



Blyleven no-hitter stops Angels

Associated Press

Anaheim, Calif.

Bert Blyleven, the right-handed curve-balling specialist, pitched a no-hitter Thursday night to lead the Texas Rangers to a 6-0 victory over the California Angels.

Blyleven faced 28 batters — one over the minimum. The Rangers committed an error, but the runner was ousted in a double play. Carlos May walked on a 3-2 pitch in the ninth inning for the only other California base runner.

Ron Jackson reached first base to lead off the third inning on short-stop Bert Campaneris's error, but Andy Etchebarren grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Blyleven, 26, who was born in The

Netherlands and grew up only 5 miles from Anaheim Stadium, struck out seven and walked only one — May, who was pinch hitting with two outs in the ninth. Blyleven (14-12) then struck out Thad Bosley to end the game.

"It was like the world stopped when (Thad) Bosley swung at that last pitch," Blyleven said afterward. Bosley, who went into the game batting .308, was a strikeout victim three times, including the final out.

The Rangers and Angels were involved in the other two no-hitters this season.

Kansas City's Jim Colborn hurled a no-hitter against the Rangers on May 14 and Dennis Eckersley tossed his no-hitter against Cali-

ornia on May 30.

Blyleven has a career record of 122-113. He has thrown four one-hitters, the last against the Oakland A's in June 1976.

Blyleven began his major league career in 1970 with the Minnesota Twins, but was traded to the Rangers last season along with the late Danny Thompson, an infielder, for pitchers Bill Singer and Jim Gideon and infielders Roy Smalley and Mike Cabbage.

The victory delayed the inevitable, preventing the Kansas City Royals from clinching their second straight American League West Division title. One Texas loss or one Kansas City victory will give the Royals the flag.

Texas scored three runs in the third inning with the help of an error by Angels starter Paul Hartzell (8-11), who went the distance despite giving up 12 hits.

A native of Zeist, The Netherlands, Blyleven's family moved to southern California where he attended Santiago High School in nearby Garden Grove. His brother, Joe, also a pitcher, was selected by the Angels in the free-agent draft this past June.

It was Blyleven's first start since Sept. 6, when he went only 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings in a 7-4 loss to Minnesota. He has been bothered by a groin injury and appeared to have altered his pitching delivery against the Angels last night.

"I used the curve ball exclusively

in the ninth inning," said Blyleven. "I threw about 60 per cent curve balls. My leg doesn't bother me that much when I throw curves."

"I first realized about the no-hitter in the second inning when I looked at the scoreboard and saw that Hartzell and I both had one going and I thought it sure would be nice ... In the third and fourth, I concentrated more and the next thing I knew it was the eighth inning," Blyleven said.

Asked if any batter was giving him trouble as the game neared the end, he said: "When you've got a no-hitter going, you take one batter at a time."

He set down the first six batters, including Bobby Bonds, who flied

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out to the base of the left-field wall, and Don Baylor, who lined to second base.

After Jackson reached first on the error, Blyleven mowed down the next 19 batters in succession before walking May, who was pinch-hitting for Etchebarren with two outs in the ninth.

Blyleven, fifth in the A.L. in strikeouts with 180, struck out the side in the seventh.

Jim Sundberg opened the Texas third inning with a double and took third on May's infield out. Mike Hargrove singled to score Sundberg and give the Rangers a 1-0 lead. Campaneris attempted a sacrifice bunt and the ball rolled under Hartzell's glove for an error.

Claudell Washington then forced Campaneris with Hargrove taking third base. Washington stole second base and Harrah singled home both runners to boost Texas in front 3-0.