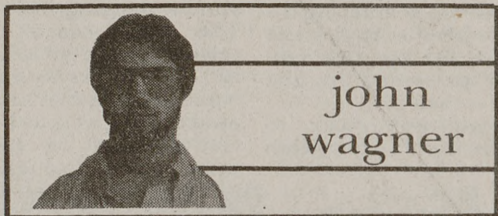


Reveille's critics should shoot arrows elsewhere

The January issue of *Texas Sports* magazine was sitting there, waiting to be read. "The Best and Worst of 1980," its cover screamed. I stopped, and being an avid sports enthusiast, I couldn't resist.

While I was flipping to the cover story, I wondered what type of biased arrows the magazine had decided to fling at Texas A&M this year. I have nothing against *Texas Sports*, but I have come to expect uneducated digs against the University from it.



john wagner

I wasn't disappointed. Right there, in black print, on white paper and complete with color picture, was our own Reveille, underneath the headline "Worst Mascot."

The copy stated that, "This scraggly mutt looks like it's ready for 'Taps.'" Ouch. That one hurt, but what hurt worse was that *Texas Sports* called the Baylor Bear the Best Mascot in Texas, saying: "It's cute and cuddly with a personality to match."

I was outraged. How could *Texas Sports* editors let such blasphemy reach newsstands? I realize that they are entitled to their own opinion, but still ...

I think Reveille is a good mascot. She's cute and cuddly also. She knows to bark when the Twelfth Man breaks into a yell and she certainly isn't as dangerous as a big black bear. I don't think she looks scraggly, and she doesn't look ready for 'Taps' to me. In fact, I think Reveille is the best mascot in the Southwest Conference.

If you ask me, I would guess that the editors of *Texas Sports* are Longhorns. They have to be, because everyone knows that Bevo is the worst mascot a school could have. If they were graduates of any other school in the country, they would be quick to give that big lug of a school mascot the dubious title they awarded Reveille.

When the Texas Longhorns came to Kyle Field the past season, I was able to see Bevo up close. What a disgrace! He's big, ugly, and not very mobile. I'm not sure, but I'd bet my life he was on some type of drug. He just stood there, and the game passed him by. I was so interested in watching him, the game passed me by also.

If you missed this spectacle, you'll have to wait until next year. Unfortunately, Bevo doesn't do basketball games. The Longhorns have a person in a costume to cheer for the indoor sports. I'm not sure what he's

called, but that doesn't matter. Reveille always goes to basketball games, and she never has to wear a costume.

Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not picking on Bevo; I'm just trying to prove that Reveille is a better mascot. She is man's best friend. She is not a horned frog, nor is she a threat to local wildlife. What would happen if the University of Houston turned its cougar loose? She's compact, she can go on the road, and it's always a thrill to have her show up in your class.

I'm not sure what possessed *Texas Sports* to slander Reveille in such a manner. Last year, the magazine had the brilliance to call our yell leaders the "worst cheerleaders in the conference."

Texas Sports explained: "They shave their heads, not their legs." Great. This year, the magazine is picking on an animal that can't even write a letter to the editor.

Maybe Reveille isn't the best mascot in the SWC, but she certainly isn't the worst. And I'll even defend the yell leaders. They may not be the prettiest, but they are definitely the most organized. I am one Aggie who is really tired of seeing and hearing Texas A&M and Aggies being made the butt of jokes. If you are too, don't write *The Battalion*. We have enough problems dealing with letters about regents and football coaches.

Here's my vote for Worst Sports Magazine in Texas — nah, it's just not worth it.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H.



Bass fishing

A&M hosts four night sessions in February

The Texas A&M Outdoor Education Institute will host the Bass Fishing Techniques Institute, featuring prominent Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society instructors at four night sessions during February.

Jimmy Houston, Ricky Clunn, Roger Moore and Al Eason are each scheduled to speak at one of the four programs, which will be held Feb. 2, Feb. 4, Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 in 267 G. Rollie White Coliseum. Each of the sessions will last from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and the charge per person is \$38 for all four sessions.

Houston, who hosts a nationally syndicated bass fishing series, will speak at the first session. His presentation will deal with under-handed casting tech-

niques and flipping, a new bass fishing method. Houston has won 11 national bass fishing titles, and has been named Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society "Angler of the Year."

Clunn, who is fishing guide at Lake Conroe, has won over \$130,000 during his professional bass fishing career, making him the second leading money winner in that sport. He will speak at the second session on organization of bass fishing, as well as establishment of patterns and location of bass during the year. Other topics of his discussion will be versatility and mental attitude in bass fishing.

Moore is a three-time Missouri Pro champion and a runner-up Bassmaster Classic. The

topics of his session, the series, will be selected bass fishing equipment.

worms and light tackle of ultra-light equipment will also speak on some mysteries of clear water.

Those interested in information for this program call 215 G. White.

Surprise-filled SWC race half over

United Press International
The Southwest Conference will spin the wheel again this weekend, and the ways things have been going there is no way of knowing which number is going to come up.

Arkansas should whip Rice in Fayetteville, but don't bet on it. Texas Tech will be the favorite against SMU, but who knows? And anything is apt to happen in Houston Saturday night when the Cougars face the Baylor Bears.

Whatever the result of this weekend's activity — which brings the SWC to the midway point of its basketball race — the early portion of the schedule shows that this is not your normal year.

"I really don't think the media in this part of the country realizes yet just how good this league is," Baylor coach Jim Haller said Tuesday night after his Bears had stunned the fifth-ranked Texas Longhorns. "I'm really kind of excited about it."

"I hear talk on a national level about our league. I would be very surprised if our league does not have five teams in the post-season tournaments — either two in the NCAA and three in the NIT or vice versa."

Rice, 2-4 in league play and with three of those losses being by either one or two points, will be at Arkansas this evening to kick off the conference's weekend slate.

Arkansas, 5-2 in the conference, has pulled off two straight victories in the final seconds over Houston and Texas A&M.

Saturday's action begins at noon with Texas A&M visiting Texas for a regionally televised game. Both teams are coming off depressing outings, with the Longhorns' loss to Baylor being particularly devastating because of the injury to Mike Wacker.

Wacker will play no more basketball for Texas this season, and the Longhorns, who

seemed so sensational a week ago, could suffer drastically without him.

SMU, at 1-6, will host Texas Tech, 3-4, at 4 p.m. as the Red Raiders try to get back in gear for a stretch run.

Then at 7:30 p.m., Baylor takes its 3-3 conference mark to Houston. The Cougars, 2-4 in the league, have lost four in a row and have to be in a mild state of shock. They could well be a victim again because the Bears are obviously better than they were at the start of the season and are on quite an emotional high from their 10-point win over Texas last Tuesday.

When asked whether he thinks his club is post-season material, Haller responded with the appropriate optimism: "Before we were upset in the post-season tournament (by TCU) last year," Haller said, "we had an NIT bid sewed up. I heard an NIT official say that."

"The thing that people don't realize is that we are a better

team this year than we were last year when we won our first five conference games and finished tied for second in the league."

"Last year we played Arkansas at home and Texas A&M at home and Texas Tech at home and won close ball games against all of them early in the season."

This year we played all three of those teams on the road early and lost all three."

After the conference action on Friday and Saturday, the league will be involved in a rare Sunday game when Arkansas plays Wake Forest in Little Rock.

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