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spirit in the ballclub, Texas manager says

ARLINGTON (AP) —Bobby Valentine says Nolan Ryan brings out the winning spirit in the Texas Rangers.

"He's such a good competitor that everybody rallies around the atmosphere," the Rangers' man-

Ryan started the Rangers doubleheader sweep of the California Angels Wednesday, finishing a 10-game homestand in which Texas won seven. Ryan, 42, and Charlie Hough, 41, combined for 5-1 and 6-3 victories over the An-

The Rangers began the homestand by losing two of three to Oakland. But as the team prepared to leave for a series in New York Thursday, Texas was just 4½ games behind the Athletics the American League West.

"Nolan Ryan is a pro. As the long as the Rangers have him they'll be in the pennant race," Angels manager Doug Rader said.

It was only the third time in the last 56 years that a pair of pitchers 40 years of age or older started a doubleheader for the

"Both Ryan and Hough were incredible," Rader said. "Nolan is really something at his age."

Ryan improved his record to 8-3 with a victory over Chuck Finley 7-5 in the opener. Hough, 4-8, went seven shutout innings in the second game to beat Kirk McCas-

Jeff Russell saved both games to build his total to a league-lead-

ing 16.

Ryan put his name in baseball's record books again but didn't consider it a big deal.

Ryan became the sixth pitcher in major league history to defeat all 26 major league teams.

"The only way to accomplish beating all 26 teams is to be in

both leagues with two clubs in each league," Ryan said after the seven-hitter. "It's no great accom-plishment. It should happen if you hang around long enough and pitch well.

Ryan pitched for the Angels seven years. His last season with

the team was 1979. "Even though I've been away for a while I've always followed the organization," he said. "It'll be more strange when I go into Ana-

Texas outbid California to sign Ryan as a free agent in the offsea-

Rader said the Angels faced Ryan when he was at the top of his form.

'Ryan threw awful well," Rader said. "He has a tremendous changeup that sets everything up. He's been throwing the changeup for quite some thing and that's the pitch that will keep him going. He's just an excellent, excellent pitcher and his fastball doesn't tell the story.

"He's not just a thrower. He's a real pitcher. He'll throw the change on any pitch in the

Hough said he would have liked to go all the way but tired in the nightcap.

"My arm started getting a little sore and I didn't want to risk going on," Hough said. "I had a really good knuckler. It was moving but I kept it over the plate.
"I've had a tough time going

even three or four innings this year. It's a first time in awhile that I've had a little arm speed and could throw a knuckler that could break more than once. It was the first time in a month or two months that I had a chance to strike out a guy when I needed to.

"It's been a tough little grind for me. At least my arm felt better tonight than it has all year,"

Ryan evokes winning UIL considers 6A expansion plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The University Interscholastic League's policy committee has asked for study of a proposal to add a Class 6A division to

UIL competition.

Andy Griffin, football coach and athletic director at White Oak High School, said the 6A bracket would allow more equal competition by embracing schools with more than 1,571 students, based on 1987 enrollment figures.

The plan would not increase loss of school or study time, and traveling distances would not be appreciably greater than the current fivedivision system, which has been in place since 1951, Griffin said. He said his plan, presented Wednesday, would have 215 schools in the top di-

The key reason for the top conference is to reduce disparities in the enrollments of competing schools,

"In the past, we have had schools twice as large as smaller schools in the same conference," Griffin said, adding that only in 6A would such a wide range of enrollment continue to exist.

Using 1987 enrollment figures, Griffin's plan would have 145 schools with 876 to 1,571 enrollment in 5A; 145 from 443 to 875 in 4A; 145 from 262 to 442 in 3A; 210 with 130 to 261 in 2A; and 118 with 129 and under in 1A.

Only two classifications, 6A and 2A, would have as many as 32 districts, allowing them no byes in the state playoffs.

UIL attendance figures for the 1988-89 and 1989-90 school years have schools with 1,470 and above in 5A; 740 to 1,469 in 4A; 300 to 739 in 3A; 145 to 299 in 2A; and 144 and below in 1A.

Policy committee members voted to ask the UIL Legislative Council, which formulates rule changes, to set up a committee to study the proposal. Griffin said polls he has conducted among his fellow coaches indicate 70 percent favor the addition

of a 6A division.

Bill Farney, UIL athletic director, said the six-conference plan has been discussed previously but presented travel problems and never has been put to a vote by UIL mem-ber schools. Schools three years ago voted down a plan to set up a separate state football playoff bracket for the state's larger schools.

Committee members also asked the UIL staff to study a proposal to change a four-year-old rule that grants waivers allowing foreign exchange students to compete in UIL

Paul Smith of the Texas Tennis Coaches Association asked that the ban on foreign students be re-instated because "we feel that Texas students are being restricted in par-ticipation in UIL competition and being robbed of scholarships."

Ann Grabhorn-Friday, soccer coach at Anderson High School, said "a major purpose of the foreign exchange program is for us to be am-bassadors of American and Texas

Nicklaus one stroke off lead in U.S. Open

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Jack Nicklaus, the grizzled old Golden Bear himself, was calling on memories of another golfing era as he came ambling through a misty, driz-

"I figured if I could win by seven shots back then," in the 1980 PGA national championship "well, even if I'm seven shots worse now, at least that puts me in contention," Nicklaus said.

And that's where he found himself Thursday after a 3-under-par 67
— one stroke off the lead in the first round of the 89th U.S. Open golf championship.

With about half the field of 156 still out, West German Bernhard Langer, Jay Don Blake and Payne Stewart shared the top spot with rain-aided 4-under-par 66s.

"The greens are so soft, it's like throwing darts out there," Stewart "That's the reason this course is

yielding so many red numbers," he said of the sub-par scoring on the East course at the Oak Hill Country It was on this same course that

Nicklaus finished second to Lee Trevino in the 1968 U.S. Open, and here than he won a record-matching fifth PGA national chammpionship.
"I know I can play this golf

course. I know I can play well on this golf course," said the man who holds

a record 18 major professional titles and is competing in a record 33rd consecutive U.S. Open.

But can he still win? At age 49 can

has changed his attitude.

"A few years ago I'd be sitting here saying I'm going to be grinding."

he hold on for three more rounds? Can he once again harness the magic that once was his?

"But right now, I'm just kind of
"Damn right," Nicklaus said, slapenjoying this round.," said Nicklaus,

ping his hand on a table in mock se-

Then he shrugged.
"I don't know what I'm going to shoot tomorrow. I don't know what I'm going to shoot the next day," Nicklaus said.

"But this was a good round in the U.S. Open. This was a lot of fun. This shows me I can still play.

Tank menamara

"I guess he'll be all right," Scott Simpson said, tongue in cheek. "If

ahead to the next round.

he doesn't get too nervous under the pressure the next few days." Simpson also had an early 67 and was tied at 3 under par with Nicklaus, Joey Sindelar and Tom Kite,

here saying I'm going to be grinding on it the next three days, looking

whose last victory came in the 1986

the Tour's leading money-winner. Curtis Strange birdied his last

Nicklaus acknowledged that time as changed his attitude.

"A few years ago I'd be sitting Jeff Sluman and Lee Trevino were

not so fortunate. Trevino, returning to the site of his first professional triumph, shot 74. Sluman, a Rochester resident on the rebound from recent surgery,

And Ballesteros, the Spaniard who holds the British Open title, scowled and frowned his way to a 5-

Masters champion Nick Faldo of England, Tom Watson, Australian Greg Norman, Ben Crenshaw and Mark Calcavecchia all had late start-

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds











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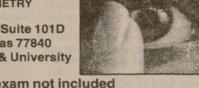
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