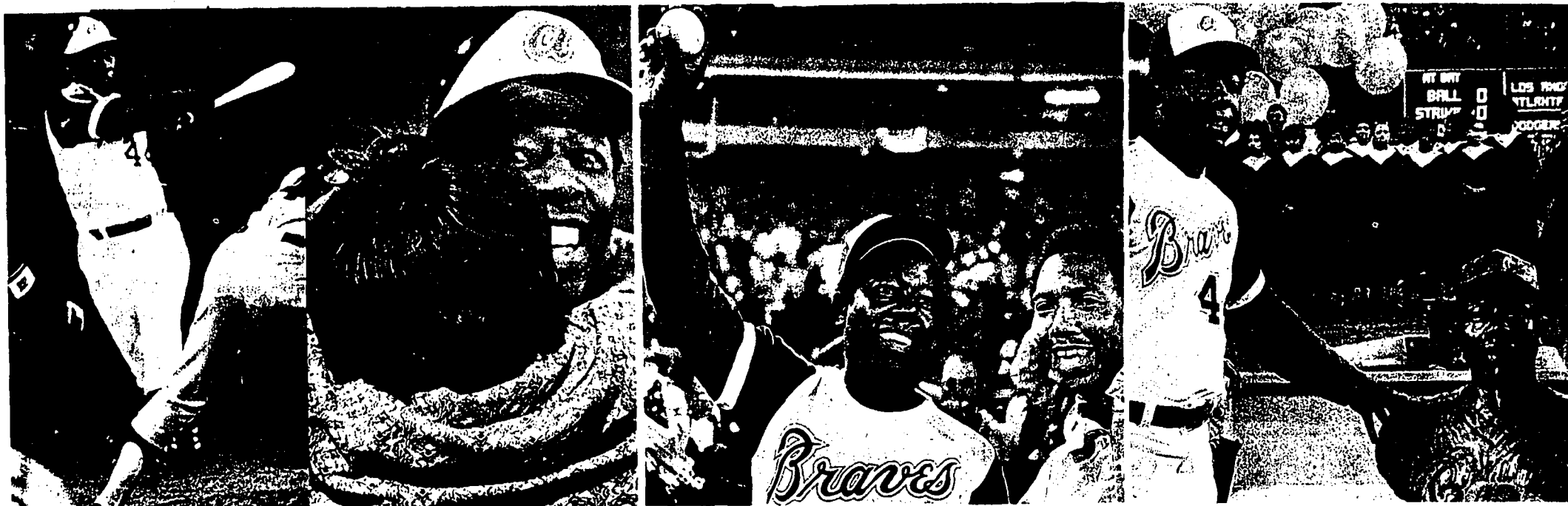


# AARON REIGNS AS HOME RUN KING: Humble Hero Captures Most Coveted Record

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## ATLANTA STADIUM'S MOST SPECTACULAR DAY

One of the most spectacular events ever to occur at Atlanta Stadium was generated by the bat of Henry "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron Monday night. Among the highlights (left to

right) his mighty swing which blasted home run number 715, making him the greatest home run hitter in history; this mighty embrace from his mother; his triumphant clutch-

ing of the home run ball as his body guard Det. Sgt. Calvin Wardlaw stood at his side; and a bronze bust of the hero,

which will be on display at the downtown Citizens and Southern Savings Bank.

# AARON REIGNS AS HOME RUN KING

## Humble Hero Captures Most Coveted Record

by JAMES D. HEATH

A new edition of the baseball record book chapter dealing with home runs will be written and this time it will include a king, none other than King Henry Aaron, who owns the record for the most homers.

King Henry was guaranteed the space in the version after he belted the 715th home run of his career Monday night at Atlanta Stadium. Thus he broke a tie with Babe Ruth for the number one position.

A crowd of 53,775 fans

turned Atlanta Stadium almost inside out as the 40-year-old slugger broke one of the oldest records in baseball history. It was 39 years ago when Ruth set the 714 mark.

The good note of the night was the Braves won while "the Hammer" was doing his thing. The win broke a three-game winning streak by the Los Angeles Dodgers, who went under, 7-4.

Aaron's 715 homer arrived in the fourth inning, his second time at bat.

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# Aaron Reigns

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Here's how the action went:  
**34 OUNCE BAT**

He swung his 34-ounce bat on a 1-0 count, one ball and no strikes. His arms were out in front of his body, as usual, and his powerful wrists snapped the bat around in a graceful compact arc. There was the solid rap of a baseball hitting wood, somewhat of a loud crack sound, a familiar sound in Atlanta Stadium.

Atlanta Stadium went crazy, Atlanta went crazy and 80 million plus television audience went crazy.

Fans were on their feet screaming before the ball reached the top of its arc. Dodgers outfielders Bill Buckner and Jimmy Wynn ran to the fence

Buckner leaped on the railing in a dying effort. But the ball cleared the left-center field fence near the 385 marker.

The ball was hit so solid that the bullpen pitcher Tom House of the Braves, caught it on the run. The bullpen is located in left field. With House's catch, Hank Aaron's long odyssey in quest of baseball's greatest record had ended.

## LARGEST CROWD EVER

The scoreboard in center-field flashed the magic number -- 715 in real bright lights. Balloons rose into the chilly air. Firework exploded. The largest crowd ever to see a baseball game in Atlanta was making what certainly was the loudest noise ever made by a baseball crowd in Atlanta.

Of the nearly 55,000 people in the stadium, and that's including the working news media, one person was very composed. Henry Aaron was out on the base paths, trotting easily over the course he had followed some 714 times before. He showed very little emotion, even when two young men who bucked the fence and bolted onto the playing field ran at his side.

And when he completed the bases, it was the greatest moment in baseball history.

When Aaron crossed home plate, he was met by his teammates, and in fact, his father, Herbert Aaron, who was sitting in one of the VIP boxes, leaped over the railing about five feet high and ran on to the field to greet his famous son. His mother, Mrs. Aaron, made her way to the field and gave her son one of the strongest embraces in his entire 40 years.

## POISED HAMMER

But it was the "Hammer" who remained poised and calm. For five minutes the fans screamed. Then the public address system announcer tried to get their attention. The noise subsided very gradually.

Bill Bartholomay, chairman of the board, was first to the mike and he presented several awards and gifts to the superstar. When it was Hank's turn to speak, his words were in the manner he is noted for, very simple, and to the point.

"I just thank God it's all over with," He said.

Now Hank Aaron can go back to blasting base hits and driving in runs and help the Braves win games. The record is his -- it grows every time he hits another home, in Atlanta Stadium or other National League parks. Finally, the pressure is off the Mobile, Ala. born star.

It was exactly 9:07 p. m. when the home run was recorded. It was 9:18 p. m. before the game was started again, an 11-minute delay.

The pitcher who Aaron blasted the homer off of, Al Downing, who wears the same number as Hank, No. 44, left the field and returned after the blast, he was all shook up. His next five pitches were all balls and he walked the next two batters, Dusty Baker and Davey John-

son. Downing was removed from the game moments later by Dodgers manager Walt Alston.

## TIED GAME

Aaron's homer tied the game at 3-3. Earlier the Dodgers had produced three runs in the third inning. Steve Garvey led off with a single and outfielder Bill Russell followed with a stand up double. Downing then drove in the first run with a single. Dave Lopes was next at bat and reached first via a fielder's choice since Russell was thrown out at home plate. After Bill Buckner popped out, outfielder Jimmy Wynn cleaned the bases with another stand up double.

The Braves were first to get on the scoreboard and Henry Aaron scored a lone run in the second inning. He led off with a walk and scored later on a two-base hit by Dusty Baker. In the fourth and most famous inning, third baseman Darrell Evans led off with a position at first after a throwing error by the Dodgers shortstop. Then Aaron stepped in the batter's box and after the second pitch, his record breaking homer was on its way over the fence.

Before the fourth inning was over with, the Braves had commanded a 5-3 lead. With Baker and Johnson on base, catcher Vic Correll reached first via another Dodgers error and the bases were loaded. Manager Eddie Mathews then sent Frank Tepino in to pinch hit for shortstop Craig Robinson and it paid off. The Dodgers walked Tepino and Baker scored. Ralph Garr posted the fifth run when Johnson scored on his long fly ball to left right field.

The Dodgers added another run in the sixth and Atlanta recorded two more in the same inning. Ron Reed was the winning pitcher and Al Downing was the loser.

After the game the Braves celebrated the evening with a champagne party, honoring one of the greatest stars in the game, King Henry Aaron.