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# Bad news continues for Rangers as Witt goes down with season-ending injury

## Rookie Fajardo expected to get start

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — What was already a disappointing season for Texas Rangers pitcher Bobby Witt has come to a premature end because of a possible bone spur in his right shoulder that may require surgery.

After leading the Rangers with 17 victories last season, Witt was in the first season of a 4-year contract that will pay him a guaranteed minimum of \$7.3 million and a maximum of \$10.05 million.

He missed part of this season after tests on his shoulder revealed a slight rotator cuff tear. The injury did not require surgery, but Witt was ineffective when he returned to the rotation.

The player struggled to a 3-7 record with a 6.09 earned-run average, highest among the team's starters, and eventually was sent to the bullpen.

Witt, who has experienced periodic elbow soreness for several years, threw 4 1-3 innings of hitless relief Tuesday night in his first appearance since being demoted from the starting rotation on Sept. 8.

But manager Bobby Valentine said Witt "wasn't throwing that well. He wasn't back in the saddle." Valentine asked for a clean meeting on Wednesday, and Witt admitted to severe pain in his right elbow.

Witt agreed not to pitch again this season.

"It's something that has been there for the last couple years, but I've always been able to deal with

it," Witt said. He was expected to have an arthrogram Friday and faces possible surgery.

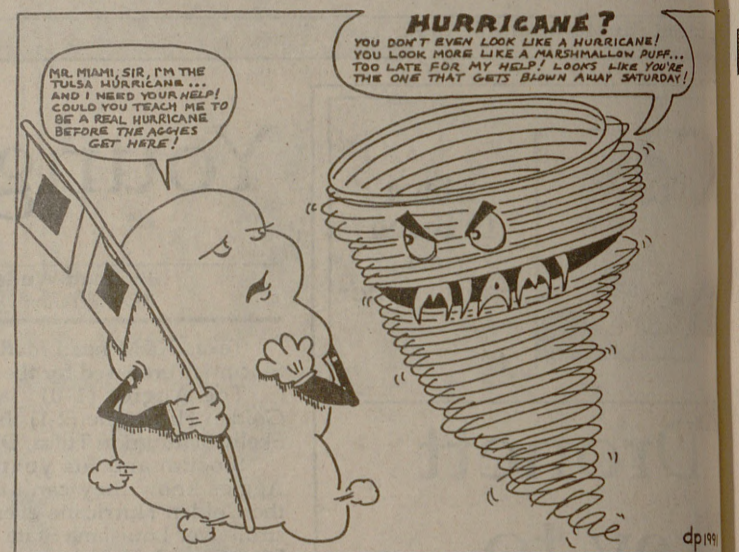
No tendon or ligament damage is expected in Witt's elbow, but teammate Scott Chiamparino ended up with ligament reconstruction surgery when he had an operation to remove bone chips and a spur from his elbow this summer.

"You always worry about it when it's your arm and they're going to stick things in it and look around," Witt said. "But I'm kind of looking forward to this. It seems like it may be something we can solve this year. It may be like getting a whole new elbow, and I wouldn't mind starting next season like that."

"Maybe the shoulder pain bothered his elbow. Maybe the beginning of the elbow problem caused the shoulder to be bothered," Valentine said. "He's always had an elbow situation, but he has pitched through it. It's just bothering him a little more right now."

Valentine said newly acquired rookie Hector Fajardo probably will be slipped into the rotation Sunday or Monday. With Witt gone and Brian Bohannon's rotation spot in question, Fajardo will start so Nolan Ryan will get his normal rest between starts.

Fajardo, who has a 95 mph fastball, was acquired from Pittsburgh for third baseman Steve Buechele.



## College Football Weekend

SWC Update

### Game of the week: Texas (0-1) vs. Auburn (2-0)

Texas... Three things come to mind when you think of the Longhorns and their opening game loss to Mississippi State. First, Texas forgot that winning the Southwest Conference last season automatically makes them a target this season. Second, Butch Hadnot is not the all-evil thing running back that Texas fans would like to think. He's no Earl Campbell. Texas fans need to come back down to reality and realize he might be as good a runner as former A&M star Roger Vick - and that's on a good day. Lastly, as highly defensive end Shane Dronett was rated in preseason polls, he wasn't overrated. He may spell doom for Auburn.

Auburn... The Tigers march into Memorial Stadium the thirteenth ranked team in the country. It may be reaching to rank them that high, but anyone who is consistently in the hunt for the Southeastern Conference title, year after year, needs a medal. Auburn is 20 and is coming off a 23-13 victory over Mississippi.

Key matchup... The fate of the Longhorns is again left with the No. 1 rated defensive line in the country of Dronett, Bo Robinson, Tommy Jeter and James Patton. They must get to Auburn quarterback Stan White before he finds receivers Herbert Casey and Peln Cherry. And the two speedsters will get open against a questionable Longhorn defensive backfield.

when/where... noon, Memorial Stadium in Austin.

line... Texas by 3.

### Baylor (2-0) vs. Missouri (1-0)

Baylor... What more can you say about the Bears. Last weekend's victory over defending national champion Colorado proves head coach Grant Teaff may finally have his championship team together. Defensive tackle Santana Dotson, a Lombardi Award candidate, and teammate Robin Jones make up one of the best defensive line duos in the nation. Dotson has been slowed by an ankle twist this week, but expect him to play Saturday. And the Bears' win over the Buffaloes was no fluke. Baylor outgained Colorado, 428-322, and held them to under 20 points for the first time in 27 regular-season games.

Missouri... The Tigers have been picked by many to finish in the middle-to-bottom of the Big Eight pack but don't jump to any conclusions. Missouri is good at playing the role of 'giant killer.' Last season they trounced Arizona State and it took Colorado a controversial fifth down to win. But the Tigers are lacking the type of defense it takes to contend with a team like Baylor.

Key matchup... Baylor should walk away from this weekend with another victory under its belt. And with their defense, there isn't much Missouri can do about Baylor fullback Robert Straight running all the way to the moon on Saturday. Don't forget, though, that past Baylor teams under Teaff's direction have periodically decided not to show up for certain games.

when/where... 7 p.m., Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

line... Baylor by 13.

Other Southwest Conference games this weekend:  
Southwest Louisiana at Arkansas  
Houston at Illinois  
Rice at Tulane  
Texas Tech at Wyoming  
TCU at Oklahoma State

## National Outlook

### Game of the week: Washington (1-0) vs. Nebraska (2-0)

Washington... The Huskies are No. 4 in the country by the Associated Press and deservedly so. Washington possesses a defense that should calm a Nebraska offense that has managed 1,483 yards of offense in only two games. This is one of only three real challenges to the Huskies taking a trip back to Rose Bowl and vying for a national championship. USC and UCLA are the only other real teams on Washington's schedule and head coach Don James isn't going to let Saturday's game get away from him. Expect this matchup to be reminiscent of last weekend's Baylor-Colorado clash.

Nebraska... The No. 9 Cornhuskers do something the Houston Cougars are known for: running the score up on weak opponents. They're coming off a 71-14 thrashing of Colorado State. Nebraska ran up 696 yards of offense, including 529 yards rushing against the Rams last Saturday. Running back Derek Brown rushed for 121 yards and two touchdowns. On the other side of the ball, the Cornhuskers look strong as well with 6-2, 225-pound linebacker Travis Hill leading the way.

Key matchup... Nebraska obviously has put together a great running game under the direction of head coach Tom Osborne, but it's only great against average teams. Surely some of the Nebraska players go to Church but not enough to gain 400 yards rushing against the Huskies. Washington defensive tackle Steve Emtman is the best in the land and will show it Saturday. The Huskies can't completely shut down Nebraska but may be able to do it just enough to pull out a victory.

when/where... noon, at Nebraska.

line... even.

## players to watch...

David Klingler, QB, Houston... After a dismal performance against Miami during the Cougar's 40-10 loss, Klingler has to put up or sit down. Mr. Heisman weights for no one and especially has no patient with those who choose to get embarrassed on national television. Klingler completed 32-of-59 passes for 216 yards in the Miami game. The Cougars play at Illinois this Saturday and Klingler should have better luck against a weaker defense.

Steve Emtman, DT, Washington... The Heisman Trophy is long from being decided but the race for the Lombardi Trophy, which honors the nation's top lineman, could be greatly affected this weekend. Texas' Shane Dronett and Baylor's Santana Dotson both play this weekend and whoever has the big game goes to the top of the list.

Other games around the country:  
Georgia at Alabama  
California at Arizona  
Minnesota at Colorado  
Florida at Syracuse  
Michigan State at Notre Dame  
BYU at Penn State  
Arizona State at USC  
Mississippi State at Tennessee  
Brown at Yale

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## Speedway

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drivers has been good so far. As of Wednesday morning, there were 47 entries for the ARCA race. Johnson said there is a limit of 40 cars for the race. There were about 30 entries for the TIDA Late Models and 12-14 entries for the Pro Vees. Johnson said former NASCAR driver H.B. Bailey of Houston is building three cars for this weekend to get more track time.

The ARCA cars will race on the repaved two mile oval, while the TIDA drivers and Pro Vees will use the 1.9 mile configuration of the newly designed road course. Texas World Speedway was bought by the Ishin Corporation of Japan earlier this year and has been completely refurbished. The racing surface has been redesigned and repaved, and a new control tower has been built. Enclosed seats have been added in the Speedway Club and pit row suites have been built. This weekend will be the first major race at the facility since 1988.

"This is kind of a show and tell for the track," Johnson said. "This race course is the best I've ever seen, and I've been in the business for a long time."

Some of the drivers share Johnson's enthusiasm for the rebuilt racetrack. Bill Venturini, currently second in the ARCA driver's championship, says the track looks good.

"I think they've done an excellent job," Venturini said. "It's very smooth, very nice. I think the racing will be real good." Although some have expressed concern over the track's freshly laid asphalt, Venturini doesn't think it will be a problem.

"The cold weather has helped a bunch. We won't have a problem with blistering tires."

Bob Brevak, last year's ARCA Super Car Series champion, is con-

cerned about the new asphalt.

"I've seen some problems with freshly laid surfaces," Brevak said. "It's something we're going to watch as it unfolds." Brevak said if it's hot, the sealer could come up, and rocks and gravel could come loose. "Tire wear could be a problem."

TIDA Pro Sedan 1991 Rookie of the Year Todd Farris said he is looking forward to Saturday's race.

"We took a ride around it (the track) today," Farris said Thursday. "It's going to be a lot of fun. It's really smooth and it'll be really fast." Farris, from College Station, will be driving for car owner Bill LaBarge, owner of the Bug Clinic in Bryan. LaBarge will be driving in both the Pro Sedan and the Late Model races in Gary Stevenson Quality Pontiac/Buick/GMC, Bug Clinic and Fabric Care Cleaners sponsored cars.

The drivers predict good racing for this weekend. Bobby Bowsher comes into Sunday's race with a 95 point lead for the driver's championship over second place Venturini. A win for Bowsher could put the championship out of Venturini's reach if he fails to finish. Venturini said he has finished fairly consistently near the top, but he is still looking for his first win of the season.

"Sunday will be my first win," Venturini said.

Venturini, the 1987 champion, said he feels he will be competitive in his Nitea Plunge Chevrolet Lumina.

"I run the best on the speedways. It's my strong point."

Brevak, last year's champion, is also looking for his first win this year.

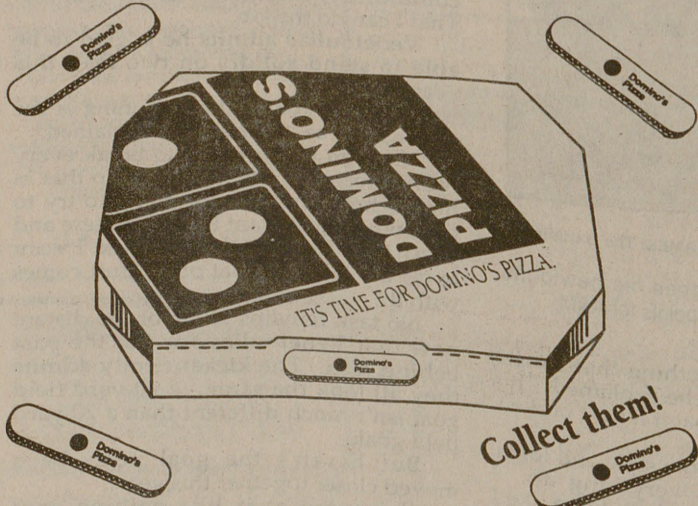
"We've had an incredible string of bad luck," Brevak said. He said he has had several races for a long way this year before having problems. Despite his bad luck, Brevak feels he will be competitive on Sunday and says he is looking forward to racing again at Texas World Speedway. Brevak raced at the track in the 70's.

"I like the speedways," Brevak said. "I like the added exposure to the fans, and I like the speed. I enjoy being here to reopen TWS, to bring racing back to Texas in a major league way."

Brevak and the other ARCA Permatex Supercar Series drivers will start their race at 1 p.m. on Sunday, followed by the TIDA Late Models at 3:45. Practice and qualifying are scheduled for today and Saturday. The first race is scheduled for the TIDA Pro Sedans at 5 p.m. Saturday followed by the Pro Vee race at 5:30.

Ticket prices for the weekend range from \$20 for infield viewing to \$35 for grandstand seats and \$75 for the enclosed Speedway Club. Student tickets are \$10. For more ticket information call 690-2500.

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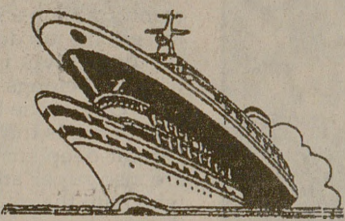
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