



dp 1980

Seattle defeats Oilers

United Press International
HOUSTON — Wide receiver Sam McCullum caught two touchdown passes from Jim Zorn, and a ball-hawking Seattle Seahawks secondary intercepted five Kenny Stabler passes Sunday to help the Seahawks stun the Houston Oilers, 26-7.

Efren Herrera kicked a club record-tying four field goals of 36-, 33-, 50- and 44-yards as Seattle cashed in three interceptions and a fumble recovery into points.

Stabler's 22-yard scoring pass to Mike Barber with 83 seconds to play kept Seattle young defense from recording its second shutout in two weeks. The team defeated the Washington Redskins 14-0 last Sunday in Washington.

The late Oilers' score averted the first Oiler shutout since the last game of 1976.

The Seahawks' offense rolled up 302 yards and never had to drive farther than 43 yards for any scores. McCullum caught scoring passes of 22 and 24 yards in the first half as the Seahawks rolled up a 23-0 half-time lead.

Seahawks linebacker Michael Jackson intercepted a tipped Stabler pass with 3:03 left in the second quarter as Houston moved to try to cut into a 20-0 deficit. As the Oilers drove into Seattle territory on their first drive of the second half, Vic

Minor stepped in front of receiver Billy Johnson and picked off a pass.

Minor stripped the ball from Carl Roaches on a kickoff return early in the second quarter and fell on the ball at the Houston 21. The Seahawks converted that turnover into Herrera's 33-yard field goal and led at that point, 10-0.

The mistake prone Oilers had an opportunity for an interception of their own with a minute to play in the second quarter, but cornerback Greg Stenrick failed to catch Zorn's long third down pass in the Houston end zone. On the next play Herrera kicked his 50-yard field goal.

The other Seahawk interceptions were made by cornerbacks Dave Brown and Cornell Webster and safety Keith Simpson.

With 4:31 to play, Herrera missed a 40-yard field goal attempt which would have given him the Seahawks' single game record for field goals made.

NFL rushing king Earl Campbell played for the first time in seven quarters Sunday after recovering from a groin muscle pull but the Seahawks held him to 50 yards on 12 carries.

Zorn completed 12 of 22 passes for 172 yards.

Stabler, the NFL's most accurate passer this season with a 72 percent completion percentage, passed 50 times and completed 23 Sunday.

Will Lewis' 50-yard punt return early in the first quarter set up Seattle for its opening score, a 36-yard Herrera field goal. On both that 36-yard drive and on a succeeding 43-yard drive leading to McCullum's first touchdown catch, Seattle was successful in gaining first downs on two fourth-and-1 situations.

Astros blow it again, 4-3; one game playoff today

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — On April 10 of this year, the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers faced each other in Game No. 1 of the 1980 baseball season. Sunday, the teams met again in Game No. 162.

And after 178 days, tens of thousands of miles traveled in airplanes, and enough bone chips, pulled muscles, and torn ligaments and sore elbows to keep a large hospital busy, the Astros and Dodgers are right back where they started.

Today, at 3 p.m. CDT, in a nationally televised game, they come together again in their final game of the year. The winner goes on to face the Philadelphia Phillies for the National League pennant. The loser goes home for a long, lonely winter.

Today's game at Dodger Stadium was brought about by one swing of the bat by Los Angeles third baseman Ron Cey, whose two-run homer in the eighth inning of Sunday's final regular-season game gave the Dodgers a 3-2 victory, a three-game sweep of the series against Houston and a tie for first place with the Astros in the NL West.

The one-game playoff will pit Houston's Joe Niekro, who gave up the winning homer to Cey, against the disappointing free agent, Dave Goltz, 7-10. As expected, both teams like their chances.

"We'll get them tomorrow," said reliever Frank LaCorte, who gave up the winning homer to Cey. "It would have been nice if we had won the title early, but I guarantee you we're going to Philadelphia, not the Dodgers."

And Niekro, who will have the weight of the world on his shoulders, said: "The last three games are history. What happens from now on is what's important. Tomorrow is a new day, it really is."

And from Houston second baseman Joe Morgan: "We're not afraid. We don't think any team can beat us our games in a row. Tomorrow is all or nothing and we

can't be conservative. We have to let it all hang out. This is the one that counts."

The Dodgers are just as confident. "The pressure will be on both teams," said first baseman Steve Garvey, "but after beating them three in a row, I bet they feel like the season is slipping out of their grasp."

And from Cey: "I'm sure Houston felt like they could win the title whenever they wanted to... in any of the three games. But they haven't done it and we're going to do everything possible tomorrow to stop them from doing it."

The Dodgers' victory Sunday capped a miraculous return from the dead. Houston had a three-game lead over Los Angeles heading into the three-game series, but was turned back in all three games.

Friday night, following an error by second baseman Rafael Landestoy on a routine grounder, Cey singled in the tying run with two out in the ninth. Catcher Joe Ferguson then won the game with a lead-off homer in the 10th. Saturday, Steve Garvey's homer in the fourth inning gave the Dodgers a 2-1 victory.

And Sunday, an even more emotional game unfolded in the smog and haze of Dodger Stadium.

Trailing 3-2 with entering the eighth, Garvey reached first on an error by third baseman Enos Cabell. Cey then worked the count to 3-2 against LaCorte before unloading his 28th homer of the season five rows into the left field seats.

"He had thrown three curveballs and all of them missed," explained Cey. "Then he came in with some fastballs and I fouled a few off. The next pitch was another fastball, up and out. I think it was a pitch he wanted to throw and I think he'd throw the same pitch again. I just go into this one, that's all."

"I can't throw it over again," reflected LaCorte. "What makes me sick is Cey never hits me. It was a sickening feeling when he hit it."

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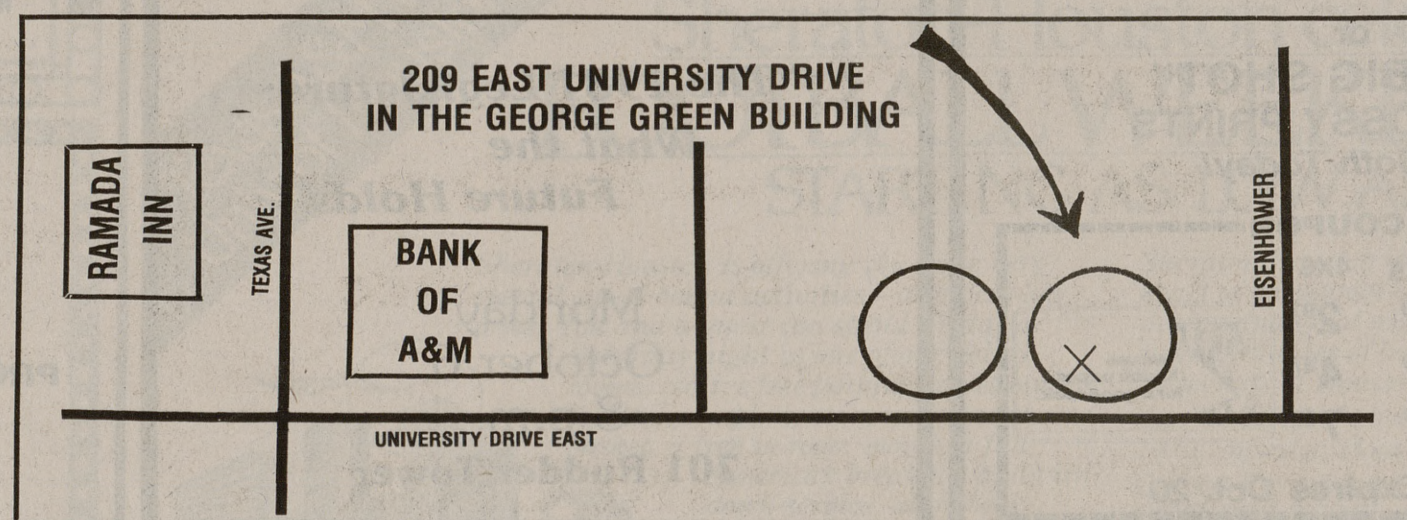
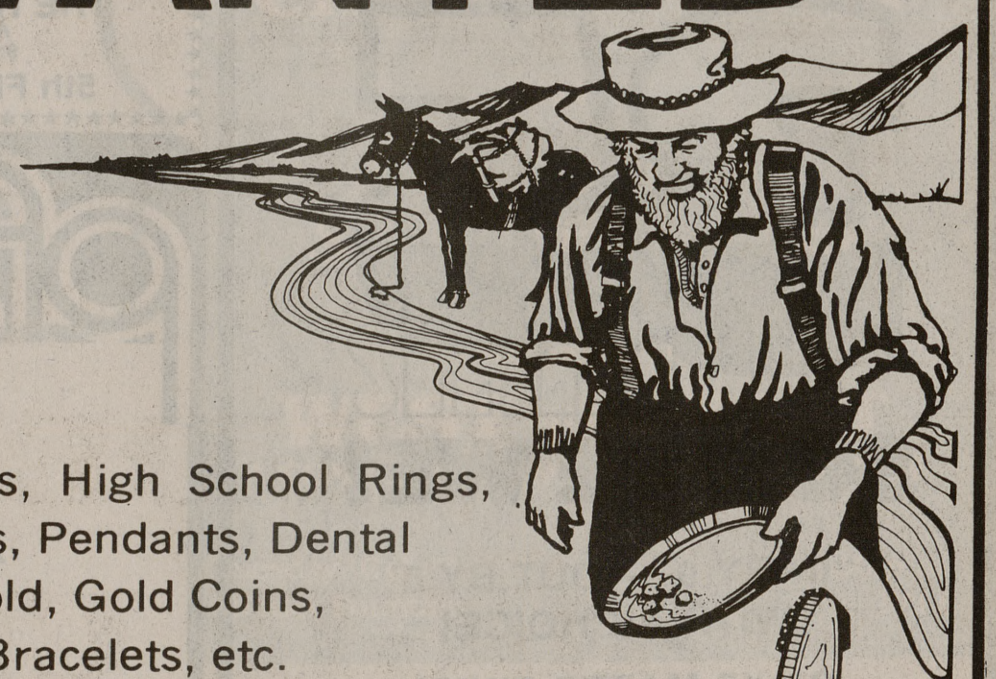
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