

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Giants one game out after late 7-6 victory

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — Joe Morgan has the knack of putting things into perspective and he hits the ball pretty well, too.

Thursday night, Morgan started the San Francisco Giants on still another one of their dramatic comebacks with a two-run single in the seventh, and the Giants, down 5-0 at one point, had a 7-6 victory over the Houston Astros.

Ron Pruitt, an journeyman catcher, wound up the hero. His two-run, pinch-hit single with the bases loaded and two out in the bottom of the ninth kept the Giants in the National League West race, which now is down to its final three games.

"This team has a lot of character," said Morgan, who last week celebrated his 39th birthday. "If you had to say what won this particular game for us it would have to be character. I've never seen a team like this one that simply won't quit. It

seems to thrive on adversity."

There were long faces in Candlestick Park when it seemed Mike LaCoss would shut out the Giants. But the Giants battled back to knock out LaCoss in a three-run seventh and then tied it with two more runs in the ninth.

After Harry Spilman hit a solo homer to put Houston on top again at 6-5 in the top of the ninth, the hosts displayed their last-minute heroics.

The Giants now are tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers, one game back of the Atlanta Braves with three games left to play. The Dodgers snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 10-3 victory over Atlanta. Now, the Dodgers come to town tonight for the start of the final weekend of play against their old foes.

End nowhere in sight

NFL games cancelled

United Press International
NEW YORK — The National Football League officially called off this weekend's scheduled games Thursday, marking the second weekend that has fallen victim to the players' strike.

In addition to the 13 games that were scheduled for Sunday, a league spokesman said that Monday night's nationally televised game at Tampa Bay between the Buccaneers and San Francisco 49ers also was being called off.

The weekend washout came less than an hour before the NFL Players Association and the Management Council were due to resume negotiations at 1 p.m. EDT in Washington.

Even with the knowledge that a second weekend of games would not be played, both parties appeared determined to hold their respective positions when they got together for only the second time since the strike began 10 days ago.

"Because of the players' strike, the 14 National Football League games scheduled for Sunday and Monday Oct. 3-4 will not be played," the league announced Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Management Council continued to call for a federal mediator and refused to send any of the 28 owners or Commissioner Pete Rozelle to the bargaining table. Meanwhile, the union refused to drop its request for a wage scale.

The owners regard the wage scale issue as the major stumbling block in reaching a settlement to the first regular-season strike in the NFL's 63-year history.

"The ownership in this league is opposed to a wage scale and if they don't address that issue Friday, it'll be the shortest meeting in history," said Cleveland owner Art Modell, a member of the Management Council's Executive Committee. "The money is there (and) the guarantees are there. There is \$1.1 million for every player who plays five years. All I know is they rejected it and to me it was beyond my comprehension."

According to a union spokesman, the NFLPA still wants the owners' proposed \$1.6 billion to be distributed by a wage scale.

"We will be particularly interested in any second thoughts they might have about a wage

scale," said Dave Sheridan, an NFLPA public relations assistant. "The numbers within a wage scale are certainly negotiable. We are seeking a basic wage scale and that's not negotiable."

"But there are also other issues to be negotiated. Obviously, the wage scale is the number one item on the agenda. Earlier in the week, we proposed meeting with them in a series of subcommittees to discuss these non-economic issues and they said no. We will certainly be pursuing those on Thursday as well."

The side issues include a grievance procedure, drug rehabilitation program, pensions and insurance. Jack Donlan, the owners' chief negotiator, claims the Management Council has made proposals on each issue.

On Sunday, the NFLPA rebuffed the Council's willingness to guarantee the \$1.6 billion over five years. Modell said Wednesday the next move to resolve the strike is up to Ed Garvey, executive director of the union.

Hart

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How I realize what people are trying to do to me when they are in a certain coverage."

Hart hopes the Red Raiders start winning again Saturday when they face Texas A&M in a game that he can't wait to start.

"It's always exciting to go down and play at Kyle Field in front of all those people, so we're all looking forward to that," he said. "We're expecting a good game since A&M's defense is a lot like Baylor's. They run the same defensive front, so this week has been pretty much the same as last week as far as preparation goes."

The Aggie secondary, which has been criticized as being weak, will not be attacked more

often by Texas Tech than any other secondary in the conference, Hart said.

"The coaches haven't even mentioned anything about that (passing on Aggie secondary)," he said. "I think that we're just going down there with the idea that we need to worry about what we're doing and not what they're doing."

"We're just going to run our offense and not worry about their defense. We know they have big physical guys on their defensive line, so we're just going to have to execute and not make any mistakes."

Hart said if the game is error-free it could either be a defensive struggle or could be filled with offensive fireworks.

"I'm sure it's going to be a

physical game because I know both defenses are hard hitting and aggressive," he said. "But at the same time it might be high-scoring because A&M does so many things on offense and we've been moving the ball pretty well the last two weeks too, so it should definitely be exciting."

"Our players are becoming more comfortable with the offense so we're not making near as many mistakes as we did last year. All I know is that when you play in College Station you never know what's going to happen."

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