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O'Donovan congratulates Ag cagers

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By GERARD A. O'DONOVAN
 Special to the Batt
 EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. O'Donovan, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at Texas A&M, is a working member of NATO, member of several honorary national and international scientific research societies, a freelance sportswriter who has been published by "Sports Illustrated" and is a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

ball. On his hearing of the great fanfare accorded a recent signing of some high school football player by the Razorbacks, in Broyles' former stronghold, Sutton blasted the untimely nature of the acclaim during the basketball season when he was tied for the lead in the SWC. I MUST AGREE.

As I recently pointed out, one rarely sees comparisons between McAdoo and Simpson (both of Buffalo; both are winners) nor do we find pigskin superlatives to describe Walt "Clyde" Frazier, Rick Barry or Rudy Tomjanovich. The opposite is too often the case; passing records of football quarterbacks are said to be broken by slowdowns and seven (yes, that many) versions were given of a "wrong call" in the Kansas State vs. Syracuse game. The one I enjoyed was "jumping offside" — in a basketball game? No wonder Texas Tech remained in Lubbock instead of a trip to the Commissioner's Tournament or indeed as a HAPPY replacement for North Carolina State and David Thompson.

Coach Sloan on TV, March 15, crammed his entire leg down his throat in trying to extricate a disconsolate David Thompson; failing, NIT, putting the screws on, has received a double apology; NIT is not a loser's tournament but usually is the start of something big. For Thompson, a sure-pro-star of tomorrow will always be reminded of it on his visits to Gotham City! The Big Town has a way!

Earlier this year Jerry Waggoner of the "Eagle" suggested a clinic for SWC (and all) officials; may I suggest a writer's clinic or that newspapers attempt to get the facts to the readers. Too long the Atlantic Coast Conference has been so overrated by scribes and "Top 20" AP voters ("fill in the 15 spaces you like") with their golden pens. I wonder how many of those ACC lads go to San Diego. I'm betting NONE, and that is how it should be.

(Note: This article was written prior to the semifinal round of the NCAA basketball playoffs and mailed from Seville, Spain.)

Unbeaten, Indiana deserves their No. 1 rating but come semifinal time those same Hoosiers will be watching from back home in Indiana. Crazy? Just watch next weekend when I will be in Seville, Spain beating a different drum, representing TAMU College of Agriculture at the Spanish International Congress of Biochemistry.

Lest we forget, I have taken it upon myself to write this dual-purpose commentary: (1) to pay tribute to the recent excellent coverage in the Batt, of Sports and (2) to congratulate Coach Dr. Shelby Metcalf and squad for providing us with one hell of a season. Yes, it is Dr. Shelby Metcalf, three times Southwest Conference Champion, 20 wins in a season and over 100 in SWC play. Not bad for a black bass fisherman out of Tulsa; not bad at all.

I had the pleasure of accompanying Coach Metcalf and the squad to Waco for the A&M vs. Baylor game. An integral part of the unit was two young writers, both staff writers for the Batt, namely Tony Gallucci and David Walker. I am not alone in stating that they were the best pair of writers in the SWC during the basketball season — hence most of the AP/UPI stories were derived directly or indirectly from the Batt.

As the young season droned by, Coach Metcalf told me that he noticed their ever-presence; he was overwhelmed when they had driven on their own to Fayetteville and Lubbock to report the blow-by-blow of both the early games. I noticed that they had the respect of every player and squad member; they provided clippings for Norman Reuther and before, during or after a game they never made a nuisance of themselves.

Impressed with their reporting and homework, the coach received permission to take them along on the rest of the games, through the liaison of Marvin Tate, associate athletic director. I had already observed their complementary style. Of course they had the advantage no outside reporter could ever attain, but there were no comparable scribes, bar none.

Edited by Mike Bruton with the budding reporters like Tony and David among others, Sports in the Batt exalted itself into a kingdom of its own making. As one who scribbles a freelance line himself, I was impressed by the one "devastating" statistic in our home loss to Tech — we had two, yes two assists — and Tony Gallucci alone poignantly encircled it. Dam it, Eddie Sutton gave us three and he was on the floor for only about 20 minutes! But in your rush, dear reader, to give him the "equine guffaw" give him as well one SOLID plus for SWC Basketball.

Meanwhile, I will expect John Wooden to go out a winner after the most illustrious coaching career in history. Truly, they call him coach!

Let me fulfill my promise by adding a few words about the team and in so doing let me commend the Aggie crowds this year. As Shelby puts it, "They are in a class apart" and if ever I saw a team ALREADY WINNERS it was when I heard of the G. Rollie White PA system: "And now for the SWC-leading Texas Aggies coached by Shelby M..." A LOUD long unbelievable ovation had the lads from SMU reeling and their coach, calm and cool, knew it well. Never have I seen so

strong and so friendly an applause. I must also praise the Baylor crowd who roared their hustling team on to a 12-point lead about five minutes before the half against the Aggies and but for an explosive outburst by Barry Davis before the halftime meeting of the minds, the second half became history. Even when we "put it away" the crowd behaved themselves well.

creature we know so well but understand so poorly, will do what is expected of him. SWC crowds soon will ALL become excellent HOME CROWDS and here EVEN MORE THAN IN HIS COACHING PROWESS does Dr. Metcalf excel. What is an excellent home crowd? Loud, partisan, letting the players and umpires do their jobs ON the

Batt sports

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Associate Athletic Director Marvin Tate shakes Coach Shelby Metcalf's hand at the Basketball Awards Banquet.

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