

## Operation ends J.R.'s year

# Blood clot removed from right arm

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Cardiologists saved the life of Houston Astros All-Star pitcher J. R. Richard in an emergency operation to remove a blood clot that had cut off circulation to his right arm.

Richard was reported "fine" early today after a 90-minute operation that was completed less than 12 hours after he collapsed during a light workout on the Astrodome playing field Wednesday.

Until the diagnosis of the clot, Richard's complaints of a "dead arm" the last two months had fallen on some deaf ears. Doctors in three examinations failed to pinpoint any physical ailments and a few teammates had publicly criticized the high-priced athlete.

Official statements from Methodist Hospital where the surgery was led by Dr. Charles H. McCollum III did not indicate the life-and-death nature of the surgery, but an observer said the 30-year-old athlete's life was in danger.

"Hell, they weren't worried about his arm; they were worried about his life," said an unidentified surgeon, who did not take part in the operation but was briefed by the team of cardiologists.

Doctors discovered the clot in a subclavian artery behind Richard's right collarbone at about 5 p.m. as his teammates were preparing for a

game in Philadelphia.

Team officials were kept apprised of the doctors' diagnosis, and after the game Cesar Cedeño said he hoped Richard would return to his old form although it is a virtual certainty the right-hander will not pitch again this season.

"J. R. hasn't missed a start in five years," Cedeño said. "Some people had some doubts about his pitching but none of the players. He never complained. It's very sad."

"I hope he'll be able to come back and be the same J. R. he has been. It's frightening that something like this can happen to a young guy. He's the best right-hander there is."

His wife Carolyn rushed to Richard's side when he was taken to the hospital and after learning of the impending surgery walked the hospital halls sobbing intermittently.

No one with the Astros' organization went to the hospital.

Richard had played catch with former Astro Wilbur Howard for 10 minutes late Wednesday morning and sat in a dugout for 10 minutes before returning to the field for more throwing. Then he became dizzy and collapsed an eyewitness said.

Trainer Doc Ewell, who observed the light workout, called for an ambulance and began applying water-soaked towels to the back of Richard's neck.

The 6-8 athlete remained conscious as he waited for an ambulance to enter the stadium and drive onto the field.

Team spokesman Rick Rivers said he watched Richard toss the ball. "He was talking as he was throwing," Rivers said. "He didn't seem to be in any pain."

After complaining of a "dead arm" in pitching appearances during June, Richard was placed on the 21-day disabled list July 16 with the understanding he would be hospitalized for tests to determine the source of a mysterious ailment.

A team doctor who was unable to diagnose any physical problem before Richard was hospitalized, said the problem was partly emotional. Richard's testing during the hospitalization included neurological and psychological workups.

After being taken off the roster, Richard was allowed to rest at his home in Ruston, La. for a week. He entered the hospital last Wednesday, and when he was released Saturday the team said physicians

had found an arterial circulation problem in his right shoulder. No surgery was required, the team said.

Richard was to have undergone

another examination Tuesday in order to release him for the startup of pitching but the Astros did not disclose any results of that scheduled exam.



Astros ace J. R. Richard eyes the plate as he delivers one of his blazing fastballs earlier this year. Richard, who has been on the disabled list since July 16, collapsed Wednesday and underwent surgery for a blood clot in his neck. Richard will be lost for the season. Staff photo by Dillard Stone

## Astros, Rangers take

The Houston Astros dropped their second game in a row Wednesday night and lost ground to the Los Angeles Dodgers at the same time. The Philadelphia Phillies shelled Houston starter Nolan Ryan for hits and six runs in five innings, to win, 6-4. Ryan is now 5-8 on the year.

Houston is now 1½ games in first place over the Dodgers, who beat Pittsburgh, 3-0.

In Arlington, the Texas Rangers are beaten by the Baltimore Orioles, 3-2, in a game full of controversy. Texas manager Pat Corcoran was thrown out in the sixth inning while arguing over a play which ended a basesloaded Rangers lead.

The Orioles started a double play, but the throw to first for the final out was apparently late by at least two or three steps, according to video replay. Umpires, however, called Bump Wills out anyway, causing the fuss.

Catcher Alan Ashby, in Philadelphia where the Astros lost to the Phillies Wednesday night, said the club would just have to make the mental adjustment of playing without its star pitcher.

"Every team has some kind of problem," he said. "You can't use it for an excuse. You have to live with it. We have several good pitchers who will have to make up for J.R. Of course, he'll be missed."

## Allegations of 'cheating' surround Russian judges

United Press International  
MOSCOW — The International Olympic Committee has asked the International Track and Field Federation to investigate claims Russian judges and officials have been cheating in Olympic track and field events, a well-placed IOC source said Wednesday.

The most blatant case came in the men's javelin when Russian officials opened the doors of the stadium behind Russian throwers so they would have a following wind, the source said.

"We heard about this and asked IAAF President Adrian Paulen about it. He first said it wasn't true, but when he checked up, he came back and said it did in fact happen," the source said.

In addition, there have been allegations the Russian gold-medal throw in the javelin not only landed flat on the ground which does not count but also was marked about a meter longer than the first point of impact.

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Students majoring in BIMS, pre-med, or any of the sciences are eligible for this program. See your college co-op coordinator for further information.  
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