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Reds sign ex-Pirate Parker

United Press International
NASHVILLE — Dave Parker, a two-time National League batting champion who played out his option with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Wednesday returned home and signed a two-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds.

Parker, 32, who was selected by only three clubs in last month's re-entry draft, agreed to terms with the Reds after three weeks of negotiations.

A native of Cincinnati, Parker will receive \$700,000 a year plus incentive bonuses that could increase his pay to more than \$800,000 per season.

The hard-hitting right fielder admitted he received a one-year offer from the Pirates but he didn't feel the money was satisfactory.

"I made a lot of friends in Pittsburgh and it was a great feeling playing for a manager like Chuck Tanner, but there comes

a time in a player's career when he should move on," said Parker at a news conference. "Apparently from the contract the Pirates offered me, they felt it was time for me to move on, too."

Pirates' general manager Harding Peterson admitted the club refused to budge from its original offer which was made after the season ended.

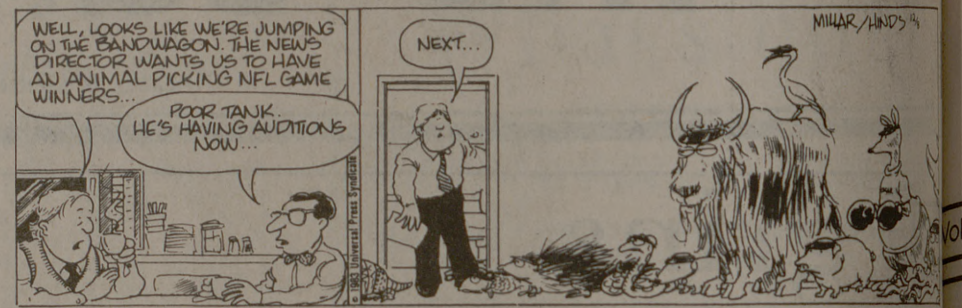
"I've learned to try to stay on an even keel," said Peterson. "If we don't have Dave Parker, we'll have someone else. We made him an offer the week after the season was over for one year. The one year was okay but the money was not. So we let it go."

Plagued by injuries the past two seasons, Parker finally showed flashes of his old form during the second half of the 1983 season and hit .302 with 48 RBI after the All-Star Game. He finished the campaign with a .279 average, 12 homers and 69 RBI.

"I think I'm still a quality player and I think I'll prove that in the coming year," Parker said. "I'm in good shape and I'm healthy at this time of year for the first time in quite a while. I think I'm still capable of hitting .300 with 20 to 25 home runs."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Dallas loses second straight

Ruland leads Washington past struggling Maverick

United Press International
DALLAS — Jeff Ruland scored the winning points with 24 seconds remaining Wednesday night and Rick Mahorn blocked a shot by Mark Aguirre with 10 seconds to go, bringing the Washington Bullets their third straight victory, a 114-112 decision over the Dallas Mavericks.

It was the second consecutive

loss for the Mavericks after having had their eight-game winning streak stopped in Kansas City Tuesday night. The setback to the Bullets was also Dallas' first loss of the year at home following 11 victories.

Dallas owned a five point lead with three minutes to play and had two chances to go up by seven, but after Pat Cummings had given Dallas a 110-105 advantage at the three minute mark the Mavericks could score only two more points.

Ruland, who used his 6-11 bulk to dominate the inside and score 35 points, cut the deficit to three with a short jump shot and Ricky Sobers made it a one-point game with a long jump shot with 1:17 to play.

Jay Vincent then boosted Dallas in front by three, but a running jump shot by Jeff Malone

brought Washington back within a point and Ruland the Bullets in front with a layup at the 24-second mark.

After Mahorn blocked Aguirre's shot, Sobers was fouled made one of two free throws with two seconds left.

Then, on Dallas' final bound play, Rolando Blackman worked free for a three-point shot beyond the point line. But the championship-winning basket bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

Sobers scored 27 points, Washington and Greg Kite had 20 as the Bullets outplayed the Mavericks within two games of 300.

Aguirre paced the Mavericks with 30 while Vincent and Cummings each had 18.

Baylor defeats UTA

United Press International
WACO — James Stern, Wayne Brown and Mike Langford sparked a second half comeback and Baylor stuck out a countercharge to defeat the Longhorn University of Texas at Arlington 67-65 Wednesday night.

Heller connected on a crucial free throw in the three minutes while Baylor two with 26 seconds left the game's leading scorer, 21 points, put the Bears good, 58-56 with a steal at 5:41.

Brown's two free throws Baylor a 66-63 lead. UTA foot jumper.

Heller hit his last free with 12 seconds showing a final margin and an error back across the time UTA's next possession.

Johnson and Andre UTA with 18 points each.

Anderson leads Tech to victory

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Quarterback Anderson scored 21 of the high 23 points in the second half including seven consecutive points came on a pair of dunks, a short bank shot and a 17-point deficit at 5:51 with 6:01 remaining rode a pair of long passes Bubba Jennings to an 8-0 start the game. After lead as many as 11 on three lead. Joining Anderson's figures for the Raiders were Jennings and David Reynolds 14 points apiece, and Taylor with 12. Steve Cuffe fueled New Mexico's second half surge, paced the Mexicans with 18 points. McElmell added 15. Tech 4-1 on the season while Mexico State dropped to

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