

SPORTS

Oilers' 'backs' not against wall

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston Oilers Coach Hugh Campbell had already said it in his own calm, matter-of-fact way.

"Larry Moriarty is very important to our football team," Campbell deadpanned.

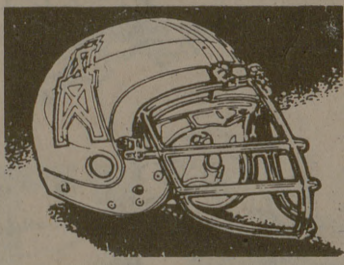
But Oiler running back coach Al Roberts, observing Campbell's pre-training camp news conference from the back of the room, thought more emphasis was needed.

"Hugh doesn't say things quite as excitedly as I do," Roberts said.

Flailing his hands above his head, Roberts said, "I'd have done a John Madden and said, 'WE NEED LARRY MORIARTY!'"

With Mike Rozier safely signed away from the United States Football League and ready for his second pro season of the year, Oiler coaches have turned their concerns to the unsigned Moriarty.

The Oilers finished 3-13 last season, the first for Campbell and Roberts as Oiler coaches.



Campbell hopes the addition of Rozier, who signed a four-year, \$2.25 million contract on June 24, and the return of Moriarty will boost the Oiler running game, ranked 23rd last season among the 28 National Football League teams.

Moriarty will become a holdout if he doesn't report to the team's training camp at Angelo State

University by Sunday.

Moriarty, the Oilers leading rusher last season with 785 yards in nine games, is represented by Howard Slusher.

Despite Rozier's credentials, Roberts isn't even pretending the Oilers could get along without Moriarty.

"The thing that pulls the trigger, that gets the gun off is that power speed back and that's Larry Moriarty and I want to say that 1,000 times," Roberts said.

"Larry gets us started. He's 240 pounds, he runs a 4.6 40, he bench presses 500 pounds and he's the powder."

Roberts thinks it will be important for all the working parts of the Oiler running game to get acquainted early.

"The first 10 days of camp, it's very important for Mike Rozier to meet Larry Moriarty, for Larry Moriarty to talk to Butch Woolfolk and Willie Joyner, Stan Edwards, Arthur Whittington," Roberts said.

Roberts and Campbell also want Moriarty on hand to take

some of the pressure off Rozier, who will be trying for a rare double 1,000-yard performance in the same year.

"It's going to be tough on him physically, but more tough on him mentally," Roberts said of Rozier.

"He may not burn out physically, I don't expect him to, but mentally he'll get tired of going to camp, tired of the weekend trips, the travel.

"The only thing that will keep him from breaking down is if he keeps his goal in mind.

"He'll have to keep that in mind. The goal pushes out the burnout."

The Oilers obtained Woolfolk from the New York Giants in the off-season and Roberts expected the former Michigan All-American to be a key to the Oiler backfield.

"Larry makes us physical, Woolfolk makes us fast and Rozier is the savvy football player. He'll catch a little, block a little, he'll fight a little. He's everything."

Pitching power lets NL rain on AL hit parade

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — So much for American League power, even in the Homerdome. The National League still reigns.

Castoff American Leaguer LaMarr Hoyt of San Diego kicked off a pitching display that held the AL to just five singles Tuesday night as the Nationals bounced to a 6-1 victory in baseball's 56th All-Star game.

It was the Nationals' 13th victory in 14 games and extended their series mastery to 36-19, with one tie.

This time, it was the NL No-Stars — men like last-minute roster replacement Terry Kennedy, first-time All-Star Ozzie Virgil, maligned Darryl Strawberry and fleet Willie McGee — who took the spotlight along with the league's pitchers.

And when it was over, there had not been a single home run in a park reputed to be a home-run hitter's paradise. The only extra-base hits were four NL doubles, and three of them were on high bounces off the artificial turf.

Hoyt and Houston's Nolan Ryan pitched three innings apiece, each giving up two hits, while Fernando Valenzuela of Los Angeles, Jeff Reardon of Montreal and Rich Gossage of San Diego finished with one inning each, the only other hit coming off Reardon in the eighth.

"I was surprised there were no home runs, yes," said National League Manager Dick Williams of the Padres, who won his first All-Star Game after three tries with Oakland in the American League.

"Everybody in the American League lineup is a home run hitter," he said.

With the loss, American League Manager Sparky Anderson failed to become the first skipper to win in each league. Anderson won three times with Cincinnati in the '70s.

"Our pitchers were pumped up to the max about pitching in this game," said Hoyt, who got the victory and was voted the game's Most Valuable Player.

"After I got out of there, and they hadn't hit any home runs off me, I wasn't surprised they didn't hit any," Hoyt said. "I didn't think they'd get any off the rest of those guys we had pitching."

The play of Strawberry, whose selection was criticized because of a .229 batting average and seven weeks on the sidelines with a thumb injury, was an example of the way the Nationals won this game — with speed, determination and a few people who didn't really seem to belong here.

"I have a serious injury and that held me back this year," Strawberry said. "The fact that the fans voted me on anyway made me feel like playing 110 percent tonight."

Jack Morris, the American League's starting pitcher from Detroit, lasted just 2-3 innings, giving up two runs before he left in a jam.

While Hoyt, Ryan and crew held the American League's powerful lineup at bay, Virgil and McGee each drove in two runs.

Before the game, George Brett of Kansas City had said this was the best assemblage of AL All-Stars ever put together.

But San Diego's Hoyt, selected the game's Most Valuable Player after his three innings' work, held the Americans to just two singles, by Rickey Henderson of the New York Yankees and Harold Baines of the Chicago White Sox.

No swinging for U.S. stars at St. Andrews

Associated Press

SANDWICH, England — The massive withdrawal of American stars from the British Open field continued Tuesday as Johnny Miller and Fred Couples among the latest to pull out of the 114th renewal of golf's oldest championship.

Neither Miller, a former British and U.S. Open titleholder, nor Couples, a former winner of the Tournament Players' Championship, gave a reason for their actions in telegrams to the sponsoring Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

Earlier, Curtis Strange, Ray Floyd, Hale Irwin, Calvin Peete and U.S. Open winner Andy North all withdrew — for one reason or another — from the tournament that begins Thursday at the Royal St.

George's Golf club on the coast of Kent.

Among other major absentees are former U.S. Open champions Hubert Green and Jerry Pate, both of whom withdrew, and Wayne Levi, who scored his eighth career victory earlier this season. Levi did not enter.

And Arnold Palmer 55, who scored consecutive British Open victories in 1961-62, declined a special invitation to compete.

North had made a number of commitments for this week prior to winning his second U.S. Open title last month. Floyd declined to qualify. Irwin simply decided not to compete. And Peete said he did not want to subject an ailing back to the long flight.

The absence of Strange, the leading player on the American tour this

season, served as the principal subject of pre-tournament conversation.

Strange, the only three-time winner in the United States this year, already has won more than \$520,000 and is within sight of the all-time single season money-winning record of \$530,808, set by Tom Watson.

"He should be here," said Sevy Ballesteros of Spain, the defending title holder and pre-tournament favorite.

Watson, whose career has centered round his five British Open triumphs, agreed.

"Curtis should be here," Watson said. "The way hes playing he'd have a good chance to win."

Bill Rodgers, who won this tourney in 1981 said:

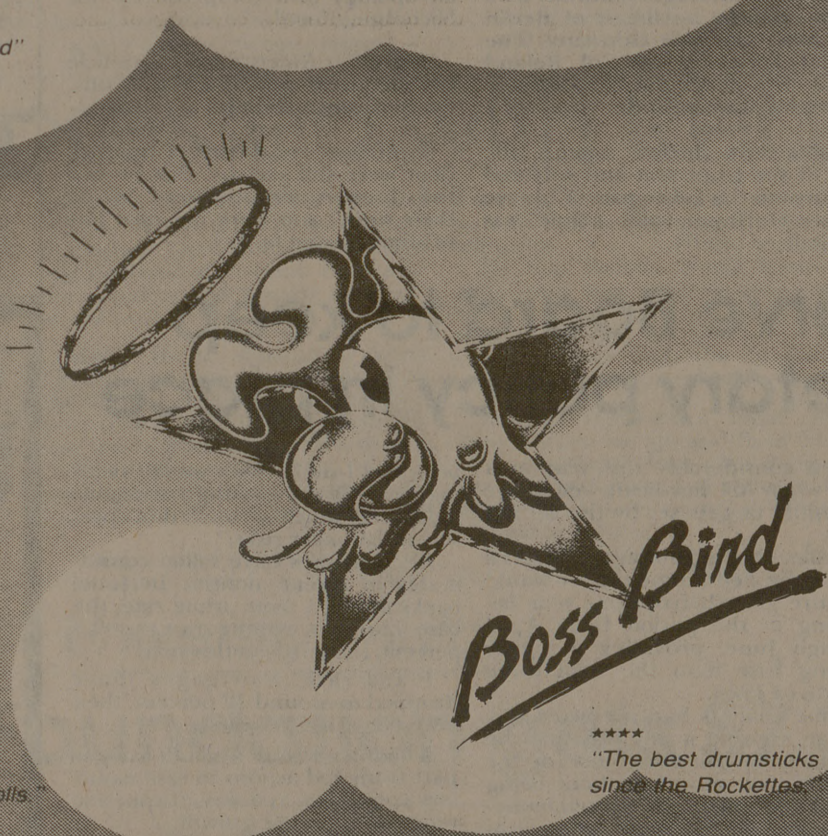
"I wish (Strange) were here. I think he'd have an excellent chance to win the Open."



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