Warriors, City High returning to earth

By Bob Denney Gazette sportswriter

Cedar Rapids Washington and lowa City High were trendsetters in the passing game, but the two prep football teams have found Mother Earth isn't a bad place after all.

The Mississippi Valley Conference rivals tangle tonight at 7:45 at Iowa City's Frank Bates Field in what is designated as a "nonconference" game. The Little Hawks replaced Regis on Washington's schedule when the Royals joined the Wamac Conference.

In other games tonight involving Metro teams, Prairie (0-1) hosts Washington, Iowa (1-0), and Jefferson (0-1) entertains Dubuque Wahlert (1-0) at Kingston Stadium in 7:45 starts.

Kingston will be the site of a double-header Saturday, with Class 2A top-ranked LaSalle (1-0) hosting Marion (0-1) at 1:30 p.m., and 4A top-rated Linn-Mar (1-0) playing host Kennedy (1-0) at 7:45.

WASHINGTON owns a 21-8 lead in the City High series, which was interrupted last fall. The Warriors won the 1985 meeting, 21-18.

Each totaled only 57 yards passing last week. Washington, however, rushed for a near-record 329 yards, City High for 98.

After a rare losing campaign in 1986, Washington is ranked eighth in Class 4A this week on the strength of a 39-14 season-opening rout of Waterloo West.

Coming off an 8-2 4A playoff campaign, City High debuted with a 13-6 home-field victory over Prairie. Warriors Coach Wally Sheets cited a lack of concentration by his team's receivers for a 38-yard passing performance by quarterback David Vespa.

"We had three dropped passes, which wasn't David's fault," said Sheets. "I think David is coming along real well for us. How well we get our passing game going is relative. If our running game is not as good as it was a week ago, then we will have to throw.

Towa City has impressed our scouts. They aren't as big as they have been, but are very quick. They didn't throw the ball like they did last year, and I don't know if their passing game is on the shelf waiting

METRO FOOTBALL

for this week or if they'll be as good passing this year."

City High's new signal-caller, senior Doug Schmucker, has only three varsity games under his belt as successor to graduated all-conference pick Chris Hupfeld. Schmucker completed 2 of 3 passes for 19 yards against Prairie.

Little Hawks Coach Larry Brown, 1986 Valley Coach of the Year, hopes his team's aerial attack comes alive this week.

"We're concerned about protecting our quarterback," said Brown. "We have one of the smallest teams we've ever had. I'd like to get some of Wally's kids. One thing is evident, we can't live and die by our running game."

Washington's ground attack is headed by Anthony Beshears and Kurt Weakland, who combined for 223 yards last week. City High counters with 200-pound fullbacklinebacker Dave Trammell and tailback Brent Roth.

Washington (la.) at Prairie

Prairie's Hawks piled up 222 yards total offense last week against City High — almost a 100-yard edge - but came away empty-handed. The Hawks hope to get their first victory against a Class 3A Washington unit which graduated Gazette Male Athlete of the Year Todd Fredrick at quarterback, but used a solid rushing attack last week to down Albia, 25-8.

Dub. Wahlert at Jefferson

First-year Wahlert Coach Tom Kopatich, who guided Davenport Assumption the past three seasons, makes his Kingston Stadium homecoming. Kopatich coached Cedar Rapids LaSalle to Class 2A state titles in 1982 and '83. The Golden Eagles opened this season with a 7-0 road win at Madison (Wis.) West, while Jefferson was penalized 90 yards in an 18-14 loss at Dubuque

Regis falls as rival coach gets his gift

By Bob Denney

Independence's Mustangs gave Coach Tom Sheets perhaps his most memorable birthday present ever Thursday night.

Led by Tony Merfeld's pair of one-yard touchdown plunges, including one in overtime, the Mustangs edged Cedar Rapids Regis, 14-13, in a Wamac Conference prep football thriller at Kingston Stadi-

The Mustangs hiked their overall record to 2-0 in their first gridiron meeting with Regis. The Royals dipped to 0-2 while making the school's first appearance in a confer-

The teams battled to a 7-7 deadlock in regulation. Independence won the coin toss to begin overtime, but the Mustangs elected to defend.

Regis scored on its first play when Kurt Warner rifled a 10-yard scoring pass to Brian Hoefer in the left corner of the end zone. But a two-point conversion pass from reserve quarterback Brent Olberding failed, with Mustang defensive back Randy Kiler covering at the goal line.

"We wanted to control the ballgame at that point, to put us in the driver's seat," said Regis Coach Gaylord Hauschildt. "The play just didn't go."

Independence took the cue, and the 175-pound Merfeld teamed with younger brother Glen for the winning TD. Glen cracked seven yards on second down, and two plays later Tony scored off right tackle from a yard out. McCardle waited through a Regis timeout and booted the game-winning extra point.

"That's not a bad birthday

present," said Sheets, who turned 47 and received the congratulations of his players later. "This is the kind of team we're going to be all year. Every game is going to be a dogfight. I got to give a lot of credit to our secondary. And, our pass rush made Warner move more than he did last week against Kennedy."

The Merfelds combined for 162 of their team's 179 total yards. Tony finished with 98 yards on 18 carries, and Glen added 64 in 11 attempts.

Independence was 0-for-5 through the air, but it didn't matter. The Mustangs' defense limited the Royals to 42 yards on the ground, and intercepted two Warner passes.

Warner completed 11 of 18 attempts for 157 yards and two touchdowns - one a 54-yarder to Rob Borelli with 7:28 left in the third quarter. Regis split end John Thinnes, who had 106 yards in receptions last week, didn't catch a

The teams played to a scoreless first half, and both struck for a third-quarter touchdown. The Royals connected first, after Thinnes intercepted a Shane Sloan pass at the Royals' 46.

On the next play, Warner connected with Borelli for the first TD of the game. Dan Schirm booted the extra point. Independence bounced back on its next series, with Tony Merfeld sprinting 60 yards on a counter play to the Regis four. Jason Kelly saved the touchdown.

Two plays later Merfeld plunged the final yard with 5:57 remaining in the quarter. Neither team budged in the fourth quarter, with Regis fullback Ted Borelli stopped cold on fourth down at the Independence 28 with a minute to play.

TENNIS: Women's semis today

From page 1B

prepared. I played the way I wanted to, but I thought he was a little bit quicker on the court."

Edberg, who has yet to play a seeded player in the tournament. needed five sets to beat Krishnan in the third round at last year's Open.

"I think I've improved as a player since then," the 21-year-old Swede said. "I started off very well today. I didn't give him anything."

The highlight of the match was the 24-minute, 38-point third game of the second set. Krishnan had seven game points, but Edberg ended up winning the game to take

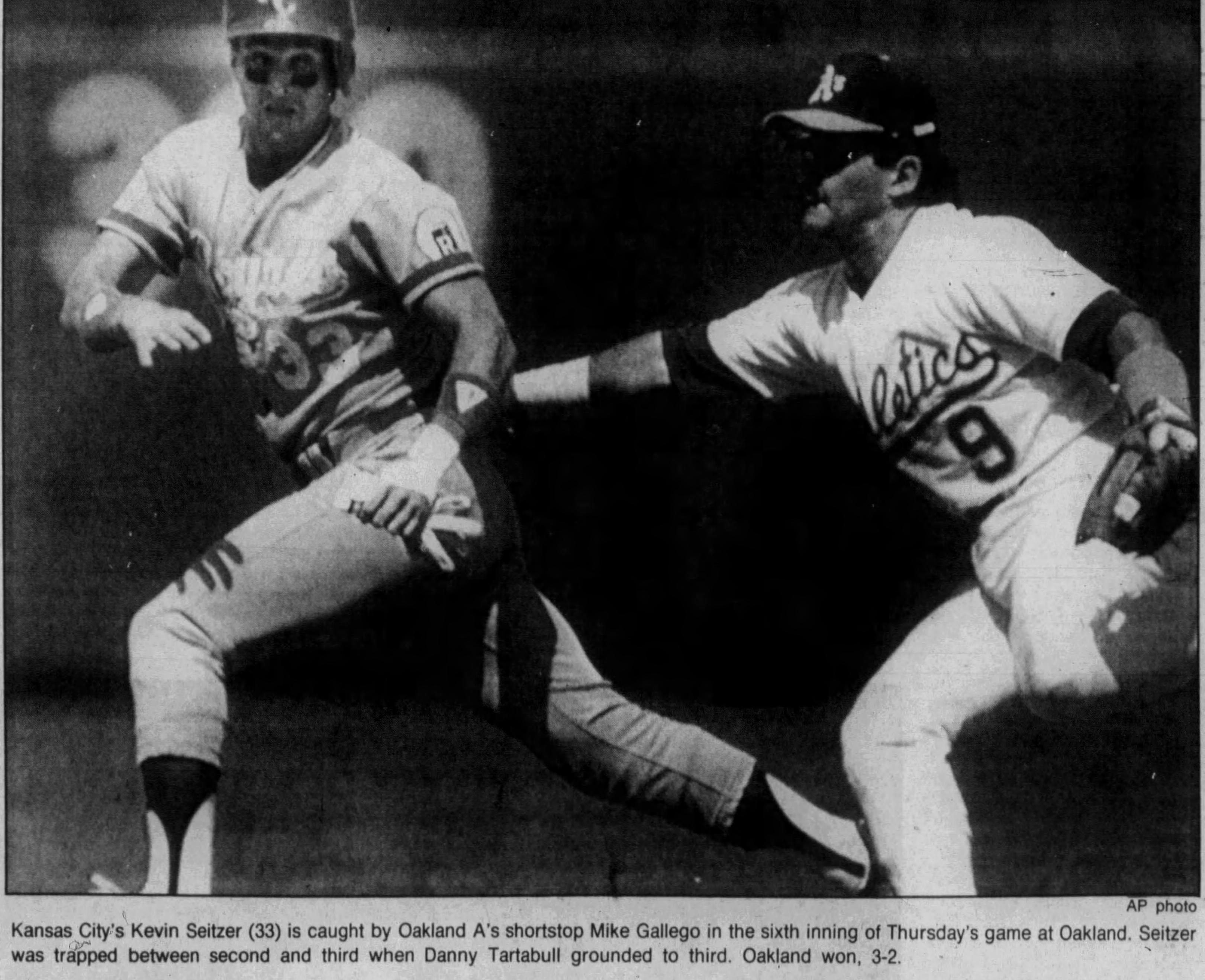
a 3-0 lead. "That may have been the longest game I've ever played," Edberg said.

"He couldn't win it; I couldn't win it Finally, I won it."

In women's play today, Martina Navratilova and Helena Sukova continue their four-year rivalry in one semifinal while the surprising Lori McNeil meets top-seeded Steffi Graf for the first time in the other.

McNeil stunned Chris Evert in the quarterfinals, ending several of Evert's Grand Slam streaks - 16 straight years of making the Open semifinals, at least; and 13 consecu- C+ Lohn'e championship.

Her reward is a confrontation with Graf, who has lost only one match this year in surging to the top of women's tennis.



Molitor ends slump against Tigers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Paul Molitor broke out of a hitting slump with two doubles, a single, a walk and three stolen bases and Glenn Braggs drove in two runs Thursday to lead the Milwaukee Brewers to a 4-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Molitor, who had only nine hits in 57 at-bats since his 39-game hitting streak was snapped Aug. 26, singled in the first, stole second and scored on Braggs' single. Molitor has 38 steals this season.

MAJOR LEAGUES

Molitor doubled to begin a threerun Milwaukee third off Detroit starter Frank Tanana, 13-10. Molitor then stole third and scored on Braggs' high-hop infield single.

Greg Brock, Rob Deer and Bill Schroeder singled for two more runs in the inning before Tanana was replaced by Dan Petry with the Brewers leading 4-1.

Reports claim Texas owner fined \$250,000

TORONTO (AP) — Texas Rangers owner Eddie Chiles has been fined \$250,000 by Commissioner Peter Ueberroth over his calling up of pitcher Steve Howe, according to published reports.

Chiles, however, said earlier Thursday he was not fined and was "not going to speculate" on whether a fine was forthcoming.

The Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Rocky Mountain News reported in today's editions that Chiles was fined.

Howe, who was making a comeback after a series of drug-related problems, was signed by Texas to a minor-league contract on July 12 and was called up

by the Texas ballclub on Aug. 6.

Ueberroth, who has unilateral power to levy the fine, asked clubs this year to have players returning from drug rehabilitation remain in the minor leagues for 60 to 90 days to make sure they have their problem under control before elevating them on a major league team.

The fine, if it was levied, would be the second largest levied by a baseball commissioner.

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was fined \$250,000 plus \$50,000 to reimburse the legal fees of the office of Commissioner Bowie Kuhn in December, 1983 over the "Pine Tar" decision.

Mike Heath doubled off Milwaukee starter Juan Nieves, 12-6, and scored on Bill Madlock's sacrifice fly in the third for Detroit's first run.

The Tigers made it 4-2 in the fifth on Tom Brookens' 11th homer of the season, then chased Nieves in the sixth. Chet Lemon walked, Larry Herndon singled and Matt Nokes

delivered a run-scoring single to right with two outs.

Nieves, 7-0 in his last 12 starts, gave up six hits and struck out six in 53/4 innings. Jay Aldrich got the final out of the sixth and Paul Mirabella got his first save by allowing two hits over the last three innings.

Athletics 3, Royals 2

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jose Canseco walked with the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, forcing in the winning run for Oakland.

The Athletics, second in the American League West, pulled within 21/2 games of idle Minnesota.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

■ FOOTBALL — Cris Carter, the All-American wide receiver declared ineligible by Ohio State and subsequently drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, filed suit against agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom Thursday in U.S. District Court. In the suit, Carter alleged that Walters and Bloom, of World Sports & Entertainment, Inc., induced him to accept a loan through "fraud and unfair use" of Carter's older brother, George. Cris Carter is seeking the cancellation of his contract with Walters and Bloom and damages in excess of \$1 million . . . The Cincinnati Bengals Thursday obtained a seasoned backup for starting quarterback Boomer Eslason, signing Turk Schonert, released by the Atlanta Falcons this week

. . The Houston Oilers, besieged by leasing problems at the Astrodome, would consider relocating to San Antonio if a domed stadium is built. A committee is seeking 50,000 signatures to force a referendum vote in January for the \$150 million, 65,000-seat stadium planned near downtown San Antonio . . . Chris Miller, the Atlanta Falcons' No. 1 draft pick, headed home Thursday after rejecting the latest offer from the NFL team. Financial officer Jim Hay said Wednesday the Falcons and Miller, a quarterback from Oregon, were "closer to an agreement than ever before" after the team offered to improve his incentive package.

MISC — The NCAA put Marist College on probation for two years Thursday after saying a former basketball coach set out to cheat because it was the only way to win. Marist also was barred from postseason play following the 1987-88 and 1988-89 seasons. An assistant coach, who was not named, was banned from off-campus recruiting for two years, effective last Feb. 1... JoAnne Carner, three-time LPGA Player of the Year, and six others have been named to the Women's Sports Hall of Fame. The others are Louise Suggs, golf; Debbie Meyer-Reyes, swimming; Madeline Manning Mims, track; Lyudmilla Tourischeva of the Soviet Union, gymnast; Maureen Connolly Brinker, tennis, and France's Marie Marvingt, a multiple-sports athlete . . . Twenty five British soccer fans were charged with involuntary manslaughter Thursday for rioting at a European Cup final May 29, 1985, in which 39 people were crushed and trampled to death at Heysel Stadium in Belgium. Associated Press

Cardinals limp into N.Y. without Clark

NEW YORK (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals arrived for their big weekend in New York with shrunken lead and a swollen ankle. The puffy ankle belonged to Jack Clark and it will keep the Cardinals' slugger out of a three-game series starting today with the Mets, who trail first-place St. Louis by 11/2 games in the National League East. The third place Montreal Expos are

another half-game back. Clark suffered a sprained left ankle while running out a grounder Wednesday night, a fitting end to a disastrous three-game set in Montreal, where the Cardinals were

"He'll be unable to play in the series against the Mets," Cardinals spokesman Kip Ingle said Thursday. "It's a day-to-day thing after this weekend. We have to see if the swelling goes down." Clark leads the Cardinals with 35

home runs and 106 runs batted in. The first baseman is batting .288. Clark, when he fell in the sixth inning, also injured his left wrist.

Ingle said X-rays taken Thursday were negative on both the wrist and

"We can't let ourselves get carried away with what we did in that series," St. Louis second baseman Tommy Herr said.

Astros' Davis hits 3 homers

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Glenn Davis became the first Houston Astros player in 14 years to hit three home runs in a game when he connected in his first three plate appearances Thursday night against the San Diego Padres.

He grouned out to third on his fourth at-bat.

second inning off starter Mark Grant for the first Astro run of the evening. He hit a two-run shot to right off Grant in the fourth to tie the game 3-3.

With the Astros trailing 4-3 in the sixth, Alan Ashby led off with a homer off Grant and Keven Bass singled. Davis greeted Padres reliever Mark Davis with a long homer into the left field seats to give Houston a 6-4 lead.

The game was not finished at press time late Thursday night. San Davis hit a solo home run in the Diego was leading 7-6, in the eighth.

Lee May hit three homers for the Astros on June 21, 1973, against San Diego. Jim Wynn homered three times on June 15, 1967, against San Francisco.

NEWS NOTES/AREA SPORTS lowa-ISU tickets Girls' softball tryouts

Tryouts for the 1988 Cedar

■ AMES — A limited number of standing-room-only tickets for the Iowa-Iowa State football game Sept. 19 in Ames will go on sale Monday. The tickets, \$14 each, will go on sale

Rapids-Marion Metro girls' softball team will be conducted from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Noelridge Park. This is a fast-pitch team for girls at 8:30 a.m. at Hilton Coliseum and ages 13-15. will be sold on a first-come, first-For addition information, teleserved basis with no phone orders. phone John Begley at 377-2676.

St. John's run

The St. John's Catholic Church Run in Mount Vernon will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, not Sunday as previously announced. For more information, call Paul at 455-2020.



