Replay scoreboard: Instant controversy?

What plays will Dodgers show (or not show) on $3 million left field color TV screen?

The Dodgers next a press conference yesterday to announce the purchase and installation of what was termed a "revolutionary $3 million full-color video display system with the fidelity and infinite flexibility of a television screen."

Club president Peter O'Malley called it the first major improvement since Dodger Stadium opened in 1962 and said it would be unveiled at this summer's All-Star Game.

The screen will be 20 feet high by 28 feet wide and will replace the message board over the left field pavilion. It will be enlarged by five feet in each direction for the 1981 season.

"I guess that means Tommy Lasorda won't make his debut on the screen till '81," noted one reporter who has seen the manager devour a few tons of egg rolls and pasta over the years.

The screen will be used for instant replays, profiles of players, and to provide information on other games and sporting events.

Color images will come from monitors in the stadium and video tape recorders.

"It's the newest and best available," said O'Malley. "We've always thought our fans deserved the best. We believe the picture will be spectacular."

The showing of instant replays of controversial plays has created unrest in other ballparks, even outbreaks of violence.

"We have not addressed ourselves to that," O'Malley said when asked about the Dodgers' policy with regard to display of controversial calls. "We hope to use good judgment and not incite any problems in the ballpark."

"I'm sure the commissioner has guidelines for the use of such screens on bases. We will go along with those guidelines, whatever they are."

It will require about 28,000 red, green and blue individual color tubes to light up the screen, which is the product of Mitsubishi Electric.

— Lyle Spencer