

Athletic oatmeal

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

It happens time and again and it never ceases to amaze me. This is football country all right and to semi-quote someone famous but unquotable at this point: football queers run rampant.

Texas is finally discovering that there are other sports to be seen and some are on the upswing. The three that have shown the greatest interest increase happen to be my favorite sports. Namely soccer, hockey and basketball. Football has always been king, which is odd because only one game in twenty can keep me from snoozing. Baseball has never fared well in Texas, despite the very high quality of Texas collegiate teams. Yet the sport is THE American pastime. Soccer is the world's most popular sport and the fastest growing sport in the U.S. But until last week, the Ag soccer team played on a gravelly eroded field. And they still have no coach.

Hockey fever has hit Houston in the past three years. In a city hungry for a winner of any kind, Houston sucked it up. They even have little league hockey. Dallas has little league soccer.

But now comes my gripe. Basketball.

This sport has existed in the state nearly as long as football and baseball. It ranks in between the two in roughness, is about the same in length, it is never ended in a tie or rained out but most important of all — it is exciting.

Shelby Metcalf has done as much for A&M basketball as Watergate has done for the Democrats. The Aggies are playing better basketball now than ever before in the school's history. Here they are: Undeclared in conference, sporting a better record than four top twenty teams and owning a win over another, and they're still playing before non-sell-out crowds. The Ags played before sellout crowds in Indiana and Austin. Yet in seven home games the Ags have yet to play before a full house. Where the hell are you? Tradition may be going, but is

love of sports disappearing too? I have seen bigger crowds in lean years. And you call yourself Aggies.

The shame of it is that in order to keep from turning people away from the door, closed circuit television was set up. And all for nought.

It's hard to imagine that a school of 21,000 people, a community of

quadruple that amount, could produce only 6,190 people at a basketball game. It might be reasonable if there was an increase in attendance over the last home game. But a week and a half ago against TCU there were 7,720 people present.

It's logical isn't it. Three wins later the Ags must perform before

1,500 less people. Baloney.

Without berating the two-percenters (I hate the word but it sure is accurate) anymore, I must praise the crowd who did attend. The 6,000 or so present were the most enthusiastic bunch of people I have ever seen. Standing ovations that wouldn't quit. What the hell, who needs the rest of you. The 6,000

solid supporters we have now could carry the Ags through the rest of the season. Let's not waste our fees to set up closed circuit for those who come if they can get a ride across the sidewalk, or don't feel like coming unless they can see a 'good' team like Arkansas or someone play the Ags.

queers and us basketball queers'll enjoy our sport.

I don't know if the increased pressure from writers around the state has had an effect or not but something is happening. Two of the last three Aggie games have been well officiated.

Last night's SMU was the best

called game I have seen this high school matches excepted. 42 fouls were called and some came in the last few minutes as Aggies raced furiously for 100. A few fouls were missed or called wrong. In fact those were the best. And I remember only a few of those "I'd walk a mile for a vel" calls.



Waldrep envisions new life

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Christian running back Kent Waldrep, paralyzed in a football game last October, made his trip out of the hospital in a wheelchair Tuesday and said he is determined to walk his way back to a normal life.

"I am not going to be satisfied until I get out of this wheelchair and walk," said the high spirited TCU junior as he watched his school basketball team play the Rice Owls.

Waldrep, who was injured in a football game with Alabama last October 26, received a standing ovation when he was introduced before the game. He was accompanied by his mother, Denise.

Waldrep has been undergoing treatment at the Texas Institute for Research and Rehabilitation here since his release from a Birmingham, Ala., hospital.

Asked if he expected to come all the way back Waldrep said firmly: "I never thought I wouldn't come back all the way. You see a lot of different kinds of people in the hospital. Some people are satisfied to sit in a wheelchair. I will never be that way."

Waldrep said while he was hospitalized in Alabama, he thought he would be "moving around" by this summer and he stills feels that way.

He has regained partial use of his hands and spends about three hours daily in physical therapy.

"The feeling is back in my legs," he said. "I can feel all the way down to my toes now. For a while there they were like foreign objects."

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