THE BATTALION Page 10 The ageless, patient pro Yaz gets better with age

the second inning of Sunday's loss at

United Press International NEW YORK — Hawk Harrelson as talking about the natural pro-tas talking about the natural prowas talking about the natural process of aging, how hellish it is to grow old and how it eventually catches up with even the very best hitters, when he finally got around Almost every time he comes to to 39-year-old Carl Yastrzemski.

And that was where he stopped.

"I've known the man since 1963, I see him every day and each day I find myself more astonished by his amazing grace than I was the day before," said the Red Sox' former outfielder-first baseman who now does their games on TV. "Remember the year he had in 1967? He was supposed to be at his the hands of the Yankees at Tankee Stadium, for example, it marked the 1,009th extra-base hit of his 19-year career, tying him with Ernie Banks of the Cubs for 13th place on the all-time list.

peak then. And now look what he's all-time list. Yaz, hitting a cool .304, needs only 49 more hits to reach 3,000 and doing 12 years later! He's a better

hitter now than he ever was, "There's no shame to it. I saw it happen with great hitters like Mic-he attains both those goals he will

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Hank Aaron have ever done it be-When you talk to someone like

Harrelson about Yastrzemski, he talks about his incredible grace. bat for the Red Sox now, Yastrzemski either approaches a new When you talk with Dwight Evans, record or breaks some old one. When he doubled down the right-field line his first time up in its his tremendous competitiveness, and Mike Torrez dwells on his consistency and his discipline. But the characteristic that im-

presses me most about Boston's elder statesman is his restraint. His patience and his professionalism, no matter how intense the pressure is around him.

"Experience probably has most to do with that," said Yaz. "Talking with Ted Williams down through the years also has helped me in that regard. He always told me to be patient, not to give in to the pitcher to take a walk rather than go after a pitch I really didn't want.

In Saturday's 3-2 win over the Yankees, it was Yastrzemski's ninth-inning homer off former teammate Luis Tiant that gave the Red Sox their winning margin. He hit a curveball for the game-winner. It was almost the identical pitch Tiant got Yaz to tap back to him on the mound his previous time up in the seventh inning. Yaz remembered the pitch Tiant

got him out on. Tiant remembered

it, too, and after he ran the count to one-and-one on him in the ninth, he came in with it again.

Bye-bye. About 10 rows up in the lower right-field seats. A patient Yastrzemski had been

waiting for that same pitch again, only this time he didn't tap it back. In all the years he has been with the Red Sox, Yaz has been in many different pressure situations and had

hundreds of different experiences. Of them all, though, he likes to call to mind one in particular in De-troit during his rookie season in 1961

"I was only 19 years old, and tak-ing Ted Williams' place in left field, there was tremendous pressure put on me by the news media," he thought back. "On this particular day Erenk Lary by her on day, Frank Lary broke my bat on me twice and struck me out twice. I had gone for the collar, it was two months or so into the season and I was hitting .220 or something like

'Sitting in front of my locker, I was thinking maybe it was too tough, maybe I wouldn't make it in the big leagues. Mike Higgins, our manager then, spotted it. He must've known the way I felt, what I was thinking. He came over to me, put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Don't worry about it. You're my left fielder, this year, next year, the year after no matter what.

The hot summer weather and the upcoming Fourth of July celebrations mean one thing to many Bryan-College Station citizens softball. Men and women alike flock to local

around among friends. David Boggan, st 10 Pag journalism major from Lockhart and fr baseman for the A&M Printing team,

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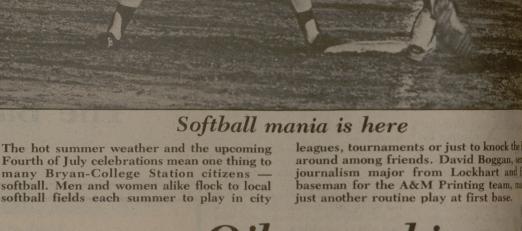
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The rookies and free agents

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Oiler rookies head for camp

United Press International SAN ANGELO — Coach Bum Phillips expected 54 rookies and free agents to complete physical exams and be fitted for uniforms today in preparation for the start of the Houston Oilers training camp. srud's agent, Randy Hendr Houston, would say what was

One rookie Phillips was not sure Would attend the opening practice Wednesday morning was second-round draft choice Mike Stensrud of Iowa State. He has not signed a con-tract and has failed to show up at the



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ing the negotiators apart is tedly, the Oilers do not want Stensrud a four-year cont sought.

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