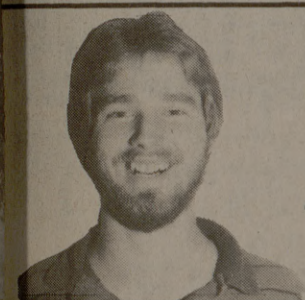


Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

Tuesday, July 19, 1983/The Battalion/Page 9



john wagner

Can sports weather the 'drug storm'?

REALITY — The weather was unusually hot as the Dallas Cowboys — self-proclaimed as America's Team — began their first day of spring training in the California town of Thousand Oaks. It was very hot, and very sunny. Two players, both recent draft choices, were forced to sit out as the heat and exercise drained them — dehydration, a team spokesman said.

The local weatherman would blame the heat have on natural causes — a front or air mass or something. But a sportswriter would have another explanation. He would tell you all that hot air was coming from what used to be the Cowboys' seemingly trouble-free bubble — a bubble that's been burst by the cold, hard pin-prick of cocaine.

The names of five Dallas players surfaced recently in the trial of two convicted drug dealers. No charges have been filed, no arrests have been made, but the nasty stench of drug abuse — whether real or imagined — does not easily go away.

America's Team? Drugs? Cocaine? It may not be true — Tony Dorsett emphatically denied ever having taken cocaine — but then again, stranger things have happened. And when the squeaky-clean Cowboys start having allegations of drug use thrown at them, you know there's a problem.

The list of sports figures whose careers and reputations have been jeopardized because of drug or alcohol abuse is a sad one. The old names, names like Greg Stenrick and Vernon Perry of the Houston Oilers, Steve Howe of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tommy Kramer of the Minnesota Vikings, are hard to forget. And, almost daily, it seems, the roster of athletes who are caught putting their paychecks into their noses grows.

At baseball's 50th All-Star game, held in June, several of the old-timers who were in town were asked to name the one characteristic of modern baseball that bothered them the most. Almost to a man, they named drugs.

"That (drug abuse) bothers me more than anything else in the game today," said Roger Maris, who finished his big league career with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1968.

"I think it's unquestionably the biggest problem baseball has right now."

Baseball's biggest problem. Still, sports management remains almost untouched and unconcerned about the subject. From owners to coaches, a lot of heads are being turned as players go about ruining their lives. See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil — and let law enforcement officials take care of players that can't take care of themselves.

But that's a selfish — as well as foolish — attitude. Professional athletes are pampered in every possible way. They eat well, sleep well, travel well, are paid well — anything to make sure they are happy. But when it comes to drug education, drug rehabilitation, or drug realization, management gives it the once-over, and it's back to the chalkboard or practice field.

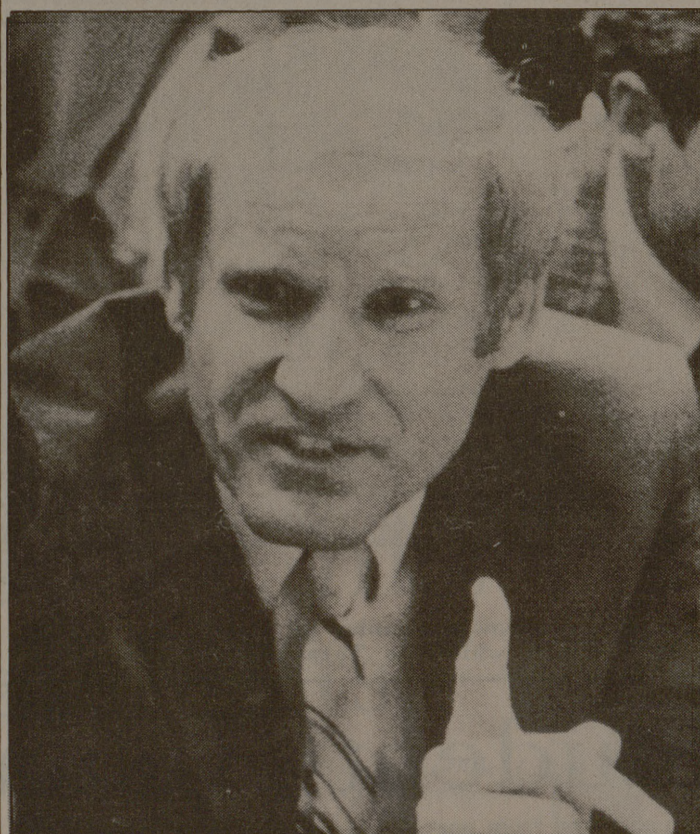
It's time sports organizations learn that professional athletes are prime candidates for drug abuse. Athletes have plenty of money, plenty of free time, and plenty of connections with people who can make themselves rich selling a "good time" to ballplayers.

Education and understanding are the keys. Punishing players with fines or the threat of jail sentences doesn't make the problem go away. It only keeps drug abusers hidden in the dark.

And in the dark is where the damage, both to the individual and to the credibility of professional sports, is done.

Welcome to Reality, major league athletics. It's not always a fun place to be.

Baylor's Haller believes in camps



Jim Haller, basketball coach at Baylor

United Press International WACO — Jim Haller's stay at a basketball camp in 1961 led to a University Interscholastic League rule banning varsity players from camp participation — a rule which is still being fought by parents of high school athletes.

But the UIL edict hasn't stopped Haller, head basketball coach at Baylor University, from founding his own basketball camp, which he says is the largest in its history, and to his knowledge the largest in Texas.

In the summer of 1961, Haller and most of the other basketball players for Thomas Jefferson High School of Dallas attended the camp of their varsity coach, the late Archie Porter.

They came back and swept the state championship, much to the surprise of the competition.

"We won the championship in 1962, and the summer of '62 is when this rule went into effect," said Haller, referring to the UIL rule against a varsity high school player attending a camp for basketball.

"If TJ had not won the state championship in 1962, this rule would never have come about," Haller said. "They found out almost the entire team had

"The biggest thing it (basketball camp) did for me was give me confidence that probably needed boosting. And that's what we stress — building the confidence of the youngsters in camp." — Jim Haller, Baylor basketball coach

attended the same basketball camp in Colorado, and a lot of people said TJ had an unfair advantage because we could

afford to go to camp, while kids in poorer neighborhoods couldn't go."

Haller, who paid his way to the 1961 camp by collecting garbage, rejects the argument. But he hasn't let the rule stop the success of his camp on the BU campus.

At a recent TJ class reunion, a classmate remarked that Haller came back from Coach Porter's camp a different person — one who played harder and more confidently.

"I enjoy running my camp because I can see the youngsters changing as fast as I did at Coach Porter's camp," Haller said. "It was my first time away from home. I was always a shy person, but the camp helped develop my

personality and make me become more aggressive.

"The biggest thing it did for me was give me confidence that probably needed boosting," he said. "And that's what we stress — building the confidence of the youngsters in camp."

Haller's camp, which started Sunday, runs for four 1-week sessions. He has some participants who have made three of the last five camps.

"We use quality coaches and players, and we have one coach for every 10 campers," Haller said. "For instance, Terry Teagle (the all-time leading scorer in the Southwest Conference and a first-round draft pick of the Houston Rockets) is running a shooting station, teaching kids how to shoot," he said.

His first session has 125 participants, and he expects subsequent weeks to bring up to 150 campers at a time.

Texas sports briefs

CBS may televise UT vs. Auburn

United Press International AUSTIN — The University of Texas has held discussions with CBS about televising the school's opening game against Auburn Sept. 17, UT sports information director Bill Little said.

Little said Monday there is a "good chance" the game will be televised.

"There is great interest on their (the network's) part, but they have not committed to it yet," he said.

Auburn and Texas are both coming off 9-3 records and bowl appearances in 1982, and are among the favorites to win their respective conferences, the Southeastern Conference and the Southwest Conference.

Auburn won the last meeting between the two teams, 27-3, in the 1974 Gator Bowl.

Pokes release rookies

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — In the first major cut of training

camp, the Dallas Cowboys released 15 rookie free agents, leaving 72 rookies and 24 veterans in camp today.

Players released included cornerback Roger Clay of Louisville and running backs Greg Drew of Boston, Danny Felts of Memphis State, Clyde Mackey of Albany State and Gary Woods of Tulsa.

Also released were tight ends Otis Gillespie of Sacramento

State and Mike Tissaw of Duke; punter-kicker Chris Mangold of Oregon State; and linebackers Levi Morrison of Howard Payne, Gerald Schmidt of Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, Earl Stewart of Alabama State and Reggie Vonner of Houston. Other cuts were safeties Kevin Robinson of North Carolina A&T and Robert Sturdivant of Lane College and tackle James Lanning of Northern Iowa.

All veterans are due in camp Thursday.

Oilers cut 10 free agents

SAN ANGELO — The Houston Oilers made way for the arrival of veterans today by releasing 10 free agents, including former Rice Owls Joel Baxter and Osby Mitchell.

Baxter is a kicker and Mitchell an offensive tackle. Another Texan, defensive end Rob Win-

ship of Sam Houston State, also was cut.

Others released were North-east Missouri cornerback Darren Blair, East Tennessee State safety Donald Cook, Louisville linebacker Joe Kader, Fresno State safety Matthew Mcknight, Kentucky safety Andrew Molls, Alcorn State running back Darrell Toy and San Diego State safety George Williams.

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2:35-4:45 7:30-10:00
Christopher Reeve
Richard Pryor
"SUPERMAN III" (PG)
NO PASSES
1:45-3:45 6:45-7:45 9:50
What a Feeling
"FLASHDANCE" (R)
2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
"PORKY'S II
THE NEXT DAY" (R)

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SCHULMAN 6
75-2463 775-2468
2002 E. 29th
2:30 4:45 7:15 9:35
WAR GAMES
Dolby
2:45 5:05 7:25 9:40
TWILIGHT ZONE
(Dolby)
2:40 4:55 7:35 9:45
BLUE THUNDER
2:35 5:00 7:30 9:55
TRADING PLACES
2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50
OCTOPUSSY (Dolby)

MANOR EAST III
822-8300
MANOR EAST MALL
2:00 4:40 7:20 9:55
RETURN OF THE JEDI Dolby
2:35 4:55 7:25 9:45
THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER
2:00 3:50 5:40 7:30 9:20
SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS
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