

'Thrill of a Lifetime' For Mrs. Waslewski

By GLORIA NEGRI

Maybe it was the prayers of Sister Hilaria and Sister Sylvester.

Mrs. Was cheering in the stands three weeks before the birth of her first child.

Little Yaz chomping a hotdog while his dad hit a homer.

Mrs. Yaz taking refuge under the stands before he did.

There was pure magic in the air at Fenway Park yesterday.

For the former Nancy Cougler, one-time Eastern Airlines stewardess and legal secretary from Toronto it was the "thrill of a lifetime."

The lovely brown-haired Nancy is the wife of Gary Waslewski, the rookie Red Sox pitcher who opened yesterday's World Series game against the Cardinals.

"And to think, we were supposed to have been in Puerto Rico Oct. 10," Mrs. Was said. That's where Gary was going for his second season of Winter ball until tapped last week-end in St. Louis by Manager Dick Williams to pitch yesterday.

"Now," Mrs. Was sighed with relief, "we're going to

settle down in Peabody for the Winter, rest and enjoy the baby."

Nancy Waslewski was feeling just fine yesterday, even though she had gone to St. Louis against the best advice of her doctor. "He knew how much I wanted to go, so he didn't put his foot down."

Nancy sat with Gary's younger brother, Mike and his wife, Brenda of Meriden, Ct., a few rows in front of Gary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Waslewski of Kensington, Ct.

The senior Waslewski, a tool-and-die plant worker, said he had never though he'd see such a day. "Gary was wonderful," he said. "He never wanted to do anything else but play ball. He was very cool out there on the mound. I wish I had been as cool sitting out here."

Nancy is a Canadian and met her husband when he was with the International League in Toronto. Nancy's folks, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Cougler, live in Preston, Ont., where her father is a bank manager. Nancy liked baseball even before she met Gary. "Both my father and brother are fans," she said.

And now, she knows so much about the game, she's a help to Gary in discussing plays.

The Waslewskis were married in Toronto last September. "We met at a party. Gary was with a date and so was I." They spent their honeymoon in Puerto Rico where Gary played Winter league ball.

The interest of Sr. Hilaria and Sr. Sylvester in the Red Sox comes naturally. Sr. Hilaria is administrator of Sancta Maria Hospital where the ballplayers are treated, and Sr. Sylvester is on the staff there.

Yesterday, they were guests of Cardinal Cushing, who was accompanied by his secretary, Rt. Rev. Joseph McGuire. A row behind sat the Rev. Gerard D. Barry, chaplain at the Suffolk County House of Correction on Deer Island.

"Some of the sisters will pray in the chapel from noon to 1 this afternoon, and it is all voluntary," Sr. Hilaria said.

Cardinal Cushing obliged photographers by putting on a Red Sox cap, and then, completely voluntary, gave Mgr. Williams a pat on the

head. Overhead, a small plane flew by hauling a sign saying, "Beat the Birds—Emmanuel College." It was the first game of the Series Cardinal Cushing had been able to attend.

In the stands behind first base, Carl Yastrzemski's son, Michael, 6, was attending his first Series game. Blond and green-eyed Little Yaz, wearing a big baseball mitt, was just taking a bite of a hotdog when his father hit a homer in the fourth inning. Little Yaz wasn't quite sure what all the excitement was about when his grandparents and the whole park rose to cheer.

Minutes before, his mother, lovely Carol Yastrzemski, who was sitting in another section with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Casper of Pittsburgh, left to join friends for refreshments under the stands.

Carol started doing this in the first Sox-Twins game Sept. 30 because she was getting nervous. She left in the fourth inning and had a hotdog with two of Yaz' friends from Merrimack College, Frank Reardon, 52 Wilmot st., Lawrence, and Gordon O'Keefe, 151 Spruce st., Lawrence.