

the sports

Yanks trade 'problem child'

Rivers flows south to Texas

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees Monday traded problem child outfielder Mickey Rivers to the Texas Rangers for three minor league players.

The Yankees, apparently fed up with Rivers' disciplinary problems, dealt him to Texas for first baseman-designated hitter Gary Gray, outfielder Mike Hart and infielder Domingo Ramos.

Rivers, the speedy outfielder who helped the Yankees to back-to-back

world championships, has consistently been a problem with his erratic behavior. But this season, the club felt his figures did not justify his antics and traded him for the three promising youngsters.

Rivers, 30, was batting .287 with 18 doubles, five triples and three homers and 25 RBI in 74 games. He has stolen three bases but has been caught seven times.

The Ranger front office said that to make room for Rivers, second baseman Bump Wills had been

placed on the 15-day disabled list with a sprained ankle. Rivers himself just got off the disabled list with a separated shoulder.

Rangers' officials hoped Rivers would be in uniform by Monday night's game against the Detroit Tigers at Arlington.

In recent weeks Ranger centerfielder Al Oliver has been ailing with an injured left hand that has made it impossible for him to grip the ball correctly. On a pivotal play in Sunday night's game against the Boston Red Sox, Oliver caught a shallow pop fly but was unable to make a throw that could have cut down the go-ahead run at the plate. The Rangers went on to lose 3-2.

Rivers, who was acquired from California in December 1975 along with pitcher Ed Figueroa in a trade for outfielder Bobby Bonds, batted .312 in 1976 and .326 in 1977 before falling off to .265 last season when he was plagued with leg injuries.

Gray batted .238 in a brief stay with Texas earlier this season and is hitting .303 in 51 games with Tucson of the Pacific Coast League.

Hart, a speedy switch-hitting outfielder, is batting .304 at Tucson and has scored 75 runs.

Ramos, a former Yankee who went to Texas a year ago along with pitcher Sparky Lyle, plays second and shortstop and is batting .248 in 95 games with Syracuse of the International League.

Gray and Hart will remain at Tucson for the remainder of the PC season and then will be reassigned to the Yankees' organization. Ramos will move immediately to the Yankees' Columbus farm club in the International League.

The Yankees are expected to activate Juan Beniquez from the disabled list to fill Rivers' on spot the roster.

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Foyt hits energy policies

United Press International COLLEGE STATION — Race driver and automobile dealer A.J. Foyt says having energy policies determined by the federal legislators and bureaucrats is like having your car tuned by a mechanic who cannot find the spark plugs.

"You know, people (in the federal government) are now gung ho about using alcohol as fuel. I've been hearing them on TV," Foyt said. "In racing we've been running alcohol way before my time because it was more economical, it burned cleaner and everything."

Foyt's comments were unsolicited at a post-race news conference Sunday. Speaking to a large number of reporters, he said getting closer to problems of race drivers and of city drivers would help those studying energy problems.

"It might smarten them up a bit," he said.

"In the Energy Department you've got a lot of people that are

just ex-lawyers that don't really know how to start a car. I don't know of any of them that I've heard talk on TV about mileage, cars and



A.J. Foyt

"No, because I think it's put to them just like that. They're that are wrong and (the wronging a damn fool out of us) of the world."

Asked after the news conference specifically what federal policies he disliked, Foyt said of them.

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