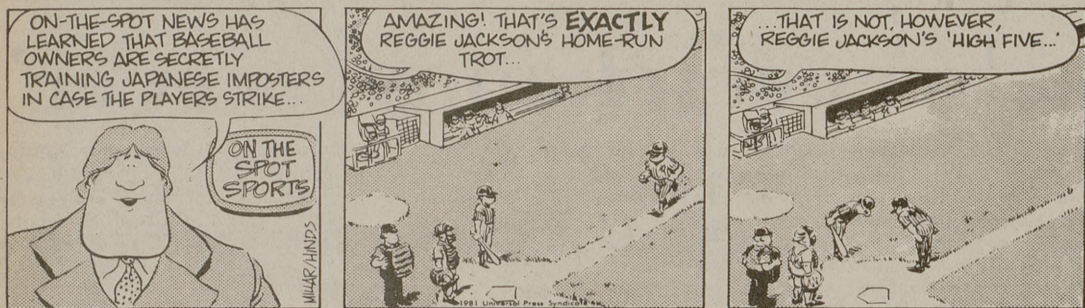


**TANK McNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Sutton's pitching carries Astros past Padres 6-1

SAN DIEGO — A lot of people think Houston has one of the best pitching staffs in baseball and you won't get any argument on that point from the San Diego Padres.

Don Sutton, who lost six games with virtually no support from his offense, moved his record to 4-6 Wednesday night as the Astros downed San Diego 6-1. In their last four games against Houston, the Padres have scored a grand total of two runs in 36 innings.

"You have to be impressed with their pitching," said Padre manager Frank Howard. "I think from the standpoint of depth these guys have the most pitching and the best pitchers. Houston historically and traditionally always has had good pitching. They get these everyday hitters hitting a little bit and they're going to be reckoned with yet this year."

Sutton went the distance, scattering seven hits and striking out six. He hasn't lost to San Diego since 1979. "He pitched a strong ballgame," said Howard. "You can't give a club that many opportunities and not have it come back to haunt you. It was just a case of not getting good enough pitching, not getting good enough hitting and not doing the job in the field."

In four of Sutton's losses the Astros gave him only two total runs and he asked for a little help Wednesday.

"I asked them to get me four (runs) and in the eighth inning I said, 'OK they got me my four, I'll do my job now.'"

"I really felt we were going to break it open in the third or fourth, we had so many hits early (seven in the first three innings). In reality, my job should not change regardless of the situation. My job is to stop them from scoring runs. That's what I do most of the time."

"I can't pitch like a guy 24 or 25 years old (he's 36) but I think I can do the job. I told Bill (Virton) in spring training I think I can keep you in the ballgame for 7, 8 or 9 innings. With our type of ballclub we're not going to awe anyone with power but we'll run people ragged. If you're pitching against our club, it's really not any fun."

Denny Walling drove in three of the Astros' runs with a pair of singles and Terry Puhl's two-out double in the seventh provided the tie-breaking run.

"We've been hitting spotty," said Puhl. "We can't give our pitchers just one or two runs every night. We were due. Don's really become very stingy in his old age. I don't ever remember him throwing so many curve balls. He had those bombers (the Dodgers) behind him before but we really make him pitch."

# Martin charged with assault

United Press International  
TORONTO — Oakland A's Manager Billy Martin, who has had his share of problems with baseball owners, players and officials, is in trouble again.

This time it's with the law. Martin, known for his hot temper both on and off the field, was charged with common assault Wednesday by umpire Terry Cooney, who ejected the Oakland skipper during a game with the Toronto Blue Jays last Friday, after Martin disputed Cooney's pitching calls. A civil action could be mounted within a week, also.

Apparently not satisfied with the \$1,000 fine and one-week suspension handed Martin by the American League following the incident, Cooney appeared before Justice of the Peace Patrick Deacon and swore out a private complaint.

Maximum penalty on conviction is six months' imprisonment and a \$500 fine.

A lawyer for the major league umpires, Richie Phillips, said he was sifting through the legal re-

quirements to mount a civil suit against Martin.

"We will file a civil action against Martin here in the United States," Phillips said. "I'm still wading through on the jurisdictional problem. When I get through, I will file suit. It'll probably be within a week."

Deacon issued a summons ordering Martin to appear in court for a hearing Sept. 22. Court officials said the summons would be served on Martin when Oakland A's next play the Blue Jays in Toronto on Sept. 21.

Phillips said the amount of compensation that would be sought from Martin in the civil suit had not been determined and would have to await consultation with Cooney today or Friday.

"That's difficult to ascertain," he said. "Cooney has received some medical treatment, and I think before we decide what to do, we have to determine the full extent of his injuries."

Martin was ejected from the game in the fourth inning Friday after he questioned Cooney's

home-plate calls on pitcher Matt Keough.

Martin charged the plate after Cooney ejected him, then allegedly bumped the umpire and kicked and threw dirt on him before leaving the Exhibition field.

MacPhail expressed Cooney had gone outside the league over the matter and thought it should be handled internally.

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# Rangers beat Twins 6-3

United Press International  
BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Buddy Bell, whose solo home run in the second inning started the Texas Rangers on their way to a 6-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins, came up with a few words of encouragement for the hapless losers.

"It's no picnic playing the Twins," said Bell. "They have a good pitching staff. They're going through a tough streak right now but they have too good a pitching staff to keep on losing like this."

His assessment, however, wasn't enough to cheer Minnesota manager Billy Gardner. "We don't seem to be able to get anything going," he said. "Something has to go right pretty soon."

Bell, meanwhile, said he was pleased by the overall performance of the Rangers Wednesday night, who won their second straight in the three-game series.

"We all did a good job," said the veteran third baseman. "We all played well defensively. Personally, I didn't think that I did well at the plate. I had opportunities to drive in runs, but I didn't and I'm not happy about that."

In addition to his home run, Bell had a double, a strikeout, a fly-out and was safe on an error in his five appearances at the plate. "We won and that was the big thing," said Bell. "Things are starting to go well for us. Everybody is contributing, everybody is getting key hits, and we are doing well on defense. The starting pitching has kept us in ball games."

After Bell's solo home run, the Rangers got an RBI single from Al Oliver in the third inning and added another run in the fifth on

an RBI double by Mickey Rivers. Bump Wills tripled in a run in the sixth inning and knocked in two more in the eighth when he slapped a bases-loaded single.

The Twins got a run in the third inning when Danny Gooden scored from third base on a double play. They added runs in the seventh and ninth on RBI singles by Ron Jackson, who had three of the Twins' eight hits off winner Rick Honeycutt, 5-1.

The loss went to Roger Erickson, 1-6, who worked the first six and one-third innings.

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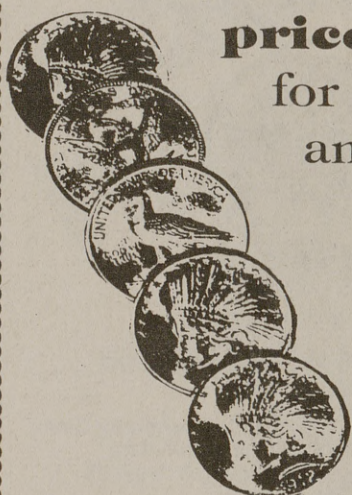
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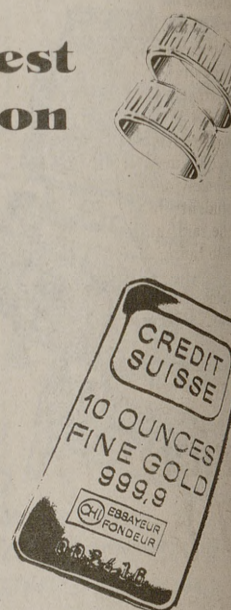
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