

Toronto takes lead over Phillies with 10-3 win

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — It didn't matter where Paul Molitor played, after all. Only that he got to bat.

Molitor defused the DH debate for at least one game, hitting a two-run triple and a solo homer in leading the Toronto Blue Jays past the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3 Tuesday night for a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

AL batting champion John Olerud was sent to the bench to make room for Molitor at first base. Olerud sat placidly, trying to keep warm on a night when rain delayed the start for more than an hour, and saw Molitor fail to make three plays he might have made.

Molitor, however, started a nifty double play with the bases loaded that ended the eighth inning after Philadelphia rallied for one run. Besides, offense, not defense, was why Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston wanted Molitor in the lineup.

Molitor, who didn't find out until two hours before the scheduled start of the game that he was playing, tripled and scored in the first inning, homered in the third for a 4-0 lead, walked and scored in the seventh, and singled in the ninth. Molitor batted .332 this season, second in the league only to Olerud's .363, and is 6 for 11 in the Series.

Just where Molitor will be Wednesday night when Todd Stottlemyre starts for the

Blue Jays against right-hander Tommy Greene is uncertain.

Roberto Alomar, who had four hits, and Rickey Henderson, who had two, each scored twice to give Pat Hentgen plenty of support. Hentgen, who has pitched better on the road than at home all season, pitched out of a couple of jams and allowed one run on five hits in six innings.

Olerud's only appearance was in the ninth, when he was on deck to pinch hit, but the last out was made with him still in the circle. Danny Jackson, perhaps uncomfortable on a mound made wet by a rain delay of 1 hour, 12 minutes at the start, never found a groove. He was tagged for four runs on six hits in five innings.

Molitor, the only player in World Series history to get five hits in a game, looked like he might become the first to hit for the cycle in 529 series games.

After Henderson led off the night with a single and Devon White walked, Molitor sliced a drive that skipped off the slick turf and snuck past right fielder Jim Eisenreich. Joe Carter followed with one of Toronto's three sacrifice flies.

Molitor, who prefers to pick on first pitchers, did that with two outs in the third, lining a drive over the left-field fence.

Toronto made it 5-0 in the sixth against Ben Rivera when Alomar singled and stole twice — Mitch Williams wasn't in there to pick him

off — and scored on a sacrifice fly by Tony Fernandez.

In the seventh, Henderson led off with a double, making him 3-for-10 in the series. White followed with a triple and Molitor walked.

Alomar had an RBI single for his third hit and Sprague hit a sacrifice fly off Bobby Thigpen.

The Phillies wasted a second-and-third threat in the first when Dave Hollins and Darren Daulton struck out. Hentgen escaped again in the third after the first two runners reached base.

The Phillies broke through in the sixth on two walks and a single by Jim Eisenreich. In the seventh, against Danny Cox, Mariano Duncan hit an RBI single.

Philadelphia went on to load the bases with one out. But Hollins hit a hard grounder that Molitor fielded cleanly and threw quickly to Fernandez, who made the relay to Cox at first base for the double play.

Earlier, John Kruk hit a pair of grounders to both sides of Molitor that got through for hits. Also Molitor wasn't able to scoop a low throw from Alomar at second base.

Molitor's only appearances in the field this season were 23 games at first base.

In the ninth, Toronto scored on a triple by Alomar. Philadelphia's Milt Thompson homered in the ninth off Duane Ward.

Rice

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The Owl running game will face its toughest test this year when they take on Texas A&M, who is number-one in the conference for rushing defense. The Aggies have only given up 128.2 yards a game this season.

"I don't know what we're going to do," Goldsmith said. "(Sam) Adams, (Eric) England and (Lance) Teichelman are so good up front. Then, if you get past them you have to somehow block their linebackers.

"I think the key for us is keeping our poise. We can't let any of the plays the defense makes shake our ability. We just have to respond and execute the next play."

Emanuel agreed and said that neutralizing the Aggie defense will be a difficult task.

"It's no secret we have to execute," Emanuel said. "We have to run the ball well and do some things that have worked in the past."

"I just have to play within

myself and keep everybody up."

Controlling A&M's potent running game is another big concern for Goldsmith.

"I hope they all get tired," Goldsmith said. "A&M has three great tailbacks who all have solid fundamentals. I don't think I've seen a team with that many great backs."

The Aggies rejuvenated passing game adds one more worry to Goldsmith's long list of concerns.

"(Offensive coordinator) Bob Toledo is great at coaching drop back passing," Goldsmith said. "When a team overloads for the run, he's great at attacking their weakness."

Goldsmith also said he thinks the Aggies could easily be undefeated, even considering A&M's only loss to the University of Oklahoma, 44-14.

"I believe if the Aggies played Oklahoma ten times they would win at least seven," Goldsmith said. "They just got down early, had some players out with injuries and suspensions and couldn't come back. They are a lot better team than that day."

Soccer

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"SMU has an advantage in experience because of their seniors and our freshman," A&M head coach Gerald Guerrieri said. "But we have youthful enthusiasm and the desire to be the best."

Aggie freshmen Jamie Csizmadia, Anna Whitehead and Kristen Koop lead the team's offensive attack.

Csizmadia, who has a six-game scoring streak, and Whitehead are tied in overall scoring with 21 points.

"I am not out to try to score all the goals," Csizmadia said. "As long as we win, I am happy."

"But SMU is important because if we win it will show us that there are bigger things ahead for us."

SMU is currently ranked sixth in the South region. Guerrieri said the Lady Mustang soccer program is at a stage where the ninth-ranked Lady Aggies want to be.

"They are considered the best

team in Texas, and we want that title," Guerrieri said.

Guerrieri said that a win will provide a brighter future for the Lady Aggies.

"If we beat them, we will knock them out of the playoffs," Guerrieri said. "A win will help us make a case for possible post-season consideration."

For A&M (10-3) to be successful, Guerrieri said, they also will have to adjust to playing on artificial turf at SMU's Ownby Stadium.

Although they have been practicing on Kyle Field for the past ten days, the Lady Aggies have never played a game on turf.

Guerrieri said the recent weather conditions may present an additional drawback to playing on the turf.

"Because it has been raining in Dallas, the wet turf will have a huge effect on the game," Guerrieri said.

"The ball will be skipping like a flat rock on a pond. A good or bad bounce could (determine) the outcome of the game."

Spikers

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"What happened was basically an inversion of an ankle sprain," Kniffin said. "That grade of strain means she stretched out her ligaments pretty good. She might

have torn some ligaments but even if she did, it's nothing that will require surgery."

With or without Wood, the Lady Aggies will be confronted with a Tech team that will be looking to put a rare blemish on A&M's glowing 20-4 season record.

Lady Aggie head coach Laurie Corbelli said she also expects a different performance

from Tech.

"I look for a much improved team in terms of preparation against us," Corbelli said.

"They are going to come with something different against us because, obviously, it didn't work last time."

"But I think we've showed consistent progress throughout the season and I think we're going to do fine."

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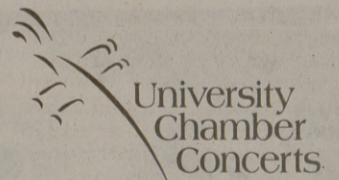


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