

Sports

Sox trim Mets to lead series

BOSTON (AP) — Bruce Hurst extended his mastery of the Mets, and the Boston Red Sox took advantage of some New York miseries in the field to move within one victory of their first World Series title in 68 years, beating the Mets 4-2 Thursday night.

The victory enabled the Red Sox to avert a sweep by the Mets of the three games in Boston and gave them a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Series.

Hurst, who pitched eight scoreless innings to win the first game 1-0, shut down the Mets this time on 10 hits. The Mets runs came in the eighth when Tim Teufel homered and in the ninth when Rafael Santana had an RBI single.

Hurst turned back another New York threat in the fifth inning with the help of a key strikeout of Lenny Dykstra, a hero in Games 3 and 4 whom the Red Sox accused of bat doctoring.

The Mets' only error of the game, by shortstop Santana, led to one run. Dykstra and Darryl Strawberry collaborated on a misplay that led to another run, and, when things went wrong for the Mets, even the wind played a part in Boston scoring.

Dave Henderson had a double and triple for Boston, drove in a run and scored once.

Pitching on three days' rest, Mets ace Dwight Gooden turned to his offspeed stuff, but his fielders were so off, it didn't help much. He pitched into the fifth inning and left with none out and two runs home as the Red Sox took a 4-0 lead. In two World Series losses, Gooden has an ERA of 8.00. He also was the loser of Game 2.

Hurst, who allowed only four hits in the first game, was working on his regular four days' rest because of a gamble that Red Sox Manager John McNamara made in Game 4, using Al Nipper to start.

After losing the first two games at home, the Mets had won 7-1 in Game 3, then beat Nipper 6-2 in Game 4 to even the Series.

But Hurst was fresh, and the Series now goes to Game 6 Saturday night in New York with Boston's 24-game winner Roger Clemens, working on five days' rest. Mets left-hander Bob Ojeda, winner of Game 3, will be pitching with three days off.

Howard hopes to fulfill future dreams

By Danny Myers
Sports Writer

When Todd Howard was a youngster growing up in Bryan he always dreamed of playing football for Texas A&M someday.

Now Howard not only plays for the Aggies' football team, but he is a key ingredient in the recipe for the Southwest Conference's premier linebacking crew.

Rice University head coach Jerry Berndt said he was impressed with what he's seen of Howard.

"When I look at him I think, 'My Lord! He's a heck of a ballplayer!'" Berndt said. "Johnny Holland is a legitimate All-American and Todd Howard is every bit as good as he is."

A humbled Howard said he wished to thank Berndt for the accolades and that he hoped he can prove Berndt right Saturday when the 5-1 Aggies host the 2-4 Owls at Kyle Field at 2 p.m.

The Aggies are 30-point favorites for this weekend's clash, but Howard said if you are going to bet, take Rice and the 30 points.

"They're going to give us a good game and I'll be happy with just beating them and the defense doing well," he said.

Howard pointed out that Rice scored more points on the Aggies than did any other team last year in A&M's 43-28 win and that eight of Rice's starters are returning.

"We know it's not going to be a cakewalk," Howard said.

Howard, an All-Southwest Conference selection last year, had his best performance of the season last week against Baylor when he made 12 tackles, 8 unassisted.

Many felt that the A&M vs. Baylor matchup would be the one that decided the SWC champion, but Howard said the Aggies won't have any problem getting ready to play Rice. "Coach (Jackie Sherrill) says we should never be complacent," Howard said.

"You're only as good as your last game, so against Rice we'll do what we do best — fly around and try to get to the football."

At 230 pounds, Howard possesses good size for a linebacker and his 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash gives him



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

A&M linebacker Todd Howard (73) flies through the air as he attempts to block a Baylor field goal.

Howard and the rest of the A&M defense will try to stop Rice at 2 p.m. Saturday in Kyle Field.

wheels even a running back would be proud of.

"I'm sure (my speed) does surprise people," he said.

"I'm able to make some plays on the other side of the field that a lot of people don't think I should be able to make, so speed has come in handy."

In Bryan High School, Howard not only threw the discus and the

shot put, but he ran the 60-yard hurdles in 7.7 seconds.

Howard, an agricultural education major, said he definitely has his goals set on playing professional football but also wants to get his degree from A&M.

Both of Howard's parents graduated from A&M — his mother in elementary education and his father in industrial engineering. He has a

sister who is a freshman at A&M.

Howard said since A&M is back in the Top 10 for the first time since preseason, it could very well have a shot at the national title.

"I don't think any team will go undefeated," he said.

"If we just go out every week and take care of business and win the conference, a national title would just be icing on the cake."

1986 World Series

Thursday, Oct. 23

Boston 4, New York 2, Boston leads series 3-2

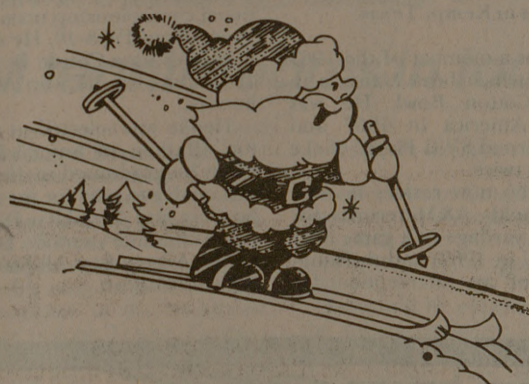
Saturday, Oct. 25

Boston (Clemens 24-4) at New York (Ojeda 18-5), 7:25 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26

Boston (Boyd 16-10) at New York (Darling 15-6), if necessary, 7:25 p.m.

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