its football team and baseball glory long ago.

It's a simple virtue, perhaps, but in this hurried age, simple can be remarkable. Such is the magic surrounding 2,131. A dozen years ago, Ripken was a local boy making good. Now, thanks to the streak, he's a national hero.

President Clinton shook both fists in exultation shortly after the celebration began. Vice President Al Gore stood next to him, cheering.

See ROSENTHAL 7A

More Inside

More Cal coverage can be found in a 24-page special section inside today's newspaper. More stories on the historic game are on six pages in the Sports section, starting on Page 1C.

Ripken now baseball's top iron man

By Peter Schmuch
Sun Staff Writer

Cal Ripken has had the baseball world on a string for more than 13 years, but that didn't do anything to lessen the impact when he played in his 2,131st consecutive game last night to pass Lou Gehrig and become the most durable player in the history of the sport.

The old record, which stood for 56 years and was considered untouchable until the Ripken streak got serious, officially fell at 9:20 p.m., when the Orioles left the field in the middle of the fifth inning and touched off another long and heartfelt celebration. No. 2,131 was unfurled on the wall of the B&O warehouse in a shower of rooftop fireworks and a standing ovation that didn't want to end.

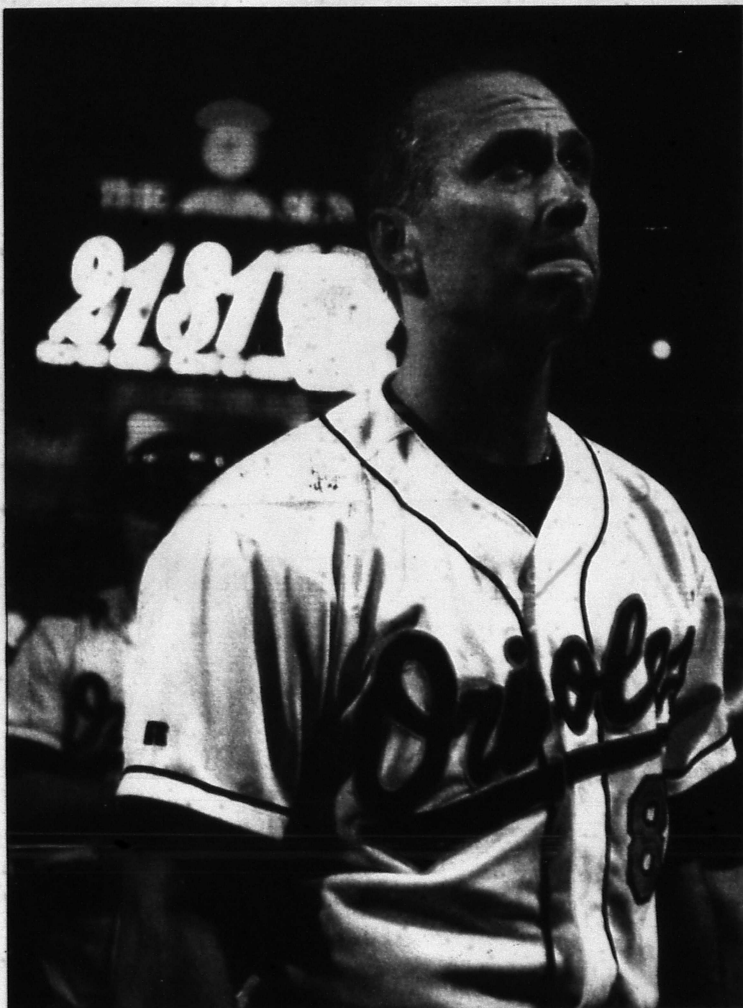
Ripken, bathed in both sweat and adulation, acknowledged the crowd several times and struck a poignant pose with his two young children. Then, as the cheers rose to a crescendo, he broke into a celebratory lap around Oriole Park, shaking hands and high-fiving with the crowd, the grounds crew, the Orioles bullpen and even the California Angels, who have played the perfect foil for two nights of Ripkenmania. The ovation lasted 22 minutes, 15 seconds. Joe DiMaggio cried. The Orioles won again. 4-2. It was that kind of night.

In the more than 13 years since Ripken settled into the Orioles starting lineup for good, he has received a Rookie of the Year award, two Most Valuable Player trophies, a World Series championship and countless standing ovations, but last night's game clearly was the crowning achievement of a Hall of Fame career. He even hit his third home run in as many games to punctuate the occasion.

"Tonight I stand here, overwhelmed, as my name is linked with the great and courageous Lou Gehrig," Ripken said in a postgame address. "I'm truly humbled to have our names spoken in the same breath. Some may think our strongest connection is because we both played many consecutive games. Yet I believe in my heart that our true link is a common motivation — a love of the game of baseball, a passion for our team and a desire to compete at the very highest level."

The record-breaking game was played before a sellout crowd of 46,272, many of whom went to great lengths and considerable expense to view one of the defining moments in the sports history. That included President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, who apparently became the first chief executive and vice president to attend a baseball game.

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The emotion of the moment shows on Cal Ripken's face during a 22-minute, 15-second standing ovation in the fifth inning.

KARL MERTON FERRON/SUN STAFF PHOTO

Senate ethics panel backs expulsion of Packwood

By Karen Hosler

Washington Bureau of The Sun

WASHINGTON — In a stunning development, the Senate Ethics Committee recommended unanimously yesterday that Bob Packwood be expelled from the Senate for a long pattern of groping and kissing women against their will and for obstructing an investigation of his actions.

Last night, Mr. Packwood angrily denounced the committee's actions and said he had no plans to resign. "I want to think about this for a minute, and I want to talk to some people and I am not going to make instantaneous decisions," he said at a news conference.

The 6-0 decision by the committee, which is evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, was an unexpectedly sharp repudiation of the Oregon Republican.

Expulsion is the most severe penalty the Senate can exact. No senator has been recommended for expulsion since 1982, when Harrison Williams, a New Jersey Democrat, was caught in the Abscam bribery scandal. Mr. Williams resigned just before the Senate vote.

Two-thirds of the Senate must approve an expulsion, but it appeared likely that the committee's decision had the blessing of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. Committee

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USAir chief to retire
USAir Chairman Seth Schofield retires a day after the company projected its first profit since 1988. Page 13C

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Weather
Mostly sunny.
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Yesterday's high, 92;
low, 70. 12B 0 083455-1

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5 SECTIONS

Fuhrman returns to stand, takes Fifth

By Linda Deutsch
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former Detective Mark Fuhrman was called back to the witness stand yesterday and was asked point-blank whether he planted evidence against O. J. Simpson. He refused to answer, invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Climaxing months of defense claims that Mr. Simpson was framed by a racist detective, Mr. Fuhrman refused to answer any question. Jurors weren't in the courtroom to see the brief confrontation between defense attorney Gerald Uelmen and the subdued former detective who, five months earlier, told the panel that he found a bloody glove on Mr. Simpson's property.

Detective Fuhrman, did you

Simpson defense asks whether he planted evidence

plant or manufacture any evidence in this case? Mr. Uelmen asked.

"I assert my Fifth Amendment privilege," Mr. Fuhrman replied, his attorney standing at his side.

Mr. Fuhrman gave a similar answer to three other questions including, "Have you ever falsified a police report?"

As Mr. Fuhrman was led out of court, Mr. Simpson appeared upset. His eyes reddened, he rubbed his face and he mouthed words to his attorneys.

Later, his attorneys addressed reporters about the extraordinary

courtroom development. "We are not gloating. What we are saying is it's a very, very serious day for justice, not only in this county but in this country," Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. said. "We're going to move forward on this case and get what we believe we really deserve — an acquittal."

Mr. Fuhrman's appearance was preceded by his attorney's announcement that he had advised his client not to answer any questions. Mr. Uelmen said he wanted to hear that from Mr. Fuhrman's own lips. The courtroom was hushed as the tall, solemn-faced detective, who retired this summer from the Los Angeles force, walked to the witness stand. He had last been on the stand in March, when he testified about

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