

SPORTS

Astros fall to A's for 5th straight loss

Anderson strikes out 10 in six innings

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The losses and the strikeouts keep piling up for the Houston Astros.

Athletics	9
Astros	3

Brett Anderson struck out 10 more Houston batters and the Oakland Athletics backed him with three home runs for a 9-3 win Sunday and a three-game sweep of the Astros.

Coco Crisp homered for the third straight day, Jed Lowrie again connected against his former team and Chris Young homered in his hometown. The A's sent Houston to its fifth straight loss.

The Astros, playing their first year in the American League, went 1-5 on their season-opening homestand against Texas and Oakland. They'll now start a nine-game road trip to the West Coast against division opponents.

"You never look forward to going on the road, but it might be a fresh start to get on the road a little bit," Houston's Brandon Barnes said. "It's just one of those things where we'll try to go out and have fun."

Houston's first-year manager Bo Porter brushed off questions about the difficulty of going on a long trip.

"Nobody is going to feel sorry for you," he said. "This business is major league baseball. The schedule that we have is the schedule that we're going to play."

Anderson (1-1) and the A's bullpen combined for 14 strikeouts. The Astros' 74 strikeouts through the first six games are the most in major league history since 1921, STATS said. The previous mark was held by Colorado, which fanned 65 times through the first six games of 2004.

Houston has reached double-digit strikeouts in five games. All but one starting pitcher the Astros have faced has either set or tied a career high for strikeouts against them.

"You've got to have a short-term memory," said Houston's Chris Carter, who has accounted for 11



The Astros' Jose Altuve strikes out in the seventh inning Sunday against the Athletics in Houston. The Astros struck out 14 times Sunday, giving them 74 through the first six games.



The Astros' J.D. Martinez (right) tosses his bat after striking out as Oakland Athletics catcher John Jaso heads to the dugout in the seventh inning Sunday.

of the team's strikeouts. "Just play day-to-day and not dwell on what happened last game."

The Astros talked this off-season about how they expected to be much better than they were in the past two seasons where they combined for 213 losses. But so far this team, with the lowest payroll in the majors, has struggled just as much as last year's squad.

But Porter, who is the youngest manager in the majors at just 40, remains optimistic.

"We're not that far off," he said. "We may have lost the game, but I think we're actually learning how to win."

Anderson tied a career high for strikeouts in only six innings. He allowed two unearned runs and five hits.

Oakland right fielder J.J. Reddick was injured when he ran into the wall chasing a foul ball in the fifth inning. He sprained his right wrist when he fell trying to catch the fly by Marwin Gonzalez. Reddick left the game and said

X-rays were negative. He was listed as day to day.

Lowrie, traded from Houston to Oakland in February, homered for the second straight game. He had a two-run drive in the third and finished with three hits.

Lowrie has started the season with a six-game hitting streak, going 13 for 23 with three homers, four doubles and six RBIs in that span.

Crisp added a solo shot in the fourth, giving him home runs in three straight games for the first time since 2008. Crisp went 7 for 14 in the series, including the three homers and four doubles.

Young stretched the lead to 8-0 with a three-run homer in the fifth. He grew up in Houston and extended his hitting streak against the Astros to 11 games.

Young has had more success against Houston than any other team he's faced. He has four homers, five doubles and 16 RBIs during his current streak against the Astros, dating to Aug. 8, 2011.



The Rangers' David Murphy (right) is congratulated by third base coach Gary Pettis after hitting a home run during the first inning against the Angels on Sunday in Arlington.

Rangers top Angels for series victory

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers clinched their three-game home-opening series even with Yu Darvish being far from perfect.

Rangers	7
Angels	3

Lance Berkman, David Murphy and Ian Kinsler homered for Texas in a 7-3 victory over Josh Hamilton and the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels on Sunday night.

Darvish (2-0) came within one out of a perfect game in his first start five days earlier at Houston, but trailed the Angels 2-0 only five batters into his 2013 debut.

After Darvish walked leadoff hitter Mike Trout, hit Erick Aybar on the foot and then walked Albert Pujols, a run scored on Hamilton's double-play grounder. Mark Trumbo's RBI single quickly made it 2-0.

Berkman's first homer with the Rangers was a two-run shot in the bottom of the first off Jered Weaver (0-1), who won 20 games last season. Murphy added a solo shot two batters later to put the Rangers ahead to stay.

Hamilton had three hits. He finished 3 for 13 in the series, and is batting only .160 (4 for 25) on the season.

Neither Darvish nor Weaver made it past five innings, but that wasn't

because of the runs they allowed.

Darvish threw 85 pitches over five innings, and was replaced starting the sixth because of a blister on his right ring finger that had also developed in the game against the Astros when he retired 26 consecutive batters before giving up a single.

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Trout lf	4	1	0	0	1	2	.250
Aybar ss	4	1	1	0	0	2	.269
Pujols dh	3	0	1	0	2	0	.211
Hamilton rf	5	1	3	0	0	0	.160
Trumbo 1b	4	0	2	2	0	1	.280
H.Kendrick 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.217
Callaspo 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.318
Iannetta c	4	0	0	0	2	.300	
Bourjos cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.333
Totals	35	3	10	2	4	10	
Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Kinsler 2b	3	2	3	4	1	0	.333
Andrus ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.208
Berkman dh	3	1	1	2	1	0	.450
Beltre 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Dav.Murphy lf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.182
N.Cruz rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.458
Moreland 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.095
Soto c	3	1	1	0	0	1	.333
L.Martin cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.077
Totals	30	7	8	7	5	5	

LOB—Los Angeles 10, Texas 5. **2B**—Hamilton (1), Trumbo (3), Soto (1). **HR**—Berkman (1), off Weaver; Dav.Murphy (1), off Weaver; Kinsler (3), off M.Lowe. **RBI**—Trumbo 2 (5), Kinsler 4 (8), Berkman 2 (5), Dav.Murphy (3), Soto. **Runners left in scoring position**—Los Angeles 5 (Aybar 2, Callaspo 2, H.Kendrick); Texas 3 (Andrus, N.Cruz, Berkman). **RISP**—Los Angeles 1 for 10; Texas 2 for 6. **GIDP**—Pujols, Hamilton, N.Cruz. **DP**—Los Angeles 1 (Callaspo, H.Kendrick, Trumbo); Texas 2 (Kinsler, Andrus, Moreland), (Beltre, Kinsler, Moreland). **Los Angeles IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA**
Weaver L, 0-1 5 7 5 5 4 2 98 4.91
M.Lowe 0.1 1 2 2 0 1 0 15 4.15
Richards 0.2 0 0 0 0 1 8 2.08
Williams 2 0 0 0 0 2 18 0.00
Texas IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
Darvish W, 2-0 5 6 3 3 4 6 85 1.98
R.Ross H 1 2 0 0 0 1 14 0.00
Scheppers 2 1 0 0 0 2 20 0.00
Nathan 1 1 0 0 0 1 12 0.00
HBP—by Darvish (Aybar). **WP**—M.Lowe. **PB**—Iannetta. **T**—3:01. **A**—42,034 (48,114).

Hometown heroes

10 TO WATCH

Here are 10 former Coastal Bend high school athletes who are excelling at the collegiate level:

BASEBALL

St. Mary's junior LHP/1B Nathan Humpal (John Paul): Went 3 for 6 in the Rattlers' Heartland Conference doubleheader split with UT-Permian Basin on Saturday. Entered Sunday's Game 3 of the series batting .316 (6 for 19) with two runs scored. Had a 1-1 record and 5.40 ERA in five appearances on the mound.

Texas Lutheran sophomore RHP Aaron Aleman (IWA): Improved to 7-3 by allowing one earned run and four hits while striking out two over six innings in Saturday's 4-1 American Southwest Conference win over Howard Payne. Lowered his ERA to 3.12 and has 38 strikeouts in 57.2 innings this season.

SOFTBALL

Concordia-Austin senior OF Melissa Cantu (Tuloso-Midway): Went a combined 5 for 12 with one run scored to help the Tornados win three of four American Southwest Conference games against Sul Ross State over the weekend. Batted .286 (18 for 63) with eight runs scored and three RBI this season.

Houston Baptist freshman RHP/UTIL Kirsten Schwirtlich (Tuloso-Midway): Was 4 for 7 with four runs scored, a home run and one RBI in a pair of Southland Conference losses Saturday to Sam Houston State. Went into Sunday's series finale batting .388 (33 for 85) with 30 runs scored and a team-leading 40 RBIs and eight home runs.

Houston-Victoria junior 2B Ashley Winegeart

(Carroll): Was 4 for 7 with six runs scored, a home run and five RBIs in a pair of 23-0 routs of Texas College on Thursday. **Houston-Victoria junior RHP Megan Carter (Woodsboro):** Threw a five-inning perfect game while striking out eight in a 23-0 win over Texas College on Thursday.

Louisiana-Lafayette freshman UTIL Samantha Walsh (Ingleside): Went a combined 3 for 7 with one run scored in two Sun Belt Conference wins Saturday over North Texas. Was hitting .286 (24 for 84) with 18 runs scored, three home runs and 15 RBIs going into Sunday's series finale. **St. Mary's junior RHP/UTIL Emily Brittain (Tuloso-Midway):** Raised her record to 18-4 by scattering five hits over seven innings in Saturday's 4-2 Heartland Conference win over Texas A&M International. Has struck out 71 with a 2.28 ERA over 126 innings this season.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

UT-Arlington sophomore sprinter/jumper Quentin Butler (West Oso): Took fourth place in the 200-meter dash with a personal-best time of 20.9 and was second in the long jump with a personal-best mark of 24-05 at Saturday's Texas State Invitational. Also ran on the winning 1,600 relay team that finished in 3:15.02.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Rice senior thrower Sharae Robinson (West Oso): Won the hammer throw with a mark of 175-0 and placed second in the discus (168-0) at Saturday's Skechers Stephen F. Austin Invitational.

Compiled by Coy Slavik. If you have a Hometown Heroes suggestion, please email hometown.heroes@gmail.com

HOOKS from IC

"When you miss chances like that in the game, you kind of get an unsettled feeling," Hooks manager Keith Bodie said. "But it's nice to be at home when that happens. It gives you some sense that you can come back, as long as you can keep them close."

Tied at 2 in the eighth against Drillers reliever Mike Solbach, the Hooks got a one-out double to left field from Jonathan Meyer. Hernandez followed with a double of his own to left field, plating Meyer for the 3-2 lead.

In a strange coincidence, the game's key hit came from the guy wearing No. 7 and hitting seventh — on April 7, no less.

"At 0-2, I knew he threw two or three curveballs in a row to Jonny with two strikes and I was like, 'OK, the curveball is his out pitch and he'll probably try to get me out with this pitch,'" said Hernandez, whose fourth-inning solo home run tied the score at 2. "He hung a curveball and I was able to hit it."

"Our team is starting to hit better and their pitchers today were executing some really good pitches with runners on. It's a little bit frustrating when you've got so many base runners on and we can't get the job done, but this is a good team with good chemistry. We know that if we don't get the job done, someone



Jonathan Meyer connects for an eighth-inning double that set the stage for Enrique Hernandez's game-winning double to score Meyer for a 3-2 Corpus Christi victory.

else will get it done. That's what it's all about."

Earlier, the Hooks twice left the bases loaded. In the third, the first three batters reached with the heart of the order up. But Drillers starter Tim Gustafson struck out George Springtry to get me out with this pitch," said Hernandez, whose fourth-inning solo home run tied the score at 2. "He hung a curveball and I was able to hit it."

While Corpus Christi's bats scuffled, its arms provided a lift. Starter Ruben Alaniz battled his way through 3.2 innings of two-run ball before Jorge De Leon tossed 1.1 scoreless frames.

Matt Heidenreich, Alaniz's tag-team partner in the new tandem pitching rotation, earned the victory with three scoreless innings.

"Nothing changes (starting or relieving)," Heidenreich said. "We're a team and it's all about getting that win, however that may be."

Heidenreich (1-0) was the beneficiary of some solid defense. After Kent Matthes' leadoff double in the sixth, Heidenreich induced a grounder back to the mound to start a run-down that erased the lead runner.

In the eighth, catcher Carlos Perez threw out Kyle Parker trying to steal second to finish a double play. Shortstop Ben Orloff then capped the inning

Lucas Harrell (0-2) yielded seven hits and eight runs in 4.1 innings. It ended a streak of 31 straight starts in which he pitched five innings or more.

"The big key was not locating the ball," Harrell said. "When you're getting up in the zone and you're a sinker-ball guy, it's going to be a long day."

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Crisp dh	4	2	2	1	0	.333	
Jaso c	5	1	2	0	1	.353	
Reddick rf	3	0	0	0	0	.125	
Cespedes lf	2	0	0	0	0	.120	
Lowrie ss	5	2	3	2	0	.500	
Moss 1b	3	2	2	1	2	.235	
C.Young cf	3	2	1	3	2	.308	
S.Martin lf-rf	4	0	1	2	1	.308	
Dnaldson 3b	4	0	0	0	1	.120	
Sogard 2b	3	0	0	0	0	.158	
Totals	36	9	11	9	6	4	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.333
Maxwell cf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.381
J.Martinez lf	4	1	1	0	1	.273	
Carter dh	3	1	1	0	1	.091	
Wallace 1b	3	0	0	0	2	.059	
a-R.Cdeno 1b	1	0	0	0	0	.182	
Corporan c	4	0	1	0	2	.143	
Dominguez 3b	4	0	0	0	1	.176	
Barnes rf	3	0	1	0	2	.250	
b-Ankiel ph	1	0	0	0	1	.083	
Ma.Gnzlez ss	2	0	0	1	2	.250	
c-C.Pena ph	1	0	0	0	0	.158	
Totals	33	3	6	1	4	14	

Oakland 022 130 001-9 11 2
Houston 000 002 010-3 6 0
a-popped out for Wallace in the 8th. b-struck out for Barnes in the 9th. c-flied out for Ma.Gonzalez in the 9th.

E—Jaso (1), Lowrie (1). **LOB**—Oakland 7, Houston 7. **2B**—Crisp (5), S.Martin (2). **3B**—Carter (1). **HR**—Lowrie (3), off Harrell; Crisp (3), off Harrell; C.Young (2), off Harrell. **RISP**—Crisp (5), Lowrie (2), Moss (1), C.Young (3), S.Martin (2), Corporan (1). **CS**—Crisp (1).

Runners left in scoring position—Oakland 5 (Sogard, S.Martin 3, Lowrie); Houston 3 (Barnes, Altuve, J.Martinez). **RISP**—Oakland 3 for 11; Houston 1 for 11.

Runners moved up—Donaldson, Corporan, Dominguez. **GIDP**—Donaldson. **DP**—Houston 1 (Dominguez, Altuve, Wallace).

Oakland IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
Anderson W, 1-1 6 5 2 0 2 10 92 1.38
Neshek 1 1 1 1 2 2 27 5.40
Blevins 1 0 0 0 0 1 10 0.00
Scribner 1 0 0 0 0 1 9 4.15

Houston IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
Harrell L, 0-2 4 1 7 8 5 2 112 7.84
X.Cedeno 2 2 1 0 0 1 35 12.00
Ambriz 1 0 0 0 0 1 18 9.00
Veras 1 3 1 1 0 0 21 9.00

Neshek pitched to 1 batter in the 8th. **Inherited runners scored**—Blevins 1-1. **HBP**—by X.Cedeno (Sogard). **WP**—Harrell.

Umpires—Home, Mike Everitt; First, Marty Foster; Second, Scott Barry; Third, Tim Welke. **T**—3:04. **A**—16,914 (42,060).

with a scintillating play, ranging far up the middle and throwing out Matthes. "The key was) having good defense," Heidenreich said. "It was a great throw by Perez and a great play up the middle."

Closer Jason Stoffel worked the ninth for his second save in as many chances.

"We're pitching well and playing tremendous defense," Bodie said. "The defense continues to shine. The play Orloff made — you won't see a play better than that. It was a great, solid ballgame."

HOOKS 3, DRILLERS 2

Tulsa	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Shepherd cf	4	0	1	0	0	.250	
Nina 2b	4	0	1	0	1	.200	
Parker 1b	4	0	1	0	0	.214	
Wright dh	3	0	0	0	1	.000	
Matthes rf	4	1	2	0	0	.278	
Rolling 1b	4	0	0	0	1	.100	
Garneau c	4	1	1	0	0	.100	
Langfels 3b	4	0	0	0	1	.133	
Wong ss	3	0	1	0	1	.400	
Totals	34	2	7	2	1	5	

Corpus Christi	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Wates lf	4	0	2	0	1	.308	
Orloff ss	3	0	1	0	0	.250	
Springer cf	3	1	1	0	1	.214	
Burgess rf	4	0	1	0	2	.200	
Santana dh	3	0	0	1	1	.200	
Meyer 3b	4	1	2	0	0	.357	
Hernandez 2b	4	1	3	2	0	.400	
Castro 1b	3	0	0	1	2	.071	
Perez c	4	0	2	0	0	.200	
Totals	32	3	12	2	4	7	

Oakland 020 000 000-2 7 0
Corpus Christi 100 100 01x-3 12 1
E — Alaniz (1). **DP** — Tulsa 1, Corpus Christi 1. **LOB** — Tulsa 6, Corpus Christi 2. **2B** — Springer (1), Garneau (1), Meyer (2), Perez (1), Matthes (4). **HR** — Hernandez (1). **SB** — Nina (1), Matthes (1). **CS** — Parker (1). **S** — Orloff (1).

Corpus Christi IP H R ER BB SO
Gustafson 3.2 6 2 2 1 4
Frazier 3.1 4 0 0 2 2
Solbach (L, 0-1) 1 2 1 1 1 1
Corpus Christi IP H R ER BB SO
Alaniz 3.2 5 2 2 1 1
De Leon 1.1 0 0 0 0 0
Heidenreich (W, 1-0) 3 2 0 0 0 3
Stoffel (S, 2) 1 0 0 0 0 1
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