

Tigers may be contenders

ARLINGTON (AP)—Detroit manager Billy Martin believes his Tigers are starting to hit their spring training groove.

The Tigers blasted the Texas Rangers 8-1 Wednesday night to sweep a two-game series and retain the lead in the American League East.

"We felt in spring training that we had everything going. Then we got set back by the

strike," Martin said. "Then we lost two games in Baltimore and we could have won."

"Baltimore is a helluva club, but I still say they were hurt by the loss of Frank Robinson. You just can't replace a Frank Robinson easily."

Martin added, "It's encouraging to jump out ahead in the early going. We had planned to do it in spring training. That's what

were were talking about—get out ahead and make the other teams come after us."

Joe Coleman pitched a three-hitter at the Rangers, many of them his former teammates. Coleman was traded to Detroit with pitcher Jim Hannan and infielders Ed Brinkman and Aurelio Rodriguez for two pitchers, including Denny McLain, and two infielders.

Coleman, now 3-0 for the season, said, "I'm really happy about that trade because we've got a helluva shot at winning the pennant. We had a lot of fun on the old Washington team, but you can't beat playing for a winner. We've got tremendous defense and hitting."

Coleman said Detroit had a better pitching staff than most of the experts thought.

"We are going to make a lot of experts eat their words," he said. "We'll give Baltimore a run for their money."

Rodriguez knocked in two runs against his old mates and Texan Norman Cash clubbed a homer as the Tigers unleashed a 12-hit attack against lower Dick Bosman and Helpers.

The Rangers scored their only run in the first inning on Don Mincher's RBI single.

Texas announced after the game that it was putting outfielder Jeff Burroughs on the disabled list for 15 days and bringing up Ted Ford from Denver.

The Rangers are idle Thursday and the Tigers travel home for a lengthy stand.

Youngster takes boxing title over Argentina's Marcano

HONOLULU (AP)—Even as he became the youngest boxing champion of this century, junior lightweight Ben Villafior showed he is a long way from his full potential.

The brawling Villafior, 19, won a unanimous decision over Venezuela's Alfredo Marcano Tuesday night, but some observers still questioned Villafior's boxing ability.

"He's a tough kid," said Marcano's manager, Willie Ketchum, "but he's no boxer."

Judge Harold Hart, who scored it 69-68 for Villafior, agreed.

"Villafior landed a lot of hard punches," he said, "but he missed an awful lot too."

Villafior, by his own admission, came out swinging for a knockdown. Marcano, who fought cautiously, dodged most of the lunging lefts Villafior dished up, but Villafior connected often

enough to put Marcano on the ropes several times in the early rounds.

Marcano, a right-hander, appeared to have trouble figuring out how to handle Villafior's left-handed style.

Neither fighter ever appeared to be in trouble.

The record book lists only one fighter—bantamweight Pedlar Palmer—who was younger when he won a world title. Palmer was just six days past his 19th birthday when he won his crown in 1895.

Two other judges scored Villafior the winner, 74-68 and 74-64.

By pre-fight arrangement, the winner is to defend the title within 90 days against Victor Etchegaray of Argentina, the World Boxing Association's No. 1 ranked contender.

Promoter Sam Ichinose said the title fight will probably be held in Honolulu.

New York Knicks topple Lakers in NBA basketball playoff action

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The New York Knicks, with Bill Bradley and Jerry Lucas leading a blistering shooting assault by hitting 24 of 32 shots, shattered the Los Angeles Lakers 114-92 Wednesday night in the first game of their best-of-seven playoff series for the National Basketball Association crown.

Bradley hit 11 of 12 shots, including his first eight, and Lucas fired in a series of long-range jumpers as the Knicks built a big lead in the second quarter and were never challenged. Bradley

wound up with 29 points and Lucas with 26. Gail Goodrich led the Lakers with 20.

The game was decided in the first half, when the Knicks hit 72 per cent of their shots and took a 67-49 lead.

A national television audience and a sellout crowd of 17,505 watched as the Lakers were routed for the second consecutive playoff series opener.

Los Angeles, blitzed by Milwaukee 93-72 in the first game of their Western Conference championship series, came back to defeat the defending champion Bucks in six games.

The Knicks, who beat the Lakers for the NBA championship two years ago in a seven-game series, and Los Angeles return here Sunday for game No. 2 at 1:00 p.m. PST.

Rick Barry paces NY Nets past Squires in ABA tilt

UNIONDALE, N. Y. (AP)—Rick Barry's 33 points led the New York Nets to a 118-107 victory over the Virginia Squires Wednesday night, tying their American Basketball Association semifinal playoff at two victories apiece.

The fifth game in the best-of-seven series is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at Hampton, Va., with the teams returning to New York for the sixth game next Monday night.

The Nets raced to an 11-0 lead in the first 2 minutes, 19 seconds of play and were up 31-22 at the end of the first quarter. Barry paced the first period spurt with 16 points, four rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block.

The Nets built their lead to as many as 20 points, 54-34, midway through the second period but the Squires reeled off 10 straight points to chop that margin in half.

New York maintained its lead through the third period on the shooting of Barry, Billy Paultz and John Roche.

Virginia, which won the first two games of the series before a nine-day layoff forced by an ice show occupying the Nets' home arena, cut New York's edge to four points, 108-104, with 3:17 to go.

But Ollie Taylor's layup gave the Nets some breathing room and they pulled away in the final moments.

Roche finished with 24 points, Bill Melchioni had 18 and Paultz 16 for the Nets. Julius Erving led the Squires with 27 points and 23 rebounds.

SWC meet begins today

Both A&M's golf team and tennis team will begin conference competition beginning today in Fayetteville, Ark.

Steve Veriato leads Aggie golf by winning the conference title last season at the meet. His chances this season are not as promising with the addition of the Texas team made up of Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite.

The A&M tennis team finished SWC round-robin play in fourth place behind Rice, SMU and Texas.

Coach not named until weekend

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Chaparrals of the American Basketball Association said Wednesday they don't expect to name a new head coach before the end of the week.

Bob Bass of the Miami Floridians and Babe McCarthy of Memphis are reported the strongest candidates.

However, publicist Doug Tkachuk said, "We have other candidates on our list and will be talking to them. We're not likely to announce anything before Saturday."

The Chaparrals have been coach hunting since Tom Nissalke left Dallas for the Seattle SuperSonics of the National Basketball Association. Nissalke's assistant, Dave Brown, was not offered the job. Brown has decided to stay as an assistant coach and director of player personnel.

The Chaparrals have all but ruled out any collegiate coaches, saying they prefer someone with experience in the professional ranks.

Rice, UH play in second game

HOUSTON (AP)—The second Rice-Houston football game will be played the night of Sept. 9 in Rice University Stadium.

The date had been listed in some preliminary schedules as Sept. 16 but the date has been changed because of a development in national television scheduling.

Houston will meet Arizona State in the Astrodom Sept. 16, and as a result the Rice-Houston game date was changed.

Houston defeated Rice in their first football meeting last year in Rice Stadium.

Sports schedule

Thursday
Tennis: Southwest Conference Meet, Fayetteville, Ark.
Golf: Southwest Conference Meet, Fayetteville, Ark.

Friday
Baseball: Texas, Austin, double-header, 1 p.m.
Track: At Drake Relays
Tennis: Southwest Conference Meet, Fayetteville, Ark.

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- FURNITURE**
Living room, dining room, bedroom, den, patio, pool tables, ping pong tables, paintings, card tables, book cases, lamps, lamp tables, commode tables, end tables, and etc.
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The Lettermen

The Carpenters

Charley Pride

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Stars 'Drive Friendly'

The Lettermen, The Carpenters, Charley Pride and Phyllis Diller have joined a growing number of personalities who support the "Drive Friendly" campaign of the Governor's Committee on Traffic Safety. The entertainers voice their support of "Drive Friendly" on a new series of public service

announcements now being heard on Texas radio stations. Also on the new record of announcements, the third in a series, are Ed McMahon of the "Tonight" show and Dallas Cowboy stars Bob Lilly and Bob Hayes.