

Personality of Hofheinz comes out in exploding Astrodome scoreboard

HOUSTON (AP) — If the Houston Astrodome was the brainchild of imboyan Harris County Judge Roy Hofheinz, the 40,000-light scoreboard that spanned nearly 500 feet of the stadium's back wall could be seen as the twinkle in his eye. The judge, of course, is long gone banished from the dome by financial problems and felled by illnesses at eventually cost him his life. And now the famed scoreboard — with its snorting bull, lighted flags and blazing cowboy pistols — soon will be just a memory. As part of a two-year renovation

that will add some 10,000 seats, the scoreboard spectacular is being removed after 23 years of being triggered by Houston Astro home runs. Stadium officials are not certain of an exact date, but a special promotion was scheduled for Labor Day as a kind of last hurrah. "I'm disappointed," says scoreboard fan Jack Foster. "You hate to see it go, but it's done its thing." Foster has more than just a passing interest. He's the man who helped design it and then brought it to life.

"It was my project back in 1964-65," says Foster, owner and president of Fair Play Scoreboards of Des Moines, Iowa. "It was a lot of fun. But a lot of that was the imagination of Roy Hofheinz." Hofheinz, the consummate showman and P.T. Barnum clone who brought major league baseball to Houston, also was the driving force behind the construction of the Astrodome, the world's first domed stadium. And the scoreboard was meant to enhance his label of the dome as the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

"It was his flavor," Foster says of his scoreboard creation. The Home Run Spectacular that eventually went up was not the first scoreboard designed for the dome. Foster, whose firm had just completed scoreboard work for the then-new Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, built a model of the Astrodome and designed a functional model-size scoreboard and presented it to Hofheinz and Astros officials. After team officials nodded their approval, it was up to Hofheinz to give the final OK.

Tickets still available for LSU telecast

Athletic Department officials said tickets are still available for the closed-circuit telecast of the Texas A&M-Louisiana State football game, and they will go on sale to the general public today. Athletic ticket manager Jim Cotch said Thursday evening that approximately 1,500 tickets still remain. Admission is \$10, and proceeds go to defray travel expenses for the Aggie Band. The game will be shown at Tucker Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Becker, Shriver ousted in Open; Graf, Navratilova advance easily

NEW YORK (AP) — Boris Becker was upset by a lightly-regarded Australian in straight sets at the U.S. Open Thursday while Pam Shriver was ousted by the third best tennis player in the Soviet Union. Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova kept form and cruised into the third round. Becker, a West German seeded No. 5 and still seeking his first U.S. Open title, was given an unexpected exit by Darren Cahill 6-3, 6-3, 6-2. Shriver was eliminated by Leila Meskhi 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. Graf, going for the first Grand Slam sweep since 1970, beat Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-0, while Navratilova, seeking her

third straight Open title, ousted Elly Hakami 6-2, 6-1. "This summer has been one continual goof-up," said Shriver, whose only earlier exit from the Open was a first-round loss to Julie Harrington in 1979. "In my two matches here, I've had some anxiety attacks like I've never had before." Meskhi, a 20-year-old who is ranked behind Natalia Zvereva and Larisa Savchenko in the Soviet Union, rallied from a 2-4 deficit in the final set and dug out of a 0-40 hole in the final game. "The idea was to stay as close as possible, not lose my serve and take chances on Shriver's serve," Meskhi said through her translator, Soviet

team coach Olga Morozova. Also advancing to the third round were fifth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini, No. 10 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and No. 11 Zina Garrison. Men's winners included third-seeded Stefan Edberg, No. 8 Miloslav Mecir and No. 10 Henri Leconte. Edberg beat Guy Forget of France 7-5, 6-1, 6-3, Mecir defeated American Sammy Giammalva 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), and Leconte downed Barry Moir of South Africa 6-0, 6-4, 6-4. Shriver won two tournaments and reached three other finals before coming down with mononucleosis just before Wimbledon. She has struggled ever since.

Gulf fishermen get kingfishing tips

HOUSTON (AP) — The shrimp boats are a picket fence of promise for kingfish skippers aiming offshore. That's what the distant rigs first look like when you spot the boats lining the Gulf's horizon — picket fence. The offshore shrimpers drag at night, then anchor up to cull nets.

This activity creates a giant "chum line" to attract passing pelagic fish. The schools gather and feed down current, setting a boiling, churning stage for some of the finest light-tackle action in the Gulf. Best of all, this seasonal fishing is something that the average weekend skipper can locate and enjoy. No jealously

guarded Loran numbers are needed. Once the fleets are established, the general coordinates become public knowledge available at bait camps and marinas that cater to offshore traffic. During the prime season of late July through August, shrimp boats are seemingly scattered all over the horizon starting as close as a few miles off the beach and extending as far south and east as the skipper with double tanks wishes to run.

All anchored boats will have the same "signature" on a given wind or tide. This knowledge can save you the false alarm of tearing over the horizon after a running shrimper. As you approach a shrimper anchored in suitable water, have a rod rigged and baited. If you have a pair of polarized glasses, wear them now. As the skipper coozies alongside the shrimper, toss a handful of chum against its looming stern. Now, don't do anything else. Stand cocked and ready and watch for the casual patrol of a "brown bomber" — a big ling. If Poseidon smiles, a pod of a dozen or so may waddle out. Ling, or cobia, often lurk in the shade of an anchored hull, and these fish have a curious habit of coming out to inspect incoming traffic.

American League

Jays' Key silences Ranger bats in 5-1 victory

TORONTO (AP) — Jimmy Key pitched a six-hitter for eight innings and Ernie Whitt homered, leading the Toronto Blue Jays to a 5-1 victory over the Texas Rangers Thursday night. Key, 9-4, struck out five and walked two before being relieved by Tom Henke to start the ninth. Key outdueled knuckleballer Charlie Hough, 11-15, who gave up six hits, four walks and five runs in 5 1/3 innings. Hough held the Blue Jays hitless for 3 1/2 innings until Whitt ignited a three-run rally by connecting on a 2-0 pitch for his 11th homer.

Fred McGriff and Jesse Barfield then drew two-out walks before Rick Leach lined an RBI single. Another run scored on the play as right fielder Ruben Sierra booted the ball for an error. The Rangers scored their only run in the second inning when Oddibe McDowell doubled, stole third and scored on Scott Fletcher's infield single. Whitt and George Bell hit back-to-back doubles to start the sixth. Bell went to third on a grounder and scored on a single by Barfield.

Milwaukee blasts slumping Detroit 6-2

DETROIT (AP) — Rob Deer's go-run single keyed a five-run fifth inning and Mike Birkbeck on his eighth game since being scalped from the minors as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Detroit Tigers 6-2 Thursday night. The first-place Tigers saw their lead in the American League East

drop to 1 1/2 games over the Boston Red Sox who played later at California. Birkbeck, 10-6, who didn't allow a hit for 4 2/3 innings, gave up four hits and walked one in 5 1/3 innings. Chris Bosio pitched hitless ball for the final 3 2/3 innings, earning his second save.

Gubicza, Quirk lead Royals past Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Mark Gubicza beat Minnesota for the second time in five days with a one-hitter and Jamie Quirk knocked in two runs, lifting the Kansas City Royals to a 5-2 victory over the Twins Thursday night. Gubicza, 17-7, struck struck out eight and walked none.

The Royals scored first in the third inning when Bo Jackson doubled, took third on a fly ball by Quirk and scored when Willie Wilson beat out a two-out single to short. Kansas City added three more runs in the fourth off Bert Blyleven, 9-13.



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