

Sports

Scott fires no-hitter as Astros clinch NL West title

HOUSTON (AP) — Mike Scott pitched the first National League nine-inning no-hitter in three years and struck out 13 batters Thursday as the Houston Astros clinched their first West Division title since 1980 with a 2-0 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

It was the third straight shutout victory for the Astros, who will meet the New York Mets in the best-of-seven NL Championship Series beginning Oct. 8 in the Astrodome.

Scott, whose career was in jeopardy until he developed a split-fingered fastball last year, pitched the

first no-hitter since St. Louis' Bob Forsch beat Montreal 3-0 on Sept. 26, 1983. On April 21, 1984, the Expos' Dave Palmer had a five-inning perfect game against the Cardinals.

Scott's 13 strikeouts gave him 298 for the season, two short of becoming only the second NL right-hander — behind Houston's J.R. Richard — to strike out 300 in one year. Scott's previous total for three years with the Astros was 293.

Scott, the major-league strikeout and earned run average leader, allowed only three base runners.

He hit Dan Gladden in the back

with the first pitch of the game and walked Chili Davis to start the second inning. The walk ended Scott's string of 27 1/3 innings without a walk.

Scott got stronger in the late innings, retiring 19 straight batters after Davis' walk until catcher Phil Ouellette walked with one out in the eighth. Scott struck out the side in the sixth and added two more strikeouts in the seventh.

In the eighth, he started the inning by striking out Bob Brenly, giving him six strikeouts in his last seven batters. He then walked Oue-

lette, but he got out of the inning by getting Jose Uribe on a fielder's choice grounder and pinch-hitter Mike Aldrete on a long fly ball to center field.

Aldrete's fly ball was only the third hit out of the infield in the game and was the closest the Giants got to a hit.

In the ninth, Scott closed out in spectacular fashion with strikeouts of Dan Gladden and Rob Thompson. Will Clark made the final out, grounding out to first baseman Glenn Davis, starting a team cele-

bration on the first base line adjacent to the Astros' dugout.

As the final out was recorded, mounted policemen came onto the field as the Astros' crowd cheered their division champions from the stands.

The Astros left seven runners on base in the first four innings until Walling broke the scoreless tie with his 13th home run of the season in the fifth, giving the Astros a 1-0 lead. Houston's Kevin Bass narrowly missed a three-run home run in the first inning when Davis caught his long fly at the wall in right field.

Houston clinched a tie for the title Wednesday night when Nolan Ryan pitched 6 1/3 hitless innings and struck out 12 batters in a 6-0 shutout of the Giants. On Tuesday night, left-hander Jim Deshaies shut out Los Angeles.

The Astros moved into first place to stay this season on July 21 with an 8-7 victory over Montreal.

Houston lost to the New York Mets 13-2 in their first game after the All-Star break but then won

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Aggies reload for second Eagle migration to Kyle Field

By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

You have to wonder if Kyle Field is becoming a bird sanctuary these days.

Last Saturday, Texas A&M pronounced the Eagles from little of North Texas State, but this Saturday A&M faces the Golden Eagles from Southern Mississippi.

Sports Viewpoint



Roger Vick
May play Saturday

And these Eagles are bigger. Much bigger.

Southern Mississippi, 2-1, comes roaring into Kyle Field with a full head of steam after beating archrival Mississippi State 28-24 last weekend. If it can carry that emotion into the game, A&M certainly could have its hands full.

Like the saying, "Silence is golden," the nation doesn't hear much from the Golden Eagles.

But then again, most of the nation hasn't played Southern Mississippi. Those that have know them well.

"If anyone talks to the people we play against — I'm talking about (Florida State coach) Bobby Bowden, (Auburn's) Pat Dye, (Alabama's) Ray Perkins and Coach (Paul "Bear") Bryant when he was alive," Eagles Coach Jim Carmody said, "then you will see what kind of respect Southern Mississippi really has."

Of course, all that emotion in

beating a big rival like Mississippi State could leave the Eagles flat for the Aggies. After all, it happened to Louisiana State University.

The Tigers were all fired up and shocked the Aggies in their season opener, but fell apart at home the following week as Miami of Ohio pulled a huge 21-12 upset.

The emotional factor for both teams may be the difference in the game.

For A&M it will be hard to get excited after playing pushover North Texas State. The Aggies played second- and third-string players for most of the second half after the first team held NTSU to seven first-half points and 39 yards of total offense.

But even A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill queried how ready the first-team defense is to handle USM's running game, which racked up nearly 400 yards against Mississippi State.

"Did they get their noses bloodied enough?" he asked.

Southern Mississippi has two fine rushers in Shelton Gandy, who scored last week's winning touchdown, and tailback Vincent Alexander. And quarterback Andrew Anderson has deep-threat capability, something the young Aggie secondary has yet to prove it can stop.

Offensively, A&M may be without its top runner in fullback Roger

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