

Sports

Out of the Blue

By Rick Stolle



Welcome back to the on-pressing saga of Texas A&M sports. A continuing drama of the lives and events of the people that make up the Texas A&M sports world.

Sometimes known as *Search for Another World with a Guiding Light* through a *General Hospital in Texas* or *All My Children and Ryan Hoping for One Life to Live* without becoming *Young and Restless*.

If that's too complicated for you, just call it *As the World of Aggie Sports Turns* for short.

As we resume the show, what will become of the fair-haired young doctor who has tried valiantly for two years to revitalize the youth program. Will he be able to survive all the pressures from the mean old hospital administrators on Mt. Olympus or will he be fired?

Can he revamp the program enough to get a smile from Mt. Olympus or will he be asked to report to surgery ... as the patient.

The good doctor Tom, you know, old doctor Wil's son, took over an aging program and tried to continue its winning ways. But, under his direction, the program changed and was filled with new ideas.

But, as happens so often with new ideas, rough roads soon came. With the tough times, came great criticism from Mt. Olympus (or the hospital administrators) and their evil cronies, the group who fund the hospital with the big bucks.

They did not like what was happening to the program (losses in key areas like the Houston and Dallas branches). Even though they had been pleased with Tom's victories over t.u. (A strange disease that turned the patients a sickly color of orange.)

The administrators thought good doctor Tom should try other things and they told him so. They felt whatever he did was wrong no matter what happened.

Produce, they said, or we will find someone who will. Tom pointed to his record and said, I have. Breaking even, the Olympians growled, is not producing enough.

Can the good doctor handle the pressure? Will he be able to survive another year at the helm of the program? And what is happening to program while the Olympians grumble and growl?

Already, the good doctor has saved one life. Halfway through the operation, things looked pretty grim for the young surgeon but he pulled the patient out of the fire with some fancy footwork.

But, the mean old administrators were waiting in the background to strike if doctor Tom should lose his poise or the patient.

Can the good doctor Tom hold off the Olympians long enough to get going or will he be dismissed along with the long list of past directors? Stay tuned for more.

In another scene of this ever-pressing drama, Magical (call me Merlin) Metcalf is awakening from a long sleep that he and the giant were put into.

Just when the giant was starting to get up from a long sleep that had lasted over half the season, he was sent back to naptime once more.

Who can defense against a 'magical' shot from the jumping jack of the funny frogs? It was designed to put the giant and Magical (call me Merlin) Metcalf to sleep for a long time and it worked.

But Magical is awake and plotting his revenge upon those funny frogs and others in the kingdom who have laughed while the giant was asleep.

And what will the evil Duke Sutton of Mutton have up his sleeves to thwart the giant and the wizard?

Will they be able to stomp the funny frogs, bumbling bears and putrid pigs into the castle grounds and take their rightful place at the head of the kingdom or will they be put to sleep indefinitely.

Stay tuned to this channel for more...

Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas

Schools sue over TV contract

United Press International  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The question of who owns the lucrative television rights to collegiate football — the NCAA or its individual members — likely will be determined where most property disputes end — in a courtroom.

Tuesday, three of the nation's most prestigious collegiate football powers — defending national champion Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas — filed suit on behalf of the 61 members of the College Football Association, seeking a judgment on that fundamental question and asking the courts for protection from punishment from the NCAA while that question is being decided.

The NCAA offered no reaction to the court action, but the schools did.

"The members of the College Football Association contend that each university has a property right to its own athletic program," said Fred Davison, the president of the University of Georgia and chairman of the board of the CFA.

"Unfortunately, the NCAA has continued to threaten CFA members individually and collectively with sanctions affecting not just football but all sports should a CFA member elect to participate in the CFA agreement with NBC. In view of the NCAA position and the resulting confusion, it was determined that the question of ownership of a university's athletic program could best be decided in a court of law.

"It is for that reason that the University of Oklahoma and the University of Georgia have filed a class action suit in federal district court and the University of Texas has taken similar action in state court. The CFA membership should be free to select the agent it prefers in the sale of football television rights without threat of sanctions.

"Hopefully the courts will respond promptly and permit the CFA universities to continue as members in good standing in the NCAA and also have the opportunity to exercise control over the property right which properly belongs to each university," he said.

The CFA is comprised of every major college football conference except schools in the Big Ten and Pac-10. The group also includes

such independents as Notre Dame, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Florida State, South Carolina and West Virginia.

The CFA recently negotiated a revolutionary four-year, \$180-million television contract with NBC to broadcast games of its member schools, beginning in 1982. That pact with NBC is scheduled to run in direct conflict with a \$263-million television package negotiated recently by the NCAA with ABC and CBS.

While not offering reaction to the court suits directly Tuesday, the NCAA did announce that a special convention "has been called by the NCAA counsel to con-

sider a series of amendments that would restructure the membership of Division I and I-A football."

James Frank, president of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., and president of the NCAA, said the convention would begin sometime the week of Dec. 6. He also said the chief executive officers of all Division I institutions — which include Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas — had been invited to attend a special meeting in conjunction with the NCAA's regular scheduled gathering of selected chief executives Sept. 28-29 in Chicago.

"Any Division I chief executive

interested in attending is welcome to do so," said Frank. "We hope a significant number will be present to discuss the restructuring proposals."

In Oklahoma City, Dan Gibbens, OU's faculty representative to the Big Eight Conference, said Oklahoma entered the federal suit with Georgia to protect itself and other CFA members from NCAA sanctions.

"These suits (in Oklahoma City and Austin) will hopefully main-

tain the status quo until the courts provide answers to questions about the legality of CFA and NCAA television arrangements," he said.

In Austin, Ronald Brown, vice president of student affairs at the University of Texas, said: "We feel it's necessary to make sure the property rights of Texas-Austin are protected. Our long range goal is to establish an improved environment for athletics over what is offered by participation in the NCAA."

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