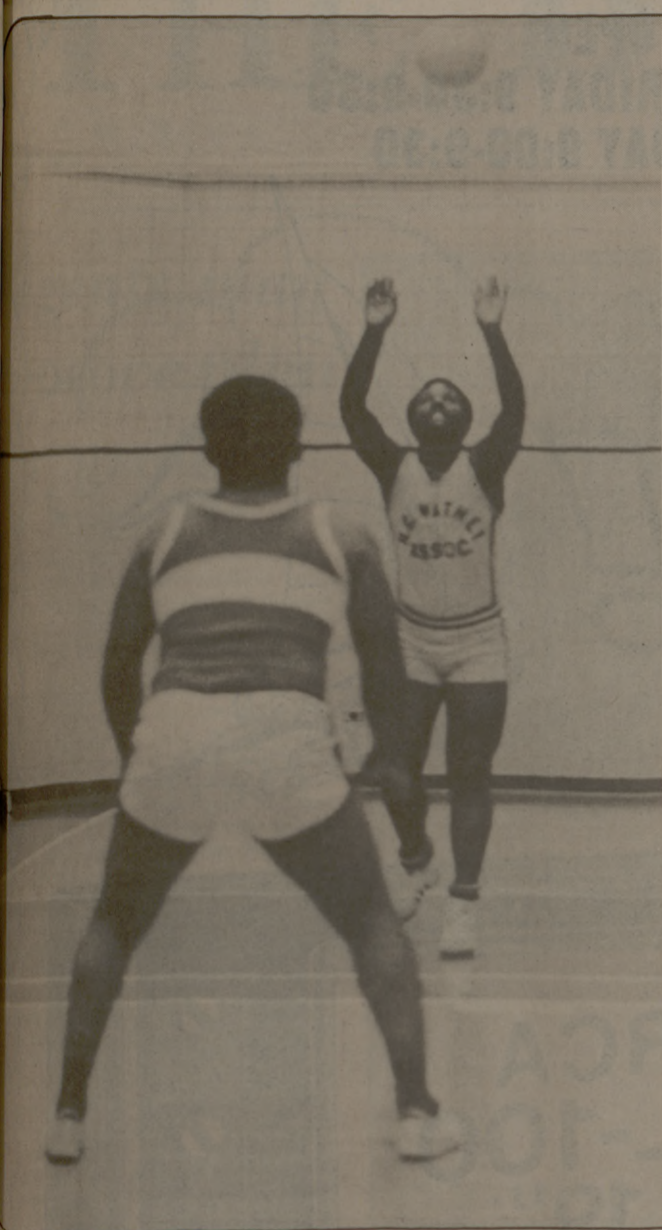


sports



'World's second largest sport'

For the past two weeks, volleyball has been more prevalent at Texas A&M than usual. The International Volleyball Coaches Conference has brought 140 participants to College Station in an attempt to "promote a better understanding of the second largest sport in

the world," said Val Keller, director for the conference. The conference winds up Friday with the participants being tested over what they have learned, to be followed by an awards banquet Friday night.

Battalion photo by David Boggan

Astros win, Rangers lose

NEW YORK — Bob Watson drove in three runs with a two-run single and a home run Wednesday night, leading the Houston Astros to an 8-3 victory over the New York Mets in the first game of a double-header.

Watson lined a single to left to drive in two runs in the first inning and help Tom Dixon to his fifth victory in 11 decisions. Watson followed a sacrifice fly by Jose Cruz in the third inning with his 10th homer of the year, giving the Astros a 4-0 lead against Pat Zachry, 10-6, and sending the Mets to their sixth loss in seven games.

The Mets scored once in the bottom of the third when Len Randle singled, moved up on a single and a sacrifice and scored on a sacrifice fly by Elliott Maddox.

Houston upped the score to 61 in the sixth on a sacrifice fly by Luis Pujols and an RBI single by Rafael Landestoy. The Mets closed within 6-3 and knocked out Dixon in the sixth on a sacrifice fly by Willie Montanez and a run-scoring single by Randle. But Joe Sambito relieved and got the last out of the inning.

Art Howe singled in one run in the seventh and Pujols drove in another with a fielder's choice to make it 8-3 and help Sambito record his seventh save.

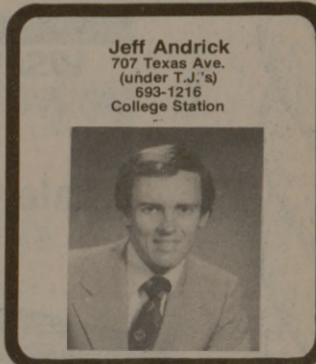
Meanwhile, Frank White knocked in three runs with a double and triple in Kansas City to help the Kansas City Royals win their fifth straight game with an 11-4 rout of the Texas Rangers.

White ripped a two-run double and Clint Hurdle added a two-run triple during a seven run third inning to hand Ferguson Jenkins his fifth loss against nine wins. It also ended Jenkins' personal three-game winning streak against the Royals dating back to 1976.

Fred Patek stroked three singles and also scored three runs and Hurdle also collected three hits as the Royals bombarded Jenkins and reliever Jim Umberger with 14 hits.

Rookie Rich Gale limited Texas to seven hits in improving his record to 11-3. The Rangers scored their only runs on a three-run homer by Bobby Bonds, his 15th of the season, in the fourth and a solo shot by Kurt Bevacqua leading off the seventh.

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Jackson, Martin: no compromise

NEW YORK — Reggie Jackson bunt against Martin's orders in New York's 9-7 loss to Kansas City Monday night, the fiery Yankee manager locked himself in his office after the game with General Manager Cedric Tallis and principal owner George Steinbrenner. The resulting "indefinite suspension" leveled against Jackson became a five-day banishment Tuesday.

So when Jackson decided to bunt against Martin's orders in New York's 9-7 loss to Kansas City Monday night, the fiery Yankee manager locked himself in his office after the game with General Manager Cedric Tallis and principal owner George Steinbrenner. The resulting "indefinite suspension" leveled against Jackson became a five-day banishment Tuesday.

The decision to bring Jackson back on Sunday isn't likely to "quiet things down," Reggie's defiant bunt was expensive — at least \$12,500 worth — and Jackson and Martin have a mutual dislike for each other.

unleashed a stream of obscenities before finally departing. Since Steinbrenner's "suggestion" last week that Jackson be made a designated hitter, to be replaced by catcher Thurman Munson in right field, the tension on the Yankee team has been building.

Nicklaus in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Will Jack Nicklaus continue to ride the crest of the unbeatable tee-to-green play that won him the British Open to glory in the \$250,000 Philadelphia Classic beginning today?

The only sure thing about this weekend's designated PGA tournament is that Nicklaus certainly is the gallery favorite among the 156 golfers entered. He probably is the man to beat but whether he has come down from last week's two-stroke victory remains to be seen.

And one more strand on that very tenuous rope has been severed.

And one more strand on that very tenuous rope has been severed.

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