

Angola changes its mind about Olympics
See page 12

Astros blast Braves 10-5; NBA changes draft; Niekro records 7th win Clippers move OK'd

United Press International

ATLANTA — Jerry Mumphy added a two-run homer and Denny Walling added a three-run shot Tuesday night to power the Houston Astros to a 10-5 victory over the slumping Atlanta Braves.

Joe Niekro (7-7) went 6 2/3 innings before getting relief help from Dave Smith and Frank DiPino.

The Astros, leading 4-3, broke the game open with five runs in the eighth.

Singles by Terry Puhl and Mark Bailey and a walk to Bill Doran loaded the bases. Craig Reynolds lined a two-out single to drive in two runs. Then Walling greeted reliever Gene Garber by hitting his first pitch over the right field fence for his first homer this season.

The Braves, who have lost six of their last seven games, took a 1-0 lead in the third on consecutive sin-

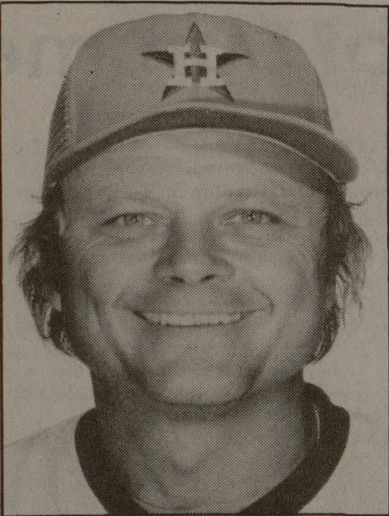
gles by Brad Komminsk, Bruce Benedict and Atlanta starting pitcher Rick Camp.

The Astros went ahead 2-1 on Camp's first two pitches in the sixth inning. Jose Cruz led off with a single and Mumphy hit a 3-1 pitch over the center field fence for his fourth homer.

Houston made it 4-1 in the seventh on a two-run triple by Cruz.

The Braves cut the lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the inning with one run scoring on Ken Oberkfell's double-play grounder and the other on a wild pitch by Niekro.

The Braves added another run in the eighth on an RBI single by Chris Chambliss, but the Astros got the run back in the ninth on a run-scoring single by Puhl.



Joe Niekro

United Press International

SALT LAKE CITY — The NBA Board of Governors Tuesday voted to change its college draft to a lottery system and agreed to let the Clippers play in Los Angeles pending the outcome of a lawsuit over their move from San Diego.

The board also voted to stiffen rules for open court, intentional fouls and to change its championship series playoff format.

The Clippers will be playing in Los Angeles pending outcome of the league's lawsuit charging the franchise moved without legal authority.

"The board has ratified the litigation that presently has been commenced," said NBA Commissioner David Stern. "We'll let the judge decide who's right."

Stern also said the owners ap-

proved putting in the constitution specific criteria that must be followed before a franchise can move and reduced to half from two-thirds the number of board members who must vote to approve a move. The latter amendment had been proposed before the Clippers' move, Stern said.

Under the new draft system, the seven teams that fail to make the playoffs will enter a lottery to determine what order they will draft college players and will reduce the number of rounds from 10 to seven.

The rest of the teams will pick on the basis of their records, with the club with the worst record selecting first in that group.

"We think that will be exciting for all those teams who will have a shot at the No. 1 pick in the draft," Stern

said. "And we think it will put to rest once and for all the issue of, 'You can win by losing.'"

In regards to shortening the draft to seven rounds, Stern said, "The consensus was all the business that could be conducted in drafting could be done in seven rounds."

The Board of Governors, composed of NBA team owners, also adopted a new rule for so-called breakaway fouls in the open court.

The fouled player will receive two free throws and his team will receive the ball.

The league also adopted a new format for its world championship series. Instead of playing the alternating homecourts by a 2-2-1-1-1 system, it now will be 2-3-2.

Dawson still playing for Expos despite bad knees

United Press International

Andre Dawson is a relatively young man. He just turned 30 only a couple of weeks ago and ordinarily, he should have most of his life still ahead of him.

No one but him has any idea, though, how much he dies inside every time he comes to bat for the Montreal Expos.

Those scoreboards are killing him. "You've got them in your face every time you come up," he says. "They show your average and you can't miss seeing it. I used to pick up the papers and sympathize with guys hitting .100 or .200. Now I'm right in there with them. It makes me aware I'm human."

Dawson's .203 average before Tuesday night's contest with the Cardinals in St. Louis put him at the lowest point he has been this season. His high-water mark was .276 on May 5. Since then, he has been crawling along at a dismal .163 pace.

Here's a man who's quite possibly the best all-around player in baseball. He finished

runnerup in the National League MVP balloting last year, collected the most All-Star votes among all outfielders and was named the No. 1 player in baseball by his fellow players. He hit .300 or better three of the last four years, missing by only a single point last season, but he isn't the same player this year.

There's an obvious reason. Two of them, in fact. It's his knees.

The right-handed hitting Dawson is like Mickey Mantle in that he doesn't talk about them much, figuring all the talk in the world isn't going to help him a bit. But everyone in baseball knows about his knees and anyone with the Expos can tell you about the danger of the left one collapsing on him at any given time.

"Andre has had three knee operations, two on his left one and another on his right," says Richie Griffin, the Expos' bright PR man. "He has a partially detached bone spur on his left knee, so when he's at the plate and strides to hit, all the impact is on that front knee."

"The doctors have told him the spur can

become completely detached from his knee during any time he's playing. (Expos' President) John McHale has given him the option of having the knee operated now or after the season. Andre said he'd rather wait until the season is over. If the spur should become detached, his knee will lock and he will fall over. That will tell the doctors they can't wait any longer, they have to operate immediately."

Sometimes, the knees give him so much trouble, he has a problem walking up on to the team bus, but he keeps playing because he's so anxious to help the Expos. They haven't been any world beaters this year.

Dawson's wife, Vanessa, and his mother, Mattie, would like to see him have his left knee taken care of now without waiting for the season to end.

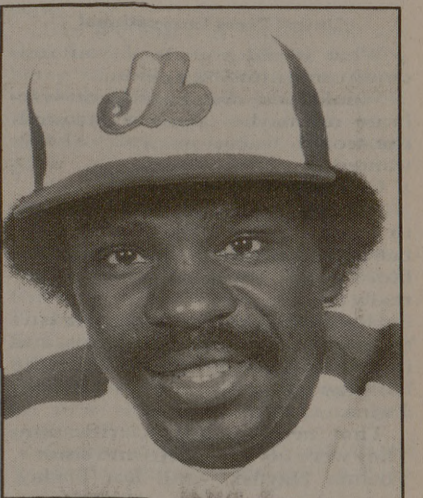
"They think more in terms of my health," says Dawson, who is pretty much reconciled to the possibility neither of his knees will ever be perfect again. He does everything he can not to think too much about them even though that's practically impossible.

"I go out there and try to do the best I can," he says. "What can I say? I don't feel like myself. I feel like I'm in somebody else's body. I try to look past what's happening, but it's in my mind. When I try to make quick movements, the knee buckles and gives. But it was worse earlier in the season when the weather was cold and damp in Montreal."


The Expos not only miss Dawson's bat, they also miss some of his defensive wizardry in the outfield. He's still good out there, but not anything like he was before. Last season, he was a Gold Glove winner for the fourth time when he led the league in putouts and total chances for the third straight year.

With his knees being what they are, Dawson was switched from center field to right at the start of the season. Tim Lincecum took over his old spot in center.



"I call him 'Limp,'" Raines laughs. "He gets back at me good, though. He says to me, 'now that you're playing center, you'd better look out because maybe your knees will wind up like mine some day.'"





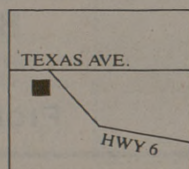
Andre Dawson

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