

Retrospective on Syd Thrift by Claire

Written by The Staff

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Fred Claire, the former VP and GM that spent 30 years with the Dodgers, has a very nice retrospective on Syd Thrift today on MLB.com. Thrift died last week at the age of 77. As Jim Leyland tells Claire, "Syd was the only guy who believed in me enough to give me a Major League managing job."

From the article:

Thrift never was one to back down if he believed in his position. I saw this first-hand during August of the 1989 season when he had become the general manager of the Yankees. I was the general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and Thrift and I agreed on a trade that would send infielder Tracy Woodson to the Yankees for right-handed pitcher Jimmy Jones. The deal was finalized with only the time of the announcement to be determined.

Thrift called me with a surprising development.

"Fred, I've been told that if I go through with this trade I will be fired. I want you to know one thing, though. We have agreed on the deal and I'm willing to go through with the announcement," said Thrift.

Thrift's word was more important to him than the prospect of losing his job.

"Syd, this isn't a deal worth putting your job at risk," I said. "We will call off the

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deal."

(MLB.com)