THE BATTALION Page 16

Texas takes Houston beats Braves 2-1 Red Sox, 9-0 for first win streak of year

United Press International ATLANTA — Don Sutton says there's nothing like the "comforts of home" to get him back on the

I can't explain it, but there's something about pitching in Atlanta Stadium that brings out the best in me," the 36-year-old former Los Angeles Dodger said after beating the Braves, 2-1, for the 34th time in 15 years — but his first as a member of the Houston Astros.

"I'm from the South (Clio, Ala.) and I always feel comfortable to be back here, to be in Atlanta," he "For some reason, I always have better stuff in this ball park. Sutton really had "better stuff" Tuesday night. He had a perfect

game through the first four innings, then retired nine more in a row after giving up a leadoff homer to Bob Horner in the fifth.

of home to get thin total winning path again. "I can't explain it, but there's something about pitching in Atlanta Stadium that brings out the best in me," the 36-year-old out, no-walk performance for eight innings of work.

Astros' manager Bill Virdon went to his bench in the top of the pinth when Users ninth when Houston, trying to pad that one-run, loaded the bases with only one out. That move almost backfired when the Astros failed to score and Mike Lum led off the bottom of the ninth with a pinch-hit single off reliefer Dave Smith.

"The thing is, it didn't back-fire," retorted Virdon. "The thought of leaving Sutton in never crossed my mind. He said he was getting tired.

'That's right," said Sutton. 'Coming out was my idea. Even if pinch batter in the top of the Buddy Bell beat out an infield ninth, I wasn't going back in to hit to load the bases and Johnny pitch. I'd had it." the situation hadn't called for a

a nee agent with the Astros, the victory was his first for Houston after getting off to an 0-3 start. "Don hasn't been pitching as badly as that 0-3 might indicate," said Virdon. "In his previous stort

(six days earlier) he lost a 1-0 deci-sion to the Dodgers."

United Press International ARLINGTON — Pat Putnam's three-run homer highlighted a four-run fourth inning and three pitchers combined on a five-hitter Tuesday night, lifting the Texas Rangers to a 9-0 victory over the Boston Red Sox 9-0 in a game de-

layed 48 minutes by rain. It was the second straight shutout registered by the Rangers' pitching staff.

pitch. I'd had it." Grubb gave the Rangers a 1-0 For Sutton, who left Los Angeles after 15 seasons to sign as

Mendoza and an RBI single by Bump Wills. The Rangers scored two runs in the seventh on a sacri-fice fly by Jim Sundberg and an RBI single by Billy Sample.

Texas starter Ferguson Jenkins gave up two hits and struck out three before taking himself out of the game after three innings because of respiratory problems. Steve Comer, 2-0, picked up the victory, giving up two hits in 3 2-3 innings, and Bob Babcock hurled the final 1 1-3 innings.

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Kings, Rockets ready for tonight's fifth game

United Press International KANSAS CITY — Cotton Fitzsimmons resents the status of his NBA Kings as third class citizens in Kansas City and is always quick to comment on the

subject. The Kings annually line up behind the baseball Royals and football Chiefs for fan interest in this town and they sometimes even have to fall in behind local golfer Tom Watson.

So it was with an impish grin that Fitzsimmons offered comment on the current sports scene in Kan-sas City — even though his Kings appear on the verge of elimination in the Western Conference championship series against the Houston Rockets.

Kansas City trails in games, 3-1, with Game 5 on tap here tonight. But the defending American League champion Royals are in even more of a predicament with their worst start in history -3.9 — to fall behind the frontrunning Oakland A's by an

already whopping 11 games. "Til bet the Royals are glad the playoffs are going on," said Fitzsimmons. "Til bet I'll get a thank you from Jim Frey (Royals' Manager). The heat's off them right now. And I don't mind. I kind of like playing basketball in baseball season. Two or three more weeks of this would suit me fine." weeks of this would suit me fine." To extend that season the extra two or three weeks

their coach desires, the Kings would have to provide

a third straight miracle in the 1981 playoffs. Kansas City, a 40-42 finisher during the regular season, defeated the Trail Blazers in Portland in the third game of their best-of-three series and then defeated the Suns in Phoenix in the seventh game of their best-of-seven series to earn its berth opposite Houston.

But only three teams in NBA history have ever

The Rockets themselves are miracle workers, having beaten the Lakers twice in Los Angeles to win that best-of-three series and then the Spurs three series with back-to-back wins over the weekend in Houston.

"We're on the doorstep," said Houston guard Calvin Murphy. "I'm almost afraid to think about it. There's a quiet tension around here now. It isn't over until you've got four (wins). But it sure feels good to go back to Kansas City up 3-1

"We're confident we won't have to go back home Friday," said Houston forward Robert Reid of a potential Game 6. "At first during the playoffs we were surprising people. But now we're playing well and it shouldn't be a surprise any more. We're playing with a lot of confidence.

Kansas City, which captured the season series from the Rockets 4-2, is not in a mood to concede anything to Houston and appeared loose in workouts Monday and Tuesday - almost as if the Kings themselves were ahead 3-1.

'You can't think about being down 3-1 just like You can't think about being down 3-1 just like you can't think about being up 3-1," said Kansas City guard Phil Ford. "You can't worry about numbers. You worry about the game — not the series. We were up 3-1 on Phoenix and they pushed us to seven (games). We still feel we can win this thing." Kansas City hopes for increased playing time Wednesday night from All-Star guard Otis Birdsong, the team's leading searcer this cancer with a 24.0

the team's leading scorer this season with a 24.9 average. Birdsong sprained an ankle in the opening game of the Phoenix series and did not see any action against Houston until Game 3.

"This makes it all the better," said Fitzsimmons. "Now if we win, not only will all of the the NBA be talking about us, the whole world will be all talking 3 but came back after only one day of rest to score a

Yaz, Evans escape injury times in San Antonio to capture that best-of-seven series. The Rockets have taken the 3-1 lead in this in fatal crash after game

> United Press International DALLAS — Boston Red Sox outfielders Carl Yastrzemski and A sheriff's department spokesman said it appeared the accident was triggered by a collision involv-Dwight Evans escaped injury in a ing two-cars in front of the cab grinding three-car collision late Tuesday that killed three persons and injured four others.

The players were returning to their Dallas hotel following Tues-day night's game with the Texas The collision occurred on Interstate 30 just inside the Dallas city

Repairs

California 3, Oakland 1

occupied by Yastrzemski and Evans.

Rangers in Arlington.

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Y'all Come!

Annual End of Year

HOT DOG COOK-OUT

Ferragamo to leave Rams heads north to Montreal

United Press International MONTREAL — Vince Ferragamo says he turned aside repeated appeals from his former with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League because they made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

The package also was believed

were not released. However, the agreement was believed to be for Vince as a quarterback is a great four years at \$400,000 per season. opportunity for any receiver.

Rams' General Manager Don Klosterman said in Los Angeles he

was disappointed by Ferragamo's

decision but he expected his club would have another good season

"Suddenly lights just came at us," Yastrzemski said. "The cars just exploded. They hit head on and just exploded. The car in front of us just started to spin and the cabbie jammed on the brakes but our cab still hit the other car. The front end of our cab was

interimed — totaled. We don't know how nothing came through the windshield. There were bodies flying all around us and tires, even the roof of one car. "There have a state of the cab pulled over to the side

limits about 11:45 p.m.

of the road and we got out to see if could help but there wasn't much we could help but there wasn't much we could do. There were bodies lying all over the road. I'll never know how we weren't killed or hurt.

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"Sure, I had calls from my teammates, but I now think they understand my decision," the for-mer Los Angeles Rams' quarterback said.

"The contract was the main reason I signed. It was something I just couldn't turn down."

ving rei mo a share of the gate receipts for every fan above the 40,000 mark to attend home games in Montreal's Olympic Stadium.

The Alouettes also announced the signing of receiver James Scott, 29, who played out his option with the Chicago Bears. Scott signed a three-year contract, team officials said.

reason I signed. It was something I just couldn't turn down." Team officials said Ferragamo, a 27-year-old free agent, signed a multi-year contract, but terms

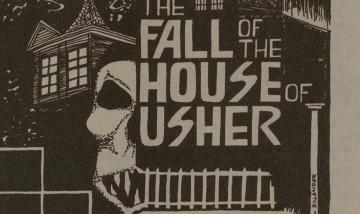
with Pat Haden back in the spot he surrendered to Ferragamo. Constantine and the second MASTERJACK Complete Auto Service/Repair 29 yrs. Experience 3319 S. Coll. Ave. Gulf Sta. 822-3330 8-6 M-F 8-5 Sat. 15% Labor Discount to Students

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