

Sports

Astros show 'Howe' to win

United Press International
NEW YORK — Art Howe is finally shedding those "Art Who?" jokes.

The Astros snapped a four-game losing streak by beating the Mets 9-3 Wednesday night, with Howe the catalyst by driving in five runs with a sacrifice fly, single and double. It was the best single-game RBI performance of his career and it bolstered his confidence tremendously.

"It's about time I did something," said Howe, who entered the game with a .302 average but had only 19 RBI in 242 at-bats. "These guys have been carrying me since the strike. It boosts my spirits quite a bit."

"I've always prided myself on my ability to hit with men on base, but for some reason I haven't done it this year."

But Howe has slowly built a name for himself as a tough out.

During the first half of the season he was the league's leading hitter for a long spell. However, since play resumed he's been fighting to regain his swing.

"The first 10 days after the strike I hit the ball well, but short-stops like (Ozzie) Smith of San Diego and (Johnnie) LeMaster of San Francisco picked me (robbed him of hits) about six times," said Howe. "Then we went to Philadelphia and faced (Steve) Carlton and he's tough to hit hard. I haven't really been able to put anything together."

However, Astros' manager Bill Virdon knew it was just a matter of time before Howe would start producing runs.

"He took some extra batting practice and maybe that helped," said Virdon. "I think in general, though, he was just due. He's too good a hitter to keep going like he was going."

Howe drove in the Astros' first run with a sacrifice fly in the first to trigger a three-run inning against loser Pat Zachry, 6-9, delivered a two-out RBI single in the third and sparked a four-run seventh with a three-run double off reliever Ray Searage.

"It was just one of those games," said Mets' manager Joe Torre. "Zach didn't have his control and when you get behind a team that has pitching like they have, you're in trouble."

Don Sutton scattered six hits in five innings to notch his sixth victory in 13 decisions with Vern Ruhle and Dave Smith holding the Mets to just one hit over the last four innings.

The Astros took a 4-0 lead against Zachry but the Mets came back with two runs in the third on an RBI single by Mookie Wilson and a sacrifice fly by Frank Taveras and moved within 4-3 in the fourth on a sacrifice fly by John Stearns.

Houston, however, got an RBI double from Tony Scott in the sixth and then broke the game open in the seventh with a four-run barrage that featured five hits, including Howe's bases-loaded double and an RBI single by Ruhle.

Major League Baseball

National League

East		
St. Louis	9 5	.643
Montreal	8 6	.571
New York	9 7	.563
Chicago	9 7	.563
Philadelphia	6 9	.400
Pittsburgh	6 11	.353

West		
Atlanta	11 6	.647
Los Angeles	10 6	.625
Houston	8 7	.533
San Francisco	8 8	.500
Cincinnati	7 8	.467
San Diego	3 14	.176

Wednesday's Results

Houston 9, New York 3
Chicago 9, San Diego 7
Los Angeles 16, Pittsburgh 6
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3
Montreal 6, Cincinnati 0
St. Louis 9, San Francisco 4

Thursday's Games

Houston at New York
Cincinnati at Montreal
Chicago at Los Angeles
St. Louis at San Diego
Pittsburgh at San Francisco

American League

East		
Detroit	11 5	.688
Baltimore	9 6	.600
Milwaukee	10 7	.588
Boston	7 8	.467
Toronto	7 8	.467
New York	7 9	.438
Cleveland	6 11	.353

West		
Chicago	9 6	.600
Oakland	8 6	.571
Texas	7 7	.500
California	7 7	.500
Kansas City	8 9	.471
Seattle	7 9	.438
Minnesota	6 11	.353

Wednesday's Results

Chicago at Milwaukee, ppd., rain
Kansas City 6, Detroit 1
New York 3, Minnesota 2

Thursday's Games

Texas at Milwaukee
Kansas City at Toronto
California at Baltimore
Oakland at Boston
Seattle at Cleveland
Detroit at Minnesota
New York at Chicago

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Former Yankee hurler pitches out of early-inning alcohol jam

United Press International
NEW YORK — Mickey McDermott had only one purpose in mind.

He had to get up to his room without anyone seeing him. Four in the morning was no time for him to be coming back to the hotel. Not when he was expected to be in uniform at the ballpark in only a few hours.

He entered through the basement and looked around for the elevator. As soon as it arrived, he pushed the button for the fifth floor, hoping he could make it non-stop to his room.

The elevator stopped at the lobby and when the door opened, McDermott found himself face to face with his New York Yankee manager Casey Stengel.

It took two seconds for Stengel

to size up McDermott's condition. "Drunk again," he growled.

McDermott gave the old man an impish little-boy grin.

"Me too," Stengel said. "That was in Boston in 1956 when McDermott was with the Yankees after both the Red Sox and Senators had given up hope of straightening him out. Sometime later, a friend of McDermott's, distressed by what he was doing to himself with the bottle, suggested to him:

"Mickey, why don't you drink Canada Dry?" "I did," was the cheerful response. "And a couple' other countries, too."

When he was 17, the skinny, fireballing McDermott already was making the covers of national magazines and being hailed as

"the next Lefty Grove." He broke the American Association record with Louisville by striking out 20 batters in one game and after he soon fanned 19, 18 and 18 in successive games, the Red Sox brought him up in 1945.

McDermott took his first drink when he was 21. "After that," he says, "I thought the Atlantic Ocean was a chaser."

Today, you see a completely different Mickey McDermott. He has gone through an alcoholic program and hasn't had a drink in two years. He's excited about the work he's doing, representing professional athletes for Barza Sports Inc. in Las Vegas.

The organization is headed by Tino Barzie, a man who has had considerable success in the entertainment field as well as in baseball. Barzie has been associated with show business greats such as Frank Sinatra, Jackie Gleason, Tommy Dorsey and Jimmy Dorsey.

"Once you're an alcoholic, you know, you're never considered completely cured even though you quit drinking," says the 35-year-old McDermott. "They call you a 'recovered alcoholic.' Well, I'm a grateful alcoholic — grateful to a man like Tino Barzie, who had enough faith in me after I came out of the program to ask me what I wanted to do. I told him I'd like to handle ballplayers because I thought I could and he said, 'All right, we'll give it a shot.'"

Drinking, McDermott says, cost him everything he ever had. Shortly before he went on the wagon, McDermott was in a Malibu Beach restaurant when a woman asked him for his autograph.

"I'd appreciate it so much, Mr. Hayden," she said.

"Mr. Hayden?" McDermott drew back in his chair.

"You're Sterling Hayden, the movie actor, aren't you?" the lady asked.

"You mean I look that old? Jesus, he must be at least 90, isn't he?"

Sterling Hayden is only 65. The way he was going before he quit drinking, Mickey McDermott never bothered too much about counting.

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