

Playing for pride, glory

All-Stars find opinions differ on game's true meaning

United Press International
MONTREAL — In true French spirit, appropriate for baseball's first international All-Star Game, Pete Rose has thrown down the gauntlet and Billy Martin is waiting to pick it up.

There will be much pride at stake tonight when the best players from the National League meet the best from the American League before a capacity crowd of more than 58,000 at Olympic Stadium. But pride has long served as a motivating force for the NL in its 19-year dominance of this midsummer showcase event.

Steve Rogers of the host Montreal Expos and Dennis Eckersley of the Boston Red Sox will be the starting pitchers in the game beginning at 7:40 p.m. CDT, and Rose, the Philadelphia Phillies' 41-year-old sandlot kid, expects to see the NL emerge victorious for the 11th straight year.

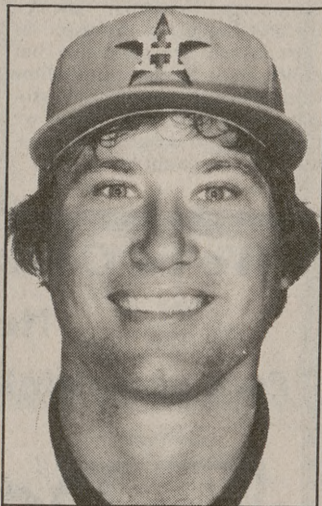
As for players from the two Texas teams, the Houston Astros' Ray Knight, hitting .317,

will be his team's only representative in the annual contest. Knight, who has been Houston's most consistent player in a disappointing season, was selected as a reserve by NL manager Tommy Lasorda.

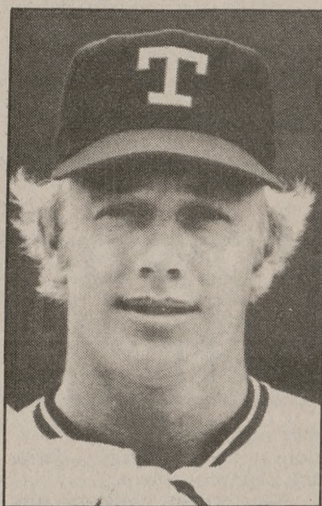
Texas third baseman Buddy Bell will be one of the AL's reserves, along with former Ranger Toby Harrah, now with the Cleveland Indians. Bell, whose team is in fifth place in the Western Division of the league, has hit .298 so far through the season.

"We didn't come all this way to lose," the Phillies' Rose said Monday after being named field captain for the NL squad. "It doesn't quite have the glamor of the playoffs and World Series, but the object is to win. Fun to me is spelled w-i-n-n-i-n-g."

Rose, however, has himself a worthy adversary in Martin, the feisty AL manager who once played the game himself in Pete Rose fashion. The word "pride" is something that has been missing from the AL's vocabulary in this classic for almost two de-



Ray Knight



Buddy Bell

cadres, and Martin wants desperately to change that.

"I'm going to talk to my players before the game and go over the National League's hitters and tell them about the pride of the American League," Martin said before putting his team through a one-hour workout

Monday, attended by nearly 30,000 fans.

"I'm going to try and win the game. I always thought the World Series was the most important thing. But from what I read in the papers, the All-Star Game is more important. My attitude has changed."

One could almost see the sarcasm oozing from every pore as Martin spoke.

But the weight of 10 straight losses and dropping 18 of the last 19 contests to the NL has been hard for the AL players and officials to accept.

"The success the NL has had in this game is one of the greatest miracles in sport," said AL President Lee MacPhail.

Rose, however, believes greater depth and a winning attitude have been the key reasons for the NL's continued success in the game.

"You analyze the last several years, the National League has had better replacements," Rose

said. "The American League is catching up."

If catcher Carlton Fisk's approach to the game is indicative of that taken by the AL players, the NL would seem to have a decided edge.

"There's a lot of talk about who wins and who loses, but I never felt winning or losing was the object of the All-Star Game," Fisk says. "Being regarded as one of the best is the biggest thrill."

Fisk doesn't regard the 10-game losing streak as embarrassing.

"The loss doesn't go on my record," he said. "It's no fun los-

ing, but it always seems we're up losing in the last few innings."

Rollie Fingers, the ace pitcher of the Milwaukee Brewers, has pitched for both leagues in recent All-Star Games and will have a little difference between the teams.

"I think our ballclub in the American League is just as strong both last year and this year," said Fingers, who has pitched for San Diego in the NL. "Whichever team gets breaks gets the victory. It seems to be getting the home at the key time, the base hit right time."

Cincinnati finishes first half with league's poorest record

United Press International
CINCINNATI — The baseball season is half over, but appears to be completely over in terms of relevance to the Cincinnati Reds.

At the All-Star break, the Reds are the worst team in the National League. Cincinnati, 20 games below .500 with a 33-53 record, is in last place in the NL West, 19 games behind first-place Atlanta.

By comparison, in the NL East, the last-place Chicago Cubs are 36-53 and 13 games out.

The Cincinnati newspapers already have written the Reds' obituary for the 1982 season.

Two weeks ago, one paper just flatly said:

"Let's face it: Reds are going nowhere." Then it went on to suggest that the Reds forget trying to help this season's cause and instead concentrate on developing young players for next year.

Another paper has started a contest for predicting the date the Reds officially will be ejected from the pennant race.

First prize is two seats to the last Reds home game and second prize is four seats. In keeping with the nature of the contest, the paper also has purchased the six worst seats it could find for prizes.

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