

53 No Runs, No Hits, and Too Many Errors

Some days it just doesn't pay to go to the ballpark. One day in 1966, Los Angeles Dodger outfielder Willie Davis was thinking of places he'd rather have been. At the time, anywhere must have seemed more inviting. The game he would like to have skipped was no ordinary test. It was the World Series.

The year 1966 had been a good one for the Dodgers. They had clinched the National League Pennant with ease, and all that was left was the World Series against the Baltimore Orioles. As far as most fans and sportswriters were concerned, the "Fall Classic" would be no contest. The Dodgers had powerful hitting and a pitcher who threw the ball so fast that some people insisted it could cause a sonic boom. But something unexpected happened. The Orioles' pitching sparkled, and their hitters were slugging the ball over the outfield fences. All the Dodger fans could talk about was the "cold Dodger bats"—that is, when they weren't talking about Willie Davis and "that inning." In this particular game Davis set a major league record, one that no ball player would be proud of. In one short inning he made three errors. He let an easy hit skid by him. Several pitches later, he lost a fly ball in the glare of the sun. And if that weren't bad enough, he picked up the ball he had missed and threw it over the infielder's head. Davis felt bad, but he wasn't alone. The Dodgers lost the best-out-of-seven series without winning a single game.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

Mark the *main idea*

☒ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☐ B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

☐ N

5

- a. Willie Davis had a bad day.
- b. Davis set a record by making three errors in one World Series inning.
- c. Willie Davis played for the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage deals with
- ☐ a. baseball fielding lessons.
 - ☐ b. a bad dream.
 - ☐ c. an unfortunate major league record.
 - ☐ d. the city of Los Angeles.
- Supporting Details** 3 Davis couldn't catch one of the fly balls because of
- ☐ a. a back problem.
 - ☐ b. the glare of the sun.
 - ☐ c. a hole in his mitt.
 - ☐ d. another fielder who got in the way.
- Conclusion** 4 From reading this passage, we can conclude that because of his mistakes that day, Willie Davis was
- ☐ a. thrown off the team.
 - ☐ b. arrested.
 - ☐ c. embarrassed.
 - ☐ d. ignored by his teammates.
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The term "cold Dodger bats" refers to
- ☐ a. poor hitting.
 - ☐ b. winter weather that canceled a game.
 - ☐ c. a new technique of cooling the baseball bats.
 - ☐ d. flying creatures which plague Dodger Stadium.
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage, record means
- ☐ a. to put on tape.
 - ☐ b. a disc with music on it.
 - ☐ c. a performance surpassing all others.
 - ☐ d. a written document.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 217.

Total
Score