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Rangers use Witt, cool Brewers, 6-2

ARLINGTON (AP)—Fireballing rookie Bobby Witt's 95 mile-an-hour fastball cooled off the hot-hitting Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday.

Witt struck out 11, a club record for a rookie, and allowed only three hits in seven innings as the Texas Rangers downed the Brewers 6-2.

The Brewers, who had beaten the Rangers seven straight times in Arlington Stadium, had scored 21 runs in two games against Rangers' pitching.

Witt's most difficult foe was wildness and a blister he developed on the middle finger of his throwing hand in the second inning.

"The blister was just something else to think about out there," Witt said. "I'm starting to feel a little more relaxed. I'm starting to feel like I belong (in the big leagues). I'm starting to have some fun."

Witt was 0-6 with Tulsa in the minor leagues last year.

"Bobby showed me a lot of guts," Texas Manager Bobby Valentine said. "He had a nasty blister after the second inning. He probably could have finished but he had a lot of pitches and the blister, so I decided to take him out after seven."

"He didn't want to throw in the towel. He's a battler." Witt, who walked six and had a wild pitch, was backed by catcher Don Slaught's two-run homer.

"Bobby had a great fastball, forkball and slider today," Slaught said. "He's a mighty tough pitcher to hit."

Reliever Greg Harris came on in the eighth inning to finish. Milwaukee rookie Juan Nieves suffered his first major league loss against no victories. Nieves lasted 6 2/3 innings and gave up six hits.

Witt's wildness kept him in constant trouble. After Jim Gantner's single in the second inning, he walked three straight hitters to give Milwaukee a 1-0 lead.

Slaught tagged his two-run homer in the bottom of the second.

Texas made it 3-1 in the fourth inning on singles by Pete Incaviglia and Gary Ward and Larry Parrish's sacrifice fly.

The Brewers got a run back in the fifth. Paul Molitor walked, stole second, and went to third base on a passed ball. Cecil Cooper scored him

with a deep sacrifice fly to center.

Texas chased Nieves in the seventh. With two outs, Steve Buechele walked and Scott Fletcher was safe on Nieves' throwing error. Oddibe McDowell singled to right to score Buechele.

Pinch hitter Pete O'Brien then tagged reliever Jaime Cocanower with a two-run double.

American

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—George Bell, Cecil Fielder and Rance Mulliniks hit home runs, powering Jim Clancy and the Toronto Blue Jays to an 8-0 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Indians 9, Yankees 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Butler drove in two runs with a double, capping Cleveland's four-run eighth inning, as the Indians rallied for a second time to beat the New York Yankees 9-7 Sunday.

Angels 8, Twins 7

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ruppert Jones homered, singled twice and scored three runs, and Reggie Jackson doubled, singled twice and drove in two runs Sunday, carrying the California Angels to an 8-7 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

The Angels, who also got a home run from Bob Boone, pounded out 14 hits against four Minnesota pitchers.

Tigers 4, White Sox 1

DETROIT (AP)—A two-run triple in the sixth inning by Detroit's Lou Whitaker broke up a tight pitching duel between Jack Morris and Chicago's Joel Davis as the Tigers beat the White Sox 4-1 Sunday to avert a sweep in their three-game series.

A's 1, Mariners 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Rick Langford turned in his best pitching performance in four years, allowing just a single and two walks in seven innings, and Jay Howell completed the combined two-hit shutout as the Oakland A's beat the puncheonless Seattle Mariners 1-0 Sunday.

N.Y. Rangers slap Caps to clinch series

NEW YORK (AP)—Pierre Larouche, who spent most of the season in the minors, scored two goals on setups from Mike Ridley, and John Vanbiesbrouck sparked in goal as the underdog New York Rangers beat the Washington Capitals 2-1 Sunday night to move into the Stanley Cup semifinal round.

NHL Playoffs

The Rangers' victory in the sixth game of the Patrick Division series sent them into the Wales Conference final starting Thursday night against the Adams Division winner.

The Rangers won their first division title by playing brilliantly in a low-scoring, high-tension contest between two of the NHL's top defensive teams.

It was the second straight upset victory for the Rangers, who knocked off the Patrick Division champion Philadelphia Flyers in the first round of the playoffs.

Larouche, with the help of his rookie linemate, scored at 12:36 of the first period and then connected on a power play 34 seconds into the third.

Whalers 1, Canadiens 0

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Mike Liut, back in goal after missing two games because of an injury, stopped 32 shots and Kevin Dineen scored his sixth goal of the playoffs Sunday night to lead the Hartford Whalers to a 1-0 victory over the Montreal Canadiens.

Dineen, the Whalers' scrappy right wing and inspirational leader, scored the goal the Whalers needed to send the best-of-seven series back to Montreal for a final game Tuesday night.

Royals-Red Sox (ppd)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The American League game between the Boston Red Sox and Kansas City Royals was postponed on Sunday because of rain. The game will be made up as part of a two-night doubleheader on Aug. 12.

Astros' Knepper rips Reds 6-0 with 4-hitter

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston left-hander Bob Knepper leads the National League with four victories, yet he knows it is too early to celebrate.

"It feels good to win early, but your wins in July and August is what matters and we have a long way to play," Knepper said Sunday after pitching a four-hitter and leading the Astros to a 6-0 triumph over the Cincinnati Reds.

Knepper, 4-0, pitched the Astros' third-straight complete game. "He's the winningest pitcher in the National League and he had complete command and control of the game today," Houston Manager Hal Lanier said.

Houston, 13-5 and the National League West leader, won its third straight and its 10th in its last 12 games.

"It's so early its hard to get too high because we have played so good," Lanier said. "But we have to be pleased with the way the team is playing."

Houston's Bill Doran finished with two hits and scored a run, senses a different attitude on this year's club.

"People are starting to believe. It's a different atmosphere around here," he said. "Nobody thought we had a good club but I thought all along that we are better than people are giving us credit for."

Knepper struck out four and walked two.

John Denny, 1-2, took the loss. He pitched four innings and gave up six hits and five runs, three of which were unearned. Cincinnati made four errors in losing its third straight game and for the seventh time in its last eight games.

The Astros took a 2-0 lead in the first inning with the help of two Cincinnati errors. Doran led off with a single and took third when shortstop Kurt Stillwell misplayed Craig Reynolds' grounder.

Jose Cruz followed with a groundball that second baseman Ron Oester threw away, allowing Doran to score and Reynolds to reach third. After an infield single by Glenn Davis loaded the bases, Reynolds scored when Kevin Bass hit into a double play.

Houston added a run in the second when Terry Puhl led off with a single, took third as right fielder Dave Parker dropped Doran's fly ball and scored on catcher Bo Diaz's throwing error during a double steal attempt.

Denny Walling hit a sacrifice fly in the third and Reynolds hit his second homer of the season in the fourth.

Pirates 13, Phillies 5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Bill Almon homered and doubled twice, driving in four runs Sunday, and the Pittsburgh Pirates ended a five-game

losing streak by routing the error-plagued Philadelphia Phillies 13-5.

Mets 5, Cardinals 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Kevin Mitchell and Tim Lincecum hit home runs Sunday, powering the New York Mets past John Tudor and the St. Louis Cardinals 5-3 for their ninth straight victory.

The Cardinals lost their seventh straight game and got swept in the four-game series by New York.

Cubs 12, Expos 10

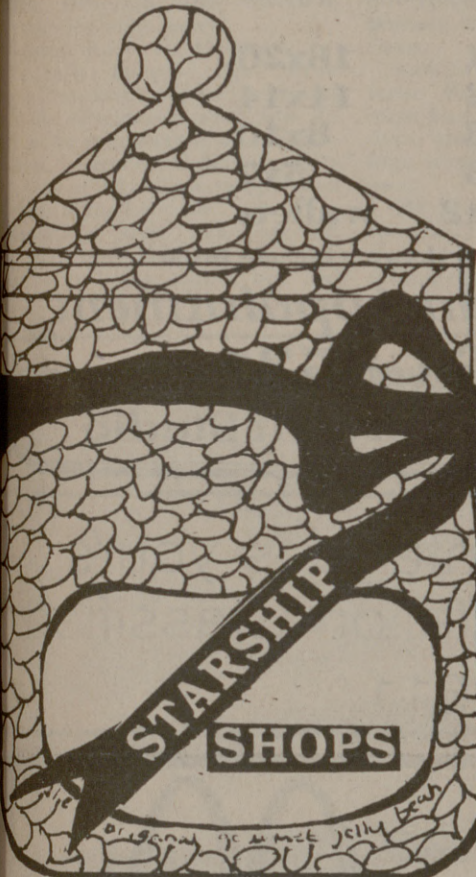
CHICAGO (AP)—Jody Davis drove in five runs with two homers, including a grand slam, and Steve Christmas' pinch-hit, two-run double in the eighth inning Sunday lifted the Chicago Cubs to a 12-10 victory over the Montreal Expos.

Dodgers 7, Braves 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Reuss pitched seven innings for his first victory of the season, and Bill Russell and Dave Anderson drove in two runs apiece Sunday, pacing the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Atlanta Braves 7-4.

Padres 6, Giants 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tony Gwynn hit two homers and drove in three runs Sunday, leading the San Diego Padres past the San Francisco Giants 6-4.



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