

Maverick streak halted

United Press International
DALLAS — There was the sudden and unexpected sensation of winning in the air and one of the biggest drawing cards in professional sports was in town, so the ticket buying public

showed up in huge numbers Wednesday night to see if the Dallas Mavericks could pull off another stunner.

They could not, as it turned out, but even as the Philadelphia 76'ers fought off the Mavericks

and pulled away in the final minutes, there was the recognition that changes had taken place within the newest franchise in the NBA.

"This is the first time the fans came to see Dallas play and play to win," said Philadelphia coach Billy Cunningham after the 76'ers had whipped the Mavericks, 99-86.

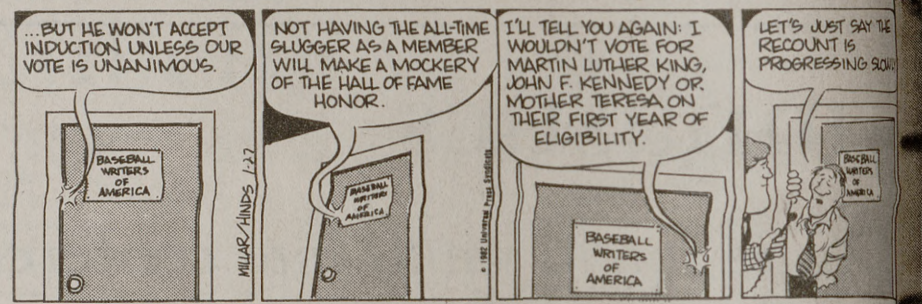
A sellout crowd of 17,134 — the third such throng in the club's year and a half history — showed up to watch a club that

had put together a franchise record four-game winning streak and was within two victories of their 1980-81 total.

In the early going Wednesday night Dallas built a 10-point lead, but as things drifted along the 76'ers began to exert their superiority. And when things were still close in the fourth quarter Andrew Toney, who led his club with 22 points, began to throw in the long shots and Dallas began turning the ball over.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hill



Big money

Sherrill's salary too large, educators say

United Press International
If actor Burt Reynolds can demand \$5 million for a movie, why should anyone care about a university football coach signing a contract worth a reported \$225,000 or more a year?

Because, to one collegiate critic of the deal that lured Jackie Sherrill to Texas A&M from Pittsburgh and made him by most reckonings the highest-paid person on a U.S. college campus, it proved "as a country we have our priorities all hay-wire."

"When I was at a meeting in Texas last week," continued William Sangster, dean of engineering and faculty athletic chairman at Georgia Tech, "the dean of engineering at Texas A&M was complaining his department didn't have enough money. You have to question priorities. It's a damn poor reflection on the state of affairs in the United States."

Defenders of the package Sherrill accepted on Jan. 19 quickly point out a number of

qualifiers:

—His base salary as football coach and athletic director is \$95,000, an actual savings of \$12,000 because the combined salary of the two men who held those jobs during 1981 was \$107,160. Marvin Tate occupied the position of Athletic Director and Tom Wilson was head coach.

—That salary and the perquisites which make the contract worth a reported \$1.7 million over six years, such as a hefty life insurance policy, proceeds from a television program, use of two leased cars, home mortgage assistance and membership in a country club, are paid out of Athletic Department funds or private sources and could not be diverted to academics even if A&M wanted to.

—A successful football season under Sherrill can pay the university back many times over in income, contributions and prestige.

"I think they can justify spending that money," said Ed

Farrell, athletic director at Davidson in North Carolina, "because they feel what they do will generate the money to pay his salary and bring the institution up."

Even those professional administrators expressing indignation acknowledged the practicality of comparing a school's athletic department with the academic side.

"It's a business. It has to do with education," said Virginia University engineering Professor Charles Wade.

Ross Burbage, sports information director at Maryland, said he understood complaints but added, "Personally, I think athletics very important to a strong faculty that supports our teams and contributes to the booster fund."

"I think if the athletic department raises enough money to buy microscopes, the chemist professor should say, 'Hey, I bought me 100 magnifying glasses rather than criticize the program.'"

Dr. Frank E. Vandiver became president of Texas A&M last year, reportedly so angered with the high court ruling that he threatened to quit.

However, Vandiver's new statements so far have indicated any displeasure with Sherrill's hiring, Vandiver reporters that athletic department area that received more donations than academics wish I could find a fast cyclotron," he said, but that if Sherrill did what he could, it (the salary) worth it.

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