

Second Guesses

by Jon Heidtke

Late Coogs' game absurd

It was halftime during the A&M-Houston game, and one of Houston's sports information department personnel started handing out shirts to the press which had these words emblazoned on them "The Only Two Day Football Game of the Century, Houston vs A&M, Oct. 12, 1980."

It was about this time the absurdity of whole thing struck me. If saying a football game over two days is such an event, then why has it happened only once this century?

For a long time, I wondered why Houston is always called "Cougar High," but in the early morning hours (or was it just early in the third quarter) I knew my t-shirt held the answer.

Throughout the preceding week, Houston athletic officials claimed would be too hard to move the game to Rice Stadium on such late

"I think it's ridiculous that a major university would go this far to keep its home field advantage. There was no consideration by Houston for the players, fans and media."

Didn't they notice the Astros leading the Western Division out of the year? Couldn't they have devised a back-up plan in case a baseball playoff game forced a rescheduling? I am afraid the answers to these questions were too obvious for Houston athletic officials to see. Oh sure, they did give A&M a couple of options which hurt me too much to even repeat. The bottom line is that A&M had no choice but to come part of an NCAA record: the latest start for a game in this century. For you trivia buffs, the opening kickoff came at 11:33 p.m. Springfield College and a Yale Alumni team started play at midnight in Madison Square Garden in 1891).

Alan Jones, the new assistant athletic director in charge of promotions at A&M, summed up Houston's ineptitude best when he said, "I think it's ridiculous that a major university would go this far to keep its home field advantage. There was no consideration by Houston for the players, fans and media. If it wasn't ridiculous, then why did it take 89 years for it to happen again?"

Derrick Grubbs, another member of the A&M sports information department, said Houston got caught up in its own frustrations. "I could think that with the inconveniences caused by making us play at an ungodly hour, that the Houston people would have put a little bit extra effort into making better arrangements. They (Houston) just got caught up in their own frustrations and let it get to themselves." After the game, the players on both sides said it was just another game. Bull—if it was just another game the stands would have been full of those fans that couldn't have gotten in the game could have read out in Sunday's paper. But instead, the true fans suffered through the smart fans slept through it and nobody really knew what happened until Monday.

Jones said there is more to football than winning at all costs, but at Cougar High, classless winning must be the only thing.

Cycling team recruits Aggies

By RITCHIE PRIDDY

The Texas A&M University Cycling Team, in conjunction with Wheelworld, sponsored the annual A&M Student Body Bike Race Saturday in an effort to introduce prospective members to the world of cycling.

The race was broken down into a men's and a women's division and consisted of circling the drill field in front of the MSC. The men's division consisted of 16 laps, or seven miles, around the field while the women's was made up of eight laps, or three-and-one-half miles.

Twenty-four people entered the races, 21 in the men's division and only three in the women's.

The top three finishers in each category received trophies, with the fourth and fifth place finishers receiving records for their efforts.

Top finishers in the men's division were: Jim Orr, Scott Schaffer, Steve

Hench, Pat Moore and Chuck Stillwell. Trish Hintzel won the women's division with Theresa Washburn and Debbie Dominey finishing second and third, respectively.

The A&M Cycling Team is an extramural club and competes in various stage races throughout the area.

A stage race consists of three different races: a 10-mile warmup race, a 60-mile road race and a 40-mile criteria race.

Last weekend, the Aggie cyclists competed in the Alejo Stage Race. Team member Byron Gerhard finished fourth in the open division to lead the team.

This weekend the cyclists are competing in the Tyler Stage Race.

The cycling team sponsors the Aggie Stage Race held every spring. The race, which is sanctioned by the United States Cycling Federation, is an offbeat of the movie, "Breaking Away."

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Volleyball team tops season mark

By MIKE BURRICHTER

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team won a couple of morale boosters Tuesday night, defeating Texas State and Texas Tech at Texas Tech University in Denton. The Ags went to Denton Tuesday evening, two days after their longest losing streak of the season. Long, but they'd lost five of six matches to a season record of 9-13. The team really needed these wins," said coach Lindy Vivas said. "We had such a poor tournament this weekend, we needed these teams to our morale."

In the first match, North Texas fell 15-7, 15-11 and TWU bit back later in the evening by the score of 15-6, 15-6.

Over the weekend, the Aggies played their worst volleyball of the season, losing twelve of 16 in the Houston regional and losing a match to

Texas Tech at home Sunday.

"We got to play everybody tonight," Vivas said after the game. "The matches were not that difficult, so we got to look at everybody."

Vivas and head coach Terry Condon, who have yet to formulate a stable starting lineup, think they may have come up with a positive force when they started two new outside hitters Tuesday.

"We used Wendy Wilson and Elizabeth Echtermach as our outside hitters," Vivas said. "They were probably the big difference tonight. We're still not set with a starting lineup, but these two girls have the edge."

The Aggies travel to Austin this morning to take on the Longhorns, a team that has accounted for three A&M losses already this season.

"The girls are really looking forward to playing Austin," Vivas said. "Maybe we're on the right track."

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