

Palmer, Orioles closer

TORONTO (CP) — Jim Palmer is one for putting things into perspective.

"It's always great to win from a personal point of view, but with the club in the heat of the division battle, I can't get over the way everyone's performing," the three-time Cy Young Award winner said Monday night after pitching Baltimore Orioles to a 6-3 win over Toronto Blue Jays before 13,498 spectators at Exhibition Stadium.

The 31-year-old right-hander overcame a touch of the flu and a stiff shoulder to pitch eight innings of shutout ball for his 16th win of the season as the Orioles moved to within 2½ games of front-running New York Yankees in their quest for the East Division title of baseball's American League.

Palmer blanked the Blue Jays on seven hits before the shoulder got to be too much of a problem and he asked manager Earl Weaver to replace him with Dennis Martinez.

"It's nothing really bad," the New York native said, blaming the "flat mound in Detroit" where he hurled a four-hit shutout in his previous outing last Thursday against the Tigers for his shoulder troubles. His record now stands at 16-11.

Palmer overcame some early control difficulties to scatter seven hits, while walking three and striking out seven. His most difficult moments came in the first two innings as he twice pitched out of situations where the Blue Jays had put runners at first and third with one out.

However, the ace of the Orioles staff settled down after the opening-inning jitters and retired eight in a row at one stretch. His team-mates staked him to a 3-0 lead with single runs in each of the first three innings and then provided him with the eventual winning margin with two more in the sixth.

Doug DeCinces's one-out double, singles by Kiko Garcia and Dave Skaggs and an error by second baseman Steve Staggos on a run-down play gave the Orioles a 5-0 lead and they added another in the ninth as a Billy Smith single scored Al Bumbry who had doubled.

Martinez, Palmer's successor at the mound, was touched for the three Toronto runs in the ninth—Staggos's two-run triple the key blow—and Tippy Martinez had to come on to get the final two outs of the inning and record his eighth save.

Toronto mounted its biggest threat off Palmer in the eighth as Staggos drew a lead-off walk, Al Woods singled with one out and Ron Fairly got an infield hit to load the bases. But Palmer struck out Doug Ault and got pinch hitter Sam Ewing to ground into an inning-ending force play at second.

NHL starts exhibitions next week

MONTREAL (CP) — Two old rivals—Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs—will open the largest-ever National Hockey League pre-season schedule Sept. 22 in Kitchener, Ont., the league announced Monday.

Ninety exhibition games are set, surpassing the previous high of 82 established last year. Included in the schedule, which ends Oct. 11, are 67 games involving NHL clubs only, 19 games between NHL teams and World Hockey Association clubs and four contests pitting NHL squads against American or Central Hockey League clubs.

NHL officials will be keeping a close watch on two new rules which will be in force, including an experimental regulation designed to prevent brawling.

When an altercation erupts, the referee will order non-combatants to move to their respective players' benches. The rule has been in effect in the three Canadian major junior hockey leagues and if it proves useful in pre-season play, the NHL rules committee may vote to retain it for regular-season play which gets under way Oct. 12.

The committee adopted a new centre-ice rule at its meeting in Toronto in August. Under the regulation, a forward pass from inside the blue line and across the centre line may be successfully completed by a player who is preceded by the puck across the centre line.

Fifteen of the 18 clubs will start their training camps next Monday, with Pittsburgh Penguins, Cleveland Barons and Buffalo Sabres starting two days later.



Toronto shortstop Tim Nordbrook goes high to avoid Baltimore's Doug DeCinces as Jays attempt doubleplay.

George gets revenge

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Third baseman George Brett, exposed as a bashful bachelor by baseball's kissing bandit and stripper extraordinaire, has settled the score.

Three weeks ago, the Kansas City Royals star was the target of a playful attack by Morganna Cottrill, a busty exotic dancer with a reputation for charging onto baseball fields and kissing players.

"Now we're even," Brett grinned Monday night after showing up at the theatre where Morganna was performing, marching onto the stage and, to the cheers of a sparse crowd, giving the buxom stripper a kiss of his own.

Brett, 24, had vowed revenge since Morganna kissed him Aug. 22 as he prepared to bat against Baltimore Orioles.

"It was just something to do in fun, that's all," said Brett. "She's a super lady."

Morganna, who bills herself as the Kissing Bandit, was forewarned when Brett called the theatre after the Royals' game with Oakland A's was rained out.

"People ask my husband if he's jealous," said the 29-year-old blonde dancer from Columbus, Ohio. "Heck,



The Kissing Bandit and George Brett embrace.

he's one of George's biggest fans."

Morganna, who boasts the impressive measurements of 45-23-39 and has been stripping since she was 13 years old, began her baseball exploits in 1969

when someone dared her to kiss Pete Rose.

Since then, eight other players have fallen prey to her antics, which have helped make her the country's highest paid exotic at \$2,500 to \$3,000 a week.

Judo practice twice a week

The Prince George Judo Club is back in full swing with practices twice a week.

The junior members practice at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the seniors on at 8:30 p.m.

Practices go at the Civic Centre basement.

Instruction is given by third degree black belts John Huntley and Hank Boas, second degree black belts Russell Ko and Mathew Connor and

first degree black belts Kelly Doucette, George Dobson and Geri Huntley.

All instructors have competed at the national and international level and hold B.C. coaching certificates.

The Prince George club anticipates competing at Edmonton, Seattle, the Lower Mainland and Okanagan during the season.

Registration for new members goes today with juniors at

6:30 p.m. and seniors at 8:30 p.m.

There will be another registration Thursday.

All interested people are invited to the practices.

For more information, phone John or Geri Huntley at 563-9106 or Russ Ko at 563-3747.

Taylor Field expansion gets go-ahead

REGINA (CP) — Saskatchewan Roughriders, the city of Regina and the provincial government have agreed in principle to a \$9-million expansion of Taylor Field, home of the Canadian Football League club.

The accord, which calls for 8,000 sideline seats to be added for the 1978 season and the installation of artificial turf for the 1979 season, was announced Monday at a news conference in the legislature.

Premier Allan Blakeney, who represents the Regina riding where Taylor Field is situated, said the government's participation is contingent upon the involvement of city council and the local government board.

Mayor Henry Baker said the \$4.5 million the city has to provide under the agreement will be subject to a bylaw vote this fall, but plans for the expansion will continue before the vote is taken.

The first step of the project will bring Taylor Field's seating capacity to 27,100. There will be about 25,000 seats between goal lines.

When the project is finished, perhaps sometime in the late 1980s, the capacity is to reach about 40,000.

Under the proposal, Blakeney said the city would provide 50 per cent of the financing and manage the project. The football club will begin a fund-raising campaign with private donations being matched "on a dollar-for-dollar basis" to a maximum of \$1 million by the province, he said.

In addition, the province would grant the city a maximum of \$2.5 million for the remainder of the project.

AMERICAN EAST CLOSER

Phillies closing in on consecutive titles

by Associated Press
Philadelphia Phillies hammered another nail in Pittsburgh Pirates' coffin Monday night as they stretched their National League East lead to nine games with a 6-2 victory.

Dave Johnson, making a rare start, had three hits and knocked in three runs to lead the Phils. He had an RBI single in the first, a bases-loaded walk in a two-run third inning, triggered another two-run rally with a single in the sixth frame and singled home another run in the seventh.

In the American League, Baltimore Orioles held off Toronto Blue Jays 6-3, Cleveland Indians bombed Detroit Tigers 8-1, Texas Rangers nipped California Angels 3-2 and Chicago White Sox defeated Minnesota Twins 7-3. The Oakland-Kansas City game was postponed because of rain after one scoreless inning and will be played today as part of a doubleheader.

Dave Skaggs had two RBI singles for Baltimore and Jim Palmer got his 16th victory in 27 decisions with eight innings of shutout ball as the Orioles pulled to within 2½ games of the American League West-leading New York Yankees. The Blue Jays got all three of their runs in the ninth on Steve Staggos' two-run triple and a fielder's choice.

Paul Dade drove in three runs and Wayne Garland pitched a six-hitter to end a personal five-game losing string and Cleveland's six-game losing streak as the Indians beat the Tigers. It was the first win for Garland, 11-18, since Aug. 14, sending Detroit to its sixth straight loss.

Dock Ellis and reliever Len Barker combined on an eighth-inning as Texas Rangers outlasted California Angels 3-2 Monday night and spoiled Nolan Ryan's bid for his 20th victory. Barker relieved Ellis in the ninth and allowed a two-run single by Dave Chalk but he held on to pick up his first major league save.

Bob Coluccio and Oscar Gamble both delivered two-run singles in a five-run sixth inning to carry the White Sox over the Twins. Jorge Orta had two RBI singles for the White Sox, who before the game announced that manager Bob Lemon and his entire coaching staff had been rehired for the 1978 season.

Houston Astros hit five homers, including two each by Cesar Cedeño and Jose Cruz, to down Cincinnati Reds 7-2. Cedeño, who had four hits, also stole his 52nd base and scored four runs.

Lenny Randle knocked in two runs with a two-run double in the sixth inning to lead New York Mets to a 4-3 victory over Montreal Expos. Randle's hit gave the Mets a 4-1 lead and they held on to win despite two doubles and a home run by Tony Perez, who scored all of Montreal's runs.

Ken Reitz pounded a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning off relief ace

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Sports

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EXPOS BEATEN

Randle impressive

MONTREAL (CP) — Len Randle, who has the dubious distinction of being the 56th third baseman used by New York Mets since they joined baseball's National League in 1962, hopes to stay around longer than some of his predecessors.

The 28-year-old native of Long Beach, Calif., acquired by the Mets from Texas Rangers of the American League after a spring training altercation with then manager Frank Lucchesi, put on a one-man show Monday night at Olympic Stadium.

With 8,927 fans looking on, Randle delivered a two-run double with two out in the sixth inning to drive in what proved to be the winning run as New York Mets edged Montreal 4-3 to move to within eight games of the Expos in the battle for fifth place in the East Division.

He also made three superb fielding plays on balls hit by rookie centre fielder Andre Dawson with runners in scoring position to help right-hander Pat Zachry to his ninth win against 13 losses.

With the Mets leading 2-0 after scoring two unearned runs in the first, Randle snared a soft liner from Dawson in the third with runners at first and third and two out.

MEETING SPRUCE CAPITAL DART CLUB

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Royal Canadian Legion

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For further information contact:

Ted McCarthy — 563-6303

Bob Larsen — 563-6800 after 7 p.m.

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