

# Sports

## Mets pummel Ryan; coast to 5-1 victory

### Wasted scoring opportunities cost Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The pitching pendulum swung to New York Thursday night as Bob Ojeda matched finesse against the power of Nolan Ryan, pitching the Mets to a 5-1 victory over Houston for a split of the first two games of the National League playoffs.

Len Dykstra and Wally Backman got the Mets' scoring machine going against Ryan. And Keith Hernandez, Gary Carter and Darryl Strawberry applied the throttle.

Hernandez hit a two-run triple along with a single and scored a run. Carter had an RBI double, and Strawberry drove in a run with a long sacrifice fly. Backman had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run. Dykstra had two hits and scored once.

Ojeda, 18-5 during the regular

season, allowed 10 hits, struck out five and walked two.

Beaten 1-0 in Game 1 by Mike Scott, the Mets scored their first two runs of the playoffs in the fourth inning against Ryan, then nailed him for three more in the fifth.

Ryan was gone after five innings, lifted for a pinch hitter. Coming off a 5-1 finish during the regular season, Ryan had given up five runs on seven hits, striking out five.

Ryan, 12-8 during the season, had retired the first 10 hitters when he got Dykstra to ground out to first leading off the fourth.

But, on a 2-0 pitch, Backman got the Mets first hit, a single up the middle, and Hernandez followed with an 0-2 single, a liner to center that sent Backman to second. Carter then doubled off the wall in right-center, scoring Backman and send-

ing Hernandez to third. Hernandez scored on a sacrifice fly to deep left field by Strawberry, and the Mets led 2-0.

The Mets scored three more times after Ryan had gotten two out in the fifth. Rafael Santana singled with one out, and Ojeda bunted into a forceout. Dykstra slapped a Ryan curveball into left field for a single that sent Ojeda to second, and Backman drove in a run with his second single.

Dykstra wound up at third, and Backman went to second on the play when center fielder Billy Hatcher's throw was up the third-base line and past catcher Alan Ashby for an error. Hernandez then hit a line drive in the right-center field gap for a

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## A&M hopes to snap UH hex



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

A&M linebackers Larry Kelm (left) and Johnny Holland (11) lead the Aggies in

tackles. The A&M defense will try to contain Houston this Saturday in the Astrodome.

By Doug Hall  
Sports Writer

For the University of Houston football team, beating Texas A&M in Houston has become somewhat of a tradition.

In fact, the Aggies haven't beaten the Cougars there since a 21-13 season opener back in 1952.

But according to A&M senior linebacker Larry Kelm, the 3-1 Aggies are ready to take on the Cougars' veer offense Saturday at 12:04 p.m. in the Astrodome and put a stop to the 33-year-old dry spell.

"We've got a big challenge to go down to the Astrodome and win a ballgame so we can get rid of this supposed hex," Kelm said.

Kelm said the Aggie defense will concentrate on stopping the Cougars' inside running game and at the same time contain the fleet-footed UH option.

"Our main objective of this game is to stop the inside run," he said. "If we can do that, as fast as we are on defense, I am pretty confident in our ability to stop their option."

"But those inside runs (are dangerous). All they need is a little crack and they can turn basic plays into a touchdown."

The key components of Houston's option-oriented offense are junior quarterback Mark Davis, senior running back Raymond Tate and junior fullback Sloan Hood.

Davis, the brother of former UH standout Danny Davis, took over for Gerald Landry who went down with a hip-pointer injury against Oklahoma State. Since then, Davis has completed 48.6 percent of his passes for 229 yards and two touchdowns.

But the ground game is where the Cougars usually hurt their

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## Cars indicate Astro personalities

By Danny Myers  
Sports Writer

The big league ballplayers seem bigger-than-life on television or at the ball park, but what are they like in real life?

Sometimes the cars they drive give an glimpse into their personalities.

Texas A&M freshman Pat Schulte has had the opportunity to meet many of these players. In fact, he parks the cars of Houston Astro players before home games.

Schulte, a general studies major, works for his brother who is the director of hand-held radio communications for the Houston Sports Association, which is the owner of the Astros and the Astrodome.

Among his favorite cars are pitcher Bob Knepper's and short-

stop Craig Reynolds' Mercedes Benzes, utility man Jim Pankovits and right fielder Kevin Bass' BMWs, pitcher Mike Scott's Jaguar and manager Hal Lanier's Cadillac.

"Lanier's wife usually drops him off before the game and picks him up afterward," Schulte said.

When pitcher Jim Deshaies first came to Houston from New York he drove a bomb, Schulte said.

"I think it was about a '72 Cadillac," he said. "I'm not sure, but it was some kind of boat."

Alan Ashby drives a Pontiac Fiero with the license plate "E2" — baseball scoring lingo for error on the catcher.

Left fielder Jose Cruz "cruuuuzes" around in a 1956 Chevrolet convertible and also has an old Lincoln Continental and a big Suburban.

Right fielder Billy Hatcher drives a Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS. Of course it's an SS. With his speed a plain ol' Monte Carlo wouldn't cut it.

Broncos also are popular vehicles for Astro players.

Pitchers Aurelio Lopez and Dave Smith and first baseman Glenn Davis drive them.

Fastball specialist Nolan Ryan drags the big city in a Ford F-150 Kingcab. Ryan is from the countryside of Alvin where everyone needs a truck.

Shortstop Dickie Thon owns a Volkswagon van and a Chevrolet Astrovan. Makes sense.

Schulte said Reynolds, Cruz and third baseman Phil Garner all park their vehicles in a different lot to avoid the mob of autograph-seekers which await the team after a game.

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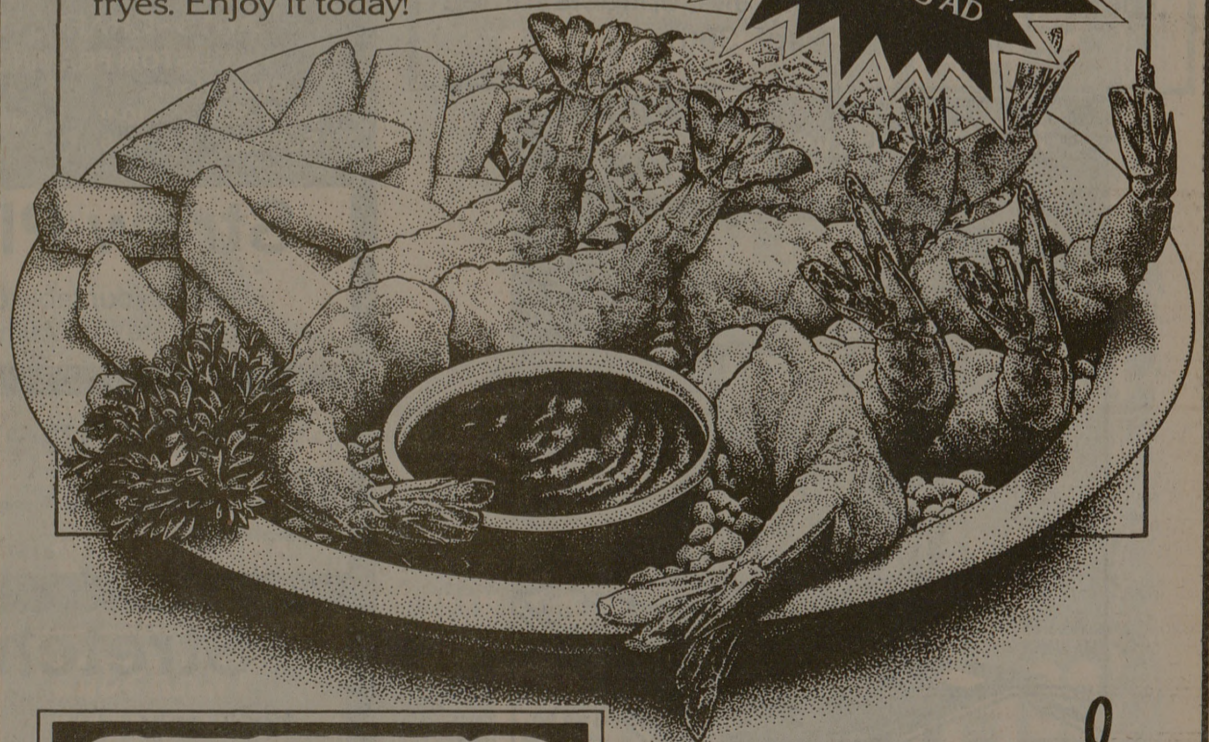
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