



I'm not the Quarterback

By DAVID WALKER
Battalion Sports Writer

When I was in high school every Friday at 3:00 all of us kids were herded into the gym to go through 30 minutes of hell called "pep rally."

All of the teachers would sit across the gym and watch us to be sure that we didn't do anything wrong. (They said they were watching to see which class had the most spirit but you try to get one "Beat the hell out of someone" in there and you'd be doing one hour after school every day for the next week.)

That's what's so great about A&M's own midnight yell practice, you can say anything you want about the other team and chances are good that someone around you will yell in approval.

And you don't have to worry because there aren't any teachers sitting around waiting to hold you after class.

But things will be a little different this week. While your teacher won't be watching, the rest of the United States will be.

CBS will be in town this week to do a feature on Aggie spirit. They'll have their cameras at yell practice and at the game Saturday getting it all down on celluloid for the nation viewers. The feature will be on the tube next Saturday and since the Ags are open it will be a good chance for all us egotists to get to see ourselves on TV.

SWC CHAMPS

While one Aggie team is trying to win a Southwest Conference championship there is another one working to keep the one they've got.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's defending basketball champs are working out daily getting ready for their December 1 opener against Wayland Baptist.

The Ags are a blend of the old and new. Returning are starters Barry Davis and All-American candidate Sonny Parker. Super sub Ray Roberts is also back for his senior year but he will have to trade in the tag super sub because he'll be starting.

The Ags also expect some help from junior Steve Jones. Metcalf feels Jones has a chance to become the Aggies comeback player of the year.

Gates Erwin is also returning for his senior year with Doug Mezger back for his soph season.

Then come the freshmen, last but surely not least. What a group. Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams from Houston Kashmere, Joey Robinson from Tulsa, Wally Swanson and Bob Middleton from the state of Illinois and Bryan Holland from Richardson. The Ags also have one walk-on to make the practice squad in Kevin Jones who is a junior college transfer.

It should be an interesting season with no less than six teams having title chances. It will be a different season than any in the past.

The University of Houston begins to play for keeps in the conference race. But the biggest change will be the post season tournament. The tourney doesn't decide the SWC champion. The champ is the one who is at the top of the heap when the regular season is over. The tourney decides the playoff representative.

The champion will receive a bye into the finals of the tourney. The top four schools will host the bottom four in the first round. Then all the winners go to Dallas to decide who goes to thencea.

Should be interesting, especially for the Ags who will be a young team. Young teams usually get better the longer they play. The tournament is ideal for that type of team because it enables them to stay in the title race until the last week of the season.

Anyway what this is all getting to is that the Ag roundballers have their first scrimmage of the season this Saturday morning at 9:30 in G. Rollie. It's open to the public and it doesn't cost a thing.

It would be a good chance to catch an early look at what's to come this basketball season.

Sports Shorts

Compiled by TONY GALLUCCI
Battalion Sports Editor

I BELIEVE . . . it was written in large green letters on the wall in the Commons . . . it wasn't painted on the wall, but written on a sheet of paper taped down . . . below that ominous statement read the words . . . IN BAYLOR FUMBLES AND TEXAS A&M . . . signed DG Disciples . . . mental vigilantes . . . pro-Aggies bent on communicating with something as powerful but not as destructive as baseball bats . . .

the DG disciples? . . . don't know, but the evidence is everywhere . . . and welcome . . . Linda Cuthbert, a Canadian diver finished third in the Pan Am competition but that's not what got her the publicity Wednesday . . . On one dive her strap broke and the top half of her bathing suit sunk to her waist . . . she pulled it back up quickly . . . not so bad . . . but wait, must've forgot about that Mexican TV underwater camera broadcasting live . . . or maybe not, she surfaced red-faced . . . the TV station showed the instant replay twice . . . AP picks . . . USC 24, ND 21 . . . Nebr. 27, Colo. 17 . . . A&M 30, Baylor 20 . . . Bama 35, TCU 7 . . . Texas 28, Rice 7 . . . elsewhere . . . Denver 2, Calgary 1 . . . Los Angeles 5, Chicago 3 . . . Buffalo 9, Rangers 1 . . . Montreal 4, Detroit 1 . . . Kansas City 4, Washington 2 . . . Toronto 3, Vancouver 2 . . . Atlanta 1, St. Louis 1

World Football League Commits financial suicide

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Unable to attract fans, unable to sign many name players and unable to overcome the bad memories of 1974, the World Football League gave up on its dream of regaining respectability and folded in midseason Wednesday.

In the 12th week of the second year of the most unsuccessful professional sports league ever formed, the WFL folded its tent. Left behind were 380 football players suddenly without jobs and \$30 million lost since the bright summer days of 1974 when Gary Davidson and his supporters were predicting expansion around the world.

Chris Hemmeter, the Hawaiian millionaire who rescued the WFL from almost certain death last winter with a financing formula that tied player salaries to ticket sales, headed back to his island home Wednesday after announcing there was no point in the league going on.

The WFL ceased operations Wednesday, apparently making all its players free agents who can be immediately signed by whatever National Football League team holds their rights.

The decision to shut down the WFL was made Wednesday afternoon in a conference telephone call linking Hemmeter in New York with the league's 10 franchise cities. Then Hemmeter made the announcement.

Memphis and Birmingham, the WFL's most successful franchises and perhaps the two best clubs in the league, plan to apply to the NFL

as expansion clubs. Officials of the two teams intend to keep their own players and try to sign other league players as well.

WINGS FOLD

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — Despite raising \$250,000 in a week to keep the San Antonio franchise of the World Football League alive, the Wingsold Wednesday along with the rest of the financially drained league.

"We respect these people. They had done all they could do," said a nearly tearful head coach Perry Moss moments before the Wings management announced demise of the league.

San Antonio finished with a 7-6 record. They qualified for a now-meaningless playoff berth by a 7-4

record to win the summer half of the west division of the WFL.

All their wins came at home in the stone and mortar high school stadium on a tree-choked hill just north of downtown.

Their losses came on the road. "I understand it was others who killed the league," said Moss. "We were ready to go on."

The Wings had won or were fighting more battles than just those on the gridiron during their first year in the WFL.

They had convinced the school district which owned the stadium to let them sell financially-important beer at home games.

They had staved off for a while a federal court suit filed by the owner of the city's former minor league team, the San Antonio Toros.

They also overcame a WFL ul-

timatum to raise by noon Wednesday enough cash to operate the rest of the year or pull out.

Shortly after noon, word began to spread the league was dead.

NEW LEAGUE


SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — Four teams from the non-defunct World Football League are talking already about opening a new league next year of publically-owned, non-profit teams, San Antonio Wings ex-governor Norm Bevan said Wednesday.

San Antonio; Shreveport, La.;


Jacksonville, Fla.; and Charlotte, N.C., have informally talked forming such a league, Bevan enthusiastically shortly after announcing the demise of his Wings.

Ralph Rich, one of the investors in the Wings, contended that efforts would be made by the new league.

"Right now it's going to be hard to get anybody interested," Rich said as Wings filed solemnly from their San Antonio training area. "The still there."



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