6,000 see Connie Morgan in sparkling performance

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Connie Morgan, Indianapolis Clowns’ rookie $10,000 female second baseman, electrified over 6,000 fans in the Negro American League’s opening twin-bill at Rickwood Field. Sunday, when she went far to her right to make a sensational stop, flipped to shortstop Bill Holder and started a lightning doubleplay against the Birmingham Barons.

At bat she walked in two appearances.

Ted Richardson went all the way for the Funmakers in the opener and after a shaky start, emerged a 10-6 winner. The Barons scored 5 runs in the first inning, highlighted by Joe Dennis’ grand slam homer, but the Clowns caught fire and as Richardson steadied, pounded Frank Thompson from the mound and then went to work on reliever Kelly Sheary.

Disputed Play

In the nightcap the Clowns held an 8-5 lead in the final inning when a disputed play which resulted in a protest being lodged by the Clowns, opened the gates for four Baron runs and a 9-8 win.

During heated argument over the call at third base, first baseman Speed Merchant and second baseman Ray Neil of the Clowns were given the heave-ho.

The Clowns officially open the home season for the Kansas City Monarchs at Blues Stadium Sunday afternoon, May 30. On Monday, May 31, the Funmakers are scheduled for a 5:30 p.m. twin-nite double-header against the Monarchs at Busch Stadium, St. Louis, home of the Cardinals, and the Clowns’ first appearance in a major league park this season.