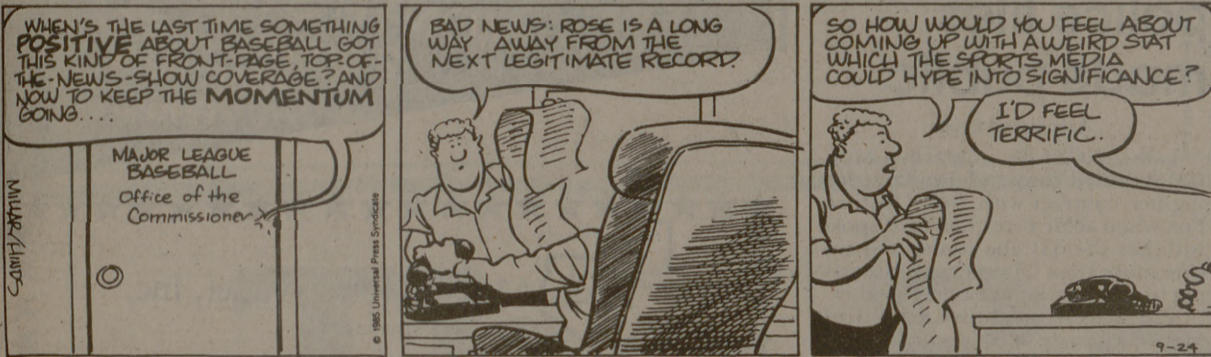


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Dodgers power by Astros

Ward helps Rangers win fourth straight

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Pinch-hitter Enos Cabell lined a two-run single in the eighth inning and Steve Sax had three hits and two RBI to power the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 5-3 victory over the Houston Astros Monday night.

The victory moved the National League Western Division-leading Dodgers six games ahead of the idle Cincinnati Reds. The Dodgers' magic number for clinching the NL West was reduced to eight.

With the score tied 3-3, Cabell hit a pitch by Jeff Calhoun into center field to drive in Pedro Guerrero and Reggie Williams. Guerrero had led off with a single and had taken second on Bob Bailor's single. Williams came in to run for Bailor and the runners were sacrificed into scoring position for Cabell.

Carlos Diaz, 5-3, was the winner with late relief help from Tom Niedenfuer, who gained his 17th save. Calhoun, 2-4, took the loss.

Rangers 11, Mariners 4

ARLINGTON — Gary Ward homered and drove in four runs Monday night to lead the Texas Rangers to an 11-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners and a sweep of the four-game series.

The Rangers tied a season-high with their fourth straight triumph. Dave Schmidt, 6-5, pitched five innings of four-hit ball for the victory and Dave Rozema gave up one hit in the final four innings for his seventh save.

Ward hit a three-run homer in the first inning. His 15th home run of the season came after Mark Langston, 7-14, walked Toby Harrah and Larry Parrish. The homer also helped the Rangers tie a team record with home runs in nine straight games.

The Mariners struck for two runs in the third. Donnie Scott doubled, Spike Owen followed with a triple and Jack Perconte then doubled.

Texas scored in the fourth when Ward singled, Ellis Valentine doubled and Wayne Tolleson hit a sacrifice fly, before Seattle countered in the fifth on Owen's fifth home run that made it 4-3.

The Rangers took a five-run lead in the fifth when they scored four times, highlighted by Valentine's home run. Harrah led off with a double and scored on a single by Pete O'Brien.

Parrish followed with a single that knocked out Langston, and Ward hit a sacrifice fly against Dave Tobik. Valentine then hit his second homer of the season.



Women's soccer team gets kick out of playing

By CRAIG RENFRO
Reporter

Athletic scholarships, though sometimes taken for granted, are a vital part of any successful collegiate sports program.

But not if you're the Texas A&M women's soccer team.

None of the players on the A&M women's soccer team receive any kind of athletic scholarships. A&M Coach Laura Johnston said the A&M Athletic Department has put the team on "limited" budget.

"The best soccer athletes in the country are in Texas," Johnston said. "If we had (athletic) scholarships we would be a national contender within a year or two."

Johnston, however, has no ill feelings toward the Athletic Department.

"When the Athletic Department feels they are ready to absorb women's soccer as a full varsity sport, they will approach us," she said. "Until that time, I'm happy with the way we've been treated so far. The players feel the same way, too."

A&M goalkeeper Kim Clack said, scholarships or no scholarships, the team competes because they just enjoy the game.

"We are limited as to who we can recruit, but we have a good team considering nobody is on scholarship," Clack said. "We are here to play because we love the game."

A&M must love the game because it's the only member of the South-west Conference that has a varsity women's soccer team.

"Other (SWC) schools either feel like they aren't ready for a women's varsity sport (in soccer) or they feel interest isn't high enough," Johnston said.

Johnston, in her first full year as the Aggies' head coach, has seven returning players from last season's squad. That team started last year ranked in the Top 20 of the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America poll (ISAA).

This season the Aggies were ranked 19th in the ISAA preseason poll and they hope to improve upon that ranking, Johnston said.

"I'm excited about this year because it's the first time I've had a chance to recruit and see what results I can get out of my recruiting," she said.

The Aggies opened their season Sept. 7 against the defending national champion D'Feeters, an amateur team from Dallas, with a 1-1 tie. A&M recorded its first victory of the season Sept. 14 with a 7-0 whitewashing of Hardin-Simmons University.

Over the weekend, A&M hosted games against University of Northern Colorado, Denver University and Trinity University, from San Antonio. In Saturday's action, A&M

defeated Northern Colorado, 4-0. Sunday, the Aggies lost to DU, 1-0, A&M's first loss of the season.

The Aggies are strong at all positions, but the leader of the team is Clack, an All-America candidate at goalkeeper, Johnston said.

"Kim is one of the most consistent players I've ever seen," Johnston said. "She's a good-goaliekeeper in that she will get the job done when it really counts."

The remainder of A&M's squad is led by three more All-America candidates — Pam Patak, Jenny Lawson and Denise Rowe.

The Aggies began practicing two weeks before the fall semester began and concentrated on running and stomach exercises, Johnston said.

"I'm very proud of this team," she said. "We've worked very hard to become what we are."

"I like to put the team in realistic game situations in practice. The players dictate to me what style of play we will have."

During the off-season many of A&M's players participated in amateur competition to prepare them for the fall schedule.

Johnston expects the Aggies to receive one of 14 bids for the postseason national "Final Four" tournament.

"I believe that we have the right blend of athletes and determination to make it to the tournament," she said.

Ag spikers

(continued from page 7)

like that, I was ready to walk off the court and hide underneath a rock," Beakley said.

After the first game, Condon changed the Aggies from a 6-2 alignment to a 5-1 alignment (that's five hitters and only one setter), using hitters Michelle Whitwell and Steensma.

"We put in the new people and they brought in a new attitude," Condon said. "You need to do that if

your starters are flat. It was surprising that we played that well in the 5-1 since we hadn't worked on it very much in practice."

The changes seemed to make a difference as the Aggies won the next three games to take the match 3-15, 15-6, 15-7, 15-10.

Steensma had eight kills and led the Ags with a .421 hitting percentage. Whitwell had no attacking errors as she hit .333.

Another positive for the Aggies was the play of Brinkman.

Brinkman began to return to her

All-America form against the Sun Devils and Cougars and was named to the All-Tournament team.

"It's taken me a while to get going," said Brinkman, who hit .411 against Houston. "I've gone through a lot. It took some time to realize some things. No matter what's said about me, I've got to believe in myself."

"I like to play like the old Sherri. I don't like this Sherri. I like to scream and have fun. She's (the old Sherri) coming back."

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