

## Braves 8-0

### Atlanta making World Series plans already

**United Press International**  
The phones in the Atlanta Braves' front office won't quit ringing. Callers are asking if they can order World Series tickets. With the still unbeaten Braves on a roll at 8-and-0, Wayne Minshew, their public relations and promotions director, laughingly says, "We've taken ring measurements already."

The let's-have-some-fun-and-enjoy-ourselves spirit that prevailed in spring training and enabled them to finish with the best record of any major league club has carried over. And while the Braves are realistic enough to concede they're bound to lose a ball game before everything is over, they're sticking their chins out and claiming they won't lose that many.

"What's the big difference in this ball club?" asks Brett Butler, the Braves' gung ho, little leadoff hitter and center fielder. "I'll tell you what the big difference is in two words — Joe Torre."

Claudell Washington, one of the Braves' other outfielders who played for Torre with the Mets, says he looks like the same old Joe Torre to him and that the difference this year is "you got guys who believe in themselves now."

Torre agrees with Washington. He isn't managing any different with the Braves than he did with the Mets. He didn't undergo any dramatic metamorphosis over the winter. Since the Mets' managerial job was his first, however, he's applying many of the things he learned with them.

And what has John Stearns got to say about all this? Last month, you may remember, the Mets' receiver said the trouble with the Mets the past few years was that they were too loose a ship with Torre at the helm.

"But I also said he learned a lot by the experience and he'd be likely to be a much better manager with the Braves," Stearns says now. "From the way it looks so far, you wouldn't argue that I was wrong."

In Cincinnati, Reds' Manager Johnny McNamee laughs whenever anybody asks him if Dave Concepcion is slowing up at shortstop. "Sometimes, he'll tell me he could use a night off," McNamee says. "When he gets to the park the next day, I'll ask him how he feels and he'll say OK. I'll tell him he can have the night off and he'll say, 'No, no, I can play.' Then he goes out there and plays like hell!"

In Philadelphia, it is no won-

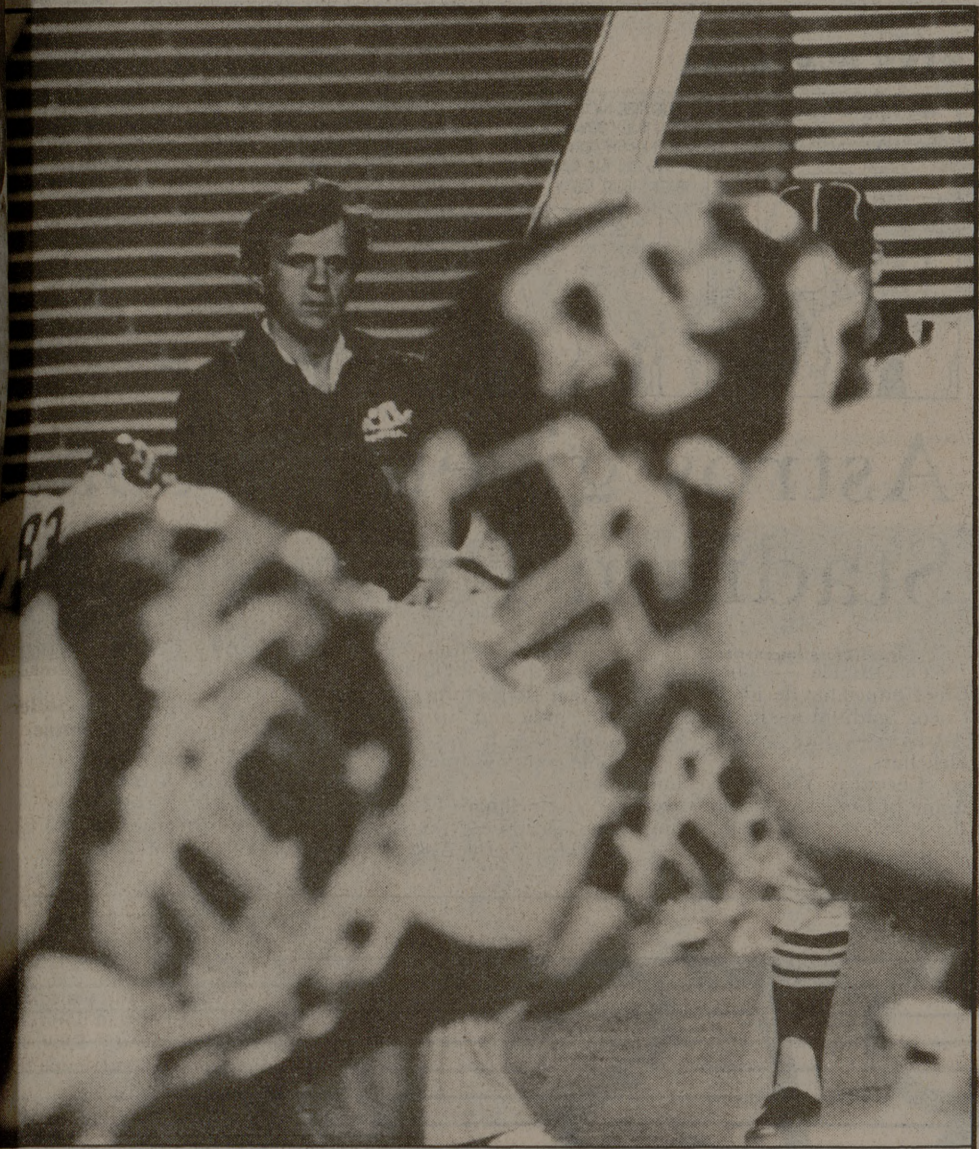
der the Phillies are going after Dave Parker. Without a power-hitting, lefthanded swinger like him in the batting order behind him, Mike Schmidt, out with a rib injury now, isn't going to have a whole lot of fun this year. He could even wind up leading the league in walks.

In New York, a funny piece of business happened during the third inning of last Tuesday's contest between the Mets and Phillies at Shea Stadium. Steve Carlton, pitching for the Phils, committed a step balk with a runner on first and first base umpire Randy Marsh alertly called it, waving the runner to second and bringing Phillies' manager Pat Corrales out of the dugout.

Marsh listened to what Corrales had to say and then said to

him, "You didn't raise your voice and you didn't use any bad language, but I'm going to have to throw you out anyway because protesting a step balk calls for automatic ejection."

Corrales, who managed the Texas Rangers in 1979 and 1980 but worked as an administrative aide for them last year, went quietly. When asked about it later, he said simply, "I forgot." What he meant was that when he first began managing in the American League, a manager could go out and protest a step balk without automatically being ejected. The AL changed that rule a few years ago, so that now if you go out to protest the step balk, it doesn't matter what league you're in, you're outta there.



Watchful eyes

staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill looks on as team members get into their stances during a team workout this week. The Aggies hold their 11th

practice of the spring this afternoon at 4, and a scrimmage will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in Kyle Field. The public is welcome.

## Cardinals win fifth straight by shutting down Cubs, 6-1

**United Press International**  
The much-maligned St. Louis pitching staff is looking like world beaters these days, but Chicago Cubs Manager Lee Elia says it's still strictly from Missouri.

In other words, "Show Me" me October, Steve Mura turned in the Cardinals' second straight complete-game victory Thursday by mopping the Cubs 6-1 on four hits.

But Elia wasn't overly impressed with the righthander's performance, even though his arm did not score until the ninth, when Keith Moreland hit a fourth homer. "I thought after the fifth inning, he didn't pitch all that well," said Elia, pointing to the fact that the Cubs just happen to be in a horrendous batting slump. "If he (Cardinals' Manager Whitey Herzog) feels he has a good pitching staff, well, I'll know about it in October." Mura struck out five and walked two in helping the Cardinals to their fifth straight triumph. Lonnie Smith and George Hendrick supported Mura with home runs in handling Doug Bird his second loss in

three decisions.

Elsewhere in the National League, Pittsburgh beat Montreal 4-3, Philadelphia downed New York 8-4 in 13 innings and San Diego blanked Los Angeles 2-0.

At Montreal, Omar Moreno singled home Johnny Ray with the winning run in the ninth inning, giving the Pirates their victory.

At New York, Luis Aguayo's three-run homer capped a four-

run 13th inning that carried the Phillies to victory. The Phillies pushed across the tie-breaking run off Charlie Puleo on a bases-loaded fielder's choice grounder by Gary Matthews.

At San Diego, Juan Eichelberger and Gary Lucas combined on a five-hitter and Garry Templeton's first-inning RBI single enabled San Diego to hand Fernando Valenzuela his first loss of the season.

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