

Colorado sweeps Houston

Rockies (20-41) no longer have worst Major League record

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — You can stop comparing the Colorado Rockies to the 1962 New York Mets, baseball's standard of futility. Now you can compare the Rockies to the 1993 Mets.

Thanks to the Rockies' 9-1 victory over Houston on Sunday and the Mets' 5-3 loss to Philadelphia, Colorado no longer has the worst record in the majors.

Having posted a franchise-record third straight victory and sweeping a series for a first time in history, the Rockies (20-41) actually have a better record than the current Mets (19-41). And their winning percentage of .328

puts the Rockies on a pace to finish at 53-109, well above the Mets' 1962 season of 40-120 (.250).

"This is really going to build tremendous confidence," Rockies right fielder Dante Bichette said.

The Rockies have feasted on the Astros this season, winning five of six games, even though the Astros came into Sunday's game as the second-place team in the NL West.

"That's weird," Bichette said of the Rockies' dominance of Houston. "Sometimes you just match up well against a team."

Bichette has had his own streaks going. He set a Colorado team record with seven straight hits, having hit safely in his last four at-bats Saturday night and in

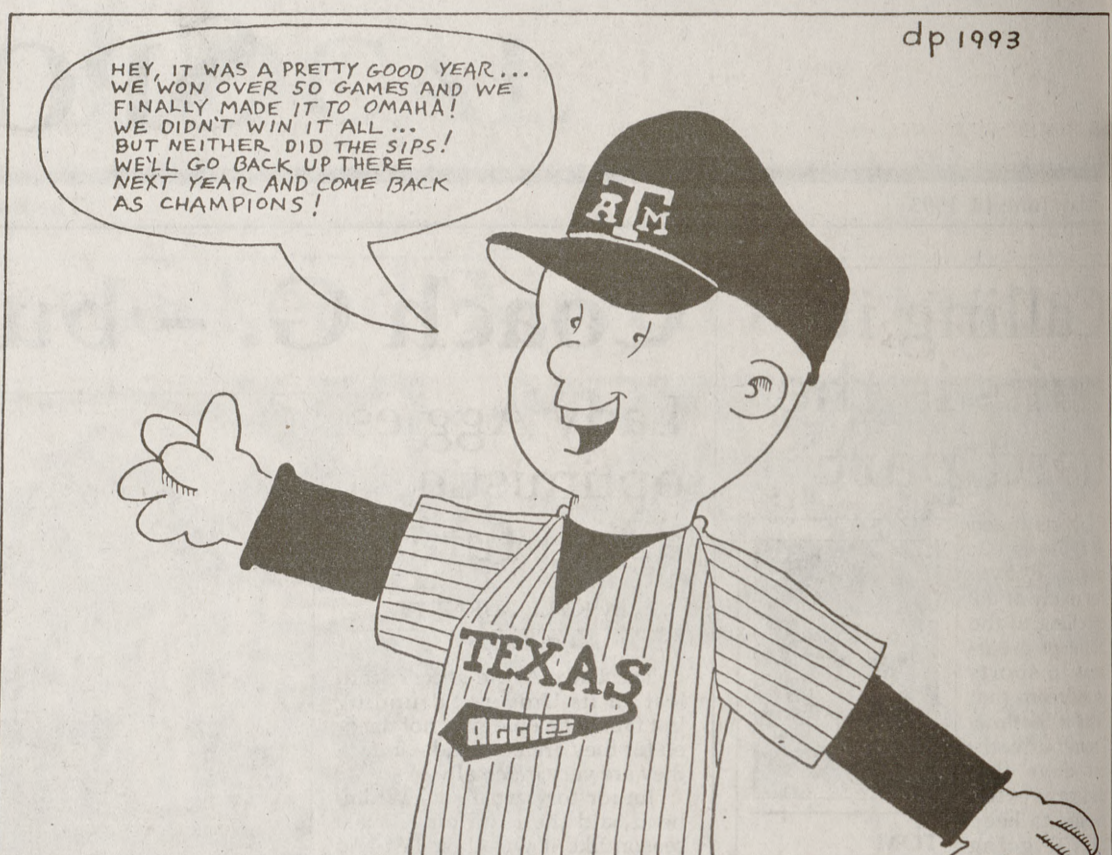
his first three Sunday. He flied out in the seventh inning, then added an RBI single in the eighth. He also made two running catches at the right-field wall.

"Baseball is a streaky game," Bichette said. "I've been on a good streak lately, and I'll just ride it out."

Also starring for the Rockies were Andres Galarraga, who hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, and Bruce Ruffin (3-2), who limited the Astros to five hits through 6 2-3 innings.

"This feeling rivals opening day here," Colorado manager Don Baylor said. "It was important for us to come back home and play well in front of our fans. We haven't done that. When you've only won seven games at home all year long (against 20 losses), and then all of a sudden you win three in a row, that's a positive thing for us."

Astros manager Art Howe said he was "not happy" about being swept by an expansion team.



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American League

West Division				
	W	L	GB	ST
Kansas City	33	27	—	W1
Chicago	30	28	2	L1
California	30	29	2.5	L2
Minnesota	28	29	3.5	L1
Texas	29	31	4	W1
Seattle	29	33	5	W2
Oakland	22	35	8.5	W1

East Division				
	W	L	GB	ST
Detroit	38	23	—	L1
Toronto	36	27	3	W1
New York	35	28	4	W1
Baltimore	32	31	7	L1
Boston	29	32	9	W1
Milwaukee	27	33	10.5	L1
Cleveland	25	36	13	L1

National League

West Division				
	W	L	GB	ST
San Fran.	41	22	—	W4
Atlanta	35	27	5.5	W3
Houston	32	27	7	L4
Los Angeles	32	29	8	W2
Cincinnati	29	32	11	L3
San Diego	25	37	15.5	L2
Colorado	20	41	20	W3

East Division				
	W	L	GB	ST
Philadelphia	44	17	—	W5
St. Louis	32	28	11.5	L1
Montreal	33	29	11.5	W1
Florida	30	31	14	W4
Chicago	28	31	15	L3
Pittsburgh	28	32	15.5	L4
New York	19	41	24.5	L6

Scoreboard

American League			
Boston	4	Baltimore	2
Toronto	13	Detroit	4
Oakland	7	Minnesota	6
Kansas City	5	Chicago	4
Seattle	12	California	7
Texas	5	Cleveland	1
New York	9	Milwaukee	5

National League			
Los Angeles	6	San Diego	4
Atlanta	6	Cincinnati	2
Philadelphia	5	New York	3
Montreal	3	St. Louis	1
San Fran.	5	Chicago	3
Florida	5	Pittsburgh	2
Colorado	9	Houston	1

Sports News Briefs

Petty holds off Schrader to win Champion 500

LONG POND, Pa. (AP) — Kyle Petty dominated for his first win of the season and first ever at Pocono International Raceway with a 4.9-second victory over Ken Schrader in the NASCAR Champion Spark Plug 500 on Sunday.

Petty, winning his seventh career Winston Cup race, took the lead from Sterling Marlin with 16 laps to go and stretched it out.

After earlier dodging a fan who had run across the track, Petty moved quickly to the front off a restart on lap 180. He grabbed the lead on turn 1 of lap 185 on the 2 1/2-mile triangular track and his Pontiac was unchallenged thereafter.

Petty, who started eighth, led seven times for 148 of the 200 laps and averaged a record 138.005 mph.

"We were just right at the beginning of the race. We got better and better and we made a couple of adjustments and they went the right way," said Petty, who moved from seventh to fourth in the season driver standings.

Harry Gant beat Jimmy Spencer for third. Ted Musgrave was fifth and Davey Allison sixth.

Petty hadn't won since Oct. 25, 1992, at Rockingham, N.C. His previous best at Pocono was third in June 1987.

LPGA Championship: Sheehan earns 3rd title

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Patty Sheehan won the LPGA Championship for a third time Sunday, scrambling for par on the 18th hole to close out a 2-under-par 69 for a one-stroke victory over Lauri Merten.

Sheehan, who gained entry into the LPGA Hall of Fame in March, earned her fourth major tournament triumph and the \$150,000 first prize with a 3-foot putt on No. 18. To get there, however, she had to recover from a tee shot that sailed into the gallery and an approach that landed well behind the green.

With a sprinkler hole directly in front of her ball, Sheehan chipped her third shot within 3 feet of the hole. She dropped the putt into the heart of the hole, then thrust her arms skyward to celebrate her 31st career victory.

Sheehan started the day two shots off the lead but quickly moved in front as third-round leader Cindy Lidback got off to a horrid start en route to a 78. Sheehan made three birdies and a bogey to finish at 9-under 275.

Merten shot a 67 for a 276. Her 31 on the front nine tied a record on the Bethesda Country Club Course, but her bogey on No. 13, her first since the fifth hole on Saturday, cost her a shot at a playoff.

Merten moved into contention with five

Singh birdies third extra hole, wins Buick Classic

HARRISON, N.Y. (AP) — Vijay Singh, a relative newcomer to the American tour from Fiji, Sunday birdied the third extra hole in a playoff with Mark Wiebe to win the Buick Classic.

Singh's winner was set up by a brilliant approach shot that hit the left portion of the green, ran to the back, then caught a slope and trickled down to within four feet of the flag.

Wiebe, who birdied the last two holes of regulation to force a playoff, two-putted from about 35 feet below the hole. Singh rapped his birdie putt into the heart of the hole for his first American triumph and his 14th around the world.

"Coming here from Europe, I thought it would be very difficult to win in America," Singh said. "I think this came a little bit early."

But it didn't come easily.

Singh, 30, was making his 11th start in the United States this year. He survived a shaky finish in regulation and a scare on the first playoff hole, where Wiebe missed an 8-foot putt that would have won it.

Prost posts runaway victory at Canadian GP

MONTREAL (AP) — Alain Prost lost the lead at the start, then passed Williams-Renault teammate Damon Hill on the sixth lap and pulled away to a runaway victory Sunday in the Canadian Grand Prix.

It was Prost's record-extending 48th Formula One victory and his first at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Isle du Notre Dame.

Ayrton Senna of Brazil, who came into the race holding a five-point lead over Prost in the Formula One driver standings, was running second ahead of Germany's Michael Schumacher when his McLaren-Ford stopped on the course just seven laps from the end of the 69-lap race.

Suns

Continued from Page 3

the first 3:31 and helping Phoenix extend a one-point lead to 94-88 with 8:29 left.

Then Danny Ainge hit two free throws and a 3-pointer, giving the Suns a 99-88 advantage 52 seconds later.

The Bulls, who missed 10 of their first 11 shots in the period, then got consecutive baskets from Horace Grant, Armstrong and Jordan to pull to 101-96 with 4:03 left.

A dunk by Pippen and Grant's tip-in made it 101-100 with 2:46 left, but Barkley snapped the 10-0 run with a reverse layup 21 seconds later.

Grant tied the score 103-103 with a dunk and free throw at the 1:33 mark, then neither team scored on four possessions apiece, forcing the overtime.

Johnson missed a shot with 27 seconds left, but he sneaked around Jordan for a steal, then called timeout with 12 seconds

The Suns still have to win at least one of the next two games in Chicago to force the series back to Phoenix for the sixth and seventh games. Game 4 is at Chicago Stadium on Wednesday night.

The Bulls, despite losing for the first time in eight playoff games at home, are still the favorites in the series after becoming the first team in NBA Finals history to win the first two games on the road. Chicago is 13-3 in the postseason; the Suns are 12-9, including 5-4 away from home.

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