

Decker's shot beats Stros, Bucs edge Cubs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rookie Steve Decker homered with two outs in the ninth inning and San Francisco beat the Houston Astros 1-0 Sunday as the Giants' staff extended its scoreless streak to 23 innings.

Decker's fourth homer of the season came on a 1-1 pitch from reliever Curt Schilling (0-1). The Giants completed a three-game sweep and posted consecutive shutouts for the first time since Aug. 23, 1989.

Mike LaCoss went the first eight innings, giving up four hits, striking out seven and walking one. Dave Righetti (2-0) pitched the ninth for the victory, getting Carl Nichols on a pop up with runners on first and second

to end the inning. Pirates 13, Cubs 12
PITTSBURGH — Don Slaught's two-run double capped a six-run rally in the 11th inning and the Pirates survived Andre Dawson's second grand slam in three days.

With Chicago leading 12-7, Cubs reliever Heath Slocumb walked Jose Lind and Curtis Wilkerson and Orlando Merced singled to start the 11th, loading the bases with no outs and bringing on Mike Bielecki, the Cubs' sixth pitcher. Jay Bell doubled home two runs and Andy Van Slyke's sacrifice fly made it 12-10.

Dodgers 6, Padres 0
SAN DIEGO — Darryl Strawberry hit his first home run for

the Los Angeles Dodgers and Ramon Martinez pitched a five-hitter and delivered a two-run single.

Strawberry's solo shot in the seventh inning ended the longest season-opening drought of his career. He connected off left-handed reliever Rich Rodriguez in the Dodgers' 12th game and his 40th at-bat.

Cardinals 7, Phillies 6
ST. LOUIS — Ray Lankford scored from second base on a groundout when he knocked the ball loose from catcher Darren Daulton in the 10th inning.

Lankford drew a one-out walk from Mitch Williams (0-2) and stole second. After Williams intentionally walked Felix Jose,

Gerald Perry grounded into a forceout at second, and Lankford kept running.

Mets 9, Expos 5
MONTREAL — Kevin Elster homered and drove in four runs and Vince Coleman got three hits.

Coleman's RBI triple keyed a three-run rally in the seventh inning that put New York ahead 4-2. Elster hit a three-run homer in the eighth and singled home a run in the ninth.

Braves 3, Reds 2
ATLANTA — Charlie Leibrandt gave up two runs in eight innings to beat Jose Rijo.

Chisox rally for first win in new park

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago White Sox won their first game in three tries at the new Comiskey Park when Lance Johnson's RBI single capped a two-run, two-out rally in the ninth inning to beat the Tigers.

Chicago snapped its three-game losing streak and ended Detroit's four-game winning streak. The Tigers beat the White Sox 16-0 in the Comiskey opener.

Detroit led 4-3 with two outs in the ninth when Ozzie Guillen singled off Paul Gibson (2-1) and scored when right fielder Rob Deer dropped Scott Fletcher's fly ball for an error. Fletcher wound

up on second and scored on Johnson's hit.

Brian Drahman (1-0) pitched one inning for his first major-league victory.

Twins 4, Angels 3
ANAHEIM — Right fielder Max Venable's error allowed Kent Hrbek to score the tie-breaking run.

Chili Davis led off with a single against Mark Eichhorn (0-1) and was forced on Hrbek's grounder. Hrbek stole second when catcher John Orton mishandled a pitch-out and Junior Ortiz followed with a single to right. Hrbek continued home when the ball bounced off Venable's glove.

ble's glove.

Scott Erickson (1-2) gave up three runs and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings. In his first two losses, the Twins scored one run against Oakland and Seattle. Rick Aguilera pitched one inning in relief of Larry Casian for his second save.

Brewers 11, Blue Jays 8
MILWAUKEE — Robin Yount's three-run homer with one out in the 10th inning gave the Brewers a victory after Toronto blew a five-run lead.

The Brewers, who trailed 8-3 before rallying for five runs in the eighth to tie the score, won the game against Frank Wills (0-

1), the fifth Blue Jays pitcher.

With one out, Bill Spiers and Darryl Hamilton walked and Yount hit Wills' 3-1 pitch over the left-field wall for his third homer of the season.

Chuck Crim (1-0) pitched the top of the 10th and struck out two for the victory.

Mariners 7, A's 2

SEATTLE — The Mariners completed a three-game sweep as Ken Griffey Jr. sparked a five-run eighth inning with a sacrifice fly.

The M's swept the A's for just the third time in club history.

Bertsch leads A&M, team finishes 7th

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M's Shane Bertsch finished second in the Southwest Conference Men's Golf Championship this weekend in Fort Worth.

Bertsch finished five strokes behind tournament champion Justin Leonard of the University of Texas.

Bertsch finished with a score of 215 in the 54-hole tournament. He shot a tournament-low 67 (par 71) in the second round of play.

The A&M golf team finished seventh in the tournament, just one stroke behind sixth-place Southern Methodist University and 27 strokes off the lead.

A&M coach Bob Ellis said he was disappointed with the Aggies' performance during the final day of the tournament.

"I thought coming in that we were ready and we just never seemed to get anything going," Ellis said. "It would have been difficult to catch Texas, but I hoped we could work our way up and finish in the upper division."

Ellis said he was pleased with Bertsch's performance.

"He responded very well and played some intelligent golf," he said. "Anytime you place second in the SWC tournament, it is an accomplishment."

Leonard's individual championship helped the Texas Longhorns capture a third straight SWC Men's Golf Tournament title. Texas, ranked seventh in the country, finished at 876 for the three-day, 54-hole tournament, besting runner-up Texas Christian (891) by 15 strokes.

With the victory, the Longhorns became

the first school since Houston (1976-80) to win three consecutive SWC Tournament titles. Arkansas finished third (892) followed by Rice at 895.

"We were the favorite going in so there is always a little pressure in that situation," said Texas coach Jimmy Clayton. "Because of that, I'm real proud of the way this team responded."

"They played well and Justin played especially well. It was a great performance by Justin. Winning this tournament has been one of his goals this year, since last September even."

Leonard, a freshman from Dallas Lake Highlands, strung together rounds of 73-68-69 to become the first Texas player to win the individual title since Brandel Chamblee in 1983.

Sports Mail

A&M sports need fan-oriented coverage

SPORTS EDITOR:

We were wondering if anyone else has noticed that this year's sportswriting is even more incompetent than the pathetic level that the sports fans who read The Battalion have become accustomed to. Case in point: Scott Wudel's April 17 column.

What easier assignment could a writer ask for than "irresponsible reporting dogging A&M athletics?" With a plethora of material at hand, Wudel failed to keep his article on track.

Any sports fan knows that the recent rumors concerning Coach Johnson have no place in the same column as alleged rules violations committed by other programs here on campus.

Does Wudel not realize that to even be considered for the head coaching position at one of the nation's finest collegiate baseball programs is an honor of great magnitude? How does this "dog" A&M athletics? No sports fan would begrudge Coach Johnson this opportunity of a lifetime.

Perhaps this is the heart of the problem. The writers do not seem to be knowledgeable sports fans, or at most one-dimensional. Alan Lehmann fails to recognize that there are two professional baseball franchises in Texas (really, some do care about the Astros).

Recruiting, the lifeblood of collegiate sports (especially football), received shameful coverage. You do not need a large staff to cover the activities of the "second football season," just the interest and desire to keep up with this crucial process. There were plenty of regular students who followed the recruiting battle to fanatical degree, but The Batt can not seem to hire such devoted and knowledgeable fans.

The recent column describing Coach R.C. Slocum's reduction of the 12th Man return team's responsibilities as a bad publicity move was, again, obviously not written by a sports fan. Perhaps people in the press box did not feel the anxiety of the students as they crossed their fingers and covered their eyes after frantically checking the scoreboard to make sure the Aggies were up by more than a touchdown (we have a great respect for the dedication and effort of the athletes making up the squad, but it was not working).

It is not that we expect columnists' opinions to be the same as our opinions (we almost always disagree with each other), we would just like to see some informed, competent and fresh (we know we are asking too much) commentary by real fans.

Michael Maham '92
Glenn McCabe '92

Editor's Note: Applications now are being accepted for the fall sports staff. They can be picked up in 216 Reed McDonald and must be dropped off Friday by 5 p.m.

Also, we encourage sports columns from fans and readers. If you have one to submit, call Alan at 845-2688 or 845-3313.

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

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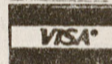
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