# sports

### Group still on expedition

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### Ultimate baseball fans?

United Press International ST. LOUIS — A group of three baseball "fanatics" is more than halfway through what its members say is a world-record attempt to see all 26 major league baseball teams in the

both of Houston, and Miles Berry of Los Angeles completed the fourth day of their seven-day baseball expedition Monday by seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates

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an of one week. Bill Rattray and Joe Hoban, th of Houston, and Miles Ber-Vork Yankees-Texas Rangers game

The three, who are all airline employees, plan to see 13 games in 13 cities between last Friday

and Thursday. 'Part of it is the challenge in itself," Rattray said. "We are fanatics and we're big baseball fans. We go to wherever we can see a game because we enjoy it." The fanatics' schedule

started with a day game in Chi-cago followed by a night game in Los Angeles Friday. Saturday, they were in Cincinnati for a day game and in Atlanta for a game that night.

seeing a day game in Philadel-phia, before flying to St. Louis. During the rest of the week, the three will see games at Cleveland and Toronto on Tuesday, Boston and Kansas City on

This is something that can only be done at the start of the season because you don't get all of those day games in the middle of the week later in the year," Rattray said.

thought we would go out and see some baseball games.

Rattray estimated that the plane fare alone for the trip would be \$2,000 each if the three did not have airline discounts and the ability to fly cheaper on a space-available

## Sometimes, the good guys do win – even in hockey

I watched a hockey game on television Saturday. At least I thought it was a hock-

ey game. I was home for the weekend, and I had nothing better to do. So I planted myself in front of our television, complete with 30 cable channels capable of bringing me any type of entertainment I wanted, from porno flicks to Christian broadcasting to women's wrestling from Mexico City.

I chose hockey. The New York Rangers were playing the Philadelphia Flyers in a Stanley Cup playoff game. It was an important contest and both teams were ready. The Spectrum in Philadelphia was packed to the gills with out-of-work rink rats screaming for blood.

All the ingredients for a great hockey game. Now, I'm not ignorant when it comes to

discussing hockey. I grew up with the Houston Aeros, with Mark, Marty and Gordie Howe, Terry Ruskowski, Rich Pre-ston, Ron Graham and all the gang. I was a fan when they played in the old Sam Houston Colisium, and I was a fan when they moved into The Summit. I loved to watch the Aeros as they battled in the nowdefunct World Hockey Association, and I thought hockey was the best sport ever invented.

But this wasn't hockey as I remember it. This was a cross between Dorothy Hamill and Chuck Norris; a heavyweight bout on ice. If the game had been on during prime time, the censors would have cringed. Young children wouldn't have been allowed to witness what took place. It was not a pretty sight. In fact, it was

downright boring. I quit counting the fights and scuffles and arguments and penalties and the pun-



ches thrown and the players hit with sticks and the fans getting involved and ... well, you get the message

What happened to quick skating, sharp passes and unbelievable goaltending? What happened to smooth plays, puck control and a game so spectacular it has been likened to ballet at 78 rpm? It didn't take long to figure out.

The Rangers had the skaters, the passers, and the scorers. The Flyers didn't, and to make sure New York didn't use its talent to an unfair advantage, Philadelphia slowed the pace of the game down. And oh, did they slow it down!

By bullying the smaller Ranger team, Philadelphia was able to jump to a quick three-goal lead. The referees called 70 minutes of penalties in the first period alone, and New York was on the short end of the stick on most of them.

When Ranger foward Ron Duguay, a 40-goal scorer this year, was ejected for fighting, things began to look really bleak for the good guys. So when the first period ended, I

turned off the television. Of course, there had been fighting

Yankees stave off Rangers for victory

when the Aeros played, and I, as a wide

eyed youngster, used to watch, at and yes, at times, even hope there be some fist action.

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But this was different. This wasn't players going at each other, "blow some steam" as the announcersused it. This was one team leaning on the picking fights in the corner, slash front of the net, cross-checking h and intimidating.

And the Flyers are masters at this of play. In the late 1970s, they werea the most successful teams in profix They also led the National HockeyLe in penalty minutes for several year ning. Their style was hit and hit an and then fight. The only problem wa it worked, and every team in hocky to emulate the Bullies from Philly. Needless to say, they were a blacke

the face of professional hockey. The is intentional.

I thought, however, that thing changed. I thought heavies were out, quickies were in. I believed it when l that the NHL had forsaken hittin scoring. But when I saw the Flyes their old tricks, I was just a little appointed.

And when I opened up the Su sports section and saw that the Rang had come from behind to win the g 4-3, I was delighted.

You can imagine my suprise whe read on and saw that Cam Conner, ap who used to bully for my beloved Ac had scored the winning goal. Conner he wanted to be known for more that roughneck abilities. The Flyers' coad complaining about the lack of official Well, what do you know.

Sometimes the good guys do win.

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members

#### by Frank

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had the tying run at the plate. us earn it, though New York had built a seemingly insurmountable lead, thanks to a three-run homer by Winfield in the fifth. New York

victory, turned a 10-1 rout into a 10-7 squeaker. It took a timely relief performance by Shane Rawley in the ninth to wipe out a Texas threat when the Rangers

"It sure is good to get the first one," Lemon said. "They made



"different spokes for different folks"

Sunday was an easy day, just

Wednesday, and at Minneapolis and Anaheim on Thursday.

"There was nothing else going on this week, so we



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