

Clemente Nears Batting Goal

Pirates Pull 15 Games in Front

By KEN RAPPORT, Associated Press Sports Writer
Now that the Pittsburgh Pirates are 15 games ahead of the pack, Roberto Clemente will go out on a limb.
Yes, he thinks his team will win the National League East.
"I think we'll clinch first," said Clemente after socking two hits to lead the Pirates over the runner-up Chicago Cubs 5-2 Thursday. "If we don't do it in St. Louis, I think we'll do it in New York."

It's a good bet that the runaway Pirates will win their third straight division pennant in one of those two cities within the next week or so. Any combination of Pittsburgh victories or Chicago losses totaling three will secure the title.

While the Pirates roared toward another pennant by slashing their "magic" number to three, Clemente himself

zeroed in on a personal magic number — the 3,000 career hit level.
Clemente collected eight hits as the Pirates swept a three-game series from their closest competitors and now is 14 shy of the 3,000-hit plateau.

In Thursday's other National League games, the Houston Astros defeated the San Diego Padres, 10-6 and the St. Louis Cardinals turned back the Montreal Expos, 6-2.

Only two games were played in the American League Thursday night. The Milwaukee Brewers nipped the Cleveland Indians 4-3 in 15 innings and the California Angels beat the Texas Rangers 4-0.

The AL East race picks up steam again tonight after a day of rest. New York and Baltimore, tied for third place 1½ games off the pace, start a three-game series in Yankee Stadium while the first-place Boston Red Sox host the Cleveland Indians and the second-place Detroit Tigers, one game behind, visit Milwaukee.

Winning Pirate pitcher Bob Moose gave up only three

hits before being literally knocked out of the box. Moose left the game in the seventh inning when Jose Cardenal ripped a single off the pitcher's right hand. Ramon Hernandez finished for the Pirates.

The Astros kept their flickering hopes alive in the NL West with their triumph Thursday. They picked up a half-game on idle Cincinnati and now trail the front-running Reds by seven games.

Trailing 5-0 after a five-run Padre outburst in the top of the third inning, the Astros came back with six runs in their half in a rally keyed by Tommy Helms and Rich Chiles. Each knocked in two runs with singles.

Bob Gibson notched his 16th victory with seven-hitter to lead St. Louis over Montreal.

Clyde Wright pitched a two-hitter and doubled home two runs to lead California over Texas. He had a no-hitter until Joe Lovitto singled in the sixth inning.



CONTENDERS — Managers involved in the American League East race are, from left: Eddie Kasko, Boston Red Sox; Ralph Houk, New York Yankees; Billy Martin, Detroit Tigers; and Earl Weaver, Baltimore Orioles. Boston currently leads Detroit by one game and Baltimore and New York by 1½ games each. (AP Photo)

Baseball

By United Press International NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	89	48	.650	15
Chicago	75	64	.540	15
New York	66	74	.471	24½
St. Louis	66	74	.471	24½
Montreal	64	74	.464	25½
Philadelphia	59	89	.399	30½

WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	85	59	.591	7
Houston	78	60	.565	7
Los Angeles	73	65	.529	12
Atlanta	64	75	.460	21½
San Francisco	62	77	.446	23½
San Diego	51	85	.375	33

Thursday's Results				
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago 2				
St. Louis 6, Montreal 2				
Houston 10, San Diego 6				

Saturday's Games				
Pittsburgh at St. Louis				
New York at Chicago				
Montreal at Philadelphia, night				
San Francisco at Atlanta (2), twilight				
San Diego at Cincinnati, night				
Los Angeles at Houston, night				

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	74	62	.544	1
Detroit	74	64	.536	1
Baltimore	74	65	.532	1½
New York	74	65	.532	1½
Cleveland	63	77	.450	13
Milwaukee	58	83	.410	18½

WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	81	57	.587	3
Chicago	78	60	.565	3
Minnesota	69	66	.504	11½
Kansas City	67	69	.493	13
California	65	73	.471	16
Texas	52	85	.377	29

Thursday's Results
Milwaukee 4, Cleveland 3, 15 Inns
California 4, Texas 0
Games Today
(All Times EDT)
Detroit (Lolich 20-12) at Milwaukee (Lanborg 12-10), 8:30 p. m.
Baltimore (Harris 16-9) at New York (Stottemyre 14-16), 7:30 p. m.
Cleveland (Ilgow 13-13) at Boston (Pattin 14-12), 8:30 p. m.
Texas (Stronhouer 2-5) at Oakland (Holzman 14-11), 11 p. m.
Chicago (Bradley 14-13) at California (Woodson 12-14), 8:30 p. m.
Saturday's Games
Baltimore at New York
Cleveland at Boston
Detroit at Milwaukee
Kansas City at Minnesota
Texas at Oakland
Chicago at California, night

High School Data...

Football...

Mansfield Senior (0-0-1) vs. Malabar (1-0), Arlin Field			
Shelby (1-0) at Ashland (0-0-1)			
Clear Fork (0-1) at Marlinton (1-0)			
Crestline (1-0) at Fulton (1-0)			
Mt. Gilled (1-0) at Fredericktown (0-1)			
Northwestern (0-1) at Loudonville (0-1)			
Willard (1-0) at Ontario (1-0)			
Monroeville (1-0) at Plymouth (0-1)			
Bucyrus (0-1) at Clyde			
Norwalk (0-1) at Vermilion			
Centerburg (1-0) at Big Walnut (1-0)			
Danville at Cardington (0-1)			
Centerville at Highland (0-1)			
South Antwerp (1-0) at Black River (1-0)			
Edison (1-0) at Wellington			
Hillsdale (1-0) at Mapleton (1-0)			
Smithville at New London (1-0)			
Seneca East at South Central (1-0)			
Cleveland East Tech at Marion Harding (1-0)			
CARDINAL CONFERENCE			
New Philadelphia (1-0) at Wooster (1-0)			
NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE			
Buckeye Central (0-1) at River Valley (1-0)			
Elgin (0-1) at Carey (1-0)			
Colonel Crawford (0-1) at Ridgedale (0-1)			
Mohawk (1-0) at Riverdale (1-0)			
Wynford (0-1) at Pleasant (1-0)			
SATURDAY GAMES			
INDEPENDENTS			
Mt. Vernon (0-1) at Mansfield Madison (0-1)			
Oberlin (0-1) at Lexington (0-1)			
East Knox (0-1) at Marion Catholic (1-0)			
Louisdale (0-1) at Norwalk St. Paul (1-0)			
Lucas (0-1) at Crestview (1-1)			
Upper Sandusky (0-0) at Tiffin Calvert (1-0)			

Soccer...

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Worthington at Mansfield Christian, 1 p. m.

Cross Country...

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Mansfield Senior at Ashland, 10 a. m.
Mansfield Malabar at Ontario, 10 a. m.

Plymouth Wins Pair

BUCYRUS — Plymouth added two cross country victories to its undefeated string here last night. The Big Red (5-0 in dual meets) defeated Wynford, 19-36 and Hopewell-Loudon, 15-49.

Ken Lucas of Plymouth paced all runners with a time of 10:40 over the two-mile distance. Also under 11 minutes was Mike Adams of Plymouth, with 10:55. Coming to the finish line first for Wynford was Shealy with 11:07.

High School Cross Country

At Wynford	
Score:	Plymouth 19, Wynford 36
1:	Shealy, Hopewell-Loudon, 10:40
2:	Mike Adams, 10:55; Brad Buzard, 11:04
3:	Ralph Noble, 11:17; Steve Adams, 11:40
4:	WYNFORD — Shealy, 11:07; Stormer, 11:21; Dotson, 11:38; Oberlander, 11:49; Keller, 11:50
HOPWELL-LOUDON	
1:	WYLLIAMS — Loudon, 12:08; Bates, 12:28; Dierhoff, 12:47; Boyer, 13:18; Hickey, 13:19

Indians Lose in 15th, 4-3

By MIKE O'BRIEN
MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers scored the winning run in the 15th inning Thursday night because Joe Azcue "froze" at the plate.

Well, not entirely. It was Cleveland catcher Jerry Moses' wild pickoff throw to third that allowed George Scott to race in for a 4-3 victory over the Indians. But Moses' error couldn't have happened if Azcue had done his job.
Scott walked with one out in the 15th, stole second and moved to third as John Briggs was intentionally walked and Joe Lahoud beat out an infield hit to fill the bases.
Next up was Azcue, the Brewers' third-string catcher who was out of baseball last year and has had exactly one hit in the majors since September 1970. Manager Del Crandall called him back from the on-deck circle and told him to watch for the squeeze sign.
It came on a 1-1 count and Scott broke for the plate as Steve Hargan began his pitch. Azcue squared to bunt but, instead of protecting the runner, merely watched as the pitch sailed low and outside. Scott retreated toward third and would have been an easy out on a good throw, but Moses' peg was low and wide of the bag.
Azcue, a former Indian, said he thought Cleveland had intercepted the squeeze sign and that Hargan had thrown a pitchout.
"It was maybe four feet

'Freeze' Decides Issue

outside and low, and I like that has happened to me." Azcue said.
Crandall didn't pinch hit for Azcue because he already had used 20 players — everyone but six pitchers and Sibby Sisti, the 52-year-old former Milwaukee Brave who is coaching the infielders and was put

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Crestview Undeclared

ASHLAND — Undeclared Crestview, led by Larry White's 10:42 two-mile run, defeated Loudonville yesterday, 15-48. The victors placed five runners in the top five positions.
Following Larry White were Wayne White, Kenny White, Dale White and Jeff

Redlegs to Open Home Stand

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds host the San Diego Padres tonight to open a six-game home stand in their final drive to clinch the western division of the National League.
San Diego one of the few National League teams holding the upper hand on Cincinnati — winning eight of 15 games, will send tall, screwball-throwing Fred Norman to the mound.
While Norman has only an 8-9 record for the season, he has defeated the Reds three times this season.
Norman is one of the few southpaws to take the measure of Cincinnati. Against lefties, the Reds have a 25-10 record as reflected in the batting averages of the top Cincinnati hitters. Joe Morgan has hit .327 against left-handers, Bobby Tolan .321, Pete Rose .317 and Tony Perez .303.
John Bench, meanwhile, who has 33 homers and 108 runs batted in, has only a .248 average against them. He was batting .264 against all pitchers.
San Diego will be followed by the San Francisco Giants for three games starting Monday, then the Reds move to Houston for three games with the Astros.
While Cincinnati has had a tough time winning at home, they have taken the last 12 of 17 games in Riverfront Stadium and hold a narrow 34-29 home record. On the road, the Reds have won 51 and lost 24.

Bucks to Use Mixture of Passing and Running

Favored Ohio State Opens Against Iowa Hawkeyes
By GEORGE STRODE
COLUMBUS (AP) — Woody Hayes promises a mixture of running and passing when his third-ranked Ohio State football team opens the Big Ten season Saturday as the conference favorite against visiting Iowa.
Greg Hare, a strong runner, has overcome a shoulder injury and will open at quarterback for the Buckeyes, who beat Iowa 52-21 in the 1971 opener but finished with three straight setbacks.
However, the Hawkeyes, 1-10 for all games and last in the conference last fall, did score the most points against Ohio State in the Buckeyes' 6-4 season.
Skeptics question Hare's passing. The big junior hit 25 of 59 passes for 299 yards as a part-time starter last year.
"He can pass well enough, if he doesn't pass too much. I like to see that quarterback run, but it takes one who can run and pass to win the Big Ten title now," said Hayes, embarking on his 22nd OSU season.
Hayes, in fact, predicts his team will be in the thick of a battle for its fourth Big Ten title in the last five years. "We should win Saturday," he said this week.
However, Iowa Coach Frank Lauterbur, who has rebuilt his squad after last year, thinks Hayes will keep it on the ground with a power attack.
"I imagine he (Hayes) will try to grind us

Beman Leads in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Former amateur king Deane Beman has a one-stroke edge in the \$150,000 Greater St. Louis Golf Classic with action likely to get even hotter before the week's out.

Right behind the diminutive Beman in the Professional Golfers Association event is garulous Lee Trevino, who Thursday matched a flock of six Beman birdies but also three — putted for a bogey.

SIX UNDER

Beman fired a six-under-par 64 over the 6,544-yard, par-70 Norwood Hills Country Club layout with Trevino, the tour's second-leading money winner, looking over his shoulder at 33-32-65.

Alone in third place at 33-33-66 was second-year tour player Chuck Thorpe, who hit 17 straight greens in regulation strokes after bogeying the first hole.

A cluster of players tied at 67 for fourth place numbered veterans Bob Goalby, Chi Chi Rodriguez and Ken Still with four youngsters David Glenz, Ben Kern and Hubert Green.

Beman, twice the winner of the U.S. Amateur and once champion of the British Amateur, displayed a remarkable iron game and could have been lower than his 32-32-64 with better putting.

SIX BIRDIES

In addition to his six birdies he was within range of busting par on 10 holes but missed four putts within eight feet.

At 68 were Don Bies, Jim Dent, Bob Wynn, George Shortridge, Jerry McGee and Chris Blocker. Five strokes behind Beman at 69 were Jim Jewell, Don Iversen, Dow Finsterwald, Chuck Courtney, Bert Yancey, Harry Toscano, Bob Barbarossa, Rick Rhoads, Tom Watson, Buddy Allin and Lee Elder.

Senior High Wins First Harrier Test

Bryan Lookenott ran the two-mile Possum Run Golf and Swim Club course in 10:14 to lead the Mansfield Senior High cross country team to its first 1972 victory, defeating Elgin, 22-39.

Larry Taylor posted Mansfield's second best time with a 10:47 and third-place finish. Dave Clunk headed Elgin at 10:33.

High School Cross Country

At Possum Run	
Score:	Mansfield Senior 22, Elgin 39
1:	Lookenott, 10:14; 2: Larry Taylor, 10:47
3:	Mike Goff, 11:02; 4: Avery Gan, 11:05; 5: Mark Edmonson, 11:15
6:	ELGIN — 2: Dave Clunk, 10:33; 4: Dave Little, 10:58; 9: Mark Huffman, 11:26; 11: Ben Renschler, 11:34; 13: Dave Bentley, 11:48

Lauterbur has scrambled his Iowa regulars and returned Kyle Skogman as No. 1 quarterback. Skogman held that job two years ago and then did not play one minute last fall.

"He was too slow in setting up to pass and too slow moving out on the runs before," the Iowa mentor explained of Skogman. "He's 100 per cent improved in those areas now."



GOALIE'S PROTECTION — Wearing all his goal keepers pads and equipment, Detroit Red Winger Andy Brown cautiously negotiates a narrow stairway on skates at the McMoran Sports Arena where the Red Wings started training for the 1972-73 hockey season. (UPI Photo)

Area Schools See Action

The Mansfield Senior-Malabar football clash highlights Friday and Saturday's football competition for Mansfield schools in a weekend capped by the Madison-Mt. Vernon clash Saturday.

The Falcons (1-0) and Tygers (0-0-1) meet for the first time today at 8 p.m. at Arlin Field. Madison (0-1) hosts Mt. Vernon at 8 p.m. Saturday on Ram Field. Last year, Mt. Vernon blanked the Rams, 34-0.

Mt. Vernon holds the edge in the series between the two schools 12-7. The last time Madison defeated the Yellow Jackets was in 1970, 21-6, but they will have to overcome a road jinx with the Rams Saturday.
Mt. Vernon defeated Madison on Ram Field in 1964. The last time they were able to gain a victory over the Rams on the road.
Two conferences open action this weekend, the Cardinal Conference and the North Central Conference.
On the soccer scene, the Mansfield Christian School Flames open its home season tomorrow afternoon at 1 against Worthington. The Flames are 1-0.

Mansfield Senior-Malabar

STARTING LINEUPS				
Mansfield Senior		Malabar		
Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Ht.	
5-10	155	Scott Gilbert	6-1	175
6-0	170	Tom Massa	E	Greg Lowe
6-0	210	Lurin Anderson	T	Eric Rosen
5-9	200	Gary Burdine	T	Lyndon Smaltz
5-10	165	Marque Moga	G	Bob Joyce
6-0	180	Paul Johnson	G	Tony Jackson
5-8	170	Dave Bishop	C	John Denig
5-7	135	Robert Duckworth	RB	Rob Ludwig
5-10	145	Sam Ware	RB	Jim Bell
5-7	135	Terry Fuqua	RB	Bill Beal
6-0	160	Max Fishbach	QB	Doug Divil
DEFENSE				
Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Ht.	
5-10	160	Jim Baehrens	E	Jeff Hardesty
5-10	160	Mike Coleman	E	Scott Boals
5-10	160	Anthony Blue	E	Mike Walton
6-0	180	Charles Black	T	Rick Blonk
5-10	175	John Hatcher	T	Tony Scott
5-7	135	Robert Duckworth	DB	Duffy Caldwell
6-2	215	Tom Finney	DB	Mark Sheperd
5-10	155	Scott Gilbert	DB	Mike Keefe
5-11	150	Joe Beard	DB	Mike Redmond
6-2	150	Thorne Butler	DB	Roosevelt Johnson
6-0	165	Charles White	DB	Jeff Parker

Backs Will Duel In Browns' Opener

CLEVELAND (AP) — A natural duel between two of the National Football League's premier running backs — John Brockington of Green Bay and Leroy Kelly of Cleveland — may prove to be one-sided when the two teams meet in their regular season opener here Sunday.

The Browns had trouble breaking Kelly and their other running backs free in the club's first winless (0-6) exhibition campaign in history. Cleveland's rushing defense was their achilles heel last season.

Brockington, who ran for 1,105 yards and a 5.1 yard average as a rookie from Ohio State last season for the Packers, appears ready to continue that pace this season. He gained 239 yards in 58 attempts for a 4.1 yard average as the Packers won four of six exhibitions, including victories over Kansas City 20-0 last weekend and 14-13 over Miami.

Kelly in many ways is the opposite of Brockington. While Brockington is at the beginning of his career, Kelly at age 30 is in his ninth professional season and is near retirement.

POWER AND SPEED

Brockington stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 225. He blends power with speed.

Kelly is an inch and 23 pounds smaller and is at his best as an open field runner.

Kelly lined up for the Browns bench for two years in the shadows of Jim Brown, then ran for 1,141 yards in 1966 as he got a chance to start. He added

1,205 and 1,239 yards in his next two seasons before injuries dropped him to 817 yards in 1969 and 656 in 1970.
He had a slow start again last winter, but came on strong in the last half of the campaign and ended with 865 yards and an average gain of 3.7 yards, far below his career average of 4.4 yards and the five yards plus he picked up in his top years.

Browns coaches are just as concerned with the ability of the defense to stop runs as they are with the effectiveness of the offensive line.

Last year, the Browns surrendered 2,227 yards to runners, an average yield of 4.6 yards, and 700 yards more than Cleveland runners a massed. And the Browns didn't have to contend with Brockington.

PITCHING	
American League:	Wood, Chi, 2413
National League:	Lolich, Det, 2012; Perry, Cle, 20-14; Hunter, Oak, 19-7; Palmer, Balt, 19-4