

Rangers gain on K.C. ...

United Press International
BOSTON — Pat Putnam's line single to right in the ninth inning scored Buddy Bell with the winning run Tuesday night and gave the Texas Rangers a 4-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

It was Texas' fourth triumph in a row and Boston's fourth straight loss. Bell led off the ninth with his third hit of the game, a single to left off loser Mike Torrez, 5-11, and was sacrificed to second by Rusty Staub. Putnam followed with his game-winning hit.

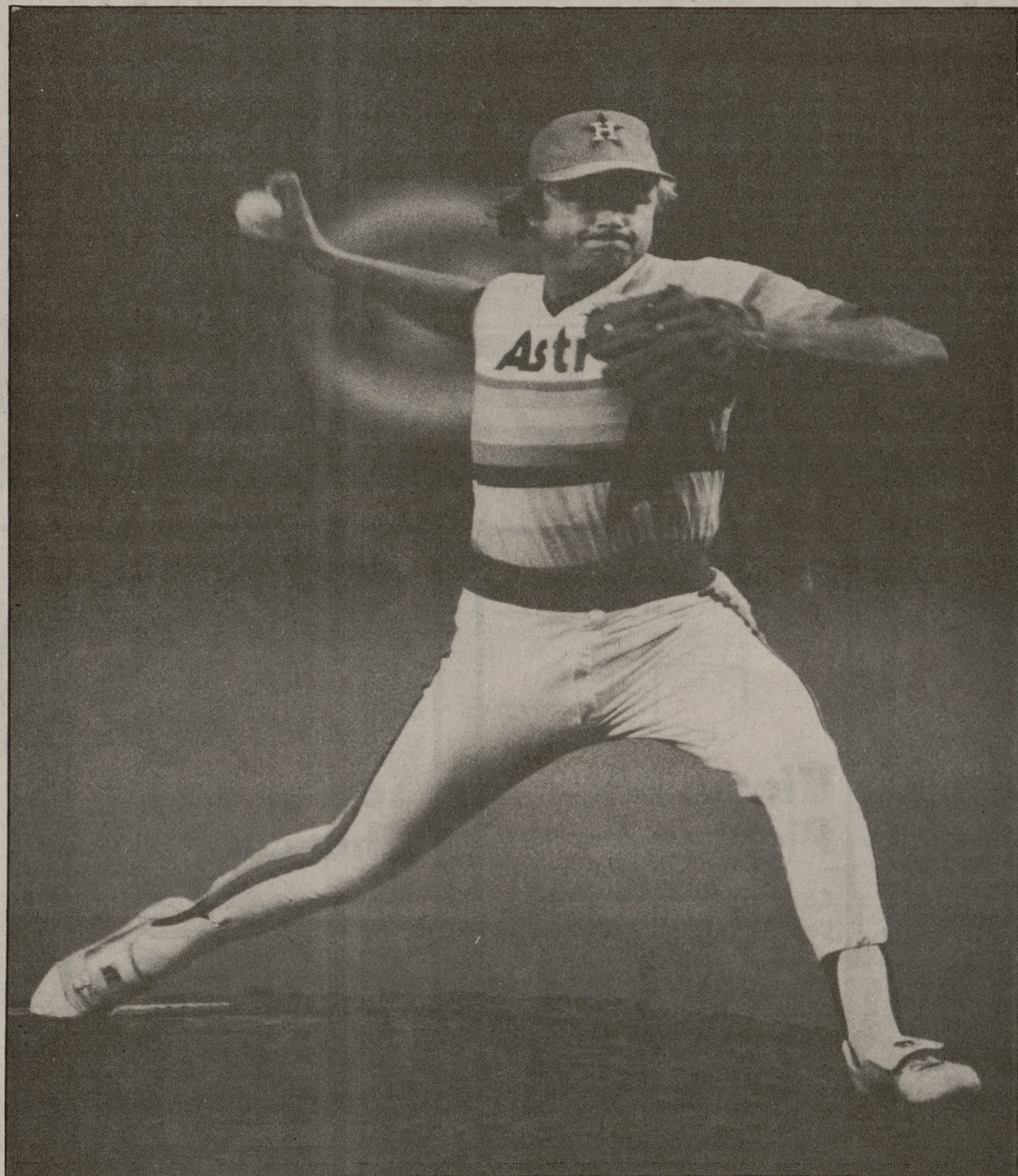
Danny Darwin, 9-1, pitched the last 2 1/3 innings to get the victory. The Red Sox, trailing 3-0 at one stage, tied the score in the eighth when Fred Lynn led off with a double, his second of the game, and came home on Carlton Fisk's single. Boston's other two runs came in the

sixth off starter Gaylord Perry on singles by Dave Stapleton and Lynn and a double by Tony Perez.

The Rangers took a 2-0 lead in the fourth off Torrez when Bell reached on an infield hit and came around on Staub's fourth homer. Staub drove in Texas' third run in the sixth with a fielder's choice.

Boston outfielder Jim Dwyer was beamed by a Perry pitch in the seventh and taken to New England Baptist Hospital for x-rays. He was reported conscious and alert by team doctors.

In other American League action, New York split with Milwaukee, winning 3-0 in the first game and losing 4-1 in the second; Baltimore trounced Minnesota 8-1; Chicago defeated Kansas City 6-1; California edged Detroit, 6-4; and Cleveland shut out Seattle, 4-0.



Houston Astro knuckleball artist Joe Niekro hurls one of his fluttering pitches during action last week against the Phillies. Niekro gave up four runs in only 3 1/2 innings against the Mets Tuesday, but Houston won, 6-5.
Photo by Pat O'Malley

... as Houston stretches lead

United Press International
HOUSTON — Pinch hitter Jeff Leonard slammed a two-run homer and Jose Cruz delivered a run-scoring single to highlight a three-run sixth inning Tuesday night that carried the Houston Astros to a 6-5 victory over the New York Mets.

The victory enabled the Astros to stretch their lead in the National League West Division to 2 1/2 games over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Left-hander Ed Glynn, 3-3, walked Craig Reynolds to open the sixth and Leonard, batting for winning pitcher Bert Roberge, hit an 0-1 pitch above the 406-foot sign in center field for his third home run. Terry Puhl and Danny Heep followed with singles before Cruz got the game-winning hit.

Roberge wild pitched the Mets' fifth run across the plate in the fourth

inning but allowed only one run in his first two innings in his second appearance. Dave Smith earned his first victory by protecting a one-run lead in five innings.

The Mets' Lee Mazzilli lined singles and drove in a run in the run fourth inning.

Houston is now 7-1 against the Mets this year, and 16-4 against them since 1978.

In other National League action, St. Louis edged the Dodgers, 3-2. San Francisco won a surprising game from Monday over the Atlanta Braves, 2-0, but lost the regular game. Atlanta beat Montreal, 7-5. The Braves took over the Eastern Division lead with a 4-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies, 3-2.

Angry Turner loses to Conner

United Press International
NEWPORT, R.I. — Ted Turner couldn't have been more disgusted. He was trailing Dennis Conner's Freedom again in a third race Monday when a crewman noticed a slender crack in Courageous' boom.

It was Turner's first day against Conner in the second round of America's Cup trials and he had dropped the chance to prove he could overtake the San Diego sailor, who has become the front-runner among the three candidates to defend yachting's most prized trophy.

Turner, the 1977 Cup defender, radioed the New York Yacht Club's race committee and asked that the race be abandoned; it was 10 minutes after the start.

"We figured if we sailed any longer it would get worse," a disgusted Turner said at dockside.

The boom, already repaired once, would be fixed again, Turner said.

It was Turner's second day of equipment foul-ups.

He blamed a loss to Russell Long's Clipper Sunday on a jammed halyard.

Monday's defeats forced Turner to admit again a year's worth of practice had made Conner a tough competitor.

"We've got a 6-year-old boat and we've been working out about 90 days and they're (Conner and crew) just a little sharper at this point in every category."

But he quickly added, "Not opposing catches think our boat is slower. We've determined that yet."

Conner, who finished the three trials with 11 wins and only one loss, has profited from 200 days of practice since last summer. He has suffered from being away from the boat for months.

Monday's victories gave Conner a 5-0 record for the round-robin trials. He beat Turner by margin 37 seconds and 50 seconds.

"We had an edge at the start of the race and we got ahead and as one knows in this game once you're ahead it's hard for the trailing boat to catch up," said Conner.

Still, Conner wasn't twirling his year-old yacht the edge of his athletic deerskin speed.

"I think the boats are pretty well matched," Conner said.

Conner, who is said to be planning to avoid any chance of a comeback, said he was "pleased" to be on the New York Yacht Club's selection committee. "They're pretty good," he said.

He also stuck to his view of the race. "I don't think it's time to change the rules," he said.

"Everyone knows that Ted is the best when his back is up against the wall," said Conner. "We've disregarded he'll get tougher and tougher."

Conner is matched with Leonard today's racing while Turner is in the day off.

Richard to go into hospital

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Astros' controversial All-star pitcher J.R. Richard will enter a hospital as scheduled today to undergo tests to di-

agnose the problem which caused him to be placed on a disabled list one week ago, the team's president said Tuesday.

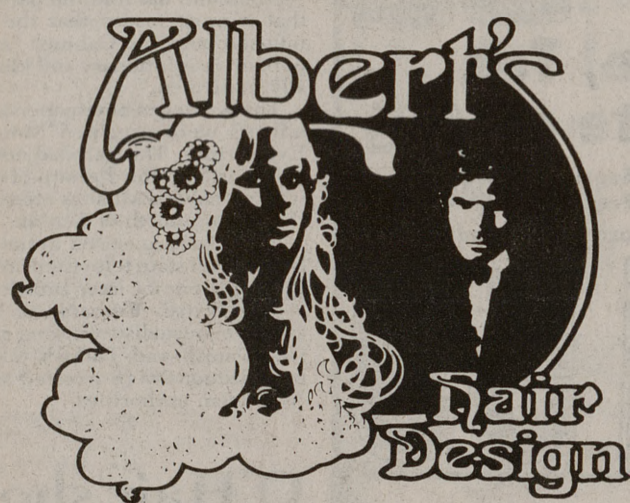
President Tal Smith said the tests would be a "detailed diagnostic study." Since Richard started complaining of a tired pitching arm early in the season, no cause has been found by team doctors for any physical problem.

Team physician Dr. Harold Brelsford said Richard, the National League's All-star starter earlier this

month, had suffered "an emotional" problem.

The hospital visit of an undisclosed length was scheduled when Richard was placed on the 21-day disabled list July 16. He had requested such a leave of absence but team officials had resisted his request because no physical ailment could be found.

Richard, 30, was allowed to return to his Ruston, La., home late last week to be with his wife and five children and Brelsford said he would return this morning.



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Major League Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	East	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	59	33	.641		Pittsburgh	52	40	.565	
Milwaukee	52	41	.559	7 1/2	Montreal	50	40	.556	
Detroit	48	39	.552	8 1/2	Philadelphia	47	43	.522	
Baltimore	50	42	.544	9	New York	44	48	.478	
Boston	46	45	.506	12 1/2	St. Louis	42	51	.452	
Cleveland	42	47	.472	15 1/2	Chicago	38	51	.427	
Toronto	40	49	.449	17 1/2	West	W <td>L <td>Pct. <td>GB</td> </td></td>	L <td>Pct. <td>GB</td> </td>	Pct. <td>GB</td>	GB
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	Houston	53	40	.570	
Kansas City	56	37	.602		Los Angeles	51	43	.543	
Texas	46	46	.500	11 1/2	Cincinnati	49	45	.521	
Oakland	44	50	.468	12 1/2	San Francisco	46	48	.489	
Minnesota	43	50	.462	13	Atlanta	43	49	.467	
Chicago	42	50	.457	13 1/2	San Diego	38	55	.409	
Seattle	38	54	.413	17 1/2					
California	34	57	.374	21					

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