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## Valentine: umps know about Chiles' letter

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Bobby Valentine says American League umpires have exploited a confidential directive he got from owner Ed-die Chiles to quit getting thrown out of games and that it's almost costing him his job as Texas Rangers man-

Valentine was thrown out of Tuesday night's 12-1 victory over Oakland in his fourth ejection of the season.

After the game, he told the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram he thought a letter from Chiles in May, ordering him to stop getting ejected, was confidential. The letter came after Valentine received back-to-back ejections May 2-3 in Toronto.

But in Tuesday night's game, Valentine said umpire Jim Evans al-luded to the Chiles directive.

"Jim Evans told me I don't know how to argue — I'm out of control," Valentine said. "He said, 'What does your owner think about it?' As it turns out. Eddie sent me a letter after the Toronto debacle and told me not to get thrown out anymore.

"It makes me understand a lot of smirks I've gotten on the field and a lot of the confrontations where I've been egged on," Valentine said. "I think that's a situation that should exist. An umpire thinking he can get me out of baseball isn't right."

Evans said he didn't make any direct reference to the Chiles letter

"I said he had to learn to argue to keep himself in a ballgame," Evans 'I know about a letter, but I certainly didn't mention it in an argument.

"I said, 'If you expect to please your owner and please us, you've got to know how to argue," said Evans, saying it has to be done in a professional way.

Valentine said he has no idea how any umpires would have learned about the letter from Chiles. "I thought the letter was something between me and the owner," Valentine

Chiles was in Toronto Wednesday for the major league owners' meet-ings and not immediately available for comment on the matter.

Evans said he read about the letter in a newspaper story. But last night was the first time Valentine has ever mentioned such a letter to reporters who cover the team.

Since becoming the Rangers' manager May 16, 1985, Valentine has been ejected 14 times by 14 different umpires. He served a fourday suspension last Sept. 12-15 for allegedly accusing umpire Larry Barnett of betting on games. Valen-tine denied make that assertion.

Valentine says he has been a "choir boy" since the directive from Chiles to start getting along with the men in blue.

## Lansford lifts Oakland to 11-7 win over Texas

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Car-ney Lansford drove in four runs with a triple and double on Wednesday, leading the Oakland Athletics to an 11-7 victory over the Texas

Rangers. The second-place A's came back from a 12-1 defeat the previous night and moved to within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  games of the Minnesota Twins, the American League West leaders, who played the Chicago White Sox Wednesday night.

Oakland scored four runs, including two on Lansford's triple, before Texas starter Bobby Witt, 7-9, retired a batter. Witt gave up four runs in the first inning and left in the second, when he was charged with two runs.

Tony Bernazard, who had three of the A's 12 hits, singled in the first after Luis Polonia led off with a double. Jose Canseco broke out of a 0-for-18 slump with a single to drive in the first run, Lansford tripled to right-center field, and Mark McGwire had an RBI single.

Canseco got his second RBI of the game and 98th of the season with

another single in the second, after Bernazard's RBI double.

Oakland starter Storm Davis, making his debut with the A's, was unable to go the five full innings required for a pitching victory. He left in the fifth when the Rangers scored three runs, with the first coming on Geno Petralli's fifth home run. Re-liever Greg Cadaret, 4-2, got the vic-

Lansford had a two-run triple in the sixth, when the A's also got a run on a throwing error by Texas re-liever Mitch Williams.

Texas scored two runs in the eighth, the first on a bases-loaded fielder's choice grounder by Jerry Browne, the other on Ruben Sierra's infield single. Gary Lavelle replaced Eric Plunk with two runners on base and struck out Pete O'Brien to end the threat,

Brian Harper restored a five-run margin with a two-run double in the bottom of the inning.

Dennis Eckersley, the fifth Oak-land pitcher, pitched the ninth, surrendering a run on Larry Parrish's triple and Tom O'Malley's sacrifice fly.

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**Oilers' Highsmith says** he wants to be traded

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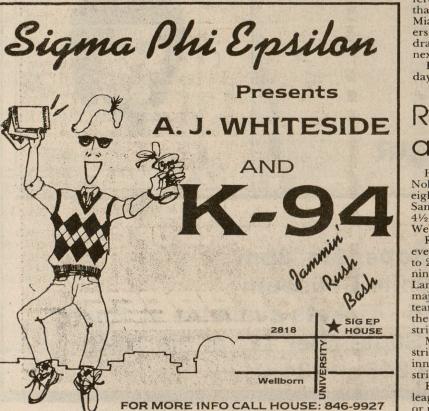
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Steve Guttenberg and Elizabeth McGovern star in this suspenseful feature in the Hitchcock tradition. Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., Rudder Theatre Tickets \$2.00 Tickets are available at Rudder Box Office the week of the feature and starting at 45 minutes before showtime.

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Film calendars are available in the main hallway of the Memorial Student Center.



smith and his agent turned down a contract calling for a \$1 million sign-ing bonus and a \$2.2 million fouryear salary and asked to be traded, Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzeg said Wednesday.

But the Oilers, who had increased the bonus from \$800,000 and boosted the contract from \$2 million, have no plans to trade their No.

1 draft choice, Herzeg said. Highsmith's agent, Robert Fraley, "told me that decision wasn't in the best interests of our football team and I told him he was hired to look out for the best interests of his client and he didn't have to worry about the Oilers," Herzeg said.

Highsmith sat in on a morning negotiating session and said he agreed with his agent.

'I didn't agree with what they offered and neither did Robert, so that's the end of it. I'm going back to Miami," Highsmith said. "If the Oil-ers don't trade me, I'll go back in the draft and be the first or second pick

Highsmith came to Houston Monday, hoping to get his contract re-

is seeking a \$1.4 million signing bo-nus and \$2.5 million salary.

"They talked for about 20 minutes and all it came down to was yes or no," Highsmith said, adding that he could survive a year financially if he doesn't play football this season. "Financially, I'm doing all right. I

don't need the \$800,000," Highs-mith said. "I was doing well in col-lege and I'm still doing well. I've got a car and I'm even wearing a Rolex.' Fraley said he was returning to Florida and that the two sides still

were far apart. The Oilers failed to sign quar-terback Jim Everett, their No. 1 pick last season, but Herzeg said the two situations are different.

"We thought Jim Everett would be great if he played for the Hous-ton Oilers or for someone else, and it was the best pick for Houston from a

talent standpoint," Herzeg said. Everett, who will start for the Los Angeles Rams Sunday against the Oilers, went to the Rams for two first-round draft choices, a fifthround pick, guard Kent Hill and defensive lineman William Fuller.

## Ryan strikes out 16 batters as Astros beat Giants 4-2

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Nolan Ryan struck out 16 batters in eight innings as the Astros defeated San Francisco 4-2 and moved within 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> games of the National League West Division-leading Giants.

Ryan's 16 strikeouts, the most he's ever had in the NL, boosted his total to 226 for the season in only 176 innings. He supassed Seattle's Mark Langston with 222 to take over the major league lead and also overtook teammate Mike Scott, who started the game leading the NL with 210 strikeouts.

Mike Aldrete was Ryan's 13th strikeout victim to end the seventh inning, giving Ryan 4,500 career strikeouts.

Ryan, who extended his major league record to 172 games with 10 or more strikeouts, fanned 10 of the

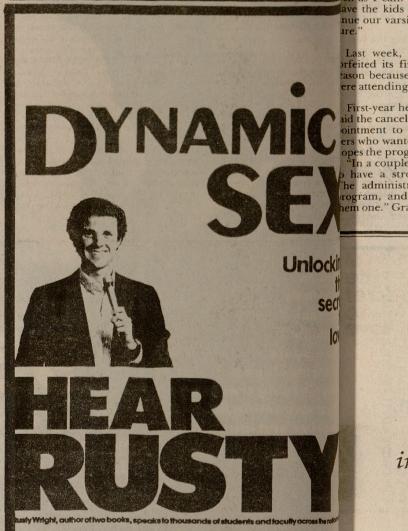
last 12 batters he faced, including the last five. It was his highest strikeout total since he struck out 16 in 1979, when he was with the California Angels.

The major league career strikeout leader, Ryan had his biggest night since he struck out 19 in 1977, also with the Angels. His previous NL high was 14 in 1968 when he was with the New York Mets. The last NL pitcher to strike out 16 was the Mets' Dwight Gooden on Aug. 20, 1985

Aug. 20, 1985.

Dave Smith pitched the ninth for Houston to gain his 23rd save.

The Astros took a 4-0 lead on Ryan's second career game-winning hit and a double by Gerald Young in the second inning, and Kevin Bass' two-run homer over the left field fence in the third inning.



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