

Sportfolio

Pro draft illegal... but goes on

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

The big time gamblers in New York ran a game of body bingo Tuesday and Wednesday. But they weren't risking their own money, they gambled with the livelihoods of 442 men. Gambling is illegal in the state of New York, so they called the game the NFL draft and there were no cops, no arrests.

The NFL draft may not break gambling laws, but there is some question about legality of the selection method. Federal Judge William T. Sweigert said last month that the draft is "illegal and unreasonable" in Joe Kapp's suit against the league.

Kapp sued on the grounds that the standard NFL contract obligates a player to one team until traded, sold or released. Kapp did not file suit on the draft, but if some disenchanted player took action, it would take Perry Mason, Owen Marshall and Petrocelli to win the case for the NFL.

Stan Stress, a 55-year-old real estate man from San Diego, once sent out about 300 mailings to athletes and national leaders concerning the draft. In an open letter to the people of the United States, Stress

said "Pro sports are to sport what prostitution is to sex."

The Pro draft is clearly illegal because it strips the individual of the right to pursue his vocation to the best of his advantage. Those who get drafted high makes four or five times the amount of those drafted low, and the high draft choices are not always the best players. For example, Duane Thomas practically took the Dallas Cowboys to the Super Bowl championship in 1972. His salary for three years with the Pokes was \$18,000, \$20,000 and \$22,000, considerably lower than the guys who were drafted first round.

The proponents of the draft says that the balance of the NFL would be ruined if the current method were abolished. That is a farce because the present system of allowing the inferior teams the first choices in trades and some cases for money to maintain their supremacy in the league.

If Commissioner Pete Rozelle would just let the players choose their team the problem would be solved? The NFL could take the same 442 college prospects and recruit them just as any job would recruit personnel. Rank the players on a priority list so that the best players had first choice at the team of their desire. Salaries would be decided by the team and individual involved.

This method would probably

even create more balance of talent between the teams of the NFL. All the good players wouldn't go to one team because they wouldn't get to

play a great deal. Any guy that loves the game would want to play.

If the United States Government continues to let the pro sports

drafting go on, they may as well let doctors, teachers, lawyers, or any profession for that matter, set up a draft system.

Ag tracksters competing in SWC Indoor Meet

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

Texas A&M's track team will be struggling for a third place spot behind favored Texas and Baylor in the Southwest Conference Indoor championships being held today in the Fort Worth Civic Center.

Although track coach Charles Thomas is hopeful, he carries doubts about the Aggies pulling an upset. He says the indoor distance running is not the Aggies best department. He also bases his opinion on the fact that his team has had a long layoff and is not into top flight shape yet.

Texas has to be considered the meet favorite because of their depth

plus the fact they were the conference champs last year. Baylor has improved and will be a tough competitor.

A&M finished behind the pack in last week's LSU Invitational. Despite the standings Thomas was pleased with his team's showing. He believes the field events will continue to be strong during the year, especially the pole vault with the return of Brad Blair, last year's SWC champ.

Frank West is entered in the shot put for the Aggies which he won last week with a 53 foot toss. Manfred Kohrs will represent A&M in the mile run. He set a new A&M school record last week by trimming nine seconds of the old time in the indoor mile with a 4:12.1. The South African has only been on the A&M campus for three weeks.

The mile relay team of Horace Grant, Adolph Tingan, Doug Broadhead and Chuck Butler should be one of the stronger entries in the meet.

Charles Dawson, who tied a

school record in the 60-yard dash at LSU, is again entered in that event. Joe D'Ambrosio is also entered in the same event.

Other Aggie entries include Tom Owen in the long jump and Terry Byrd in the high jump. Butler and Sam Dierschke will run in the 440-yard dash while Tingan and Grant will go in the 600. Scottie Jones takes on the 60-yard hurdles. J. B. Yemme is entered in the 1000-yard run and Ron McGonigle will run in the 880.

In the distance medley relay the Aggies have Alan Nordheim, Paul Goodman, Danny Jones and Tim Jones. The two-mile relay will consist of Yemme, Nordheim, Jim Brannen, Jim Sheffield and Danny Jones. Bruce Smith will compete in the two-mile run.

A&M has one more indoor meet before starting the outdoor season. Houston's Astrodome will be the site of the National Federation Meet. "We have a good track team. After the next two or three meets we should be coming along real fine," said Thomas.



Doug Broadhead

Women go out of town for tourney

Texas A&M's women's basketball teams travels to Beaumont this weekend to take part in the Lamar Tournament.

Coach Kay Don's women stand 2-2 on the season thus far and own resounding wins over Rice, 99-16 and over Sam Houston State in a scrimmage, 87-40.

Playing for the team are Cissy Auclair, Karen Aulenbacher, Laura Holmes, Cindy Horton, Sally Morrisse, Lucy Neiman, Diane Quitta and Ruth Whitely. The ladies will be on the road until February 11 when they go against the Baylor women.

A&M Heart Award to be presented

The presentation of the Aggie Heart Award will be the main attraction of tomorrow night's awards in the Rudder Tower auditorium.

The 7 p.m. ceremony marks the eleventh time the award has been presented. The award was given twice in 1970 to Mike DeNiro posthumously and to Winston Beam. The award originated in 1965 when Joe Wellborn became the first honoree. Larry Ellis was last year's recipient.

The award is given to a senior member of the football team and is based on such traits as effort, desire, determination and dedication. Athletic ability is not essentially a major

part of determining the winner.

Also included in the night's festivities will be a highlight film of the 1974 season. Those A&M players who received recognition as either All-SWC or All-American will be given certificates. This year's team captains will be announced. Also during the ceremony will be a "surprise" of some sort.

After the program is concluded the players and their dates will be given a buffet in the Tower restaurant while their parents will visit the athletic dormitory and have their buffet there.

The ceremony is open to anyone wishing to come.

Baseball committee changes some rules

NEW YORK (AP) — If a pitcher wants to get credit for a "save," he's got to finish the game. And if a batter wants to finish a game — and avoid missing three others — he'd better not mess with his bat.

Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn said Thursday that the Official Playing Rules Committee, approving a proposal by the Baseball Writers Association of America, tightened the regulations under which relief pitchers qualify for a save.

Believers must finish a game won by his team and must not be the winning pitcher. Further, he must enter the game with a lead of three runs or less and must pitch at least one inning; or he must enter the game with the potential tying run either on base, at bat or on deck; or he must pitch effectively for at least three innings.

Under the old rules, more than one pitcher could qualify for a save, in which case the official scorer could credit it to the pitcher he deemed most effective. Or the scorer could not credit one at all.

Some players have begun using "cupped" bats, ones with an indentation in the thick end. To cope with this, the committee decided upon limits to such bats.

"An indentation in the end of the bat up to one inch in depth is permitted," the rule reads "and may be no wider than two inches and no less than one inch in diameter. The indentation must be curved with no foreign substance added."

Last month the committee approved a rule whereby a player who uses an illegally filled or doctored bat can be thrown out of a game and slapped with a three-day suspension.

Foreign substances on pitchers — mainly those who might be thinking about throwing a greaseball or some other illegal pitch — now will bring about immediate ejection from a game. Prior to the strengthening of this rule, an umpire could give a warning prior to sending an offending pitcher to the showers.

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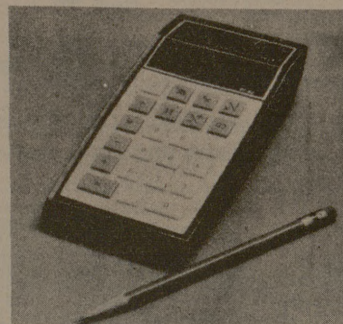
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