

## U.S. says 50 nations committed to boycott

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Despite reports support for a boycott of the Olympics is crumbling, more than 50 nations have either publicly or privately committed themselves to joining a boycott of the Moscow games, the State Department says.

A survey earlier by UPI of political and sporting attitudes among the most important countries showed that none was at the point of joining a boycott.

The U.S. Olympic Committee Athletes Advisory Council was scheduled to meet with administration officials at the White House today to discuss the boycott.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said despite "noises" from various sports groups that they will ignore President Carter's call for a boycott, the United States and at least 50 other nations will not send teams.

"The official commitments are given," the spokesman said, "that is to say, somewhere over 50 privately or publicly are committed" to stay away from the games because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"There may be some who wish to march into that stadium in Moscow so much that they are willing to forget what that means to the Soviet Union."

"When the day comes this summer, you will find that our allies and many other nations as well will also have decided that marching into that stadium is not worth the price and what it says to the Soviet Union about our reaction to the Afghan invasion."

# 'Fantastic freshmen' fuel Aggies' 2-0 win over USC

By MIKE BURRICHTER  
Sports Editor

Head baseball coach Tom Chandler sat back in his office chair with an ear-to-ear grin.

He had just concluded one of the most satisfying nights of his 22-year Aggie coaching career, coaching his team to a 2-0 victory over the University of Southern California, a team Chandler calls "the New York Yankees of collegiate baseball," in the first night game ever played at Olsen Field, in front of a record crowd of 4,400.

"No question that it was one of the highlights of my career," Chandler said. "Playing our first night game and a win over Southern California, it was great."

A little over two years ago, the Ags and Trojans met in the first game ever held at Olsen Field. The March 21, 1978 score was 5-2, in favor of the Trojans. The Trojans were a powerhouse back then.

But this year the Trojans ran into the Aggies' super freshmen, pitchers Rick Luecken, Robert Slavens and Jack Miska. These three and sophomore Bobby Taylor combined to stop USC on five hits. Slavens picked up his eighth win without a defeat.

USC came into the game with a 13-14 record, having lost four games in a row to the University of Texas, and splitting a double-header at Texas Tech. Before the disastrous Texas road trip, the Trojans were ranked 13th in the country, three

slots below the Aggies.

"They have a lot better club than their record indicates," Chandler said. "They hit a lot of balls on the nose tonight, but didn't find the holes to hit them in. Two years ago they had an outstanding team, but they lost a lot to the pros."

"It (the win) gave the boys a lot of confidence, especially Taylor. He'd been struggling."

Taylor came in to pitch in the top of the ninth and set the Trojans down in order, picking up his second save of the season. Taylor entered the game with a 5.52 ERA, and had not pitched in the last two weeks.

Luecken, 6-1, pitched the first three innings, giving up one hit, before surrendering the duties to

Slavens, who pitched another three innings, allowing just two more Trojans hits. Jack Miska pitched the next two innings, giving up two hits, exiting in favor of Taylor. The Ags never really threatened to win.

The six freshman pitchers on Aggie staff now have a combined record of 19-1.

The Ags scored both of their off starter Bill Peltola, whose ERA fell to 0-2. In the fourth, he scored one run when Harry Peltola doubled and Rodney Hodge singled. In the eighth, Twig Little and Bech singled and Francisco doubled to score Little.

The Ags upped their record to 5, while the Trojans fell to 13.

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## Players practice amid confusion

Wednesday, the majority of players stayed in camp and most clubs managed to hold full-scale workouts.

The Players Association Tuesday decided to strike the remainder of the exhibition games but open the regular season on schedule next week. They set a strike date of May 23 if a basic agreement between the Association and the owners is not reached by May 22.

"I'm confused," said Cincinnati Reds catcher Don Werner. "I thought it (a strike) would be now or later, not both."

Miller, executive director of the Players' Association, and Grebey, the owners' representative, will meet today in New York with federal mediator Kenneth Moffett. Free agency remains the major stumbling block to a settlement.

"This could be the last roundup," said California owner Gene Autry. "They've got the wrong quarterback. Marvin Miller will lead the players down just like he led the United Steel Workers down. You can push ownership only so long."

Angels' Executive Vice President Buzzie Bavasi, who refused to let players use the club's facilities or equipment Wednesday, added:

"I've been in baseball for 40 years and this is the first time I've been concerned about the future of the ball."

In the meantime, owners react to the players' refusal to play exhibition games by cutting out money and hotel expenses generally allowing players to continue to use spring training facilities for team workouts.

The need to stay in shape for the week's openers prompted players to stay in camp.

All the Houston Astros participated in the practice and a quad game in apparent opposition to walk-outs by other major leagues.

"We have a pretty solid team," Astro president Talbot said.

The practice sessions will Manager Bill Virdon determine which five players he will add to his roster before the April 10 opening day.

The players' decision to remain in camp may be related to the schedule, which matches the National League West with Los Angeles and Cincinnati in the first 16 games.

## One more Aggie down in drills

The Texas A&M football team lost another player to injuries Tuesday.

Kyle Lilley, a sophomore center, tore the medial collateral ligaments in his left knee. He was operated on Wednesday in Houston.

Lilley, a second-stringer behind David Bandy, missed all of last season with torn cartilages in his right knee. Lilley is the third player in less than one week of spring drills to go down with an injury. Saturday, full-backs Ronnie James and Roger Wiley went down, James with an

ankle injury and Wiley with a spring injury. All three will miss the spring drills, and James is the player with a fair chance of playing the fall season.

Lilley's injury was very serious, Wiley's, team trainer Billy Peltola said.

"I've been a trainer for 26 years and here," he said, "I've never seen anything like it."

Pickard said the two will go through an eight- to nine-month rehabilitation program together.

## Rockets blast Spurs

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Guard Calvin Murphy scored 28 points and the Houston Rockets, one of the poorest defensive teams in the NBA, held the San Antonio Spurs to 11 points in the third quarter to win the first game of their playoff series 95-85 Wednesday night.

Rockets guard Tom Henderson, who threw in 16 points, also teamed with rookie Allen Leavell to limit the Spurs' George Gervin to one basket

in the decisive third quarter. The Rockets, who need one win in the series to advance to a playoff series against the Boston Celtics, not lead until Rudy Tomjanovich's second basket of the game with 1:15 to play in the third quarter.

Game two of the best-of-five series will be played Friday in San Antonio. A third game, if necessary, will be in Houston Saturday night.

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