

the sports

Comer shuts out red-hot Orioles

United Press International
BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles, scourge of the American League for the past month, have the reputation of winning games with a combination of pitching and airtight defense. It happens that the Texas Rangers looked an awful lot like the Orioles Monday night.

Well, said Texas manager Pat Jones, "that's the way I think we looked for awhile now."

Steve Comer pitched a crafty and accurate game for the Rangers Monday evening, Texas played flawless defense and turned four double plays as the Rangers nipped the Orioles, 2-0.

It was only the fourth loss for Baltimore in its last 26 games while the Orioles were winning their ninth in the last 10 outings.

"We wanted to win that first game," said Baltimore manager Earl Weaver, whose team opened a 12-day road trip. "We've got to start winning the ball. It's going to be a long trip, especially if we don't hit."

Monday night's game could have been a critical one for the Rangers, private as it was, had an eight-game winning order been broken the night before in a 13-12 setback against the Orioles.

On top of all that, the Orioles lost designated hitter Lee May for three or four games with a strained calf muscle.

The second game of the three-game series tonight will have Ferguson Jenkins, 8-4, on the mound for Texas versus Baltimore's Steve Stone, 6-5.

time," said Comer, 8-6, who survives chiefly with his off-speed pitches. "When you do that, they can't dig in. Our defense bailed me out a couple of times, too."

The only runs of the game came in the second inning when Rangers catcher Jim Sundberg doubled home Richie Zisk from second and John Grubb from first. Sundberg was catching only his second game since being beamed last Tuesday night by California's Don Aase.

"Because I have been out so long I wasn't too tired tonight despite that long game last night," said Sundberg, referring to the 15-inning affair against Oakland. "I don't know about the rest of the guys. But we have the experience on this club to be able to forget about tough games like that one. That's a good characteristic to have."

Baltimore put at least one runner on base in seven innings. In the first inning, Kiko Garcia was thrown out at home by Grubb in centerfield, Doug DeCinces was thrown out trying to go from second to third on a fly ball in the fourth inning and with two outs in the eighth, Pat Kelly was tossed out while trying to stretch a single into a double.

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Indians, Torborg split

United Press International
DETROIT — Embattled Jeff Torborg will remain manager of the Cleveland Indians, but even team president Gabe Paul can't say for sure more than a few days.

Jeff is still the manager of the Cleveland Indians, Paul said in an attempt to squelch speculation that New York Yankees Manager Tom Yonke is about to take over the job.

"As far as I know, no talks are going on with Lemon. As I said, Jeff will remain," said Seghi, son of Cleveland Vice President and General Manager Phil Seghi.

In Cleveland, publicity director Joe Bick confirmed Seghi's statement.

"Rumors that Bob Lemon, former manager of the New York Yankees, was going to take over as manager have not come to be," Bick said. "Jeff Torborg will remain as manager of the Indians."

How long "is impossible to say and depends on the team play," Bick added. "The team could go on to win the pennant and Torborg could remain for 10 years."

Torborg put an end to a lot of the rumors and speculation by deciding to resign at the end of this season.

Cleveland has just two wins in its last 14 games and Lemon was reportedly close to taking the job after losing his own to Billy Martin with New York.

"I don't believe any firm offer was made to Lemon," said Mike Seghi, traveling secretary of the Indians, when asked if there was any substance to rumors Lemon was about to take over Torborg's job.

"As far as I know, no talks are going on with Lemon. As I said, Jeff will remain," said Seghi, son of Cleveland Vice President and General Manager Phil Seghi.

In Cleveland, publicity director Joe Bick confirmed Seghi's statement.

"Rumors that Bob Lemon, former manager of the New York Yankees, was going to take over as manager have not come to be," Bick said. "Jeff Torborg will remain as manager of the Indians."

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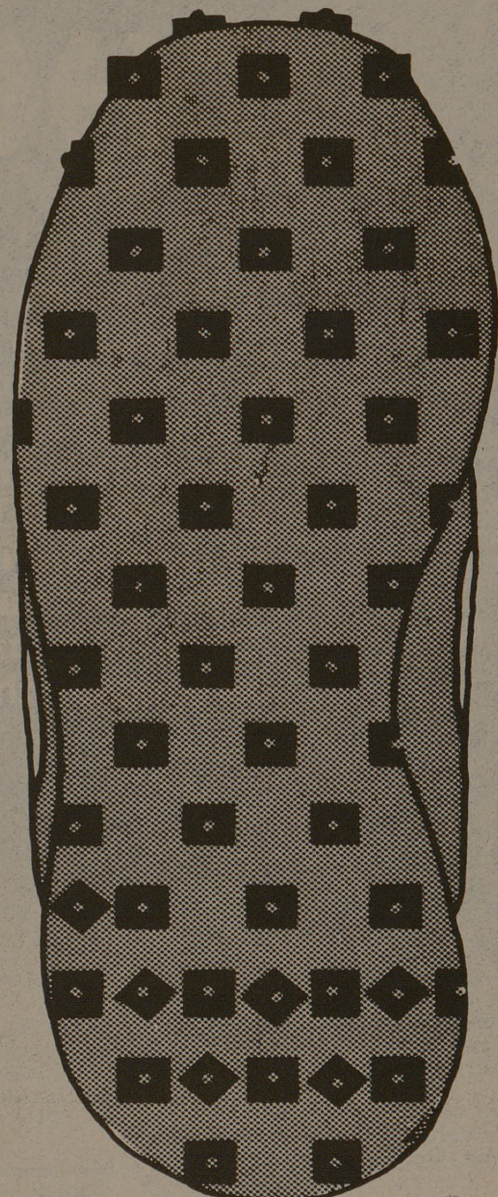
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