



dp1986

Mets try to repair damage caused by overjoyed fans

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwight Gooden, Gary Carter and the rest of the New York Mets won the National League East championship, but the most valuable person now at Shea Stadium is Pete Flynn.

Flynn, the head groundskeeper, is in charge of repairing the \$5,000 damage caused Wednesday night when fans stampeded the field following the Mets' clinching victory over Chicago.

"It's not the amount of money so much," Mets General Manager Frank Cashen said while inspecting the problem areas Thursday. "But no matter how much we spend, we can't get the field back to the way it was."

Flynn and his groundskeepers worked on the field until 3 a.m. Thursday, and were back at Shea at 7 a.m. to continue fixing the turf.

The Mets had stored squares of sod beyond the outfield fences, expecting to need them to fill in torn-up spots. Extra sod was delivered early Thursday.

"It's not as good as it was yesterday," Flynn said, helping mount a new home plate. "It's not too bad."

"But this makes me very angry. You win in other ballparks and they don't rip it apart."

The field was playable for Thursday afternoon's game against the Cubs, although neither team took

batting or infield practice, as repairs continued until game time.

By the time the game started at 1:35 p.m. EDT, there were at least 20 spots in the infield where new, greener sod had been put in place. There were another 100 spots in the outfield.

The Houston Astros have a commanding lead in the NL West and likely will be the Mets' opponent in the best-of-seven series.

"It felt good when we got the last out, but there were already so many people on the field, I didn't see it," outfielder Darryl Strawberry said.

"I hadn't seen anything like that before in my life. By the time I got to the dugout, my hat was gone."

Astros knock Reds into third with strong first-inning play

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Houston Astros completed a decisive three-game sweep of the Cincinnati Reds Thursday afternoon in a fashion typical of their whole season.

The Astros squeezed the most out of rather meager scoring opportunities, getting a pair of sacrifice flies from Alan Ashby and another from Davey Lopes to beat the Reds 5-3

and put the National League West title at their fingertips.

The Astros chipped away for their runs, scoring one on a wild pitch and three others on fly outs to smother the Reds' playoff hopes.

The Astros completed a season-long domination of the Reds by taking their 14th victory in the 18-game series. The Astros' victory dropped Cincinnati into third place, leaving Houston with a 9½-game lead over San Francisco in the NL West and reducing its magic number to eight.

Right-hander Matt Keough, 4-3, and reliever Aurelio Lopez combined on a four-hitter to lead the Astros to their second three-game sweep at Riverfront Stadium this season. Houston also took a three-game series in April.

The Astros took advantage of Browning's first-inning control problems, sending eight batters to the plate for three runs. Glenn Davis doubled home the first run, a wild pitch by Browning brought in another, and Ashby's sacrifice fly finished the scoring in the inning.

Browning allowed another sacrifice fly to Ashby in the sixth, and Lopes scored the Astros' final run in the eighth off Don Robinson on another sacrifice fly.

The Astros outscored the Reds 17-5 and outhit them 30-13 in the three-game series.

Major League Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	90	57	.612	—	x-New York	96	50	.658
New York	79	67	.541	10½	Philadelphia	77	69	.527
Toronto	79	67	.541	10½	St. Louis	73	73	.500
Detroit	77	69	.527	12½	Montreal	72	73	.497
Cleveland	74	72	.507	15½	Chicago	61	85	.418
Baltimore	69	77	.473	20½	Pittsburgh	60	86½	.411
Milwaukee	68	79	.463	22				

West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
California	84	60	.583	—	Houston	84	62	.575
Texas	76	70	.521	9	Cincinnati	74	72	.507
Kansas City	68	77	.469	16½	San Francisco	74	72	.507
Oakland	67	80	.456	18½	Atlanta	68	77	.469
Chicago	64	81	.441	20½	Los Angeles	68	78	.466
Seattle	64	82	.438	21	San Diego	68	78	.466
Minnesota	62	83	.428	22½				

Thursday's Games	
Boston 7, Milwaukee 1	Chicago at Seattle, (n)
Kansas City at California, (n)	Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 3
Only games scheduled	

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