

San Diego inches to within 3 1/2 of first; Houston loses

United Press International
The San Diego Padres have shown a curious attitude these days — they're enjoying themselves.

"It's fun right now, it's a lot of fun," Manager Dick Williams said Tuesday night.

His team had just moved to within 3 1/2 games of first-place Atlanta in the National League West with a 5-1 victory over the Montreal Expos.

"We have 14 games left against Atlanta and we'll take our chances," Williams said. "I hope the other teams don't believe we're contenders. I just hope the clubs let us go about our business."

Starting pitcher John Curtis, who pitched 5 2/3 innings and raised his record to 6-4, also

helped the Padres with his bat with a two-run single in the second inning off Ray Burris, 3-1.

Later, Curtis spoke optimistically about San Diego's chances this season.

"In spring training we said to ourselves we have to be respectable," he said. "But probably no one anticipated we would be where we are now."

"We feel we can win," Curtis said.

Gene Richards' double made it 3-1 in the seventh and the Padres added two more runs in the eighth on an RBI single by Perkins and an error by Montreal second baseman Frank Taveras.

The Expos scored in the second inning when Gary Carter doubled and scored on Chris Speier's single.

In other games, Pittsburgh edged Houston, 1-0, Philadelphia topped San Francisco, 3-2, St. Louis defeated Cincinnati, 3-1, Chicago halted Atlanta, 7-2, and Los Angeles beat New York, 9-3.

In the American League, it was Oakland 7, Cleveland 3; Detroit 11, Minnesota 6; Kansas City 6, Boston 2; Toronto 4, Texas 3; Baltimore 3, California 2; New York 8, Seattle 7, in 12 innings, and Milwaukee at Chicago was rained out.



Bob Knepper

PIRATES 1, ASTROS 0 — At Pittsburgh, Larry McWilliams tossed a five-hitter and Jim Morrison belted a solo homer to lead the Pirates. McWilliams, 4-3, struck out four and walked none. As starting first baseman Jason Thompson's replacement, Morrison hit the home run in the second inning off loser Bob Knepper, 2-10.

The Pirates have won eight of their last 10 games and 14 of their last 19. McWilliams, 4-3 overall, scattered five hits, allowing no one past second after the fourth inning and completed the game. Knepper pitched a three-hitter for seven innings before being relieved by Frank LaCorte.

The Astros, who finished their road trip with a 4-4 record, will play the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals in the Astro-debut starting tonight. Houston, 15 1/2 games behind the division-leading Atlanta Braves, is in fifth place in the National League West, while the Pirates are hold down third in the NL East.

snap the Braves' six-game winning streak.

DODGERS 9, METS 3 — At New York, Steve Sax's two-run single highlighted a four-run sixth to spark the Dodgers, who benefitted from five Met errors. Mike Scott, 6-6, was the loser.

If the players selected the All-Star team instead of the fans, it's a good bet Hal McRae of the Kansas City Royals would have gotten more votes than anyone in the American League Tuesday night.

But because he's a designated hitter and not listed on the All-Star ballot he didn't get any support.

McRae hit a grand slam to raise his season's RBI total to 76 and spark the Royals to a 6-2 triumph over the Boston Red Sox.

It's doubtful he'll be bypassed by AL All-Star Manager Billy Martin, but even then he probably will be limited to a pinch-hitting appearance since the designated hitter isn't used in the All-Star game.

"It's in their hands," said McRae, meaning the AL officials who will meet this week to select the rest of the team. "I won't be mad if I don't go; it wouldn't do me any good. My kids would probably be more disappointed than I."

McRae belted his third career grand slam in the first inning to help the Royals beat the Red Sox behind the combined five-hit pitching of Vida Blue and Bill Castro.

TIGERS 11, TWINS 6 — At Detroit, Lance Parrish drove in three runs with a pair of home runs and scored three times to help Jack Morris break a four-game losing streak in the Tigers' victory.

A's 7, INDIANS 3 — At Oakland, Calif., Davey Lopes drove in three runs with two homers and Brian Kingman scattered seven hits to pick up his first victory of the season.

ORIOLES 3, ANGELS 2 — At Anaheim, Calif., Cal Ripken drilled a solo homer with two out in the eighth inning and Dennis Martinez allowed seven hits in 8 2/3 innings to hand the Angels their seventh straight loss.

YANKEES 8, MARINERS 7 — At Seattle, Bobby Murcer's leadoff home run in the 12th inning gave the Yankees their fifth victory in their last six games. Al Cowens homered for Seattle.

PHILLIES 3, GIANTS 2 — At Philadelphia, Bo Diaz singled home the tie-breaking run with two out in the eighth to spark the Phillies. Sparky Lyle, 3-2, got the victory and Tug McGraw worked the ninth for his third save.

CARDINALS 3, REDS 1 — At Cincinnati, Steve Mura, now 6-7, pitched a four-hitter as the Cardinals extended the Reds' losing streak to nine games.

CUBS 7, BRAVES 2 — In Atlanta, Junior Kennedy capped a three-run seventh with a two-run single to help the Cubs

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hill



Murray fends off Texas in Blue Jays' 4-3 victory

United Press International
ARLINGTON — Veteran Toronto reliever Dale Murray's forkball was breaking sharply, but it was his fastball that left the Texas Rangers bewildered at the plate.

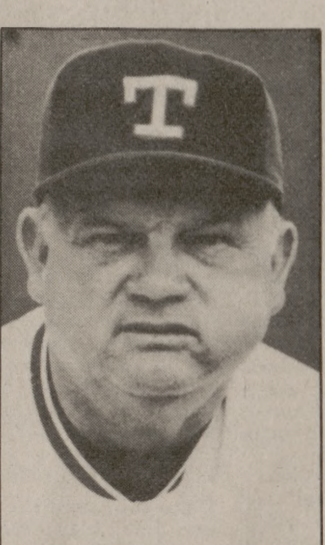
Murray struck out the side in the ninth inning to preserve a 4-3 Toronto triumph over the Rangers Tuesday and end the Blue Jays' three-game losing streak with a flourish.

Murray, who relieved rookie starter Jim Gott in the sixth inning and fanned designated hitter Lamar Johnson to stifle a rally, struck out six Rangers and yielded just one hit to 11 Texas batters in earning his fifth victory in eight decisions.

"I seemed to get more confident as I continued working tonight," the right-hander said. "I had good control of my fastball, and that's the key for me."

"I was able to keep them (the Rangers) guessing. I think I kept them off stride because I was able to work the fastball in and out on alternate pitches."

The 32-year-old Murray had pitched for Montreal, New York and Cincinnati in the National League before joining the Blue Jays last year. He said the victory was especially sweet "when you consider we'd just lost three



Don Zimmer

straight one-run games."

Demaso Garcia drove in what proved to be the game winning run in the Toronto seventh when his line drive was misplayed into an RBI triple by Texas center fielder Billy Sample, a left fielder by trade.

"I just misplayed it, that's all," said a downcast Sample, who had started in for the ball on watch it sail over his head. "I don't know if I can say that."

Texas manager Don Zimmer bristled at the suggestion that rookie George Wright should have been in center field.

"What are we going to do with Billy Sample?" Zimmer yelled. "Billy just judged the ball."

"He's been playing real well," Zimmer added of Sample, who extended his hitting streak to four games with a pair of singles and four at bats. "And I'm not about to change my mind because of one mistake."

Third baseman Buddy Hatter also preserved his hitting streak by striking out two batters in the sixth inning to advance the streak to 14 games. Bellinger scored when rookie Dave Telser slammed his 12th home run of the year to tie the game at 3-3.

Frank Tanana, now 0-3 against Toronto this season, took the loss for the Rangers in the game's seventh inning. The Rangers, who entered the game with seven victories in the last nine outings, took a 4-1 lead in the second on Larry Johnson's one-out double and an RBI single by Larry Parrish.

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USFL's Philadelphia franchise picks former Steeler assistant to be coach

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — The architect of the restructuring of the Philadelphia Eagles and an instrumental figure in the Super Bowl success of the Pittsburgh Steelers have been hired to direct the Philadelphia franchise in the new U.S. Football League.

The club was expected to name Carl Peterson, the former Eagles' director of player personnel, as its general manager and George Perles, the ex-assistant head coach of the Steelers, as its head coach today at a news conference.

Although managing partner Myles Tanenbaum was unavailable for comment, it was learned Tuesday night Peterson and Perles had been named to the posts.

The franchise also is expected to reveal its nickname and its home stadium at the news conference.

Together with Eagles' Coach Dick Vermeil, Peterson, 39, is credited with rebuilding the NFL team into perennial playoff contenders. Under his direction, the Eagles drafted All-Pro players such as Wilbert Montgomery and Charlie Johnson and signed free-agents Herman Edwards, Brenard Wilson and John Spagnola, all of whom currently are starters.

Peterson came to the Eagles along with Vermeil from UCLA,

his alma mater, in 1976 served two years as administrative assistant. He became personnel director in February 1978.

Perles, 47, joined the Steeler staff in 1972. In subsequent years helped put together Pittsburgh's famed "Steel Curtain" defense that sparked the team to Super Bowl championships.

In three years as assistant head coach, Perles, a graduate of Michigan State, was responsible for administrative tasks as well as coaching the team's defensive line and being involved with the offense and special teams.

The White House commended Perles' coaching.

Smith, Current lead Stars' effort

THE WOODLANDS — The lag brought on by their rigorous return trip from Wimbledon apparently did not diminish the play of Anne Smith and Kevin Curren.

The reigning Wimbledon mixed doubles champions the Dallas Stars to a 30-8 opening Tuesday of the Houston Astro-Knights in the first round Team Tennis competition. Houston team failed to win a single match.

Smith and Curren cruised to a 6-1, and then Curren teamed with Steve Denton, partner in the men's doubles Wimbledon, to down Billy Martin and Nichols, 6-2.

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