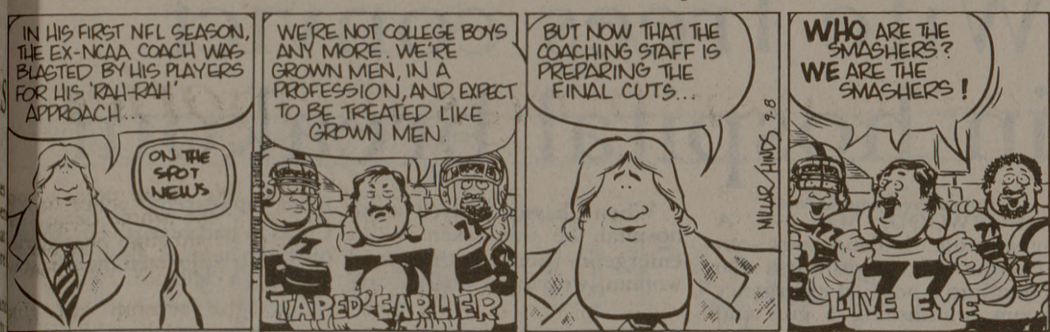


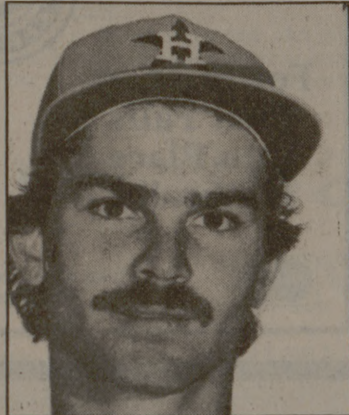
TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Astros' PiDino gains victory in first start

United Press International
HOUSTON — Pitcher Frank PiDino says the Houston Astros started him against the San Diego Padres because they wanted to see what he could do. He showed them he could win.



Dickie Thon leads Houston with two RBI in 4-3 victory

PiDino, recently obtained from Milwaukee in the Don Sutton deal, struck out 10 batters in five innings in his first major league outing to lead the Astros to a 4-3 victory over the Padres Tuesday night.

Pitching coach hired by A&M

Ed Stacey has been named a graduate assistant coach for baseball. Associate Athletic Director Charles J. Thornton said Tuesday. Stacey will join Coach Tom Chandler and assistant coach Mark Johnson on the Aggie baseball staff. Stacey was an undergraduate assistant coach (1979-80), a graduate assistant (1981) and as an assistant coach (1982) at Bowling Green University. Stacey also worked with the summer baseball camps held at Bowling Green in 1981-82.

While at Bowling Green, Stacey earned two varsity letters in baseball and was a batting practice pitcher for the Cleveland Indians during the summers of 1981-82.

"He will add a lot to our program," Chandler said. "He has been a good program and worked under an outstanding coach — Don Purvis."

Stacey will assist in all phases of the game with an emphasis on the pitching staff.

Johnson, hired during July to replace Jim Sampson, coached at Arizona and Mississippi State before accepting the position here. As an assistant at Arizona between 1972 and 1976, he helped the Wildcats compile a 232-71 record. In six seasons at MSU, Johnson and head coach Ron Polk had a 224-104 record, with the Bulldogs competing in the Collegiate Baseball World Series in 1979 and 1981.

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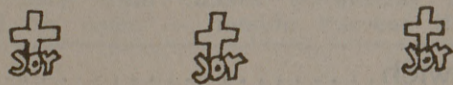
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Giants lying low in fourth

Dodgers back in first

United Press International
While the Los Angeles Dodgers and Atlanta Braves battle for center stage the San Francisco Giants wait in the wings ready to steal the show.

The Dodgers regained first place by a half-game in the National League West Tuesday night by beating the Cincinnati Reds, 8-4, while the Braves were losing, 3-2, to the Giants.

Los Angeles and Atlanta begin a two-game series tonight at Atlanta and while those two clubs continue their fight for first place the Giants hope to sneak into the pennant picture before the week is out.

"I definitely think we can still win this thing," said Giants' pitcher Jim Barr, who held the Braves to six hits over 7 1/2 innings Tuesday night.

The Giants, in fourth place, are 5 1/2 games behind the Dodgers but have won five in a row.

"We may not be in striking distance yet, but we are still there and we are moving up," Giants' Manager Frank Robinson said.

Reggie Smith hit a two-run homer and rookie Chili Davis added a solo shot to help the Giants hand the Braves their fourth straight loss.

Dusty Baker drove in four runs with a double and his 21st homer in helping the Dodgers defeat the Reds.

A five-run third put the Dodgers ahead to stay, 5-3. Ken Landreaux had an RBI single,



Tommy Lasorda's Dodgers move ahead in NL West

Steve Garvey an RBI double and Mike Scioscia a run-scoring single in the inning in addition to Baker's two-run double.

"We're going into Atlanta with the lead and that makes a difference," Dodgers' Manager Tom Lasorda said. "But we still have to win."

Dave Stewart, 8-7, pitched 5 1/2 innings of four-hit relief for the victory.

Elsewhere in the NL, Philadelphia downed Chicago, 7-5, Montreal trimmed St. Louis, 7-4, Pittsburgh beat New York, 9-5, and Houston edged San Diego, 4-3.

In American League games, Milwaukee blanked Detroit, 4-0, Baltimore beat New York, 7-2, Cleveland edged Boston, 5-4, in

10 innings, Minnesota whipped Texas, 8-1, Seattle defeated Kansas City, 5-2, Chicago downed California, 7-4, and Toronto nipped Oakland, 2-1.

PHILLIES 7, CUBS 5 — At Chicago, Garry Maddox delivered a two-run pop fly single with two out in the ninth inning to help the Phillies win for the first time at Wrigley Field this season.

EXPOS 7, CARDINALS 4 — At St. Louis, Bryn Smith scored on a wild pitch to break a 3-3 tie and pitched four innings of three-hit relief to lead the Expos.

PIRATES 9, METS 5 — At Pittsburgh, the Pirates got home runs from Richie Hebner, Jason Thompson and Mike Easler to defeat the Mets.

In the AL, Ted Simmons brought the blueprints Tuesday night and Don Sutton provided the tools to get the job done.

"I just followed Ted Simmons," Sutton said, after pitching a seven-hitter for his first American League victory in the Milwaukee Brewers' 4-0 shutout

of the Detroit Tigers. "I know he knows the hitters. I gave him what he wanted."

Cecil Cooper's three-run homer in the eighth inning was the key blow as the Brewers maintained their three-game lead over the Baltimore Orioles in the American League East.

A run-scoring single by Robin Yount snapped a scoreless duel between Sutton, 1-1, and Dan Petry, 14-8, before Cooper delivered his 28th home run.

Petry had been working on a three-hitter through seven innings before Ed Romero beat out a grounder to deep short and moved to third on Paul Molitor's bloop single to right. Yount singled home the tie-breaking run and Cooper followed with his homer.

TWINS 8, RANGERS 1 — At Arlington, rookies Randy Bush, Kent Hrbek and Tom Brunansky drove in two runs each to back the six-hit pitching of Al Williams and Ron Davis.

MARINERS 5, ROYALS 2 — At Seattle, Bruce Bochte and Richie Zisk belted two-run homers.

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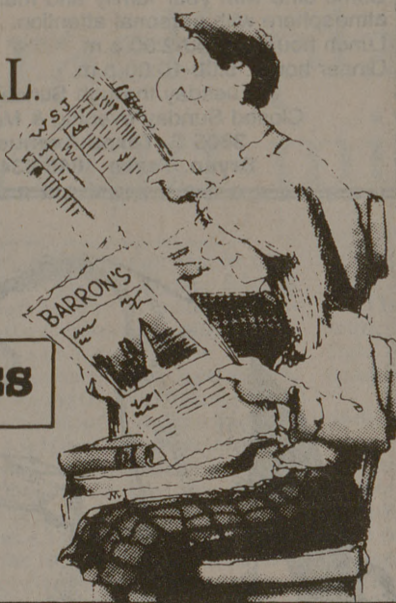
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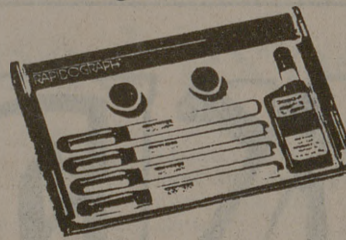
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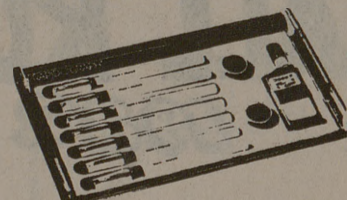
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