

Thursday, June 22, 1989

## Houston swept by Giants

### Reuschel, Bedrosian combine for 2-0 four-hitter

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rick Reuschel telegraphed his first-pitcher's dilemma on Thursday but Houston's hitters couldn't crack the code. The major-league leader in victories with a 12-2 record threw first-pitch strikes to all but two of the 28 batters he faced, combining with newly acquired Steve Bedrosian on a 2-0, four-hit shutout for the streak.



ing San Francisco Giants over the Astros.

The Giants' fifth straight victory was aided by Will Clark's homer and Steve Bedrosian's second save for his new team. It was their second shutout in a row over the Astros and concluded a three-game series sweep.

"My zone for the first pitch is over the middle of the plate, knee-high," said Reuschel, who scattered four hits, walked one and struck out two in 7 1-3 innings and won his ninth straight decision. "It doesn't always work. But usually if I get ahead, I have a better day than if I get behind."

The sweep closed out a 10-2 homestand, the first time in 23 years the Giants won 10 games on a homestand. The last time, in August 1966, they needed 15 games to do it.

Reuschel, who wasn't bothered by the unusual 93-degree heat at Candlestick Park, is a primary reason for the June success. He allowed just 17 hits and two walks in 26 1-3 innings over three starts on the homestand.

"He spots his ball better than anyone in the league," said Terry Puhl, who had one of Houston's four hits. "He's the epitome of a pitching coach's dream the way he gets ahead of the batter, mixes his speeds and gets lots of grounders and popups."

Bedrosian got the last five outs for his eighth save of the season. He's now 2-for-2 since being traded to the Giants from Philadelphia on Sunday.

He took over after Reuschel aggravated a groin strain and left after throwing just 66 pitches. Manager Roger Craig said his 40-year-old ace will not miss a turn in the rotation.

"He'll tell you himself, it's amazing what happens when you throw strikes," Craig said. "And he keeps the ball down. He very seldom throws the ball above the belt."

Clark gave the Giants a 1-0 lead in the first inning with a 425-foot homer to straightaway center, his 12th of the season, off Jim Clancy, 5-5.

"Everybody's contributing," Clark said. "On this homestand we didn't score that many runs, but it was more than enough with the pitching that we had."

San Francisco scored an unearned run in the sixth inning on Brett Butler's bunt single, a pair of groundouts and Craig Biggio's passed ball.

Reuschel got into a bases-loaded jam in the seventh on two singles and shortstop Jose Uribe's two-out error but Biggio flied out to end the threat. He left in the eighth when third baseman Ernest Riles' error gave the Astros a baserunner.

Pat Sheridan, acquired from Detroit last Friday, tripled for the Giants in the fifth for his first National League hit.

Clancy, who lost his personal four-game winning streak, gave up four hits and one earned run in seven innings. He struck six and walked four.

"I felt I pitched pretty good except for the mistake to Clark, which was a hanging slider," Clancy said. "I tried to take something off the pitch and it didn't work well at all."

Houston is 2-7 on its 13-game road trip and dropped four games behind the first-place Giants in the NL West. The Astros scored just two runs in the series while giving up nine.

"We've had a bad road trip, won-lost-wise, but we've had a chance in every game we've been in," Astros manager Art Howe said. "If we had gotten blown out in three games I'd be concerned. The sad part is we wasted good pitching."

## OU officials deny report linking use of lie-detector to Switzer resignation

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma regents hired Gary Gibbs as the Sooners' new football coach Wednesday as university officials denied a published report that a pending lie-detector test and a drug investigation involving a former coach may have played a part in Barry Switzer's resignation.

"I can assure you there has been no request made of him (Switzer) to take a polygraph test," Interim President David Swank said.

Swank and attorney Andy Coats, the university's outside counsel, said they knew nothing of polygraph tests the *Dallas Times Herald* said in a copyrighted story were planned for Switzer and assistants as part of a report required because the football program is on probation by the NCAA.

The *Times Herald* said the test was part of an internal investigation conducted by the university. It said the test of Switzer was canceled when the outgoing coach told university officials last Friday that he was quitting on Monday.

Switzer was out of town Wednesday and unavailable for comment.

In addition to hiring Gibbs and approving a salary of \$88,000 a year for him, the regents also approved a settlement of \$225,000 with Switzer and gave basketball coach Billy Tubbs a \$1,000 raise to an annual salary of \$88,000.

The \$88,000 for Gibbs is \$1,000 more than Switzer made. Both Tubbs and Gibbs also receive \$5,000 annually for expenses. The length of

Gibbs' contract has not been determined.

The settlement included a \$145,000 lump payment to Switzer on June 1, 1990. It also provided that Switzer would be paid a salary of \$7,250 a month until that time. Until Feb. 1, Switzer is to be on "special assignment" with the school, but his duties were not outlined.

Switzer resigned Monday after six months of turmoil which saw the Oklahoma program wounded by a three-year NCAA probation and five players charged in incidents involving guns, drugs and sexual assault. Switzer had four years left on his rollover contract.

Swank called the settlement with Switzer "abundantly fair considering the contributions he has made to the university and the state."

The newspaper said the drug investigation involves Scott Hill, who resigned under pressure in March. Hill had been responsible for coaching running backs and recruiting high school players since 1977.

The *Times Herald* said it was believed that Switzer knew of an FBI drug investigation that could implicate Hill.

Athletic Director Donnie Duncan told the Associated Press he was unaware of a drug investigation involving Hill.

Duncan said as far as he knew, Switzer's resignation was based on the reasons he gave at Monday's

news conference. Switzer said he felt it was time for new leadership for the Sooners and that he was drained.

"My conversation with Barry was that he had made a decision that he was going to resign. I really didn't consider it appropriate to delve into all the reasons," Duncan said.

Duncan said his conversation with Switzer last week did not include any references to any new negative events affecting the Sooner football program, such as a drug investigation.

The newspaper said Hill knew the investigation was nearing an end and that FBI agents believe he would have told Switzer, possibly providing a catalyst for Switzer's resignation decision.

As to the newspaper's report of the lie-detector test in connection with the NCAA report, Coats said he knew of no such a test.

"I'm sure I would know about it if it was connected with the NCAA investigation. I can't imagine a context in which that would happen."

He also said the university's report was completed and was sent to the NCAA by June 1, but the newspaper said Oklahoma had been granted an extension.

One source told the newspaper that FBI agents, led by the same investigator involved in the undercover case leading to the arrest of Thompson in February, were "getting close" to concluding their investigation of Hill. Their findings would then go to the U.S. attorney in Oklahoma City.

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