





3-hitter by Jays' Stieb stifles Royals in Game 1

Kansas City to three hits through eight innings and the Toronto Blue Jays, showcasing the blend that brought them their first-ever divi-sion title, beat the Royals 6-1 Tues-day night in the first game of the American League playoffs.
The Blue Jays, the AL East cham-

pions in just their ninth season, scored all their runs in the first four innings and finished with 11 hits in the first AL postseason game outside the United States.

The loss in the opener of the bestof-seven series saddled Kansas City Manager Dick Howser with an 0-10 record in the postseason as his Royals crumbled under the Blue Jays' early mix of speed, power and agres-

Stieb shut out the Royals through TORONTO - Dave Stieb held eight innings. Tom Henke, the Jays surprise bullpen star this season gave up two hits to lead off the ninth, and Willie Wilson scored the lone Kansas City run on a fielder's

> The game featured the two starting pitchers who led the league in earned run average. But while the top-ranked Stieb, with a 2.48 ERA, looked every bit the part, the Blue Jays ripped Charlie Leibrandt and sent him to his earliest exit of the

> Stieb, whose lack of run support during the season produced a mis-leading 14-13 record, gave up a twoout double to George Brett in the first inning and a one-out single by Brett in fourth. A pinch-hit double by Dane lorg in the eighth ended a

streak a 12 straight batters retired by

Stieb allowed only one other runner, a walk to Pat Sheridan in the fourth, and struck out eight. The hard-throwing Stieb fanned eight different Royals, all except Sheridan, before Henke came in to pitch

Leibrandt, meanwhile, lasted just two full innings and was driven from the mound in third with the bases loaded and no outs. The Blue Jays, who were 0-2 against Leibrandt during the season, ripped the 17-game winner for five runs on seven hits.

NL opens its playoffs in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Left-hander Fernando Valenzuela opens the National League playoffs for the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday night and his appearance on the mound may force St. Louis to bench rookie speedster Vince Coleman.

Cardinal Manager Whitey Herzog said Monday he was considering us-ing right-handed hitting Tito Landrum in place of Coleman, who stole a rookie record 110 bases as St. Louis' leadoff man this season

Coleman is a switch hitter but has more success batting from the left side. Landrum batted .280 as a parttimer for the Cards this season and is best remembered for the home run that won the pennant for Baltimore in the fourth game of the 1983 play-

Herzog said he would start righty swinging Cesar Cedeno in right field against Valenzuela. Cedeno batted 434 with six home runs and 19 runs

batted in for the Cards after being acquired from Cincinnati Aug. 29. While Herzog considered loading up for Valenzuela with righty bats, os Angeles Manager Tommy Lasorda predicted the best-of-seven matchup with St. Louis will be "a

very, very exciting playoff."
"The Cardinals are the best in the league in hitting and in defense,"
Lasorda said. "And they have two 21-game winners.

The Cardinals have the NL's top hitter this season, Willie McGee at 353, who, batting second behind Coleman, stole 56 bases.

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Aggies

(continued from page 11)

and Baylor, UH has illustrated every way in the book to move the football and still come up short on the scoreboard. They've had penalties (Tulsa), fumbles (Washington) and a little of both (Baylor).

The only constant so far for UH this season is a defense that seemingly always gets caught with its pants down.

Dubbed the "dorkiest defense in the country," by Houston Chronicle sports writer Al Carter, the Cougars are giving up an average of 28 points per game. And this UH defense lists eight of 11 defensive starters from

last year's Cotton Bowl squad. But Aggie offensive lineman Doug Williams expects the Houston defense to put its best "cheeks" forward on Saturday.

"It doesn't matter what Houston's record is, they always play Texas A&M tough," Williams said.

Meanwhile, A&M Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum said the Cougar offense could meet the Ag-

gie defense at a better time. "It's one of those things that we preach to our guys all the time — we can't give up the big play," Slocum said, "but it seems we've given up at least one in every game this year.

Sherrill agreed, "Houston's ability to make the big play really concerns me because that's something we have not done a good job with defensi-

"It could be because we have confidence in our offense's ability to move the ball and put points on the scoreboard. Our defense never really feels the pressure.

"We're going to get better and I've felt all along that it won't be until the sixth or seventh game that we really reach our peak. But we have to line up and play this week and Baylor next week, so the time is now.

"You look at our next two opponents, Houston and Baylor, and I till say both of those teams are

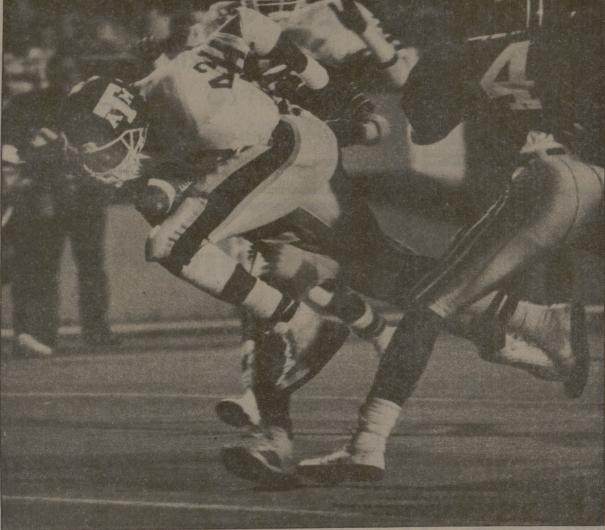


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M's Roger Vick, who gained 134 yards on 41 carries against Texas Tech, puts his head down and heads for the goal line. Vick hopes for a repeat performance Saturday against Houston.

going to have a big say in what hap-Today, every week it's a new

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