

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, July 29, 2002

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Astros get another shutout, win 4-0

HOUSTON (AP) — The latest shutout by the Houston Astros was nearly a total team effort.

Wade Miller and four relievers combined on a five-hitter as Houston shut out the Pittsburgh Pirates for the third time in four games, winning 4-0 Sunday.

"It's a lot easier to win when you only have to score one," Houston outfielder Lance Berkman said. "It means we're pitching really well. We're getting good starting pitching and good bullpen pitching. Obviously, it shows teams can pitch in this park."

Houston swept the four-game series, outscoring Pittsburgh 19-3. It was the first time the Astros had three shutouts in a series since August 1974 and the first back-to-back blankings since July 1997.

### Wizard of Oz lands in Hall of Fame

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — Fighting back a tear or two, Ozzie Smith joined baseball's elite Sunday, accepting his position in the Hall of Fame with a wonderful speech that aptly described his storied life.

"This is tough," Smith, the only former player to be elected this year, said, halting to brush away a tear after his son, Dustin, read the inscription on his plaque. "I've faced many challenges in my career, and if I was to rank them by difficulty, this moment in Cooperstown would rank at the top of the list."

# Armstrong captures fourth Tour

PARIS (AP) — Voila! Just like that, Lance Armstrong is Tour de France champion for a fourth straight time.

The Texan with the iron legs to match his will already is thinking about winning again. And again.

Looking ahead to 2004 and the possibility of becoming the only six-time winner of the Tour, Armstrong said his U.S. Postal Service team is "one of the strongest in the history of cycling. I hope to ride with them for two more years."

"It's always complicated, difficult to reach the maximum level," he said. "I love the race, my job, cycling."

Armstrong was right where he seems to belong Sunday, cruising toward the tree-lined Champs-Elysees with a bright yellow jersey on his back. He never relinquished the overall

leader's shirt after putting it on 10 days ago when he took control with his trademark surges through the mountains.

The 30-year-old cyclist who overcame cancer has turned the grueling three-week event into his personal showcase. As he cycled in the main pack in Sunday's 20th stage, he held a glass of champagne — enjoying a little sip early on — and he took a congratulatory call from President Bush after the victory ceremony.

"I'm really happy to finish," Armstrong said. "It's a difficult race, three weeks. It's difficult mentally."

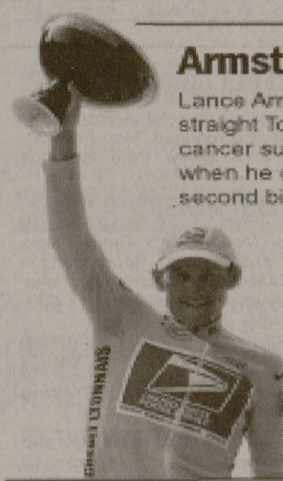
Not Sunday, though. The final stage of 89 and one-fourth miles into Paris is traditionally a mostly ceremonial ride, and Armstrong took time to pose for photographs with an arm draped over the shoulders of another rider.

He could afford to dally. Armstrong's tranquil ride to the finish mirrored the rest of the Tour. Neither rivals nor the demanding course of 2,032 miles seemed to test him during a race with fewer of the unfounded accusations that Armstrong takes banned drugs. He has never failed a drug test.

He covered all that ground with an overall time of 82 hours, 5 minutes, 12 seconds. The winning margin over runner-up Joseba Beloki of Spain was 7:17, making it Armstrong's second-biggest victory. He beat Alex Zuelle by 7:37 in 1999 for his first Tour de France championship.

Raimondas Rumsas of Lithuania was third overall, 8:17 back. No other rider finished within 13 minutes of Armstrong.

Thousands of fans watched Sunday, many waving the Stars



### Armstrong wins Tour de France

Lance Armstrong, of Austin, Texas, won his fourth straight Tour de France on Sunday. The 30-year-old cancer survivor was 7 minutes, 17 seconds ahead when he crossed the finish line, making this his second biggest win.

#### Tour de France results

Year	Rank	Stage victories
2002	1	4
2001	1	4
2000	1	1
1999	1	4
1996	none	0
1995	36	1
1994	none	0
1993	none	1

SOURCES: Associated Press; Societe du Tour de France

AP

and Stripes, as Armstrong moved closer to the Tour record of five titles, shared by four riders. Only Miguel Indurain won five in a row, from 1991-95.

And Armstrong is the first American with four Tour trophies. Greg Lemond, the only other U.S. champion of cycling's most prestigious event, won three.

# Former Aggie Nguyen looking for ring with Cowboys

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

SAN ANTONIO — When former Aggie All-American Dat Nguyen was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the 1999 NFL Draft, Aggie fans across the state were excited they would have the chance to watch one of the most popular members of the "Wrecking Crew" in school history attempt to turn into a great NFL linebacker.

Although he now works out at Valley Ranch instead of Netum Steed, Nguyen still remembers the great times at Kyle Field.

"There are too many memories from Kyle Field to pinpoint one," Nguyen said. "I am thankful I had the opportunity to experience it."

Nguyen and the Cowboys opened their 2002 version of training camp Friday night in San Antonio.

The team held a kick-off party featur-

ing a free concert by Pat Green and appearances by the Cowboys cheerleaders and players.

After throwing beer at former Oklahoma standout Roy Williams, University of Texas fans also gave Nguyen a less than friendly welcome to the Alamodome.

Fans were not the only members of the "Texas-Exes" in attendance Friday night. Former Longhorn defensive back

Michael Westbrook, who also plays with the Cowboys, complimented Nguyen's fierce work ethic and strong play on the field.

"I've been watching Dat for a long time," Westbrook said. "He is a wonderful player and competitor, and I am just glad that I don't have to go up against him anymore."

Westbrook did add, however, that when Thanksgiving rolls around, the trash talking will commence.

## DAT NGUYEN

- 1998 Lombardi Award winner
- School-record 51 consecutive starts
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- Led A&M in tackles four straight seasons
- Selected by Dallas Cowboys in 1999 NFL Draft



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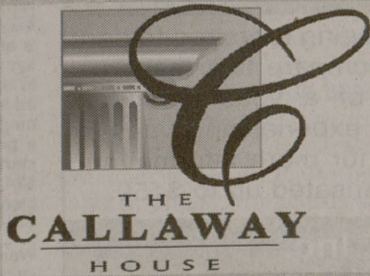


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