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Notes: Fielder apologizes for dugout fracas

Yost opts not to hold him out of the lineup

By **TOM HAUDRICOURT**
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Cincinnati - Prince Fielder knows better than to fight with a teammate in the dugout during a game, which is why he apologized Tuesday for his altercation the previous evening with **Manny Parra**.

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"We had a little disagreement, obviously," said the Milwaukee Brewers slugger, who wouldn't talk after the game Monday night about the incident. "I'm not going to go into the depths of what it was over.

"It's something that happened. I've been playing with Manny since rookie ball.

Brewers/MLB

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It's not like we hate each other. At least, I don't. I apologize for the way it went down. I definitely could have handled it better."

The incident took place in the top of the seventh inning after Parra was removed from the game with the Brewers trailing Cincinnati, 6-1. After an animated discussion near the dugout tunnel, Parra and Fielder were walking toward the other end when Fielder suddenly turned and shoved Parra hard twice.

No one revealed the exact details, but Fielder supposedly didn't like that Parra headed to the clubhouse without staying on the bench to watch the top of the inning. When the upset Parra snatched his jacket off the bench, it appeared to brush near Fielder's face, setting him off.

"That's just something that happened in the moment," Fielder said. "I can't take it back. I could have handled it better. But I don't apologize for the full meaning behind it and the fire."


Manager **Ned Yost** said the matter was handled internally to the satisfaction of all involved and said he would not withhold a player from the lineup for such an incident. Fielder batted cleanup, as usual, Tuesday night against the Reds.


Asked what would warrant removing a player from the lineup, Yost said, "Non-hustle, being late, disrespecting the game in terms of hot dogging, those types of things."


"It's not a major ordeal," Yost added. "Yes, there's a shock factor to it. But people don't understand that there's a lot of stuff that happens over the course of an eight-month season when you've got guys that live together and play together and trust each other.


"It's over. We're past all this. I know what happened. I know the issue. They had a disagreement or misunderstanding. It's not anything that's going to linger or continue. Prince has apologized and we've talked to Manny."

Assistant general manager **Gord Ash** said the club was satisfied with the way

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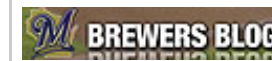
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Yost and the players handled the situation.

Lawrie signs: The Brewers signed their first-round pick from the June draft, Canadian prep slugger **Brett Lawrie**.

Lawrie, 18, was taken with the 16th pick of the draft out of Langley, British Columbia. Terms of the signing were not announced, but Baseball America magazine already is reporting that Lawrie received \$1.7 million.

Lawrie is playing for the Canadian Olympic team, which departed Tuesday for Beijing. The Brewers wanted to finish negotiations before he left for China because the team will not return until after the Aug. 15 deadline for signing draft picks or losing their rights.

Lawrie just finished playing for the Canadian junior team in the World Tournament in Edmonton, Alberta, where he led all players in batting (.469), home runs (three) and RBI (16), earning the tourney's "Triple Crown." He was named the catcher on the all-tournament team for Canada, which finished sixth.

Lawrie played third base and other positions with Langley but wants to catch and the Brewers plan to give him that opportunity. He will not play professional baseball this summer because of his Team Canada commitments, but scouting director **Jack Zduriencik** said the international experience was good for him.

"It's probably been a whirlwind for him, but the competitive spirit is very high," Zduriencik said. "That drives this kid. I don't think this is a setback in any way, shape or form."

After the Olympics Lawrie will report to instructional league in Arizona for comprehensive tutelage on catching from instructor **Charlie Greene**.

"Catching is something he wants to do," Zduriencik said. "He wants to do what's best for the organization and his career."

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