TANK McNAMARA by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

# Two in a row?

## *Astros edge Reds on 3-run homer*

United Press International

HOUSTON — To most major league teams, a two-game winning streak is nothing to get excited about. But to the Houston Astros, who started the season with a 10-game losing streak, it's like a dream come true.

The Astros defeated the Cincinnati Reds 6-5 on the strength of pinch-hitter Harry Spilman's dramatic two-out, three-run home run in the ninth inning.

Jose Cruz started the Astros' rally with a lead-off double off reliever Tom Hume, 0-1, and one out later, Terry Puhl walked. Alan Ashby hit into a fielder's choice before Spilman, pinch-hitting for winner Bill Dawley, 2-0, hit a shot over the right center-field fence.

For Hume, it was a bad experience.

"I feel real bad about it all," he said. "I didn't want to walk him (Spilman) and put the tying run on second for Moreno. So I just decided to challenge him and try to keep the ball down for a ground ball. I got the pitch up though and Harry is a good hitter and he hit it well."

The Reds took an early 4-0 lead in the first inning with four runs off Joe Niekro.

Cincinnati's Cesar Cedeno started the rally when he doubled and advanced to third on an error by Niekro, which allowed Eddie Milner to reach base. Cedeno scored on catcher John Mizerock's passed ball and Johnny Bench doubled home Milner before Dan Driessen hit his second homer of the year.

The Astros got a run on Phil Garner's RBI single to left and Dickie Thon, who had four hits, smacked his second homer of the season in the fourth inning to make it 4-2.

Cincinnati made it 5-2 in the sixth on singles by Driessen, Ron Oester and Jeff Jones and Mizerock's third passed ball of the game, but the Astros got a run in the eighth on a double by Omar Moreno and a runscoring single by Thon.

# Three Aggie golfers selected to all-conference golf squad

**Making the team:** Brandel Chamblee, the newly crowned Southwest Conference golf champion, was one of nine unanimous selections to the all-SWC golf team announced Tuesday.

Texas, Houston and Texas A&M each landed three players on the team selected by the conference's golf coaches.

In addition to Chamblee, the other Longhorns selected to the team were Mark Brooks and Paul Thomas. They formed the backbone of the squad that captured the league team title last weekend.

The Cougars, defending NCAA champions, were represented by NCAA individual champ Billy Ray Brown, John Slaughter and SWC tournament runner-up Billy Tuten.

Texas A&M landed Gary Krueger, Danny Briggs and Paul Oglesby on the team. Another unanimous choice was Texas Tech's Adam Kase, who finished tied for third in the conference tournament.

TCU rounded out the 12-man team with Bjorn Svedin and Mike Tschetter.

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**Coming back to school:** Remember a couple of seasons ago when the Olsen Field public address system would ring with the name **"R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-Rodney Hodde?"** Hodde, a former Texas A&M baseball player who set Texas A&M records for career RBIs, season RBIs, career Southwest Conference home runs and season doubles, was in town over the weekend to visit friends and to look for a place to live. After playing for a season with the Texas Rangers' Class A farm club in Burlington, Iowa, Hodde was cut the past June and went to work for the Cactus Wellhead oil products company in Lafayette, La., in July. Hodde, who got married in November, plans to return to school here in the summer. Although he majored in animal science until leaving to play for the Burlington club, Hodde said he plans to go into mechanical engineering starting this summer and hopes to have his degree in about two years. And Hodde says baseball isn't in his future: "The Rangers are going to go with the guys they've put their money into, so I don't think there's a chance I'll be playing any more. Texas might have been the club I could have played with, but that didn't work out."

## Sports File

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**Not so neat:** Former Texas A&M place-kicker Tony Franklin said after Saturday's varsity-alumni game that former Philadelphia Eagles coach Dick Vermiel wasn't as popular a guy as some might have thought. "A lot of guys are glad he's gone," Franklin said. "He had a bad habit of burning people out too quick. We'd start out and win our first eight games and then struggle to win two out of our last eight."


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- **BANQUET —** Sat., Apr. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. CENARE, Cost: $6 mem., $8 guest

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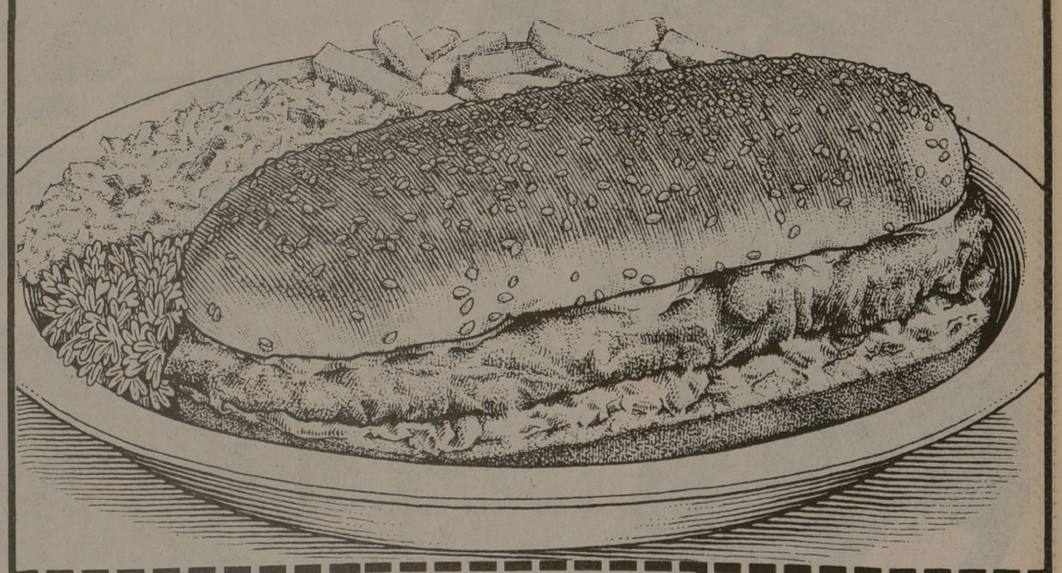

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