

sports

Richard's blowing smoke; Astros beat Dodgers, 3-2

United Press International
HOUSTON — The scouting report rookie Rudy Law had hastily put together on strikeout king J.R. Richard before the Los Angeles Dodgers' season opener proved to be good advice.

But Law, the fleet center fielder with a quick bat, still was not totally prepared. "I was nervous, real nervous," he said after his first encounter of the worst kind. "Let me tell you, standing in front of a pitcher who throws 100 mph is no fun."

Richard blew his 98 mph fastball and 94 mph slider "better than I ever have to start a season," striking out 13 Dodgers Thursday night and allowing two hits — none until Law's one-out single in the seventh inning. Houston won 3-2 with some unexpected offensive firepower in home runs by Terry Puhl and Jose Cruz, and Art Howe's triple.

"It was a good feeling just to break up the no-hitter," Law said. "I hated to think of starting the season with no hits."

Law was the only Dodgers starter who was not fanned. Ron Cey went down swinging three times. Steve

Garvey was so desperate by the fifth inning that he tried to bunt for a hit.

Law had never faced Richard before.

"I never faced nobody who threw the ball like that. It was unbelievable," he said.

Law had asked his teammates before the game for advice and he was told to have patience at the plate and wait for Richard to throw strikes. However, Richard did not walk a batter and he let the count go to 3-2 only twice in the eight innings he pitched.

He was replaced by lefthander Joe Sambito to start the ninth inning after Richard strained his back on a

play at second base in the eighth. He said the injury was not serious.

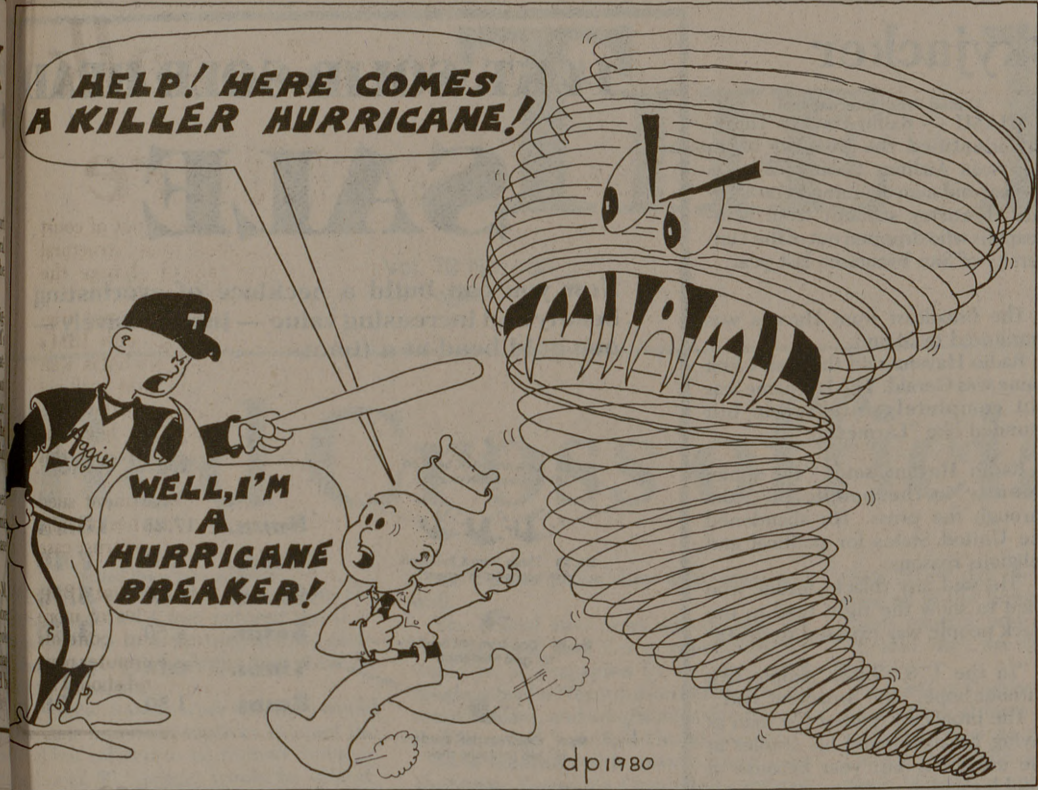
Sambito retired the side in the ninth, a feat not uncommon to Astros fans in 1979. What was unusual were the home runs hit by a team which hit 49 all last season, only 15 of them in the spacious Astrodome.

Third baseman Enos Cabell asked, "Are we leading the league in home runs? That's what I want to know."

Dodgers starter Burt Hooton, who was bothered by a sore right shoulder this spring, was lifted for a pinch hitter after giving up the home runs and two other hits in the first two innings. Afterward he said he was

disappointed that he was taken out. "The shoulder was not bothering me at all," he said. "Red (Adams, pitching coach) knew it wasn't hurting. He knew I'd be the last one to lie to him about it."

The victory for Richard was his 12th straight against the Dodgers, who have not beaten him since May 1976.



Ags face Miami-Fla.

The young Texas A&M baseball team will face its biggest test this weekend when they play host to Miami-Fla., the No. 1 team in the nation.

Aggie coach Tom Chadler plans to stay with his winning combination of three freshmen starting on the mound, beginning with David Flores tonight and following up with Rick Luecken and Robert Slavens on Saturday.

Flores will be making his third start since wresting the position from sophomore Bobby Taylor a month ago. He has a 2-0 record this season.

Luecken is 7-1, has the best earned run average on the team (1.58), and leads the team in strikeouts with 38. Slavens is 9-0 and has an ERA of 3.00.

At the plate, the Ags are led by junior first baseman Rodney Hodde, who is hitting .367 and has nine homers and 30 runs batted in, all of which are tops on the team.

The double-header Saturday will begin at 1 p.m.

Ags running in California

Six Texas Aggies will face world-class opposition Saturday when they compete in the Bruce Jenner Olympic Invitational track meet in San Jose, Calif.

Print ace Curtis Dickey will be the busiest of the six Aggies. He'll anchor the 100-meter dash, anchor the 400-meter relay and lead off the 800-meter relay. In the 100 meters he'll face such speedsters as Houston's Eddie Hart, Don Quarrie, and San Francisco's ace, Patience Barre.

The Aggies' 400-meter relay team of Steve Willis, Leslie Kerr, Vernon Pittman and Dickey ran a 39.21 last week in the Texas Relays. USC has the nation's best time of 38.6 this year. Other teams in that race will be France's Olympic team, the Los Angeles Striders, Arizona State, Philadelphia Pioneer Club, UCLA and the Bay Area Striders.

France, featuring Barre as its top runner, reportedly will be going for a

world record in the 800-meter relay. Texas A&M will run Dickey, Willis, Kerr and Pittman, the same group that makes up the 400-meter relay team.

The other two Aggies entered are Tim Scott in the shot put and discus and Randy Hall in the pole vault.

The remainder of Texas A&M's track team will engage in a dual meet with Baylor at Waco on Friday.

Cyclers to hold race this weekend

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
Campus Staff
This weekend you'll have a chance to see bicycle racing at its best when the Texas A&M Cycling Team hosts its second annual Aggieland Stage Race.

There will be two days of racing with a time trial and road race on Saturday, followed by a criterium on Sunday. Racers must be licensed United States Cycling Federation members and will compete for overall standings in the three events.

The 60-mile road race will begin at 10:30 p.m. Saturday in front of the new World bicycle shop and Pas-Pizza with a police escort out of town.

The feature event of the weekend, the Senior Men's Open Criterium, will start at noon Sunday. This 40-mile race will be held around the field in front of Puryear and Law with the start-finish line by the over entrance.

There will be a short tourist race for this event open to all spectators. Starting time will be around 2 p.m. and prizes will be awarded to top finishers.

Event promoter Gene Kraft said he is expecting 60-70 racers from around the state to come and bid for more than \$600 dollar prize list. This is the fourth year the cycling team has sponsored a USCF race on the Texas A&M campus and five members of the Aggie team will be competing in the weekend races. "We hope a lot of people will come and support our riders as well as some exciting racing," said Kraft.

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