

BASEBALL



Al Michaels and Curt Gowdy



Tony Kubek

WORLD SERIES

Curt: The American League Champs, the Oakland A's versus the National League Champs, the Cincinnati Reds. Today's game is brought to you by your Dodge dealer who has the big Dodge on display now, and by Gillette, makers of the "Dry Look." "The Wet Head Is Dead; Long Live the Dry Look."

Hi, everybody. Curt Gowdy of NBC Sports. Welcome to the 1972 World Series. So many fans have thought the playoffs were so tense, so thrilling. Will the World Series be an anticlimax? If you were here the last two days, talked to both teams, felt

the mood of the city, you would know that the World Series can never be an anticlimax.

We're going to have an interesting World Series. The only thing I can see in common between Oakland and Cincinnati is they each have enough talented players to win their league championship. Otherwise, they have contrasting styles. The A's look different. They have colorful uniforms, white shoes, shaggy hair, flowing mustaches, beards—they're the mod gang. Cincinnati demands their players clean shaven, short hair, the business-like approach and look on the field.

The way the clubs are run is different. The Oakland A's have a maverick owner in Charlie Finley. A self-made man who's won an American League Championship. As he says, he's his own front office and he is his own general manager. While Cincinnati has astute Bob Hauser as their General Manager, a large front office staff.

We have 35 players in this World Series game playing their first series. It's always a dream, of course, for a ball player. Cincinnati is favored, but the A's have a very strong pitching staff, and I think you're really going to enjoy it.

Speaking of that first world series, working with me here is the voice of the Cincinnati Reds, Al Michaels, who in just two years has captured an intense loyal following with his brilliant work broadcasting the Cincinnati games. And Al Michaels, welcome to this first World Series. A real pleasure to be working with Al.

Al: Thank you, Curt. A great thrill to be working with you here today. Right now let's take a look at the home of the Cincinnati Reds, Riverfront Stadium. The park was finished on June 30th, 1970—the Reds against the Atlanta Braves. It's the second time the World Series has been held here. The dimensions down the line, standard as far as the new parks go, it's 330 down the left field line. The yellow stripe runs across the top of the wall all the way around, and there's no difficulty telling when a home run is hit because there's some room between the wall and where the stands start.

Out in the left center field alley, it's 375; 400 at straight away center here in Cincinnati. This is a circular park, fully enclosed so the wind is not that much of a factor—but out in right center the balls seem to travel more than they do at any other point in this park. This is where Bench hit his playoff home run. It's where Tony Perez hits a lot of his home runs. Down the right field line, same