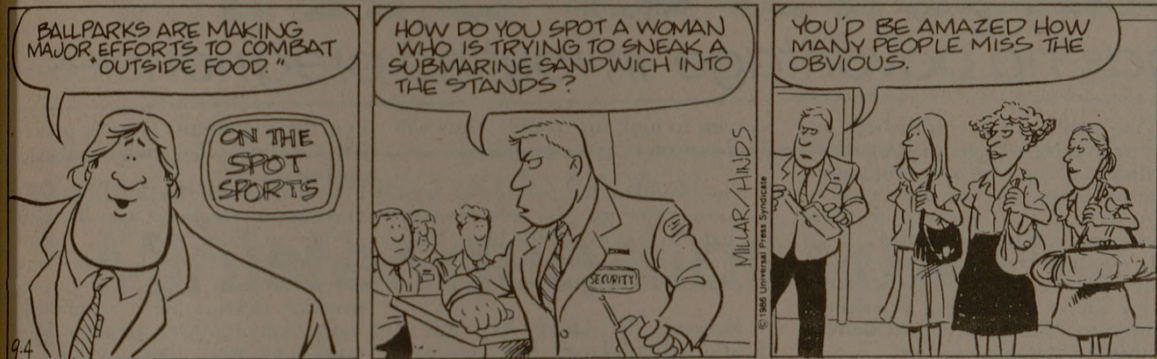


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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



**Astros dominate Cubs, 8-2**

Record 53 players used in earlier suspended game

CHICAGO (AP) — Mike Scott struck out 12 in seven innings and Denny Walling and Dickie Thon both homered Wednesday, leading the Houston Astros over the Chicago Cubs 8-2 for their second triumph of the day.

In a suspended game completed earlier, Billy Hatcher hit a homer in the 18th inning to lift the Astros to an 8-7 victory. A major-league record 53 players were used in that

game, 27 by Chicago. The 18-inning game was the longest in the majors this season.

In the regularly scheduled game, Scott, 15-9, improved his major league-leading strikeout total to 253 before being relieved by Aurelio Lopez after seven innings. He had four strikeouts in the fifth when Chris Speier fanned but reached first on a wild pitch.

Walling hit a two-run homer to highlight a three-run first inning. Walling — whose 3-for-4 led a 13-hit Houston attack — singled and scored as the Astros added two runs in the third off Scott Sanderson, 7-11.

Jody Davis hit his 17th home run into the left-field stands in the fifth, the first homer off Scott in 50 1-3 innings. Shawon Dunston added an RBI double in the inning.

Pinch-hitter Thon hit his third

homer, a three-run blast, in the sixth to put Houston ahead 8-2.

The suspended contest was halted Tuesday evening because of darkness at Wrigley Field, which has no lights. The game resumed with Houston coming to bat in the 15th.

Each team scored three times in the 17th inning. Keith Moreland hit a three-run homer into the left-center field stands for Chicago.

The win went to Danny Darwin, 2-1, the Astros' ninth pitcher. The Cubs' eighth hurler, Greg Maddux, took the loss in his first major league appearance.

The 53 players broke the major-league record of 51, held in both the National and American Leagues. The Philadelphia Phillies and St. Louis Cardinals set the NL mark on Sept. 15, 1974 and the AL record was set by the Chicago White Sox and Oakland A's on Sept. 19, 1972.

**Rangers fall to streaking Red Sox, 4-3**

BOSTON (AP) — Texas Manager Bobby Valentine calls Wade Boggs the best hitter in baseball" and says his Rangers haven't figured out how to pitch to Boston's two-time American League batting champion.

Boggs demonstrated what Valentine meant with three hits, including a homer and a game-winning double with one out in the ninth inning Wednesday night as the Red Sox edged Texas for their fifth consecutive victory.

"I couldn't have run out there and dropped the ball in a better spot," Boggs said after his double to left-center scored pinch-runner LaSalle Tarver from first base in the ninth.

While boosting their record in one-run games to 21-9, the Red Sox retained their 4½-game lead over Toronto in the AL East.

"This team is never down," Boggs said. "It seems every time the other team scores we come right back to score ourselves."

Veteran Tom Seaver allowed seven hits and just two runs in eight innings. He left with a 3-2 lead, but was deprived of his 312th major-league victory when the Rangers' miked reliever Bob Stanley for a tying run in the ninth.

**Major League Baseball**

AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	79	54	.594	—	New York	89	44	.509
Toronto	75	59	.560	4½	Philadelphia	69	64	.519
New York	71	63	.530	8½	St. Louis	67	66	.504
Detroit	70	64	.522	9½	Montreal	64	66	.492
Baltimore	66	66	.500	12½	Chicago	55	78	.414
Cleveland	66	68	.493	13½	Pittsburgh	54	78	.409
Milwaukee	64	68	.480	14½				
West Division				West Division				
California	75	57	.568	—	Houston	76	57	.571
Texas	69	65	.515	7	Cincinnati	68	65	.511
Oakland	63	72	.467	13½	San Francisco	66	67	.496
Kansas City	61	72	.460	14½	Los Angeles	63	70	.474
Chicago	58	74	.440	17	San Diego	63	71	.470
Minnesota	58	75	.440	17½	Atlanta	62	70	.470
Seattle	58	76	.433	18				

**Wednesday's Games**

Boston 4, Texas 3	Houston 8, Chicago 7, 18 innings, completion of suspended game
Oakland 5, New York 3	Houston 8, Chicago 2
Toronto 3, Cleveland 1	Los Angeles 5, Montreal 3
Kansas City 2, Chicago 1	New York 4, San Francisco 2
Minnesota 11, Milwaukee 5	Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 3, 10 innings
Detroit at Seattle, (n)	San Diego 7, Philadelphia 5
Baltimore at California, (n)	St. Louis 5, Atlanta 3

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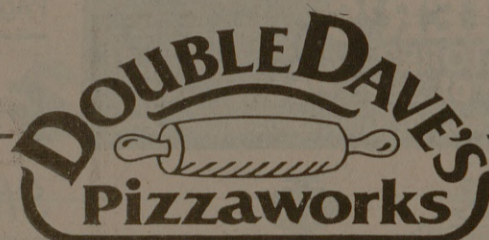
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