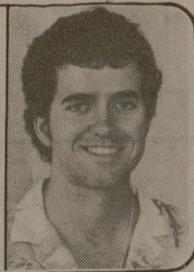


Reflections

by Richard Oliver



The 'Golden Bear' is back

Just when I thought there was nothing to rejoice over anymore in the good ol' USA, the Golden Bear won the U.S. Open.

Jack Nicklaus overcame two straight winless years and Japan's Isao Aoki to sweep to his fourth career U.S. Open golf victory Sunday, and the victory silenced many critics who were crying the Bear should hibernate for good.

Some had reason to wonder. Nicklaus hadn't managed a win since 1978, and his recent play had not been up to par.

We staunch supporters of Nicklaus never lost faith, though. Time after time I watched as Nicklaus stumbled through a tournament, only to smile and go on to the next one. Now, he's shown what it means to be a professional.

"I want to stop the talk right now," Nicklaus told reporters following his Open victory. "I'm not going to retire. Perhaps I should, but I don't have any sense."

But Nicklaus has had enough sense to become perhaps the best golfer the world has ever known. After he conquered the 7,076-yard Baltusrol golf course in Springfield, N.J., the talk ended.

At 40, most athletes consider giving up and letting the "youngsters" take over. But, for Nicklaus, the crowds push him onward.

"I thought a lot this year about not playing anymore," said Nicklaus. "But the way I played today...and this crowd...I have to keep playing."

After four Open championships, 16 major professional titles, and 67 tour victories in all, Nicklaus is in a position to do what he wants.

"If I wanted to go out with all the dramatics, I would say goodbye," he said. "But I kind of like this crazy game. And this little body has a few more wins in it. Hopefully, one or two more this year."

Long live the king.

Astros slip by Cubs on Capilla's wild toss

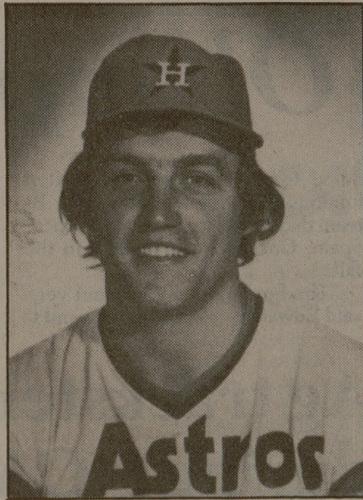
United Press International
CHICAGO — If the Houston Astros win the National League West by one game, they can look back to Monday's contest as one in which the ball bounced their way.

The Astros scored twice in the seventh inning on just one hit to edge the Chicago Cubs 2-1. Houston managed only three hits in the game.

Trailing 1-0 after Jerry Martin's 11th homer, in the fifth inning, the Houston batters were being victimized by Willie Hernandez. The left-hander gave up just one hit and retired 13 Astros in a row before Alan Ashby's two-out single in the seventh.

Hernandez, 1-5, relieved starter Rick Reuschel, who aggravated his left hamstring in the first inning while running down Terry Puhl between third and home.

Hernandez walked Bruce Bochy after Ashby's hit and Bill Caudill came in to pitch. Rafael Landestoy



Terry Puhl

walked to fill the bases and Puhl also walked, forcing in the tying run. Doug Capilla was summoned to

the mound and uncorked a wild pitch to Art Howe, which permitted pinch runner Jeff Leonard to score what proved to be the winning tally.

Vern Rühle, 4-1, went six innings to win his fourth straight and Dave Smith pitched the final three to earn his first save for Houston.

"It's a tough game to lose, more so the way we lost it," said Chicago manager Preston Gomez. "A wild pitch and a base on balls. I hate to lose like that, but that's baseball."

"I'm more concerned about Reuschel. He may miss a turn (Friday). We have two doubleheaders next week. Let's hope he can bounce back."

"Willie did a hell of a job," Gomez said. "He would take Reuschel's

place if he misses a start." Rühle is off to one of his finest starts.

"Twice I was 5-1 with Detroit," the 29-year-old righthander said. "I had a good sinker and mixed my pitches well."

"We have to win a lot of one-run

games to stay in contention. Pitching is strong. We don't lose a lot of runs."

Houston manager Bill Virden

joyed the win.

"They (the Cubs) just happened

be on the other end," he said. "Every club wins some games like this."

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TAMU wide receiver is signed by Houston

United Press International
HOUSTON — Ten free agents, including the brother of running back Earl Campbell, have signed contracts with the Houston Oilers, the club has announced.

Tim Campbell, a defensive end from the University of Texas, joined nine others in signing contracts Thursday.

The Oilers also signed eighth round draft pick quarterback Harold Bailey of Oklahoma State.

Other free agents signed were

wide receiver Carl Roaches, formerly of Texas A&M, kicker Miguel Alvarez, Texas-El Paso; defensive back Darnell Chapman, California; wide receiver Dexter Clay of Jacksonville.

Also signed were tight end Donald Echols, Oklahoma State; safety Ricky Harr, Colorado State; guard Peter Inge, San Diego State; defensive back Michael Penington, Lincoln, and guard Darryl Payne, Bishop College.

Major League Leaders

National League
Batting average— Hernandez, St. L. .348; Smith, LA .338; Cruz, Hou. .337; Henderson, NY .333; Reitz, St. L. .312
Home Runs— Schmidt, Phil 20; Luzinski, Phil 15; Baker, LA 14; Garvey, LA and Hendrick, St. L. 13
Runs Batted In— Hendrick, St. L. 51; Schmidt, Phil 50; Garvey, LA 44; Smith, LA 42; Baker, LA and Clark, SF 38
Stolen Bases— Moreno, Pitt 36; LeFlore, Mtl 35; Collins, Cin 24; Law, LA 20; Scott, Mtl 19
Pitching victories— Carlton, Phil 11-2; Blue, SF 9-2; Pastore, Cin 8-2; Richard, Hou 8-3; Rogers, Mtl 8-5
Earned Run Average— Richard, Hou 1.50; Carlton, Phil 1.78; Palmer, Mtl 2.11; Welch, LA and Swan, NY 2.22
Strikeouts— Carlton, Phil 118; Richard, Hou 98; Ryan, Hou 75; Nickro, Atl 68; Blyleven, Pitt and Blue, SF 65
Saves— Sutter, Chi 13; Hume, Cin and Allen, NY 10; Tekulve, Pitt 9; Fryman, Mtl 8
American League
Batting average— Molitor, Mil .358; Orta,

Clev .339; Bumbry, Balt .338; Brett, KC; Remy, Bos .333
Home runs— Oglivie, Mil 16; Jackson, NY 15; Rudi, Cal, Mayberry and Velez, Tor 12
Runs Batted In— Perez, Bos and Oglivie, Mil 45; Oliver, Tex 44; Armas, Oak 43; Brett, KC and Cooper, Mil 41
Stolen Bases— Henderson, Oak 29; Wilson, KC 26; Cruz, Sea 19; Bumbry, Balt, Randolph, NY and Wills, Tex 16
Pitching Victories— Gura, KC and John, NY 8-2; Rainey, Bos 7-1; Spillner, Clev, Martin, KC and Honeycutt, Sea 7-3; Denny, Clev and Norris, Oak 7-4; Burns, Chi and Leonard, KC 7-5; Keough, Oak 7-6
Earned Run Average— Norris, Oak 1.96; Burns, Chi and Gura, KC 2.17; Clancy, Tor 2.43; Honeycutt, Sea 2.60
Strikeouts— Guidry, NY 80; Bannister, Sea 67; Leonard, KC 66; Norris, Oak 64; Barker, Clev and Madlock, Tex 63
Saves— Farmer, Chi 14; Burgmeier, Bos and Quisenberry, KC 11; Stoddard, Balt 9; Gosage, NY 8.

Arp fund set up as memorial

Texas A&M University officials announced Wednesday that a memorial fund has been set up for former Assistant Athletic Director Jerry Wayne Arp.

Arp died June 9 from injuries suffered in a car-truck collision one mile south of the Texas A&M campus.

The Jerry Arp Memorial Fund has been established through the Universities Development Foundation. All donations will be transferred to the Aggie Club to be used for an athletic scholarship in Arp's name. For information on where to send donations, please call 713-845-7123.

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