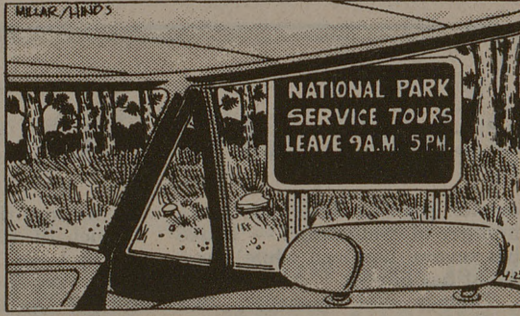
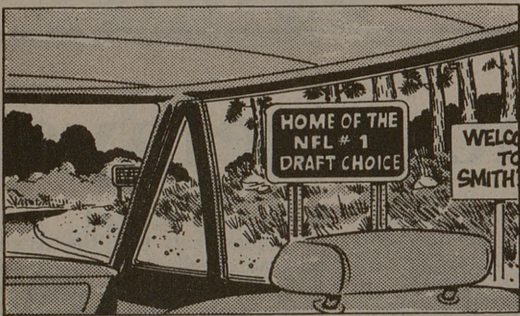


TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Baseball team completes series sweep of USA, 10-4

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

Putting on their second display of fine overall offense and defense in two days, the Texas A&M baseball team beat the University of South Alabama 10-4 Wednesday afternoon in front of a tiny Olsen Field gathering of 150 people to sweep the two-game series.

Instead of scoring all of their runs in the last three innings like in their 9-3 Tuesday night win, the Aggies scored them all in the first four innings Wednesday and picked up seven of their nine hits in those innings as well.

Once again the Aggies, who have won seven of their last nine, played well defensively. A&M is now making fine defensive plays in important situations, and has made only two errors in the last seven games.

Aggie starting pitcher Gerry Salinas, 1-0, making his first start of the year, gave USA one run and four hits in seven innings before being relieved by Lane Taylor in the eighth. In his first pitching appearance of the year, Taylor gave up three runs in the ninth when he couldn't throw strikes, walking four men. However, the Jaguars were too far behind to have any hopes of catching the Aggies, as B.B. Schott came in to insure the win for Salinas.

Billy Cannon, playing shortstop for the first time in several games, started the Aggie scoring in the first inning when he hit a two-run homer with J.P. Bramhall on first base. Joey Szekely duplicated Cannon's hit in the second, hitting a two-run homer with Terry Lawrence on second base.

Leading 4-0, A&M scored three runs in the third inning, two of which were unearned as a result of two USA errors. The only hits in the inning were singles by Rodney Hodde and Mark Magee, and the only RBI came on Terry Lawrence's sacrifice fly.

Aggies scored three more runs in the fourth on a walk to Tim Boyes, a single by Hodde, a walk to Lawrence and a two-run double by Kevin Smith. The third run of the inning scored on a sacrifice fly by Clint Heard, giving A&M a 10-0 lead after four innings.

The Jaguars didn't score off Salinas until the seventh, when they did so on a single, a stolen base and another single. Then in the ninth, they scored the three runs to make the final score 10-4.

The Aggies, 27-15-1 and 5-9-1 in the SWC, now return to conference play in a three-game series with the Baylor Bears Friday and Saturday in Olsen Field. Friday's single game starts at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday's double header starts at 1:00 p.m.

Softball team competing in Indiana

The Texas A&M softball team left Aggieland for Yankeealand to test their skills against nine teams in the first annual Indiana University Invitational Softball Tournament.

Tournament competition includes Ball State University, Indiana State University, Illinois State University, St. Louis University, Western Michigan University, Northern Illinois University, Kent State University, Southern Illinois University and host Indiana University.

The Aggies play Indiana University in Winslow Field in a regular game today.

The tournament begins Friday with pool play eliminations.

The Aggies will be in the same pool as Ball State, Indiana State, Western Michigan University and Southern Illinois.

The top teams from the two pools will compete for the championship and the runners-up will have a consolation game on Saturday.

Major League Baseball

American League

East			
Cleveland	6 3	.667	—
New York	7 4	.636	—
Boston	6 4	.600	½
Detroit	7 5	.583	½
Milwaukee	5 4	.556	1
Baltimore	3 4	.429	2
Toronto	3 9	.250	4½

West			
Oakland	14 1	.932	—
Chicago	5 3	.625	5½
California	6 7	.462	7
Texas	5 6	.455	7
Seattle	4 9	.308	9
Kansas City	2 7	.222	9
Minnesota	2 9	.182	10

Wednesday's Results

Texas 16, Boston 8
Milwaukee 8, Toronto 1
New York 7, Detroit 2
Cleveland 4, Kansas City 0
Chicago 2, Baltimore 1
Oakland 2, Minnesota 1

National League

East			
Montreal	8 2	.800	—
St. Louis	7 2	.778	—
Philadelphia	7 5	.583	—
New York	4 4	.500	—
Pittsburgh	4 4	.500	—
Chicago	1 10	.091	—

West			
Los Angeles	10 2	.833	—
Atlanta	6 5	.545	—
Cincinnati	5 6	.455	—
San Francisco	5 8	.385	—
San Diego	5 8	.385	—
Houston	3 9	.250	—

Thursday's Games

Baltimore at Chicago
Toronto at New York

Wednesday's Results

St. Louis 3, Chicago 0
Los Angeles 1, Houston 0
Atlanta 7, Cincinnati 3
San Diego 4, San Francisco 0
New York at Pittsburgh pd.
rain

Thursday's Games

New York at Pittsburgh
Atlanta at San Francisco
San Diego at Los Angeles
Cincinnati at Houston

Valenzuela leads Dodgers over Astros, again, 1-0

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Los Angeles Dodgers might be the defending West Division champion if at the end of last season Fernando Valenzuela had been asked to pitch the Dodgers' one-game division playoff against the Houston Astros.

Nothing the barrel-chested, 20-year-old Mexico native has done before or after that Oct. 6 playoff indicates he could not have come back from two days rest then and beaten the Astros.

As it was, Houston won 7-2 and played for the National League pennant.

In 21 innings pitched against Houston since the Dodgers brought Valenzuela to the major leagues on Sept. 15, 1980 — including a 1-0 seven-hit victory Wednesday night in the Astrodome — Valenzuela has allowed the Astros no runs.

Houston manager Bill Virdon has seen enough to form an opinion.

"He's probably a little bit amazing. I don't know what word to use, but it's awful damned good," he said.

Astros batters tried to move even with the plate or in front of it Wednesday to hit Valenzuela's screwball early in its break.

"That's one approach," Virdon said. "But it didn't help us."

Astros lead off hitter Terry Puhl explained why he thought Valenzuela has been effective enough to have pitched four complete games in his four starts this season, three of them shutouts.

"We had our chances to get him early, but we didn't. By the fifth inning, he hits his groove, finding the right speed on his screwball and mixing his pitches as well as

anybody I've seen. You've got to get to him early, just like with Phil Niekro," Puhl said.

Strike outs by Jose Cruz and Mike Ivie in the Astros first inning stranded runners on third and second bases. A strikeout by Ivie, and Art Howe's ground out in the fifth inning left runners on third and first. And Ivie's ground out in the eighth wasted a runner at third.

For the game, Valenzuela struck out 11 and lowered his

earned run average to 0.25.

And he can hit. Valenzuela got two of the Dodger's six hits off Astros starter Don Sutton, 0-3, including a game-winning two-out single in the fifth after Pedro Guerrero had doubled.

Afterward, an interpreter relaying reporters questions came back from Valenzuela and said, "He said he appreciates what Bill Virdon said and he is a little surprised at what is going on."

Rangers take Bosox, 16-8

United Press International
BOSTON — Nothing that happens in Fenway Park, the home of the strange, surprises Don Zimmer. But the Texas Rangers' skipper couldn't help but be a bit baffled by his team's 16-8 win over his old Boston Red Sox.

"I've seen lots of 16-8 games in here but I can't remember none with the wind blowing in," Zimmer said after his team had jumped to an 11-0 lead after two innings en route to the Wednesday win. "When you play in Fenway Park, you don't know what you might see. Today was one of those crazy games."

The Rangers pounded out 18 hits with everyone but Mickey Rivers collecting at least two hits. Pat Putnam drove in four runs, including three in a seven-run first inning, while Buddy Bell and Bill Sample each collected three RBI. The win avoided a three-game Red Sox sweep.

Indicative of the craziness was the first play of the game. Bump Wills grounded one down the first base line which the Red Sox ballboy cleanly fielded, giving Wills a

ground-rule double.

"That was the key play of the game," deadpanned Red Sox manager Ralph Houk. "That cost us the game. Maybe they would only have gotten six runs instead of seven."

"We just couldn't keep them from scoring and there's nothing you can do, you're going to have games like this. You just try to hope you don't have too many," Houk said.

Al Oliver drove in Wills with a single and then ineffective Dennis Eckersley, 1-1, who hasn't beaten Texas since July 28, 1979, loaded the bases on a Bell single and a walk. Putnam promptly cleared them with a double to center.

The Rangers added three more in the first, thanks in part to the first of two Glenn Hoffman errors (six in 10 games). They added four in the second, including a pair on a Sample double, two in the fourth and three in the seventh when Bell belted a three-run homer off Mark Clear. Clear has given up four homers in eight innings. He surrendered two all last year in 106 innings.



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