

the sports



viewpoint

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Sports Editor

Noblemen of Rice?

Hey, have you heard the latest Aggie joke? If you haven't heard it, you might have seen it. And if you haven't seen or heard it, let me tell it to you.

It seems the Aggies decided to add on to Kyle Field, their 54,000 seat football stadium, and expand it to hold 72,000. It seemed to be a great idea because it meant more Aggies could watch the Aggie football team which means more money for A&M — which is good.

So the Aggies hired an Ag to do the job, Mr. H.B. Zachry, and he was asked to start the job as soon as the Aggies and TCU Horned Frogs walked off the field Nov. 25 — the Aggies last home football game.

And much like the main man in the Bible, he said he would tear Kyle Field down and rebuild it in three days or at least by the beginning of the next football season when the Aggies would host the Brigham Young Cougars. And everyone bought the idea.

But H.B. didn't get the message from the man upstairs that it would rain for forty days and forty nights in Aggieland, putting a halt to his temple building for a while.

And get this, the Aggies probably won't play a home football game at home next year because the concrete monster we know as Kyle Field will probably have more construction workers in the third decks than football fans on Oct. 13, the date H.B. is to have finished the home of the Fightin' Texas Aggie football team (whoop).

Some joke, huh?

But looking at the situation realistically, it all adds up to a possible big pain in the, well, never mind.

But the experts from Zachry say the stadium will be ready.

You thought you were going to get tickets so easily next year with 72,000 available seats didn't you? Nope, sorry.

And I can see the story now, "The Texas Aggies will play the Houston Cougars at Bryan's Viking Stadium, Saturday Oct. 13 at 2:00 p.m. The drawing for the 1,000 tickets allotted to A&M students will be held Friday afternoon. Good Luck."

Yea, but the experts from Zachry say Kyle Field will be ready Oct. 13.

Just think, no midnight yell practices at Kyle Field. Why, the beer consumption in College Station could drop drastically next fall. No following the band into Kyle Field. No pinching. No lights out. No grode stories. No fightin' Texas Aggie offense (whoop), Coach Tom Wilson (whoop), no nothin'.

And what about all the reunions for the old Ags?

I will never be able to write, "Well, the Aggies are coming back home after a long road trip." The whole season will be a road trip.

What about all the season ticket holders? What season are they holding their tickets for?

But the experts from Zachry assure us we will be sitting in Kyle Field Saturday Oct. 13.

Somehow I find it hard to believe. And I'm not alone.

"I drive by Kyle Field every day," said A&M athletic director Marvin Tate, "and it looks like it's going so slow but maybe once they get all the groundwork done the rest of it will come up fast."

Tate is between the proverbial rock and hard place with season ticket sales and plans for next season.

"I'm in a tough position," he said. "I have to go with what the Zachry people are telling me and every report we get says they are going to make it. So as far as season tickets go, we are selling them for Kyle Field."

But if push comes to shove, we have talked to Rice and have an agreement to play there if we run into problems here. Logistically it would be very tough for us to play at Rice but we may have no choice.

"And we really don't want to even talk about playing at Rice in order to keep pressure on the contractor to get the job done here. We don't want to play at Rice or any other stadium except Kyle Field."

And I'm sure you, the fans, don't want to have to drive into Houston every weekend we are supposed to have a home game. What about when Rice plays at home also? Are we going to kick them out of their own stadium or play double-headers or what?

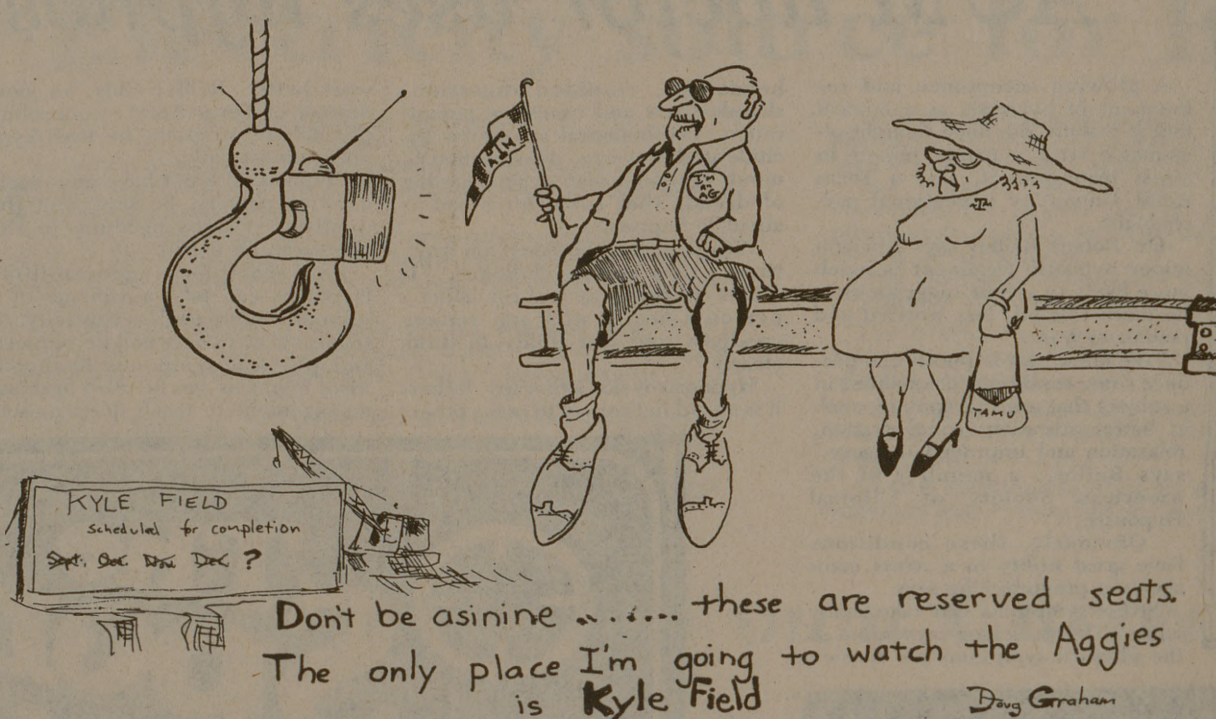
"Today's twin bill pits Rice against Texas and Texas A&M against Houston in the nightcap," the papers will say.

Tate said that the Aggies will play in Kyle Field if the stands are finished but the pressbox isn't. Thanks a lot. I can see myself and the rest of the press being suspended from a crane 100-feet in the air, swaying in the breeze with our notepads, hanging on for dear life next season.

Phils sink Astros

United Press International  
PHILADELPHIA — Larry Bowa singled home Bud Harrelson with the go-ahead run Monday night, sparking a two-run rally in the seventh inning that gave the Philadelphia Phillies and Randy Lerch a 4-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

Harrelson drew a walk off loser J.R. Richard, 6-5, to start the inning and moved to second when Pete Rose walked. Bowa then singled to shallow left to score the slightly built Harrelson, who crashed through catcher Bruce Bochy to reach the plate. Garry Maddox doubled home Rose.



Pin bursts Bid's bubble

United Press International  
NEW YORK — "We just didn't want nobody to know."

With those words, 19-year-old jockey Ronnie Franklin dismissed the more than \$1.3 million wagered Saturday by tens of thousands of fans who had hoped to see Spectacular Bid become racing's third consecutive Triple Crown winner.

Instead, they watched in confusion and disappointment as Bid finished third behind Coastal and Golden Act, the first time the alleged "Horse of the Century" lost in 12 starts.

What Franklin, trainer Bud Delp, and Harry, Teresa and Tom Meyerhoff said they were concealing was that Bid had injured his left front foot on the morning of the race. According to Delp, the big gray colt had stomped on an open safety pin in the straw of his stall, driving it 1 1/4 inches into his foot and causing it to bleed profusely.

"It was in there pretty good," said Delp. "I could see it was hurting him and when I pulled it out it hurt him even more."

Delp, however, said he continued preparing the horse for the race as planned, giving him a bath and walking him 45 minutes. At 10 a.m., however, Delp said he notified the Meyerhoffs that he might have to scratch the colt. But by 3:30 in the afternoon, when Bid did not seem to be showing any signs of lameness, Delp decided to go ahead and run him.

After Bid finished third, Delp still did not mention the pin incident because "we'd be making excuses before a national TV audience."

After the race, Franklin said he knew something was wrong but Sunday admitted he lied when he told reporters the horse was choking and gurgling during the final part of the race.

"I had to say something so that's the first thing that popped into my head," Franklin said. "That was the real reason."

However, officials at Belmont said they were stunned by Delp's announcement and found it hard to believe the incident was the real cause of Bid's loss.

Dr. Don Vallance of Baltimore examined the colt when he arrived there Sunday, and reported that the hoof was bruised and had hemorrhaged.

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