

Re-signing Biggio Astros' top concern

□ The second baseman enjoyed a banner season.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros lost a chance for the NL playoffs and now they must worry about losing second baseman Craig Biggio, too.

Astros were eliminated from postseason play, the offseason focus turned to Biggio, who is eligible to file for free agency following the World Series.

Jeff Bagwell said he'd consider asking for a trade if the Astros don't re-sign Biggio, who had a \$4.5 million salary this year.

"It's not out of the realm of possibility,"

Bagwell said. "Losing Craig would be more devastating than you can possibly imagine."

Many Astros players were disappointed when the Astros completed a 12-player deal with San Diego before the season that sent popular third baseman Ken Caminiti and center fielder Steve Finley to the Padres.

The Astros were one-half game behind divi-

sion-leading Cincinnati last season when the strike stopped play. They were in command for a wild-card playoff berth this season before an 11-game losing streak. Colorado wound up winning the wild-card spot on the final day of the season.

Further tampering with the lineup could be demoralizing for the team.

Aikman says it is doubtful he will play in Sunday's game

□ The Cowboys quarterback injured his calf during Dallas' loss to the Redskins Sunday.

IRVING (AP) — A limping Troy Aikman, his pulled right calf muscle still sore and swollen, said Monday his chance of playing against the Green Bay Packers next Sunday is not very good.

"I thought this was the year I would escape having a freak injury but obviously not," Aikman said. "I'm just glad it's not more serious."

"I had a pulled hamstring muscle and missed two weeks. Hopefully, I won't miss that much this year."

Aikman went down untouched in the first quarter of the Dallas Cowboys 27-23 loss to the Washington Redskins on Sunday.

"This calf muscle injury is a new one for me," Aikman said. "I just dropped back to pass and it felt like I got kicked in the leg."

Aikman had trouble with the calf muscle in practice last Thursday but didn't think much of it.

"I felt a little twinge but I even jogged three miles after practice and had no problems with it on Friday," Aikman said.

"It was not something I was

concerned about."

Trainers are treating Aikman with ice and electrical impulses.

"As soon as I feel I can play I will," Aikman said. "It's day to day. The rehabilitation is similar to a pulled hamstring."

"I believe a calf muscle gets well faster than a hamstring."

Trainer Kevin O'Neill said Aikman "has significant swelling" in the muscle.

Asked if Aikman could play against the Packers on Sunday

in Texas Stadium, O'Neill said "you never say never. We'll see how it responds."

In his career, Aikman has had a fractured finger, a separated shoulder, sprained knee ligaments, a pulled hamstring and several concussions.

Last year he battled a sprained knee ligament. Third string quarterback Jason Garrett beat Green Bay 42-31 on Thanksgiving Day, after last year's backup Rodney Peete also became injured during the game.

Aikman felt good enough to joke about his plight.

"I got hurt once in high school and once in college," Aikman said. "But players are bigger and faster in the NFL. Or maybe I'm just getting too old."

Aikman's injury puts the pressure on backup Wade Wilson, who completed 21 of 29 passes for 224 yards and one touchdown and an interception.

"I thought Wade played great," Aikman said. "You don't realize how hard it is to come off the bench."

"He played well enough for us to win. Other things broke down."

Aikman said it looked like Wilson would be working with the first team in practice on Wednesday.

"This is a frustrating thing but there's nothing you can do about it," Aikman said. "It's just a freak deal."

"But Wade will do a good job until I can get back in there."

Wilson is in his first year with the Cowboys after spending time with several NFL teams.

Doctors say Aikman should be out two to three weeks. Dallas plays at San Diego on Oct. 15.

They have an open date before playing at Atlanta on Oct. 29.

"We're not going to count on Troy for the San Diego game, either," said coach Barry Switzer.



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CLARK
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with Perdue. Good plan. Hey, now they have someone that will give them about as many points, but about a zillion less rebounds than Rodman. Good plan. Now they have someone who won't push Robinson into being a tough force in the middle, but

ATLANTA vs. COLORADO

Probable starters

LEFT FIELD Ryan Klesko, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 329 310 23 70 Dante Bichette, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 579 340 40 128	RIGHT FIELD David Justice, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 411 253 24 78 Larry Walker, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 454 308 35 101
CENTER FIELD Marquis Grissom, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 551 258 12 42 Ellie Burks, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 278 265 14 49	
SHORTSTOP Jeff Blauser, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 431 211 12 31 Walt Weis, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 427 260 1 26	SECOND BASE Mark Lemke, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 399 233 1 31 Eric Young, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 306 317 6 31
THIRD BASE Chipper Jones, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 524 265 23 85 Vinny Castell, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 627 309 32 90	FIRST BASE Fred McGriff, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 528 280 27 51 Andres Galarraga, Col AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 556 290 31 58
GAME 1 STARTER Greg Maddux, Atlanta W L IP ERA '95 Season 19 2 299.2 1.63 Kevin Ritz, Colorado W L IP ERA '95 Season 11 11 173.1 4.21	CATCHER Charlie O'Brien, Atlanta AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 198 97 6 21 Joe Girardi, Colorado AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 482 262 6 55

will probably cower in Robinson's luster. Good plan. The Spurs are no longer the team to beat, but rather the team to laugh at. Certainly Robinson will carry the team to the first round of the playoffs, but beyond that is doubtful at best. So, I'll still wear my Rodman jersey in memory of a time when the Spurs actually contended for the NBA title. Rodman will spur the Bulls on to their fourth NBA title with Jordan and Pippen. Good plan.

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CLEVELAND vs. BOSTON

Probable starters

LEFT FIELD Albert Belle, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 546 317 50 126 Mike Greenwell, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 481 297 15 76	RIGHT FIELD Manny Ramirez, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 484 308 31 107 Willie McGee, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 200 295 9 41
CENTER FIELD Kenny Lofton, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 481 310 7 53 Dwayne Hoesy, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 68 338 3 7	
SHORTSTOP Omar Vizquel, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 542 266 6 56 John Valentin, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 520 298 27 102	SECOND BASE Carlos Baerga, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 557 314 15 90 Luis Alicea, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 419 270 6 44
THIRD BASE Jim Thome, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 452 314 25 73 Tim Lincecum, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 433 307 10 57	FIRST BASE Paul Sorrento, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 323 235 25 79 Mo Vaughn, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 550 300 39 126
GAME 1 STARTER Dennis Martinez, Cleve. W L IP ERA '95 Season 12 5 187.0 3.98 Roger Clemens, Boston W L IP ERA '95 Season 10 5 140.0 4.18	CATCHER Sandy Alomar, Cleve. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 203 300 10 35 Mike MacFarlane, Boston AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 364 225 15 51

style than he does. But, we have to pick a style for the team so that they know what we're doing. "We have to mesh our styles. I had to learn how to work with his style and he had to learn with mine. That's probably when it's the hardest for us." John also said that there were some difficulties that they face. "Our styles aren't always exactly matched up," John said. "We're not always 100 percent in sync. If we weren't married, and I was just the assistant coach, then it would be easier to make decisions because you're not as worried about what the other person, you care what they think and what they do, but it's not the same." The Corbellis have not always been on the same side. Before coming to A&M, they earned the recognition as the only husband and wife to serve concurrently as head coaches of Division I volleyball teams. In California, they coached against one another with Laurie at Santa Clara and John at San Jose State. With a 10-1 record and a Top 25 ranking, it is easy to see that the Corbellis have successfully meshed their styles into a winning combination for the Lady Aggies.