

Sports

Red Sox maul Angels, clinch berth in series

Clemens, Rice pave way in Game 7 win for Red Sox

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox, with pitching ace Roger Clemens leading the way, thrashed the California Angels 8-1 Wednesday night to win Game 7 of the American League playoffs and a trip to the World Series.

Boston completed its comeback from a 3-1 deficit in the series in surprisingly easy fashion and put a crushing end to the season for the Angels.

Clemens' four-hit pitching into the seventh inning and a towering three-run homer by Jim Rice helped deny California the first pennant in its 26-year history, and also routed Mauch's plans for his first World Series in 25 years of managing.

The Red Sox, aided by two crucial errors, knocked out John Candelaria in the fourth in taking a 7-0 lead. They then cruised into their World Series showdown with the New York Mets, who won the National League pennant earlier in the day by beating Houston in six games. Game 1 will be Saturday night in New York.

Mauch, whose team had been within one strike of the championship on Sunday, had said after losing Game 6 that the decisive game would show which team knew how to win when it had to — and it did, as another one of his teams collapsed under pressure.

Clemens found the groove early in the 56-degree night and was never in serious trouble, striking out three while walking just one.

Clemens gave up a leadoff single to Ruppert Jones in the seventh and was relieved by Calvin Schiraldi. Clemens walked off the field to a thunderous ovation and chants of

"Roger, Roger." Schiraldi allowed an RBI double to Doug DeCinces with two out. But he struck out the side in the ninth.

The Angels, meanwhile, kept up a pattern of misplays that belied their experience-laden team. Miscues by shortstop Dick Schofield and center fielder Gary Pettis made the first seven runs unearned and gave California eight errors in the series, tying for the most ever by one club in a playoff series.

Marty Barrett, Boston's second baseman was voted the series most valuable player. He went 11-for-31 in the series with five runs batted in and his 11 hits tied a playoff record.

Jones gave the eager crowd of 33,001 a scare when he hit Clemens' first pitch of the game to the warning track in center field, where Dave Henderson caught it.

Clemens then settled in and, despite not throwing as hard as he usually does, went on to win for the first time in five starts, ending his longest winless streak of the year.

Rice, just 4-for-27 in the series, led off the second with a grounder to the hole that Schofield fielded but overthrew into Boston's dugout for a two-base error. With Boston relievers waving towels in the bullpen to stir up the crowd, a single by Don Baylor and a walk to Evans loaded the bases, and Rich Gedman's RBI groundout advanced the runners.

With two outs, Wade Boggs, who led the majors with a .357 average but was only 6-for-26 in the series to that point, hit a liner up the middle that caromed off the second-base bag and flew into short right field for a two-run single that made it 3-0.

No. 8 Longhorns fend off Aggies

By Danny Myers
Sports Writer

The 20th-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team dropped its record to 15-5 and 3-1 in Southwest Conference play with a hard-fought loss to the University of Texas 14-16, 13-15, 16-14, 9-15 Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"They knew (we) were in a match," A&M Head Coach Al Givens said.

"It could have very easily been 3-1 the other way. It seems like they just got all of the rolls."

The first game was close the whole way. The Aggies were behind throughout most of the game, but managed to tie the score at 14-14. However, they weren't able to hold on as the Longhorns took the first game by winning the last two points.

Game two looked much like the first one, with UT winning 15-13.

And the Aggies looked like they would go down in straight games when they were down 7-13, and later 10-14, in the third game.

But the season-high crowd of 2,078 came to life and the Aggies fended off four match points and won the game 16-14.

The Longhorns must have taken the lost game and the crowd harassment personally as they roared to a 9-1 lead in the fourth game.

A&M came back within striking distance by cutting UT's lead to 10-7, but the comeback in the third game may have drained them as they fell in the final game 9-15.

"(The Longhorns) are too good of a team to spot seven or eight points a game," Givens said.

"They're definitely a good team, that's why they're ranked eighth, but they definitely didn't manhandle us either," he said. "I feel good about our performance, but you're never satisfied with a loss."

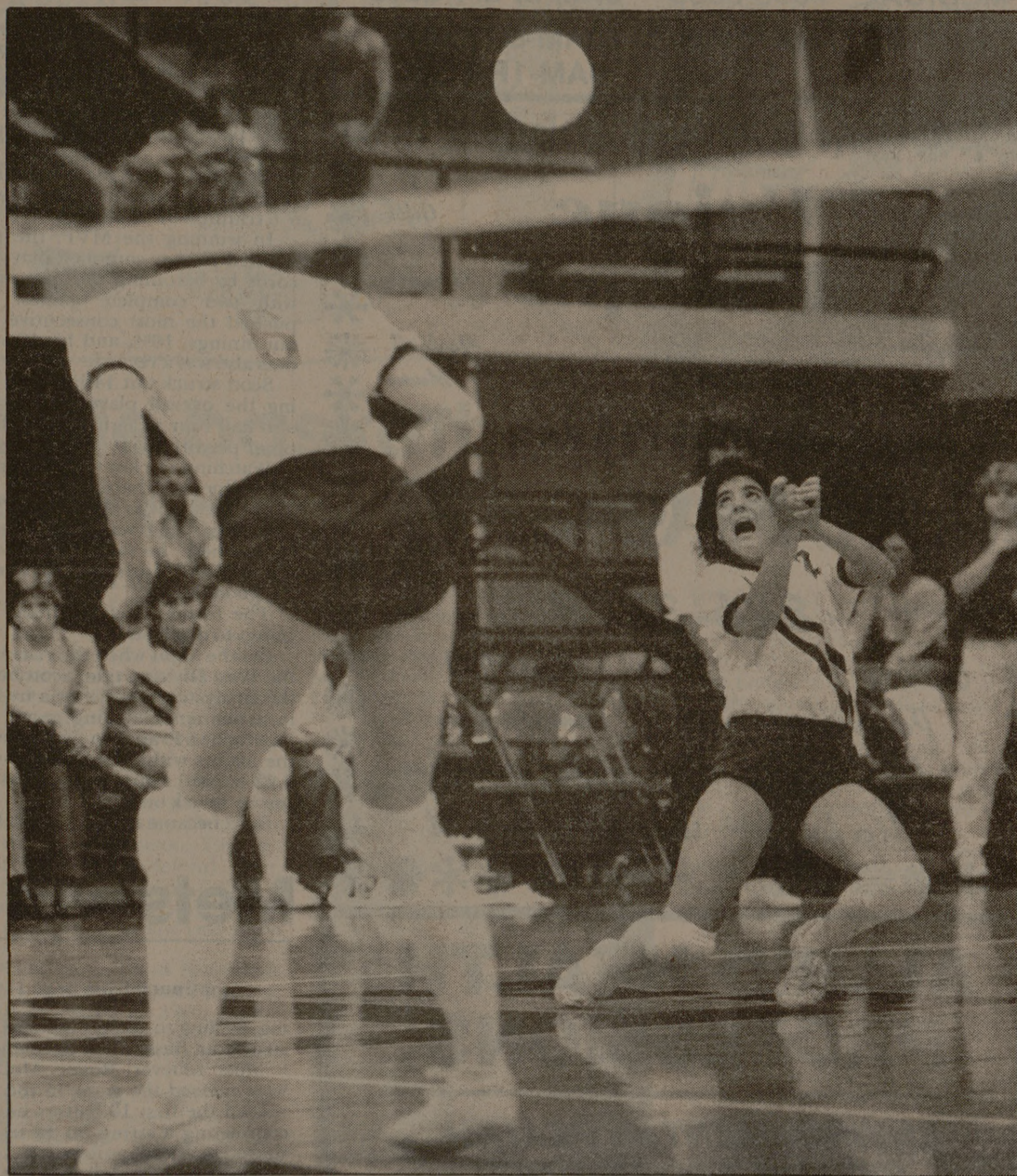
Aggie outside hitter Cheri Steensma said the team was upset about the loss.

"We're down because we lost and we know we could've beaten them," she said.

"We beat ourselves. We thought we could come back, we're used to coming from behind."

Texas Volleyball Head Coach Mick Haley said the Aggies played excellently.

"They have one of the best defenses we've seen this year," he said. "They just kept digging."



A&M's Yvonne Van Brandt reacts to her play as she hits the volleyball during the

Aggies' loss to No. 8 Texas in G. Rollie White Coliseum Wednesday night.

Photo by Tom Ownbey

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