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1023/31

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 Individuals with high fever to participate in a 6 hour study using over-the-counter medication. **\$50** incentive for those chosen. For more information call Paul Research International **776-6236**

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Sports Houston sending messages to rivals

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor
 It's only the first week in June, but one gets the feeling the Houston Astros are sending a few messages to division rivals Cincinnati, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Analysis

Like "move out of the way, first-place belongs to us." After a rough start, the Astros have begun playing the kind of baseball that made them National League Western Division champions last year. Perhaps they've finally put the sting of last year's National League Championship Series loss behind them.

In any case, the Astros have won eight of their last 11 games and now trail first place Cincinnati by only 1/2 game. Included in the streak were

three wins in four games at Los Angeles, where the Astros traditionally have had little success.

What had to be particularly pleasing to Manager Hal Lanier was the pitching performance of Danny Darwin Sunday against the Dodgers. Darwin hurled a complete game two-hitter.

With Bob Knepper having an off year, it's important for Darwin to step forward and prove that he can provide quality starts.

Add in Mike Scott, Nolan Ryan and Jim Deshaies, and the Astros have perhaps the best starting rotation in baseball.

But what does all this mean? Well, in a year when very few teams have more than two quality starters, it means the Houston Astros may just pitch themselves to another divisional title.

As long as ace reliever Dave

Smith stays healthy, the Astros look solid in all areas, something that can't be said for divisional foes Cincinnati, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Sure, Cincinnati has a power packed lineup featuring Kal Daniels, Eric Davis and Dave Parker, but the Reds get good starting pitching about as often as the Celtics lose in the Boston Garden.

Going into Monday's game in the Astrodome, Cincinnati's starting rotation had a combined ERA of 5.54.

And the Reds just won't be able to continue winning games after spotting teams six- or seven-run leads.

Once and for all, it's clear that Los Angeles' sub .500 record last year wasn't the result of injuries. And this year things just might get worse.

The Dodgers continue to be trouble defensively, and none of their relievers could put out fire, even if he was given a hot Los Angeles' 10 saves are the best in the National League.

This leaves the Astros, dare I say it, the Giants to battle out for the divisional title. The Giants haven't won a divisional title since 1971 and are still sically a young squad. We know it takes a few seasoned veterans to lead a team into the playoffs.

Those veterans should be the likes of Jose Cruz, Nolan Ryan, Phil Garner and Dave Lopes, he's healthy. Ryan, Garner and Lopes all have World Series experience. This should all add up another division title for Houston — as long as Dave Smith stays healthy.

Reds encounter troubles with a great Scott

HOUSTON (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds have learned there is no shame in losing to Houston's Mike Scott.

"His split-finger fast ball, when he throws it right, is unhittable," Reds third baseman Buddy Bell said. "The ball does everything. Nobody can hit that pitch."

Scott was at it again against the Reds Monday night, tossing a combined seven-hit shutout with reliever Dave Smith, leading the Astros to a 4-0 victory.

"We don't have anything to be ashamed of," said Bell, who struck out twice, grounded out

and flew out. "He had great stuff and very good velocity. I'm glad he's not pitching again tomorrow."

Scott beat the Reds for the fifth straight time over the past two seasons. He has a combined earned run average of 1.75 in his last 56 1/3 innings against the Reds.

"He made me look like a fool," said centerfielder Tracy Jones, who entered the game batting .364. "The pitch starts out looking good and then it rises and makes you look stupid. You're swinging at pitches over your head."

After losing two of his first three decisions this season, Scott has rebounded strongly. Monday's victory over the Reds was his third in a row.

Scott, 8-3, struck out 14 Reds, giving him 116 for the season and tying him for the major-league lead with Seattle's Mark Langston. Scott's ERA dropped to a league-leading 2.11.

"Good pitching will always stop good hitting no matter what state or country you're in," Reds Manager Pete Rose said. "You saw good pitching (Monday) tonight."

Scott has recorded 34 strikeouts in his three-game winning streak, walked only six and yielded 12 hits in 25 innings.

"What the hell can you say after a performance like that? Astros Manager Hal Lanier asked. "He gave up some hits, but when he had to have the strikeouts, he got them."

When Bo Diaz reached base on Terry Puhl's fielding error to start the ninth and Scott threw two balls to Ron Oester, Lanier brought on Smith to slam the door.

Bias' mom crusades to curtail drug abuse

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (AP) — Lonise Bias stares at the rows of faces, young faces she has seen in hundreds of high school audiences in the 12 months since her son passed from All-American to American tragedy.

She explodes in a burst of evangelistic fervor. "I am on a mission from God!" she shouts.

It is a mission, she explains, to rescue America's children from the drugs that took her son, and from the lack of self-esteem and love she sees at the core of the problem.

"The greatest love of all," she says, paraphrasing a popular song, "is the love you have for yourself."

Charles "Lefty" Driesell's new office at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House is a cramped rectangle of ersatz wood paneling between offices for women's volleyball and men's soccer.

Basketball coach at Maryland for 17 years and a powerful figure in the Atlantic Coast Conference, Driesell resigned in the uproar over Bias' death. Now, as assistant athletic director, he oversees public relations, promotion and sales.

This was the first season in three decades Driesell was not on the sidelines.

"I missed it, sure," he said. "You don't do something 31 years and don't miss it."

Astros, Deshaies top Reds 4-

HOUSTON (AP) — Glenn Davis hit a homer and a run-scoring single and Jim Deshaies pitched a five-hitter over eight innings, giving Houston a 4-1 victory over Cincinnati and moving the Astros within a half game of the West Division-leading Reds.

Deshaies, 6-2, struck out nine and walked one for his fourth straight victory.

Dave Smith pitched the final out for his 13th save.

Ted Power, 5-3, went six innings, allowing four runs on 10 hits.

After Davis' 11th homer of the season gave the Astros a 2-1 lead in the third, Houston added a run on the fifth on Doran's triple and RBI single.

Rockets GM: Sampson deal close to Olajuwon's pact

HOUSTON (AP) — The final contract the Houston Rockets offered Ralph Sampson had more value than the 12-year \$2.5 million per year deal signed last November by teammate Akeem Olajuwon, general manager Ray Patterson said Tuesday.

"The difference in the contracts is the difference in the way you treat money — annuities, up front bonuses, interest on money loaned," Patterson said.

"The difference is in the interpretation of the contract. I'd say (Sampson) contract exceeds theirs in the way we interpreted it."

But that's about as specific as he got because we're still negotiating in good faith and I want to keep it that way."

Sampson said the Rockets failed in a pledge to match Olajuwon's contract.

Patterson, breaking a week-long silence on the subject of Sampson's contract, said the Rockets still hope to sign the 7-foot-4 forward.

Lakers, fans celebrate in downtown parade

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of basketball fans, waving pennants, blowing horns and snacking on "Laker purple" cotton candy, put the full-court press on downtown Tuesday to celebrate the Los Angeles Lakers' championship.

Team members rode three floats down a 10-block route that ended at City Hall, where a boisterous crowd packed the lawn to hear Mayor Tom Bradley pronounce the Lakers "the best basketball team in the history of this land."

The Lakers set up the celebration by beating the defending champion Boston Celtics 106-93 on Sunday.

Los Angeles won the best-of-seven NBA finals four games to two.

On the City Hall lawn, some celebrants climbed trees to get a better look at their heroes. A Magic Johnson look-alike stood in

his own circle of admirers. The Lakers' cheerleading squad danced to loud acclaim.

Team pennants sprouted from the crowd, along with signs that played off the names of famous players.

"Lakers are Magic-al," "L.A. Kareem'd the Celtics," and "Lakers are 'Worthy' Champions," read signs referring to Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy.

A crowd estimated at 15,000 gathered for the parade route on a hot day. The ceremonies at City Hall, said Fabian Lizarraga, a police spokesman.

From the podium at City Hall, Abdul-Jabbar was among those speaking to the cheering crowd.

"We want to do it again next year so we can make this an annual thing," said Abdul-Jabbar, who at age 40 is the oldest player in the NBA.

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Monday/Tuesday At Ease	Wednesday/Thursday/Friday
\$5.39	\$5.67
\$5.11	\$5.38
\$4.85	\$5.11
\$4.69	\$4.94
\$4.32	\$4.55
\$3.77	\$3.97
\$3.25	\$3.42
\$2.72	\$2.86

*Back to School edition Monday, Sept. 1, 1986, will be charged at higher rate.

Special rates for officially recognized Texas A&M Campus organizations.

Classified Display: \$5.70 per column inch. Classified (regular): 30 cents per word with minimum charge of \$3 for each day. If ad runs consecutive days, 10% discount. (Special reduced rate is available on most Friday ads for first customer.) Minimum inserting order is 5,000. Delivery of inserts must be one week in advance, properly bundled, boxed or stacked on skids. If insert has unusual folding, or is unusual shape, size or stock, sample must be submitted before final acceptance, and will be rejected if mechanical inserting is impossible.

Reverses and double burns: \$10 each in addition to other charges.

Inserts: Pre-printed material will be inserted into only non-mail copies of The Battalion, and will be charged at \$50 per 1,000 copies, or \$45 per 1,000 if 15,000 or more are inserted. (Special reduced rate is available on most Friday ads for first customer.) Minimum inserting order is 5,000. Delivery of inserts must be one week in advance, properly bundled, boxed or stacked on skids. If insert has unusual folding, or is unusual shape, size or stock, sample must be submitted before final acceptance, and will be rejected if mechanical inserting is impossible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Published Monday through Friday during regular semesters; Tuesday through Friday during summer sessions; Wednesday only during most other weeks.

Ad reservation deadlines: 9 a.m. two working days before publication except for At Ease (weekly entertainment tabloid) which is 9 a.m. Tuesday before publication, and Back to School edition, which has various deadlines to be checked out with advertising reps.

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