

# Piazza, Caminiti propel senior circuit to 6-0 All-Star victory

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mike Piazza and his National League teammates were the ones who really hit it on the nose.

Piazza launched an upper-deck home run in his first at-bat and lined an RBI double his next time up, leading the Nationals to a 6-0 victory in the All-Star game Tuesday night for their first three-game winning streak since 1982.

The biggest blow for the American League, meanwhile, did not even come with a bat. Two hours before the game, Baltimore iron man Cal Ripken sustained a broken nose when he caught a forearm in the face from Chicago White Sox reliever Roberto Hernandez, who lost his balance on a platform during a team picture.

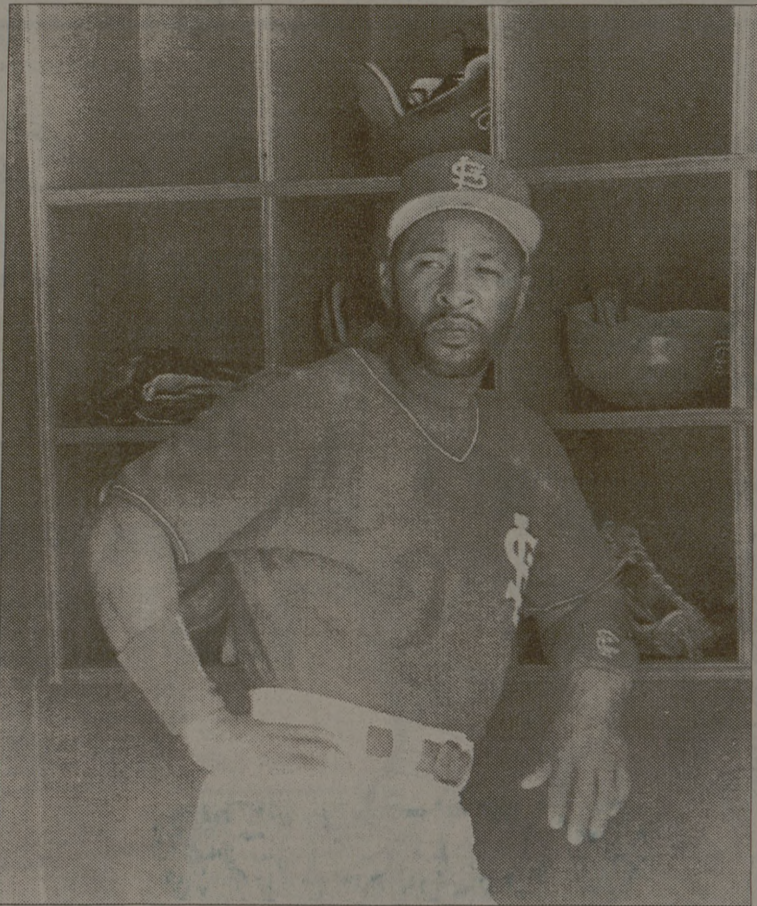
The bloodied Ripken was treated, and returned to play his 14th All-Star game. His streak of 2,239 consecutive games is expected to continue.

But the power-packed AL lineup did little at the plate, managing just seven hits against winning pitcher John Smoltz and eight relievers. Albert Belle became the first AL player to strike out three times since Mickey Mantle in 1956.

While the AL was handed its first shutout since 1987 — when it lost 2-0 in 13 innings in the last supposed year of a lively ball — the NL increased its overall lead to 40-26-1.

The Nationals hadn't done so well since they won 11 in a row from 1972-82. Who knows if their streak will continue next year when the All-Star game comes a few weeks after interleague play is scheduled to start?

Ken Caminiti, Lance Johnson and Chipper Jones, all playing in place of injured stars, each delivered key hits for the NL. Ozzie



Associated Press Photo

Ozzie Smith watches action from the dugout in a 1994 game. Smith participated in his 15th and final All-Star game Tuesday night.

Smith, in his 15th and final All-Star game, drew the biggest cheer of the evening, a 45-second standing ovation that also included a handshake from opposing catcher Sandy Alomar Jr.

Johnson, in his first All-Star game at age 33, took Tony Gwynn's

spot and doubled on loser Charles Nagy's first pitch. He later scored on Barry Bonds' groundout.

Jones, playing third base for injured Matt Williams, singled and scored in the second. Caminiti hit a leadoff home run in the sixth that made it 5-0.

# Football

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schedule a bit," Groff said. "Initially, they wanted to get out without any kind of penalty, but I told them that was just something we couldn't allow."

Groff said home-and-home contracts with the Air Force Academy and Auburn University were almost finalized, but were vetoed by the coaching staffs at each school.

"Everything was in order until the coaches were notified," Groff said. "Like I've said before, I don't blame them for saying no. I wouldn't want to play an opponent like A&M."

The A&M Athletic Department contacted a

number of other schools, but according to Groff, none had openings in their schedules.

This forced A&M to locate a school willing to travel to College Station for one game.

This is why Division I-AA Sam Houston State was inked as the Aggies' opponent for the 1997 season opener.

However, in addition to playing Notre Dame in 2000 and 2001, A&M was able to pick up non-conference contests with Wyoming and Clemson.

Groff said the Aggie coaching staff is looking forward to the challenge.

"They're very excited about the better lineup in the future," Groff said. "Those will be some big games for us, and a good test to see how our program has advanced."



## 1997 Schedule

Sept. 6 SAM HOUSTON ST.  
Sept. 20 SW LOUISIANA  
Sept. 27 vs. North Texas#

Oct. 4 at Colorado\*  
Oct. 11 IOWA STATE\*  
Oct. 18 at Kansas State\*  
Oct. 25 at Texas Tech\*

Nov. 1 OKLAHOMA ST.\*  
Nov. 8 BAYLOR\*  
Nov. 15 at Oklahoma\*  
Nov. 27 TEXAS\*

## 1998 Schedule

Sept. 12 LOUISIANA TECH  
Sept. 19 at S. Mississippi  
Sept. 26 NORTH TEXAS

Oct. 3 MISSOURI\*  
Oct. 10 at Kansas\*  
Oct. 17 NEBRASKA\*  
Oct. 24 at Baylor\*  
Oct. 31 TEXAS TECH\*

Nov. 7 at Oklahoma St.\*  
Nov. 14 OKLAHOMA\*  
Nov. 26 at Texas\*

**Note:** (\*) indicates Big 12 conference games. (#) the North Texas game will be played at Texas Stadium.



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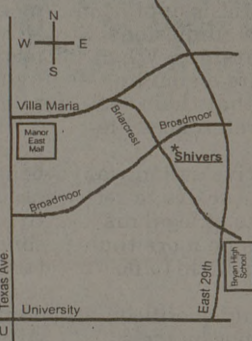
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