

1981 HOUSTON ASTROS

61-49 3rd
MGR Bill Virdon (#7)

DP: 311 to 332

Error: 351 to 354

| | BA | SB | W/K | HR | T | D | L | R | RNG | Def. | | |
|----------------------------------|------|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|--|-----|
| Cesar Cedeno #28 | .271 | 12 | | 114 | - | 135 | 246 | 244 | AAR | 1B46, OF34(CF) | | R R |
| Joe Pittman #9 | .281 | 4 | | - | 113 | 123 | 253 | 246 | AAR | 2B35, 3B4 | | R R |
| Craig Reynolds #12 | .260 | 3 | MW | 113 | 125 | 136 | 235 | 243 | AR | SS85 | | L R |
| Art Howe #18 | .296 | 1 | MK | 112 | 114 | 135 | 254 | 254 | AR | 3B98, 1B2 | | R R |
| Terry Puhl #21 | .251 | 22 | | 112 | 114 | 134 | 233 | 241 | AAR | SD/T-1 OF88(RF/CF) | | L R |
| Tony Scott #30 | .293 | 8 | | 112 | 114 | 134 | 254 | 253 | AAR | SD OF55(CF) | | B R |
| Jose Cruz #25 | .267 | 5 | | 121 | 124 | 136 | 242 | 244 | AAR | T-1 OF105(LF) | | L L |
| Alan Ashby #14 | .271 | 0 | | 113 | - | 132 | 246 | 244 | SLO | C81 | | B R |
| Denny Walling #29 | .234 | 2 | | 121 | - | 133 | 231 | 233 | AR | 1B27, OF27(RF/LF), PH | | L R |
| "Kiko" Garcia #23 <i>Alfonso</i> | .272 | 2 | | - | 112 | 126 | 251 | 244 | AR | SS28, 3B13, 2B9 | | R R |
| Phil Garner "Scrap Iron" #3 | .239 | 6 | | - | 112 | 122 | 236 | 233 | AAR | 2B31 | | R R |
| Luis Pujols #6 | .239 | 1 | | 112 | 114 | 124 | 236 | 233 | SLO | C39 | | R R |
| Gary Woods #22 | .209 | 2 | | - | 112 | 124 | 224 | 223 | AR | OF40(RF/CF/LF), PH | | R R |
| Danny Heep #24 | .250 | 0 | | - | - | 121 | 236 | 236 | AR | 1B22, PH, OF1(RF) | | L L |
| Dickie Thon #10 | .274 | 6 | | - | - | 132 | 246 | 245 | AAR | 2B28, SS13, PR, 3B5 | | R R |
| Rafael Landestoy #17 | .149 | 4 | PW | - | 113 | 116 | 163 | 162 | AAR | 2B31, PH | | B R |
| Dave Roberts #8 | .241 | 1 | | 114 | - | 134 | 234 | 234 | AR | LD PH, 1B10, 3B7, 2B3, C1 | | R R |
| Mike Ivie #15 | .238 | 0 | MW PK | - | - | 133 | 235 | 233 | AR | 1B10, PH | | R R |
| Harry Spilman #16 | .294 | 0 | | - | - | - | 252 | 254 | SLO | PH, 1B13 | | L R |
| Jeffrey Leonard #30 | .167 | 1 | | - | 126 | 146 | 166 | 166 | AAR | PH, 1B2, OF2(RF) | | R R |
| Joe Niekro | .176 | 0 | MW | - | - | 114 | 212 | 212 | SLO | P24 | | R R |
| Don Sutton | .137 | 0 | | - | - | - | 162 | 155 | SLO | P23 | | R R |
| Nolan Ryan | .216 | 0 | PK | - | - | 114 | 231 | 224 | SLO | P21 | | R R |
| Bob Knepper | .149 | 0 | MW PK | 115 | - | 132 | 155 | 163 | SLO | P22 | | L L |
| Vern Ruhle | .250 | 0 | PW PK | - | - | 123 | 236 | 236 | SLO | P20 | | R R |
| Dave Smith | .250 | 0 | MW PK | - | - | - | 236 | 236 | SLO | P42 | | R R |
| Pitcher R | .110 | - | MW PK | 111 | - | 113 | 153 | 145 | SLO | | | |
| Pitcher L | .110 | - | MW PK | 111 | - | 113 | 145 | 146 | SLO | | | |

| | ERA | IP | W | K | G | GS | SV | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|------|---|
| Joe Niekro #36 | 2.82 | 166 | 131 | 625 | 24 | 24 | 0 | .176 | R R |
| Don Sutton #20 | 2.61 | 159 | 123 | 566 | 23 | 23 | 0 | .137 | R R |
| Bob Knepper #39 | 2.18 | 157 | 126 | 624 | 22 | 22 | 0 | .149 | L L |
| Nolan Ryan #34 | 1.69 | 149 | 144 | 536 | 21 | 21 | 0 | .216 | R R "Ryan Express" |
| Vern Ruhle #48 | 2.91 | 102 | 123 | 634 | 20 | 15 | 1 | .250 | R R (last name pronounced RULE) |
| Dave Smith #45 | 2.76 | 75 | 133 | 563 | 42 | 0 | 8 | .250 | R R |
| Joe Sambito #35 | 1.84 | 64 | 135 | 565 | 49 | 0 | 10 | .000 | L L |
| Frank LaCorte #31 | 3.64 | 42 | 144 | 543 | 37 | 0 | 5 | .333 | R R (last name pronounced lah-CORE-TEE) |
| Bobby Sprowl #41 | 5.97 | 29 | 141 | 616 | 15 | 1 | 0 | .167 | L L (last name pronounced like OWL) |
| Joaquin Andujar #47 | 4.94 | 24 | 143 | 565 | 9 | 3 | 0 | .000 | B R (wah-KEEN ahn-DOO-harr) |
| Billy Smith #27 | 3.05 | 21 | 121 | 655 | 10 | 1 | 1 | .000 | R R |

NOTE: When Joaquin Andujar is a base runner his running rating is AR.

The long-standing dispute between the MLBPA and baseball's owners reached a serious flash-point in 1981. Ownership was disgusted with losing its constant battle with the players over free-agency and compensation (players to replace lost free agents and, of course, the monetary kind). The Astros, who just missed making it to their first World Series had to settle for second-best in 1980 after coming oh-so-close to beating the Phillies (NLCS), the eventual World Series champs. Rolling into the '81 season with possibly the best overall pitching staff in the big leagues and a solid hitting ballclub with speed to boot, Houston finished the first part of a split season after the players walked out on strike June 12th third in the NL West at 28-29, eight games behind the first place Dodgers. They came back to play in August and reeled off a 33-20 mark (.623) to take first by 1 1/2 games over the Reds. The split season called for the top finishers of each half to meet in a Division series leaving the Astros and Dodgers to duke it out in a best-of-five match-up. Houston won the first two games in the Astrodome, but L. A. swept the final three contests, out-scoring the Astros 12-2 to move on to the NLCS. Houston hit only .179 and scored six runs total. Nolan Ryan was 1-1 with 14 strikeouts in 15 innings pitched, allowing only three earned runs and six hits...Ryan had the best regular season ERA in the majors and whiffed 140 batters. He and Don Sutton both won 11 ballgames. Bob Knepper (9 wins) put up the third-best ERA in the big leagues and pitched five shutouts. Sutton's WHIP (1.015) was the N. L.'s best. The staff's 2.66 ERA was the lowest in baseball (the Yankees were second at 2.90)...At the plate, Jose Cruz was the only hitter to reach double figures in home runs (13). He led the ballclub with 55 RBI. Craig Reynolds' 12 triples tied the Padres Gene Richards for the most in the majors...Ryan capped his season by no-hitting the Dodgers, 5-0, in Houston, September 26th, his fifth career no-no. He struck out eleven and walked three.