

Sports

Scott ties NL playoff record as Astros edge Mets

HOUSTON (AP) — Mike Scott prevailed in the heralded Shootout at the K Corral with Dwight Gooden, equaling a playoff record with 14 strikeouts and throwing a five-hitter as the Houston Astros defeated the New York Mets 1-0 Wednesday night in the first game of the 1986 National League playoffs.

Glenn Davis' home run leading off the second inning was all Scott needed.

Gooden, the major-league strikeout leader the past two seasons, gave up seven hits and struck out five in seven innings while working in and out of trouble as the Astros wasted numerous scoring chances.

Scott became only the third NL pitcher to strike out 10 or more in a playoff game, the most recent being John Candelaria, who also struck out 14 against Cincinnati on Oct. 7, 1975 while with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Davis, who became only the second Astro to hit 30 or more homers in a season with 31 this year, hit a 1-0 pitch from Gooden to straightaway center field to lead off the second. Center fielder Lenny Dykstra was at the wall waiting, but there was no chance. It was over the fence with plenty to spare, and the Astros had the first league championship playoff homer of their history.

Darryl Strawberry was the only

Met to reach third. He singled with one out in the ninth for New York's final hit. He stole second and moved to third when Mookie Wilson hit a hard groundball that Davis made a diving stop on and threw to Scott covering for the out. Ray Knight struck out for the last out, giving Scott at least one strikeout in each inning.

The Astros loaded the bases with one out after Davis' homer, but

Gooden wriggled out of further trouble despite being wild high with the fastball.

Kevin Bass doubled into the right-field corner, and Jose Cruz flied out to shallow center field. Gooden then walked Alan Ashby on a 3-2 curveball, and Craig Reynolds blooped a single into shallow right field, loading the bases. Gooden struck out Scott for the inning's second out, and Billy Hatcher grounded into a

forceout at third. That ended the inning, one that could have been much more lucrative for the Astros.

The Astros wasted three baserunners again in the fourth, and they saw chances to score go by the wayside in the fifth and sixth innings against Gooden.

Hatcher led off the fifth with a walk, stole second and went to third

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Sox rip Angels to tie series

BOSTON (AP) — Dwight Evans' fifth-inning popup fell for a tie-breaking double and the Boston Red Sox won the battle of bad hops, blunders and bizarre plays to beat the California Angels 9-2 Wednesday to even the American League playoffs at one game apiece.

The Red Sox bunched seven hits in the first two innings, including a leadoff triple by Wade Boggs and a following double by Marty Barrett, who had three hits, but managed only a 2-0 lead. The Angels began

creeping back into the game and they eventually tied it in the fifth on Wally Joyner's home run. But in the bottom of the fifth, with two outs and Bill Buckner on first base, Don Baylor drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch from starter and loser Kirk McCaskill that barely missed outside.

Evans, hitless in the series, followed with a high pop fly behind second base. Shortstop Dick Schofield and second baseman Bobby Grich converged on it, both taking turns looking at the ball and each

other. At the last moment, Grich lunged backwards for the ball, but it dropped for a two-base hit that allowed Buckner to score.

Bob Boone lined a single to left and Rice came up throwing. Grich rounded third in full stride, but suddenly stopped as third baseman Boggs cut off the throw. Boggs then threw to shortstop Spike Owen, nailing Grich as he scrambled back the base.

Grich sprung to his feet, screaming at third base coach Moose Stubing. Grich threw his hands up in the air before slamming his helmet to the ground.

That strange play punctuated a game full of weird twists and turns. The afternoon was typified by the Boston seventh, when three Angel errors led to three more runs that made it 6-2. The errors in the inning tied a major-league record for a playoff game.

Five errors were charged, three by the Angels, but a half-dozen other balls caused trouble because of either poor judgment or the conditions.

Hurst managed to overcome the elements for a gutsy, 11-hit complete game. He helped himself by not walking a batter.

Boggs opened with a drive high off the center field wall, and when Gary Pettis let the carom bounce over his head, Boggs cruised into third with a triple. Barrett drove him in with an opposite-field double to right. McCaskill escaped further

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A&M's Bernstine finds transition from back to receiver a success

By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

Texas A&M tight end Rod Bernstine only wanted to be a running back.

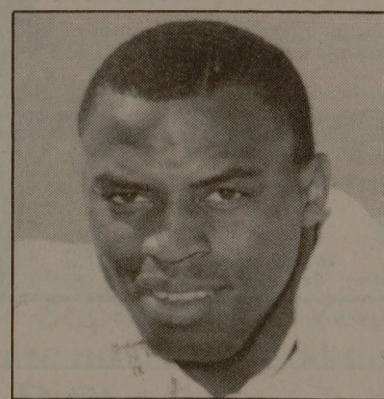
But now that's changed, and Bernstine's playing his part in the Aggies' attempt to defend its Southwest Conference title.

Four years ago Bernstine came to A&M after a successful high school career as running back for the Bryan Vikings. He filled in for an injured Thomas Sanders during his freshman year and rushed for 319 yards and caught 24 passes for 217 yards.

But when Sanders returned the following year, Bernstine was moved to the bench. Head Coach Jackie Sherrill approached Bernstine about changing positions.

"It was an adjustment that I didn't want to make," Bernstine said. "Running back was something I dreamed of doing all my life and I wanted to stay there. But Coach Sherrill told me that he felt like I could have a better opportunity to play in the professional ranks if I played tight end."

"So I thought about it and sat down and got frustrated with myself because I wasn't learning the different defensive coverages to run precise routes last season. I



Rod Bernstine

adjusted to all that and tight end's been pretty good to me so far this season and hopefully it'll continue."

Bernstine only had nine receptions last season, but shined in the Cotton Bowl, as he pulled in six catches for 108 yards to lead all receivers.

After four games this season Bernstine leads the SWC with 25 receptions. He caught a career-high eight passes in A&M's games against Louisiana State University and Southern Mississippi.

Sherrill said Bernstine has the skills to be a great tight end.

"It's easy for him to play tight end," Sherrill said. "He has good hands, great speed and runs good routes. Rod's an intelligent player."

"This is Rod's last year and he's going to make this a good year."

Even though Bernstine is getting used to his role in the A&M offensive attack, he said he still feels a little strange about not playing running back.

"After being a running back your entire life — growing up and watching O.J. Simpson and idolizing that person, now you have to change positions and change your idol," he said. "Now I guess my idol would be someone like Kellen Winslow."

As one of quarterback Kevin Murray's primary receivers this year, Bernstine is moving up the A&M all-time reception list. He has 65 career catches thus far; the record is 92.

And he'll achieve that if he makes his goal of 60 receptions this year.

"When (offensive) Coach (Lynn) Amedee first came in (in 1985) he told me that last year I could have caught 60 passes because he used the tight end a lot

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Aggies clip Cougars; up SWC mark to 2-0

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M volleyball team went 2-0 in Southwest Conference play with a 12-15, 15-11, 15-4, 15-11 victory over the University of Houston Wednesday night.

Volleyball

A&M, ranked 20th in the NCAA volleyball poll, hit .280 as a team and improved its overall record to 15-4.

"I think after the first game we buckled down and got back to work," A&M Coach Al Givens said. "We were down 6-0 and then 8-1 in the fourth game, but

came back to win 15-11. I think it showed a lot of team character."

Outside hitter Stacey Gildner led the Aggies offensively with 23 kills and a .383 hitting percentage. Sophomore Cheri Steensma added 19 kills and a .400 percentage.

Defensively, freshman Yvonne Van Brandt led A&M with 21 digs on the night, while Chris Zogata had 15 digs.

A&M also served strong throughout the match. The team notched nine service aces, with senior Laura Hoppe hitting three.

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William Windom as "Thurber"

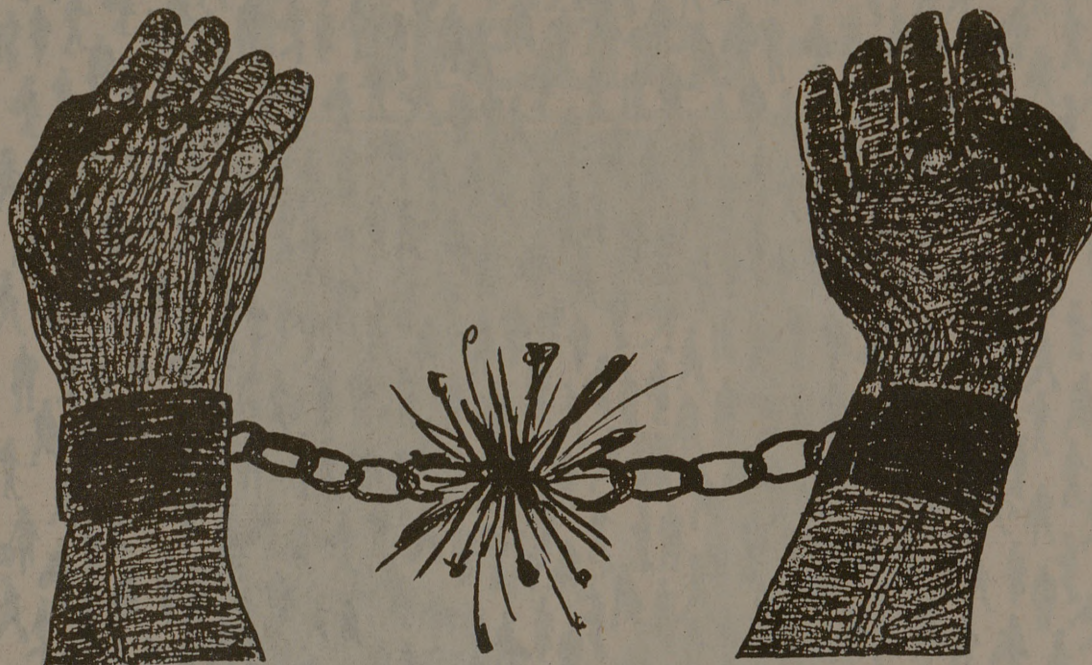
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