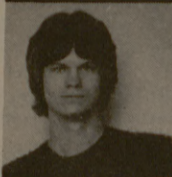


the sports



David Boggan
Sports Editor

Hairy situation

blin' thoughts:
Hats off to Pete Rose. Rose, who extended his hitting streak to 44 times last night, is reported to have worried last week that he might be losing hair as a result of tipping his hat to appreciative audiences. Not to worry, Pete. Joe DiMaggio, who has the longest hitting streak in baseball history (56 games), although snowcapped, still has a full head of hair.

Freudian slip? A section headline in Sunday's Houston Post identified that day's Section C as Sports—Business.

Stay tuned for another episode. The recent rehiring of Billy Martin the manager for the New York Yankees in 1980, as well as the past eferences and the inevitable trades and charades of that organization prompted a comment from ABC's Frank Gifford. While doing a play-by-play of the Hall of Fame game Saturday, the Gifford said at the situation in the Yankee clubhouse is like a "soap opera."

Speaking of football, it's that time of year. The 1978 professional football season kicked off Saturday with the Hall of Fame game, in which the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Miami Dolphins 17-3. Viewers have been promised another full season of Monday Night football, as well as some Sunday night and Thursday night games. All these games will feature Gifford, Don Meredith and Howard Stern—America's favorite trio since Moe, Larry and Curly.

Preview review. An excerpt from former Dallas Cowboy Pete King's upcoming novel, *Texas Celebrity Turkey Trot*, is featured in this week's Sports Illustrated. The excerpt deals with a nine-year career of pro football during out-of-town day in pre-season training camp and features a couple of extremely realistic knives-and-needles-the-knee passages. The new novel promises to be equally as good as King's first effort, *North Dallas Forty*, a best-seller. It must be that Country air around his home in Wimberley that inspires Gent's pen-to-earth style.

The Bear facts. Last week, during the high school coaches' clinic in Austin, Baylor head coach Grant Teaff laid it on the line. "I'm sick and tired of hearing about Arkansas and all of their problems," Teaff said, referring to reports that the Razorbacks are considering leaving the Southwest Conference. "My feeling is, if they want out, don't let the door hit them in the rear on the way out. If they don't like the Southwest Conference, then they ought to get out. If they like it, they ought to shut up and get along. We could get along just fine without them." Somewhere in the back of his mind, Teaff must have known that he didn't have to travel to Fayetteville or Little Rock this

Rose hits in 44th straight game

United Press International
ATLANTA — Pete Rose is fearful that not having any more milestones after tonight in his drive toward Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak may make it tougher for him to concentrate on the record.
"It's fun when you are pursuing a record and there are other guys you can pass," said Rose, who hit safely in his 44th straight game Monday night to tie Wee Willie Keeler's 81-year-old National League record, second longest in major-league history.

Ali not quiet this round

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Reigning over his own Mardi Gras-style parade, former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali Monday predicted he would win back his crown with a fourth-round knockout over Leon Spinks.

"You can't stay home, you be in the dome, and see me send Spinks to Rome," Ali said and he greeted throngs packed into the central business district dancing to jazz music by the Olympia Brass Band as the Ali parade made its way along Canal Street.

Riding in a horse-drawn carriage, Ali made his fight prediction at a stop in front of a local fried chicken restaurant.
"I'm going to get him this time," the ex-champ said. "I'm going to show the world how bad I am."

Earlier, he teased longshoremen — telling them they resembled Deluge — as he boarded the fireboat Spinks for a tour of the Port of New Orleans.

Ali was in town to promote the Sept. 15 fight in the Louisiana Superdome.
He stopped at the offices of Louisiana Sports, Inc., sold fight tickets and signed autographs, then attended a party in his honor at a disco.

The ex-champ said the fight "would be bigger than the Indianapolis 500, bigger than the World Series and bigger than four Superbowls" because he would become the first heavyweight to regain the title three times.

nati third baseman will be going against Larry McWilliams, a 24-year-old rookie who has only been in the majors a few weeks.

"He could be a big problem for me," said Rose. "Since I've never seen him pitch, I'll have to watch him pretty close while he's warming up. Anyway, when I face a forkball pitcher like McWilliams, I worry about him putting me in a slump."

McWilliams appears to be doing some worrying of his own.
"It's going to be a thrill to pitch against him," said the 6-foot-5 left-hander who has posted a 2-0 record with a 2.12 ERA since joining the Braves. "Their whole team is great, but he's the one to get because of the streak."

While Rose was pleased he caught Keeler, he said he was disappointed he was held to just one hit and lost ground to Atlanta's Jeff Burroughs in their battle for the NL batting lead. Rose went 1-for-4 and

stayed at .316. Burroughs advanced from .317 to .321 with two doubles in three at-bats Monday night.

"At least we don't have to fight Billy Martin tomorrow (for headlines)," quipped Rose. "There weren't any test-tube babies today, were there?"

And while Rose was keeping his streak alive, his teammates were going about closing the gap in the NL West pennant race. With the score tied, 1-1, in the ninth inning, Dave Concepcion singled, stole second and scored the go-ahead run

on Cesar Geronimo's single. Another single by Junior Kennedy, followed by a pinchhit single by Joe Morgan gave the Reds what proved to be the winning run in the 3-2 victory over Atlanta.

The victory enabled the Reds to pull within a half-game of the division-leading San Francisco Giants.

"It seems like ever since I've been in the streak we've been playing good ball," said Rose. "The streak seems to be charging up the other guys too."

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