## 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 most exciting play in the

National League this season in a fine stadium.

However, when you do decide to take the plunge for that field box 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 tickets together, they're liable to be in the end

of the left field mezzanine. 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

traffic can be a nightmare to remember.

I know, some of you are saying, "What's the problem? I've got my trusty gas station map, and I've found a nifty shortcut taking an

Well, that's all well and good until some hot-headed guy on his way to Gilley's won't let you exit off the freeway. The next thing you know, you're half-way to Beaumont, parked in a truck-stop lot at Winnie and 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. You're suddenly hit with the realization you've arrived at the stadium parking lot,

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 want 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 incredibly long wait.

It turns out that you've waited all this time because the men taking 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 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 check out the concession counter for a little food and beer to wash it

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

The beer's certainly no bargain at \$1.50 for a small cup and \$2.50 for a large one. This can be very discouraging when you're sweltering from the Dome's 78-degree thermostat setting as dictated by the one and

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 a lull in the 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.

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"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 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 promptly loads the bases giving up two runs. Miraculously, the Astros thwart the loath-

some Pirates to extend their winning streak.

Now it's time for the mad dash to the parking lot as 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, you're thankful Houston is lucky to have players the caliber of Enos Cabell, Cesar Cedeno, Jose Cruz, Art Howe, Terry Puhl and J.R. Richard. Somehow, it makes the wins all that more satisfying

#### Hadnot signs with Chiefs

United Press International KANSAS CITY, Mo. — James Hadnot, the third round draft pick of the Kansas City Chiefs, Wednesday signed a series of three one-year contracts, said Chiefs general manager

Hadnot, 22, a native of Jasper, Texas, will compete for the fullback position. He was the 66th choice in the 1980 draft.

The 6-2, 240-pounder led the Southwest Conference in rushing as both a junior and senior.



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

United Press International Light-hitting Steve Yeager slam-med a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Bob Welch survived a rocky first four innings with

the aid of poor Houston baserunning Wednesday night to help the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 9-2 victory over the Astros. Meanwhile, in Arlington, the

Texas Rangers knocked off the Seat-tle Mariners, 6-1. Enos Cabell's second error of the game allowed Ron Cey to reach base in the seventh after Steve Garvey had walked and, one out later, Yeager, hitting .186, pounded Ken Forsch's 2-0 pitch against a screen above the left field wall. The home run was his first since Sept. 28, 1979. Welch, 8-2, was riddled for 12 hits

before leaving for a pinch hitter in the eighth. The Astros collected seven hits in the second and third innings combined but only sent nine batters to the plate when four runners were either thrown out or pick-

Dusty Baker rapped out four hits and Jay Johnstone and Rudy Law each had three to lead an 18-hit Dodger attack. Garvey drove in three runs for the Dodgers with a single in the first and a two-run single in the

A crowd of 34,416 pushed the Astros' home attendance above the million mark, the earliest the club has ever drawn over a million at

The victory narrowed Houston's first place lead over the Dodgers to

two games. In Arlington, Ferguson Jenkins, pitching on the hottest June night ever recorded in north Texas, went

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**FALL RATES:** 

season while scattering nine hits Wednesday night to lift the Texas Rangers to a 6-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Temperatures reached 109 degrees shortly before game time and were still over the 100-degree mark by the third inning. Jenkins, however, turned in his second straight complete game to raise his record to 6-5. Seattle scored its run in the sixth on Leon Roberts' RBI single.

The Rangers staked Jenkins to a 2-0 lead in the first with Mickey Rivers scoring from second on a double by Buddy Bell and Bell coming in on a single by Rusty Staub. Texas loaded the bases in the sixth off loser Mike Parrott, 1-8, on singles by Bump Wills and Al Oliver and a walk to Staub before Richie Zisk delivered two runs with a single

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