

Sutton wins game 2-1

Sambito holds Dodgers

United Press International
HOUSTON — California dreaming Don Sutton is back in the good graces of Houston Astros fans now that Joe Sambito is finding the 1979 form that made him an all-star.

Left-handed relief pitcher Sambito saved a 2-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday night for Sutton with a performance that brought an Astrodome crowd to its feet and made Astros fans shelve their anger over a comment Sutton made in spring training. The Los Angeles resident said he wanted to be traded to the West Coast where he had pitched for the Dodgers for 15 seasons.

He gave his former teammates five singles in seven innings Tuesday but needed help from the bullpen to record his

first win against one loss this season.

Sambito entered the 2-1 game with runners on first and second and no outs. Steve Sax bunted, but Sambito fielded it and threw to third base for a force.

Sambito then struck out the .429-hitting Ken Landreaux and made a fine play on Steve Garvey's smash through the box to end the inning.

"When I face the Dodgers I'm very conscious about hitting spots and not so much trying to blow the ball by them," Sambito said. "They are a right-handed power hitting team and you shouldn't try to overpower them."

He retired the side in the ninth inning to earn his second save and to improve his 1982 pitching line that now reads seven innings worked in five games, two hits allowed, no runs, one walk and four strike outs.

"I feel like I'm pitching like I was two seasons ago," Sambito said.

The Astros, 4-5, won their fourth one-run game.

Catcher Alan Ashby's third home run of the season in the seventh inning off Dodgers' starter and loser Burt Hooton, 0-1, untied a game knotted since the first inning on run-scoring singles by Garvey and the Astros Jose Cruz.

Ashby has become the Astros' power hitter early this season by swallowing his pride.

"Since the middle of last season I've used a bigger bat and gone back to the leg kick in my swing that I used in the minor leagues," Ashby said. "I guess at one time I was intimidated out of using it (the leg kick). It's unusual, I'll admit. I've got guys calling me Saduhara Oh and other things."

Oh, the Japanese home run slugger who hit more homers than Major League record holder Henry Aaron, also raises his lead leg as he strides into a swing.

Sutton, 1-1, received a standing ovation when he walked from the mound in the eighth inning but he said the fans' appreciation of his work did not relieve all the pain.

"My knee's not fully well," he said. "It started reminding me about the sixth inning that it wasn't the same knee I had last year."

While batting Oct. 2, Sutton was struck by a Jerry Reuss pitch and his right kneecap was fractured.

Empty seats might cause SWC to move tournament

It hasn't taken the folks who run the Southwest Conference long to make up for their mistake.

As soon as it appeared that the Texas Aggies just might not squeeze past Texas Tech and Baylor and into the post-season tournament, conference officials took action.

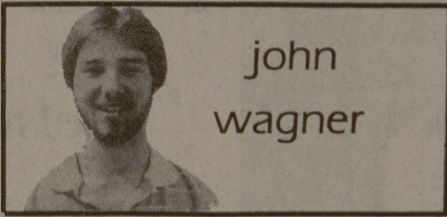
And quicker than it takes Billy Cannon to run from first base to second, the SWC announced, through Arkansas coach Norm DeBrynn, that they were shopping for a new tournament site — a site that was supposed to have been Olsen Field.

But with the Aggies floundering in sixth place in the conference, the SWC decided the tournament must be moved from Texas A&M if Coach Tom Chandler and his team can't leap-frog into fourth place and land a tournament berth.

Talk about pressure.

The Aggies have to win most, if not all, of their remaining games to make the conference's top four. And now they have the added weight of knowing the tournament will be moved if they can't pull off a miracle finish. No big deal, you say? Consider this.

Hosting a tournament such as the SWC baseball tournament is important. The tournament becomes a feather in the cap for the host school, a chance to



john wagner

showcase its program and facilities. For a short time, all eyes in the conference are focused on the tournament site, and that's the type of publicity Texas A&M needs.

But it is easy to understand the SWC's dilemma. Olsen Field has trouble attracting 300 fans even when the Aggies are playing there. A tournament with four teams from Austin, Houston, Lubbock and Fayetteville won't draw too well in College Station, and the conference knows it.

Empty seats mean empty bank accounts.

So the SWC is looking for alternate sites, and Razorback coach DeBrynn will be more than happy to play host. DeBrynn said he had been contacted by SWC officials about hosting the tournament, and that he was interested.

Of course he's interested. You can also bet that Texas coach Cliff Gustafson would like for the Longhorns to host the

tournament in Austin's Disch-Falk Field.

In other words, if the conference decides to vacate Olsen Field, it has no trouble finding a place to play.

And moving the tournament will be in favor of whomever gets the bid. It is almost unbeatable on the artificial at Disch-Falk Field, and the Razorbacks have fantastic fan support whenever they play within Arkansas borders.

There wouldn't be a problem if the Aggies had lived up to their early promise. This, however, is no mere retrospect, and the fact remains that Aggies' chances are as thin as their legs on a baseball.

If they win, the tourney stays here, not, it will probably go.

The only loser in this episode is Texas A&M. It never hurts to get a prestige, and the advantages of hosting a tournament are many. That advantage especially in recruiting, can make break a program. Just ask Gustafson. U.T. He'll tell you that letting you know that you have the facilities is an important factor in recruiting well.

It will be a shame if the tournament has to be moved, because Olsen Field is one of the best baseball stadiums in the conference. But without the host, Olsen loses its fans and its attractiveness.

And empty seats make for bad tournaments.

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SILENT RAGE
Chuck Norris
7:35 9:55
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9:35
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United Press International
Sparky Anderson loves talking to his ballplayers one-on-one. He likes to level with them, telling them what's in his heart. Sometimes, he'll talk like that to a small group of them the way he did in Kansas City last week. The Tigers had been scheduled to play the Blue Jays in Detroit but with the ballpark filled with snow and no chance of playing at all, they had flown out the day before so they could get ready for the weekend series with the Royals.

The talk Sparky Anderson had with some of his ballplayers took place at Royals' Stadium and was one of those informal things that wasn't planned. It just happened.

"Here we are," said the Tigers' white-haired manager to a half-dozen players of his, "and we'll say all of you are still playing when you're 35. If you're done by then, it'll be your own fault and nobody else's. With the conditions today, you can bleed another five more years out of the game after that and with the caliber of players that you are, the very least each of you can make over those five years is \$2.5 million.

"Yet, if all of us walked out this door right now and tried to get jobs outside baseball we couldn't make \$150,000 a year — and that's all of us combined. What I'm saying is that we're privileged to be able to play this

game, to be able to be a part of it. Think of it — we've been able to 'steal' our whole lives and nobody bothers us. How lucky can we get?"

When Sparky Anderson talks that way, to his players or anyone else, he means it. He's telling everybody exactly the way he feels.

But people occasionally are skeptical about what he says, and it sounds as if there could be a problem of pressure on Anderson to win — or else.

"I love the pressure," he said. "It's no different than what I tell the players on my club. I tell them it's easy to be on a fifth or sixth place club. I tell 'em they'll make the same money as they would being with a club like the Yankees. The arbitrator will take care of that. He'll compare their ability to a player at that position with the Yankees and award them the same salary, that's all.

"But I also tell my players, if that's all they want out of baseball, then they're on the wrong team. I want to be on the top. Being in the middle of the road

is like standing on the line never getting into the water.

Before coming to the club with whom he has a contract runs through 1984. Anderson led the Cincinnati Reds to world championships, national League pennants and western division titles in the seasons he managed there.

He has never had a losing record since taking over the club although they've finished twice and fourth and second during last year's season.

The last thing in the world Sparky Anderson ever wants about is being fired.

"I feel this way about it," says. "If I'm not good at my job, I'm not doing my job, I shouldn't have it. If (President and General Manager) Campbell decides he doesn't think I'm doing the job, leave.

"Nobody fires you but yourself. But I never concern myself about something like that. The reason I don't is because I believe in myself and I know my job."

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United Press International
Arkansas might talent some year might do it on but there always constant when recruiting high school players in the conference.

Texas Tech somebody from and that somebody good.

Red Raider Myers did it again on the first day of basketball play scholarship agreement from Hobbs, straight year then landed the play from New Mexico. Benford, a 27.5 point guard, should think I'm doing the job.

"Other highlighting day of basketball were the signing of Churchill star C. Baylor and Arkansas signing of guard Bryant, Ark.

Only Houston among Southwest schools did not sign Wednesdays feel they signing for Carl stand out from who was among prospects not to least opportunity.

Baylor coach need of a key to replace the lost Terry Teagle, in Heyland. T signed 6-10 Jon Glendale Junior Phoenix, Ariz.

"These two sign to death," said he have a chance to immediately."

Arkansas coach was at the Bryan early Wednesday 6-3 guard who points a game a year.

Elsewhere around west Conference 6-1 guard Ivan City, TCU sign Tony Papa of Arkansas averaged 16 points a game.

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