

# Ryan Express chugs to 300th win

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Nolan Ryan won his 300th game Tuesday night, reaching the milestone in his second try and ensuring his place in history as the Texas Rangers beat the Milwaukee Brewers 11-3.

The game's all-time strikeout leader, the fastballer with a record six no-hitters, became the 20th major leaguer to get 300 victories. Every other pitcher to win that many was elected to the Hall of Fame when eligible, except spitballer Gaylord Perry.

Ryan (11-4) won his sixth straight decision, allowing six hits in 7 2-3 innings. He struck out eight, increasing his career total to 5,219, walked two and threw 146 pitches.

It was not the overpowering, classic Ryan, but it counted. And it also served to bring baseball's focus back to the field, one day after New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was disciplined. In fact, commissioner Fay Vincent stayed away from County Stadium, perhaps not wanting to steal attention from Ryan.

With Texas leading 5-1 in the eighth, two errors by second baseman Julio Franco and two singles led to two unearned runs, sabotaging Ryan's chance to finish with the complete game he wanted so much. He joined Early Wynn and Steve Carlton as the only pitchers to reach 300 victories without pitching a complete game.

After Jim Gantner's RBI single, Ryan left to a standing ovation and waved to the crowd, which booed when Brad Arnsberg relieved, but applauded when he got the third out

## Fans rally support at home stadium

ARLINGTON (AP) — A raucous crowd of almost 8,000 Texas Rangers fans cheered Nolan Ryan's effort Tuesday to become baseball's 20th 300-game winner, treating it like a home game—even though it wasn't.

"We drove 200 miles from Georgetown for this game, with a flat tire on the way, and it was worth every bit of it," said Bob Phillips, a 36-year-old lawyer.

"We didn't think we were going to make it on time, but I paid extra to get the flat fixed faster and by the grace of God and the charity of a man at this Exxon station in Abbott, we were able to get here by the top of the second inning."

Phillips brought his son, David, with him to watch Ryan face the Milwaukee Brewers via big-screen television at Arlington Stadium.

"I wanted him to be here for history," he said. "My wife thinks I'm crazy."

Chris Kinnear, 30, of Arlington, brought a banner with a large "300" written on it and draped it over a section of the grandstand.

It was his second trip to Arlington Stadium with the banner. It made its appearance last week when Ryan was unsuccessful in his first attempt at the record.

"I am one big Nolan Ryan fan. The atmosphere here tonight is like a regular game," he said.

Chris Pikulinski, who works for the Rangers as a security guard, agreed.

"That's what's really strange—the way the crowd has been reacting tonight," the 26-year-old Pikulinski said. "I never thought the crowd would respond this way."

of the inning, preserving a 5-3 lead. Arnsberg got the last three outs for his third save.

Ryan's victory then was assured when Franco redeemed himself by keying a six-run ninth for Texas with a grand slam.

A paid crowd of 51,533, largest of the season in Milwaukee, included 15 of Ryan's family and friends and

Rangers owner George Bush, son of the president. They saw what they came to see and so did the Brewers' fans, who gave the 43-year-old Ryan a standing ovation when he walked to the dugout before the game and loudly cheered him throughout the evening.

Ryan wanted an early win in his quest, not an Early Wynn. It took

Wynn seven starts to win his 300th game, and Ryan was disappointed last Wednesday when he got a no-decision against the Yankees, getting tagged for seven runs on 10 hits in eight innings. Of the previous nine pitchers to win 300, five did it on their first try.

This time, Ryan held Milwaukee hitless until Paul Molitor singled with two outs in the third and Robin Yount tripled for a 1-0 lead. By the end of the inning, Ryan already had thrown 71 pitches and there were fears that his bad back might act up and force an early exit.

But after Texas rallied for four runs in the fifth against Chris Bosio (4-9) and scored again in the sixth, Ryan seemed to get stronger as he sensed history. He did not give up another hit until Molitor blooped a single to start the eighth.

Ryan's winning streak is his longest since he won six straight in 1984 with Houston.

The victory came in his 695th career start and gave him a lifetime record of 300-267. He won his first game on April 14, 1968, with the New York Mets and became the first to reach 300 since Don Sutton in 1986.

Flash bulbs popped all during the night and "300" signs dotted the ballpark. At Ryan's home field in Texas, there were 7,828 people in the stands to watch the game on the scoreboard at Arlington Stadium, and fans across the country tuned in the game on ESPN-TV.

# Arkansas' departure strikes chords of inevitable change for Southwest Conference

HOUSTON (AP) — Arkansas coach Jack Crowe said Tuesday he has some reservations about the Hogs' moving to the Southeastern Conference but the move appeared inevitable.

"It's almost a manifest destiny," Crowe said. "It's the will of the people and you don't ask questions. There's nothing in the state of Arkansas that would get a stronger vote right now."

Arkansas president Alan Sugg, says he will recommend to the system trustees on Wednesday that Arkansas end its 76-year membership in the Southwest Conference and move to the SEC.

"It's so unanimous in the state of Arkansas that I don't think there's anything I could have done to turn it around," Crowe said. "The only thing I asked them to do was make it quick."

"When our players come in, I want this to be a dead issue."

Crowe told writers and broadcasters at the Texas High School Coaches' Association coaching school he was concerned how the move would affect recruiting and how his own players and coaches would react.

"I believe in tradition and we're messing with tradition here," said Crowe, starting his first season as head coach.

"I'm not sure we'll have a lot of happy players and coaches about the decision. Every player and coach at Arkansas fully intended to coach and play his entire career in the Southwest Conference."

"It's something that we'll just have to wait and see."

In Dallas, SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby said "sensitive" discussions were under way with several schools outside the SWC. Asked if they were in the Big Eight Conference, Jacoby said he wouldn't iden-

tify the schools. However, Jacoby said the discussions "could strengthen ourselves" without Arkansas being in the league.

Asked about CBS saying it might not do business as usual with the Cotton Bowl because of Arkansas' departure, Jacoby said "any talk about CBS is premature. That's in the future."

Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum said he hoped the SWC could go on as a strong 8-team league without the Hogs.

**"It's the will of the people and you don't ask questions. There's nothing in the state of Arkansas that would get a stronger vote right now."**

**—Jack Crowe, UA head coach**

"I'd be dishonest if I said I wasn't disappointed but we'll go on," Slocum said. "It's not the end of the world, it's not a panic situation for the rest of us."

There also has been speculation about the Aggies and University of Texas moving to the SEC but Slocum said there were other alternatives.

"It's logical to make the assumption that if Arkansas is attractive, I'd say Texas A&M and Texas would also bring fans and television appeal," Slocum said. "If I were an outsider looking in, we'd be two teams that might jump."

Such conclusions are premature, he said.

## Sports Focus: SWC Football

# Razorbacks' quarterback adapts well to tough teams, severe playing conditions

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) Awareness is too easy an explanation of Arkansas quarterback Quinn Grovey.

That was the catchall used by first-year Arkansas Coach Jack Crowe. Without prompting, he expounded.

For instance, last December, when Crowe was the offensive coordinator and the Razorbacks

were preparing for the Cotton Bowl, Grovey wandered into Crowe's office and asked about Tennessee film.

"Before I ever put the film on, he says, 'Who are they like?'"

"I said, 'Quinn, they remind me a lot of Baylor, the size, the movement.'"

"He says, 'Hey coach, they're good.' Baylor was salty on de-

fense."

They watched almost a half before Crowe asked Grovey about the Vols.

"He sort of looked at me like, 'I can tell you the truth, can't I,' and said 'Coach, they ain't like Baylor.' He said, 'We'll score 40 points on them.' I mean, I didn't know that."

Tennessee beat Arkansas, 31-27, even though the Razorbacks rewrote the bowl record book with 568 yards and 31 first downs.

The Volunteers and Razorbacks could be meeting on an annual basis in the years to come if Arkansas leaves the Southwest Conference and joins the Southeastern Conference.

The SEC has been courting Arkansas since May for inclusion in the league's expansion. UA Athletic Director Frank Broyles has said that a decision, one way or another, would be announced before players report Aug. 13. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees is to meet today to discuss the possible move.

So far, every group polled at the university has favored the switch, officials said.

During last year's Baylor game in Fayetteville, Grovey reversed his field once and Robert Blackmon knocked him out of bounds for a 15-yard loss.

Grovey did everything to avoid talking with Crowe on the phone. The following Monday, Crowe was waiting.

"I said, 'Quinn, we're fixing to play A&M and the way those guys run, I promise you, you reverse your field one time, it may cost us the ball game.'"

"I understand, coach," Grovey said.

At College Station, with the Southwest Conference championship on the line, Grovey reversed his field and went 25 yards for the Razorbacks' first touchdown in an eventual 23-22 victory.

"He comes to the sideline and I said, 'Quinn.' He said, 'I know coach.' He said, 'I knew I could do that. I wanted to tell you but you wouldn't have believed me.'"

Grovey is a big reason that Arkansas has a chance to win a third straight SWC title.

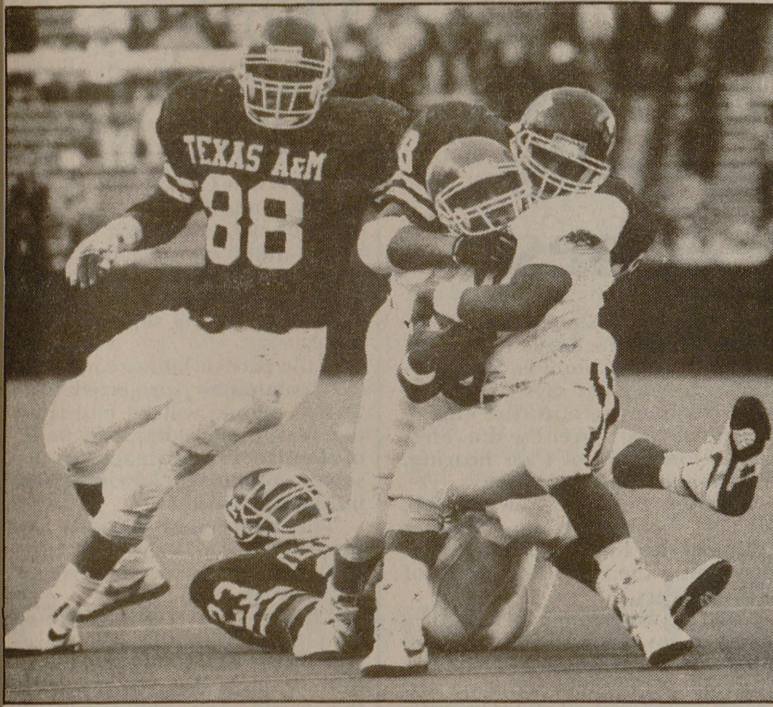
Talk about a catalyst. "You've just got to give him a chance to make a play twice a quarter," Crowe said. "I'm not sure when it became obvious to me or even how you define it, but every player out there knows it and every coach knows it that's been out there with him in a game."

"He's not gonna be an NFL player, he's not gonna be anything other than what he is. There are competent football players, what I mean by competent is height, weight and speed, but they're not really aware of the field, the defenses, the circumstances."

"He is always aware of what has to be done right now. Most of these guys that are good players, their ego sorta gets away from them and they lose the awareness of what is really happening."

Early on, Crowe said he tried to dominate Grovey. Finally, he backed off.

"The team was standing around waiting for Quinn to do it," he said. "It just became obvious to me over a period of time that when he makes a play, they all start cheering and pick him up and say, 'Let's go again.'"



Battalion file photo by Mike C. Mulvey

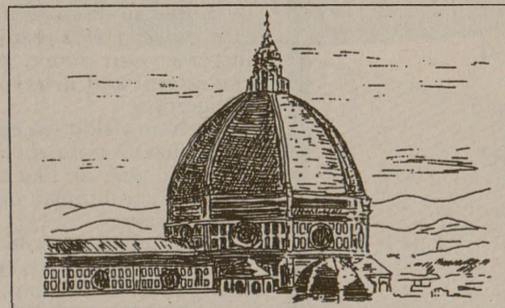
Arkansas quarterback Quinn Grovey led last year's Razorback squad past A&M 23-22 for the Southwest Conference title.

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