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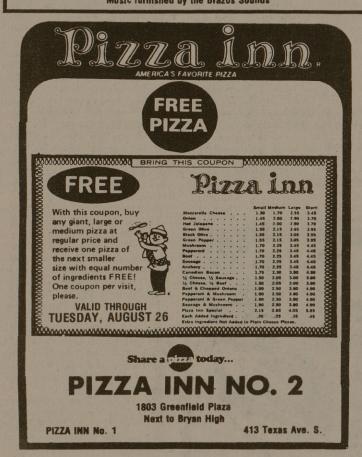
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Virdon named Astro manager

HOUSTON — Bill Virdon, fired as New York Yankee manager last month to make way for Billy Martin, was named Tuesday by one of his former Yankee bosses to replace Preston Gomez as manager of the

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Del Unser and
Wayne Garrett slugged solo home

runs to power the New York Mets

beyond the Houston Astros 6-3

Tuesday night, spoiling Bill Vir-

Yankees last month, was hired ear-

lier Tuesday to replace Preston

the season in third and Garrett un-

Virdon, fired by the New York

Unser slugged his sixth homer of

Jon Matlack, 14-8, had shut out

the Astros on five hits until the ninth

when he gave up a double to Enos

Cabel, Cesar Cedeno's seventh homer of the year and Cliff

Johnson's 11th homer. Both homers

Minnesota's Bert Blyleven retired

the first 13 Baltimore batters and

pitched the Minnesota Twins to a

five-hit 5-2 victory over the Orioles

The setback dropped second-

place Baltimore eight games behind

Boston in the American League's

East Division. The triumph was

MONTREAL — Steve Rogers

scattered 10 hits and the Montreal

Expos scored three unearned runs

in the first inning enroute to a 5-0

victory over the San Diego Padres

Jim Lyttle led off the Expos first

by reaching safely on left fielder

Bobby Tolan's error, was sacrificed

to second by Jim Dwyer and went to

Minnesota's ninth in 11 games.

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.

don's debut as manager.

Gomez, who was fired.

cam with two out

Tuesday night.

Tuesday night.

third on a passed ball.

loaded No. 6 in the fourth.

Unser, Garrett solo

hiring, which takes effect immediately, was made by new Astros General Manager Tal Smith. It came after Gomez demanded to know where he stood with the club.

Homers overpower Astros

pitched a three-hitter and Al Oliver

drove in a pair of runs with a homer and a double to help the Pittsburgh

Pirates halt a six-game losing streak

and beat the San Francisco Giants

The victory, coupled with Philadelphia's 6-4 loss to Atlanta,

moved the Pirates back into sole

possession of first place in the Na-

tional League East, one game ahead

of the Phillies, and it followed a 2-12

road trip in which Pittsburgh

KANSAS CITY - Bill Lee

hurled a four-hitter and rookie Fred

Lynn slammed a double and a tworun homer to lead the Boston Red

Sox to a 5-0 victory over the Kansas

Rick Burleson also drove in runs for

the American League East leaders.

NEW YORK — Jorge Orta's single scored pinch runner Nyls

Nyman from second base in the 11th

inning, lifting the Chicago White

Sox to a 7-6 victory over the New

Carlos May drew a leadoff walk from reliever Sparky Lyle, 3-6, and

was sacrificed to second. Nyman ran

for him and raced home on Orta's

soft bouncing single between first

CHICAGO — Lee Lacy's triple

and John Hale's sacrifice fly in the

eighth inning combined with the two-hit pitching of Don Sutton and

Mike Marshall and gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a 2-1 victory over

the Chicago Cubs Tuesday.

York Yankees Tuesday night.

and second.

Dwight Evans, Bob Heise and

squandered a four-game lead.

City Royals Tuesday night.

4-0 Tuesday night.

mathematically eliminated from the and next year could be different." National League East Division race Monday night.

'When I was hired at Pittsburgh and New York, I was expected to 'I know we can't win the pennant win," said Virdon, fired recently as

loped a two-run pinch homer in the

ping an Atlanta comeback that lifted

ninth inning Tuesday night, cap-

the Braves to a 6-4 victory over

Philadelphia and knocked the Phil-

National League's East Division.

in the ninth and May drilled his

eighth home run of the season off

ST. LOUIS — WillieDavis re-

turned from five days of self-exile on

the disqualified list with two sing-

les, a double and a triple, helping

the St. Louis Cardinals edge the

Cincinnati Reds 2-1 Tuesday night

behind Lynn McGlothen's four-hit

Cincinnati's nine-game winning

streak and remained in third place

just 21/2 games behind Pittsburgh in

the National League's East Division

and only 11/2 games in back of

CLEVELAND — Texas' Jim Umbarger beat Cleveland's Dennis

Eckersley in a rookie pitching duel

as the Rangers tripped the Indians

to Dave Moates leading off the game

and he came around to score on two

OAKLAND - Ron LeFlore sing-

led in the winning run and Mickey

Lolich scattered nine Oakland hits

Tuesday night as the Detroit Tigers

beat the A's 3-1 for their fourth

straight victory after losing 19

Eckersley, 9-5, gave up a double

By winning, the Cardinals ended

reliever Gene Garber, 9-8.

pitching.

Philadelphia.

2-1 Tuesday night

infield outs.

straight games.

lies out of a first-place tie in the

Rob Belloir singled with one out

ouston Astros.

The announcement of Virdon's the fact that the Astros were things we can do right away here

Virdon is the second addition to the Astros staff from the Yankees organization in recent weeks. Smith, former executive vice president of the Yankees, was named general manager Aug. 7 to replace Spec Richardson, who had been Houston's general manager for

eight years. Virdon said he would study the Astros roster through the remaining games this season before making any comment on future trades. Virdon also said he would keep the present Houston coaching staff the remainder of the season.

Virdon declined to make any assessment of the Astros' situation. "I think it's in my favor to come in the last 30-odd games and get some idea

Smith, who was still with the Yankees when Virdon was fired, said, "I have had the opportunity to closely observe Virdon's managerial capabilities during the last two sea- Jan. 3, 1974.

his services to direct the Ast QUALITY the field.

Smith said he was not active from the Yankees because time he was negotiating Astros to become their ge

manager. Virdon, 44, assumed his Tuesday night for Houston against the New York Mets Astrodome. Smith said he wa

a contract through the 1976s "I couldn't discuss any s problem areas right now b they might not be accurate, said. "I do know they have ta the team. There are som

can do that will help right; Virdon played 11 year major leagues and started aging career in the New Yo minor league system in joined Pittsburgh as a coa and in 1972 succeeded Dann

taugh as manager. Virdon was replaced d 1973 season by Murtaug came manager of the Yar

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Fans to select best memories

Fans are invited to help select the most memorable moment and personality in Houston Colts-Astros baseball history by entering the Most Memorable Moments contest being held by the Major Leagues for the Bicentennial Celebration.

Fans may submit entries to Most Memorable Moments, P. O. Box 288, Houston, Texas 77001, by midnight, Wednesday, Sept. 24 (Astros last home game). Winners from each club will be announced at the Winter Baseball Meetings in December in Florida.

Winners in both categories from the 24 current clubs and several which no longer exist will be placed on a national ballot for voting during June of 1976.

Listed below are some of the Great Moments in Houston baseball history (in chronological order), but fans may recall greater

1. Houston's first National League game, April 10, 1962, an

11-2 win over Chicago.2. Bob Bruce hurls Houston's first one-hitter in 2-0 win over Cin-

cinnati on April 26, 1963.
3. Don Nottebart pitches Hous-

ton's first no-hitter in a 4-1 win over tionals beat Americans, 1-0. Philadelphia on May 17, 1963, at Colt Stadium.

4. Ken Johnson pitches Houston's second no-hitter but loses, 1-0 to Cincinnati on April 23, 1964, at cord) Colt Stadium.

5. First official Major League game ever played indoors on April 12, 1965, as Philadelphia defeats Houston, 2-0. 6. Largest crowd to ever watch a

Koufax and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Houston, 5-2, before 50,908 on June 22, 1966. 7. Jimmy Wynn hits three homers in a 6-2 win over San Francisco

baseball game indoors as Sandy

in Astrodome on June 15, 1967. third no-hitter in a 2-0 win over At-

lanta on June 18, 1967. 9. First Major League All Star game ever played indoors is held in 12-2 rout of San Diego on June 21,

10. Don Wilson fans 18 batters in

6-1 win over Cincinnati in second game of doubleheader on July 14, 1968. (fans eight in row for club re-

11. Don Wilson pitches second no-hitter in 4-0 win over Cincinnati on May 1, 1969, at Crosley Field.

12. Houston sets National League record by turning seven double plays against San Francisco in Astrodome on May 4, 1969.

13. Denis Menke and Jimmy Wynn hit grand slam homers in ninth inning against New York Mets to tie Major League record on July 30, 1969.

14. James Rodney Richard fans 8. Don Wilson pitches Houston's 15 batters in his first Major League start to tie NL record against San Francisco on Sept. 5, 1971.

15. Lee May hits three homers in Astrodome on July 9, 1968, as Na- 1973.

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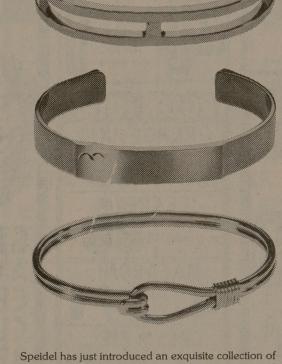
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