

Astromoney still with Hofheinz

By DAVID WALKER
We usually like to devote our Batt sports pages to coverage of college athletics but I'm going to jump away from the college ranks for the second time in a row to talk about the Astros.

As I reported last week the Houston Astros are close to financial collapse. I also reported that they would be sold by the end of last week or early this week.

Well, those two times have come and gone and there has been no sale of the franchise. This doesn't mean that the Astros (sometimes called Lastros) have gotten any better off financially or that I have lousy sources. It just means one thing: the Astros haven't been sold.

There is still trouble in Astrotown and the Astros are hurting for money just as bad this week as they were last week. I don't have any concrete reason to give you on why the team wasn't sold but you can bet it will be.

One possible reason is the Astroworld deal. The principle stock-

holder of the Astros is Roy Hofheinz, who owns Astroworld. He recently dumped the Wonderful World of Fun on the Six Flags people for twenty years at two million a year.

While two million a year would probably hold me over it could just be saving the Astros. It would depend on how much, if any, money was in the deal for the immediate taking. Meaning if the two million for this year has already been given to the Astro boss it could be enough to keep the team under his hat for awhile.

Some people are screaming for the head of Astro manager Preston Gomez while others want the same from general manager Spec Richardson. One Houston paper last week facetiously said that it could even be equipment manager Jimmy Lake's fault.

Everyone wants the head of the boss but no one seems to know who the boss is. Some say Hofheinz runs the show, some say Richardson some say Gomez. One thing is for sure, you are never going to have a winner until the manager runs it. You have to have a manager who has control of his players and their

respect. You've got to have a owner who does nothing but own and a general manager who works closely with the manager.

If Hofheinz does run the show then the Astros can never be expected to do any better than .500. As for Richardson it all depends to what extent he operates the team and for the field manager Gomez, he is the only one who has his work out in the open for everyone to see. It's

not really fair to the manager, especially in this case where it is doubted as to just how much he is really allowed to do.

It's kind of sad to see the Hofheinz baseball career to end this way. (If it does end) The man is responsible for getting pro baseball to Texas back in the early 60's. The Astrodome was his idea and the building of it was his baby. He has given

the state of Texas and the city of Houston the number one tourist attraction in the Great Southwest for the past ten years and at times an exciting baseball team full of promise. It's too bad, but if Hofheinz does in fact run the Astros like Bud Adams runs the Oilers it is just as well that he does step down before the entire Astro organization has to have a complete overhaul, if it's not too late already.

Wedermann takes honors

College Station Swim Club gets fifth at invitational

The College Station Swim Club (CSSC) placed fifth among 17 teams in the weekend College Station Invitational Championship Swim Meet at Art Adamson Municipal Pool.

Don Wedermann of CSSC took individual high-point honors in the top boys senior "A" division. He was first in the 50, 100 and 200 meter freestyle and 100 meter butterfly and second in the 200 fly.

The North Houston Dolphins won the team championship, followed by Bayshore (Pasadena), Austin Aquatic, Dads Club (Houston) and CSSC, among the top finishers.

Other CSSC award-winners in the boys senior "A" division were Ed Kahil, fourth in the 100 breast and fifth in the 100 fly; Mark Robeck, fourth in the 100 fly and fifth in the 100 free; and Chris Stephenson, sixth in both the 200 and 400 free. Bill Harper was second in the senior "B" 50 free. In the "B" division for boys 10 and under, Ricky Pietras placed first in the 50 free and second in the 100 free. His brother, Robby, was fifth in the 50 free. J. Axley was eighth in 11-12 age "B" 100 backstroke.

In the girls events, Olgi Oliver was second in the "A" senior girls free, third in the "A" 50 free, "A" 200 free and "B" 100 back and seventh in the "A" 100 breast.

Cindy Hallaran was first in the senior "B" 100 back, third in the "B" 100 breast, fourth in the "A" 200 breast and sixth in the "A" 100 free. Donna Dotson was seventh in the "A" 100 free. Bonnie Bryant was sixth in the "B" 50 backstroke for ages 10 and under, seventh in the "B" 50 breast and eighth in the "B" 50 free.

In relays, second place in both the freestyle and medley went to the senior boys "B" team of Wedermann, Dennis Light, Larry Scheuckler, and Tom Sanders. Seventh and eighth place finishes were chalked up by the "A" team of

Robeck, Stephenson, Kahil and David Stewart. The boys 10 and under team, which included Vaughn Bryant, Chris Trost and the Pietras brothers, placed third. The senior girls "A" team placed seventh, consisting of Hallaran, Oliver and Donna and Diana Dotson. The girls 10 and under medley team took second. It included Bonnie Bryant, Diane Conway, Kim Galindo and Becky Van Doren.

The meet was jointly sponsored by CSSC, the City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department and the College Station Recreation Council.

Lakers get Jabbar, lose four in trade-off

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, three times an All-American at UCLA and three times the Most Valuable Player in the National Basketball Association at Milwaukee, became a Los Angeles Laker Monday in a trade that sent four players to the Bucks.

Jabbar, 28, signed a 5-year, multi-million dollar contract with the Lakers in the deal that sent center Elmore Smith, reserve guard Brian Winters and two 1975 first round-draft choices, 6-foot-8 Dave Meyers and 6-5 Junior Bridgeman to the Bucks.

Besides Jabbar, Los Angeles also received his backup at center with Milwaukee, 6-11 Walt Wesley.

Lakers owner Jack Kent Cooke announced the trade in a news conference on the floor of the Forum. Lights were extinguished and a spotlight played on Abdul-Jabbar as

he entered the arena he now will call home.

He is expected to make at least \$500,000 a year with the Lakers although no one, including the 7-3 center, would divulge details of the pact except its length.

"In my opinion, he is the best basketball player in the world today and as far as I know he could be the best basketball player of all time," Cooke said.

Jabbar said, "Everybody has patted me on the back on coming here, and I hope I can live up to it. I think I can."

Long-rumored, the trade has been in the works several weeks. A stumbling block was that Milwaukee demanded that both All-American Meyers of UCLA and Bridgeman of Louisville be signed to contracts before the exchange could be consummated.

Mann tops LPGA field by 2 shots

MEDINA, Ohio (AP) — Carol Mann, handling heavy winds that destroyed her inexperienced rivals, scored her 35th Ladies Professional Golf Association victory Sunday, grabbing the \$50,000 Medina Open by two shots.

The 34-year-old LPGA president failed to let winds gusting to 40 miles per hour bother her. She posted a two-over-par 74 for a 54-hole total of 217, one over on the Weymouth Valley Country Club course.

That gave her a two-stroke margin over Judy Rankin, another veteran who breezed by the faltering young contenders. She had 219, shooting a closing 74. Sandra Palmer, leading 1975 money winner, finished with a 72 for third place at 220.

Meanwhile, newcomers Jo Ann Washam, Cathy Postlewait and Laura Baugh couldn't cope with the gusty conditions and fell from contention for their first tour victories.

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