## Astros sign ex-Dodger Sutton

HOUSTON — Free-agent Don Sutton, the winningest pitcher in Los Angeles Dodgers history, Wednesday signed a four-year con-tract with the Houston Astros at a salary his agent said made him one of the 10 best paid players in baseball.

Sutton disclosed Houston originally had been his third choice among teams that drafted him but said the Astros offered the best contract.

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all-star J.R. Richard's full recovery from a mid-season stroke, guaranteed the first three years of Sutton's salary. At 35, Sutton became the sixth starter 30 or older on Houston's all right-handed NL Wst division

championship staff.
Sutton told an Astrodome news conference Richard's status was not mentioned during the negotiations.
"If he (Richard) does come back,

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are we gonna be awesome? I defy any club to match us nine deep on this pitching staff," Sutton said.

drafted him, Milwaukee was his first choice and Houston his third behind the New York Yankees.

the New York Yankees.

"My two agents thought at first that I would be playing for the California Angels, but for some reason right from the start I thought I would sign with the Astros," he said, citing Rosen and Houston's lifestyle versus that in New York as primary con-The signing was announced by Astros President Al Rosen and John McMullen, the New York shipbuilder who last week saw his role as managing partner diluted by limited partners who share ownership of the team and who were unhappy with his management of the franchise.

But Sutton praised McMullen Sutton will be 36 next season, a factor which did not stop 10 teams from selecting him in the Nov. 13 free agent draft. He was 13-5 in 1980 while subtly criticizing Tommy Lasorda, his manager at Los Angeles.
"Were I not dealing with the two men that I dealt with here, I think I

would have gone somewhere else,

"Bill Virdon is a stable man like the Walter Alston I used to know," he said in reference to the Astros' current manager and the Dodgers'

Ung-time former skipper.

While no one disclosed salary, Sutton said, "I know it's a heck of a lot more than I would have gotten on the West Coast."

Sutton said of the 10 teams that

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teams most of all.

with a 2.21 ERA. He has beaten the Astros 21 times in his career but only

The uncertainty of Richard's re-

turn made Sutton more desirable to Houston where he joins starters Joe

Niekro, Nolan Ryan, Ken Forsch,

once in the last three seasons.

swimming team has every right to be confident now. And they are

On Nov. 15 at A&M, the Aggies shocked the Mustangs by pulling to within six points, 56-50, before the final event of a dual meet between

relay by .11 of a second and the meet, 63-50. The Aggies, however, ketball, one guy can score 45 points and carry a team. In swimming, a were happy with their performance. Traditionally expected to be no better than a fifth or sixth place team the still only score five points for winning last few years, Texas A&M is now full

the meet. Arkansas, Houston and SMU are expected to battle it out for second, third and fourth.

the folks there were really happy,

Max King of the Texas A&M University men's tennis team has advanced to the third round of the Yonex Invitational Pro tournament in

He was the only member of the team to advance after the remaining members of the team were beaten in the first round.

"I am real proud of Max," said coach David Kent. "He has im-proved with each match throughout

the fall season.

King is playing sound, aggressive tennis, said his coach. He is stronger

than last year and it is showing in his stamina and power. King defeated Richie Rennerberg

Another reason for the Ags' per-

formance is Pat Roche, who has probably been the most consistent team member. Roche usually com-

petes in the 400-yard medley relay

and the 200-yard individual competi-

Today, however, Roche is hob-bled by what Nash calls a "myste-

"The guy can barely walk," said the head coach. "He's been our best up until this point. He's definitely

The meet in, Lubbock will begin

Friday and run through Saturday

rious leg ailment.

the top performer.

YEAR!

Houston

may lost Reets No. 7 Class AAA

franchis ated close before both

United Press Internate And, more CHICAGO — The Narpobably the ican Soccer League ha watch a Tex reorganize its franchiss time — are

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The three cities in

Players from termin

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A native of Mercedes,

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6-2, 6-3 and David Woods 6-2, 6-3. Both are pros from the Houston area

Doubles play for the Yonex begins

Friday at 5 p.m.

"This will give the rest of the team a chance to redeem themselves,"

The doubles teams are King-Jim Grubert, Ron Kowal-Tom Judson

and Leonard Smith-Genero Fer-

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Vern Ruhle and possibly Richard. Aggie swimmers head to Lubbock for meet they couldn't believe we were that close to SMU." the race. Everyone on the team has to have a '45-point' performance, like we did against SMU."

One reason for the Aggies early success — they also knocked off

Tulane Nov. 8 in New Orleans, 68-

45, and TCU in College Station, 67-

45 — is the upsurge of the relay teams. Nash said it all comes down to

togetherness.
"What we have on our team is rare on most," he said, "it's a tremem-

dous team unity and a sense of caring. It shows through on our relay

The relays are a team event whereas swimming is a very individual-oriented sport. Like in bas-

guy can win a race by 25 seconds and

Sports Editor
After taking perrenial power SMU
down to the wire in a meet earlier
this semester, the Texas A&M men's

The Aggies will travel to Lubbock this weekend to participate in the SWC Invitational against those same Mustangs and favorite Texas.

SMU won the 400-yard freestyle

last few years, Texas A&M is now full of experience and raring to go.

"We'd like to take a high position at the meet," said Head Coach Mel Nash Wednesday. "We see it as our coming out party. When we did well against SMU it let people know that we're alive and kicking.

"Texas is definitely the favorite in the meet Argansas Houston and Max King of the Texas A&M Unit than last year and it is

"I just got off the phone with the Texas coach last night, and he said

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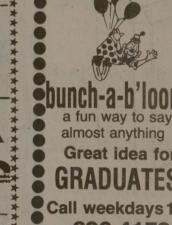
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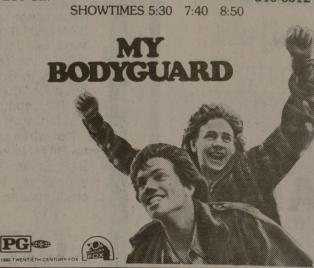


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