

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Cubs defeat Astros 5-4 despite late comeback

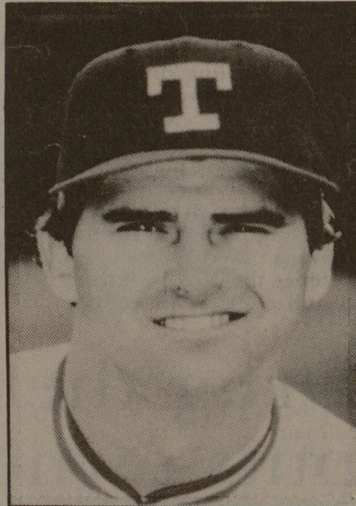
United Press International
HOUSTON — Dick Ruthven, who pitched his first game in a Chicago uniform Tuesday night, gave the Cubs some quick dividends after he was acquired from Philadelphia.
 Ruthven, who joined the Cubs Sunday, scattered six hits in 6 1/3 innings to notch his second victory in five decisions and lead the Cubs to a 5-4 victory over the Houston Astros.
 "I'm real happy with my performance tonight and I hope to pitch in regular rotation here with the Cubs," said Ruthven, who also added an RBI single in the fifth. "I probably didn't throw more than 75 pitches in any game with the Phillies. Pitchers need to work hard and consistently to be stronger and pitch more innings."
 Chicago manager Lee Elia said he was also pleased with Ruthven's performance.
 "Coming to a new team with new faces and fans can make a guy reach back for that little extra," Elia said. "Dick goes hard every time out and we will use him in the regular rotation. Not being used regularly hurt him in Philadelphia this year and we hope that after two or three starts that he will possibly be able to go the distance for us."
 "I thought everyone contributed tonight. (Bill) Campbell came in and got those two big outs at the end. He has been going real well."
 Elia also had praise for third baseman Ron Cey, who hit his fifth home run of the year.
 Cey got the Cubs started by drilling a 1-0 pitch off loser Mike Scott, 0-2, for a homer in the second. In his last six games, he has 11 hits in 24

at-bats, including two doubles, four homers, nine RBI and five runs scored.
 "There are those who say that Ron Cey got off to a slow start but he was hitting the ball hard at the beginning of the season," Elia said. "The bad weather situation that we endured early in the season hurt not only Ron, but our whole team. But Ron has really been going well the past two weeks. We need that big bat of his."
 Houston manager Bob Lillis said the Astros had some bright spots.
 "(Kevin) Bass had two solid hits and has been outstanding off the bench," Lillis said. "We had a chance to come back and win. We've done that so many times this year."
 "But it wasn't meant to be tonight. Ruthven pitched well for the Cubs, but he has always been tough on us for some reason. He's consistent, always around the plate, and you earn any runs you score off him."
 Chicago added three runs in the fifth on a single by Ryne Sandberg, Ruthven's RBI single and a triple by Larry Bowa. With two outs in the sixth, Keith Moreland walked and scored on Davis' hit-and-run single to left field.
 In the seventh, Ray Knight singled to right and scored on Bill Doran's triple. Bass, pinch-hitting for Luis Pujols, singled to score Doran. Lee Smith relieved Ruthven at that point, but surrendered two more Astros runs in the ninth on Bass' two-run double.
 Campbell came on to get the final two outs and register his third save.

Tied at 2-2

Rangers, Royals washed out

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Hal McRae of the Kansas City Royals has numbers that would make any leadoff hitter proud — a .348 average, 27 runs scored and 20 RBI.



Rangers' Larry Parrish hit his ninth home run

There's only one problem — McRae is the cleanup hitter on the Royals.
 "My stats are like a leadoff hitter's," McRae said. "I'd rather get one hit and knock in two runs a night than go 3-for-4 with two runs scored and no RBI's. Everybody's role is different; the Nos. 3, 4 and 5 hitters are supposed to be RBI guys."
 "I'll take more RBI's and less average any day. I'd be happier hitting .290 with 35 RBI, six or seven home runs and a few more extra base hits than with what I've got now. Let someone else score the runs. My job is to knock them in."

McRae has taken extra batting practice every day since Kansas City began a 10-game homestand last Friday night. His fifth-inning triple Tuesday night forced a 2-2 tie with the

Texas Rangers in a game that was eventually washed out in the top of the sixth by rain.
 McRae's RBI and every other statistic in the game will stand,

however, with the make-up date set for Aug. 25 as part of a two-night double-header with the Rangers.

McRae said his fifth-inning triple was an ideal at-bat for him. He lined a Mike Smithson pitch into the right-field corner, chasing George Brett home from first base. McRae had been hit by a pitch in the first inning and struck out in the third.

"Last year (when he led the American League in RBI with 133), I was getting four good at-bats a night," McRae said. "I'm not doing that bad right now; I'm just not doing as well as I'm capable of."

"I've been getting one hit a night for the last two weeks. I'm not complaining about my aver-

age — I'd just rather be more productive with my at bats and get a few more extra base hits. I like the fact I was able to knock in a runner from first base tonight. That's progress."

Texas took a 1-0 lead off Paul Splittorff in the first on a double by Buddy Bell and a single by Dave Hostetler but Kansas City tied it in the fourth on a triple by Otis and a sacrifice fly by Joe Simpson.

Larry Parrish then led off the fifth with a opposite field homer down the right-field line, his fifth solo shot of nine homers this season, but the Royals again tied it in their half of the inning when Brett singled and McRae extended his hitting streak to seven games with a triple.

NLU tops Lamar for NCAA bid

United Press International
MONROE, La. — Northeast Louisiana University has earned the unenviable task of facing powerhouse Texas in the NCAA regional baseball playoffs Thursday night in Austin.
 The Indians' Matt Dornier pitched a two-hitter Tuesday to shut out Lamar 5-0 and give Northeast the Southland Conference baseball title and a berth in the playoffs opposite Texas.
 Northeast, 32-19, won the championship series 3-2 in its first year in the Southland Conference. Lamar, winner of five of the previous seven league titles, closed out its season 38-32.
 Dornier allowed only two singles, one to designated hitter Pete Romano in the third inning and the other to third baseman Chris Zink in the sixth. The sophomore righthander, claiming the first shutout of his college career, walked seven and struck out three.
 Northeast will play 56-13 Texas in the opening round of the six-team central region NCAA tournament. It will be Northeast's first NCAA tournament appearance, although the Indians played in four NAIA playoffs.
 "It will be the No. 1 team playing a nobody," said Northeast coach Lou St. Amant. "But I just as soon play No. 1 as anybody."

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CUSTOMER INFORMATION FROM GENERAL MOTORS

HOW TO SAVE YOUR LIFE AND THE ONE NEXT TO YOU.

OVERCOMING YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL RESISTANCE TO SEAT BELTS MAY BE THE KEY.

The facts are startling. Experts estimate that almost half of all automobile occupant fatalities and many serious injuries might have been avoided if the people had been wearing seat belts. That's because most injuries occur when the car stops abruptly and the occupants are thrown against the car's interior or out of the car. Belts reduce this risk.

Many people say they know the facts, but they still don't wear belts. Their reasons range all over the lot: seat belts are troublesome to put on, they are uncomfortable, or they wrinkle your clothes. Some people even think getting hurt or killed in a car accident is a question of fate; and, therefore, seat belts don't matter.

If you're one of those people who don't use belts for one reason or another, please think carefully about your motivations. Are your objections to seat belts based on the facts or on rationalizations?

Here are a few of the common rationalizations. Many people say they are afraid of being trapped in a car by a seat belt. In fact, in the vast majority of cases, seat belts protect passengers from severe injuries, allowing them to escape more quickly. Another popular rationalization: you'll be saved by being thrown clear of the car. Here again, accident data have proved that to be untrue — you are almost always safer inside the car.

Some people use seat belts for highway driving, but rationalize it's not worth the trouble to buckle up for short trips. The numbers tell a different story: 80% of all automobile accidents causing serious injury or death involve cars traveling under 40 miles per hour. And three quarters of all collisions happen less than 25 miles from the driver's home.

When you're the driver, you have the psychological authority to convince all of the passengers that they should wear seat belts. It has been shown that in a car, the driver is considered to be an authority figure. A simple reminder from you may help save someone's life.

Another common myth: holding a small child in your arms will provide the child with sufficient protection during a crash. The safety experts disagree. They point out that even during a 30 mph collision, a 10-pound child can exert a 300-pound force against the parent's grip. So please make sure Child Restraint Systems are used for children who aren't old enough to use regular seat belts.

If you're an employer, encourage your employees to wear seat belts. At GM, we've made it a matter of policy that everyone riding in company-owned vehicles is expected to wear lap and shoulder belts.

We heartily support the program initiated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to encourage the use of seat belts. So please fasten your own belt, and urge your family and friends to follow your example. Even the best driver in the world can't predict what another driver will do.

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