

Sports

Weather postpones Game 5 of NL playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — National League President Chub Feeney called off Monday's Game Five of the National League playoffs between the Houston Astros and New York Mets because of rain, and there was little prospect for improvement in the weather until Wednesday.

With the best-of-seven series tied at two games apiece, rookie left-hander Jim Deshaies of Houston had been scheduled to go Monday against 1985 Cy Young Award winner Dwight Gooden of New York.

A constant drizzle forced National League officials to delay the 2:10 p.m. CDT start, and Feeney postponed the game at 3:22 p.m. The game was rescheduled for 12:05 p.m. today, but the National Weather Service predicted 100 percent chance of rain for today.

A rainout today would postpone the game until noon Wednesday, with Games Six and Seven on Thursday and Friday at Houston.

Rainouts would not affect the Mets pitching rotation, with Gooden

scheduled to be followed in Game Six by Bob Ojeda regardless of the schedule.

"It just gives Doc (Gooden) a day's rest he doesn't need," Mets Manager Davey Johnson said. "And the weather reports are very bad tomorrow."

Houston Manager Hal Lanier said, however, that Deshaies would be dropped from his rotation, and be replaced by Nolan Ryan for Game Five. For Game Six, Lanier said he would come back with Bob Knepper, loser of Game Three.

If today's game also is rained out, Lanier said Scott would be a possibility for Game Six, depending on what happens in Game Five.

"I could push Nolan back one day for Game Five, then come back with Scott or Knepper in Game Six," Lanier said.

Monday's game was scheduled to be televised by ABC, which also was committed to NFL's Monday night game between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, starting at 8 p.m.

A&M bashes Baylor in 3 games

Ags now 3-0 in SWC play

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer

Texas A&M's 15-0, 15-10 and 15-9 win over Baylor Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum was an impressive showcase of solid defense and aggressive offense by the 20th-ranked Aggies.

If Wednesday night's game against 8th-ranked Texas goes as well, the Aggies will be on the road to breaking a five-year stranglehold of the Southwest Conference title by the Longhorns.

Cheri Steensma, A&M's sophomore outside hitter from San Ramon, Calif., paced the Aggies' offense Monday night with 10 kills over the three-game match for a hitting percentage of .526. Stacey Gildner and Michelle Whitwell added six kills apiece for the Aggies.

Baylor, on the other hand, played as poorly as the Aggies played well. As a team, the Bears combined for a miserable .082 hitting percentage, compared to the Aggies' .303, and made numerous passing and serving mistakes.

Margaret Spence, who was in on four of A&M's eight blocks, said the first game came at just the right time for the Aggies, who are now 16-4 overall and 3-0 in the SWC.

"The 15-0 game was definitely a confidence builder," Spence said. "But tomorrow we have to work on the things that Texas does."

Spence, an All-SWC middle blocker, said one of the things that Texas does well is use its setters to outmaneuver the opposing team's defense.

"They have a very talented setter that does a good job of faking out the other team's middle blockers," she said. "That makes it tough on me."

But when asked if she thought

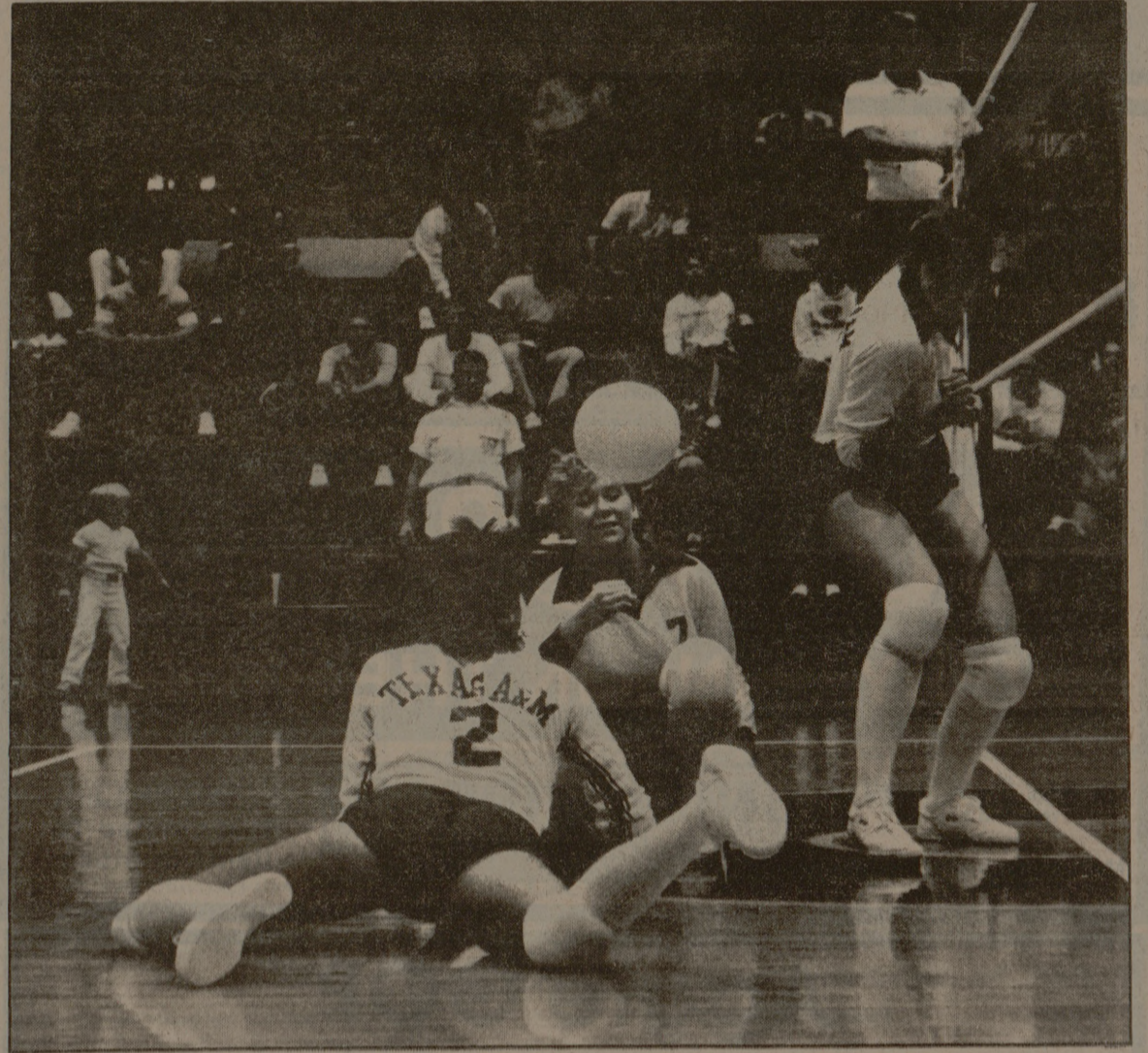


Photo by Michael Sanchez

A&M's Yvonne Von Brandt (2) and Michelle Whitwell (7) scramble for the ball in Monday's win over Baylor as Kelli Kellen looks on. A&M stands at 16-4 this season and 3-0 in SWC play.

the Longhorns could be beaten, Spence replied. "Oh yes, they are highly beatable."

A&M Head Coach Al Givens agreed with Spence.

"I think we will match up really well with Texas," Givens said. "Any time you have a Texas vs. A&M matchup, you're going to

have a dogfight. If they (the Aggies) come out with the intensity they had in the first game (against Baylor), it will be a great match."

Givens also said he was pleased with A&M's defense Monday night, but was somewhat disappointed with the service errors

committed by the Aggies after the first game.

"We can't make the kind of service errors we made in the second and third games tonight," Givens said. "Wednesday night, our blocking and passing have to be on. If they are, it will be a toss-up."

Fake punt TD lifts Bengals to 24-22 win over Steelers

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati punter Jeff Hayes made up for a blocked kick and a safety by sprinting 61 yards with a fourth-quarter fake Monday night to give the Bengals a 24-22 victory over the reeling Pittsburgh Steelers.

Pittsburgh had built a 19-14 fourth-quarter lead with the help of a touchdown set up by a blocked punt and a safety achieved by chasing Hayes out of the end zone on another punt try.

Hayes surprised the Steelers defense by taking a fourth-down snap, eluding a tackle, balancing along the sideline and racing to his first National Football League touchdown with 13:47 to play.

Their fourth consecutive victory over the Steelers kept the Bengals, 4-2, tied with Cleveland for first place in the AFC Central. The Steelers fell to 1-5, their worst start since Chuck Noll's team went 1-13 in 1969.

Until Hayes' fourth-quarter game, the Steelers appeared headed

for victory behind rookie quarterback Bubby Brister.

Brister, playing his first regular-season game for the injured Mark Malone, dove one yard for a first-quarter touchdown set up by Hayes' blocked punt. He coolly completed three of four passes for 40 yards in a third-quarter scoring drive that gave the Steelers their first lead 16-14.

Brister completed 12 of 33 for 191 yards.

Hayes' touchdown put Cincinnati back ahead, and Jim Breech kicked a 40-yard field goal to give Cincinnati a 24-19 advantage and become the Bengals' all-time scoring leader. His 550 points moved him one ahead of Horst Muhlmann.

Anderson kicked a 44-yard field goal with 2:35 to play to trim the lead to two points, and Pittsburgh had one last chance after Hayes' punt pined them at their own 8 with 2:02 to play. But the Steelers gained just one yard in four plays to end their final threat.

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