

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 Ceden0 #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 Alfonso	.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 ½ 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.