

Ruhle stops SF in shutout

United Press International
HOUSTON — Both sides viewed Houston pitcher Vern Ruhle's masterful three-hit shutout of the San Francisco Giants as a simple matter of rhythm.

After a rocky first inning, Ruhle didn't miss a beat. At one point in the Astros' 2-0 win over the Giants Tuesday night, he retired 23 batters in a row.

"I had real good stuff and I got three different pitches over the plate," Ruhle said. "So I didn't walk anybody. I didn't try to overthrow any of my pitches. I was

able to get the first pitch over to just about every batter and get right back on the mound ready to throw.

"It helped my keep my rhythm the whole game."

San Francisco manager Frank Robinson said his team couldn't force Ruhle out of his groove.

"We weren't able to put any pressure on Ruhle except for the first inning, when we had two men on base," Robinson said. "We didn't do anything to get him out of his rhythm."

The only hits by the Giants were singles by Joe Morgan and Chili Davis in the first inning and a single by Dave Bergman in the ninth.

Ruhle, who struck out five, got out of the first-inning jam when catcher Alan Ashby picked Davis off second and Jack Clark struck out.

"When Vern is throwing the ball where he wants to like tonight, he can mow them down," Ashby said. "It's probably a comfortable game for the hitters in that he wasn't striking out a lot of men, but he just kept getting them out."

Nash

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the world on fire. Let's set the American record — take a shot at the world record, but set the American record in the prelims. Let's blow everybody's doors off so they'll all think in terms of going for second and third."

"Physically, I was there to win the trials," he said. "I got in the water and was so excited and so hyped up for it. I took off, and I had put on about 10 pounds in the last year and had gotten stronger.

"I was always known for having a real nice, smooth, easy stroke and letting it work for me. I had gained so much strength that, for the first time in my life, I had strength enough to go easy and still go fast.

"When I went all out like I always had," Nash said, "I swam right through my stroke. It's like overshooting the basket or running out of bounds because you're trying to take the turn too fast. I did the same thing in swimming. I slipped through

my stroke, so I wasn't grabbing as much water."

Nash missed the finals by two hundredths of a second, thereby missing his chance at the 1972 Olympic games.

"It was the inexperience and I just didn't use my head — it wasn't a choke, but more like overzealousness," he said.

"I missed that one, and it kind of set me back going into college because that was my whole dream. Before I even left before the trials, they had given me a 'good luck at the Olympics' party. Nobody thought about a 'good luck at the Olympic trials' party.

"It was an on-the-verge-of-ruining-the-rest-of-your-life disappointment," Nash said. "It took me two and a half years to come out of it — literally. I went into pre-med at Indiana and almost flunked out the first semester. I didn't go out and take drugs or anything like that, but I was in a daze for two and a half years, and especially for that first year, I was just kind of wondering what happened.

"I said, 'Now wait a minute. I've had a charmed life until now. Everything went perfect. It was tough to cope with, and I went through my freshman year and did reasonably well at the NCAAs. I got fourth in the 50-meter freestyle, but my two No. 1 events — the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke — that I had been first in the country out of school, I didn't even make all-America in during my freshman year."

During the championship trials for the 1973 World Games, Nash said, he swam "terrible, but qualified for the finals. And another trick on his father's part gave Nash an added boost when it came time for his events.

"My dad was timing me before the race," Nash said. "There's a thing that a lot of coaches do before the race, and it's called 'rubber-watching.' That's when they time the sprints, and if someone goes a little slow, (the coach) will tell them a faster time. That keeps them psyched up.

"To give you an idea, I usually would go about 11 seconds flat for 25's freestyle-wise and at this meet, my dad was taking my sprints and I was going about 11.5 or 11.6. I was still a bit of an obnoxious kid at the time, since everything had been going wrong for me swimming-wise. I got a little bit snappy with my dad, and I said, 'Well, how do you expect me to do anything when I'm swimming so slow?'"

"My dad said: 'Well, you're not swimming too bad — you look pretty good.' I had the conflict that my dad wasn't (Coach), Doc Counsilman, so I tried to put a little dig in him," Nash said. "I told my dad that if he knew anything about coaching, he would have rubber-watched."

"Then he told me: 'Now wait a minute. I'm going to be honest with you and tell you what you're doing, and if you're man enough, you're going to go out there and do it. So get up on the blocks and do your job.'"

"Then I went berserk and went from eighth to fourth in the freestyle and I made the world championship relay, and we went over and won the world games," he said.

And that's when Nash began making a comeback from his disgruntling finish at the 1972 Olympic trials.

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United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys Tuesday announced the signing of two rookie fullbacks and a rookie guard picked in the 1982 draft of college players.

The Cowboys signed Kent Hammond, a 6-3, 270-pound guard from Vanderbilt who was selected in the sixth round; George Peoples, a 6-foot, 202-pound fullback from Auburn picked in the eighth round, and Mike Whiting, a 6-foot, 215-pound fullback from Florida State taken in the 11th round.

The Cowboys previously had signed Rod Hill, a cornerback from Kentucky State, who was taken in the first round. Four of the team's 16 draft choices now are under contract.

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Astros have called up right-handed reliever Burt Roberge from the club's Triple A farm team in Tucson, Ariz.

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