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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Astro rally surprises Giants, 7-2

8th inning homer keys Houston win

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Jim Pankovits' leadoff homer touched off a four-run eighth-inning rally as the Houston Astros defeated the San Francisco Giants, 7-2, Wednesday.

The Astros, trailing 2-1 entering the inning, knotted the score when Pankovits ripped a 1-2 pitch over the left-center field fence off reliever Mark Davis. It was Pankovits' fourth homer of the year.

Davis, 5-12, then surrendered a walk to Kevin Bass and Phil Garner's single moved Bass to third. John Mizerock hit a bouncer between first and second against a drawn-in infield and Bass beat the throw to the plate by second baseman Mike Woodard for the go-ahead run.

The Astros added two more runs on singles by pinch hitter Jerry Mumphrey and relief pitcher Bill Dawley, 5-3, who worked the last three innings.

The game ended with a bench-clearing brawl in the ninth inning.

A's 14, Rangers 3

ARLINGTON — Mike Davis, Steve Henderson, Mike Heath and Steve Kiefer hit home runs Wednesday night as Oakland backed up Bill Krueger's five-hit pitching with a 20-hit attack as the A's beat the Texas Rangers, 14-3.

Heath also had three singles, batted in two runs and scored three times. Davis and Tony Phillips each had three hits, and Davis also scored three runs and drove in two.

Krueger, 9-10, pitched his second complete game of the season, striking out four and walking two. The only runs he gave up came when Steve Buechele led off the sixth with his fifth homer of the season and Larry Parrish added a two-run shot in the ninth.

Loser Mike Mason, 8-15, lasted only 3 1-3 innings, giving up four runs on eight hits.



Other Wednesday games:

(Home team in capitals)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 4, Toronto 2

Milwaukee 1, NEW YORK 0

KANSAS CITY 4, California 0

CLEVELAND 12, Seattle 2

MINNESOTA 3, Chicago 1

Boston-BALTIMORE (ppd. rain)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 9, CHICAGO 4

New York 5, ST. LOUIS 2

MONTREAL 3-2, Philadelphia 1-3

SAN DIEGO 5, Cincinnati 4

Atlanta-LOS ANGELES (n)

Aggie gymnastics club to form women's team

By MELANIE WEINMANN Reporter

Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton would be proud.

For the first time since the 1970s, a women's gymnastics team will be formed to represent Texas A&M at intercollegiate competitions.

The A&M Gymnastics Club, organized through the University's intramural department, plans for the new women's team to compete mostly against other Texas universities.

Although A&M has had a men's gymnastics team since the late 1920s, the club's first attempt at sponsoring a women's team in the '70s was short-lived.

Margaret Abadie, a Houstonian and member of the club since the Spring of '84, says, in the past, lack of funds has been the biggest obstacle to establishing a women's team.

The 15-member men's gymnast team, which began as the "A&M College Tumbling Team," is well established, however. The club has scrapbooks recording its existence since 1928.

Ernie Kirkham, a lecturer in A&M's health and physical education department, helps coach the men's team and also serves as the club's adviser.

Although Kirkham is not responsible for a rigidly enforced program of practice and workouts, he does give team members guidance and advice about the various skills each gymnast performs.

Abadie says Kirkham's philosophy is one of "self-motivation."

"Ernie knows the mechanics of the different moves the guys are working on," Abadie says, "so he can tell them what they're doing wrong and help them improve themselves, but he doesn't control them."

"He believes a person should push himself to his own limits, instead of being pushed."

Because gymnastics is not officially recognized as a varsity sport by the Southwest Conference, the team competes with other universities through the Texas Gymnastics Conference.

The TGC sponsors meets between state schools, but does not provide for nationwide competition.

A&M's men's team has been quite successful, despite its lack of notoriety. Last year, the Aggie men finished first in state competition.

The club hopes that the women's team, which should be ready to compete in by the spring gymnastics season, will be as successful as its male counterpart.

"Our main concern right now



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Ernie Kirkham, A&M men's gymnastics team adviser, suspends Eichi Tsuneto with a spotting belt during a recent practice. The Texas A&M Gymnastics Club, which sponsors the men's team, is now planning to establish a women's team for competition.

is recruiting more women to join the club," Abadie says. "Hopefully some of the new members will want to compete and will join the team."

Abadie believes that a lot of people are hesitant to join the club because they think they have to be advanced gymnasts in order to participate. She is quick to point out, however, that the club welcomes all students, no matter what their level of ability. Advance skill is not the club's primary interest, she says.

"Our main goal is to promote gymnastics as a whole," she says. "Even though you do have to be a

member of the club to join one of the teams, club membership does not mean you automatically become part of the team. Competition is completely voluntary."

Club membership fees are \$10 a semester. Payment of the fees gives students the privilege to use the gymnastics equipment found in the Read Building, formerly called East Kyle.

Students interested in joining the A&M Gymnastics Club should stop by room 307 in the Read Building between 7:30 and 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, when the club holds regularly scheduled workouts.

Cotton Bowl

(continued from page 12)

to take away the right to play in a bowl game.

Texas Christian recently dismissed seven players after booster Dick Lowe came clean and the NCAA came calling. The scandal won't go away as former players continue to tell tales of payoffs.

Texas A&M is awaiting an NCAA visit to check out a Dallas television station's report that quarterback Kevin Murray got more than rooms, board, and tuition.

Whose next? Nobody knows but TCU and Texas A&M are two of the five teams which talked to the NCAA about SMU's recruiting practices. SMU has denied its attorneys drew up a "hit list" of antagonists and gave the NCAA information about them.

"There's been a lot of street talk about who is playing in the Cotton Bowl," said Brock. "As of now, just one team is on probation and I think there will be eight teams left."

"Mainly, most of the talk you hear is in just about Rice. I'm sure the Rice people don't appreciate it. I can remember when Rice was very formidable."

Brock admits a certain smudging of the SWC image.

"Anytime there is negative publicity about anything it tarnishes the product but I think the league is moving in the right direction cleaning things up," he said.

Brock begins his coast-to-coast travel to find a guest team next weekend. He is fresh off last season's bonanza when he landed the Boston

College Eagles and Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie.

This year Brock will have to handle a lot of questions about the "outlaw" conference he does business with.

"I've already talked to some people across the country," said Brock. "I've received notes from various people. They tell me they are sorry about the problem."

Brock, who has been said to have the ability to charm rust off barbed wire, tries to take a positive approach.

"I still believe that from top to bottom we have the best coaches in the country in the conference who are trying to do what's right," he said. "(TCU) Coach (Jim) Wacker's move to dismiss the players was a step in the right direction."

Brock said that sink-or-swim, the Cotton Bowl will stand by the SWC:

"We chose to make our bed with the Southwest Conference. It's been a great relationship that has made the Cotton Bowl what it is today. Whatever they decide on a conference level is fine with us."

"In fact, they just might end up being the leaders in this thing (cleaning up recruiting). This all could be for the best."

There's a country and western song by Waylon Jennings that has the line "ladies love outlaws like babies love stray dogs."

Brock will find out soon enough if having a few outlaws in the SWC is going to damage the good name of the Cotton Bowl or just make it more intriguing.

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