

Texas A&M Turf Club Golf Tournament

Format: 2-Man Scramble (only one player with handicap below 10)
Date: April 23, 1989 9:00 am
Where: Texas A&M Golf Course
Entry: \$30.00 per team (includes green fees)
Prizes: Top 3 places
Closest to pin
Long drive

For More Information and Entry Call Wes Flower 268-3068
Entry Deadline April 21

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Rangers turn heads with winning streak

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The eyes of Texas are on the Rangers. Since leaving Washington in 1971, the Texas Rangers have been a team in search of a pennant and an identity. The Rangers are playing like they may find both in 1989. Texas' 10-1 record represents its best start since moving to Arlington 17 years ago. "When you're off to this kind of start, there's nobody who isn't doing a great job," Manager Bobby Valentine said. "That's obvious. We've also been lucky. We're swinging the bats and believing." The Rangers are due for some luck. The Washington Senators turned into the Texas Rangers in 1972. The name may have changed, but the team was still bad. Ted Williams was the manager and his team finished last in the American League West at 54-100 and the top pitcher was Rich Hand at 10-14. Williams didn't care much for the Texas heat — or the Rangers' losing — and left to do some fishing. Since then, Whitey Herzog, Billy Hunter, Pat Corrales, Don Zimmer, Darrell Johnson and Doug Rader have tried without much success to turn the Rangers into winners. In 1977, Eddie Stanky managed the Rangers for one game and decided he had seen enough. The Rangers have also had a problem grooming any real stars that Texas could call its own. Frank Howard, Ferguson Jenkins, Gaylord Perry, Bert Blyleven, Doyle Alexander, Bobby Bonds, Al Oliver, Bert Campaneris, Bucky Dent and Sparky Lyle all played in a Texas uniform. But they all found stardom with other teams first. Along the way, the Rangers let Ron Darling, Walt Terrell and Dave Righetti get away. Buddy Bell, Jim Sundberg and knuckleballer Charlie Hough are the closest the Rangers have to old favorites. Hough was purchased from the Los Angeles Dodgers on July 11, 1980 and has been part of the Rangers' rotation since 1982. Hough, 41, was the winning pitcher Sunday as the Rangers won

their eighth consecutive game with a 9-6 victory over Detroit. "Our pitching has been good," Hough said. "But I like the way our offense has taken advantage of it." The Rangers were a disappointing 70-91 under Valentine last season and General Manager Tom Grieve went to the winter meetings and made five transactions involving 17 players in three days. Grieve also signed Texas hero Nolan Ryan to a two-year deal worth \$2 million. Ryan has already helped sell some season tickets and last week he struck out 15 Milwaukee Brewers to set a club record in only his second start as a Ranger. "Having Nolan around helps everyone on this team," Valentine said of the 42-year-old right-hander. The Rangers also added first baseman Rafael Palmeiro and second baseman Julio Franco. Franco entered Monday night's game against Milwaukee leading the Rangers with 13 RBIs and Palmeiro had nine. "On an individual basis, I don't know if this is a better club, but the ability to produce is better," Hough said. "We're getting clutch hits. When we get guys on base now, we're not hitting into double plays." Hough got the season off on the right note when he shut out Detroit on opening day. No Texas pitcher had ever thrown a complete-game shutout in a season opener. Valentine took over for Rader in 1985 and the following season managed the Rangers to a surprising second-place finish at 87-75. But he had losing records the last two seasons. Valentine must win this year if he doesn't want to join the long list of former Ranger managers. "I think players like Ruben Sierra, Pete Incaviglia, Scott Fletcher and Steve Buchele have all matured and are ready for big seasons," Valentine said. "We're not going to overpower anybody so we need contributions from everyone." The Rangers are a combination of young players who want to win for the first time and veterans who want to win again. "This can bring excitement," Incaviglia said of the streak. "This is important to us. I think it's important to Texas. We think it's our turn, and we have the horses to do it."

Smith erases doubts with strong return

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Erase any doubts about Ozzie Smith coming back. The St. Louis Cardinals shortstop is back. Smith, who missed the Cardinals' first seven games this season because of a rib-cage injury, debuted with a flair in two weekend games against the New York Mets. He had five hits in eight at-bats as the Cards won both Saturday and Sunday. Smith singled twice in St. Louis' victory Saturday, his second hit setting up the winning run in the 10th inning. On Sunday, after the Cardinals trailed 2-0, his three singles ignited another comeback. It wasn't until shortly before Saturday's nationally televised game that team physician Stan London gave Smith permission to play.

"Actually, it was about five minutes before the game," Smith said. "I told Dr. London that I'd done all the things that he'd asked me to do — throw on the run, turn the double play and all those things and I didn't feel any pain." Still, Manager Whitey Herzog had reservations about Smith being ready. "The doctor said he was all right, but you always worry," Herzog said. "(But) the first play he made he landed on his side. If he didn't get

hurt, then he's not going to get hurt." Smith said he did nothing extraordinary in his rehabilitation. "I've been riding a (stationary) bike, which is the only thing that I could have done," he said. First baseman Pedro Guerrero said Smith's return, which sent fill-in Jose Oquendo back to second base, boosted St. Louis' mood. "It's a lot different for us with Ozzie at shortstop and Oquendo at second base," Guerrero said. "It seemed like we went out there to win the game. We battled to extra innings, and we played great defense." Smith, after a postgame rubdown he received at home Saturday night from his wife, came back Sunday with a two-RBI performance. "As long as I can play without any pain, then everything is fine," Smith said. "I guess it goes to show that winning is much more than really being able to make a big play or get a big hit. It's being able to help your team from a psychological standpoint, and hopefully I did that." "When you play a ballclub such as the Mets, with their outstanding pitching, anytime that you can beat them it's very positive," Smith said. "Our goal right now is to try to win as many games on this home stand as we can. I think that will give us a big boost."

Ethiopian wins Boston race

BOSTON (AP) — Abebe Mekonnen of Ethiopia, who missed the 1988 race because of his nation's boycott, won the 93rd Boston Marathon Monday as Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania was runner-up for the second consecutive year. Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway, the world's fastest women's marathoner and the 1986 winner in Boston, won her race easily in 2:24:33. She holds the world record of 2:21:06. The course record of 2:22:43 was set in 1983 by Joan Benoit Samuelson.

Marguerite Buist of New Zealand was a distant second. Mekonnen's 48-second margin of victory was much larger than the one-second margin of Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya last year, the closest Boston Marathon ever. Mekonnen's time of 2 hours, 9 minutes, 6 seconds was the seventh fastest in Boston Marathon history as he won his sixth marathon in his last seven outings. John Treacy of Ireland was third for the second straight year.

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