

Astros

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three in a row from the Mets to start their surge to first place. The Astros will face the Mets in the Astrodome in the first two games of the best-of-seven NL playoff Oct. 8 and 9.

The next three games will be played in New York on Oct. 11, 12 and 13 and the final two games, if necessary, would return to Houston Oct. 15 and 16.

The World Series begins Oct. 18 in the NL city.

The Astros won the 1980 division crown, its first ever, in a one-game playoff with Los Angeles after the two teams tied for the title with 92-70 records.

The Astros then lost to Philadel-

phia 3-2 in an exciting NL playoff series. Scott has struck out 10 or more batters in 11 games this season, and he struck out the side in 24 innings.

In his first six major-league seasons, including four with the New York Mets, Scott had a record of 29-44. But he was determined to emerge from that mediocrity, and before the 1985 season, with the help of San Francisco Manager Roger Craig, he developed a split-fingered fastball.

He used the new pitch to great effect and went 18-8 with a 3.28 earned run average, by far his best year, and won 13 of his last 15 decisions. Twice in 1985, he pitched four-hit shutouts.

Aggies

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Vick, who's questionable for the game after dislocating his left little finger against NTSU.

But his backups, Matt Gurley and Ira Valentine, filled in admirably when he was sidelined. They combined for 70 yards and three touchdowns.

If A&M's offense can perform near the level it showed in the first half against NTSU, the Aggies will be tough for the Eagles to match score-for-score. Even with quarterback Kevin Murray's five interceptions this season, he's completed 64.9 percent of his passes. Nine of those tosses have been caught by wide receiver Shea Walker, who has tied Johnny Hector with 67 career

receptions for eighth place on the A&M list.

Aggie tailback Keith Woodside is coming off a big game against NTSU as he carried the ball 10 times for 107 yards. Vick may get a lot of work Saturday if Vick remains sidelined.

The Golden Eagles are a tough team, because even Sherrill has compared them to LSU. He said he thought USM had a better quarterback and better, more experienced running backs.

Sherrill added that Southern Mississippi is as good as most of the teams A&M will face this year and expects a tough fight.

The Aggie players, meanwhile, will be trying to keep the Golden Eagles' offense true to that old saying — silent.

Mattingly fits mold of Yankees' Ruth with batting skills

BALTIMORE (AP) — As a youngster, Don Mattingly once thought Babe Ruth was a cartoon character.

Now, after three somewhat remarkable seasons with the New York Yankees, the 25-year-old first baseman is overtaking some long-standing team records and he knows all about Ruth's contemporaries.

"If he gets any better," Manager Earl Weaver of the Baltimore Orioles said, "he might be thrown out by the players' association for showing everybody up."

Shooting for his second American League batting title in three seasons, Mattingly is hitting .351, with 28 home runs, 49 doubles, 223 hits and 105 runs batted in.

Mattingly, who won the 1984 batting title by three points over teammate Dave Winfield by getting four hits in the final game, has a one-point edge over Boston's Wade Boggs. Both the Yankees and Red Sox were idle Thursday.

This year's batting race may face the same scenario as two years ago, with Boston and New York facing each other in the final four games.

"It'll probably go down to the last day," Mattingly said this week during a series at Baltimore. "I don't feel that I'll fall off, and I don't think he'll fall off. At this point, you don't fluctuate much with so many at-bats."

Last year, when he was voted the league's Most Valuable Player, Mattingly led the majors with 145 RBI and hit 35 homers. In 1984, he led the league with a .343 average.

Mattingly is the first Yankees player to have three consecutive 200-hit seasons since Lou Gehrig did it from 1930-32. He has a shot at Gehrig's team record of 52 doubles and the hit total of 231 set by Earle Combs in 1927.

Not bad for a slightly-built player who wasn't picked until the 19th round in the 1979 draft.

Brewers' manager retires

MILWAUKEE (AP) — George Bamberger announced his second retirement as manager of the Milwaukee Brewers on Thursday, saying he was "just being realistic" after 41 years in baseball.

"I said, 'What am I doing here? I should be back in Florida,'" Bamberger, 61, said. The Brewers are in last place in the American League East Division.

"It's a nerve-wracking job," Bamberger said. "Don't get me wrong. It has its good points, but I weighed it and came up with more bad points than good points."

It was Bamberger's third retirement as a major league manager. He stepped down from the Brewers in 1980 and from the New York Mets in 1983.

Bamberger brought the Brewers


their first winning season in 1979, but going into Thursday night's home game against Baltimore, the team was 70-81 and 21 games behind first-place Boston.

Bamberger said a recent seven-game losing streak "can make your mind up a little quicker," but he was not leaving because of the team's poor play.

"We played better ball than six or seven other clubs," he said. "I'm not dissatisfied. I just felt it was time to get out."

He said he probably would have retired even if the Brewers had a winning season.

An interim manager will replace Bamberger before the end of the season, Harry Dalton, the Brewers' executive vice president and general manager, said.



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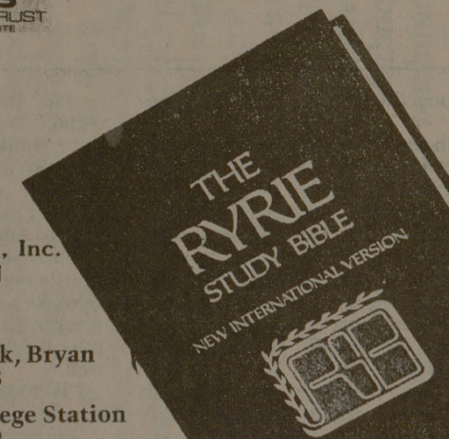
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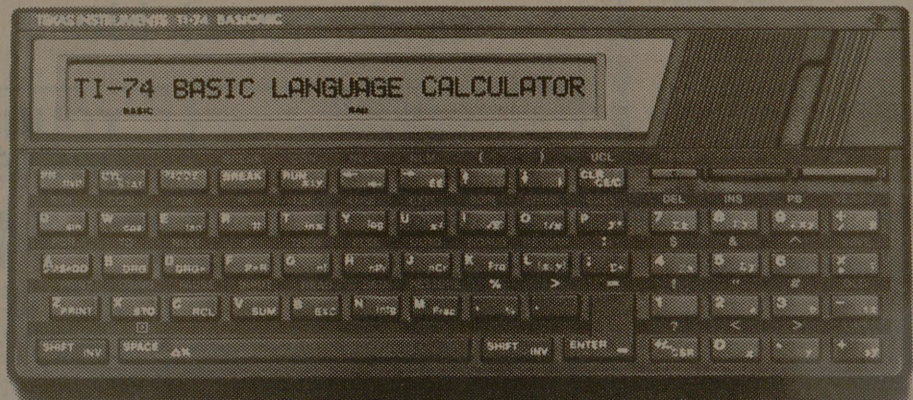
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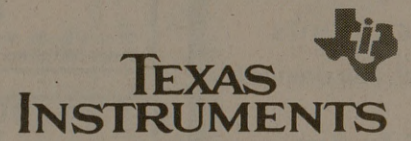
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AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	91	60	.603	x-New York	100	53	.654	—
Toronto	84	69	.549	Philadelphia	80	73	.523	20
New York	83	69	.546	St. Louis	77	76	.503	23
Detroit	80	73	.523	Montreal	76	76	.500	23½
Cleveland	77	76	.503	Chicago	65	88	.425	35
Milwaukee	71	81	.467	Pittsburgh	62	91	.405	38
Baltimore	71	82	.464					

AMERICAN LEAGUE West Division				NATIONAL LEAGUE West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
California	89	63	.586	Houston	89	64	.582	—
Texas	80	72	.526	Cincinnati	79	74	.516	10
Oakland	72	81	.471	San Francisco	77	76	.503	12
Kansas City	71	82	.464	Los Angeles	71	82	.464	18
Seattle	67	86	.438	San Diego	71	82	.464	18
Chicago	66	86	.434	Atlanta	70	82	.461	18½
Minnesota	65	87	.428					

Thursday's Games		Thursday's Games	
Kansas City 8, Minnesota 1	Houston 2, San Francisco 0		
Toronto 4, Detroit 2	Cincinnati 6, Atlanta 4		
Milwaukee 9, Baltimore 3	New York 6, Chicago 5		
California 6, Cleveland 3	Montreal 8, Pittsburgh 4		
Only games scheduled	St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 4		
	Los Angeles 4, San Diego 3, 10 innings		
	San Diego 7, Los Angeles 6, 2nd game		

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