

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cincinnati sweeps Houston in four-game series

HOUSTON (AP) — Ron Gant homered with one out in the 10th inning Sunday to lift the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-2 victory over Houston and a four-game series sweep, their first at the Astrodome since 1972.

Gant drove a 3-2 pitch from Todd Jones (3-1) into the left field seats for his 12th homer of the year — and fifth against the Astros. Jeff Brantley (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings to earn the victory.

Houston starter Doug Drabek tied a career high with 11 strikeouts, but was not involved in the decision. Drabek was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the eighth after allowing seven hits, two runs and a pair of walks.

Gonzalez leads Rangers in 3-2 win over Chicago

ARLINGTON (AP) — Juan Gonzalez homered for the second straight game, a two-run shot in the eighth inning that gave the Texas Rangers a 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday night.

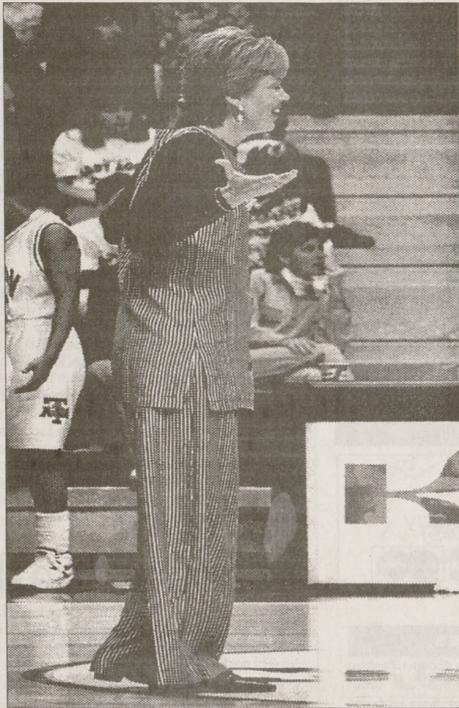
Gonzalez, who missed 35 games because of back problems, hit his second homer of the season off reliever Jose DeLeon (2-2) to score Will Clark, who reached on a forceout.

Texas retained its one-game lead over California in the AL West with its ninth win in 11 games.

Roger McDowell (2-0) pitched the last two innings.

Chicago starter Jim Abbott, who left after walking Jack Voigt to lead off the eighth, allowed seven hits and two runs.

Lady Aggies teach success in summer



File photograph

Lady Aggie coach Candi Harvey hosted a camp last weekend at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The A&M women's basketball team is passing on-court knowledge on to kids.

By Robin Greathouse
THE BATTALION

Summer is here, but it has not been all fun and games for some young Texas basketball players or for the women of the Texas A&M basketball team.

Head Women's Basketball Coach Candi Harvey and the Lady Aggies hosted the second in a series of five basketball camps this past weekend for young women ages 10 to 18.

The A&M players helped coach the young women during the camp.

Kelly Cerny, a senior post player for A&M, said the goal of the camps is to stress the fundamentals of playing basketball.

"We watch to see if they are doing the moves correctly," Cerny said. "If they are having trouble, we actually get out there and show them how to do it."

Harvey said that although the campers work hard to improve their skills while at the camps, basketball is not their only focus.

"We want the girls to have fun," Harvey said. "We want them to learn a lot in a short time, but also to meet young ladies from other teams and make lasting friendships."

Heather Sherman, an eighth-grader from Galveston, said the days she spent at the camp were not easy, but were satisfying.

"Always being on your feet is hard," Sherman said. "But getting to know everyone makes it a lot of fun."

Each session offers instruction on the

basics of basketball — passing, shooting, defense, dribbling and rebounding.

The camps are split up into two types. Three sessions are open to all women in grades five through 12, and give the players the opportunity to work in all skill areas.

The other two sessions, one of which was held this weekend, are called "positional camps", and give the campers a more specialized workout.

Jessica Allamon, a 10th grader from Montgomery, said that attending the camp has helped her to improve her game.

"I think I am getting better," Allamon said. "I've learned how to fake and drive."

Harvey said that the camps are educational for both the campers and the Lady Aggies.

The campers get the chance to have individual work sessions with A&M's players, and the players get the chance to experience the coaching aspect of the game.

"It really gives the players the opportunity to be on the other side," Harvey said.

Cerny said that the young ladies have been working hard and that the coaches have seen a great deal of talent in the campers this summer.

"The main thing is that they are working and improving," Cerny said.

For the rest of the summer, Harvey and some of the Lady Aggie basketball team members will continue to work out and attend camps around the state.

Cerny said the team is already working hard to begin preparations for the 1995-96 season.

"Since we will be playing in the WNIT (Women's National Invitational Tournament) next year, we will be starting the season a little earlier than we are used to," Cerny said.

"We work just as hard in the off-season as we do during the (regular) season."

'Soccer on ice' has no appeal

NICK GEORGANDIS

SPORTS EDITOR



I tried again yesterday. I sat on my couch, put down my magazine and stared at the television screen.

I tried to make myself enjoy hockey.

It's been an ongoing process since my childhood. From the time I could work the remote control, I have been a sports nut. But I have never been able to get into hockey.

One reason people say they like hockey is that it's very physical, and you are guaranteed to see at least one fight per game.

Hey, if I want to see people beat each other up with sticks, I can go visit my old high school in Houston.

OK, hockey fans say, then watch the games for the intense drama and fantastic finishes. Sure there have been some exciting moments in the postseason, but this is a sport that allows games to end in ties during the regular season.

What is a tie? Are you saying that those two teams are of the exact same skill level? Of course they aren't, don't be ridiculous.

Having ties is hockey's admission that the games are boring. If they go too long, it's better to just call games off then to keep on playing until someone accidentally scores a goal.

Still, hockey fans say, watch the game for the great players like Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux and Brett Hull.

When I hear Gretzky's name, all that comes to mind is one of the greatest Saturday Night Live skits ever — Waikiki Hockey — in which

See GEORGANDIS, Page 4

Allen to play for US All-Star team

Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M sophomore Chad Allen will play on the 1995 USA Baseball Team which begins a national tour on June 16.

Allen, an outfielder from Duncanville, is part of the 40-member team that will play against national teams from Nicaragua, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Cuba.

Allen hit over .300 this season and was among the Southwest Conference league leaders in stolen bases. In his freshman season, he hit .293 with four home runs and 30 runs batted in.

He started off his career with a bang in 1993 when he went 2-for-4 with three RBIs, including the game winner in his first collegiate game.

Allen should provide versatility to Team USA because he can double as a pitcher.

Although he did not pitch very much in 1995, Allen contributed a 4-4 record with a 3.60 earned run average in 1994.

Allen was invited to the USA Baseball National Fall Trials in Homestead, Fla. last year, but did not make the team.

Joining Allen on the all-star team from the Southwest Conference are Matt Anderson, a freshman pitcher from Rice, and Kip Harkrider, a freshman infielder from the University of Texas. Also taking part in the tour will be Scott Harp, a sophomore outfielder from Dallas Baptist.

Cal State Fullerton, which won the College World Series on Saturday, will send two representatives to the team.

The tour will come to Texas on June 27 and 28 when the team takes on Japan at Municipal Stadium in San Antonio.

Muster takes French Open victory in straight sets

The Austrian defeated Michael Chang in straight sets for the title.

PARIS (AP) — Maybe he isn't unbeatable. But in this match, 10 years after turning pro, six years after a drunk driver shattered his knee, there was no way to stop Thomas Muster from at last becoming a Grand Slam champion.

Crowning his perfect clay-court season with the trophy he dreamed of as a child, Muster fused firepower and willpower to overcome Michael Chang in straight sets Sunday in the French Open final.

Suspense was short-lived, yet

the play often was spectacular, with Chang battling spectacularly enough to bring out the best of Muster's awe-inspiring clay-court talent.

"I don't look at anyone as unbeatable. Everyone's human," Chang said after losing 7-5, 6-2, 6-4. "But there are times when some players are very, very tough to beat."

Muster has been tough to beat for a long time, winning six tournaments in a row. The 121-minute final was his 30th straight victory, longest streak on the men's tour since Ivan Lendl in 1981, and his 35th straight victory on clay, third-longest in the Open era.

It was the first Grand Slam title for Muster, 27, who is the

first Austrian to win one of the four elite events. Fans in his hometown of Leibnitz, Austria, cheered every winning point as they watched a giant video screen in the main square.

"I always believed I could do it. It's great that I could prove it today."

— Thomas Muster, 1995 French Open champion

His career appeared in jeopardy in 1989, when a drunk driver in Florida rammed into him as he stood behind his car, severing ligaments in his left knee.

Muster practiced groundstrokes while seated on a bench,

later worked out on crutches, and made an astounding comeback just six months after surgery. But while he developed into one of the world's top clay-court players, superstardom and Grand Slam success eluded him — until Sunday.

"I always believed I could do it," he said. "It's great that I could prove it today... that makes me happy even six years later."

Briefly, Chang looked capable of dashing Muster's dream. The 23-year-old American — in his first Grand Slam final since winning here in 1989 — won an early service break and took a 4-1 lead.

Rockets one win from repeat

Houston now leads Orlando 3-0 in the NBA Finals.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are one win from a sweep.

In a tight game that ended with a 3-point duel, Houston eked out a 106-103 victory over the Orlando Magic on Sunday night to take a 3-0 lead in the NBA Finals.

The Rockets' improbable march to the finals can conclude with a second consecutive championship with a victory Wednesday night in Game 4.

After Robert Horry's 3-pointer with 14.1 seconds left gave Houston a 104-100 lead, Clyde Drexler made 1-of-2 free throws. Then Nick Anderson hit a 28-footer with 2.2 seconds left to give Orlando life at 105-103.

The Magic immediately fouled Sam Cassell, who missed the first of his two foul shots. But Orlando's hopes ended when An-

fernee Hardaway's desperation 3-point attempt missed the rim as time expired.

Hakeem Olajuwon's 31 points and 14 rebounds led the Rockets, who can become the first team to sweep the finals since 1989. That year, Detroit beat the Los Angeles Lakers in four games to win the first of two consecutive titles.

No team in NBA playoff history — in any round — has come back from a 3-0 deficit. After the buzzer, Houston fans began chanting, "Sweep! Sweep!"

"This is incredible," Olajuwon said.

Unlike Game 2, won 117-106 by Houston, this one was close all the way. Orlando had a two-point lead after one quarter, Houston led by one at halftime and the third quarter ended tied.

In all, the game was tied 16 times. The last time was with 7:29 left, when O'Neal converted a three-point play after being fouled by Olajuwon.

The Rockets then scored the next five points, including Horry's two free throws with 5:14

left to give Houston a 91-86 lead.

Mario Elie's 3-pointer with 3:16 left gave the Rockets a 96-90 lead, but Shaquille O'Neal, who led the Magic with 28 points and 10 rebounds, scored the next four. A 3-pointer by Anderson pulled Orlando to 100-98 with 1:01 to play.

Anderson then fouled Horry on a drive to the basket, and Horry hit one free throw to give Houston a three-point cushion. Horace then hit from the side before Horry struck his big 3-pointer to put the Rockets up 104-100.

"I was very fortunate to make that last one," said Horry, who had 11 of his 20 points in fourth quarter. "I just wanted to try to get it up quick."

Drexler, who finished with 25 points, rescued the Rockets after Orlando pulled within two points with 2:26 to go. He finished off a floor-length run with a swooping jam that put Houston ahead 98-94.

"You can see how much he does on the fastbreak," Olajuwon said.

ROCKETS ROLL 3-0



GAME 1: Houston 120
Orlando 118

GAME 2: Houston 117
Orlando 106

GAME 3: Houston 106
Orlando 103

GAME 4: Wednesday at
Houston



Staff and AP graphic

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1 TVU 8