

All-Stars try to shine through storm clouds of strike

Big crowd sees Thomas win Home Run Derby.

ARLINGTON (AP) — When it came to the All-Star home run derby, major leaguers didn't have a million-dollar swing Monday.

While no one came close to hitting the scoreboard above the right-field porch at The Ballpark, a target more than 500 feet away, Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland's Albert Belle in the final, averaging 432.5 feet per homer.

"I think I was sitting with six or seven outs without a homer," Thomas said. "I thought I had a chance of going the whole contest without hitting one. I slowed my body down and things fell into place."

With injuries to Ken Griffey Jr. and Mark McGwire, there was only one left-handed hitter in the contest: Boston's Mo Vaughn. He hit three homers in the first round, his best a 460-foot drive into the right-field upper deck.

On top of the home run porch — designed as a tribute to Tiger Stadium in Detroit — is a Sony Jumbotron scoreboard. To the right is a white sign that reads "HIT IT HERE & WIN A FREE SUIT 501 FT.," a takeoff on Abe Stark's "Hit Sign Win Suit" billboard on the right field scoreboard at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn.

The Texas Rangers and Pinnacle Brands, a Dallas-based trading card company, said they'd contribute \$1 million to charity if any player hit the scoreboard, the four billboards on it or the roof of the office building in left or right fields.

No one came close. In 1993, Griffey hit the B&O Warehouse adjacent to Camden Yards. Last year, when Griffey edged Thomas at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, Thomas hit the most dramatic blasts, including a 519-foot drive into the upper deck. He averaged 495.5 feet for his four homers.

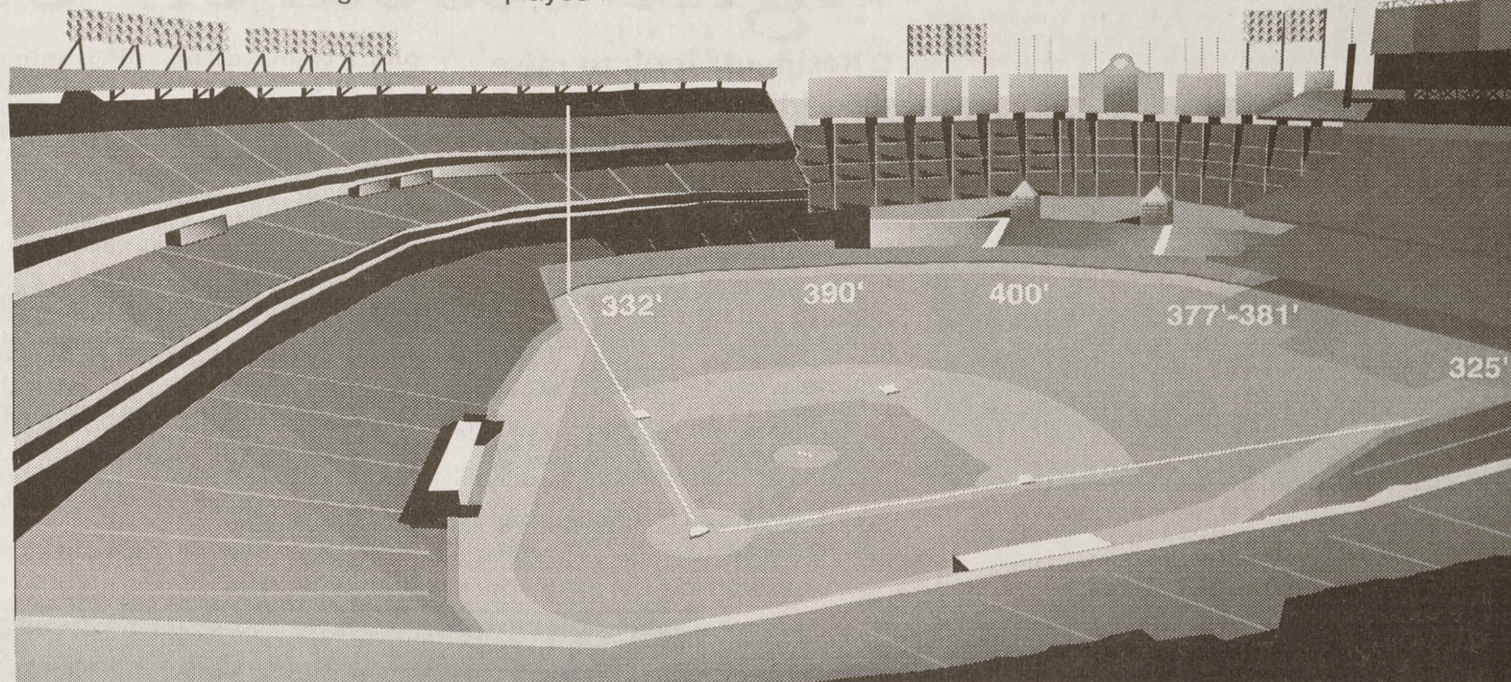
On Monday, in a new format, he averaged 438.9 feet for eight first-round homers, while Belle was second with a 421.9 average for seven. Each player swung until he made 10 "outs" — swings that weren't homers. After the first round, the field was cut to four, and another round left just Thomas and Belle.

Belle, who didn't speak to reporters after the contest, entered as a substitute Monday after Oakland's McGwire was forced out of the All-Star game because of a concussion.

1995 ALL-STAR GAME

THE BALLPARK IN ARLINGTON

On July 11, the Texas Rangers will host the 66th annual All-Star Game. It will be the very first time that the Mid-Summer Classic will be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the third time the game has been played in the state of Texas. The 1968 and 1986 All-Star games were played in the Houston Astrodome.



AMERICAN LEAGUE STARTERS

Player	Votes	Position
Ivan Rodriguez, Texas	1,151,708	Catcher
Frank Thomas, Chicago	895,576	First Base
Carlos Baerga, Cleveland	1,152,652	Second Base
Wade Boggs, New York	884,651	Third Base
Cal Ripken, Baltimore	1,698,524	Shortstop
Albert Belle, Cleveland	1,056,134	Outfield
Kenny Lofton-x, Cleveland	975,801	Outfield
Kirby Puckett, Minnesota	997,623	Outfield

x-replaces Ken Griffey Jr. (injured) 1,204,748 votes

NATIONAL LEAGUE STARTERS

Player	Votes
Mike Piazza, Los Angeles	1,195,136
Fred McGriff, Atlanta	871,904
Craig Biggio, Houston	825,062
Vinny Castilla-x, Colorado	604,823
Barry Larkin-y, Cincinnati	948,945
Barry Bonds, San Francisco	1,392,130
Lenny Dykstra, Philadelphia	903,952
Tony Gwynn, San Diego	898,951

x-replaces Matt Williams (injured) 1,029,519 votes; y-replaces Ozzie Smith (injured) 1,367,518 votes

Future All-Star games

Year	Sites
1996	Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia
1997	Jacobs Field, Cleveland
1998	Coors Field, Colorado
1999	Site to be determined
2000	Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami

1995
★ Honorary Captains
American League
Nolan Ryan
National League
Ferguson Jenkins

All-Star Game wins

NL	38
AL	26
1 tie	

AP/Ed De Gasero

AL All-Star Stats

Starters	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Rodriguez, Tex	.332	211	29	70	6	31
Thomas, Chi	.325	228	49	74	21	53
Baerga, Cle	.327	281	43	92	11	45
Boggs, NY	.295	207	26	61	2	28
Ripken, Bal	.284	264	34	75	7	35
Belle, Cle	.312	260	52	81	14	51
Lofton, Cle	.313	249	43	78	5	27
Puckett, Min	.280	264	36	74	10	40

Reserves	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Alomar, Tor	.316	256	37	81	10	37
DiSarcina, Cal	.324	250	44	81	4	33
Martinez, Sea	.363	240	58	87	14	56
Seitzer, Mil	.323	232	24	75	2	37
Vaughn, Bos	.290	262	52	76	24	60
Edmonds, Cal	.291	261	54	76	13	52
O'Neill, NY	.346	185	35	64	11	39
Ramirez, Cle	.320	231	44	74	18	52
Stanley, NY	.260	181	28	47	7	34

Pitchers	W	L	SV	BB	SO	ERA
Appier, KC	11	5	0	45	120	3.04
Finley, Cal	7	7	0	44	97	3.56
Hanson, Bos	7	2	0	21	77	3.61
Johnson, Sea	9	1	0	34	152	2.88
Martinez, Cle	8	0	0	16	48	2.37
Mesa, Cle	1	0	21	8	25	1.84
Ontiveros, Oak	8	3	0	18	50	3.09
Rogers, Tex	8	4	0	37	64	3.05
Smith, Cal	0	2	20	16	21	3.22
Wells, Det	8	3	0	31	66	3.00

Baseball needs big show tonight

The tension will be so thick at tonight's All-Star Game at The Ballpark in Arlington, one would think the Rangers were in the World Series.

The intensity won't be on the field, but rather in the stands as the players try to woo back fans who have been so disillusioned by the recent players strike.

With basketball and hockey seasons over for nearly a month and pro football's training camp still three weeks away, baseball takes center stage tonight, and will attempt to use one of its crown jewels to reheat America's love for its national pastime.

Baseball officials have pulled out all the stops for tonight, even for the ceremonial first pitch. When former Ranger and baseball legend Nolan Ryan takes the mound one more time to toss a fastball, expect to hear the Arlington crowd's roar in College Station.

But Ryan retired the season before the trouble really came to a hilt in the major leagues. True, Ryan did strike along with the players' union three times during his phenomenal 25-year career, but fans remember him as a symbol of the good old days of baseball.

Although many superstars will be shining bright tonight for baseball, three of its biggest ones will be conspicuously absent,

and the fans will undoubtedly notice.

One is Ken Griffey Jr., who has been out of the Seattle Mariners' line-up since breaking his hand last month while crashing into a centerfield fence while catching a fly ball. Seattle has sorely missed Griffey's bat-



NICK GEORGANDIS
SPORTS EDITOR

ting and fine fielding, but tonight's game will miss his grace and his wonderful smile.

Also missing the action will be Atlanta Braves ace Gregg Maddux, who strained a groin muscle over the weekend. Maddux, with his 9-1 record and 1.64 earned run average, easily could have been the National League's starting pitcher tonight. Although the Los Angeles Dodgers' standout rookie Hideo Nomo surely will dazzle the crowd with his funky delivery, he will also surely feel the butterflies in his stomach when he takes the mound.

Maddux has seen this scene before and would have been at his very best against the powerful American League line-up. With a nervous Nomo on the hill, the game could get ugly.

Perhaps the saddest no-show of them all is St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith, who was voted in by the fans but has been injured all season. The All-Star game

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NL All-Star Stats

Starters	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Piazza, LA	.377	162	32	61	13	37
McGriff, Atl	.279	251	46	70	11	45
Biggio, Hou	.280	264	55	74	10	41
Castilla, Col	.317	262	41	83	17	48
Larkin, Cin	.289	225	44	65	6	29
Bonds, SF	.306	248	52	76	16	51
Dykstra, Phi	.262	191	23	50	0	15
Gwynn, SD	.364	269	43	98	6	52

Reserves	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Bonilla, NY	.315	260	37	82	13	46
Grace, Chi	.340	262	46	89	10	48
Morandini, Phi	.282	227	33	64	4	27
Offerman, LA	.303	251	43	76	1	16
Bichette, Col	.336	274	43	92	13	48
Conine, Fla	.322	227	40	73	14	48
Gant, Cin	.291	230	51	67	20	54
Mondesi, LA	.315	270	52	85	13	48
Sanders, Cin	.311	251	48	78	15	58
Sosa, Chi	.273	278	37	76	15	54
Daulton, Phi	.221	213	29	47	6	31

Pitchers	W	L	SV	BB	SO	ERA
Green, Phi	8	4	0	41	58	2.87
Henke, StL	0	0	17	8	21	1.67
Maddux, Atl	8	1	0	8	86	1.67
Myers, Chi	0	1	21	13	33	2.40
Neagle, Pit	9	4	0	21	71	3.34
Nomo, LA	6	1	0	46	119	1.58
Perez, Mtl	7	2	0	14	53	3.29
Slocumb, Phi	1	0	20	18	29	2.39
Worrell, LA	2	0	12	5	26	0.58

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