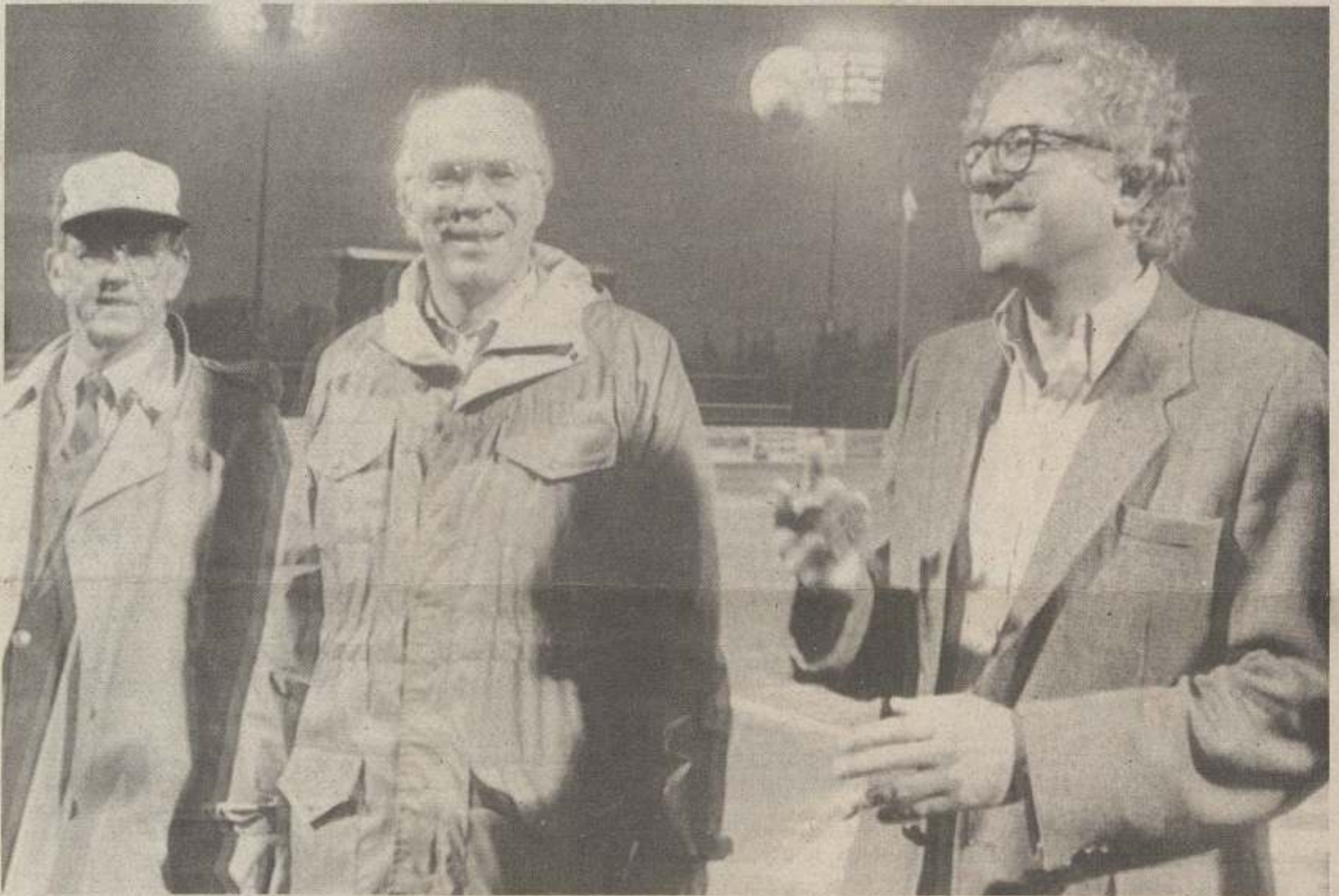


Herald Sports

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 19, 1984

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Burlington mayor Bernard Sanders (right) tosses the ball prior to sending out the first pitch Wednesday night at the Vermont Reds home opener at Centennial Field. U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., (center) and Vermont Reds booster club head Thomas Racino

were also on hand for the opening ceremonies which marked the return of minor league baseball in Vermont for the first time in 30 years.

Lights Go Out in the Third Vermont Reds Drop Opener

BURLINGTON — New Britain's Sam Nattile tripled home two runs in the top of the sixth inning to snap a 1-1 deadlock and spoil the return of professional baseball in Vermont after a 30-year hiatus.

The New Britain Red Sox went on to topple the Vermont Reds, 4-1, before a near capacity crowd of 4,176 that shivered through a chilly northern New England evening.

The game was marred by a one hour delay when the lights at Centennial Field on the Universi-

ty of Vermont campus went out.

At the time the field went dark, the game was scoreless.

When the lights came back on the visiting Red Sox were retired in the top of the third inning, and the Vermonters took a 1-0 lead in the home half of the frame on Terry Lee's run-scoring single.

Lee's two-out base hit brought home Cal Daniels who had walked and stolen second to open the inning.

New Britain tied the score an inning later, then added a pair of insurance tallies on Nattile's

booming triple in the sixth.

New Britain rounded out its scoring with a final run in the seventh inning.

George Mecero, who went the first seven innings for the Red Sox, scattered five hits, fanned seven, walked two, and allowed the one unearned run in picking up his second win of the young season in as many starts.

Mike Schmid came on to retire the last six Vermont hitters to preserve the victory.

Peter Grimm was the starter and loser for the Vermont Reds,

giving up the first three New Britain runs.

Rob Murphy came on in the seventh and was charged with the final New Britain tally.

Vermont managed only five hits in the game.

Wednesday night's game marks the start of a five-game home stand against New Britain for the Vermont Reds.

Thursday and Friday's games will also be under the lights, while Saturday and Sunday will be afternoon contests beginning at 2 p.m.