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## Spiers' RBI saves day for Astros

Padres and Astros 1-1 in their first round postseason series

By Bernie Wilson  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — First, Houston blew the lead in the ninth. Then, Bill Spiers saved the Astros.

Spiers' third hit of the game, an RBI single with one out in the ninth, lifted Houston to a wild 5-4 win over the San Diego Padres on Thursday and tied their first-round series 1-1.

The Astros had taken a 4-2 lead into the ninth, but Billy Wagner allowed a two-out, two-run homer

to pinch-hitter Jim Leyritz.

Then in the bottom half, Dan Miceli allowed Ricky Gutierrez, leading off, an infield single to shortstop. Brad Ausmus sacrificed, Trevor Hoffman relieved Miceli, and Gutierrez stole third base uncontested. Spiers then lifted a single to right on a 1-2 count.

Wagner, who got the win, was shaky down the stretch, blowing consecutive save chances against the Mets last month by allowing homers to Brian McRae and Mike Piazza.

It was Houston's 49th come-from-behind win this year, and the 28th in its last at-bat. It was also

the seventh one-run game the teams have played this year, including San Diego's 2-1 victory in the series opener Tuesday.

Game 3 is Saturday night in San Diego.

The Astros had taken control of the game thanks to the Killer B's, who finally lived up to their nickname.

Jeff Bagwell drove in Houston's first three runs and Craig Biggio scored twice. Derek Bell rifled a 3-1 pitch from former Astros reliever Donne Wall into the left-field seats for a leadoff homer in the eighth and a 4-2 lead.

## Braves take 2-0 lead in playoffs

By Paul Newberry  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — It was a magical regular season for the Chicago Cubs. The postseason is the same old thing.

Two outs from evening their first-round playoffs series, the Cubs wasted a ninth-inning lead when Javy Lopez homered, squandered a great scoring chance in the 10th, then had a defensive mixup in the bottom half and lost to the Atlanta Braves 2-1 on Chipper Jones' single Thursday night.

The Braves have a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series, which moves

to Wrigley Field for Game 3 on Saturday night, when Greg Maddux pitches for Atlanta against his former team.

"We couldn't let them get out of here with a split," Jones said. "They would have had all the momentum going back to that crazy place in Chicago. This was huge."

The Cubs, seeking their first World Series title since 1908, turned sloppy after Kevin Tapani's brilliant performance. He took a four-hit shutout into the ninth before giving up Lopez's homer into the left-field stands.

"He just got a pitch up to Javy,

and Javy did what he's been doing all year," Chicago manager Jim Riggleman said. "There's a lot of guys in that clubhouse that are agonizing right now that we didn't win this ballgame."

In the top of the 10th, Glenallen Hill led off with walk, was bunted to second by Gary Gaetti and stole third after an intentional walk to Mickey Morandini.

But former Atlanta shortstop Jeff Blauser struck out against rookie Odalis Perez and Lopez threw out Morandani, who was trying to steal second on the 3-2 pitch.

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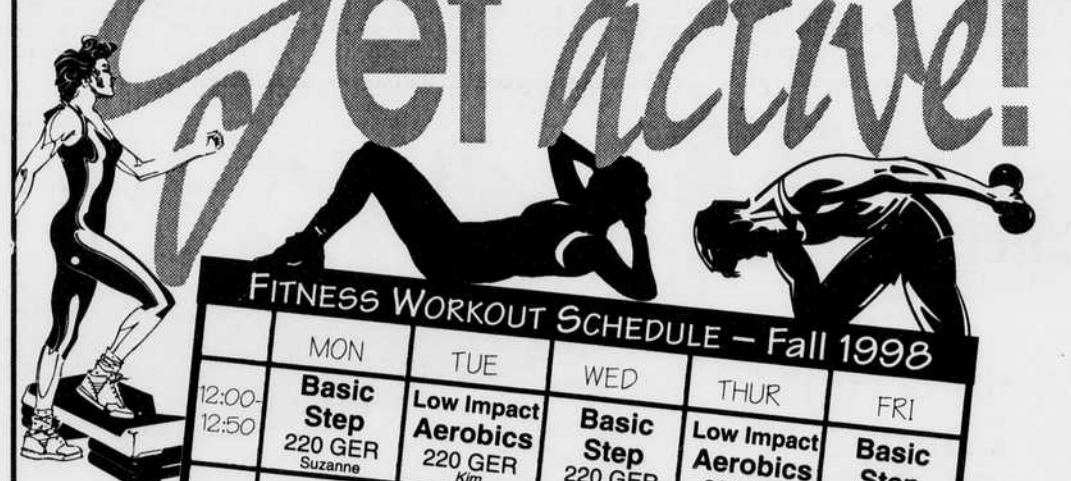
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12:00-12:50	<b>Basic Step</b> 220 GER Suzanne	<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> 220 GER Kim	<b>Basic Step</b> 220 GER Suzanne	<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> 220 GER Kim	<b>Basic Step</b> 220 GER Kim
1:00-1:50					<b>Body Sculpt</b> 220 GER Katrina
2:00-2:50					<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> 220 GER Suzanne
5:00-5:50	<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> 220 GER Maggie	<b>Body Sculpt</b> 220 GER Maggie	<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> 220 GER Katrina	<b>Body Sculpt</b> 220 GER Maggie	
6:00-6:50	<b>Intermed. Step</b> 220 GER Maggie	<b>Intermed. Step</b> 220 GER Maggie	<b>Intermed. Step</b> 220 GER Katrina	<b>Intermed. Step</b> 220 GER Maggie	

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For more information call 6-4113 or drop by 102 Esslinger.	Unlimited card \$35

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