Astros win another from Braves

United Press International HOUSTON -The Houston Istros play the Los Angeles Dod-ters tonight for the first time in ore than five months and they pe among other things they w more stamina than Bob nepper did in picking up his inth pitching victory of the

Knepper, a .122 hitter, gets on ase so infrequently that when he erdid it with a home run and a gle Thursday night in a 5-3 win r the Atlanta Braves, he robed himself of pitching effective-

"I was sharp in the first few nnings. Then things fell apart and had to struggle," Knepper said. I don't know if it was the excitement of the home run or not. I was inda out of breath from being on se and when I tried to pitch I ouldn't concentrate

Knepper, 9-4, made it through 1-3 innings only because the stros racked three Braves pitch-for 14 hits, and with the win uston increased its lead to 21/2 es over the second-place Cinmati Reds, who did not play

hursday. If the Astros win the second half and Manager Bill Virdon said in s estimation his team has to win y five of its 10 remaining games do that — they would meet first alf winner Los Angeles in a bestfive Western Division playoff ginning Oct. 6 in the Astro-

The final 10 days of the regular son are a pretty fair warmup for playoffs since the Astros play of those dates against the Doders, a team they haven't played nee April 22.

"I really don't know what to ect from the Dodgers," Virdon d. "It's been so long since I've n them that I don't know what v'll be like.

It will be easy for the Astros, beat the Dodgers in 1980 for West title in a one-game playto approach this Dodgers'

ries with a possible playoff re-latch in mind. "We better not be thinking of lat," Virdon said. "We can't worabout that. We've got to win es to get in the playoffs.

Winning five of the remaining games, he said, would make incinnati win eight of their 10. e likes the chances.



Major League Baseball

National League American League

	Eas	st			East				
Montreal St. Louis Chicago New York Philadelphia Pittsburgh	24 22 20 20 19 17	19 20 21 23 23 26	.558 .524 .488 .465 .452 .395	1½ 3 4 4½ 7	Detroit Boston Milwaukee Baltimore New York Toronto Cleveland	26 25 25 23 22 19 21	17 18 19 19 21 21 23	.605 .581 .568 .548 .512 .477 .475	1 1½ 2½ 4 5½ 5½
West Houston Cincinnati San Francisco Los Angeles Atlanta San Diego	28 25 23 23 21 13	15 17 19 20 21 31	.651 .595 .548 .535 .500 .295	$\frac{-}{2V_2}$ $\frac{4V_2}{5}$ $\frac{6V_2}{15V_2}$	Oakland Kansas City Minnesota Texas Seattle Chicago California	22 24 21 18 19 17 15	18 19 23 21 24 26 26	.558 .550 .477 .442 .439 .395 .366	-\frac{1}{2} 3\frac{1}{2} 5 5 7 8

Thursday's Results

Houston 5, Atlanta 3 Chicago 10, New York 9 Philadelphia 14, St. Louis 6 Montreal 7, Pittsburgh 1 Los Angeles 7, San Francisco 3

Friday's Games

Seattle 2, Texas 1 Baltimore 5, New York 1 Cleveland 5, Boston 2 Kansas City 9, Minnesota Chicago 4, California 1 Los Angeles at Houston Philadelphia at Chicago New York at Montreal Cincinnati at Atlanta Pittsburgh at St. Louis

Medich went 10 2-3 innings,

scattering eight hits before Seat-

tle's Tom Paciorek's one-out sing-

le scored Meyer with the winning

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

walked in Buddy Bell with the

bases loaded. Rawley then came

on and pitched four innings before

Drago got the final two outs. The faltering Rangers scored a

Friday's Games

Rangers lose third straight

Sports Editor
ARLINGTON — Most teams
don't like going to the bullpen — it
usually means they are in trouble.
But the way Seattle relievers have performed of late, manager Rene Lachemann doesn't hesitate call-

Relievers Shane Rawley and Dick Drago got the call Thursday night and preserved a 2-1 Seattle victory in 11 innings.

The win was Seattle's third straight over the Rangers, enabling the Mariness tradimb into

ing the Mariners to climb into fourth place in the American League West.

Rawley improved his record to 3-6 while Drago picked up his fifth save. Rawley had earned the pre-

vious three saves for the Mariners.
"We've been pitching well
since the second half began," said
starter Jim Beattie, who had a perfect game going until giving up a walk to Tom Poquette with two outs in the fifth.

"We've only been giving up two or three runs a game, but our hitters weren't scoring," he said. Bump Wills broke up the no-hitter with a two-out single in the sixth. Beattie left the game in the seventh, complaining of a stiff

Yes, I was thinking about it (the perfect game). I was kinda mad when I walked that guy. I figured when you're going for a no-hitter, it may as well be a per-fect game," Beattie said.

Dan Meyer gave Seattle a 1-0 lead in the first when he whacked a line drive to right field for his second homer of the year off star-ter Doc Medich, 9-6.

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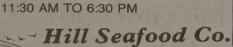
Texas tied it in the seventh meager eight runs in the fourgame series with the Mariners. when reliever Larry Andersen

Thursday's Results

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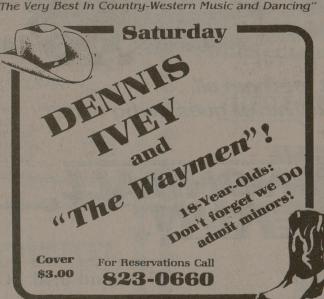
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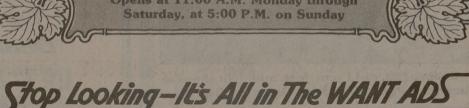
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