

Astros must find wins, luck to catch Giant in crucial, NL weekend series

Somewhere in the Houston Astros' dugout, there's a short guy with glasses and a big nose saying, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Yogi's is good advice to give to a team desperately trying to claw its way back into the National League West race.

With 12 games to go in the season, the Astros find themselves tied for second place with the San Diego Padres, five games behind the San Francisco Giants.

The Giants' magic number to eliminate the Astros is now down to eight. But what nobody's noticing is that the Astros aren't exactly out of it yet.

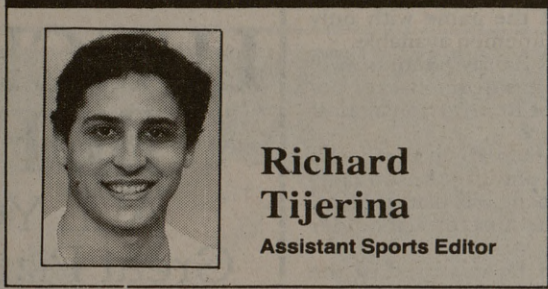
Six of their last games are against the lowly Atlanta Braves, a team that has won just 38 percent of its games this season.

The Astros also have three games left with San Francisco, and will have two of their best pitchers on the mound for the series: Mike Scott (20-8) and Mark Portugal (6-1).

Houston has won its last five games and eight of its last 10. It's the kind of streak that the Astros have lacked at this time the last two years, where they've been in the heat of the division race up until the last month only to fizzle at the end and finish with consecutive division-cellar finishes.

But this year has been a little different from past years. It almost makes one think back to 1986, when a weak-hitting Astros team that was supposed to finish near the bottom of the division, found itself battling the New York Mets for the National League Pennant.

There are more than just a few similarities.



Richard Tijerina
Assistant Sports Editor

• Mike Scott emerged as the Cy Young winner in 1986, totalling an 18-10 record and leading the league with a 2.22 ERA and 306 strikeouts. He pitched one no-hitter to clinch the division championship, ironically against the Giants, and was nearly unhittable in the playoffs against New York.

Scott became baseball's first 20-game winner of the season last week. With three scheduled starts left in the season, including today against the Braves, Scott needs two more wins to become the Astros' all-time leader for victories in a season and he is one of the top two contenders for the Cy Young again.

• The 1986 Astros were a team that led the majors in one-run wins at home.

In 1989, Houston again leads the league in one-run wins, including Sunday's 1-0 victory over Cincinnati. What they need to do is discover how to win close games on the road, as they have

the crucial series against the Giants coming up this weekend in San Francisco.

• The '86 Astros were led by Hal Lanier, a rookie manager who preached speed baseball and spired his players to be fierce competitors. Lanier went on to grab the '86 National League Manager of the Year Award.

First-year manager Art Howe has made his Houston Astros successful by being patient with them. A player's manager, Howe stuck by the team during its dismal start of the season and has groomed them into a legitimate division contender. Like Lanier, Howe too will be one of the top candidates for NL Manager of the Year. The Astros have already extended his contract through next year.

The Astros, who had a miserable month of August, have turned it up a notch and are playing well in September.

It may be a case of too little, too late for the Astros, but at least they're giving the Giants a run for their money going into the final 12 games. It's a welcome sight after the last two years.

With a little help from the Dodgers, who start a three-game series in San Francisco today, the Astros have a slight chance of finding themselves in a position of sneaking away with the division title this weekend.

Granted, a lot of things have to occur for that scenario to exist, but stranger things have happened. Keep your eyes on NL games this week. It could get interesting.

You're right. The Astros have a lot of ground to gain and don't have a lot of time to do it in. But it ain't over 'til it's over.

A 300-yard game doesn't always guarantee NFL QB's, teams a notch in the win column

When you throw a football in the air, it may come to earth you know not where.

A fitting parable for Week 2 of the NFL season, when quarterbacks proved that throwing for bundles of yards doesn't always produce wins. The 26 teams who played Sunday averaged a considerable 24 points per game; they also produced a considerable 36 interceptions.

Seven quarterbacks went over the 300 mark Sunday, and three of them lost.

That makes eight 300-yard games for the season, four by losers, just about the same 50 percent average of last season. On the other hand, the New York Giants have surrendered more than 300 yards passing in both their games this year ... and won both.

In other words, for every Randall

Cunningham, whose 447 yards rallied Philadelphia from a 20-0 deficit to a "That's Incredible!" 42-37 victory over the Washington Redskins, there's a Jim McMahon, who has thrown for 300 yards twice in his ca-

reer — and lost. Sunday, McMahon passed for 389 yards — but with three interceptions — as he and his new San Diego teammates lost 34-27 to Houston.

"It wasn't fun to play that way and it wasn't fun to come back from behind. But a lot of us have been in these situations before and we don't get rattled."

— Joe Montana

reer — and lost. Sunday, McMahon passed for 389 yards — but with three interceptions — as he and his new San Diego teammates lost 34-27 to Houston.

And for every Don Majkowski, who hit 18 straight passes and threw

Then there was Wade Wilson of Minnesota.

He didn't throw for 300 yards, but he did throw interceptions on three consecutive fourth-quarter possessions (and four in all), helping Chicago break open a 10-7 game and beat the Vikings 38-7 in the first half

of the battle of the NFC Central powerhouses.

Moreover, you don't have to be prolific to be good, as three former Super Bowl quarterbacks demonstrated.

Joe Montana, who engineered the 92-yard drive that gave San Francisco its 20-16 win over Cincinnati last January, saved his best for last against Tampa Bay, engineering a 70-yard drive capped by his 5-yard touchdown run with 50 seconds left. That gave the 49ers the win by a score of ... you guessed it, 20-16.

"It wasn't fun to play that way and it wasn't fun to come back from behind," Montana said. "But a lot of us have been in these situations before and we don't get rattled."

The same goes for Phil Simms of the Giants, who completed 12 of 14 passes in the second half as New York rallied from an 11-point deficit and beat Detroit 24-14.

Former Cowboy disappointed he's not 'Bama AD

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Lee Roy Jordan, former Dallas Cowboy and all-American linebacker at Alabama, said Monday he was disappointed at not being chosen athletic director, but he pleaded for a halt to what he termed fragmented support by fans.

Last week, the school named Cecil W. "Hootie" Ingram, also a former Crimson Tide player and the athletic director at Florida State, to succeed Steve Sloan, who resigned in mid-August under pressure.

Jordan, whose three years as a Tide player included 1961 when Alabama won the first of its five national titles under the late Bear Bryant, and Ingram, who played in the early 1950s, were the only ones interviewed to succeed Sloan.

Some Alabama fans, upset since the school in 1987 hired Bill Curry, who was not a Bryant man, as the football coach, also thought that Jordan, with his Bryant training, should have been chosen over Ingram.

"Hootie has the same great love for the university that I have," Jordan said at a news conference. "My support is for the university ... and

Hootie has my full support in all he does."

Jordan, now a Dallas businessman, also said that Curry and the other coaches at Alabama have his full backing.

He said he applied for the athletic directorship because he felt there were some areas where he could contribute, but that now he feels it is

his job "to get everyone back in support of the program. We are too fragmented. There are too many people who don't have the commitment they should."

"I am asking all Alabama supporters to make the same commitment I have to the university."

Jordan said he is "tired of picking up the little bones that have been

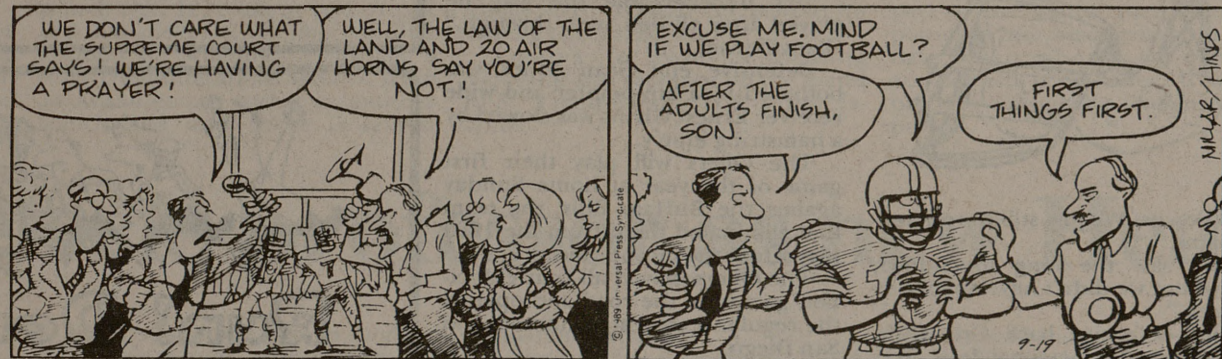
tossed our way, and I think we ought to do something about it."


Alabama plays at Auburn this year for the first time, and after 1992, will play at Auburn every other year.

"In my 14 years with the Dallas Cowboys, I never came close to the experiences I had here in four years," Jordan said.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds





Giant Movie Poster Sale!

Today through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the MSC Main Hallway

Thousands of movie posters, prints, and rock posters to choose from! Decorate your walls with something unique and affordable!

For more information call MSC Aggie Cinema at 845-1515.

SEE THE WORLD FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW

SKYDIVE!

with AGGIES OVER TEXAS

PRICES FOR FIRST JUMPS

STATIC LINE	\$135
TANDEM	\$125
ACCELERATED FREEFALL	\$260

CLASSES EVERY WEEKEND AT COULTER FIELD
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 778-0245

Rhodes Scholarship 1989

Are you a senior with a 3.75 + average? If so you may be eligible for a Rhodes Scholarship. You could spend the next 2 years at Oxford University honing your career skills, widening your educational base.

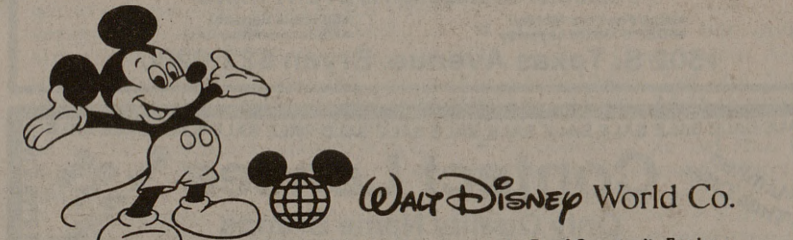
Contact Professor J.F. Reading
Room 505, Physics
845-5073 or 696-9190

DEADLINE: SEPT. 30, 1989

WALT DISNEY WORLD COLLEGE PROGRAM

Walt Disney World Co. representatives will present an information session on the Walt Disney World College Program Thursday, September 21, 1989 at Texas A&M, 7:00 p.m. (location is to be announced). Attendance at this presentation is required to interview for the SPRING '90 COLLEGE PROGRAM. Interviews are scheduled for Friday, September 22, 1989 (time and location to be announced). Eligible majors include: Business/Marketing, Communications, Recreation and Theater/Drama.

Contact: Cooperative Education 845-7725



© 1989 The Walt Disney Company An Equal Opportunity Employer

DOMINO'S PIZZA



DOUBLE DEAL DAYS

Now, during Domino's Pizza "Double Deal Days," get two custom made pizzas for one very hot price. Delivered to your door in 30 minutes or less ... guaranteed. During Double Deal Days, the savings are twice as nice. So, call now, we'll be there on the double.

DOUBLE DEAL DAYS DEAL

TWO 12" 2 item Original STYLE PIZZAS \$ 11.86

FOR JUST Additional toppings just 1.40 each, covers both pizzas. Call us at any B/C.S. Store.

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers not penalized for late deliveries. Our drivers carry less than \$20. ©1989 Domino's Pizza, Inc.

DOUBLE DEAL DAYS DEAL

TWO 1 item PAN PIZZAS \$ 13.95

FOR JUST Additional toppings just 1.40 each, covers both pizza. Call us at any B/C.S. Store.

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers not penalized for late deliveries. Our drivers carry less than \$20. ©1989 Domino's Pizza, Inc.

©1989 Domino's Pizza, Inc.