

# Small Hit Pleases Mays

## Played in Series 22 Years Ago

NEW YORK (AP)—Willie Mays got a bigger charge out of his two-cent hit in the wild fifth inning of the National League title game than any of the 660 gold-plated homers in his 20-year career.

"I wasn't thinking about home runs at all," the 42-year-old retiring superstar said. "I just wanted to get another run home. We were leading 3-2 at the time."

"I said to myself, 'If we can make it 4-2, we've got a margin that will be hard to overtake.'"

With the cheers of 50,323 fans ringing in his ears, the old center fielder lashed at one of Clay Carroll's pitches. He got only a piece of the ball and it bounded high in front of the plate.

Felix Millan beat the throw to home and crossed the plate with another Met run.

Before the inning was over, the Mets had pushed across four runs

on four hits en route to a 7-2 fifth and final game victory for the National League pennant.

Now the miracle Mets, 12½ games back at one stage and in last place on Sept. 1 go into the World Series in an attempt to duplicate the astounding championship of 1969.

"We can do it," said a happy, gum-chewing Mays while champagne corks and photographer's flashbulbs popped all around him in the celebrative victors' dressing room.

"It's not magic, it's not miracles that make this team go—it's togetherness. We have had a lot of injuries and hard luck. But this is a team that plays together and won't quit."

Shortstop Bud Harrelson, doused with champagne, came over and planted a wet kiss on Mays' cheek and right behind Harrelson came the mayor of

New York, John Lindsay, to shake Willie's hand.

"God bless you, Willie," the mayor said.

Willie's eyes showed a trace of dampness.

"Thanks, Mr. Mayor," he replied. "You just don't know how good it feels."

Later he added with pride: "I came in on a winner, and I'm going out on a winner."

Willie was a rookie on the great New York Giants team that won the National League pennant in 1951. Traded to the Mets at the start of the 1972 season to end his career before his adoring New York public, Willie announced his retirement after cracking some ribs in a game at Montreal Sept. 9.

His appearance at the plate Wednesday, which almost shook Shea Stadium down to its foundation, was his first official at bat since that date.

# Runners Abound in SWC

## A&M's Bean Among Leading Rushers

There are more runners in the Southwest Conference this year than in a pair of World War II stockings.

Latest to join the list of record holders and near record holders is A&M's Bubba Bean, who came back from a leg injury Saturday with the 12th 200-yard rushing day in SWC history. The sophomore from Kirbyville picked up 204 yards in 22 carries in the 30-15 victory over Clemson to move from tenth to third in SWC rushing.

It was the first 200-yard rushing performance in the SWC since

TCU's Bobby Davis went 247 against UT Arlington in the 1970 opener. It was also the third best rushing day for an Aggie, being bettered by Bob Smith's all-time SWC record of 297 against SMU in 1950 and Smith's 214 against Texas Tech in 1949.

Bean still trails Texas' Roosevelt Leaks (106.7 yards per game) and Baylor's Lacy (101). Lacy continued to close in on Baylor rushing records as he pushed his seasonal yardage to 404 in four games. Pinkie Palmer set the school record of 818 yards in 1968.

Other rushing record setters in the SWC this year fell off the pace of the leaders. Alvin Maxson, who set the career SMU rushing record last week, is fifth for the season with a 78.3 average and Arkansas career holder Dickey Morton is sixth at 76.5 yards per game.

In addition to moving from fourth to second in rushing, Lacy continued to hold the tandem offense (yards rushing and receiving) lead with an average of 105.3 yards per game. And Bean accelerated from all the way out

of the rankings to take over second with 86.0 yards per game.

Although SMU fell off its blistering average in a loss to Missouri, the Mustangs held their team total offense and team rushing offense leads. The Mustangs are gaining at 434.3 yards per game to runner-up A&M's 411.8, and they're still far ahead in rushing with 371.8 yards per game to Texas' 248.3. Texas has claimed the conference rushing title five straight years since installing the Wishbone attack in 1968, has won two national rushing championships and finished second and tenth in those five seasons.

# A&M Women

## Softballers

### Take District

The A&M women's softball team won the district championship here Tuesday night by beating Sam Houston in the third game of a two out of three series.

After losing the first game of the series Friday 5-0 in a rain-shortened contest, the girls came back "to show a real team effort," said Toby Crow, coach.

A&M won the second game when the Sam Houston pitcher walked in three runs and A&M nailed what strikes she threw for an 8-3 win.


The rubber game of the series was sent into extra innings.

The Aggies held Sam Houston scoreless in the extra stanza. Debbie Berrier then tripled and Ruth Whitley sacrificed her home with the winning run for A&M.

The Aggies will draw a second place team from another district for the state championship which starts in two weeks.

This weekend the girls travel to Temple Junior College for a double elimination tourney. They meet West Texas State at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

"We really expect to take first place this weekend," said Kay Don, women's athletic programs director, especially if the teams keep playing like they did against Sam Houston."



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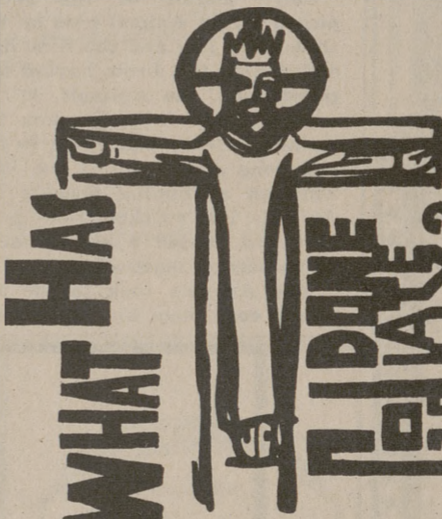
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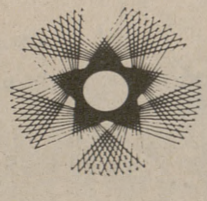
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