

Sports

Astros take sixth win in a row, 3-2

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Astros have stepped out to their longest winning streak of the year with no small amount of help from the erring New York Mets.

The Astros scored the game-winning run in a 3-2 victory Tuesday night on Mets' pitcher Mike Marshall's wild pitch, and the night before Houston built an early lead en route to a 6-1 win that included three runs off three Mets' errors.

The wins extended Houston's streak to six games, keeping them in first place of the West Division.

In the two games, the Mets have committed five errors. Marshall's wild pitches — he threw two in the dirt to the final batter — are a new problem to the team which has committed 100 errors this year.

The pitch that decided the

game was a screwball which dipped into the dirt and skipped past catcher Alex Trevino.

"I had two open bases," Marshall said. "So I was going to be certain not to throw a pitch in the middle of the plate. I snapped down on one real hard and I pulled it to break inside."

Marshall, acquired recently by the Mets, said his newness to the club was a contributing factor.

"I'm a tough pitcher to learn to catch. I'm certain that Alex will learn to catch my screwball in the dirt when he sees it for a while."

The wild pitch, which allowed pinch runner Scott Loucks to score from third base with two out in the ninth inning, was Marshall's first this season. Before he faced pinch hitter Harry Apillman, Marshall had pitched well.

Pinch hitter Alan Ashby's double on a Marshall high curve

started the game-winning rally. Loucks ran for him and moved up to third base on Phil Garner's ground out.

The rocky finish did not tarnish Astros pitcher Joe Sambito's opinion of Marshall.

"I wouldn't second guess anything he does. He's a brilliant person who knows everything going on out there," said Sambito, who

got the win by holding the Mets scoreless in the last two innings after they had tied the game in the seventh on Lee Mazzilli's runcoring double and Rusty Staub's runcoring single.

Astros starter Joe Niekro limited the Mets to two hits through the first six innings, but did not get a decision because he left after

Mazzilli's hit in the seventh.

Staub's game-tying hit came on a reliever Dave Smith. The Mets were hamstrung early in the game by several base running errors including base runner Trevino's collision with first baseman Cedeño resulting in an error. Pitcher Pete Falcone's throw out a runner on a double tap back to the mound.

Dallas to unveil new look Sunday against Redskins

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys front office philosophy and won-loss record seem to stay the same year after year. But as the 1981 season opens in Washington next Sunday, the Cowboys will unveil a major change.

It has to do with their wardrobe. For years the Cowboys have worn white jerseys at home and, since most teams like to wear their colored jerseys on their home field, Dallas has also wound up wearing white on the majority of their road trips.

In recent seasons, however, Dallas has had to more and more wear their blue jerseys on the road — in some instances because the opposition thought the Cowboys "blue jersey jinx" was something to take advantage of and in some cases simply because the home team wanted to wear white.

Club president and general manager Tex Schramm said he thought the Cowboys' old blue jerseys looked somewhat drab. So he directed a change be made.

The Cowboys' new look will debut in RFK Stadium on Sunday.

"It doesn't have anything to do with a 'jinx,'" Schramm said Tuesday. "The old jerseys just didn't look good. We are having to wear our dark jerseys on the road more and more these days and if we are going to wear them we want them to look good."

The jersey itself is a deep blue with silver numerals lined in white. The pants are an almost reflective silver. And, in an NFL first, a player's number is

sitched on the hips of the pants. "With the numbers on the pants it will help identify in pictures," said Schramm. "It will help with television."

At first glance, the pants appear to be a tight, giving rise to speculation that the Cowboys were trying to give their running backs an advantage. It might be harder to tackle a runner, after there was no loose material to grab.

"These pants are just like our old ones," Schramm, "except the color. I guess they are because they are new."

Dallas coach Tom Landry said he didn't think new pants would give his players any advantage. "Where an advantage can come in is in the jerseys," said Landry. "The jerseys that the Cowboys wear are so tight you can't even dent them."

When asked what input he had in the design of the new uniform, Landry paused and said, "None. But I guess I'll get used to them."

For a number of years St. Louis Cardinals Bill Bidwill directed his club to wear their blue jerseys at home against the Cowboys so as to keep Dallas wear their blues. And after they had won a few games while wearing their blue jerseys, the theory of the blue jersey jinx began to be

As a psychological ploy the Philadelphia Eagles made Dallas wear the blue jerseys last year in their NFC championship game in Philadelphia. The Eagles dominated that contest en route to a 17-10 victory over the Cowboys in a 9-3 Tom Brady Bowl meeting with Oakland.

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