

Sports

Astros win again

United Press International
ATLANTA — Jose Cruz said he only did what was expected of him Monday night when he crunched a leadoff homer in the ninth inning — his 10th game-winning hit of the season — to boost the Houston Astros to a 3-2 win over the Atlanta Braves.

"Right now I'm getting some key hits to win the games," Cruz said. "That's what they're expecting from me."
Cruz smacked a 1-0 pitch down the left field line off loser Rick Camp, 7-2, for his 13th home run. Houston reliever Dave Smith, 4-3, picked up the victory with Joe Sambito pitching the Astros out of a ninth inning jam to notch his ninth save.

Houston Manager Bill Virdon said the team has come to depend on Cruz, especially in tight situations.

"He's been our most steady hit-

ter all year," Virdon said. "He's got a lot of key hits."

Houston tied the score 2-2 in the fifth against starter Tommy Boggs who pitched seven innings and surrendered five hits.

Craig Reynolds singled, went to second on a sacrifice by Bob Knepper and advanced to third on a passed ball by catcher Bruce Benedict. Tony Scott followed with an RBI single.

The Braves took a 2-1 lead in the fourth when Bob Horner belted an 0-1 pitch just inside the left field foul pole for his eighth home run.

Atlanta grabbed a 1-0 lead in the third on an RBI groundout by Rufino Linares, but the Astros tied the score 1-1 in the fourth on a sacrifice fly by Cruz. Larry McWilliams, 0-0, pitches for the Braves Tuesday and Vern Ruhle, 3-3, pitches for the Astros.

Major League Baseball

National League				American League			
East				East			
St. Louis	15	10	.600	Detroit	19	9	.679
Montreal	14	12	.538	Milwaukee	17	12	.586
New York	13	15	.464	Baltimore	16	11	.593
Chicago	13	15	.464	New York	16	12	.571
Pittsburgh	12	18	.400	Boston	14	13	.519
Philadelphia	10	17	.370	Cleveland	15	14	.517
				Toronto	13	13	.500
West				West			
Houston	19	9	.679	Kansas City	14	14	.500
Los Angeles	17	11	.607	Oakland	13	13	.500
San Francisco	16	11	.593	Texas	11	15	.423
Atlanta	14	13	.519	California	11	15	.423
Cincinnati	14	13	.519	Chicago	11	16	.407
San Diego	8	21	.276	Seattle	11	17	.393
				Minnesota	11	18	.379

Monday's Results

Houston 3, Atlanta 2
Pittsburgh 2, New York 11
Pittsburgh 5, New York 4
Chicago 10, St. Louis 0
Cincinnati 8, San Diego 7
Montreal 5, Philadelphia 4
Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 1

Tuesday's Games

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

Monday's Results

Oakland 2, Texas 1
New York 4, Milwaukee 22
Minnesota 4, Toronto 0
Seattle 9, Chicago 5
Baltimore 9, Cleveland 2
Detroit 3, Boston 1
Kansas City 7, California 1

Tuesday's Games

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

Biles says team more emotional

United Press International
HOUSTON — First year head coach Ed Biles says although the Oilers' have the same personnel they had last year, there's a big difference in the Houston team this season — they are more emotional.

In the season opener against Los Angeles, Earl Campbell rushed for more than 100 yards, just like last year. Kenny Stabler proved to be as accurate a passer and as durable a quarterback as he has always been.

But Biles points to the team's spirit is one obvious difference in the Oilers' under his command. Speaking Monday, he said there were two reasons for the infectious outburst shown by the veteran players in a 27-20 win over the Los Angeles Rams Sunday.

"In the long run this team will be more emotional," Biles said. "I think a team reflects the personality of its coach. And I'm more of an emotional person than (former Oilers coach) Bum (Phillips) was."

The other reason why the Oilers piled on kick returner Willie Tullis in a celebration after his 95-yard kickoff return in the final minute Sunday and why they generally acted like collegians was because they had overcome so much adversity in the pre-season.

"This was a football team that has had a lot happen to it," Biles said. "There were the coaching changes. There were all of the outside things that happened to us, like the quarterback problems and the Stabler situation. Their reaction was an outburst saying, 'Hey

we're still kids and we're still joying the game."

Four interceptions led by first half field goals and also the Oilers to stay in the game. Stabler could throw three touchdowns passes in the quarter.

"The defense showed improvement," Biles said. "That pass Pat Haden threw for a yard touchdown was the result of three of our guys playing the game with their hands. It's like wrap your hands around a man when you're wearing a cast."

Linebackers Gregg Bizzell and Ted Washington, and back J.C. Wilson, played game with casts to protect their fingers, and none of them sustained any additional injury.

Biles said he did not know of a serious injury from the game, although a squad of players, including Campbell, was due to training room Monday for treatment of bruises.

"Earl's bruised shoulder does not appear to be anything serious," Biles said.

Three-time NFL rushing champion Campbell gained 122 yards on carries, and that number of carries is four more than his 1980 game average — despite his pre-season declaration that offense would be more diverse and unpredictable.

"We're going to utilize our talent," Biles said. "We never we're going to use Earl less. We did say we're going to utilize other aspects of our offense."

Downs cleared for game, Hegman out for month

United Press International
DALLAS — On only his fifth picking off a pass against the Washington Redskins and heading upfield with the first of many rookie Mike Downs found himself big plays in the Dallas Cowboys

26-10 win last Sunday.

But just as suddenly he felt the hamstring muscle in his left leg tighten and he limped toward the sidelines before he could be run down by a Redskin.

Just as Downs was realizing his dream, it seemed to be turning into a nightmare.

But Downs and the Cowboys received some good news Monday. What was thought to be a hamstring pull, an ailment that can hang on for weeks and perhaps affect a player for an entire season, turned out to be only a spasm.

So Downs was cleared for workouts late this week and should be in the starting lineup again next Sunday when Dallas hosts the St. Louis Cardinals.

Downs was one of two free agent first-year players to intercept Joe Theismann last Sunday. Rookie Everson Walls also picked off a pass and on the plane ride the two youngsters who survived the odds of training camp sat next to each other on the team plane.

"Michael doesn't show much emotion," said Walls. "He said the hamstring didn't hurt him that much."

"You get tense before a big game like that. And when you intercept a pass right away, you might get even more tense."

While the news was good on Downs, it was bad on starting strongside linebacker Mike Hegman.


Hegman broke a small bone in his forearm and will be out of action at least a month and perhaps for as long as six weeks. Dallas must fill his place on the roster this week and the Cowboys will insert Guy Brown into the starting role against the Cardinals on Sunday in Texas Stadium.

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