

the sports

West says Rudy T. made mistake

United Press International
HOUSTON — Former Los Angeles Lakers Coach Jerry West testified Tuesday an error in judgment by Houston Rockets' captain Rudy Tomjanovich contributed to the face-crushing punch Tomjanovich received from Kermit Washington during a December 1977 game.

West testified at the federal court trial of a \$4.4 million damage suit filed by Tomjanovich, who missed the rest of the 1977-78 season, and the Houston Rockets have filed against the Lakers.

Washington, expected to testify Tuesday, has said he was scuffling with Rockets' Kevin Kunnert and punched Tomjanovich because he thought the Rockets' captain was trying to hit him. Tomjanovich has said he was rushing to break up the fight.

West said Tomjanovich made a

"mistake" in rushing to intervene. "If it were me, I would never have done that. The size of these people involved in basketball keeps me away from fights," West said.

"I can't say what Tomjanovich's intent was in running down to the fight," West said, "but I can't say his intent was to hit Washington."

West said the injury to Tomjanovich and one later in the season to center Moses Malone undoubtedly hurt the Rockets' campaign that year.

"Injuries decide the fate of many clubs," he said.

West said Kunnert started the scuffle with Washington, who West said was "a first-class fellow, an extremely nice person, one of our better-liked players."

As the five-man, one-woman jury watched the game film once more, West testified, "It's almost explicit in this film that Kunnert elbowed

Washington in the face. "It (Tomjanovich's injury) was the ugliest thing I've ever seen," West said. "People make mistakes and sometimes these things happen. There's no way you can effectively control fighting in basketball."

"Fights are not pretty. I don't like them. But they happen."

Washington was suspended and fined by NBA Commissioner Larry O'Brien after the Dec. 9, 1977, incident in Los Angeles. He now plays for the San Diego Clippers.

As part of a scheduling accommodation, defense attorneys presented part of their case, including West's testimony, out of turn, before the plaintiffs had rested their case in U.S. District Judge John Singleton's court.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the second defense witness of the day, testified he did not consider Washington a hostile player.

"No, I don't think so," Jabbar said. "I've never seen Kermit start a fight. He's an easy-going person."

Jabbar said he yelled at Washington to quit fighting when the brawl started.

"I was yelling at Kermit to stop. I told him to quit it," he said. "I've never seen a punch like the one that he threw."

Jabbar said he held on to Kunnert to pull him away from Washington.

Bombers beat by Boulder

United Press International
WICHITA, Kan. — Bob Ferris singled in two runs in the sixth inning Tuesday night and defending champion Boulder (Colo.) held off a sixth-inning rally to defeat the Frisco Bombers (Texas) 4-2 in a winner-take-all game in the National Amateur Baseball Congress tournament.

In other games Tuesday night, Grand Rapids (Mich.) played since beaten by Hutchinson (Kan.) and Eureka (Iowa) met Madison (Wis.).

Fifth-seeded Boulder took a 2-1 lead in the second and moved ahead in the sixth but Bryan had the

tying runs on second and third with one out in the ninth before Ricky Wright struck out the last two batters to preserve the win for Boulder.

It was Wright's second win in the tournament and Boulder's third without a loss.

In loser's bracket games, Jeff Smith doubled in three runs to help second-seeded Rapid City (S.D.) eliminate Phoenix (Ariz.) 9-0 and Ocala (Fla.) trimmed Dodge City (Kan.) 7-1.

Mark Williams limited Dodge City to four hits to give 10th-seeded Ocala its second win in the tournament.

Law overrules UIL

United Press International
AUSTIN — A law passed by the Texas Legislature overrides University Interscholastic League rules, and will permit students placed in foster homes to compete in sports activities without a year of eligibility, Attorney General Mark White said Tuesday.

White's legal opinion was issued in response to an inquiry from UIL Executive Director Bailey Marshall. The inquiry specifically concerned the eligibility of a 16-year-old foster child placed in the home of Jimmy and Betty Mayfield in Lorena.

The UIL had ruled the boy was ineligible for varsity sports at Lorena for one year because of the UIL's "previous participation" rule, which prevents a student from playing varsity sports for one year after moving to a new school if he participated in varsity sports at a former school.

The boy played football at Corsicana High School in 1978 while living with his grandparents at the Corsicana State Home.

White said in his opinion that the law passed by the Legislature prevents the UIL from using any of its rules to prevent foster children placed in new homes from immediately participating in UIL sports.

Marshall had asked if the law would override UIL rules requiring a student to attend a school for 30 calendar days immediately prior to an athletic contest in which he participated, a second rule requiring a one-year layoff from varsity sports if a student changes schools and a third rule prohibiting a student who played football or basketball at one school from participating in those sports in a second school for a period of one year after transferring.

White said the law takes precedence over all three rules in the case of foster children.

of foster children, even when the previous residence of the student was another foster home or an orphanage.

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Astros win, Rangers lose

United Press International
HOUSTON — Joaquin Andujar pitched in two runs with a second inning inside-the-park home run and pitched a four-hitter Tuesday night to lead the Houston Astros to a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Expos.

Andujar, 12-8, struck out one and walked one in breaking a personal one-game losing streak by pitching an eighth complete game. It marked the first time in his four-year major-league career he has won as many as 12 games in a season.

In New York, Bobby Murcer hit two home runs, including a two-run homer that capped a three-run eighth inning Tuesday night, and led the New York Yankees to a 6-5 victory over the Texas Rangers.

With one out in the bottom of the eighth, pinch-hitter Lou Piniella doubled off reliever Sparky Lyle and went to third on an error by right fielder Richie Zisk. Roy White, pinch hitting for Brad Gullick, singled in Piniella to knock out Lyle in favor of ace reliever Jim Fingers. 10-4. Kern struck out pinch-hitter Bobby Brown, but Murcer followed with a long homer to right field to give Luis Tiant, 9-6, the

winning run.

ALTERATIONS

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