

O'Neill

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and often, calling anyone who might know someone who might know someone who might have tickets. So were others at WROV.

On Saturday morning, Jim Carroll, sales manager, called his friend Sam Lazzaro, the Salem Buccaneers' vice president for baseball operations. Lazzaro touched base with several baseball people, but it was the message he left on Carolina League President John Hopkins' answering machine in Greensboro that connected.

Hopkins called back Saturday night. He was in a Minnesota hotel, getting ready to head out to the game at the Metrodome. He had tickets for the entire Series, but he might not make all the games, he said.

Hopkins called back shortly before 4 Monday afternoon from Greensboro.

He said WROV could have his pair of tickets for the last five games.

Levine called Lazzaro a hero. Moss called Levine a hero. The tickets went counter-to-counter from Greensboro to the Roanoke Regional Airport, and Levine was there at 6 a.m. Tuesday to hand them to the Mosses.

The other winner took the tickets for the sixth and seventh games in Minnesota this weekend. Michele Ellington, 15, a junior at Lord Botetourt High School, was notified late Monday afternoon.

It was the first she'd heard she'd won. When I called, she didn't know anything about the tickets fiasco.

All she knew was that she and her mom, Joni, were heading for the Series, and that her mom never would complain about her filling out so many entry blanks again.

The Ellingtons will be rooting for the Cardinals. Levine said he doesn't care who wins the Series.

This past weekend, he said, "I was rooting for me."

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