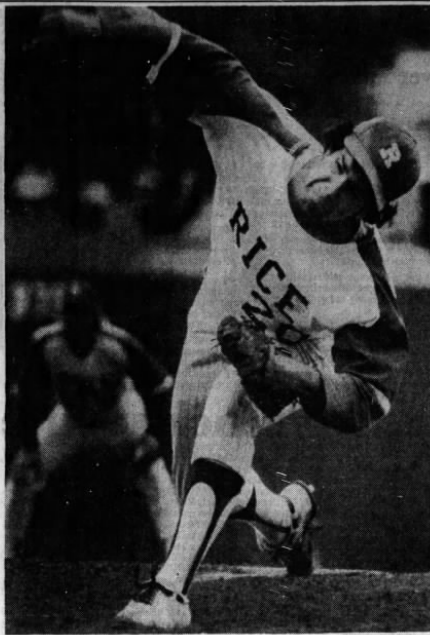


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Rice's Allan Ramirez, last year second in the nation in strikeouts, pitched... and pitched Sunday at Disch-Falk Field. After he quit pitching his Owl teammates beat Texas 4-3 and he picked up the win, breaking the Longhorns' all-time record 34-game win streak. (Staff Photo by Zach Ryall)



# Ramirez' fastballs worked

"Good luck, Allan," one Rice baseball player said in the locker room between games Sunday. "You're in relief in the second game."

"Not bad, Al," another Owl teammate jibed, "but when you going to throw a complete game?"

Allan Ramirez wasn't good enough to do that Sunday against the Texas Longhorns, but then his arm is made of arteries, not wires. The righthanded Rice pitcher could only manage 13 innings as he took the decision in the Owls' 4-3 win over Texas at Disch-Falk Field.

The Victoria sophomore took his teammates' kidding in stride, just as he did Texas and its prestigious 34-game win streak.

**RAMIREZ ADMITTED** something most of the 4,500 fans already suspected when his right arm began hanging toward the mound — he was tired.

"My arm's just numb," Ramirez said afterward in the locker room, his right arm sprouting a balloon-shaped ice bag. "The last few innings my arm was just a rag."

But a very effective rag. Ramirez left 18 'Horns stranded on the bases but only gave up eight hits, three of them infield singles.

"I felt like I had zip on the ball the first few innings," the good-natured Ramirez said. "Near the end, I didn't. But they (the 'Horns) really don't have a very good hitting team."

**"THEY ARE ONE** of the few teams that I threw my fastball to that never got onto it. They always take the first pitch and all I threw them was fastballs."

Several of the Texas players said they felt they didn't get onto

his fastballs because his fastballs weren't as fast as they had been led to believe.

"He wasn't as quick as we thought," Texas' Jerry Jones said. "We were swinging ahead of him a lot."

Third baseman Rocky Thompson said Texas "went out there expecting so much and he wasn't throwing that hard. We were missing the ball by two feet sometimes we were overwinging so badly."

Shortstop Steve Day agreed Ramirez' velocity wasn't all that impressive. "I don't think he was throwing as hard as we thought he would but after he got past 100 pitches, he wasn't throwing any different."

**NO MATTER,** TEXAS coach Cliff Gustafson said, "he was just remarkable. You have to give him credit because when you are working that hard."

Ramirez easily agreed the 222 pitches he threw were the most he had ever thrown. But he even thought he had thrown more.

"I thought it was about 250," he said with a shrug. "You just do it, inning by inning, and don't think about it."

Rice coach Doug Osburn, meanwhile, was busy thinking about to whom he would give the trophy he brought from Houston. Osburn said he "really figured" Rice would break Texas' string and he brought along a trophy topped by a Longhorn steer with one horn broken off to give to the most deserving Owl.

"That kid can pitch a little bit," Osburn said in something of an understatement. "But I really don't know who we'll give the trophy to."

The Texas baseball team may have a few suggestions.

—KIRK BOHLS

# UT's streak gone; Ramirez the thief

**By KIRK BOHLS**  
Staff Writer

It's true. The Texas Longhorns actually lost a baseball game Sunday.

Surrurrrrrrrr. And Idi Amin just got nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Farrah Fawcett-Majors has cavities and John Denver suffers from depression. Come on.

And don't bother rushing to the calendar — April Fools' Day isn't until Friday. Texas lost a baseball game to Rice 4-3 Sunday at Disch-Falk Field, breaking the longest win streak in college baseball history at 34.

But the Owls didn't do it by sticking pins in a Bevo doll, or with Rice coach Doug Osburn umpiring, or by getting the Cincinnati Reds to fill in.

**IT WAS REALLY** rather simple — like an income tax form. All it took was a four-hour-plus, 14-inning game in which Rice only had to get 15 hits — and in which Owl pitcher Allan Ramirez only had to throw 222 pitches with his right arm, soon to be an artifact at the Smithsonian.

Oh, yes, it also took Steve Day, the team's best bunter, popping up into a game-ending double play when he attempted a suicide squeeze with Rusty Getter on third and one out.

Two physically and emotionally drained teams went through the motions in the second game, although Texas went through them better, winning the rain-shortened game 11-2 and boosting its Southwest Conference record to 11-1.

Two physically and emotionally drained teams went through them better, winning the rain-shortened game 11-2 and boosting its Southwest Conference record to 11-1.

**"I can't criticize** this ball club. When you lose a conference game, THAT'S big. But if you play 36 ball games and lose just one, that's still not a bad season record."

Rice now has a 12-17 season record, a 5-7 SWC mark and bragging rights for popping the biggest bubble in NCAA history.

**"THE PEOPLE** (4,500 fans) got their money's worth in that game," Osburn said, wearing his knew-it-all-the-time smile. "But these guys (the 'Horns) deserve to be No. 1 in the country. They DO NOT give up very easily."

For the longest time, it looked like they wouldn't give up at all.

Rice seemed to have the game won after a two-run, wind-blown home run by Jeff Hays in the 13th inning gave the Owls a comfortable 3-1 lead. Comfortable, that is, until Texas batted.

The gutsy Ramirez, throwing the game (games?) of his life with his stainless steel arm, walked two 'Horns in the 13th and a sacrifice moved them up.

**ROCKY THOMPSON** slapped a grounder to the mound, but Ramirez miraculously stopped it and threw the runner out at home. When Mickey Reichenbach popped up to center, the streak seemed ended — but Reichenbach's pop fell in, a run scored, and Wendell Hibbett then re-tied the game at 3-3 with a single to left.

Ramirez trudged off the field, not to return. He had thrown a phenomenal 222 pitches, striking out 12 'Horns and walking 11.

Don Kainer, who had relieved a very effective Tony Brizzolara after nine innings, gave up a leadoff single to Steve Fry in the 14th. Fry went to second on a sacrifice and Kenny Baldwin singled down the first base line to give Rice a 4-3 lead.

"I never really thought about taking Allan out," said Osburn. "We don't have much of a bullpen. I wanted him to win it or lose it."

But the task went to Hays, who hit the home run, when Ramirez said his arm was too tired before the 14th inning. Preske walked to start the inning and pinch-runner Geter advanced to second on a wild pitch and to third on a sacrifice.

**ON A 3-1 PITCH,** Day tried to squeeze Geter in from third, but popped up to first baseman Fry, who threw to third baseman Robert delCue for an easy double play.

"You're gonna lose one," said a philosophical Day. "What was so discouraging was we kept battling back and battling back. And finally we got beat. The squeeze was the thing to do even if it was obvious to everybody."

"I mean, the pitcher was almost standing right next to me when I popped it up. What else would they be looking for? But usually it doesn't matter, we'll just out-ecceit 'em, which we do the majority of the time."

Thirty-five out of 36 times, anyway.

**SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Texas	11	17	.393	11	17	.393
Texas A&M	10	2	.833	10	2	.833
Arkansas	7	2	.778	7	2	.778
Houston	5	4	.556	5	4	.556
Baylor	5	3	.625	5	3	.625
Rice	5	7	.417	5	7	.417
Texas Christian	5	7	.417	5	7	.417
Texas Tech	5	7	.417	5	7	.417
Southern Methodist	5	7	.417	5	7	.417

**Last week's results**

Monday — Baylor 15, Nebraska 8; SMU 14, Yankee College 4; Texas A, Missouri 7; New Mexico 7, Texas Tech 1.

Tuesday — Baylor 12, Nebraska 4; Missouri 6, Arkansas 5; Rice 5, Lamar 2; Kent State 2, SMU 1; Texas A, Mississippi 2; TCU 12, Baylor 6; New Mexico 5, Tech 1.

Wednesday — Arkansas 14, Southern Methodist 3; Texas A&M 4, Minnesota 1; Tech 16, New Mexico 10.

Thursday — Tech 16, New Mexico 10; Baylor 12, Arkansas 1; SMU 9, Texas A; Rice 2; Colorado State 1; Tech 4, New Mexico 3; Tech 2, Baylor 4; A&M, post. rain; TCU at Houston, post. rain.

Saturday — Arkansas 4, SMU 3; Tech 12, Colorado State 1; Baylor at A&M, post. rain; TCU at Houston 12, post. rain; Rice at Texas 12, post. rain.

Sunday — Rice 4, Texas 3-1.

**This week's schedule**

Monday — TCU at Houston (2), Baylor at A&M (1).

Tuesday — TCU at Houston, Baylor at A&M, Austin College at SMU (2).

Wednesday — Dallas Baptist at TCU (2), Houston at Lamar.

Friday — Arkansas at TCU, Houston at Baylor, A&M at Tech at SMU, Lubbock Christian at Texas (2).

Saturday — Arkansas at TCU (2), Houston at Baylor (2), A&M at Rice (2), Tech at SMU (2), Lubbock Christian at Texas (2).

**FIRST GAME**

RICE	AB	R	B	E	IP	W	L	P
Lewis	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Baldwin	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burrell	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hinson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hays	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
delCue	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fry	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Reichenbach	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ramirez	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	16	1	0	0	14	0	0	0

**TEXAS**

AB	R	B	E	IP	W	L	P	
Jones	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thompson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Reichenbach	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hibbett	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wendell	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Robertson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Getter	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Preske	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kramer	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Day	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0

**SECOND GAME**

RICE	AB	R	B	E	IP	W	L	P
Lewis	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baldwin	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burrell	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hinson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hays	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
delCue	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fry	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Reichenbach	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ramirez	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	14	0	0	0	14	0	0	0

**TEXAS**

AB	R	B	E	IP	W	L	P	
Jones	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thompson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Reichenbach	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hibbett	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wendell	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Robertson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Getter	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Preske	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kramer	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Day	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0