

# The Battalion Sports

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## Major leagues

### Doran's homer pushes Astros to victory in 12 innings

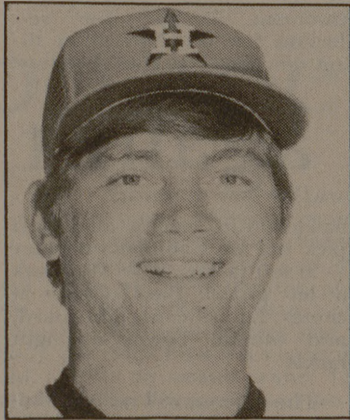
AN DIEGO — Sometimes a baseball appears to be the size of BB to a hitter. Tuesday night, Houston's Bill Doran saw one the size of a beachball.

In the 12th inning, Doran — the No. 8 hitter in the lineup — brought a .244 average into the game — worked the count to 3-0. He was then given the signal to swing away, surprising at least two people — Doran and San Diego pitcher Sid Monge.

"When I looked for the sign and saw the green light, I blinked," Doran said. "I couldn't believe it."

Neither could Monge. Wanting desperately not to walk Doran, he offered a fastball that was badly misnamed. Doran deposited it into the seats, lifting the Astros to a 4-2 triumph over the Padres.

"Hitting eighth in front of the pitcher like I do, I never see the green light on 3-0," Doran said. "It was a good coaching move by them. They took a chance giving



Hurler Vern Ruhle picked up third victory Tuesday.

me the green light and it paid off.

"I really don't think Monge thought I'd swing. He's been getting me out pretty consistently. Three-and-0 was probably the only chance I had of getting

a hit off him."

It was the fifth homer of the year for the Astros' second baseman, who was 0-for-3 batting from the left side before blasting his homer batting right-handed against the southpaw reliever. Vern Ruhle pitched the final three innings and evened his record at 3-3.

Ray Knight opened the Houston 12th with a single behind second base. Denny Walling ran for Knight and was sacrificed to second by Alan Ashby and Doran followed with his homer.

"It worked out well," Houston Manager Bob Lillis said. "Billy's been hitting the ball much better than his average showed. He had a tough April, but since then he's done well to bring his average up to where it is now. He's got a little sock."

Trailing 2-0, the Padres tied it in the ninth. Kurt Bevacqua hit off Puhl, but Phil Garner's single sent Thon to third and he scored when Cruz bounced out to second.

Madden, who carried a two-hitter into the ninth.

After Ruppert Jones forced Bevacqua at second, Terry Kennedy singled. Pitcher Luis DeLeon ran for Kennedy and Jones moved to third on a fly out. Tony Gwynn then singled to score Jones and DeLeon moved to third. Reliever Frank DiPino entered, and his first pitch to pinch-hitter Bruce Bochy was wild and DeLeon trotted in with the tying run.

Houston scored in the first off starter Ed Whitson when Omar Moreno led off with a single, stole second, moved to third on Terry Puhl's ground-out and scored on Thon's sacrifice fly.

In the fourth, Puhl singled to left and stole second. Thon grounded to shortstop Mario Ramirez, who threw to third to get Puhl, but Phil Garner's single sent Thon to third and he scored when Cruz bounced out to second.

## Cleveland wins fourth in a row

United Press International Now that the Indians have a new chief, they seem intent on p in the making.

Since Pat Corrales took over as manager of the Cleveland Indians last Sunday the team has won four games in a row and, moreover, they're playing an old brand of baseball that hasn't been seen in Municipal stadium in quite a while.

The Indians accomplished Tuesday night what a week ago their fans might have deemed impossible. They swept a double-header from the high-flying Baltimore Orioles, 3-1 and 4-3. In the opener, Bert Blyleven, who made his first start in 19 days, scattered four hits over six innings to spark the Indians' triumph and in the nightcap Andre Thornton singled in two runs to trigger the sweep.

Relief pitcher Bud Anderson was instrumental in both victories by recording a save in each game.

Catcher Ron Hassey attributes the club's improved play to Corrales' wider range of ideas.

"We got a little lift right now. We're doing a lot more. We're using the hit-and-run, bunting and it becomes contagious," said Hassey.

Corrales said: "We got exactly what we wanted out of Blyleven and I'm impressed with Bud Anderson's arm."

**RED SOX 6, RANGERS 5** — At Arlington, Texas, Glenn Hoffman belted his second homer in four days and Jim Rice and Gary Allenson each drove in a pair of runs as the Red Sox handed the fading Rangers their seventh straight loss.

**BLUE JAYS 10-13, YANKEES 9-6** — At Toronto, Dave Collins' one-out single in the 10th inning scored Garth Iorg from second base and gave the Blue Jays a victory. In the nightcap, Rance Mulliniks smacked a double and a single to drive in four runs and Damaso Garcia went 3-for-3 with three RBI to help Toronto complete the

sweep before a record crowd of 45,102 at Exhibition Stadium.

The double-header featured 11 homers, including eight by the Yankees. Roy Smalley homered twice in the opener for New York while Oscar Gamble, Graig Nettles and Don Mattingly also connected for the Yankees.

**BREWERS 5-3, ROYALS 1-2** — At Milwaukee, Ben Oglive drove in four runs with a sacrifice fly and a homer and Bob Gibson and Jim Slaton combined on a three-hitter in leading the Brewers to victory in the opener.

**WHITE SOX 7, TIGERS 5** — At Chicago, Greg Luzinski drove in three runs and Greg Walker added two RBI, including a solo homer, to lead the White Sox to victory.

**ANGELS 2, TWINS 1** — At Minneapolis, Ron Jackson hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning off Bobby Castillo, 7-9, to lift the Angels to victory.

**MARINERS 15, A'S 12** — At Seattle, Dave Henderson belted two of Seattle's six home runs and drove in five runs, offsetting a two-homer and five-RBI performance by Oakland's Carney Lansford to pace the Mariners.

In National League games, New York topped Montreal 5-2, Pittsburgh whipped Philadelphia 10-3, Chicago defeated St. Louis 5-3, San Francisco toppled Atlanta 7-3 and Los Angeles edged Cincinnati 3-1.

## Wacker's big challenge is tops on daredevil list

It's amazing what some people will do for the challenge. There was a time when it was popular to jump ten 18-wheelers on a motorcycle, for example.

Those who have watched the television series *That's Incredible* are well aware of the insane tests to which people put themselves.

Big deal. You want to hear about a real challenge? Here's what you do. Leave your defending national championship college football team — one that's returning 13 starters this fall, and take the head coaching job at a school that's had to start keeping records of touchdowns instead of victories.

Now turn them into a winning team before the boosters lose patience and dump you for someone else.

Jim Wacker's going to try. He's already handed over his defending NCAA Division II championship team to someone else — forfeited Southwest Texas State for TCU. Yes, the "there's always Rice" Horned Frogs.

But Wacker's not scared. He's seen the pre-season picks, and he knows he probably won't see amazing results immediately.

"They (Southwest Texas) were a pretty good football team for the level we were playing, obviously, and I'm not going to be in that same position right now," Wacker said before the SWC Coaches Kickoff Luncheon Monday.

"Everybody's picking us down there about eighth in the league, and that's a good place to be now. I just hope we're not down there at the end of the season."

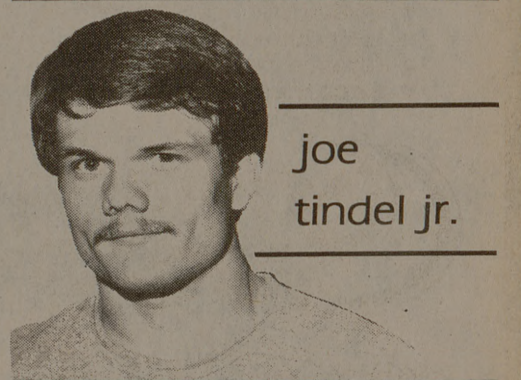
And if Wacker were worried about pressure, he probably wouldn't have taken the job in the first place. If he were shaky at all about a program that past coaches have failed to develop, he wouldn't be so simplistic in his philosophy.

"Go out, line up and play 'em as hard as you can," he says.

No way-out goals. No panaceas for a team with no depth, no experience and no recent history of winning. If there's pressure, Wacker's not feeling much of it.

"Coaching's a pressure job wherever you are," Wacker says. "I don't care if it's high school, college, junior college or where it is. You've got to win, you've got to produce, you've got to compete. That's the bottom line."

But maybe pressure doesn't fit into the TCU situation. In the first place, up is almost the



Joe Tindel Jr.

only direction Wacker can take the Frogs.

"Frankly, I don't get real excited about the pressure," he says. "At this point, I don't feel any more pressure — maybe less pressure — than if I'd had another team coming back at Southwest Texas. The fans are spoiled. Man, that even makes it tougher."

"At TCU, they've won 11 games in the last six years. That's a lot easier thing to build on, quite frankly, and I'm excited about that challenge."

Those words make it sound like more fun than it's liable to be if TCU's problems continue. But one of Wacker's plans for his new team involves shifting the offense to a run-oriented attack similar to the one he taught at SWT.

"There's no question. We want to establish the run first and the pass second," he says. "We plan to run the veer and we plan to make it a true triple option attack. The quarterbacks are going to have to do a lot of reading. I'm going to put a lot of the burden on their shoulders."

"That's what I've coached for 13 years. I don't know anything else."

Whether Wacker's scheme will work is anybody's guess. But a lot of the talk about Wacker concerns his ability to motivate. TCU's football program needs that, and motivational ability may be the edge he has over past Horned Frog mentors.

The mere fact that Wacker has dived into the middle of all this with enthusiasm says something for him. Maybe he'll be the one to revive the Frogs.

Wacker's challenge? *That's Incredible.*

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