

Good sportsmanship: there's no place like home

We take it. That's right, we the students at Texas A&M University, informally known as Aggies, take it.

We are like the boney guy in the Charles Atlas advertisement who always gets sand kicked in his face by the bully of the beach.

The bully, in this case, is just about every team in the Southwest Conference. Everywhere the Aggies go, the fans, cheerleaders and bands of opposing teams seem to get the biggest laugh out of the Aggies. It seems that all of the schools make the most fun of Texas A&M.

My question is, what is it that brings out the worst in fans around the conference when the Aggies come to town?

Is it because the Aggies take themselves too seriously? Or is it because everyone likes to pick on the person who gets the maddest when he is made fun of? Or are we like the boney guy on the beach: everyone knows they can kick sand in our face and we won't kick back?

Why don't Aggies yell and jump up and down when an opposing team is taking a free-throw shot at a basketball game in G. Rollie White Coliseum? Or boo when the referee makes an obviously bad call? Or boo when an opposing team just steps onto the court?

It seems weird that your whole life you booed at sporting events and even cursed the refs at the top of your lungs at times, and then you came to A&M, you had to change. No more booing, no more screaming while a player from Texas or Arkansas or Baylor was trying to sink the game-winning basket at the free throw line. No more signs making fun of the other team. No more obscene gestures or language?

What could be the answer to this question? Easy, it's a matter of class. Most schools in the conference don't show as much class at either basketball or football games as the fans at Texas A&M.

For example, most schools have their own version of the Aggie War Hymn. Needless to say, the words just aren't the same. In fact, members of the Texas Longhorn band have made up several songs about the Aggies.

The Aggies have not played a conference game on the road before a civilized crowd, with the exception of the SMU game. The Mustang fans are to be applauded.

A trip around the conference will give us a better picture of our "friendly" foes.

In Houston, Cougar fans were so frustrated by their team's five-point second half that they started to give the middle finger salute to the Aggie basketball team. Cougar fans didn't appreciate Aggie David Britton giving

ing them a taste of their own hot-dogging medicine and threw cups to show their displeasure. They are getting better though, at least they didn't chant "33-0" throughout the game.

At Texas, the Longhorn band sang their songs about A&M while the male cheerleaders stood in front of 16,000 people mocking the Aggie yell leaders. The crowd got a good laugh from the spectacle. And when the game was out of the Aggies' reach, the Horn fans started the usual "Poor Aggies" chant.

Things got worse when the team traveled to Rice's Autry Court. The



viewpoint

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

so-called intellectual, private school Owl, showed the extent of their vocabulary by exuding four letter words and playing songs taken straight from the Bugs Bunny Car-

toon Hour. The Rice band would strike up the Looney Tunes theme when the Aggie yell leaders would do a yell.

But when the Aggies went to

Baylor's Heart O' Texas Coliseum, they hit rock bottom. The Bear fans' conduct was the worst of the conference to this point.

The Bears greeted the Aggies with a round of boos, told Metcalf to leave numerous times, threw ice, trash and little gold basketballs on the court throughout the game. And before the game even started, one group pranced around in green fatigues, helmets and pants tucked into cowboy boots mocking the senior members of the Corps and the Aggie band. One Bear fan took his frustrations out on a referee by clouting him with a cup. The scene

continued to get out of hand. Finally, the public address announcer had to ask the wonderful fans to stay off the court.

Needless to say, the Aggies are not well liked around the conference. But I must wonder if that is the fans' conduct for everyone in the conference or are they in this rare form just for the Aggies?

It must really surprise other teams when they come to play at G. Rollie White Coliseum and the fans don't boo them when they are being introduced. Or when the referees make a bad call and all that is heard

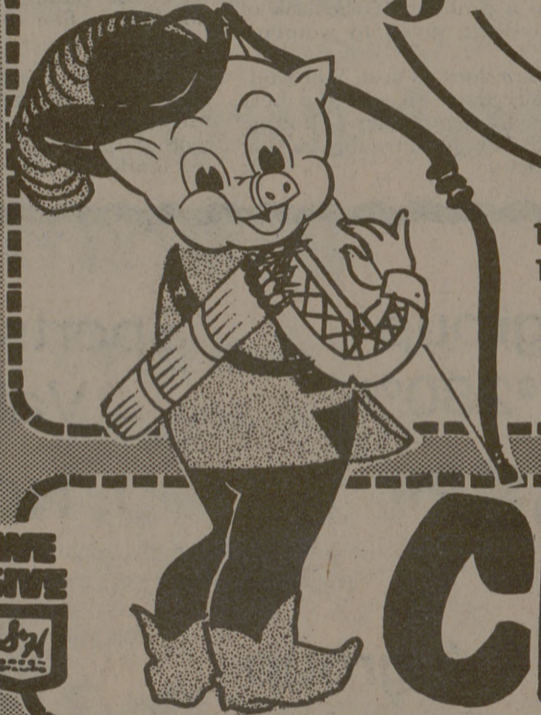
is a horse laugh. Or not a horse laugh, cups or other debris during the game. They are shocked when no matter how they may be beating the Aggie fans are still there.

Most coaches have enjoyed playing at G. Rollie White Coliseum and the excitement of the fans and the excitement

The Aggie fans may not be the most rabid basketball fans at the conference but they are by a long way the best behaved and the most class.

In short, the Aggie fans are class by themselves. Congratulations.

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Brandt reports denied

United Press International NEW YORK — Tim Mara, vice president and treasurer of the New York Giants, denied published reports Tuesday that Gil Brandt, the highly regarded personnel director of the Dallas Cowboys, was no longer a candidate for the Giants' director of operations post.

Brandt, the Cowboys' vice president for personnel development since their birth in 1960, is considered a leading candidate for the Giants' job along with Don Klosterman, the Los Angeles Rams' general manager.

However, Cowboys' President Tex Schramm has told Tim Mara and his uncle, Wellington, the Giants' president, that Brandt would not be released until after the NFL's college player draft May 1-2. The complication spurred reports that Brandt had been eliminated from consideration as the successor to Andy Robustelli.

Wellington Mara, scheduled to return to New York Tuesday from the Pro Bowl in Los Angeles, admitted in the reports that Brandt's situation was "a real serious consideration" for the Giants.

But Tim Mara, who is known to be differing with his uncle over the choice for a director of operations, said from his office at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., "I don't feel Gil Brandt is eliminated yet. We're working on the draft right now ourselves. We've asked all the candidates for their opinions on head coaches and if we could agree on who the coach should be and hire him, I think we could carry on for another two months without a D.O. What's another month or two in the long run?"

Wellington Mara was en route from the West Coast Tuesday and unavailable for comment.

Tim Mara would not reveal if he had settled on a choice for D.O., but said he would meet with his uncle Wednesday to discuss the candidates interviewed during the past six weeks. Mara said the Giants had talked to "between five and 10" candidates and hoped to reach a decision by the end of the week. Brandt and Klosterman were interviewed last weekend when the Maras were in Los Angeles.