

## 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, &quot;Syd was the only guy who believed in me enough to give me a Major League managing job.&quot;

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.

&quot;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,&quot; said Thrift.

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

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

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deal.&quot;

( [MLB.com](http://MLB.com) )