

"tired" arm after starting 10 of the first 11 games. Schofield responded with a three-run homer in a 5-4 win over Minnesota. "Nothing bothers me. I just go out and play," said Schofield, 1-for-7 before that start. "I like to play every day, but it's up to No. 3 (Manager Gene Mauch)." Schofield quickly hit two more homers, meaning that nine of the 15 in his career have come in April.

Burleson had a dull pain in his shoulder, but said he didn't consider the problem a setback in his recovery from a variety of injuries dating back to 1982. "It's fatigued from overuse, is all," the Rooster said. "No use doing something silly at this point. I want to be around in September."

Yes, that was Reggie Jackson on top in the American League batting race with a .469 average through April 22. Jackson had five homers through April 27. When Reggie hit No. 535, off the Twins' Burt Blyleven, he passed Jimmie Foxx for seventh place on the all-time list and was one short of Mickey Mantle. Kirk McCaskill fanned a career-high 12 in his two against Oakland April 22. Rupert Jones was batting only .121 (4-for-33) but ranked among the Angels' leading run producers with 11 runs scored and three RBIs. He had drawn 11 walks.

Rookie Wally Joyner couldn't explain his first-inning success against pitchers he'd never seen before. Joyner, leading the league with 19 hits after 14 games, was 6-for-11 with three walks in first at-bats. "Usually it's the other way around, because they know what they throw and I don't," he said. Joyner also proved durable. He was on crutches after jamming his right ankle on a fifth-inning play at first one day, but was back in the lineup the next day. George Hendrick got his 1,000th career RBI on a bases-loaded walk.

Don Sutton allowed six homers in his first three starts. Going back to 1985, he was 0-for-6 bidding for career victory No. 296. Terry Foster, signed as a free agent on April 16, beat Minnesota in relief four days later for his first A.L. triumph since August 8, 1976, when he was with the White Sox.

TOM SINGER

WHITE SOX



John Cangelosi and Wayne Tolleson, the first two batters in the Chicago White Sox lineup, were on base 45 percent of the time the first two weeks of the season, but they were not being driven home very often by Harold Baines, Carlton Fisk and Ron Kittle. In losing five of six games to the Boston Red Sox, the White Sox had no help from the middle of the order. Baines, Fisk and Kittle were a combined 7-for-72. Fisk suffered the indignity of having beer dumped on him in Fenway Park as he chased a game-winning double into the left-field corner. Fisk, who played nine seasons for the Red Sox, said, "I'm disappointed. I never thought that would happen to me here. Now, if I was wearing a Yankee uniform, yes, I could understand that."

Tolleson had a 10-game hitting streak that included five straight two-hit efforts. He also was leading the White Sox in runs batted in

Third baseman Tolleson and usually reliable shortstop Ozzie Guillen had combined for nine errors through April 21. When Greg Walker went on the disabled list, the first baseman automatically lost \$50,000 from a games-played clause in his contract. Walker last season tied Don Buford's club record of 163 games. He had been in 178 straight over two years when his right wrist was injured April 14.

MARINERS



Depending on which side you were looking from, the Seattle Mariners either ran into some tough pitching or the opposition ran into some poor hitting. After scoring eight runs off California's Don Sutton in the first inning April 15, the Mariners scored just nine runs in 62 innings during a six-game losing streak. In only six of those 62 innings did they get more than one hit and they never had more than two hits in an inning. The team batting average went from .290 to .231 in a week. The stretch reminded hitting coach Deron Johnson of a similar slump the National League champion Phillies went through in 1983. The Phils were held scoreless for 42 consecutive innings. The opponent scored in the first inning eight times in Seattle's first 13 games. The M's lost six of those games.

Karl Best (sore elbow) came off the 15-day disabled list two weeks into the season, but fellow relievers Roy Thomas (elbow) and Edwin Nunez (shoulder) were still disabled. Manager Chuck Cotter said he had a dream that ended with Gorman Thomas playing the outfield, cutting a ball off in the gap and hitting the cutoff man perfectly. "Just when I was about to find out who we were playing, my daughter came into the room and woke me up," Cotter said. Thomas has not played any regular position since his rotator cuff surgery in 1984.

ATHLETICS



Manager Jackie Moore moved Jose Canseco into the No. 3 spot in the Oakland A's batting order April 20 and the rookie slugger responded by hitting a double, two singles and driving in a pair of runs against Seattle. Moore decided to keep Canseco ahead of Dave Kingman in the batting order, and the next night Canseco clubbed a pair of home runs to right field and drove in four runs as the A's beat the California Angels. "I don't know a manager in his right mind who would play around with that right now," said Moore, who had already used Canseco at the cleanup, fifth and seventh spots in the order. Carney Lansford, the A's regular third baseman, started his first game at first base since 1977, when he played for El Paso in the Texas League. Lansford was having trouble getting bats from Hillerich & Bradsby, which makes the Louisville Slugger, and was relating his woes to announcer Ray Fosse during a postgame show in Minnesota. A fan, Areck Madden of Newark, Calif., heard the program and recalled that Lansford had given him

a bat two springs ago. Madden sent the bat by Federal Express to Minneapolis. Lansford autographed it, expressed his appreciation to Madden and returned the bat along with an autographed ball. Lansford is switching to the Adirondack bat, made by Rawlings.

The A's three victories in Seattle gave them their first sweep of a road series since September 1984, when they swept a series in Texas.

Donnie Hill hit his first two homers this year in domed stadiums—in Minnesota and Seattle. Hill recollected that five of his seven homers in the majors have been in domes. In a two-game stretch, leadoff man Tony Phillips doubled once, singled six times, walked once and was hit by a pitch in 11 plate appearances. Joaquin Andujar earned his first American League victory as he beat the Angels, 6-2, on April 21. He left the game after six innings with a 2-1 lead and a three-hitter. Moore used eight different lineups in the first 12 games. Right fielder Mike Davis missed five games with a strained left hamstring. Lefthander Tim Lirtsas, who had been projected as a starter in preseason plans, was sent to Tacoma (Pacific Coast). He had pitched in only two games. In his first appearance, he gave up a grand slam, a single and walked three.

RANGERS



The Texas Rangers are flexing new muscle. In their first 13 games, they boomed 20 home runs and they still hadn't had a favorable wind at Arlington Stadium. At their 249-homer pace, the Rangers seemed certain to erase the club record of 140 homers, set in 1979. First baseman Pete O'Brien and third baseman Steve Buechele had four long balls apiece through April 23. Reserve catcher Darrell Porter, whose only two hits were home runs, gave part of the credit for the Rangers' muscle to George Dubets, the club's strength coach in spring training. "He did a great job of getting people into the weight program," Porter said. "On a lot of clubs you'll see two or three guys doing the weights. We must have had 18 to 20, maybe more, in George's program." The Rangers lifted free weights for upper body strength and used a Nautilus program for overall conditioning.

Buechele's power streak stretched back to September of 1985, when he hit five homers in 23 games. Coupled with the four homers in 42 games this season, he had nine in a 35-game span. Toby Harrah missed five games when his mother, Mrs. Glenna Harrah, died in Ohio. A 10-1 victory over Toronto marked the fourth time the Rangers had scored 10 runs or more this year. They did it five times in '85. Bobby Witt had been winless as a pro—he was 0-6 at Tulsa (Texas) after signing with the Rangers out of the University of Oklahoma last June—before he beat Toronto. According to the Rangers, the last pitcher to record his first pro victory in the majors was David Clyde, the onetime Texas phenom who beat Minnesota on June 27, 1973, at Arlington Stadium.

Puckett Has Homer Spree For Twins



Kirby Puckett

TWIN CITIES—Seattle's hard-throwing righthander, Mike Morgan, had allowed the Minnesota Twins one hit while facing a minimum of 18 batters over the first six innings April 22.

Kirby Puckett led off the seventh and, on a 2-and-1 pitch, the righthanded batter hit a laser shot into the seats in right-center field at the Kingdome. Puckett's home run started the Twins to a 7-1 victory.

The next day, Puckett opened the game with a homer off Seattle's Mike Moore. And when California visited the Metrodome the last weekend in April, Puckett connected off Don Sutton and Ron Romanick. In 19 games through April 27, Puckett had seven homers, the major league high. He hit a total of four in 289 games in 1984 and '85.

For much of last season, Puckett seemed incapable of hitting the ball to the left side of second base. During spring training, he still seemed to be restricted to a right-field stroke.

Then, the season started and Puckett began to pull the inside pitch to left and drive the outside pitch to right center.

"Before, Kirby believed he was a punch hitter," hitting coach Tony Oliva said. "Now, he's working on driving the ball. He can do it because he is strong. He realizes he can do it."

"If not this year, then next year Kirby will hit 15 to 20 home runs and bat 315 or 320. He will keep doing that every year."

The Twins were so concerned about Puckett's inability to pull the ball that they spent the exhibition schedule trying to find another leadoff hitter. Manager Ray

Miller wanted to move Puckett to the No. 2 spot in order to take advantage of that right-field stroke.

All of a sudden, with Puckett's increased power and versatility as a hitter, that no longer seemed a problem. If Puckett was going to be moved in the order, it might be to No. 3—a more favorable RBI position. Puckett was proving to be Twins' top clutch hitter, delivering a series of run-scoring, two-out hits.

"With two outs and guys on base, I try to be a little more selective about pitches," Puckett said. "Then, I try to put the ball in play so we've got a chance to get something out of it."

Puckett has been putting line drives into play. "Kirby's been hitting the ball so hard it's unbelievable," Miller said. "The best thing is he's been hitting it hard to all fields."

The Twins' front office was disappointed last winter when Puckett dropped out of supervised workouts that were being held at the University of Minnesota. Puckett joined teammates for one workout at the university, then decided to work out on his own at a local health club.

His plan seems to have worked. PATRICK REUSSE

Pettis Riding Elevator

ANAHEIM—Gary Pettis has his Gold Glove. But will he ever get the lead out of his bat?

That question was on the mind of Manager Gene Mauch, who had a seemingly ideal leadoff man, but couldn't afford to use him at the top of the California Angels' lineup.

Pettis, the Angels' swift and surehanded center fielder, opened the season as the No. 9 hitter. He has also been used at No. 8 and No. 7, and has made occasional visits to the No. 1 spot.

The elevator routine displeased Pettis. "I would love to hit in the leadoff spot, whether I'm going bad or not," he said. "When I'm not hitting first, it seems to me I'm missing part of the game."

Said Mauch, "I guarantee he doesn't want to lead off any more than I want him to lead off."

The problem is Pettis' bat. He tends to take too big a cut at the ball. Because of Pettis' defensive skills and his speed, his .257 average last year would have been acceptable—had he not struck out 125 times.

Two weeks into the season, he led the team with 10 strikeouts,

and his average was down to .236. Other facets of his game were affected. Pettis was a sub-500 runner (he was caught four times in seven steal attempts) for probably the first time in his career. Mauch even criticized Pettis' concentration in the field.

"I think about offense more than anything else," Pettis admitted. "That could be part of the problem. I tend to rerun every at-bat over and over in my mind. Mauch doesn't want me to hit the ball to the outfielders, but in front of them."

The manager has lectured Pettis. In the winter of '84, so did former National League batting champion Harry Walker, the guru of contact hitting. Now, it's Moose Stubing's turn.

The California batting coach's goal is obvious. "Ideally, we'd like to have Pettis bat first," Stubing said. "He leads off and we have maybe 110 to 115 runs and 70 stolen bases."

Then, Stubing spent another night watching Pettis swing from the ears and miss—and he sighed. "We've got a lot of work ahead of us."

TOM SINGER