## One moment please

by Kurt Allen

Trip to Dome full of surprises Now that the Houston Astros are finally showing signs of being the
winning team we all know they can be, some of you may be thinking of paying your first visit to the Astrodome in several years. If you go, you'll be treated to some of the mos
National League this season in a fine stadium. However, when you do decide to take the plunge for that field box
seat, be forewarned - thinss are not quite the way they used to be seat, be forewarned - things are not quite the way they used to be.
First of all, you'll just be lucky to find any seats at all. Unlike other years, the Astros' steady success has brought Houstonians out of their
cars and into the Dome's sweltering confines in record numbers. If and when you find a group of ticke
of the left field mezzanine
of the leff field mezzanine.
Once you get the tickets and are on the road, the real challenge Once you get the tickets and are on the road, the real challenge
begins. For those who have never lived in Houston for any length of
time, just finding the Dome and maneuvering through Space City time, just finding the Dome and maneuvering through Space City
traffic can be a nightmare to remember. traffic can be a nightmare to remember.
I know, some of you are saying, "What's thi problem? T've got my
trusty gas station map, and I've found a nifty shortcut taking an alternate freeway."
Well, that's all well and good until some hot-headed guy on his way Well, that sall well and good until some hot-headed guy on his way your re half-way to Beaumont, parked in a truck-stopt lot at Winnie and
scratching your head, wondering where you went wrong. scratching your head, wondering where you went wrong. However, the vast majority usually manages to overcome this confu-
sion, only to grind to a halt within a mile of the Dome. Your re suddenly
hit with the realization hit with the realization youve arrived at the stadium parking lot,
courtes of the official waiting line. courtesy of the official waiting line.
This situation calls for stubborn determination bordering on real
true grit. All you can do is crawl like a snail and cry out loud, "Is it really
worth all this?" worth all this?"
Just about the time you're ready to chuck the whole trip, you pass
through the Astrodome complex gates. You feel spiritually lifted until you discover the source of the incresibly long wait.
It turns out that you've waited all this time becaus It turns out that you've waited all this time because the men taking
money for parking are incredibly old and slow. Moreover, there arent money for parking are incredibly old and slow. Moreover, there aren't
enough of them to begin with. To add insult to injury, parking is now $\$ 2$ instead of $\$ 1$ per car.
Anyway, you park your car and hurry inside before missing the first
inning completely. Once inside, you fondly remember why you put up with all the aggravation to get here.
The Dome is packed this evening and the crowd is typically boister-
ous. The crowd's mod turns to sheer bedlam as the Astros score a run ous. The crowd's mood turns to sheer bedlam as the Astros score a run
in the bottom of the first.
Satisfied with the game so far, you decide to head up the ramp and Satisfied with the game so far, you decide to head up the ramp and
check out the concession counter for a little food and beer to wash it check out the concession counter for a little food and beer to wash
down with. Now comes more bad news. The prices for hot dogs are inflated to
say the least, while the quantity of meat inside the bun is consistently deflated. beer's certainly no bargain at $\$ 1.50$ for a small cup and $\$ 2.50$ for lhe beer's certainly no bargain at $\$ 1.00$ for a smal' cup and $\$ 2.50$ for
a large one, This can be very discourraging when youre sweltering from
the Dome's 78 -degree thermostat setting as dictated by the one and only Jimmy Carter.
Even so, you stifle a gripe when you return to your seat and find the Astros still winning. A win can sure ease the frustration.
The crowd certainly is having more fun tonight. During The crowd certainly is having more fun tonight. During a lull in the
game, a group of 50 people on a company outing are doing some game, a group of 50 people on a company outing are doing some
informal betting three rows behind. The idea is to put 25 cents in a pot and guess tonight's attendance. The winner collects the pot.
" 43 -five," says one man, dropping the thousands from his guess.
" 3 . " 39 -eight," says another. One loser suddenly yells out, "18-three." It's
the general consensus of the group that the loser is on a completely
different different airline than everybody else.
All eyes return to the field as the game nears the end. Astro Joe Sambito has made a grand appearance on the mound to try to save a win
for Ken Forsch in the top of the ninth. Sambito promplly loads the
bases giving up two runs. Miraculously, the Astros thwart the loathbases giving up two runs. Miraculously, the
some Pirates to extend their winning streak Now it stime for the mad dash to the parkinglotas everybody tries to
beat the other guy home. Five downed pedestrians and 17 accidents later, the traffic is at a standstill.
Yet, as you play auto roulette in reverse, you really don't mind
Instead, yourre thankful Houston is sucky to have players the caliber of Instead, yourre thankful Houston is lucky to have players the caliber of
Enos Cabell, Cesar Cedeno Jose Cruz, Art Howe, Tery Puhl and J.R.
Richard, Somehow, it makes the wins all that more satisfying Hadnot signs with Chiefs


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## Astros lose to L.A., 9-2; Rangers win again, 6-1

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on Shuttle bus route


 the aid of poor Houstor basarerunning Dusty Baker rapped out four hits
Wednesday Angeles Dodgers to 9.2 victos Nuer the Ahtros.
Texas Ranheres , in Arlington, the Texas Rangers knocked of the teat-
tle Mariners , -1.1 . Enos Cabeli's second error of the game allowed Ron Cey to reach base
in the seventh a fter Steve $C$. had walked and, one out later, Yea-
ger, hitting gorsh, 2.0 . pitch, pounded Ken
Forsove the left
ase above the leff field against a thereen
run was es is ffrrit Wualch 8 firs, was since septded 28,1979 before leaving for a pinch hitter in
the eighth. The Astros collected



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