

Witchcraft Doesn't Help To End Braves Streak

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tell a barefoot warlock who stepped on a rose thorn that "love is coming into your life," before adding:

"If we fail, we do not believe its our failure or that of Atlanta...it's in the hands of the lords of karma and not witches."

Apparently so, since the proceeding was marked by the sort of luck that touched the Braves before Lady Sintana, Lord Barabbas, Lady Hacate, Lady Isis and Carl, the 4-year-old grandson, donned their black robes to cast an end to the losing spell.

"Grandma," said Carl to the red-haired Lady Sintana, "can I see you on TV?"

"If my television is working," she replied.

And then there was the telegram the Z-93 radiomen fired off to the Pirates: "Double, double, toil and trouble"

was the way it opened and "We know her powers will bring the cure" was the way it closed.

Trouble was, it was addressed to John Candelaria, the Pirates' undefeated pitcher who never got into the game Wednesday night, instead of the pitchers who ritually set down the Braves.

Given that lack of concentration, it seemed obvious Lady Sintana's request for all of Atlanta "to concentrate and project energy with ours" would fail—and not just because of the difficulty involved in transmitting "positive power" between Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

"I believe in karma (the power supposedly generated by good and bad actions)," she said. "There are two or three negatives forces on the team—it's something no coach could be aware of, though."

Unless, of course, he looked at their batting averages.