

Rangers, Astros lose tight games

The Associated Press

Indians 12, Rangers 7

ARLINGTON — Albert Belle and Manny Ramirez each had three hits and drove in three runs Sunday, leading the Cleveland Indians past the Texas Rangers 12-7.

Belle hit a two-run homer, his third of the season, for a 6-2 lead in the third inning against Steve Dreyer (0-1).

Ramirez singled three times. The Indians had 17 hits and finished with 43 in the three-game series.

Charles Nagy (2-0) won despite allowing six runs in five innings. Eric Plunk pitched 3 2-3 innings and Derek Lilliquist got the last out with the based loaded for his first save.

Ramirez hit a two-run single that capped a four-run first inning. A throwing error by shortstop Manuel Lee set up the outburst.

Dean Palmer hit his first home run of the season, a two-run shot in the Texas second.

Cardinals 5, Astros 4

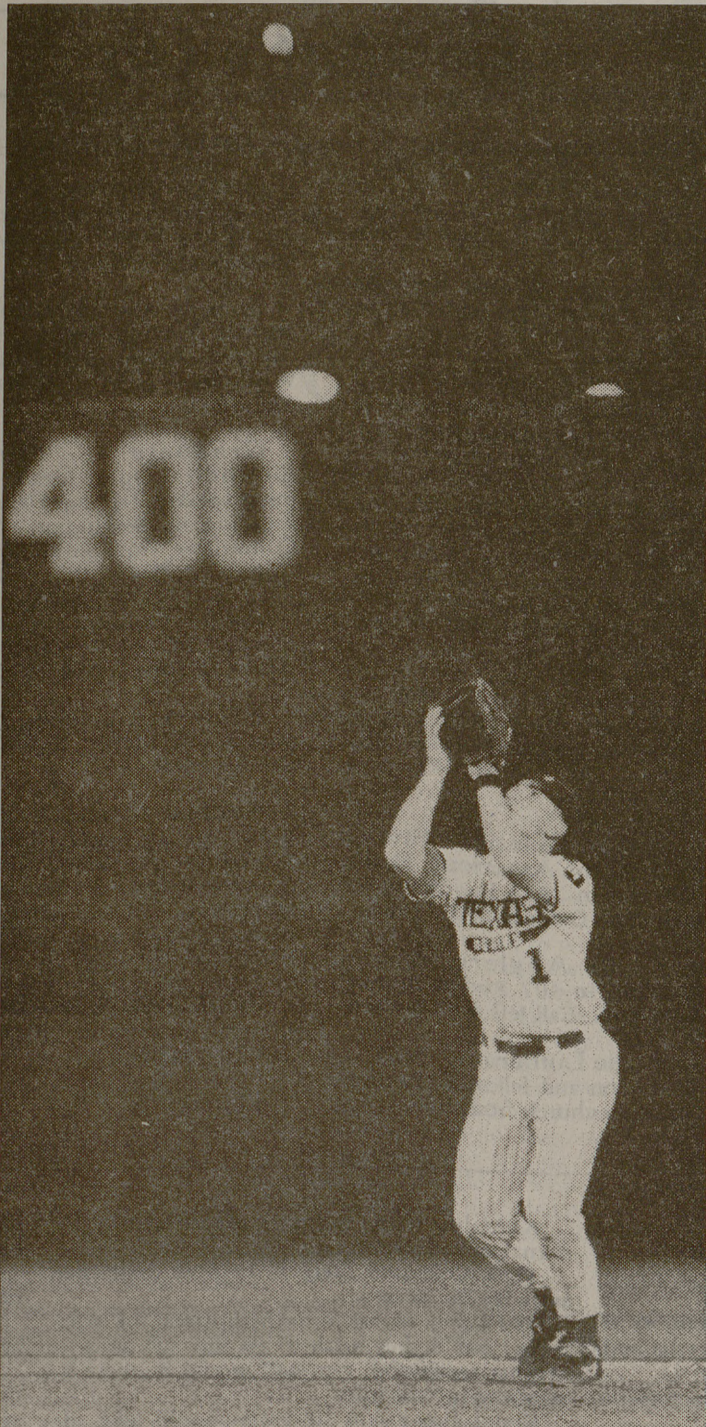
ST. LOUIS — Bernard Gilkey scored on a wild pitch by Mike Hampton to cap a three-run eighth inning Sunday, and the St. Louis Cardinals rallied past the Houston Astros 5-4.

St. Louis trailed 4-2 in the eighth when Ray Lankford led off with a double off Shane Reynolds. Gregg Jefferies singled, pulling St. Louis within a run, took third on Todd Zeile's single off Tom Edens (2-1) and scored on Gilkey's fielder's choice groundout.

Brian Jordan's double sent Gilkey to third, and Gilkey scored on the wild pitch by Hampton, the fourth pitcher of the inning.

Rich Rodriguez (1-0) pitched two innings for the victory.

Astros starter Greg Swindell allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. His 17-inning scoreless streak ended in the first on Jefferies' sacrifice fly.



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Rich Petru catches a fly ball during Friday night's game against the University of Baylor. The Aggies won, 3-0. The Aggies took two of three from the Bears, but for the first time since 1989 will not participate in the Southwest Conference tournament. A&M split its doubleheader with Baylor: 3-4, 12-11 on Saturday.

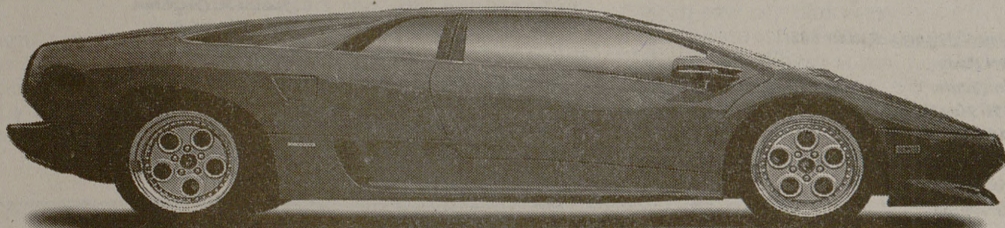
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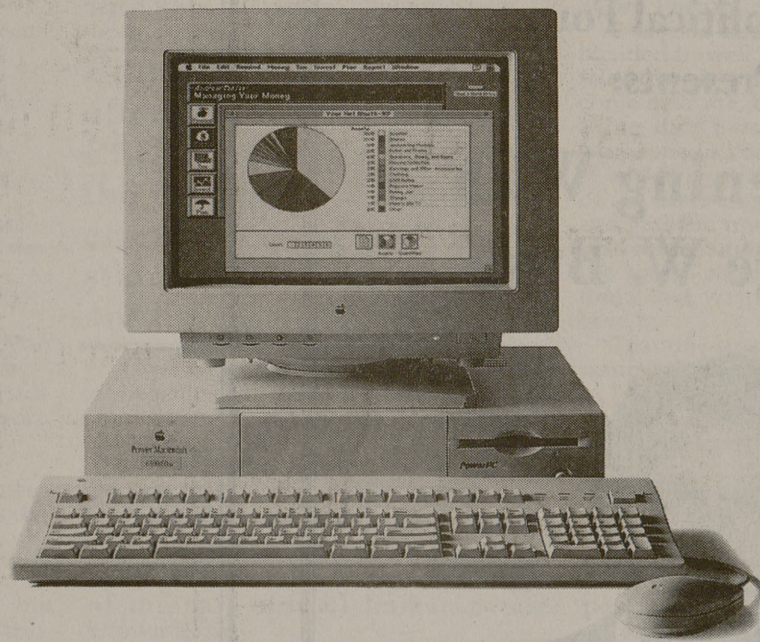
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