

# Astros defeat Padres, end losing skid

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Manager Hal Lanier was in a more conciliatory mood Sunday after the Astros 3-2 win over the San Diego Padres than he was after being criticized by General Manager Dick Wagner after a loss on Saturday night.

Lanier had complained about the Astros failure to make trades that would have strengthened the team during the pennant race.

"I said we needed more pitching, but I was not singling out Wagner," Lanier said. "I think Dick Wagner and I can settle our problems. This organization has to get along to be successful."

"You can't point the finger at him (Wagner). He can't swing a bat for our hitters and that's been our problem."

Pinch-hitter Jim Pankovits' bases-loaded single in the ninth inning provided the Astros with their winning margin and snapped an eight-



game San Diego winning streak over the Astros. The Astros had lost five straight and the Padres had won four straight overall.

"We still have something to play for. There's still money to be made," Pankovits said. "People pay money to come see us play and it's not that hard to give 100 percent," said Pankovits.

Mike Scott, 16-12, was the winner, pitching his eighth complete game of the season and giving up two runs on four hits while striking out seven and walking three.

"Obviously we'd like to be playing for more than second, but we get paid to play 162 games and we've got to do the best we can," Scott said. "I got ahead of the batters better today than I have recently and I threw more strikes than I have been throwing."

Kevin Bass led off the ninth with a double. An intentional walk to Glenn Davis and an intentional walk to pinch-hitter Davey Lopes, after Chuck Jackson's sacrifice bunt, loaded the bases before Pankovits delivered the game-winning hit.

Mark Davis, 8-8, was the loser in relief of starter Eric Nolte, giving up two hits and a run.

Houston scored its first two runs with the help of infield throwing errors.

The Astros grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second after Davis reached first on a throwing error by third baseman Tim Flannery. Davis moved to second on Ken Caminiti's sacrifice bunt before Ronn Reynolds doubled.

They made it 2-0 in the fifth when Reynolds reached first on a throwing error by shortstop Luis Salazar and went to second on Scott's sacrifice. Reynolds advanced to third on Gerald Young's single and scored when Bill Hatcher's grounder forced Young.

The Padres tied the score 2-2 in the seventh on a single by Carmelo Martinez, a double by Marvell Wynne, an RBI grounder by Flannery and a sacrifice fly by Salazar.

Benito Santiago, whose 23 game-hitting streak is the longest in the National League this year and ties the longest hitting streak by a rookie in modern major-league history, did not play.

# Porter's 10th-inning walk keys Ranger victory

## Hough reaches record for balks, hit batsmen

ARLINGTON (AP) — Because he has a long memory, Texas Rangers designated hitter Darrell Porter was able to drive in the winning run without taking the bat off his shoulder.

With the bases loaded and one out in the 10th inning, Porter drew a walk off California reliever DeWayne Buice to give the Rangers a 2-1 victory Sunday and a sweep of their three-game series with the Angels.

"I'd faced him earlier in the season, and he made me bite on some bad changeups," said Porter. "I decided not to swing until he threw a strike, and he didn't."

The four-pitch walk was the third of the inning for Buice, who came on after loser Greg Minton, 4-4, gave up a leadoff single to Scott Fletcher.



Reliever Steve Howe, 3-3, earned the victory with two perfect innings after replacing starter Charlie Hough to open the ninth.

"Walking isn't new to me," said Porter, who won the opener of the

six-game homestand by walking with the bases loaded to beat the Oakland Athletics. "I've always had a good eye. I think that was the 900th walk of my career."

After Fletcher stole second, Buice walked Pete O'Brien intentionally, then walked Tom O'Malley to load the bases for Porter.

"We had our mind made up," said California Manager Gene Mauch. "Minton would get Fletcher and Buice would finish up. It didn't happen today, and it hasn't happened a lot lately."

Hough committed two balks for an American League one-season record and hit three batters for a franchise record.

In the first, with Devon White on first, Hough committed his eighth balk of the season, tying the Ameri-

can League record set by Frank Tanana in 1978.

Two batters later, he hit Wally Joyner with a pitch for his 13th hit batsman of the season, tying a Rangers record set in 1972 by Pete Broberg. Hough, a knuckleballer, then broke the record when he hit Brian Downing in the fifth and hit Joyner again in the seventh.

His balk following Downing's one-out single in the seventh set a league record and set up California's tying run when Downing scored on Johnny Ray's two-out single.

With the victory, the Rangers improve their season record to 73-76 and increased their lead over California to 4½ games. Both teams however, trail first-place Minnesota, which has a 79-70 record.

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