

Sports

Texas hurler Jenkins four-hits Toronto, 6-1

United Press International
Exactly one year after being arrested for possession of illegal drugs, Texas Ranger hurler Ferguson Jenkins finds himself concerned less with legal problems of the past than with pitching problems of the present.

The former Cy Young Award winner stopped the Blue Jays on four hits in Rangers' 6-1 triumph over Toronto Tuesday, on the same date and in the same city that his arrest occurred last year.

Jenkins, who was granted an absolute discharge Dec. 18 by an Ontario provincial court on charges of possession of cocaine, hashish and marijuana, said that he still hears "the odd adverse comment" from fans regarding the incident.

"The way it was played up it was like the French Connection," said the 38-year-old native of Chatham, Ontario. "They found some articles in my suitcase and played it up like I was a big dealer."

But Jenkins was more intent upon discussing his annoyance about being left out of the Rangers' regular pitching rotation.

"This is only my second start all month," said the right-hander, who notched his 264th career win while raising his season mark to 5-6. "I've been the odd man out since the second half of the season started."

"They didn't think I would be in good condition after the layoff. They don't know we've got baseball in Canada."

"When you've got yourself geared to play, you've got to get the opportunity," Jenkins said. "It's important for me to get five or six more starts. I've got to keep pitching."

"Some guys don't get a chance to play but don't say anything about it, but I'm not like that. I speak up, even though that's what got me in the doghouse last time," Jenkins said in reference to his past problems with Texas manager Don Zimmer, while they were both with the Boston Red Sox.

Jenkins, who struck out three and walked one in registering his first complete game of the season and first victory since June 6, said he was also "annoyed" over the fact that Toronto starter Dave Stieb hit two Texas batters.

"I was going to bury somebody," Jenkins said. "But with a

1-0 lead, Zim (Manager Zimmer) told me not to, (because) I might wake somebody up. But I've got to protect my players. That's what Leo Durocher always told me."

"I didn't bury anybody this time, but there's always next time. They just won that round."

The game was interrupted for a few minutes in the fourth inning while stadium security officers looked for the source of a glare that was impeding Jenkins' vision. It turned out to be a child waving a hot dog wrapper.

"The smart alek was waving it in my face like it was some kind of joke," Jenkins said. "They had four or five people looking for it and they passed him by two or three times. Later I asked the security guy if he was related to Ray Charles."

Jenkins received most of his offensive support in the sixth inning. The Rangers were already ahead 2-0 when Buddy Bell hit a one-out solo shot, his 10th homer of the season. Later in the frame Leon Roberts lofted a sacrifice fly to left and Mario Mendoza followed with a two-run double.

It was the fourth loss in a row for the Blue Jays.



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Cowboys gear up for NFL Battle of Texas

United Press International
Plagued by a rash of injuries at the running back position and facing the uncertainty of contract disputes, the Dallas Cowboys were pronounced Tuesday by coach Tom Landry as being close to on schedule for the 1981 season — maybe.

"We were on schedule during the last 30 minutes of the Pittsburgh game last week," Landry said. "But we haven't had a consistent pattern yet. It's important that we reach that consistency."

"We're not like Philadelphia, for instance. They have been consistent and they know what they can do. We need to have that consistency against Houston this week."

"It's more important for us to play good against Houston than it is for us to win the game."

In addition to playing a decent game, there are plenty of important decisions left for Landry and his staff to make. Some of them include:

— The secondary, where a large shuffle was made last week against Pittsburgh, including the starting of rookie free agent Mike Downs at safety.

"Mike could start on a good NFL team," said Landry. "He has played outstanding in every scrimmage. He has the speed to cover people man-for-man and he can hit. That's about all you could ask for."

— Punting, which will again be done this weekend by quarterback Danny White. The last of the rookie punters was cut this week by Dallas.

"We might still pick someone up," said Landry. "We had three punters in camp who had legs to punt in the NFL. But none of them had consistency."

— Tight end. "It's very, very

close (between veteran Billy Joe DuPree and Doug Cosbie) right now," the coach said.

— Hand signals from the sidelines, which have been an innovation in training camp. "We could use it during the regular season," Landry said. "It's been fairly successful getting us to the line of scrimmage a few seconds earlier. Stealing signals is always possible, but you work pretty hard to do it."

Dallas will have only three healthy running backs going into its exhibition game with the Houston Oilers (Tony Dorsett, Ron Springs and Robert Newhouse), but of more concern is the possibility of a walkout by one or more players.

Chief among the contract worries is defensive tackle Randy White, represented by Howard Slusher.

Club president and general manager Tex Schramm said Tuesday the Cowboys would offer White a contract that would make him the highest paid lineman in pro football.

However, Schramm said that Slusher was in Asia and would not be back in the country until the first week in September.

"I think it is rather unusual for an agent representing a football player at this time of year to not be available," said Schramm.

To reduce their roster to the league minimum of 50 the Cowboys released four rookies Tuesday and placed linebacker Bill Roe, the team's first-round draft pick in 1980, on injured reserve.

Those let go were free agents Terry Elston (receiver) from Houston and Angelo King (linebacker) from South Carolina State. Also released were seventh-round draft pick Ken Miller (defensive back) from Eastern Michigan and 10th-round choice Pat Graham (defensive lineman) from California.

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