Saturday, May 23, 1987



Brad McCrimmon launches the Flyers' winning goal past Edmonton goalie Grant Fuhr.

# Flyers rally, shock Oilers

By Tim Tierney Chicago Tribune

PHILADELPHIA—If it had been the seventh game of the Stanley Cup finals, Friday night's encounter between the Edmonton Oilers and the Philadelphia Flyers would be called a

Even though it was only the third game of the series, it might still deserve such a label. No, the overall play wasn't the best ever, but what Philadelphia accomplished certainly isn't common.

Facing a 3-0 deficit on the scoreboard that would have become a 3-0 deficit in the best-of-seven series, the Flyers staged a thrilling comeback at the Spectrum. They scored twice in the second period and three times in the third to record a 5-3 victory.

"At this stage, it's just too hard to lay down and die. We've played too many hockey games," said winger Murray Craven, whose power-play goal midway through the second pe-

riod made the score 3-1 and sparked the Flyers.

The Flyers' victory gives new meaning to Sunday's fourth game here, when a Philadelphia triumph would make this a best-of-three se-

"We learned a little bit about ourselves tonight," said Flyers coach Mike Keenan. "The first two games, we didn't take it to them in the third period."

Edmonton coach Glen Sather, whose team went into Friday's contest 6-0 in road playoff games, learned something else.

"I always thought the two-goal lead was the worst lead in hockey," Sather said. "Now I think it's the three-goal lead."

Scott Mellanby's goal made it 3-3 early in the third period, and Brad McCrimmon's goal 17 seconds later, assisted by Mellanby, put the Flyers ahead. Brian Propp scored an empty-net goal with 34 seconds to

The Oilers normally approach their sport going full speed ahead. But the Flyers had the Oilers on their heels

in the third period. "I'm very disappointed that we lost and how we lost," said Wayne Gretzky. "When you're up 3-0, being smart and using your experience is what you should do. We weren't

Philadelphia had to win this game. And the Flyers responded to the pressure despite not being able to use all their weapons.

Not having right wing Tim Kerr, the Flyers' leading goal-scorer during the regular season, was a serious loss. He missed his 10th straight game because of a shoulder injury suffered April 30 against the New York Islan-

True, Philadelphia was able to beat defending Cup champion Montreal in the Wales Conference final with-

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## Murdoch looks like Hawk coach

By Tim Tierney Chicago Tribune

PHILADELPHIA—Calgary Flames assistant coach Bob Murdoch is expected to be named the new Black Hawks coach at a Tuesday press conference, a source close to the negotiations said Friday.

Murdoch and North Dakota coach Gino Gasparini had been the final two candidates, but Gasparini broke off talks with the Hawks and decided to remain at the univer-

"We made a choice," Hawks General Manager Bob Pulford said. "We'll announce it soon."

Pulford supposedly held interviews with Murdoch Wednesday and Gasparini Thurs-

"Coach Gasparini wants to end all speculation about his leaving the university," North Dakóta sports information Lee Bohnet said Friday. "He did not come to terms with the Hawks as their new coach. He is not negotiating with anyone else."

There had been reports that the New York Rangers also were interested in Gasparini.

Gasparini supposedly was the No. 1 choice of Hawk President William Wirtz. Gasparini led the Fighting Sioux to the NCAA Division I title this year.

Murdoch has been an assistant coach for the Flames for the last five years. His name has been rumored for weeks for a head coaching position. Calgary filled its vacancy Friday.

Terry Crisp was chosen to replace Bob Johnson, who left the Flames earlier in the week to accept the job of executive director of the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States. Crisp signed a three-year contract for an undisclosed sum.

Crisp had been mentioned early on as a possible candidate for the Hawk job. "I had good talks with a couple of other clubs, but this is the job I wanted," said

Murdoch, 40, began his professional hockey career in 1970 with the Montreal Voyageurs of the American Hockey League. The defenseman was a member of the Montreal Canadiens in 1971, when they beat the Black Hawks for the Stanley Cup. After one season with Nova Scotia, Murdoch rejoined the Canadiens. He played two seasons in Montreal and was a member of the Canadiens' 1973 Cup champions.

He joined the Los Angeles Kings for the 1973-74 season. His coach was Pulford. Midway through the 1978-79 season, the Kings traded Murdoch to the Flames, who were then in Atlanta. Murdoch became a player-coach in the 1981-82 season.

Pulford has made it clear that the Hawks' new coach will be a disciplinarian.

"You have to have the type of guy who will have the respect of the players," Pulford has said. "He has to know the game and handle people. Coaching is a people busi-



Tribune photo by Bob Fila

Bleacher fans scramble after the three-run homer Dion James hit to help Atlanta beat the Cubs 9-5.

# Murphy does job on Cubs

### Braves star belts 2 homers

By Fred Mitchell

There was nothing mundane about this 9-to-5 job. Not for Dale Murphy.

The Atlanta Braves slugger put in a full day's work Friday and spiced it with two home runs in a 9-5 trouncing of the Cubs. The mischievous Wrigley Field wind, a 14-mile-an-hour crosswind this time, obviously did not deter him.

here," Murphy said of Thursday's seven-homer Cubs-Reds game, when the wind was blowing out. "You try not to think about hitting it up, because if you do that, you won't make contact."

"I've seen what's been going on

Down 9-0 after 5½ innings, the Cubs made a late surge. But they stranded 10 runners as 28,667 fans watched in dismay.

"We almost got back in; we hit some balls pretty good there at the end," said manager Gene Michael. "It's a nice feeling knowing you can come back. Other teams are starting to know it now, too." Michael hopes that first impres-

sions of the Braves this season are deceiving. Atlanta won nine of 12 from the Cubs last year. Murphy's opposite-field blast to right gave the Braves a 1-0 lead in

the fourth. Then his two-run shot capped a five-run fifth and gave him 13 homers for the year. Asked if he thought the absence of former teammate Bob Horner

(now playing in Japan) would adversely affect the types of pitches he'd get, Murphy said: "I was wondering, too. But we've gotten some guys on base ahead of me.

Cubs-Braves, Ch. 5, 1:20

We've been scoring a lot of runs." Cub starter Scott Sanderson (3-1) was routed in the fifth. After he gave up a double to Andres Thomas and a single to pitcher David Palmer, Dion James banged a three-run homer to right-center.

"Dion James has done everything we've asked and more than we expected," said Braves manager Chuck Tanner.

Ken Oberkfell followed with a single, and Murphy lined a homer to left to make it 6-0. After Sanderson hit Ken Griffey with a pitch, Michael brought in lefthander Mike Mason.

"I wasn't trying to go to right field with that first homer; I wanted to go with the pitch," said Murphy. "The second one was a fastball. Sanderson's one of the best pitchers in the league. He's got great control.

"I haven't been doing my job with men on base. I'm only batting about .200 [with runners in scoring position], and I have about a million strikeouts."

Murphy, a two-time Most Valuable Player and five-time Gold Glove winner as a center-fielder, successfully made the transition to right field this year after the acquisition of James in a winter trade with Milwaukee. He's hitting .318 and has a league-leading 35 walks.

"Murphy is just the best right-Continued on page 3

# Sox's Fisk enjoys a memorable evening

By Ed Sherman Chicago Tribune

BOSTON-Carlton Fisk didn't even have to wave it fair.

There was no doubt when Fisk connected on a 1-1 pitch from Roger Clemens in the ninth inning Friday night that he was up to his old tricks at Fenway Park. Fisk's homer to left-center gave the White Sox a dramatic 4-3 victory over Boston.

Fisk has been playing for the White Sox since 1981, but he will forever be a part of Red Sox lore. The love affair goes deeper

than his famous winning homer in the sixth game of the 1975 World Series.

He was the New England boy made good. So when he hit his homer, breaking the hearts of the Red Sox on this night, there was still a smattering of cheers from those with good memories. "I've always liked to play

they didn't realize that." Fisk is making the Red Sox pay for getting in a contract dispute, which allowed him to become a free agent and sign with

here," Fisk said. "It's a shame

the White Sox. He's hit 21 homers and driven in 50 runs in only 63 games against the Red

When asked if he ever forgave the Red Sox, Fisk shook his head solemnly and said, "No." "There's no question he gets

more pumped up when he plays the Red Sox," said Sox manager Jim Fregosi. "He's the type of individual who gets sky-high in certain situations. He's got so many memories about this

Fisk's homer, his fifth game-

winning RBI of the year, made Fregosi look like a genius. To get Fisk's bat in the lineup, he inserted him in left field for the first time this year.

"I was surprised," said Fisk. "I didn't find out until I got here. I asked him if he had a vision."

Fregosi's only vision was Fisk's eye-popping numbers against the Red Sox on the stat

"I said in spring training that I was going to use him in the outfield, at first base and catcher," Fregosi said: "I'll use him in the outfield in certain ballparks. This was one of them."

Fisk wasn't the only hero. Richard Dotson deserved a few accolades for hanging tough against Clemens. Dotson pitched perhaps his

gutsiest game of the season. He hung in there despite giving up three runs in the first two in-

Dotson settled down, holding the Red Sox hitless until Bill Buckner's one-out single in the seventh. He struck out six and

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#### INSIDE

#### Lofton acquitted of assault

wide receiver James Lofton not guilty of second-degree sexual assault. Page 3.

A jury in Green Bay finds former Packers

### 191-1 shot wins Windy City

Bomb Rickles, a 191-to-1 shot, wins the Windy City Pace at Maywood. Page 6.

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Sox 4, Red Sox 3 Brewers 4, Indians 2 Tigers 3, Twins 2 Royals 8, Rangers 1 Yankees 7, Angels 2 Orioles 10, Athletics 6

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 5

### Braves 9, Cubs 5

Giants 2, Phillies 1 Pirates 4, Reds 1 Padres 5, Expos 3

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Tribune photo by Bob Langer Mary Beth Driscoll of York leads the field around a turn during a 1,600-meter race Friday at the girls' state meet. Page 5.

## Big 10 bars Purdue's Woodson

From Chicago Tribune wires

IOWA CITY—Purdue's Rod Woodson has been barred from competing in this weekend's Big 10 track and field meet because the league says he failed to disclose a contract he signed with an agent.

Friday's action came in the wake of allegations that Woodson, chosen as a defensive back by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round of last month's National Football League draft, signed a contract and took payments last year from agent Norby Walters.

Walters is suing Woodson and at least five other athletes, contending they broke contracts with him. Walters also is the

subject of a federal grand jury investigation in Chicago.

In a prepared statement, Big 10 Commissioner Wayne Duke said Woodson had failed to inform the conference of any addi-

tional monetary help he might have been receiving. "On forms which are completed by all student-athletes each year and sent to the conference office, Woodson did not disclose either the signing of the contract with an agent nor the receipt of money from the agent," Duke said.

Woodson also has been barred from competing in the NCAA meet June 3-6, Duke said.

Purdue track coach Mike Poehlien said he was upset by Duke's decision. "It's a devastating blow," Poehlien said.

Poehlien said Woodson, who had competed in sprints and hurdles, was depressed after learning he couldn't compete. "It's definitely a blow to him," the coach said. "If this clears up the agent situation, that would be fantastic. But one incident won't do it."

Some of the other Big 10 track coaches expressed astonishment at the decision.

"I certainly didn't expect it today," said Michigan State coach Jim Bibbs. "I assumed it had been all cleared up."

"I'm a little surprised," said Indiana coach Sam Bell. "I looked the rule up. The way I read the rule, he's still eligible."