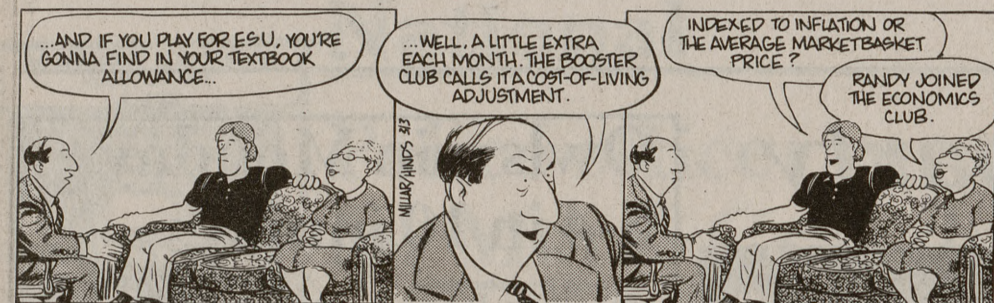


by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Red Raiders are dark horse again

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Battalion Staff

The Texas Tech Red Raiders return experience and lots of youth to its 1981 baseball team, yet will field an unproven pitching staff.

The Red Raiders are looking to improve on their 1980 season when they posted a 28-23 overall record, 14-10 in Southwest Conference play.

Kal Segrist begins his 14th season as head man for Tech. His overall record is 252-269-1, all at Tech.

Last year, Segrist's team won 11 out of the last 12 games of the year to qualify for the Southwest Conference Baseball Classic.

At the tourney, Tech lost the opening game to Texas 9-2, then eliminated Texas A&M from play-off contention with a 8-5 win. They lost in the semi-final round 6-5 to Arkansas.

It was the first time a Texas Tech baseball team had ever participated in post-season action.

The Raiders lost seven players to graduation but still return six players with some starting experience.

Centerfielder Rusty Laughin, rightfielder Pat Moore, third baseman Jimmy Zachry, second baseman Jeff Harp and catcher Dan Hejl and Kevin Rucker all return for the Raiders. Each has started at least one season.

Gone is three-time All-SWC outfielder Larry Selby, outfielder Mike Farmer, All-SWC shortstop Brooks Wallace and first baseman Craig Noonan. Also gone is the entire 1980 starting pitching rotation of Mark Johnston, Jamie Miller and Steve Ibarquen.

But Segrist is optimistic of the people replacing those departed.

"All of our recruits did great in fall workouts and we have some walk-ons who are excellent prospects."

Pitching could be a big weakness for Tech. Juco transfer David Carroll is the only pitcher to secure a spot in the starting pitching rotation with his play in the fall. Other pitching hopefuls include Robert Bryant, Kyle Fahrenthold and walk-on newcomer Glenn Caperton. Bryant and Fahrenthold are being considered for the other starting positions.

The Raiders return star leftfielder Bobby Kohler (.374) with Rusty Laughin (.281) in center and Pat Moore (.313) in right. Kohler was named to the second team All-American squad last year.

In the infield, All-SWC third baseman Jimmy Zachry (.348) seems to have secured his spot, but Kenny Allbritton could give him some trouble.

Another juco transfer, Andy Dawson, seems to be the favorite for replacing All-SWC shortstop Brooks Wallace, who now plays for the Texas Rangers on their Sarasota, Fla. farm team. Freshman walk-on Bruce Winters could see some action there as well.

The second base position will be battled for by Jeff Harp (.300) and Scott Nethery (.182). Both are returning lettermen.

There will be a four-way battle for the rights to first base, with John Grimes (.321) leading the way. Kent Potts, Gene Segrest and Jim Wattenburger also may figure in at that position.

Senior Dan Hejl and junior Kevin Rucker return some needed experience behind the plate.

Overall, Tech has the potential to repeat last year's successes but must get strong pitching early on to insure that success.

"How effective our pitching staff is and how consistently we score will make the biggest difference in our season," Segrist said. "We have the potential to be able to do a lot of things on the field. We'll just have to get off to a good start and get things rolling."

Horns, Tech advance

United Press International
Here's a wrapup of other Southwest Conference games Monday night in the first round of the post-season tournament:

RICE (44) at TEXAS (55) — Freshman guard Ray Harper came off the bench to score 12 points and another freshman, Mike Wacker, scored 11 to lead Texas to a 58-44 win over Rice.

Texas, which defeated Rice last Saturday night by 10 points to gain the homecourt advantage in the first round of the tournament, will meet Texas Tech, a winner over SMU, in the second round in San Antonio Thursday night.

Harper, removed from his starting role late in the regular season, came off the bench to run the Texas offense when Rice's sagging zone defense was stopping the Longhorn's main weapon, center

LaSalle Thompson. Thompson, who averaged 19.1 points during the regular season, finished with only nine.

Texas never trailed, jumping to a 10-2 lead. However, the Owls rallied to an 18-16 deficit with 4:14 left in the first half.

The Owls closed it to 41-34 with 4:23 left on two free throws by Ricky Pierce. But Harper and Wacker then combined for 11 points the rest of the way to ice the game.

The Owls, finishing the season at 12-15, were led by Pierce with 14 points. Rice has never won an opening round game in the six-year history of the SWC tournament.

SMU (58) at TEXAS TECH (80) — Ralph Brewster's dunk shots and Jeff Taylor's long-range bombs sent Texas Tech streaking

to a 13-point lead in the first half Monday night and the Red Raiders went on to smash Southern Methodist, 80-58, in the opening round of the Southwest Conference tournament.

Tech will thus meet Texas, a winner over Rice Monday evening, in the second round of the SWC tourney at San Antonio Thursday night.

Brewster scored five straight points midway through the opening half, four of them coming on dunks that followed lob passes into the post. That swelled a two-point Tech lead into a seven-point advantage.

SMU stayed within five points with 3:35 to go in the half, but the Raiders scored 10 of the last 12 points in the first period—eight of them coming from Taylor to break open the game.

Taylor finished with 19 and Brewster had 17.

Tech, which boosted its record to 15-12, shot 60 percent for the game and held the Mustangs to only one field goal during an eight-minute stretch of the second half.

Dave Cadis and Johnny James each scored 12 for SMU, which completed its first season under coach Dave Bliss at 7-20.

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.53	2A	950	.25	3A+	550	.24	3A	450	.37	2A+	800	.33	3A	675
.71	3A	1785	.28	4A	625	.24	3A+	475	.38	3A	850	.40	3A	975
1.06	3A+	5500	.33	3A+	710	.25	3A+	500	.38	3A+	875	.45	3A	1075
			.44	3A+	1075	.27	3A	500	.53	3A-	1500	.46	3A	1250
			.61	4A	1950	.43	3A	925	.72	3A+	2325	.51	3A	1400
			.66	3A+	2075	.45	2A+	925	.73	4A	2400	.54	3A+	1550
			.75	3A+	2650	1.05	3A	4000	.74	3A	2450	.64	3A	1600
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.18	3A	265	.29	3A+	525	.37	3A+	890	1.04	3A	4100
.22	2A+	320	.33	3A+	725	.41	3A	1050	1.49	3A	5900
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Reflections

By Richard Oliver

Ag fans do an about face

A piece of ice glanced off the leg of TCU's Warren Bridges as he stepped up to the free throw line.

As he balanced the basketball on his palm, the boos resounded from the three-quarter full stands. Behind the backboard glass, fans stood and waved their arms.

Moments earlier, referee James Burroughs of Waco glanced down as a penny rolled slowly toward him on the floor. Without looking up, he kicked it off the court and then turned to join a very poorly officiated game.

When Darrell Browder sank an incredible 38-foot jump shot with time running out Monday night at C. Rolie White Coliseum to hand the Aggies a painful loss, the referees for some

... only an estimated half of those in attendance were students. For a school renowned for team support, it was indeed a giant step backwards.

reason wasted no time in heading for their dressing room.

Welcome to Aggieland, home of the finest fans in the Southwest Conference and possibly the world. Right?

On Monday night, no. Erase Monday night, possibly so. But the Aggie fans, regardless, took a giant step backwards Monday night.

For the first time in recent memory, Aggie fans were rude, base and all too common. I might as well have been at any other school in the conference.

Throughout the season I have aired my gripes about terrible fans in foreign places and praised Texas A&M for its high standing in the world of sportsmanship. Aggies are widely respected throughout the nation for their loyalty, fairness and respectability.

But fans, I guess, are deep down still fans. And the Aggie crowd proved it Monday night.

The Texas A&M yell leaders called for silence before every TCU free throw, but received none.

On several separate occasions, ice rained down on the court after controversial calls and officials were berated soundly (and profanely) throughout the game.

A wadded paper cup landed within two feet of Vernon Smith during the second half, and he threw it back toward the press table, waving his hand in disapproval to the stands.

True, the game was poorly called. True, there were several heated moments in the game. True, we're all human.

But also true is the fact Texas A&M has been able to control its emotions in games past when the team had its hard moments. Why, then, must the fans become all too common now?

"I've never seen trash thrown on that floor before," said head yell leader Mark Outlaw. "When I first came here, you hardly ever saw any of that stuff going on."

"To me, it was pretty bad. I can understand booing and noise during free throws, everyone was upset. But when I first came here four years ago, I didn't hear a lot of booing then."

Only a little more than 4,000 bothered to show up for the game (or pay the "exorbitant" price of \$2 to get in), and only an estimated half of those in attendance were students. For a school renowned for team support, it was indeed a giant step backwards.

"I'm surprised at what I saw and kind of disappointed," said Outlaw. "I wonder if the trend is going to keep on continuing or what. What about future games?"

Let's venture back to the 1976 basketball season. During a hard-fought ballgame in C. Rolie White Coliseum, a contested call was made and a crumpled paper cup came sailing out of the stands. For a moment, the noise halted.

No one had to search long to find the guilty party. Almost every fan in the area was staring hotly at him.

That's the nature of Texas A&M fans. I only wish I had gotten to see those fans in my last home game.

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