

# The Battalion Sports

July 22, 1982 Page 9

## Astros dump Cubs as Ryan wins No. 10

CHICAGO — Houston right-hander Nolan Ryan is a man truly devoted to his work.

The 35-year-old pitcher picked up his 199th major league victory Wednesday in an outing that almost proved unbearably painful. Ryan, who earned his 10th victory of the season against the Cubs, who lost to the Astros 2-1, lasted only five innings.

"When I walked Bill Buckner at the top of the sixth, my right hip hurt so much that I decided I'd better call it a day," Ryan said. Ryan suffered an injury to his right hip and elbow when he stumbled at the top of the stairs in his Houston home Sunday.

The Astro right-hander, unsure of his readiness for the game, had advised Manager Bill Virdon to have reliever Mike LaCoss ready for an emergency start if necessary.

Ryan thought he may have aggravated the hip in the third inning when he was forced at second on a ground ball by Dickie Thon.

"It became obvious to me as the game wore on that I might not be able to finish," Ryan said.

The Cubs beat Ryan, who struck out four Cubs, including three in the first inning Wednesday, in his two previous starts against them this season.

"Today I got the Cubs to swing at some bad pitches and usually they were out in front of the ball, and while I walked four I felt I was almost unbeatable," he said.

The Cubs were stopped in their tracks mostly by a poor base running play by Larry Bowa in the seventh inning. Houston, which scored a run in the first inning on a triple by Thon and a wild pitch by Allen Ripley and another run in the sixth on Art Howe's single, had reliever LaCoss on the mound.

LaCoss gave up a leadoff single to Jody Davis in the top of the seventh and then Bowa bounced a single into right field, sending Davis to third. Bowa, however, thinking "Davis might be cut down at third," decided to try to reach second.

The only problem was that Bowa stopped between first and second. While Bowa was being gunned down, Davis decided to try to score from third and was cut down at the plate on a throw from second baseman Phil Garner.

"As it turned out," Chicago manager Lee Elia said, "that bad mistake by Bowa cost us at least one run because LaCoss walked pinch-hitter Bump Wills and Junior Kennedy to lead the bases."

Buckner then rolled out to Garner to end the threat. The Cubs got their only run in the eighth inning when Leon Durham lead off with his 13th home run of the year. When Jay Johnstone singled one out later, Virdon summoned Frank LaCorte, who retired the next five batters to preserve Ryan's ninth career victory over the Cubs and his second save of the season.

LaCorte had lost the first game of the series when, but recorded the Astros' first save since July 2. The victory was only Houston's third over the Cubs in 12 games this season and their first at Wrigley field in six tries.

The Astros open Friday against the St. Louis Cardinals, who are in second place in the National League East. Former Houston pitcher Joaquin Andujar, 7-8, will face Joe Niekro, 9-6 in the series opener. The Astros have beaten Andujar twice this season.



From platform to perfect form

photos by Donn Friedman

Darcy Wilson and Kirk Mason, members of the Texas A&M diving team, practice synchronous dives off the 10-meter platform at the Wofford Cain pool. Wilson, a sophomore pre-med student, is from League City, and Mason, a junior majoring in environmental design, is from Corpus Christi. Both divers competed during the past season for Aggie swimming coach Mel Nash, in his fourth year at A&M.

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