

Sports

Smith helps Cards 'Wiz' by Dodgers with late homerun

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Ozzie Smith, the least likely man in the St. Louis lineup, homered with one out in the ninth inning to give the Cardinals a 3-2 victory over Los Angeles in the pivotal fifth game of the National League playoffs Monday.

With the victory, the Cardinals swept the three games in their home park and took a 3-2 lead as the best-of-seven series heads back to Los Angeles.

The homer came on a 1-2 pitch from Tom Niedenfuer and was the first that the switch-hitting Smith has hit batting left-handed in 2,968 career at-bats. He had only six homers this season.

After an off day, the series resumes Wednesday afternoon at Dodger Stadium. In a rematch of Game 2, won by the Dodgers 8-2, Los Angeles will start right-hander Orel Hershiser against the Cardinals' Joaquin Andujar.

Before Smith's dramatic homer Monday, the two teams had played a 2-2 tie after Bill Madlock's two-run home run for the Dodgers in the fourth inning.

In and out of trouble, Dodger left-hander Fernando Valenzuela finally left after throwing 132 pitches through eight innings, and Niedenfuer, who saved Game 1 for Valenzuela, came in to pitch.

He got Willie McGee to foul out to third and ran the count to a ball and two strikes on Smith before the slightly built shortstop launched one into the second deck in right field, bringing his teammates rushing onto the field and eliciting a huge ovation from the 53,708 at Busch Stadium.

Tommy Herr gave the Cardinals their only two other runs in the game with a two-run double in the first inning, and Madlock evened it up in the fourth. It was the most closely contested game of the series. In fact, it was the only game decided after the sixth inning and only the second game of the playoffs decided after the third.

The winning pitcher was Cardinal bullpen ace Jeff Lahti, the fourth St. Louis pitcher of the day, who retired the Dodgers in order in the ninth.

Valenzuela pitched eight innings, giving up four hits and two runs with seven strikeouts and eight walks. The walks established an NL playoff record, surpassing the six allowed in 1974 by Pittsburgh's Bruce Kison and in Game 3 of this series by the Dodgers' Bob Welch.

The Cardinals played their second straight game of the series without left fielder Vince Coleman, whose left leg was injured Sunday when he was partially trapped under the machine that rolls the tarp onto the field.

"I wouldn't wish what happened to me on my worst enemy," said Coleman, whose only real injuries were scrapes and bruises. He could play Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Cardinals right-hander Bob Forsch, a spot starter this year, lasted only 3 1/3 innings before he was relieved by left-hander Ken Dayley after giving up the tying runs in the fourth inning. The 35-year-old Forsch is the senior member of the Cardinals, having been with the club since 1974.

Cards Manager Whitey Herzog elected to go with Forsch on Monday instead of bringing back Andujar on three day's rest. Andujar was ineffective in losing Game 2 in Los Angeles, going 4 1/3 innings and giving up six runs on eight hits.

In Game 1, Valenzuela had to pitch his way out of minor trouble in the first two innings. This time, he was only half as lucky. And this time, the trouble was of his own doing, the result of wildness.

Valenzuela walked Willie McGee on a 3-2 pitch to start the first inning. McGee checked his swing just in time to avoid striking out, and the next batter, Smith, walked on four pitches. Valenzuela then threw a strike to Herr before the Cards' RBI leader pulled a ground double down the left-field line.

McGee scored easily and Smith ran through the "stop" sign of third-base coach Hal Lanier to score as Pedro Guerrero's throw from left field sailed over the head of catcher Mike Scioscia. Valenzuela backed up 9

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Aggies muddle to blasé win

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Aside from being a win, it wasn't anything special.

The No. 17 Texas A&M volleyball team slopped its way to another easy victory Monday afternoon in G. Rollie White Coliseum, defeating Hofstra 15-5, 15-9 and 15-8.

"It was just sort of blah," A&M Coach Terry Condon said. "There really wasn't that much to it. I wish we could have been more flashy and run more plays."

The Aggies' "blahs" came from playing a Top 10 team that could dig, block and spike anything, to playing a Bottom 10 team that served underhanded and could hit only junk balls.

"The way they played affected us a bunch," A&M middle blocker Stacey Smith said. "We didn't know they were so radical. It was like playing beach ball. We're just not used to playing that kind of ball."

The Aggies, now 14-3, were still riding emotionally high, after upsetting No. 9 Purdue last Friday, when they had to take the floor against the Flying Dutchwomen.

Flying Who? "It (Hofstra) was a totally different team," Condon said. "It's a different caliber of play. You always have a big letdown after a big win. They had heard Hofstra wasn't that good, so they didn't prepare mentally to play."

The Aggies' poor serving game shows just how mentally out of the match they were.

"Those are mental mistakes," Condon said. "We just aren't concentrating. We weren't into the match."

All added up, the Ags had 14 serving errors.

"Is that all," asked A&M outside hitter Stacey Gildner. "I thought we had more than that."

The Flying Dutchwomen couldn't serve either, and when they did, it was underhanded. They could bump, block and dink but that was about the extent of their game.

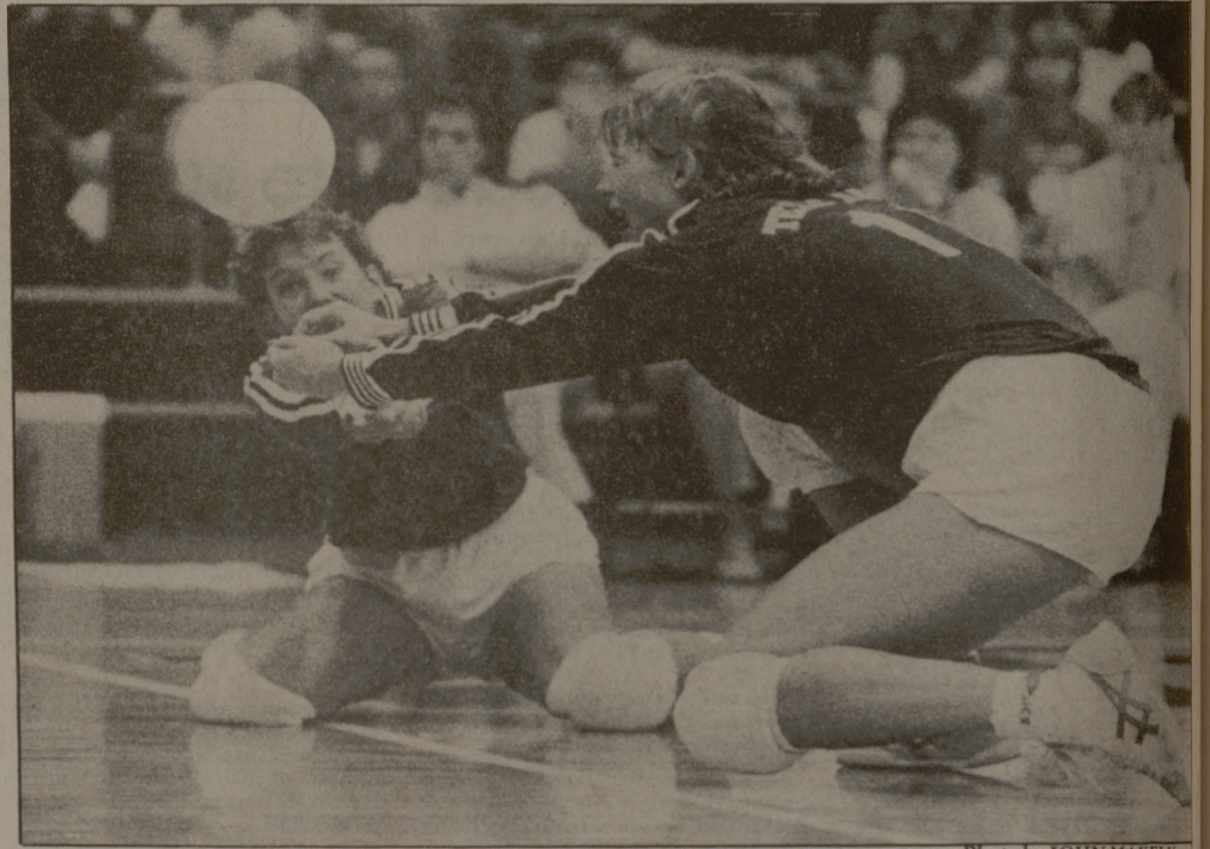


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M middle blocker Sherri Brinkman (right) and setter Chris Zogata (left) use a little teamwork to dig this ball Monday afternoon. The Aggies defeated Hofstra 15-5, 15-9, 15-8.

"It was just kind of slow paced out there," Gildner said. "It's hard to play like that after you've played a fast paced team. It's hard to get back into it. They only hit (spiked) a couple of times. When they did, they put it down."

The Aggies put a few down themselves.

A&M middle blocker Sherri Brinkman led the Ags with a .705 hitting percentage and 13 kills. Gildner had 10 kills while hitting .473 and Smith hit .285 with 10 kills.

"It just wasn't a good day," Gildner said. "It was like going through practice when you don't really want to."

The Aggies are going to have to want to play better because the level of competition won't make them play any better for awhile.

It's Rice tonight at 7:30, a team that lost to Hofstra.

"But Rice will play a lot better against us," Smith said. "Evervone's always up for A&M. They'd love to beat us. It's a conference game and we can't slack up at all. You never know what's up. It might be just like Sam (Houston State, who upset the Aggies in the first match of the year)."

Condon thinks the Hofstra match may have cleared the "blahs."

"Maybe it was good to play this bad today," Condon said. "We'll be a lot better prepared to play against Rice. It's a conference game. We'll be alright. I'm not worried."

AGGIE NOTES:

After Rice, A&M will play its third consecutive match when its hosts Texas Southern Wednesday night at 7:30. . . . Outside hitter Michelle Whitwell had a "perfect day" Monday, going three-for-three in kills. . . . Laura Hoppe, Kelli Kellen and Dena Zalesky are celebrating birthdays this week. . . . Cal-Poly SLO, unranked in the NCAA poll but ranked No. 7 in the Tachikara poll, should be moving up this week with wins over UCLA and Pacific.

Freshmen & Sophomores!
*What's the matter:
You Chicken?*
Everybody does it!

Freshmen and Sophomores have one more week to get their yearbook pictures taken: **October 14-18**

The Studio is located above Campus Photo Center at Northgate.



No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion this year.