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Casino Night 93

2nd Floor MSC*April 16, 1993*7:00 pm

Special thanks to Food Services for their generous contribution

Tickets:

- * \$4.00 pre-sale
- * On sale at Sbis, Commons, Rudder Box Office, MSC
- * \$6.00 at the door


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Astros win fifth in row, downing Expos 9-5

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTREAL — Houston won its fifth straight road game as Ken Caminiti drove in two runs to help the Astros beat the Montreal Expos 9-5 Wednesday night.

The Astros started the season with three straight losses at home against Philadelphia, but swept a three-game series at New York over the weekend.

Houston scored two runs on wild pitches, including the go-ahead run in a three-run seventh to take the lead as the Expos

again missed closer John Wetteland, out with a broken toe.

The Astros rallied for seven runs in the seventh inning in a 9-6 victory on Tuesday against Montreal.

Mark Portugal (2-0) pitched six innings, giving up five runs and four hits.

Montreal starter Mike Gardiner (0-1) gave up three runs and didn't record an out in the seventh.

The Expos scored three runs in the sixth to take a 5-4 lead, two on a fielding error by shortstop Andujar Cedeno.

Caminiti and Cedeno had RBI singles in the seventh and Brian Barnes threw a wild pitch to allow a run to score.

A sacrifice fly by Scott Servais and Portugal's RBI single off Chris Nabholz gave the Astros a 2-0 lead in the fourth. But the Expos came back in their half of the fourth on Marquis Grissom's two-run homer, his second.

Houston made it 3-2 in the fifth on Caminiti's single and added a run in the sixth on Nabholz's wild pitch with a runner on third. Nabholz allowed four runs on eight hits.

Aggies record at 38-5

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A&M built a 3-0 lead and never looked back.

Freshman righthander Jeff Jansky started the game for the Aggies and picked up his first win of the year. Righthanded junior Kevin Bosse pitched the last three innings for A&M.

Johnson said he was excited with the efforts Jan-

sky and Bosse gave on the mound.

"It was fun to watch Jansky and Bosse pitch because we had not been able to get them much work recently," Johnson said. "I was glad to see them perform, and perform well on such a tough night."

Bouncing back from the Sam Houston games was important, Lewis said, although overlooking the Tigers could have been easy.

"The doubleheader was frustrating so it was necessary for us as a team to play well against them," Lewis said. "Their record is not that impressive but you have to give them some credit because they did drive down here."

Harrison

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Amid the ribbing and chanting there is a fine line to good-natured sarcastic heckling and brutal, insensitive harassment on both sides of the playing field.

There was a small crowd Wednesday that withstood a 33-degree wind chill to see A&M play Texas Southern, and Jimmy Harrison sat on the front row with the rest of the Raggies. He said that the incident was unfortunate, and both sides took it too personally.

"We were just being facetious and our own selves, and several of their players were doing the whoop - making fun of that - and shooting the finger, and that's uncool to us," he said.

He said the group supports the Aggies by heckling, and doesn't mind having them heckle back, as long as both groups don't hurt each others' feelings.

"It could start a fight and it can just start anything, and that's not what we're out here for," Harrison said.

"The main thing (we do) is support the team, that's the main goal for all of us who sit up here. Whether (the team) is number one in the nation or not, we're out here."

He said there have been times he's said things he has regretted, but the same people who sit and yell at the opposing players also try to make sure what they say will not offend the other team in the proper context.

"The players come out here and they know they're going to be ragged on, but they're people just like everybody else - we don't hold them on a higher plane than us," he said.

"If we think we say something that could be construed as racist, impolite or just downright nasty, we won't say it. If we do say it, we tend to get on our own, and look at each other and say that's uncalled for."

Harrison said he neither knew nor condoned whoever created the "go back to the border" comment and said that some of the remarks made

Wednesday night against the TSU team were in excess.

Fans showed up with radios to harass the team about an incident in Japan where the TSU Ocean of Soul band got caught stealing electronic equipment.

However, after the game, fans on the second tier of Olsen Field tossed the A&M and TSU players excess hot dogs from A&M's 25-cent hot dog night promotion. A&M pitcher Kelly Wunsch even tried to hit one back into the stands with a bat.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson said that although the team needs A&M's fan support, the fans do go overboard sometimes. Johnson said he had sent a letter to the fans earlier to discourage them from behavior that could be offensive.

"I don't think we're bad," Johnson said.

"At every ball park, there's one or two that just do not know how to handle things well, and they'll say something, and then all of a sudden everybody assumes that's part of a group," he said.

With the possibility of A&M receiving a NCAA regional playoff host site, Johnson has said that the community support and ranking will play an important part in whether Olsen Field is picked, and he said A&M's home record is indicative of the fans' support.

"Whether we have regionals or not, we have to have the 12th man in the stands; our record at home indicates that," Johnson said.

Johnson said he appreciated the fans and felt their energy level was unique to a special group of rowdy college baseball fans, including Mississippi State, Arizona and Arizona State.

But, he said he worries about the environment created at Olsen Field when fans lose control.

"The thing I want to be sure of - I want families to be able to come out to the ball park with their little ones and not have to hide from the noise or from racial slurs or vulgar language."

Earlier in the season when a visiting University of Maine player started the first game of a double-header with a couple of errors, the A&M fans were all over him until he went down

with an injury on the field. Then they stood and cheered him as he got up.

Harrison recalled a similar story about a 1990 series with the University of Illinois.

The fans rode the players all game until they left the field and by chance met at the Chicken to enjoy themselves afterward.

"It was Spring Break, there was nothing to do, and a bunch of us went over to the Chicken to play dominoes - the Illinois baseball team walks in, and we started talking to them."

Johnson said he has never had a team complain about the playing conditions at Olsen Field.

"They have kind of a 'ragging' approach to opponents, and I've never had our opponents say I hate coming here - they all like to come here," Johnson said.

"They're humorous, they get involved with it, and 99 percent of the time, our opponents will say it was fun to play at Olsen Field."

In regard to the racial and Sam Houston incidents, visiting players' parents and relatives and community families visiting Olsen Field to watch their favorite sons play ball need to be remembered.

While incidents at Olsen Field are generally few and far between, A&M fans should temper the right to yell whatever you want with the responsibility of consideration and respect for another persons' pride and heritage.

And then yell accordingly.

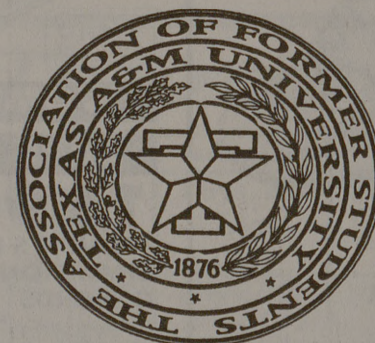
Someone who saw an unhealthy dose of the A&M fans' behavior told me, "Man they need to watch their 'racial epithets.'"

He did not mean 'epithets.' Racial jibing these days is just about the most divisive and insulting behavior a fan can exhibit.

Coming from a high school where I saw 400 people run across a busy Houston city street all in the name of a riot, I would hate to see it happen in any arena here and see more people injured in a hateful atmosphere.

So, think twice and keep the games fun in the name of what this university should stand for.

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