

Metcalf talks about shootout

By TONY CALLUCCI
Battalion Staff Writer

"I'm sure it'll be a real good ballgame. There's a lot at stake," was the appraisal of Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf at a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

Metcalf did not comment at length on the proceedings of the night before when the Aggies lost a hard-

fought game against SMU apparently due to the inadequacies of the officials.

Metcalf reiterated earlier comments about the Tech game being the game that mattered, i.e. the game of the season. It is the big matchup yet to be played this year with the two teams in a virtual tie for first place, each with two losses. Tech

gains first place numerically by virtue of a one game advantage in the win column.

Metcalf emphasizes the wider playing range of Tech, "They're really deep. Geoff Houston's playing good which gives them additional depth at guard. And this kid, J.C. Eakins has really come on for them. He wasn't eligible until the term, and he didn't play against us up there (Lubbock)."

In answering a question about how the teams will match up, Metcalf replied, "Well, I don't know how Tech's gonna start." Two Red Raider starters have been hospitalized recently with the flu. Rudy Liggins and Grady Newton however did get

some playing time in against Texas on Tuesday and might conceivably be back in the starting lineup against A&M.

"There's no doubt it'll be more deliberate. I look for it to be one of those games where both teams get down in the trenches and battle it out," said Metcalf.

Bullock? "I think Bullock is one of the premier players in the conference. He's always played well against us," concluded Metcalf. Bullock scored 31 in a losing effort against the Aggies in Lubbock. The game will be the second televised game for the Aggies this season, both against Tech, and according to Metcalf, "It's gonna be a close ballgame."



Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf is pictured in a much calmer mood than was his temperament Tuesday night in Dallas.

The Ags face Texas Tech here Saturday in a crucial match.

Injunction blocks transfer of Giants

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Former major league owner Robert Short and San Francisco businessman Robert Lurie brought an \$8-million offer for the San Francisco Giants to court Wednesday and Judge John E. Benson issued an injunction blocking the proposed transfer of the baseball team to Toronto.

Short and Lurie were brought together at the last moment by San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, who took the stand first in Wednesday's Superior Court hearing and revealed their bid, which would match the basic offer of the Canadian group that includes Labatt's Breweries.

The offer by Short, former owner of the American League's Texas Rangers, and Lurie, a member of the Giants' board of directors, was not available in writing at the hearing. But Short said from the witness stand, "I'd be glad to do that if you'd give me four or five minutes."

The Canadian offer of \$13.25 million — including \$5.25 million set aside for court costs — was accepted in principle Jan. 9 by Giants President Horace Stoneham and the team's board of directors. But a temporary restraining order obtained by the city three days later prevented the Giants from taking the offer to other National League owners for approval.

The Short-Lurie offer is subject to acceptance by the current Giants ownership and to the approval of the league.

Lurie, besides being on the team's

board of directors, is a close friend of National League President Chub Feeney.

Short and Lurie met with a Giants' attorney, James Hunt, immediately after the court hearing. National League owners are scheduled to meet next Wednesday in Chicago, and 9 of the other 11 owners in the league must give approval for acceptance of any sale.

Short moved the Washington Senators to Texas in 1972 and sold his interest in that franchise in 1974.

The City of San Francisco, in seeking the preliminary injunction issued Wednesday, had cited the Giants' 35-year lease to play in city-owned Candlestick Park, specific wording in which Stoneham promised the team would play nowhere else through 1994.

Short and Lurie said they would be equal partners in ownership of the Giants and would start interviewing candidates for the vacant manager's job as soon as possible. Spring training is scheduled to open in two weeks.

Baseball negotiators meet

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Negotiators for major league baseball owners and the Players Association met again Wednesday with the owners presenting a new proposal on the controversial reserve clause.

"They presented an idea . . . not comprehensive one, but something to consider," said Marvin Miller, executive director of the Players Association.

John Gaherin, chief negotiator for the owners, termed the atmosphere Wednesday's meeting as "constructive."

"Did that mean progress had been made?"

"It's hard to say," said Miller. "Meanwhile, time is becoming a major factor in the start of spring training."

The owners have played it coy so far, refusing to announce camp reporting dates but denying that they are using the opening of training as a negotiating tactic.

Privately, however, some of them have pledged not to open camp until a contract agreement is reached. They point to 1972 when camps opened while negotiations continued and the players struck just before the start of the regular season.

If camps do not open on time, exhibition games could be canceled, cutting into an important source of income for the clubs. At the same time, however, the teams would save training camp expenses by keeping the doors shut.

The Players Association is annoyed at the cat-and-mouse game being played over spring training. Miller has scheduled a six-city, two-week tour beginning Monday to update players on the current status of talks.

The player relations committee said Wednesday it would follow Miller to continue negotiations. Sessions have been set for Friday in New York, termed by the owners as "lucky Friday, the 13th." Then the two sides will meet in Los Angeles next Monday and Wednesday, and back in New York on Saturday, Feb. 21.

Talks so far have been monopolized by the controversial reserve clause, an issue that has kept the players and owners constantly at odds over the last few years. At the heart of the matter is the decision of arbitrator Peter Seitz granting free agent status to pitchers Andy Messersmith and Dave McNally. That decision was upheld by Judge John W. Oliver in Kansas City last week, but the owners have said they would appeal that ruling to the Circuit Court.

The players have suggested that all other matters involved in the expired basic agreement be negotiated first with a reopener clause in the agreement enabling the parties to deal with the reserve clause later. The owners have rejected that idea, preferring to deal with the most troublesome issue first.

Miller has argued that continued litigation would delay the negotiations.

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