

Sports

Rangers find A's tough customers

United Press International ARLINGTON — Pitcher Danny Darwin of Texas didn't have any luck with Oakland's Dwayne Murphy in the eighth inning, but fared somewhat better in the fights that followed.

At least 225-pound catcher Cliff Johnson couldn't get his hands free to slug the Texas hurler as they wrestled on the ground later in the eighth inning of the A's 2-1 win over the Rangers.

Darwin hadn't given up a run Wednesday night until he faced Murphy with a runner on first base in the eighth. But a pitch he aimed at the inside corner broke

over the heart of the plate, and Murphy hit it over the fence 400 feet away to account for the only two A's runs in the Oakland victory.

The next batter was Johnson, who had been hit in the side by a Darwin fastball in the sixth inning. They appeared to exchange words, Darwin started off the mound, Johnson started toward him and both benches emptied.

However, no fights ensued, and order was restored a few minutes later.

Johnson grounded out and crossed the infield behind Darwin in returning to the Oakland dugout.

Again, the two exchanged words and suddenly the pitcher and catcher were wrestling in the grass.

Players streamed out of both dugouts and fights broke out all over the infield. The Rangers' John Ellis was involved in several.

Surprisingly, there were no injuries, although Darwin received a bright red bruise on the right side of the cheek. He was struck by the mask of umpire Dave Phillips, who was trying to separate the players.

"I was just lucky he didn't get his hands loose," Darwin said of the muscular Johnson. "He's pretty strong. I'll have to work out of the Nautilus (muscle-building equipment) this winter if I'm going to take on those big guys."

Johnson was reluctant to discuss the fight.

"I'm not a fighter. I didn't come here to fight. The fight's in Las Vegas tonight. I just came here to play ball."

Darwin called Johnson into the Oakland clubhouse after the game and the two agreed there would be no hard feelings.

Darwin said the first exchange developed from a misunderstanding. He heard Johnson say something, but thought the words came from the umpire. Darwin walked

in a couple of steps to hear better. But instead of the umpire, he heard Johnson.

"I wanted to tell him that he had an invitation if he wanted to accept," Johnson said later.

After the fight Darwin was removed for a relief pitcher.

"I was tired," Darwin said. "We wrestled on the ground for what seems like an hour."

One player not involved in the fight was winning pitcher Mike Norris, 11-7. He had gone back to the Oakland clubhouse and returned to the dugout while the fight was in progress.

"I saw all those colored uniforms out there on the field and I didn't know what was going on," Norris said.

Norris allowed only five hits in pitching his 11th complete game. He threw 89 pitches and said he used his screwball about 30 times.

"That screwball's the same pitch he had last year, but he's getting a little sharper with it," said Oakland manager Billy Martin, who once coached the Rangers.

Texas scored its run in the third inning when catcher Jim Sundberg scored from third on a suicide squeeze bunt by shortstop Mark Wagner.

Major League Baseball

National League

	East		
St. Louis	20 13	.588	—
Montreal	18 17	.514	2½
Chicago	16 18	.471	4
New York	16 19	.457	4½
Pittsburgh	15 21	.417	6
Philadelphia	14 20	.412	6

West

Houston	23 13	.639	—
Los Angeles	21 15	.583	2
San Francisco	20 15	.571	2½
Cincinnati	19 16	.543	3½
Atlanta	18 17	.514	4½
San Diego	11 26	.297	12½

Wednesday's Results

Houston 5, San Diego 2
Los Angeles 3, Atlanta 2
San Francisco 12, Cincinnati 7
St. Louis 7, Montreal 1, 1st
Montreal 4, St. Louis 3, 2nd
Philadelphia 3, New York 1, 1st
New York 5, Philadelphia 4, 2nd
Pittsburgh at Chicago, ppd., rain

Thursday's Games

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

American League

East

Detroit	22 14	.611	—
Milwaukee	22 16	.579	—
Boston	20 15	.571	1½
New York	20 16	.556	2
Baltimore	19 15	.559	2
Cleveland	17 19	.472	5
Toronto	16 18	.471	5

West

Kansas City	21 15	.583	—
Oakland	17 17	.500	3
Minnesota	18 19	.486	3½
Texas	15 19	.441	5
Chicago	15 21	.417	6
Seattle	14 22	.389	7
California	12 22	.353	8

Wednesday's Results

Oakland 2, Texas 1
Boston 2, Detroit 1, 1st
Boston 5, Detroit 4, 2nd
Minnesota 5, Toronto 2
Milwaukee 3, New York 2
Chicago 3, Seattle 1
Kansas City 3, California 1
Baltimore at Cleveland, ppd., rain

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Boston
Baltimore at Cleveland

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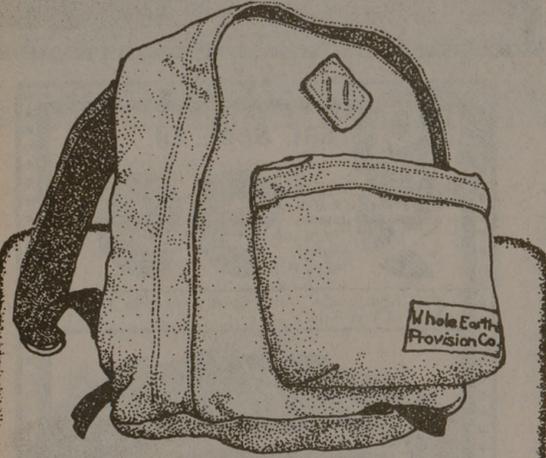
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'Aging' Sutton four-hits Padres for ninth win, 5-2

United Press International SAN DIEGO — Houston pitcher Don Sutton lifted weights and jogged during the players' strike to stay in shape, but it wasn't just to pass time.

"I don't have the luxury of eight or 10 more years," Sutton said. "But in Wednesday night's game against the Padres, Sutton didn't look like a pitcher who had to worry about his age — he held the Padres to four hits and picked up another win to boost his season record to 9-8.

"I was working out with weights and running the whole time we were on strike," Sutton said. "I don't think I've had better control than since we've come back."

The Padres, who dropped a 5-2 decision to the Astros, probably wish Sutton had stayed on strike.

"He's a professional pitcher, he knows how to pitch," said Padres' manager Frank Howard. "The Seavers, the Suttons, the Carltons do all the things, besides just throwing."

Sutton retired for a pinch hitter in the eighth with the Astros leading 4-2. Joe Sambito finished up to record his 10th save.

The Astros scored three runs in the sixth off loser Tim Lollar, 1-8, to take a 3-2 lead. Phil Garner opened with a walk and went to second on a single by Gary Woods. After Jose Cruz forced Woods at second, Art Howe lined a double to score Garner, and

when Alan Wiggins let the ball past him for an error, Cruz scored to tie the game 2-2. Alan Wiggins moved home third and he scored the third as Danny Heep grounded out.

Houston got another run in the seventh on a single by Garner, a double by Cruz, while Cruz was walked by Mike Armas with the bases loaded in the ninth to force in another run.

The Padres scored a pair of earned runs in the fourth to tie the 2-0 lead. Wiggins began the inning by reaching first safely on a single. Sutton made an error fielding the ball. The rookie stole second. Broderick Perkins, and Joe Loevbre drove in Perkins two outs with a single to right.

Razorbacks face pass-oriented Wildcat

United Press International LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas will start two freshmen in the secondary in Saturday's game

against pass-oriented Northwestern but that doesn't seem to bother Razorback coach Lou Holtz.

Mark Lee will be at strong safety and Nathan Jones at free safety in their first starts for the Razorbacks.

"I'm not worried about whether it'll be a senior or a freshman out there," Holtz said Wednesday during a telephone news conference. "It still counts six points no matter who catches it."

And he quipped: "It doesn't matter to me. I'm not coaching the secondary."

Northwestern uses the pass to set up its running game and Coach Dennis Green said that hopefully, his Wildcats will be able to get their passing game going.

Green said he was not entirely pleased with the passing game against Indiana even though quarterback Mike Kerrigan hit 16 of 37 attempts for 182 yards and a

touchdown.

"If we're doing our job, we should not throw more than times," Green said. "We like somewhere between 35 and (passes) and hopefully get (off) plays. If we get behind or not throwing the ball well, then you're not throwing the ball well, then you're on more and that's something try not to do."

"We'd put ourselves in a bad we went out and tried to establish a running game right off the Green said. "Our running game suffered last week because of passing game. Once we put ourselves up a little in the past game, our running game will help."

Holtz said: "Northwestern the ability to throw the ball is nationally well. They are a very third-down defensive team. They got untracked and started getting a little confidence in second half, they played exceptionally well against Indiana."

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