

# Sports

## Old-timers lead Yanks past A's in first game

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Graig Nettles and Tommy John, who should be dealing with pension checks in a few years, apparently prefer those fat World Series checks.

Two of New York's elder statesmen expressed themselves eloquently at the pitcher's mound and the batter's box Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium as Billy Martin's youthful Oakland A's grew old in a hurry.

Nettles, 37, accounted for all of New York's scoring with a bases-loaded double in the first inning off a nervous Mike Norris and John, 38, hurled six strong innings before yielding to baseball's most effective security blanket — the New York bullpen — as the Yankees posted a 3-1 triumph in Game 1 of the American League Championship Series.

The Western Division champion A's will go with 14-game winner Steve McCatty today in an effort to even the best-of-five series before it shifts to Oakland for all remaining games. The East Division champion Yankees will counter with yet another greybeard, 37-year-old left-hander Rudy May.

"It's great anytime you win, but

winning the first game of a series like this is always important," said Gossage, who earned his fourth save of the post-season by pitching the final 1 2-3 innings after taking over for an unnerved Ron Davis.

Norris, who was in grade school when John broke into the majors in 1965, threw 34 pitches in the first inning and fell behind 3-0. After striking out leadoff man Jerry Mumphrey, Norris yielded a single to Larry Milbourne, who had three hits, and walked Dave Winfield on a pitch under the chin. After Reggie Jackson hit into a fielder's choice and stole second, 38-year-old Lou Piniella walked on a 3-2 pitch to load the bases.

Nettles, who combines with John for a cumulative total of 30 years in the majors, then lined a bases-clearing double up the left-center field gap.

John threw only 77 pitches in scattering six hits through six innings before leaving after an ankle sprain. Oakland's only run came in the fifth when Rob Picciolo singled, moved to third on the second of Rickey Henderson's two doubles and scored on Dwayne Murphy's bouncer.

"It's my right ankle, the one I land on," said John. "I don't know

how I hurt it, but when I kept coming down on it in the sixth I felt something like a toothache in my foot."

Before Gossage could supply the A's with a lingering headache, Oakland mounted a major threat in the eighth amid some long-awaited controversy.

The first incident occurred with Cliff Johnson at the plate and, for a while, it looked like he would never leave. With one out and Murphy on first via a walk, Johnson came to the plate and fouled off the first pitch from Davis.

"There was a little chip in the handle of my bat," said Johnson, the A's designated hitter. "I showed it to the umpire (Nick Bremigan), but he told me it wasn't significant. I fouled off another pitch and the chip got larger. So I showed it to him again and he told me to get a new bat."

Johnson went slowly to the bat rack searching for a replacement and Davis, angered by the delay, stormed off the mound and confronted Bremigan. New York Manager Bob Lemon soon joined in as Johnson continued to rummage through the bat rack like a prospector sifting for gold.

Davis promptly walked Johnson on four straight pitches and the A's had runners on first and second with one out before Gossage came on to retire slugger Tony Armas and Mickey Klutts on groundouts. The Yankees now have a phenomenal two-year record of 134-6 in games they lead entering the seventh inning.



Staff photo by Becky S...

### On the firing line!

The Texas A&M defense prepares for another assault on the Houston offense in Saturday's 7-6 win over the Cougars. The Aggie defense will face another stiff challenge Saturday from

the Baylor backfield of Walter Abercrombie and Dennis C... try. The Aggies will try to avenge last year's humiliating loss when they meet the Bears in Waco.

## Dodgers hold off Expos, 5-1

United Press International  
LOS ANGELES — The Montreal Expos' success rate at Dodger Stadium is roughly equivalent to General Custer's at Little Big Horn.

Then again, Custer only lost once.

The Expos have lost 19 of their last 20 games in Los Angeles, including 10 in a row. The latest loss came Tuesday in the opener of the National League Championship Series as the Dodgers posted a 5-1 victory.

"What can I say?" said Montreal catcher Gary Carter. "The Dodgers have some magic going at Dodger Stadium."

In Tuesday's magic show, Burt Hooton saved the Expos in half by scattering six hits over 7 1-3 innings, and Pedro Guerrero and Mike Scioscia pulled back-to-back home runs out of the hat to pace

the offensive attack.

In tonight's show (Game 2, 8:05 p.m. EDT), rookie sensation Fernando Valenzuela, 13-7 in the regular season with a 2.48 ERA, will tempt the Expos to "pick a screwball, any screwball" and try to hit it. The Expos will counter with Ray Burris, who showed little magic in compiling a mediocre 9-7 regular-season record.

The Dodgers defeated the Houston Astros in three consecutive games at Dodger Stadium last week to clinch the NL West title, and their easy win over Montreal has them brimming with confidence.

"It's the experience factor," said first baseman Steve Garvey.

"They're a young team and very experienced team. The experience shows all year long even more so in the playoffs."

The brightest light for the Dodgers in the playoffs has been starting pitching staff, which allowed just three runs in 5 1/3 innings through four games.

Hooton didn't allow a Montreal runner past first base until the eighth inning, and that runner stranded at second when Larry Parrish popped out to end the game. Hooton was aided in the double plays, including one in the seventh when Jerry White doubled off second base. Guerrero had caught Steve Speier's line drive. The Dodgers were also boosted by a spectacular, run-saving catch by right fielder Dusty Baker.

The Expos got their only win in the ninth on consecutive doubles by Carter and Parrish.



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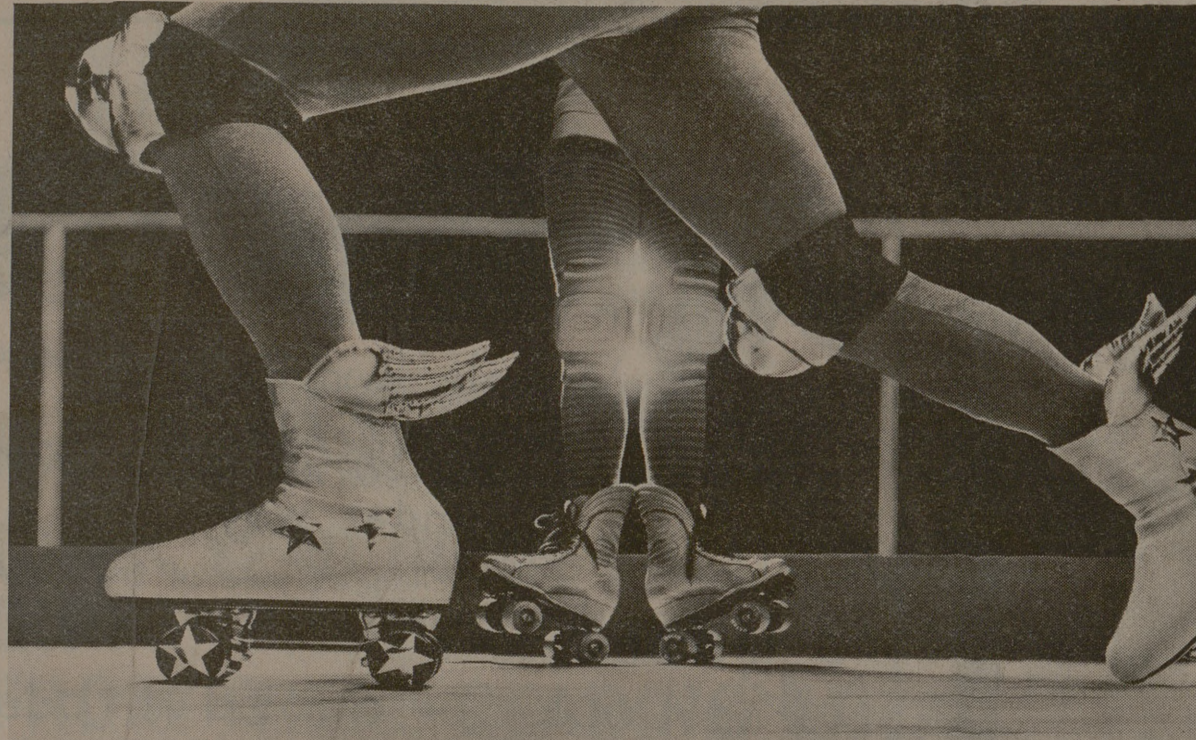
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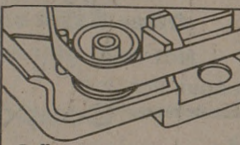


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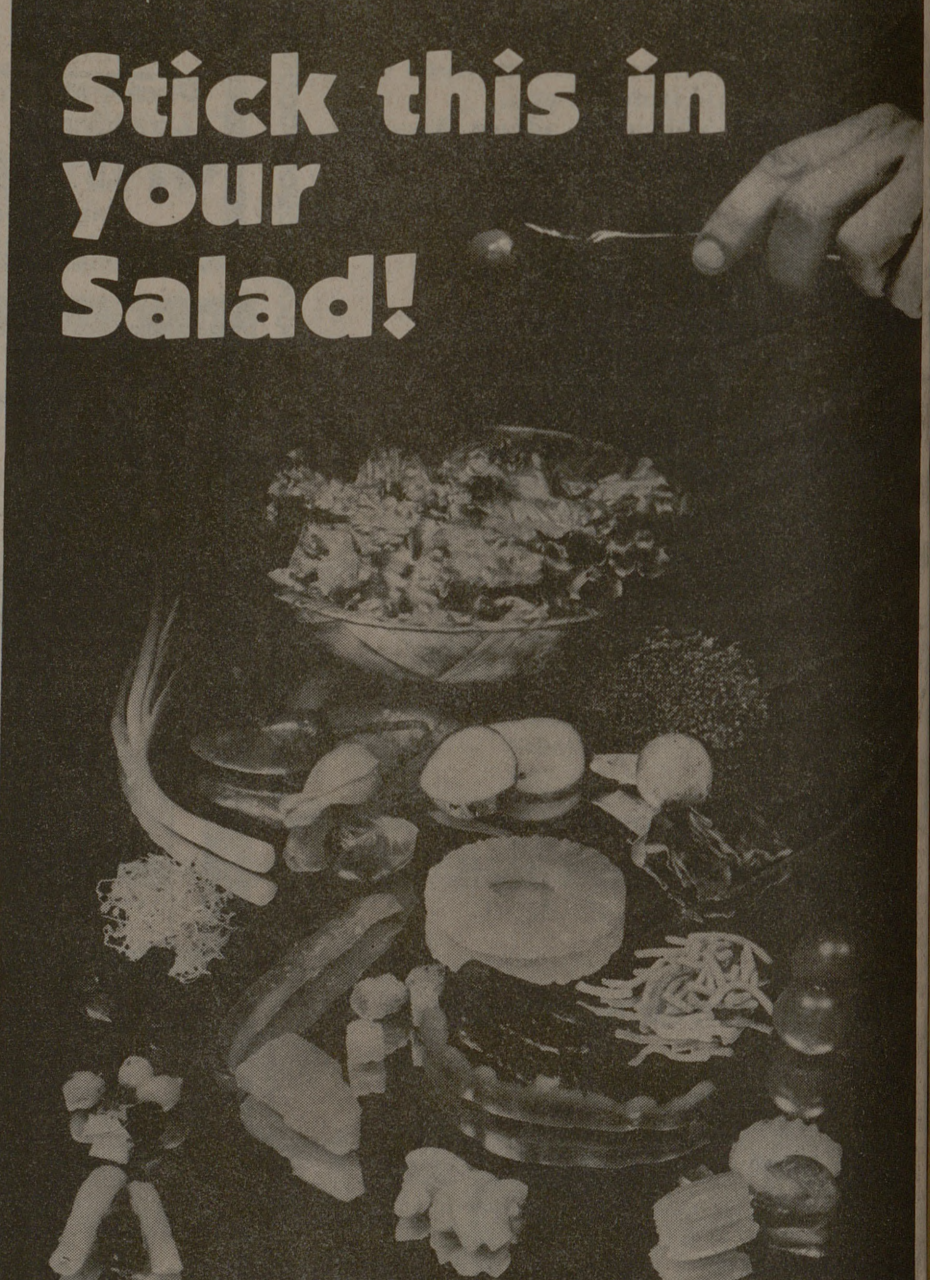
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