

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Astros, Cruz stage rally to race past Padres 6-4

Indians' Sutcliffe stops Texas on five-hitter, 6-2

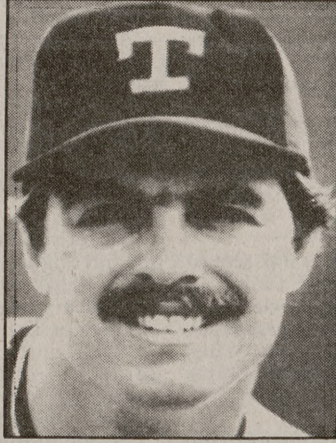
United Press International
CLEVELAND — Three months ago, Rick Sutcliffe was struggling and trying to gain recognition as a new member of the Cleveland Indians.

Today, the hard-throwing right-hander owns the American League's lowest ERA (2.73) after tossing a five-hitter Monday night to lead the Indians to a 6-2 victory over the Texas Rangers.

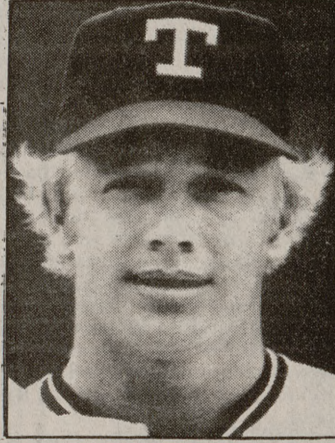
On May 3, the former Los Angeles Dodger hurler had appeared in three games and had pitched only 4 1/2 innings, giving up seven walks and striking out eight batters. His ERA stood at 9.64 and his record was 0-0.

Sutcliffe, who struck out seven Monday night in boosting his record to 9-4, said he'd gladly give up his winning record if the Indians could be in the first place in the AL East.

"I would rather be 4-9 and in first place right now," Sutcliffe, who hurled his third complete game, said. "Personal statistics mean something to only that certain individual. When the



Frank Tanana



Buddy Bell

team wins, everybody is involved."

After spotting the Rangers a 1-0 lead in the second inning on a run-scoring single by George Wright, the Indians exploded for six runs in the bottom of the second, highlighted by Mike Fischlin's two-run single.

Ten players went to the plate against Texas starter and loser Frank Tanana, 5-12, with Chris Bando starting the rally with a single.

Bando took second on a single by Rodney Craig and Rick Manning bunted into a force play at third that nailed Bando. Rookie Carmelo Castillo doubled home Craig and Fischlin lined a 3-2 pitch into left field for his second game-winning hit of the year.

Fischlin took second on the throw to the plate, moved to third on Larry Milbourne's single and scored as Toby Harrah

forced Milbourne at second. Mike Hargrove doubled home Harrah and scored on Andre Thornton's single to center. It was Thornton's 81st RBI of the season.

Sutcliffe gave up an unearned run in the fifth on Mickey RIVERS' sacrifice fly set up when Wright's single got by Castillo in right field for an error, allowing RIVERS to move to third.

Sutcliffe, who faced only 12 batters over the last four innings, got a lot of help from his defense in the sixth inning. Fischlin went behind second base to rob Jim Sundberg of what looked like a sure hit and turned it into a double play.

Former Cleveland third baseman Buddy Bell, who had two singles in the game, said Fischlin's defensive effort was the difference in the game.

"The reason the Indians won tonight was because of Fischlin's good plays," Bell said.

The two teams will play a twin-night double-header tonight, with Len Barker and Larry Sorensen scheduled to start for the Indians against Dave Schmidt and John Butcher of the Rangers.

United Press International
HOUSTON — Two San Diego runs scored on wild pitches by Joe Niekro, but the veteran Houston pitcher was credited with the victory.

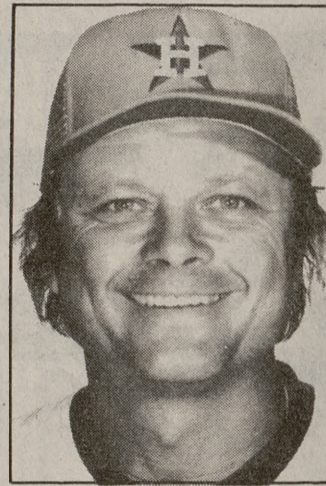
San Diego Rookie Andy Hawkins held the Astros to one run and two hits through seven innings, and got no decision.

It was that kind of night Monday for the Padres, who lost to the Astros 6-4, with Houston scoring five runs in the eighth inning to rebound from a 4-1 deficit.

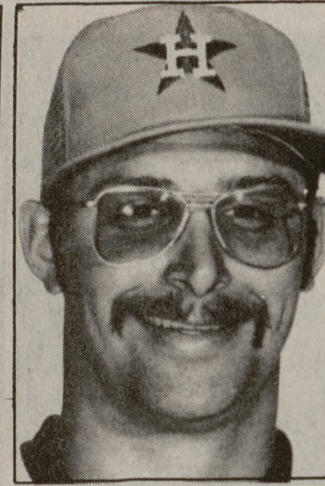
"There's no way we should lose this game," San Diego manager Dick Williams said. "You don't blow a three-run lead in the eighth and plan to catch anybody in the race. The kid (Hawkins) pitched well. He deserved to win."

Niekro, who lofted three double highlighted Houston's five-run eighth, also paid tribute to the changing fortunes of baseball.

"Hey, anything can happen just like you always hear about," Cruz said. "I hit a breaking pitch and it stayed barely fair. That guy (Hawkins) pitched a good game."



Joe Niekro



Alan Knicely

Jose Cruz, whose two-run double highlighted Houston's five-run eighth, also paid tribute to the changing fortunes of baseball.

"Hey, anything can happen just like you always hear about," Cruz said. "I hit a breaking pitch and it stayed barely fair. That guy (Hawkins) pitched a good game."

"I was happy to get a chance to win it."

The Padres took a 1-0 lead in the second on singles by Terry Kennedy, Broderick Perkins and Tim Flannery. The Astros tied it in the third on an error by third baseman Joe Lefebvre that allowed Knicely to reach second and a single by Niekro.

San Diego made it 3-1 in the

sixth on Tony Gwynn's RBI single and a wild pitch by Niekro. The Padres made it 4-1 in the seventh on another wild pitch by Niekro, his third of the game.

Art Howe began the Astros rally in the eighth with a single left and, one out later, Dick Thon tripled off the left field wall, knocking out Hawkins. Pinch hitter Tony Scott singled and advanced to second on a single by Ray Knight before Cruz's double down the right field line produced two runs and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Cruz advanced on the throw to the plate and scored on Denny Heep's sacrifice fly. Gary Lucas, now 0-8, took the loss in San Diego.

Though Niekro and Cruz said luck contributed to the Astros' win, Niekro's three wild pitches were calculated risks, the pitcher said.

"My knuckler was pretty good, I thought," Niekro said. "I threw a couple that moved too much and got by Knicely. But with runners in scoring position he called for my best pitch. You take those chances when you throw the knuckler."

NFL camps

Kelcher retires; SD announces drug testing

United Press International
The San Diego Charger defense, consistently rocked last season, received a major jolt Monday, five weeks before the scheduled start of the NFL season.

Former All-Pro Louie Kelcher, 28, announced his retirement, informing General Manager John Sanders of his decision by telephone. Coach Don Coryell said Kelcher gave no explanation.

"He said he had been thinking about it for a long time, thinking of retiring, and he had decided to do it," Coryell said. "It was a very great shock to all of us. We thank him for the great play he has given us."

The Chargers were next to last in the NFL in total defense last year, although Kelcher led

the team in tackles for the Charger defensive line that recorded 47 sacks, third best in the NFL.

The New York Giants made a deal with New England, acquiring linebacker Bill Matthews for a 1983 draft choice.

The Chargers incurred the wrath of the NFL Players Association when team President Gene Klein announced his team has begun testing players for drug abuse.

"All players will be drug screened," Klein said. "In the future, there will be time-to-time screenings of players at times to be set by management."

In other news at the NFL camps:

— The Patriots announced reserve quarterback Tom Owen signed a contract and was due to report later in the day at the

team's training camp at Bryant College. They also said All-Pro guard John Hannah is expected to be out of practice for at least a week because of a hand injury.

— The New Orleans Saints bolstered their sagging linebacker corps with 4-year veteran Jim Kovach and two other players reporting to training camp. The Saints also acquired linebacker Andrew Coleman from Denver and signed free-agent Dewey McLain.

— The New York Jets reduced their training camp roster to 100 players by waiving guard Phil Rich and linebacker Zach Grate and placing guard Henry Feil, defensive end John Mordaga, defensive tackle Mark DeGaspari and wide receiver Tim Hoskins on injured reserve.

— The Buffalo Bills sliced their roster to 95 by cutting cornerback Vic James of Colorado and their 10th-round draft choice. They also released 15 other players. Nose tackle Tim Parks left the team.

— The Washington Redskins reduced their roster to 95 by cutting linebacker-offensive guard John McCollum, tight end Bob Raba, linebacker Jeff Blanchard, kickers Dick Craft, Donnie Egbuna and Brian Snow. Running back Mike Crayton, rookie Mike Daum, tight end Cleveland Jackson, center Ken Roark and defensive backs Richard Foley, Johnny Stoumair and Leon Williams.

— The Cincinnati Bengals announced defensive back John Simmons will be lost for 11 weeks after he dislocated his shoulder.

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United Press International
TULSA, Okla. — Tom Watson didn't seem to be in much of a hurry to embark on his first practice round at Southern Hills Country Club Monday.

After all, it was 72 degrees in the comfortable surroundings of the locker room and it was at or near 100 down the steep hill

in the valley where the golf course winds its way through the old oak trees.

"This golf tournament," said Watson, finally tying his golf shoes and heading for the door, "is going to be a physical test."

Whatever the test, Watson has been up for it this year and if his putter cooperates this week at the PGA championship he could well capture his third major title in a row.

Only one player has ever won three major pro events in the same year, Ben Hogan taking the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in 1953. Watson has won the U.S. Open and British Open this year and if it had not been for an opening-round 77 at the Masters in April he could well be going after the Grand Slam this week.

But all of that is ancient history to Watson.

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"Look at those trees," 1981 leading money winner Tom Kite said as he stood on the tee of the second hole — a tough, 459-yard, par-4 affair that requires two distinguished shots through a funnel of trees. "They sure are taller and fuller than I remember."

Most of the likely contenders for the PGA crown were on the grounds Monday, including Stadler, Ray Floyd and Jerry Pate — all among the top five in money winnings.

Jack Nicklaus chose to wait until today to play his first practice round.