

# Astros slip by Reds

### Houston 7, Cincinnati 6

HOUSTON (AP) — Second chances are a rarity in baseball, and Craig Biggio knows it.

So when the Astros second baseman got his second chance, he made the most of it Monday night, stroking a game-winning double that drove in Kevin Bass in the 11th inning for a 7-6 Houston victory over Cincinnati in front of 21,197 at the Astrodome.

The victory pulled the Astros within 2 1/2 games of the Central Division-leading Reds.

The Astros led 6-2 entering the ninth inning, but saw the Reds rally for a tie on 2-run homers by Hal Morris and Eddie Taubensee. It was Taubensee's second homer of the game against his former team.

In the bottom of the ninth, Biggio came up with Mike Felder on third and only one out. Felder was pinch-running

for Sid Bream, who had hit a pinch-hit double to right field.

But Biggio, who is hitting .299, lined out to shortstop and Ken Caminiti later grounded out, sending the game into extra innings.

In the 11th, Biggio got his chance again. Bass hit a single and moved to second on a passed ball by Taubensee. This time, Biggio doubled to win the game.

"It's nice to get a second chance and be able to come through," Biggio said. "You don't get those often. I was looking for a fastball, but I got a breaking ball over the plate."

"Every run is important when you play these guys. This win is a big lift for us."

Indeed, the Astros had lost two straight and six of their last 10. After leading the division two weeks ago, they were 3 1/2 games behind when the hot Reds came to town.

| Astros 7, Reds 6 |           |          |           |          |               |           |          |          |          |  |  |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| Houston          | ab        | r        | h         | bi       | Cincinnati    | ab        | r        | h        | bi       |  |  |
| Hunter           | 5         | 1        | 1         | 0        | Walton        | 5         | 0        | 1        | 0        |  |  |
| Biggio           | 2         | 6        | 0         | 2        | Larkin        | 5         | 1        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Bgwel            | 1         | 3        | 3         | 2        | Morris        | 1         | 5        | 1        | 2        |  |  |
| Cminiti          | 3         | 5        | 1         | 1        | Howard        | 1         | 5        | 1        | 2        |  |  |
| Gonzalez         | 1         | 5        | 0         | 3        | JBrntly       | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Mouton           | 1         | 5        | 0         | 1        | RSndrs        | 1         | 4        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Strnlvc          | 5         | 4        | 1         | 1        | TFrdz         | 3         | 5        | 0        | 1        |  |  |
| Servais          | 4         | 0        | 0         | 0        | Boone         | 2         | 4        | 1        | 1        |  |  |
| Dnnels           | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | Tbnsee        | 4         | 2        | 2        | 3        |  |  |
| Esebio           | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | Hanson        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0        |  |  |
| Kile             | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | Brnson        | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Hngtn            | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | JRuffin       | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Hudek            | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | Ltrns         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Powell           | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | DeLcia        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
| Bream            | 1         | 0        | 1         | 0        | Brmfld        | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
|                  |           |          |           |          | Felder        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
|                  |           |          |           |          | Toines        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        |  |  |
|                  |           |          |           |          | Bass          | 1         | 1        | 1        | 0        |  |  |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>43</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>Totals</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>6</b> |  |  |

| Cincinnati     | IP | H | R | E | BB | SO |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|
| Hanson         | 4  | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1  | 1  |
| JRuffin        | 2  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| DeLucia        | 2  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4  |    |
| JBrantley L5-4 | 3  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 2  |
| <b>Houston</b> |    |   |   |   |    |    |
| Kile           | 3  | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 2  |
| Hampton        | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1  |
| Hudek          | 3  | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0  | 1  |
| Powell         | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1  |
| Tojones W, 2-2 | 2  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2  | 3  |

# Rituals

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Aggie pitcher Brian Parker said that rituals and superstitions are a normal occurrence of the game.

"A lot of guys just pick things up and keep doing them for good luck," he said. "If we think we're winning because we do something a certain way, then we are."

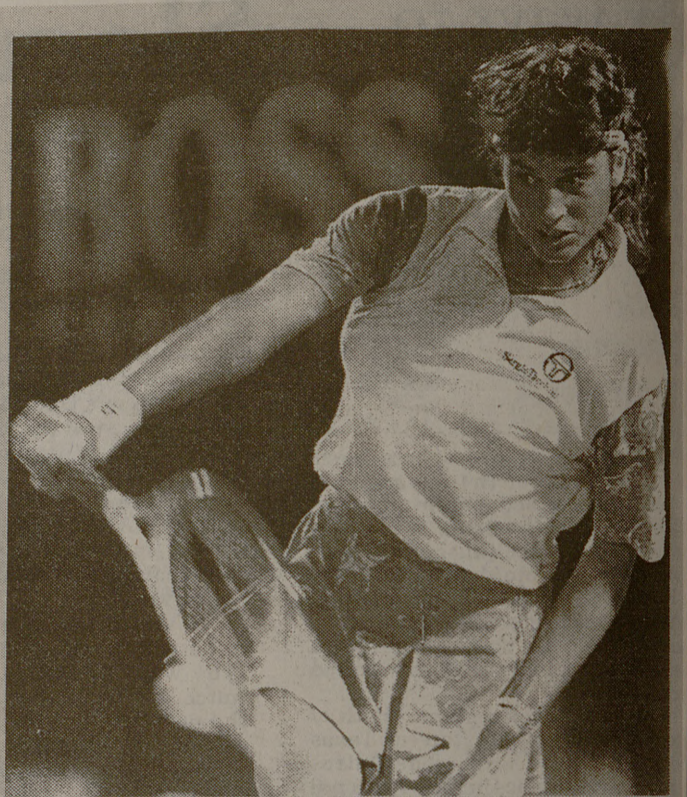
Former A&M ace Jeff Granger jumped over the third base line after every inning he pitched. He said that touching the dirt "just wouldn't feel right."

Granger's superstition rubbed off on pitcher Trey Moore, who couldn't pitch unless he wore the same pants that Granger wore in his previous start. Parker also added that Moore would sit beside him on every bus ride. Same seat, same row, right next to the same window.

Talking to the players gives the impression that if a black cat walked into the clubhouse, they would all scatter.

Chris Clemens never wears a collared undershirt, while Robert Lewis wore the same pair of catching shorts for two years, holes in all. Parker hasn't worn a different pair of socks in a game since his first save.

Pitcher Matt Sherwood said they learned to live with the sock's smell.



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina lost to in straight sets Monday to American Lindsay Davenport.

# Tennis

Continued from Page 3

who beat Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-3, 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-3.

American Bryan Shelton, playing his third consecutive five-setter, finally ran out of magic and lost to Sweden's Christian Bergstrom 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 10-8. Shelton's only easy match was his first, a straight-sets upset of second-seeded Michael Stich.

Lori McNeil, who upset top-seeded Steffi Graf in women's first-round play, outlasted Florencia Labat of Argentina 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-4) to make the quarterfinals here for the first time since 1986.

Two other American women reached the quarterfinals for the first time. Ninth-seeded

Lindsay Davenport, playing only her second Wimbledon, routed No. 10 Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-3, and Gigi Fernandez, in her 10th try here, beat Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-4, 6-1.

Sapras hammered 18 aces against the 51st-ranked Vacek, raising his four-match total to 89.

Asked if he was a notch above the rest of the competition, Sampras didn't retreat into modesty.

"I've been very consistent this year," he said. "I feel whenever I step out on the court, if I play my tennis, I'm very tough to beat."

Among the women, third-seeded Conchita Martinez beat Kristine Radford of Australia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, and fifth-seeded Jana Novota advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan.

# World Cup Standings

| Group A       |   |   |   |      |
|---------------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams         | W | L | T | Pts. |
| x-Romania     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6    |
| x-Switzerland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4    |
| United States | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4    |
| Colombia      | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3    |

| Group B  |   |   |   |      |
|----------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams    | W | L | T | Pts. |
| x-Brazil | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6    |
| Cameroun | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4    |
| Sweden   | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1    |
| Russia   | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0    |

| Group C     |   |   |   |      |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams       | W | L | T | Pts. |
| x-Germany   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7    |
| Spain       | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2    |
| South Korea | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2    |
| Bolivia     | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0    |

| Group D     |   |   |   |      |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams       | W | L | T | Pts. |
| x-Argentina | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6    |
| Nigeria     | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Bulgaria    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Greece      | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0    |

| Group E |   |   |   |      |
|---------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams   | W | L | T | Pts. |
| Ireland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Norway  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Italy   | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Mexico  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |

| Group F         |   |   |   |      |
|-----------------|---|---|---|------|
| Teams           | W | L | T | Pts. |
| x-Belgium       | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6    |
| The Netherlands | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Saudi Arabia    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    |
| Morocco         | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0    |

x-advances to the second round

### Monday's Scores

Germany 3, South Korea 2  
Bolivia X, Spain X

### Tuesday's Games

at Stanford, Calif.  
Russia vs. Cameroon, 4:05 p.m.  
at Pontiac, Mich.  
Brazil vs. Sweden, 4:05 p.m.  
at East Rutherford, N.J.  
Ireland vs. Norway, 12:35 p.m.  
at Washington  
Italy vs. Mexico, 12:35 p.m.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

### Team Penske's win led by Unser, Jr.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Indianapolis 500 winner Al Unser Jr. led Team Penske's 1-2-3 sweep in the Budweiser-G.I. Joe's 200 on Sunday.

Unser Jr. edged Emerson Fittipaldi by 1.83 seconds in the 102-lap event on the Portland International Raceway's 1.95-mile course for his fourth victory this season.

Team Penske has won nine straight races — six in the PPG IndyCar World Series and three on NASCAR's top stock car circuit.

Paul Tracy, who won last week in Detroit, finished third.

### Kalitta wins second NHRA National title

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Scott Kalitta won his second consecutive Top Fuel title, beating Stevie Foster with a run of 4.824 seconds at 299.40 mph in the NHRA Western Auto Nationals on Sunday.

### Holmgren returns to NHL as coach

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Paul Holmgren will relinquish his general manager duties and return to coaching when the NHL approves the sale of the Hartford Whalers to Compuware's Peter Karmanos Jr. and Thomas Thewes. The Hartford Courant reported Sunday, Jim Rutherford, the team's president, is expected to become the general manager.

### Hunter called back to play for Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros on Monday recalled outfielder Brian Hunter from Triple A Tucson and sent outfielder Mike Simms back to Triple A.

Hunter, 23, was leading the Pacific Coast League with a .399 batting average in 74 games.

Simms, 27, was recalled by the Astros from Tucson on June 13 when outfielder Steve Finley was placed on the disabled list.

### Ditka recovers after artery surgery

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (AP) — Former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka was released from Lutheran General Hospital on Saturday following treatment for a blocked artery. The 54-year-old Ditka, who had a heart attack in 1988, underwent a balloon angioplasty Friday.

### Johnson buys small percent of Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Magic Johnson will become part-owner of the Los Angeles Lakers in a deal that could be finalized this week, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. The newspaper said Johnson's stake would probably be less than 10 percent, but he apparently would have a front-office role.

### Pazienza unanimous victor over Duran

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vinny Pazienza survived a fifth-round knockdown for a 12-round unanimous decision over Roberto Duran on Saturday night.

Judge Chuck Giampa scored it 117-113 and Dave Moretti and Jerry Roth each had it 117-112 for the 31-year-old Pazienza, who improved to 30-8-5 with his seventh victory since breaking his neck in a 1991 car crash.

The 43-year-old Duran, who dropped to 93-10, knocked Pazienza down with a right hand at 1:34 of the fifth.

Pazienza got up immediately and took a mandatory 8-count.

On the undercard, Tony Lopez stopped Greg Haugen at 1:43 of the 10th round in their junior welterweight bout.

John right now," Mitchell said. "We want to talk to him first to figure out what happened."

Daly, who won the BellSouth Classic in Atlanta in May after spending time in an alcohol rehabilitation program and serving a 12-week suspension for failing to complete a round in a tournament in Hawaii, has had a number of scorecard-related problems.

# PGA questions Daly's scorecard

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP) — John Daly is the subject of yet another controversy as PGA Tour officials attempt to determine whether he signed for the correct score after the final round of the Greater Hartford Open.

PGA Tour media official Mark Mitchell said a question arose as to whether Daly, who was paired with Clark Dennis

on Sunday, should have been credited with a bogey on the par-3 fifth hole instead of the par he signed for.

The 1991 PGA champion, who signed for a 5-over-par 75 that gave him a 278 total and a \$11,520 check for a 22nd-place tie, would be disqualified if officials determine he signed an incorrect scorecard.

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