

Atlanta has best start in history

Mahler stops Astros

United Press International
ATLANTA — Rick Mahler had never thrown nnll wo shutouts in a single season in his pro career, ut he already has two this year for the unbeaten shutouts in a single season in his pro career,

ices tonight a

elski

"Serret beat Davi

Mahler ran his scoreless inning string to 23, ing back to his final appearance last season, in ing a five-hit, 5-0 victory over the Houston ros Sunday as the Braves ran their record to

a 7-2 loss Sunda "I have never thrown two shutouts in one seat they were plant in in pro ball, let alone two in a row," Mahler id. "I think it's just been confidence more than the never thrown two shutouts in one seat they were plant in in pro ball, let alone two in a row," Mahler id. "I think it's just been confidence more than the never plant is just been confidence more than asn't afraid of the hitters. I was going right at the older than asn't afraid of the hitters. I was going right at the older than asn't afraid of the hitters. I was going right at the older than asn't afraid of the hitters.

iem and pitching my own game."

al had the only we Mahler, a 28-year-old righthander, got home (orita 6-2, 7-5 and in support from Dale Murphy, who has three in tanta's first five games, and Bob Horner, who toke an 0-for-13 slump with a solo shot in the process of 6-4.6 with inning for the Brayes' final run.

on Joelson 6-4, 6-1 ghth inning for the Braves' final run.

"The key was not to start pressing, to not get soon 6-2, 7-5 own and let your attitude because you're not Alkio 6-2, 6-3 titing rub off on the rest of the ballclub—esperiment of the ballclub esperiment of

Atlanta ballclub and the best for the Braves since the 1957 Milwaukee team won its first five games en route to the World Series title.

"My brother (Frank) played on that club," noted Torre, who said he thought it was vital for the Braves to have a good spring training and get off to a good start to adopt a winning attitude.

Houston pitcher Nolan Ryan, 0-2, was impress ed after watching the Braves sweep three straight

o. He pitched a two-hit, 1-0 victory over San ego opening night.

"I have never thrown two shutouts in one sean in pro ball, let alone two in a row," Mahler

"I have never thrown two shutouts in one sean in pro ball, let alone two in a row," Mahler division, naturally the (Los Angeles) Dodgers have to be the favorite. But after that I think Cincinnati, ourselves and the Braves have a good

said. "I made a couple of mistakes today and when you are having trouble scoring runs you don't

The Braves start a six-game road trip tonight in Cincinnati with Bob Walk, 1-0, facing Bruce Berenyi, 1-0. Houston returns home tonight against the Dodgers with Joe Niekro, 1-0, facing Bob Welch, 1-0.

Indians trounce Rangers

United Press International CLEVELAND — The weather was cold, but the Cleveland bats were hot.

Despite shivery 35-degree weather and a wind blowing in from right field, the Indians banged out 14 hits to back up the eight-hit piching of Len Barker en route to a 13-1 victory over the Texas Rangers Sunday.

"I am going to win 20 games and we are going to the playoffs this year," Barker declared later. I am tired of finishing in sixth

Barker got all the runs he needed in the third inning when Toby Harrah singled home two of his four RBI. The Indians pushed across four more runs in the fourth and put six more on the scoreboard in the fifth in-

ning.
"I wasn't getting cold on the bench during the long innings," added Barker. "All I thought about was those guys crossing the

Bake McBride, now 5-for-6 in the two games played this season, opened the four-run fourth with a double to left and scored on Jack Perconte's twoout triple to right. Jerry Dybzinski singled home Perconte and raced to third on a single by Von Hayes that chased Texas starter and loser Doc Medich.

Harrah greeted reliever Dave Schmidt with a run-scoring single. Hayes raced to third on the

hit and scored on a wild pitch.
"I let up on Perconte and that really hurt me," said Medich,
"The next batter hits one past first and then it was just a matter of getting the game over with." Medich added: "It wasn't cold

out there, but my fast ball got me

in trouble."

McBride also triggered the big six-run inning with a leadoff double and Harrah knocked in another tally with a single. Dybzinski, Hargrove and Thornton also drove in runs and the Indians ended the scoring with an unearned tally in the eighth.

Barker, whose first win last season was a 4-0 whitewash of Kansas City on April 22, struck out three and walked one. The hard-throwing right hander is now 6-1 against his former teammates.

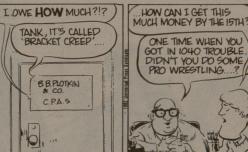
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TANK MCNAMARA

TANK, IT'S CALLED 'BRACKET CREEP' ...

B.B.PLOTKIN

C.P.A.S







Arkansas earns 30th victory

United Press International FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A four-run fifth inning gave Arkansas all the scoring it needed Sunday afternoon as the pirth worked.

ninth-ranked Razorbacks cruised past Ole Miss 7-2 for their 30th win of the season. Left-fielder Tim Seward led off the big inning with a single to right off loser Mark Dennis, now

4-3 for the year. Shortstop Chris Shaddy laid down a sacrifice bunt but Rebel second baseman Kirk Hanson failed to step on the base after taking the toss. Catcher Dan Lambeth also bunted and reached first when Hanson dropped the throw to first from Dennis.

With the bases loaded and the infield drawn in, center-fielder Gary Jones bounced a chopper over the third baseman's head to score Seward and Shaddy. Lambeth and Jones advanced on a wild pitch and Keith Longoria's double to left brought home both runs.



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so very proud of Spurs rally to gain d. "and he reall victory; Houston, Nuggets two back

day, the San Antonio Spurs d no real love for their cross-te rivals the Dallas Mavericks. rshave a two-game lead over ton and Denver with four es to play in the NBA Midided the spark that helped the Spurs to a 126-121 win

Houston game at halftime and it really gave us a lift," said San Antonio Coach Stan Albeck. "It was a major factor in the oute rivals the Dallas Mavericks. But thanks to the Mavs, the share a two-game lead over the second half becuase I felt we were terribly outplayed the first

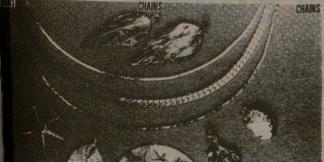
Division's title race. Not did Dallas knock off Hous-109-97 Sunday, but it also ell added 25. Rookie Eddie Johnson had 20 points and Ernie Grunfeld 18 for the the Kansas City Kings. Kings, who had eight pl. "We heard the score of the score nine or more points." Kings, who had eight players

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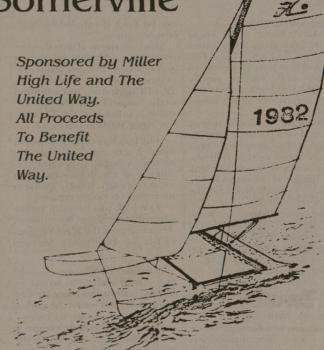
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