

AL EAST RACE TIGHTENS

# Royals' 31-4 Streak Clinches Title Tie

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 "I'm going fishing and hunting," Kansas City Manager Whitey Herzog said after his Royals clinched at least a tie for the American League West title.  
 The Royals exploded for six runs in the seventh inning Wednesday night to crush the Minnesota Twins 10-5 and assure themselves of at least a share of the division crown. And Kansas City did it with a remarkable streak of 31 victories in 35 games.  
 "I would say that's about the best you could do," Herzog said. "You can't expect to do it too often."  
 Another Kansas City victory or a loss by the Texas Rangers would give the Royals their second straight AL West crown.  
 "Last year we kept hoping for someone else to lose," said Kansas City first baseman John Mayberry. "This year we didn't mess around with that stuff. We'd just go out and win."  
 While the Royals were reducing their "magic number" to one, the AL East

race was getting tighter. The Boston Red Sox edged the Yankees 3-2 and the Baltimore Orioles blanked the Toronto Blue Jays 4-0. That moved Baltimore two games behind the Yankees while the Red Sox are just 2 1/2 games back with 11 days left in the regular season.  
 Does Herzog have a preference on which East Division club he would like to play?  
 "No, I'll just get someone mad at me if I say something," the Kansas City manager said.  
 In other AL games Wednesday, Oakland outlasted Chicago 8-6, Seattle bombarded Milwaukee 11-4 and Texas rolled over California 9-1.  
 Darrell Porter's 16th home run of the season touched off Kansas City's six-run seventh inning explosion that buried the Twins.  
 "I wasn't expecting anyone to pull away like the Royals did," said Minnesota Manager Gene Mauch. "My whole contention was that the Royals played to their full potential last year when they won 91 games. I had no idea that any team

in this division would win 100 games." The Royals have won 95.  
 In the National League, where the Los Angeles Dodgers have wrapped up the West Division and Philadelphia has all but clinched the East, both lost.  
 Chicago downed the Phillies 2-0 behind Ray Burris and Bruce Sutter while the Dodgers were falling to San Francisco 5-4 on rookie Skip James' two-run single.  
 New York Mets' Jerry Koosman lost his 20th game, 4-0, to Pittsburgh. "I don't believe I'm a 20-game loser," said the veteran pitcher with a 3.49 ERA. In 16 of his 32 starts, the Mets have scored two or fewer runs. "I'll win 20 next year, I promise," he said. Koosman was 21-10 last year.

Cincinnati downed San Diego 3-2 as Joe Morgan tripled home the tying run and Johnny singled in the winner in the eighth inning. Dale Murray got the victory. Atlanta downed Houston 5-3 as Phil Niekro when the distance for the 20th time to register his 16th win, and Montreal split with St. Louis, winning 4-2 and losing 8-2.



**Don Hager**  
 Assistant Sports Editor

## 2 On The 50, Please

THIS IS DEDICATED to all the West Virginia University football fans who have annually donated a \$100 to the Mountaineer Scholarship Fund and then watched their "priority" season tickets go from the 40-yard line to the 30 to the 20 to the 10.

You have company — in stadiums around the nation.  
 Former Purdue ticket manager Joe S. Dienhart has collected the complaints he received and those other ticket managers passed along and is planning a book — entitled "Two on the Fifty." of course — and if some of the letters published recently by Saturday Evening Post are any indication it will be hilarious reading.

FOR EXAMPLE, there was the fellow who was afraid to trade his end zone seats for a sideline position because his wife might not understand "sideways football":

"For 40 years we have sat behind the goal posts and for 40 years we have gazed at the fannies of Michigan State or those of their opponents, depending on who was defending what through the long years we have come to call 'Our Goal.' Our regular seats are eye-level with the cross bar, making it difficult to perceive who is doing what to whom. With the advent of the P. A. system it hasn't been too bad. We may want our olds seats back next year. My wife never has seen a football game sideways and five will get you 10 she will not understand the game from that angle."

A TICKET DEPARTMENT is asked to take a fan's drinking habits into consideration:

"Usually I am full of beer and I have had some close calls when my seats were a mile from the aisle. So take all this into consideration and do the best you can."

INFLATION is understandable to this fan, but . . .

"When they raised the price of tickets I took it with a smile. When the price of programs went up I still kept buying programs. Now I have to pay to park my car: this I also pay with a grin. But when I am emphatically told that I cannot sell the two extra tickets to the Penn State game on university property without a solicitor's permit, I think you are getting a little too money mad. Incidentally, I gave the tickets to two boys about 10 years old thinking I would make them happy. I certainly did because they immediately turned around and sold the tickets."

## Ticket Manager Described

NO MATTER how hard the ticket manager tries to please, there are some folks who hate him:

"After looking over the location of our Notre Dame tickets I have the following mental image of you. I believe you are past middle age, weight to spare, wrinkled, fairly intelligent, cold, passive, noncommittal, eyes like a wall-eyed pike, polite during conversation (but at the same time unresponsive), calm and composed as a concrete post; a human petrification with a heart of feldspar and with the charm of the friendly germ, minus bowels, passion and a sense of humor. Happily you fellows never reproduce and finally go to hell."

PROBLEMS, problems, problems. . .

"We ordered tickets in August and received them 10 days ago. Just five minutes ago our daughter flushed the tickets down the toilet. Can you help us in this matter?"

THERE ARE fans who don't know much about football:

"Naturally we would like good seats — not necessarily on the 50-yard line, but between the 25 and 75."

AND THERE are fans who plan ahead:

"We would like seats on ground level. The reason for this request is that I was married last week and expect to be pregnant next fall."

LOTS OF US have problems with splinters, but knobs, too?

"I have been a season ticket holder for the past two years and I have had the same two seats. Now those two seats have the two hardest knobs I ever had the pleasure of sitting on and being of rather slight build and without much padding. I discover that I am black and blue after an exciting game. I am not asking for seats on the 50-yard line, merely to move off those two hard knobs."

AND, FINALLY, poets go to football games, too:

"The seats are so narrow, The butts are so wide; But if I'm not behind the bleep-bleep goal posts, I'll sure be satisfied."

SO, THE NEXT TIME, you're at Mountaineer Stadium, sitting on the two-yard line and watching Penn State score for the fifth time (all touchdowns at the other end of the stadium, of course), try putting your thoughts down in a poem. WVU ticket manager Debbie Coles might appreciate it.

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MOUNTAIN LIONS DEFENSE — Defensive linemen for the Charleston Mountain Lions, who meet Stonewall Jackson at Laidley Field Friday, include, from left:

Maurice Harris, John Owens, Marvin Smith, Hans Bittelhoffer and Adrian Wright. — Daily Mail Photo by Jerry Waters.

## CAGERS, WRESTLERS JOIN GRIDDERS

# DuPont Helped By 'Recruiting'

Recruiting is the name of the game. Except, of course, on the high school level where it is taboo.

But don't try to tell that to DuPont football coach Corky Griffith. He's proud of his recruiting!

Of course, he's not bringing in players from other high schools, but he is recruiting athletes from other DuPont High School athletic teams.

That's how he got Randy Robinson and Tommy Spurlock, a couple of quick basketball players, and Tom Lowery, a strong wrestler.

And, how does a high school coach recruit?

"Everyone on the football staff coaches other sports," Griffith explained. "We're always looking for good athletes."

Robinson, a senior, and Spurlock, a junior, stepped right into the starting lineup as defensive backs, too.

"Getting Robinson and Spurlock out for football means we have depth now," said Griffith, whose undefeated Panthers host Nitro Friday night. DuPont is 3-0 and Nitro 2-1. "They're both quick and very coachable."

Lowery, a junior nose guard, "really is helping us," according to Griffith. "He started our first game and is playing a lot in every game."

The help of the recruits was needed because the Panthers have only 40 players. But, they are undefeated, although Griffith isn't happy with the overall performance.

"We could be a lot better," he said. "It's a matter of timing and fundamentals. We just haven't jelled. I'm just waiting for us to explode any week."

Griffith likes the Panthers' balance

on offense — seven players have scored in three games. And he's pleased with the play of nose guard and linebacker Tim Ray Gardner, who has led the team in tackles every game.

"He's very quick and is simply beating people to the punch," Griffith said.

He calls Nitro "well-coached, sharp and quick. Pat (Nitro coach Pat Vance) does as good a job as any coach in the valley." Griffith was especially impressed with the play of Nitro quarterback Jimmy Henson and fullback-nose guard Benji Smith.

Meanwhile, Nitro's Vance wishes DuPont would go on a diet this week.

"I wouldn't feel so bad if we were just half way their size," said Vance, whose linemen have nicknamed them-

selves 'The Munchkins.' "If we could just get DuPont to go on a diet this week I'd feel a lot better."

Instead, the Wildcats will have to deal with the strong side of DuPont's offensive line just like the rest of the Panthers' opponents.

"That strong side of theirs is really something," said Vance. "They have Mark Whitlock (6-3, 210), Leslie Lucas (6-3, 235) and Denny Ballard (6-3, 200) side by side and that's a pretty tough combination. Two of those three were All-KVC last year and I don't know how Lucas missed. Plus, they have speed and a lot of skilled people."

"And, this is a big game for us. We need to come back from last week's overtime loss to Poca. But, our kids are

really playing well. I can't say enough for them. It's just a question of whether our quickness can offset their size advantage."

St. Albans at Dunbar — Coaches Joe Cielensky and Delmar Good are anxious about this game — Cielensky because St. Albans quarterback Chuck Carr, one of the best passers in the KVC, has been out of school since Monday with the flu; Good because running back Sam Henderson, who is said to possess dazzling speed, is eligible this week.

"Carr hasn't been to school since Monday so we're not counting on him," said Cielensky. "Instead, we'll go with Dave Herscher at quarterback. Of course, Dave is a very capable quarterback. In fact, he's actually a better ballhandler than Chuck. But, he's not the passer Carr is. So, we've been concentrating more on our running game this week."

But, the Red Dragons have problems there, too. "Jody Bonker has a bad ankle and he may not be able to play," said Cielensky of his senior halfback. "If he does play, he will only go one way. So, you can say I'm worried. In fact, Dunbar has me scared to death. I don't know what to expect from them. With talented back like Mark Mason and Ed Keiffer they're like a slumbering giant. And, if that isn't bad enough, I understand they have a new running back who runs the 100 in 9.8."

See DuPONT, Pg. 3B, Col. 4

## Football This Week

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

'76 Score

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Charleston (0-3) vs. Stonewall Jackson (0-3), Laidley Field..... | 0-27  |
| Nitro (2-1) at DuPont (3-0).....                                 | 14-40 |
| Herbert Hoover (3-0) at Ravenswood (2-1).....                    | 7-12  |
| St. Albans (1-2) at Dunbar (0-2).....                            | 21-18 |
| Sissonville (0-3) at South Charleston (0-3).....                 | 18-58 |

### SATURDAY'S GAME

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| East Bank (3-0) vs. George Washington (3-0), Laidley Field..... | 20-32 |
| Catholic (1-2) vs. Buffalo-Wayne (3-0), Oakes Field.....        | 0-20  |

All games begin at 8 p. m. unless otherwise noted.

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