

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

Wednesday, July 13, 1983/The Battalion/Page 11

## Staying hot

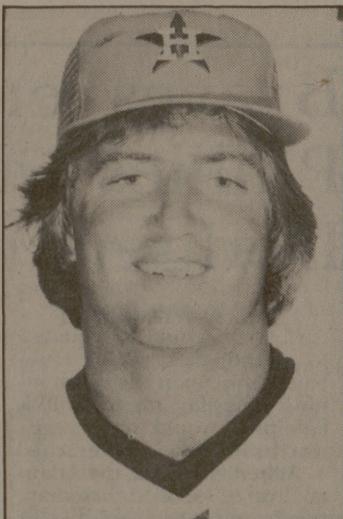
### Astros go two games above .500 with 7-5 victory over Montreal

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Astro Dave Smith, who pitched four shutout innings in relief and struck out the top three Montreal batters in the ninth — said he felt like a powerhouse.

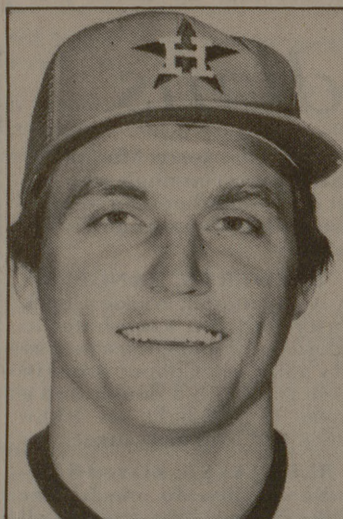
"I'm really starting to feel stronger every outing," said Smith, who chalked up his third save of the year in Houston's 7-5 victory over the Expos Tuesday night. "I could have been a starting pitcher again tonight, I felt so strong. Striking out (Andre) Dawson, (Al) Oliver and (Gary) Carter in a row in the ninth was one of my all time thrills, not many pitchers can claim that, for sure."

Astros manager Bob Lillis backed up Smith's assessment. "Our combination of improved relief pitching and improved all around hitting makes my job a lot easier," Lillis said. "You really have to give the guys credit. I was glad to see Smitty (Smith) get in a good long outing."

Meanwhile, right fielder Terry Puhl moved closer to becoming the fourth Astros starter batting .300 or better. Puhl had two hits — including a lead-off double in the



Astros' Dave Smith says he's 'feeling stronger'



Terry Puhl trying to join list of .300-hitting Astros

four-run fifth inning that won the game for the Astros.

For a hitter who spent the better part of the early season hitting in the .220 to .240 range, Puhl has now lifted his average to .294.

Thanks partly to Puhl, the Astros have won six of their last seven games and im-

proved their record to 43-41, only eight games behind first place Atlanta.

Montreal catcher Gary Carter had kind words for his competitors.

"You have to give the Astros credit," he said. "Their lineup of Thon, Cruz, Knight, Garner and Puhl is really on a streak."

## Brewers' rookie Porter gets enough runs to beat Texas

United Press International  
ARLINGTON — Milwaukee rookie righthander Chuck Porter, who recorded his first major league victory in a defeat of the Texas Rangers, said he wanted to share his bottle of champagne with his teammates.

That news came as a surprise to some people since the 27-year-old had been all but deserted by his team's offense in his five previous starts.

"We finally got some runs for him," said Milwaukee manager Harvey Kuenn after the Brewers and Porter defeated the Rangers 9-2 Tuesday.

"He's kept us in every game he's pitched," Kuenn said. "And it's tough to go nine innings in the heat here, but Chuck was throwing well, even into the ninth inning."

Porter, 1-4, said he was very pleased with his control as he held the Rangers in check until the Brewers began unleashing an 18-hit barrage against three Texas pitchers.

"I was more consistent in getting the ball where I wanted it," he said. "In my last start, against Cleveland, my location was off. "It was frustrating that I had

to wait this long to get my first major league win, but it never bothered me when I went out to the mound and started the game," he said.

"I wasn't feeling any pressure and I never thought I was a jinxed pitcher. Remember, I've pitched against some guys who've thrown some very good games against us."

Rangers second baseman Wayne Tolleson agreed that the rookie had excellent location.

"He didn't give us too many good pitches to hit so you have to give him some credit," said Tol-

leson. "And he had a lot of offensive backing."

Cecil Cooper's three RBI led the "name" players for the Brewers, but it was little-used utility infielder-outfielder Ed Romero who led Milwaukee's reserves in the lineup with four hits, two RBI and two runs scored.

"When I get to the park and find out my name is on the lineup card, I just get ready to play the best way I know," said Romero, who appeared in only his 13th game of the year. "I didn't want to put any pressure on myself."

## Starts Thursday

# British Open course tough

United Press International  
BIRKDALE, England — All a golfer has to do to win the 112th British Open Golf Championship, which starts Thursday, is to hit the ball straight and putt well.

To put it another way, straying off the rough-lined fairways spells disaster at the par-71 6,968-yard Royal Birkdale links course, which has undergone a few changes since Johnny Miller won the last Open here seven years ago.

After his only pre-tournament practice round, Lee Trevino, the 1971 champion, suggested the alterations made little difference. That might have been because he came straight from a 3-shot victory at the Canadian Open in fine form, untroubled by his perennial back problem, and played an encouraging round.

When Trevino, 43, is his old self on the course, the jokes,

perhaps a little old themselves, come rolling out.

He left the course intending to rest Wednesday — "I might go to the beach and get a tan" before launching his challenge at the \$465,000 tournament Thursday.

Trevino will be faced by the 45-yard first, a par 4 that provides a tough start, and probably

**All a golfer has to do to win the 112th British Open Golf Championship is to hit the ball straight and putt well.**

will set the tone of the round for many players.

The second, a 423-yard par 4, offers the first opportunity for a birdie, but there is willow scrub behind the green waiting for the overhit approach.

The third and fourth probably will play to their respective 4 and 3-stroke pars, while the fifth, 343 yards, has a righthand elbow, but offers a birdie chance after a well-placed iron off the tee.

By the time a golfer reaches the sixth tee, he should know how well he is playing on the day. Once he has hit his drive at the sixth, he will know how accurately he is playing.

There is a dogleg to the right, and now a small gap for the ambitious, accurate driver to aim at. Most will opt for safety off the tee, Jack Nicklaus among them.

Seven years ago, the Golden Bear's last-round challenge ended in a six at the hole, which is widely regarded as the most difficult on the course.

Correct judgment of the wind offers a birdie chance from an elevated tee at the par-3 150-yard seventh, while the eighth

offers a chance for long driving to claim a par 4.

The 410-yard ninth should be played down the right, with an accurate approach. Any error would leave par 4 to complete an outward par 34 very difficult to retrieve.

The 12th can be a fine friend or a fierce foe.

The next hole starts the long slog home, although the three par fives — the 13th, 15th and 17th — offer birdie chances. There are dunes, bunkers and ditches to be overcome.

With the clubhouse in sight, any player needing to match par 4 on the 473-yard 18th has plenty to think about. The tee has been moved to the right, creating a right-hand elbow in the fairway. A player must decide whether to go for position and a longer approach, or carry a bunker on the right, flirting with an area out of bounds, to shorten the shot to the green.

## Oilers sign draftees Brown, Joiner; training camp opens

United Press International  
HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers Tuesday signed cornerback Steve Brown and linebacker Joiner to contracts and the two will join the Oilers' for the opening of training camp Wednesday. Terms of the con-

tracts were not released.

Joiner, the first selection of the third round of the NFL draft, led Louisiana State University in tackles last season with 65.

Brown, the third player selected in the third round, had

70 tackles his senior season at the University of Oregon and led the Pac 10 in punt returns in 1982 with a 10.3 average on 18 returns. Brown also averaged 23.9 yards per return in his four years in college.

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