

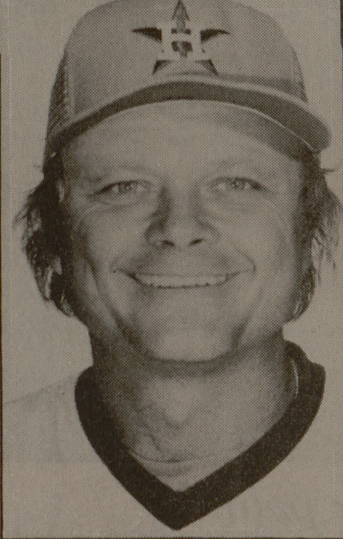
# Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

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## Major leagues

### Niekro, DiPino join forces to give Astros a 2-0 victory over San Diego

United Press International  
While a heat wave has enveloped much of the country, it seems to be zero for the position in the Astrodome. The Houston Astros' pitchers have become as stingy with runs as Bill Virdon is with a smile or a quote.



Joe Niekro

Joe Niekro and Frank DiPino combined on a three-hitter Monday night in pitching the Astros to their fourth shutout in their last six games, a 2-0 triumph over the San Diego Padres.

Blanked on three hits by Ryan on Sunday, the Padres didn't do any better against the knuckleballs of Niekro or the 30-p.m. fastballs of DiPino. The Padres batted a double by Luis Salazar in the second then didn't get another hit until the eighth when Tim Flannery and Rupert Jones singled to chase Niekro.

DiPino relieved and got Kurt Evacua on a line drive to right and retired Juan Bonilla on a grounder to first to end the inning.

The Padres also threatened to get two out in the second when base runner Knight booted Lezcano's grounder and Lezcano followed with a ground-rule double. After Mario Ramirez was walked intentional, San Diego starter Dave Dravecky dribbled a roller in front of the plate to end the inning.

"The Astros' pitching staff as a whole should be commended," said Padres' first baseman Steve Garvey. "Ryan was overpowering yesterday. I believe he was better than I've ever faced him."

Houston took a 1-0 lead against Dravecky, 9-4, in the first on a leadoff triple by Omar Moreno and a single by Dickie Thon. The Astros added a run in the fourth when Jose Cruz walked, stole second and scored on Ray Knight's double to left-center.

**DODGERS 5, REDS 1** — At Cincinnati, Fernando Valenzuela pitched a five-hitter and Steve Yeager and Mike Marshall slammed back-to-back homers to spark the Dodgers to victory. Valenzuela, who struck out six and walked three, improved his record to 8-2.

**PIRATES 4, EXPOS 3** — At Pittsburgh, pinch hitter Richie Hebner doubled home the tying run and scored the game-winner on an error by third baseman Tio Wallach in the seventh inning to give the Pirates their victory. Rick Rhoden, 3-6, picked up the victory and Bill Gullickson, 6-7, suffered the loss.

**CUBS 7, METS 3** — At New York, Jay Johnstone drove in two runs with a pair of doubles, Keith Moreland doubled in two more runs and Bill Buckner had a first-inning homer to spark the Cubs to their 10th victory in their last 12 games.

**PHILLIES 6, CARDINALS 2** — At St. Louis, Von Hayes doubled in two runs and scored on a double by Bob Dernier in the fourth inning to lead the Phillies to victory. Hayes, who had driven in a total of four runs in 33 games this season, followed two-out singles by Tony Perez and Bo Diaz with a double into the right field corner off Dave LaPoint, 4-3, to wipe out a 1-0 St. Louis lead.

## Conference owns 3 national titles SWC athletic year called most successful in league's history

United Press International  
DALLAS — Southwest Conference officials said Monday the 1982-83 school year was the most successful athletically in the 69-year history of the league.

In addition to the University of Texas' national collegiate championship in baseball last weekend and UT's second place finish (and Houston's third place finish) in golf, the league wound up with two other national championships, five runners-up and four third places in the nine SWC men's sports. In all, SWC men's and women's teams won five of 18 national titles, had 17 teams finish in the top four of their sports and 21 among the top ten in those sports.

"NCAA records show no other comparable one-year domination by any conference, based on number of sports sponsored by conferences," a spokesman for the SWC said.

SMU set a record that may be unprecedented among representatives from any conference to NCAA play: Mustang teams won two national titles and had three second-place finishes while competing in only seven SWC men's sports. SMU claimed both men's indoor and outdoor track and

field championships, while Texas capped the year Saturday by completing an undefeated sweep of the College Baseball World Series.

Texas and Houston finished second and third, respectively, in the NCAA golf tournament Saturday, as four SWC players finished among the top 11 individuals. SMU football, swimming, and tennis teams also gained national runner-up honors after being strong contenders for championships. The SMU football team was the only unbeaten Division I-A squad in the country, though a 17-17 tie with Arkansas apparently knocked the Cotton Bowl champs down to second place behind once-beaten Penn State in the UPI poll. Arkansas was eighth in the final UPI vote.

The SMU tennis team, ranked first most of the season, finished second in the NCAA tournament after No. 1 player Rodney Harmon suffered an injury late in the season. The swimming team also finished strongly to beat out SWC champion Texas for second in the NCAA championships.

The first season of women's competition

in softball, although the conference doesn't sponsor competition in the latter. SWC teams came closest to dominating men's outdoor track and field in the NCAA championships held in early June at the University of Houston's Robertson Stadium. SWC teams claimed three of the first nine finishes, five of the top 15 and seven of the top 28 as Arkansas finished seventh, Texas ninth, TCU 13th, Houston 15th, Rice 21st and Texas A&M 28th.

The track strength was obvious in the indoor championships as Arkansas finished third and Houston sixth behind the champion Mustangs.

Individually, SWC athletes have been responsible for seven of the last 14 NCAA indoor and outdoor records.

Nearest miss of a national championship, though, was in basketball, where a shot at the buzzer gave North Carolina State a 52-50 victory over No. 1-ranked Houston in the title game. Houston and Arkansas both won spots in the NCAA tournament and TCU played in the National Invitation Tournament.

## Miller eager for battle in U.S. Open

United Press International  
OAKMONT, Pa. — Johnny Miller says a golfer can either choke on all the history and glamour surrounding a U.S. Open or use them as inspirational springboards to greater achievements.

"The Open makes you do one of two things," Miller said Monday after shooting 10 practice holes for the 83rd U.S. Open, which begins Thursday at Oakmont Country Club.

"Either you've always dreamed of winning an Open and you try harder than ever, or you do like a lot of guys who

don't even show up," Miller said. "They say it's too hard. Or that the course is too tricky up. They cop out." Miller, obviously, falls into the former category.

He said "no" to surgery proposed after a gall bladder attack forced him out of last week's Westchester Classic and checked himself out of a hospital Saturday.

"I told them I had to go to the U.S. Open," Miller said.

Miller loves the Open — almost as much as he loves Oakmont, site of one of his greatest and most meaningful golf triumphs.

Miller scorched the 6,972-yard Oakmont course in a final-round, eight-under par 63 to win the 1973 Open and establish himself as a force on the PGA Tour.

"That win got me out of the ranks of the young lions," Miller said. "The next year, '74, was a huge year for me. It (winning the Open) was like somebody said to me, 'You're better than you think you are.' It was a good kick in the rump."

Miller's 63 still stands as the Open's record-low final round, although U.S. Golf Association and Oakmont officials still believe

it as having stemmed from rain-softened greens. Oakmont members, in particular, were embarrassed to see such a score on a course touted as among the toughest in the nation.

Their contention rankles Miller as much as his score rankles them.

"It's ridiculous to make excuses for a great round," Miller said. "I'm proud of that round. It was a great round. I don't care who shot it."

Miller said his recent health problems have left him unprepared for the Open, but he's optimistic anyway.

## Wright's two-run triple leads Texas past Seattle

United Press International  
ARLINGTON — The convincing and surprising success of the Texas Rangers this season is symbolized in many ways, perhaps the best place to look is with George Wright. A 26-year-old Wright was tabbed as a star of the future and in his rookie year was assigned the leadoff spot in the Texas batting order.

But like the rest of the Rangers, who managed to lose 98 games, Wright struggled. Now, however, Wright is leading the entire team out of a season-long hitting slump and is being counted on for the big hit — just

as he produced Monday night in the Rangers' 5-2 decision over the Seattle Mariners. It was Wright's two-run triple in the sixth inning that overcame a one-run deficit, helping push the Rangers to their fourth straight victory and into second place ahead of Kansas City in the American League West.

For the second time in less than a week the Rangers beat Seattle's rookie sensation Matt Young (now 7-5). Young surrendered eight hits, but with a slightly tighter defense he might have had a better fate Monday night.

Seattle owned a 1-0 advantage going into the Rangers' sixth inning, but Young walked Bill Stein to lead off. Then Buddy Bell lined the ball by the head of shortstop Todd Cruz, who got a glove on it only to see it ricochet into left field.

Wright then came up with runners on first and second and one out and he smashed a 3-1 pitch into the left-center field alley. Wright scored moments later on Pete O'Brien's single. A lead-off double by Billy Sample in the eighth, a walk to O'Brien and singles by Jim Sundberg and Bucky Dent brought in two more Texas runs.

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