## Must win three in a row

## **Pirates to face impossible** task against L.A. Dodgers

face a mission that's been impossible so far in National League playoffs when they battle the hot Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday in the third game of the set. Never in the previous five years

of playoff competition has a club lost the first two games and come back to win three in a row, and that's what the Pirates must do to reach the World Series.

"I can't remember when we've

played as well in back-to-back

games," declared Dodger first

baseman Steve Garvey of the 3-0

For the third game, starting at 3:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, the Dod-

and 5-2 victories in Pittsburgh.

(AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates hasn't won a game since Sept. 8 at Cincinnati and since then has had five starts. Manager Danny Murtaugh said of

his Pirates, "From the opening of

the season, we've had our backs to

times this year, and here we are,

A bomb scare delayed the Dod-

Someone phoned the airport in

Pittsburgh and said a bomb was

aboard the Dodgers' private plane.

An hour's search proved the call a

On the plus side for the Dodgers,

gers' return to Los Angeles after

We've been counted out 9 or 10

the wall.

still in it.

their Sunday victory

**Batt sports** 

Third baseman Ron Cey burst out of a slump to slam a home run, two doubles and a single Sunday.

"It seems when our team is hitting well, everyone hits well, commented Manager Walter Alston, whose Dodgers are in championship contention for the first time since 1966.

We're the National League champions," proclaimed Jimmy Wynn, the slugging little center fielder who led the club in homers with 32 in his first season with the club after arriving from Houston via trade last winter.

"All year long we lost in Pittsburgh, and then we went there and beat them two in a row and now take them to our yard.

Don Sutton and Andy Messers-mith pitched the victories in Pittsburgh, and if the series goes more than three games, they'll be available again.

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gers will send left hander Doug they've been hitting well. Rau, 13-11, against right hander Bruce Kison, 9-8. On the plus for the Pirates, Rau Oakland-Baltimore playoff series tied 'Fun Run" set for Kyle

## this Sunday

An Englishman will be the man to beat in Sunday action of the Brazos Valley Joggers Club.

Making his first appearance in BVJC's recent five-mile open, John Crompton placed at the top of a 25-entry field. He covered the five miles in 29 minutes and 43 seconds. A different type event is scheduled this Sunday. Starting at 3 p.m. in Kyle Field alongside a one-mile "Fun Run", it is called a "Devil Take the Hindmost" run. The last runner at the end of each lap has to drop out. It goes until one

runner is still moving. The fun run is for the less strenuous-minded. Thirteen entered the fun run with the recent five-mile open. Kendall Toon placed first in 6:09. Six-year-old Mark Epperson walked and jogged the mile in 12:24 to finish 13th.

Crompton had been in the U.S. three weeks. Working toward a Ph.D. in recreation at Texas A&M University, he seemed surprised, but glad, to find a group of road runners here, according to Jon Epperson

Paul Hicks turned the five miles in the second best time, 30:59, and Epperson placed third. Times ranged from Crompton's 29:43 to 42:58 by Edward Fitchard. Information about the Sunday

runs can be obtained from race director Mel Chastain, 822-3001

HE STEEL BELTED RADIAL

(AP) — As might be expected, the were unearned. Bando hit his American League championship playoffs between the Oakland Athletics and the Baltimore Orioles. The results of the first two games

in the best-of-five playoff only seemed to prove the old baseball bromide that anything can happen in a short series. And, when the series resumes in

Orioles looks for more of the same. "We're pretty evenly matched,"

Weaver said as some of the Orioles worked out Monday on a voluntary basis.

a ball being lost in the sun, a bad hop or a squibber. An inch here or an inch there might bust it open.'

two games, Baltimore's Mike Cuellar and Oakland's Ken Holtzman, each had 1-3 records against the opposing teams in head-to-head competition this season.

Cuellar won the opener Saturday when the Orioles shelled three homers off Jim "Catfish" Hunter, a 25-game winner who had beaten Baltimore's previous pennants and Baltimore seven straight times, including twice this year.

Ray Fosse, who clouted a threerun homer in Oakland's 5-0 victory on Sunday, batted .133 against Baltimore during 1974

season, didn't connect against the Orioles until Sunday and he had batted .219 against Baltimore.

theory, five of Oakland's six runs

unexpected has dominated the homer after second baseman Bobby Grich dropped his foul pop and Fosse's came after substitute shortstop Frank Baker muffed a two-out grounder. Noting the somewhat topsy-turvy

performances to date, Weaver said Tuesday's pitching matchup 'should be in our favor." He referred to Vida Blue's 2-0 re-

Baltimore Tuesday with game No. cord against the Orioles this season, 3, Manager Earl Weaver of the while Baltimore starter Jim Palmer is 0-1 with an astronomical 6.55 earned run average.

They met twice in the 1973 playoffs. Palmer won the series opener, 6-0, and Blue was driven The games might be decided by from the box in game No. 4 after taking a 4-0 lead into the seventh

inning. Blue wound up the 1974 season The winning pitchers in the first with a 17-15 record. Palmer, last year's Cy Young award winner in the American League, spent 54 days on the disabled list with a sore arm and finished below .500 for the first time in the majors at 7-12.

Although Palmer is familiar with pressure games, having pitched the clinching victory in all four of with 3-1 record in World Series play, the 28-year-old hurler says his sore arm has added another dimension

Palmer said, "I'm more aware than ever that I have to be a pitcher Sal Bando, with 22 homers this instead of a thrower. It decreases my margin of error.

Ross Grimsley, an 18-game winner with a 3-0 record against the A's Helping to prove Weaver's in 1974, volunteered to pitch relief in the playoffs. He replaced Cuellar in the ninth inning of the opener.

Weaver has indicated that Cuellar would start game No. 4 on Wednesday. Either Dave McNally, the second game starter, or Grimsley

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THE BATTALION

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