

The Battalion Sports

Friday, October 14, 1983/The Battalion/Page 13

Orioles' hitters are new Three Stooges

United Press International
BALTIMORE — For years, the Three Stooges have made everyone laugh. They're still doing it, but by the time the World Series is over, the Philadelphia Phillies may never care to look at them again.

The Three Stooges — Moe, Larry and Curly — were among Hollywood's funniest comedians back in the 40s and 50s. They have never passed completely from public consciousness because their films are shown on TV from time to time and still are enjoyed by many.

Merely out of a chance off-hand comment by Ken Singleton, they have been born again with the Baltimore Orioles. Only instead of Moe, Larry and Curly, their names now are Rich Dauer, Todd Cruz and Rick Dempsey, the team's seventh, eighth and ninth-place hitters during the regular season.

Over that stretch, they did not frighten any of the pitchers in the league with their antics. Cruz hit .199, Dempsey .231 and Dauer was high man in the trio with his .235 average.

They're not exactly tearing pitchers apart in post-season competition either. Counting the four playoff games with the White Sox and the two World Series contests with the Phillies so far, Dauer is at .048, Cruz at .136 and Dempsey at .176.

But the three of them certainly made their presence felt Wednesday night's 4-1 win over the Phillies that enabled the Orioles to square the World Series at one game apiece.

With the Orioles trailing 1-0 in the fifth inning, John Owenstein, who isn't considered one of the Orioles' top players because he's too good a hitter, homered over the

centerfield wall off Charles Hudson to tie the score 1-1. Dauer singled sharply to left. Cruz, attempting to sacrifice, was credited with a bunt single when Joe Morgan hesitated in covering first, forcing Mike Schmidt to pump twice before throwing. Dempsey followed with a double off the right field wall, scoring Dauer and sending Cruz to third. Cruz came home with the third run of the inning on Mike Boddicker's sacrifice fly.

Quite naturally, The Three Stooges came in for a lot of attention after the game because they were the catalysts in the Orioles' game-winning

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rally. Now, everyone wanted to know who gave them their name.

"I guess I started it," confessed Singleton, laughingly. Singleton, who was the Orioles' regular designated hitter, hasn't gotten a chance appear in the World Series yet because the DH isn't being used this year, explained how he came up with the designation for Dauer, Cruz and Dempsey following a meeting he had with Orioles manager Joe Altobelli near the end of the season.

Altobelli wanted to compliment him on the fine year he had and at the same time he

wanted to break the news to Singleton as gently as he couldn't expect to see very much action in the World Series.

"Joe called me in the office and said, 'You had a great year hitting sixth,'" said the big switch-hitting Mount Vernon, N.Y. native. "Joe said, 'We need a patient hitter in that spot, so it wasn't easy to drive in 85 runs.' He appreciated what I did for him."

When Singleton left Altobelli's office he told Dempsey about his meeting with the Orioles' manager, but purposely embellished it a bit.

"I told Dempsey it wasn't easy hitting sixth with the Three Stooges behind me," Singleton said, laughing some more.

At first, Dempsey, who takes pride in his hitting even though he's no Johnny Bench with the bat, did not appreciate Singleton's sense of humor. He was teed off, as a matter of fact, and he made his unhappiness known. For all of two minutes.

Cruz, Dauer and Dempsey now are enjoying the publicity.

"I'm Curly," Cruz elaborated to newsmen. "Dempsey is Moe and Dauer is Larry. When (Mike) Boddicker drove in that run against the Phillies in the fifth with his sacrifice fly, he came back to the bench and said to Singleton, 'I wanna be Shemp now.' Singy told him he can't be because he makes too much contact."

All three of the Stooges are taking the whole thing in good fun. They're not mad at Singleton at all, and that includes Dempsey.

"To be realistic, he did have a pretty good year," admitted the Orioles' receiver. "I don't call what he calls me, as long as he doesn't call me collect. I won't accept it."

Bears expect tough game

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff
The Baylor football team will likely breathe a deep sigh of relief Saturday when it takes on Texas A&M at Baylor Stadium in Waco.

It's not that the Bears think they're going to have an easy time defeating the Aggies — they don't. Baylor head coach Grant Teaff said he expects Texas A&M to be as tough an opponent as the Bears have faced all season.

But after a week of practice that Teaff calls, "the toughest week we've had all year," a three-hour game against any team would be a relief.

"It's been a hard week for them (team)," Teaff said, "but we've accomplished a lot in practice and we've had an excellent week."

"We gave them Monday off and since then we've been in full pads every day. We're going to be in full pads again today (Thursday) and Friday."

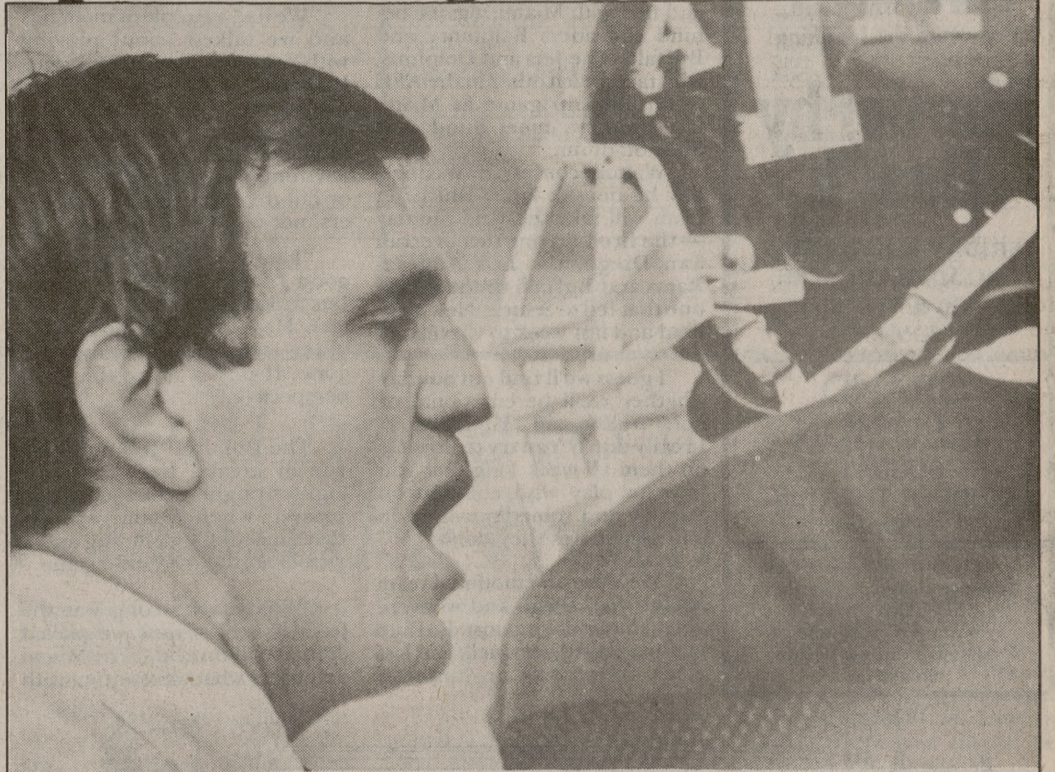
Teaff said he thinks the reason the Bears have responded so well in practice and are well prepared for Saturday's game is because the weather has cooled considerably in Waco.

"It did something to them (players)," he said. "I guess it just makes them feel like they're supposed to be playing football now. They worked hard and did a good job all week, but we're going to have to wait and see how they perform Saturday."

Another wait-and-see situation for the Bears, Teaff said, is the number of injuries plaguing Baylor.

"We've been really beat up," he said. "It's not that we have a lot of people hurt, we just have some key players out. We're hoping that by Saturday we'll have a lot of them back, but I think we're still going to have some personnel changes at game time."

Even with injuries, however, Texas A&M head coach Jackie



staff photo by Dean Saito

Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill makes a point to linebacker Jerry Bullitt during the Aggies' 30-7 win

over Houston Saturday. A&M will be in Waco this weekend to play Baylor, beginning at 7 p.m.

Sherrill is concerned about handling the Bears.

"They have excellent speed all over the field. Alfred Anderson may be the best running back in the Southwest Conference. This will be a tough assignment."

But Baylor has a tough assignment, too — the Bears need to contain the Aggies' strong-armed quarterback Kevin Murray, Teaff said.

"I was very, very impressed with Murray," he said. "It seems

like he's got all the ingredients of a great quarterback. He can be a tremendous threat."

"Steve Young (quarterback of Brigham Young) is leading the nation in total offense. And that's who Murray reminds me a lot of."

Teaff said that if the Baylor defense can control Murray and the Aggies' running game that appeared to come to life against Houston, then the Bears should be able to defeat the Aggies.

But, he said, costly turnovers must also be controlled.

"I'm sure they'll be hoping to rebound from the loss to SMU (42-21, Saturday)," Sherrill said, "so we'll have to go up there ready for a tough night of football."

"That killed us against Tech," Teaff said. "And last year, we had nine turnovers against A&M and that killed us. Anytime two major college teams play each other, the team that commits the fewest mistakes and turnovers will usually come out the winner."

"That's just the way it's been in the past and I'm sure that's the way it's going to be Saturday."

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