

Rangers, Canseco rock Tigers, 6-5

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — It doesn't matter what uniform he's wearing. Jose Canseco just flat out likes to hit in Tiger Stadium, and the tale of the tape proves it.

Canseco homered onto the left-field roof and Rafael Palmeiro and Dean Palmer also connected as the Texas Rangers beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 Tuesday night.

Canseco led off the ninth with a drive that was measured at 434 feet. His 26th home run of the season was his fourth in 11 games for Texas.

"When he's healthy, he's just like Cecil (Fielder)," Tony Phillips said. "That's all they want him to do. Jose, Cecil and Mark McGwire are in a league of their own."

When he was a rookie with the Oakland Athletics, Canseco hit one even farther in Tiger Stadium. It was a line shot that landed well up in an aisle in the second-deck bleachers, to the right of the flag pole. The center-field fence is 440 feet from the plate in Detroit.

"I've always considered this ballpark a good hitters' ballpark," Canseco said. "For one thing, it's not too deep.

"But, for me, hitting the homer wasn't too exciting. What was exciting was finally getting the bat on the ball. I mean, I was 0 for 2 with two strikeouts (and two walks) at that point. I wanted to say to the catcher, 'Can I make contact now, can I make contact now?'"

Canseco was batting third in the Rangers' lineup, behind Palmeiro.

"I tell Raffy to be aggressive," Canseco said. "I tell him not to take a ball on 2-0 count if he doesn't want to. I say, 'If you see a 2-0 pitch you like, crush it.'"

Palmeiro, who has gone 10 for 20 in the last six games, broke a 3-all tie with an RBI single off Bill Gullickson (14-11) in the seventh. Palmeiro had three hits, including his 18th homer, and drove in three runs.

"It's nice to be hitting ahead of Jose," Palmeiro said. "He's fun to watch."

Dean Palmer hit his 25th homer, a solo shot, in the third inning.

Palmer doubled and scored on Jeff Frye's double in the eighth. Travis Fryman hit his 20th homer, off reliever Todd Burns, in the De-

troit eighth and added an RBI single in the ninth.

Jose Guzman (14-11) allowed five hits in seven innings. He struck out six and walked three. Matt Whiteside went 1 2-3 innings for his first major league save, extending a remarkable string.

Whiteside, who was purchased from the Rangers' Triple-A farm club at Oklahoma City, hasn't blown a save all season.

He started the season at Double-A Tulsa, where he was perfect in 21 save situations, then converted all eight opportunities at Oklahoma City before he was called up.

"I've had that in the back of my mind, to give him an opportunity to save a game up here," Texas manager Toby Harrah said. "He was pretty excited about it. Here's a kid that goes 21-for-21 in Double-A and 8-for-8 in Triple-A. He deserved a chance up here to see what he can do."

The score was tied at 3 when Frye started the Texas seventh with a single. Monty Fariss followed with a line drive that Gullickson knocked down, and threw to first for an out, and Palmeiro singled home the go-ahead run.

Late comeback propels Houston

Bagwell's homerun in 11th completes Astros' rally over Giants

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Jeff Bagwell's three-run homer in the 11th inning was his fifth hit of the game and helped the Houston Astros overcome a five-run deficit to beat the San Francisco Giants 9-6 Tuesday night.

Bagwell's 15th homer, a two-out shot to center off reliever Steve Reed, followed consecutive singles by Steve Finley and Luis Gonzalez allowed by loser Dave Righthetti (2-6).

Bagwell was 5 for 6 for game and became the first Houston player with five hits since Billy

Hatcher on May 20, 1988, against St. Louis. Bagwell surpassed his career high of four hits, which he's accomplished four times.

Doug Jones (9-8) worked three innings, allowing a run on two hits, for the victory.

Finley hit a homer for Houston, his fourth, in the ninth inning off Rod Beck to tie it at 6.

The Giants took a 6-5 in the top of the inning on Darren Lewis's RBI single.

San Francisco went up 3-0 in the first on Matt Williams 19th home run. Felder walked and Willie McGee singled before Williams' home run.

The Giants added two more runs in the second when McGee walked and moved to second when first baseman Bagwell misplayed Clark's grounder. Mark Leonard doubled in drive in both runners.

Houston scored twice in the second after Bagwell singled and then scored on a hit by Casey Candaele. Eddie Taubensee doubled in Candaele.

The Astros tied it in the third on Bagwell's RBI double and Ken Caminiti's two-run single.

The win puts the Astros closer to .500 with a record of 69-76, 19 games behind Atlanta.

Rockets' sale talks continue

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Rockets owner Charlie Thomas' counterproposal to prospective buyer John Moores reportedly has left the two sides far apart in sale negotiations.

Last week, Thomas received a bid from Moores to buy controlling interest in the Rockets for between \$60 million and \$70 million. Thomas submitted his counteroffer over the weekend.

Although a dollar figure for Thomas' offer has not been released, the two proposals reportedly are far apart.

In 1990, Thomas set his price at \$100 million. But there is speculation he would accept an offer between \$80 and \$90 million.

Moores, who lives in nearby Sugar Land, is estimated to be worth \$270 million and has been listed as one of the richest people in Texas.

Davis

Continued from Page 5

another chance to host an event sanctioned by the likes of NASCAR.

Anybody who thinks that an auto race sounds more boring than staying home and flea-dipping the dog must not have seen a real race before.

The sights, sounds, smells and other sensations are as dazzling as any found anywhere else on the planet. And that's just the girls in bikini tops. To give equal time to all, there will be plenty of muscle shirts and cut-offs as well.

Sure, the racing is great at the head of the field, but don't always watch the lead cars because some of the best racing happens back in the "pack."

But the real reason to go to a race is to see and be seen. If you

have already found that someone special, take him or her to the race and show off while you take in the fantastic ambience that only race cars can provide.

After all, there's just something fundamentally American about watching a bunch of Southerners named Dick and Eddie race around in circles burning petroleum products to wretched excess while the Playboy model look-alike sitting next to you rubs basically the same thing all over her body to get that perfect tan.

If you can add a Budweiser and a slab of pork ribs into the mix you've probably discovered the meaning of life, or at least what it means to be a citizen of the South.

And if you're not into seeing and being seen, Dixie lifestyles, and eating red meat, so much the better. Just bring your own tofu and granola and watch the race because you won't be disappointed.

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