

the sports

Alumni, athletes and autos do not mix

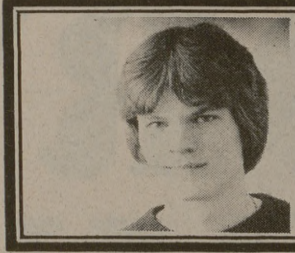
What do you get when you mix alumni, athletes and automobiles? Trouble.

You don't believe me? Just ask Karl Godine or Jarvis Williams or Darrell Shepard.

Or you might try asking Mack Moore, a defensive tackle who transferred to Texas A&M from San Francisco City College this spring. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram has reported that Moore purchased a car from Huffines Chevrolet-Ford-Buick in Commerce using a loan from the Bank of Dallas.

So where's the trouble, you ask? Well for starters, the loan that Moore received is the type normally reserved for preferred commercial customers.

And then there is the fact that



viewpoint

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Editor

J.L. Huffines Jr., owner of the car dealership, and J.L. Huffines Jr., chairman of the bank, and J.L. Huffines Jr., member of the board of directors of the Aggie Club, are all the same J.L. Huffines Jr.

This all adds up to a possible

no-no in the NCAA's book of dos and don'ts.

Starting to sense a slight problem here?

So did the folks at the Texas A&M athletic department. Monday head football coach Tom Wilson and

interim athletic director Marvin Tate prepared a statement that they have presented to the Southwest Conference office.

Wilson and Tate have said that they knew nothing of the loan arrangements prior to reading the story in the newspaper.

"We have submitted our side of the story to the conference officials," Wilson said. "Hopefully they will make an investigation and possibly turn it over to the NCAA for investigation."

Tom Turbiville, assistant information director for the SWC, would not say that the conference had planned a special investigation, but only that "the conference continually investigates its schools."

OK, how about the NCAA?

The NCAA is not allowed to confirm or deny an investigation. But NCAA executive assistant Steve Morgan wasted no time thumbing through the rulebook when asked over the phone Monday to explain how certain rules would apply in "hypothetical situations."

According to Morgan's paraphrasing of the rules, it is illegal for a representative of a school to offer a preferred bank loan to a student athlete.

"A representative of an institution, in NCAA legislation, is anyone who is involved in the recruiting on behalf of that institution or anyone who at one time was involved in recruiting," Morgan said. "A former president of a booster club is certainly likely to be considered a representative."

"Any special arrangements

provided to student athletes that another student at Texas A&M could not receive would be illegal," Morgan continued. "Technically, that amounts to pay, as the term is used under the NCAA's amateur rules." It has been reported that other students have received the same type of loan from the Bank of Dallas that Moore received.

The athletic department has taken the proper step by putting together a report and inviting quick investigation of the matter.

"When a story like this breaks," Tate said, "we're guilty until we prove ourselves innocent. We are put in the situation now where we must prove that we weren't wrong."

Moore, although he may be having second thoughts concerning where he does his banking, has

taken a smart step. He refuses to answer his phone.

It seems to me that the persons who are in the wrong in this matter are Huffines and Riley Couch III, a Bank of Dallas vice president and former Dallas Aggie Club president, who made the loan to Moore.

It does not matter whether or not they made the loan in good faith. It does not matter what is determined by any investigations.

The fact is — as Wilson or Tate will tell you — that the Texas A&M athletic department has once again been scarred in the eyes of the public.

Huffines and Couch should have had the foresight to realize that this situation could create trouble. They should have realized that alumni, athletes and automobiles don't mix.

Double-header today

Ags, Chiefs split twin bill

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

No matter how hard they try, the Texas Aggies just can't sweep a baseball series this season. The same held true Monday as the Aggies split the first two games of a four-game series with Oklahoma City University. The Aggies dropped the first game, 4-3 in eight innings, before winning the nightcap, 5-0.

The first game, scheduled to go seven innings, was the first extra-inning loss for the Aggies this season, having won their first two extended games this year. Randy McDonald, in relief, took the loss for the Aggies. McDonald's record is now 1-3.

Oklahoma City scored in the first inning on three singles and a walk off starter Alan Buonasera. The Aggies tied the game in the home half of the second on a walk to Simon Glenn, a stolen base and a balk by starting pitcher Bill Ray. Glenn scored on a drag bunt single by Bryan Little, his 15th RBI of the season.

After the Chiefs scored a run in their half of the third, the Aggies again tied the game. Shelton McMath, who entered the series as the leading hitter on the A&M club with a .347 average, worked Ray for a walk and stole second. Gary Bryant advanced McMath to third with a single and Glenn singled to drive in McMath.

The Aggies took the lead in the fourth after OCU scored a run in the top of the inning. Little led off for the Aggies, hitting a single and advancing to second on a wild pitch. Randy Woodruff advanced Little with a single and after Rodney Hodde worked a walk, Kyle Hawthorne plated two runs with a ground-rule double.

The Chiefs tied the game on three consecutive singles in the fifth. Buonasera was lifted for McDonald and the sophomore from Fort Worth quelled the Chief uprising. The two clubs remained tied until the top of the eighth when OCU scored a run on a single by Keith Grant, a wild pitch and an RBI single by Don Murphy. McMath singled in the bottom of the inning for the Aggies and, after stealing second, was left on the bag. In the



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Mike Hurdle slides safe as OCU third baseman Bob Fiala drops the ball.

contest, the Aggies left 15 men stranded.

"We just couldn't hit with men on base," Aggie coach Tom Chandler said. "You have to leave the dugout ripping with ducks on the pond. It's ridiculous. We just can't get the big hit."

Ray, in going the distance for the Chiefs, evened his record at 3-3 for the year. Ray was tagged for four earned runs on 10 hits while walking nine.

After a 20-minute break between games, the Aggies took to the field to avenge their first-game loss. Behind the five-hit pitching of freshman Steve Davis, A&M defeated the Chiefs 5-0.

Prior to Monday's outing, Davis had pitched 16 innings this season for the Aggies, posting a 5.06 ERA. But for the seven innings he pitched Monday he was untouchable, earning the win and elevating his record to 3-0 on the year.

"I had my troubles the first few innings," Davis said. "My curve ball

wasn't working at all and I had to throw about 90 percent fastballs."

Davis was in danger of losing his shutout only once, in the third when John Guthrie lead off with a single, advanced to second on an infield error and moved to third on a fielder's choice. But Guthrie was left stranded when John Hansen grounded out to end the inning.

The Aggies scored in the second on a single by Mike Hurdle, who advanced to second on a wild pitch by OCU pitcher Scott Tiemann, to third on an infield out and scored on a ground out by Glenn. The Aggies added three more runs in the third on five hits, the big blow a two-run home run by Hawthorne, his sixth of the year. Texas A&M added a run in the fourth on back-to-back doubles by Woodruff and Hodde.

In the sixth, Aggie shortstop Bryan Little led off with a single, extending his consecutive game hitting streak to 11 games. Little collected three hits in the first game of the day.

"I was kind of nervous going up there in the sixth," Little said. "I didn't think about the streak until my last time up but the guys in the dugout were talking about it. I probably wouldn't have been thinking about it but we were five runs ahead at the time."

In the two games Monday, Aggie second baseman Randy Woodruff collected four hits in eight at-bats. The offensive outburst elevated his batting average to .311 on the year, a level to which he isn't too accustomed.

"I started getting a lot of cheap

hits at the beginning of the year," said Woodruff, a career .226 hitter. "Last week (Assistant) Coach Sampson worked with me in the batting cage. He changed the grip on my right hand, I'm hitting the ball harder now, hitting more line drives. And that's what I have to do to be effective."

In his third year on the team, Woodruff is feeling the effects of this year's record on the Aggies. With the split Monday, A&M's record stands at 18-12.

"There's no sense in losing to teams like this," Woodruff said. "We're just not putting out 100 percent. We're making little mistakes this year that are costing us games."

"All season we've lacked fire. We need one person to come to the front, somebody that will get on somebody's back when they do something wrong. We've just let things slide this year, thinking that we'll get them next game. But we don't have too many next games left."

The Aggies and Chiefs are scheduled to play another double-header today, starting at 1 p.m. at Olsen Field. Monday, Coach Chandler had not decided on the starting pitchers for today's games.

"Mark Ross will probably pitch the first game and (Mark) Thurmond may pitch the second one," Chandler said. "Thurmond threw 105 pitches Saturday (against TCU) and he may not be ready to go. Or he might pitch the first game if we're in it and Ross needs some relief. But after that, who knows who will pitch."

Dodgers defeat Astros

United Press International
HOUSTON — Hot-hitting Bill Russell slammed a solo home run and Jerry Reuss, acquired by Los Angeles just two days ago, allowed only one hit over four innings of relief Monday night to save the Dodgers' 2-1 victory over Houston and hand the Astros their first defeat of the season.

Sunday in a trade for Rick Rhoden, entered the game in the sixth and yielded only one hit and one walk to post a save in relief of Bob Welch, 1-0. Welch allowed just three hits but left the game after Houston tied the score in the fifth inning when Enos Cabell led off with a bunt single, moved to third on Art Howe's hit-and-run single and scored on Alan Ashby's groundout.

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