



And the runner is? Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Texas A&M second baseman David Kendall appears to be putting the tag to a Kansas baserunner during the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. The Jayhawks

won, 5-4, despite a late Aggie rally. The Ags return to action Friday when they travel to Fort Worth to play TCU.

Astros snap losing streak

United Press International
COCOA, Fla. — Nolan Ryan

allowed one hit in four innings Monday as the Houston Astros snapped a six game losing streak by beating the Boston Red Sox 3-

fourth when Dave Roberts doubled and scored on Jeff Leonard's single. Leonard stole second and scored on Alan Ashby's single to make it 3-1.

Ryan, who gave up 10 hits and 10 runs in two innings in his only other spring outing, allowed three walks and one unearned run.

Boston scored a run in the seventh off Ken Forsch on a sacrifice fly by Dave Schmidt. Forsch worked four innings and Bert Roberge pitched a perfect ninth.

Terry Puhl's bases-empty homer in the first inning off losing pitcher Frank Tanana gave Houston a 1-0 lead. Boston tied it in the second when Astros shortstop Craig Reynolds made a throwing error to allow a run to score.

Tanana was followed by John Tudor and Win Remmerswaal who combined for three scoreless innings.

The Astros took the lead in the

Houston improved its record to 4-8 while Boston fell to 5-8.

Rangers looking for direction

United Press International
POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — The Texas Rangers have been an organization without apparent direction in recent years and that probably explains their failure to compete even in seasons when they were considered a possibility for the title.

They have tried the free agent market, they have tried to build with youth, they have tried acquiring veterans. Maybe nothing will succeed like a bit of stability and that's where Manager Don Zimmer comes in.

Zimmer, fired because of the weakness of Boston's pitching staff, faces a bigger challenge in Texas. The weaknesses of the Rangers could hit him like a heat wave in Arlington, Texas.

For instance, starter Steve Comer and reliever Jim Kern are coming off injuries.

The latest philosophy appears to be to copy their intrastate cousins, the Houston Astros, and build with pitching, defense and speed to suit their big ballpark with the wind blowing in from right.

The Rangers thus unloaded slugger Richie Zisk to Seattle in a multi-player trade that brought them pitcher Rick Honeycutt, who joins Jon Matlack as the lefties in the starting rotation. The righties are Doc Medich, Ferguson Jenkins and Danny Darwin.

Catcher Jim Sundberg, a Gold Glove winner the last five years, anchors the team and third baseman Buddy Bell comes off his best year offensively. Shortstop could go to Nelson Norman, Mario Mendoza or Mark Wagner. Bump Willis is at second and Pat Putnam at first.

Veteran outfielders Al Oliver and Mickey Rivers are coming off exceptional years and Zimmer has Jim Norris, Leon Roberts, Billy Sample and Johnny Grubb to fill the remaining spot.

The DH could be veteran Willie Horton, who comes over from Seattle.

Players, coach walk out over money troubles

United Press International
MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Fillies played for months without full paychecks, but a "bum credit card" was the last straw.

Coach Terry Kunze, suspended along with his eight players for a walkout Saturday night in Chicago, says the refusal of a Chicago hotel to honor a team credit card brought the WBL club's frustration to a head.

"It's been coming for a long time," Kunze said Sunday in a telephone interview. "They're way behind in payments. And then they sent us on the road with a bum credit card. We went to the Holiday Inn and couldn't get in. We finally used my personal credit card."

"The players had a meeting by themselves. They decided they shouldn't play late that afternoon, after wavering back and forth. I'm neutral. I just told them I would stand with them. If they played, I'd coach. I give them a lot of credit for playing this long, really."

A home game against the Dallas Diamonds was postponed Sunday, but General Manager T. Gordon Nevers said he planned to field a new squad in time for tonight's scheduled match against the St. Louis Streak.

Nevers acknowledged the team's money troubles, but said he was surprised and embarrassed by the walkout.

"As of 10 days ago, I was told the team would finish the season under any circumstances," he said. "Whatever circumstances they felt were put upon them by not playing in Chicago were not apparent to me. Their pay schedule didn't change one bit from Friday afternoon to Saturday night at 7:30."

Money has been owed to the coach and the players for some time, but it was "understood" that the team would continue playing, Nevers said. He refused to say how much the team owed.

Kunze likewise declined to estimate the team's indebtedness to himself and the players, but said he did not receive a full paycheck all season.

"The thing of it is if we stop playing, he has no power to make money, which is true," Kunze said. "But if we play out the year

and then stop playing, we get the money anyway."

"Anytime you make a contractual obligation, you're obligated to meet it. The players should have been very sympathetic and let this drag out. I thought they would have been very sympathetic and let this drag out. I thought they would have been very sympathetic and let this drag out."

Earlier this season, former lie center Marie Kucera traded to Nebraska and claimed the club owed her in back wages.

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