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Ag Sports Weekend

Texas A&M Football
Jackie Sherrill's Texas Aggies will try to improve on its 1-0 record against the Iowa State Cyclones Saturday at 11:20 a.m. in Kyle Field. The Cyclones are 1-1 going into the game, having defeated Drake last weekend 21-17 and losing 59-21 to Iowa in their season opener.

Texas A&M Volleyball
Head Coach Terry Condon and the Texas Aggie volleyball team will take its 8-1 overall mark into the Texas A&M Volleyball Classic this weekend. The Ags will host Southern Illinois, Florida State, Louisiana State and Illinois State during the two-day tournament in G. Rollie White Coliseum this weekend.

The tournament pairings are as follows:

Friday:

10 a.m. SIU vs. FSU
12:30 p.m. LSU vs. ISU
3 p.m. A&M vs. FSU
5:30 p.m. SIU vs. ISU
8:00 p.m. A&M vs. LSU

Saturday:

10 a.m. ISU vs. FSU
12:30 p.m. LSU vs. SIU
3 p.m. A&M vs. ISU
5:30 p.m. LSU vs. FSU
8 p.m. A&M vs. ISU

Admission to the tourney is \$2 for adults, \$1 for A&M students with an I.D. and free for anyone with an Texas A&M All-Sports ticket book. Saturday's last three games will be free to those with an A&M vs. Iowa State football ticket stub.

Texas A&M Women's Tennis

Head Coach Jan Cannon's Aggie netters will participate in the Pro-Am Royal Oaks Tournament this weekend in Bryan at the Royal Oaks Raquet Club. The tourney will be strictly doubles competition. The Ags will play Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. after the football game. Finals are scheduled for 11:30 Sunday morning.

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Anderson wants Tigers to stay 'sparky' in playoffs

United Press International
Sparky Anderson isn't big for those pre-game meetings. He doesn't believe in them too much.

What for?
Ever sit in on one? Some wise guy, way in the back lets go with a blockbuster of a belch right in the middle of your talk and there goes the whole meeting.

Most of those sessions are only a waste of time. Nevertheless, Sparky Anderson still believed it was important for him to get together privately with his Detroit Tigers, without any others in the clubhouse, before Wednesday night's ball game with the last-place Milwaukee Brewers at Tiger Stadium.

You could say he was anxious to talk to them on the morning after. The morning after they had clinched the American League East title by beating the Brewers the night before.

He wanted to tell big Kirk Gibson not to worry about that whack on the head he gave him with a champagne bottle during the clinching celebration because it was really nothing. He wanted to tell all his players something about next spring. Above everything else, he wanted to remind them about this past one.

Sparky Anderson is not what you'd call a celebrant.

His Cincinnati clubs won two championships, four pennants and five division titles during the time he managed the Reds, and you'd better believe he was every bit as happy as all his players, maybe even happier, but he didn't go whooping it up or dousing anyone with champagne. That's just not him.

Same thing after the Tigers clinched Tuesday night.

Immediately after the last out, he walked into his manager's room in the clubhouse. For a moment or so, he was there all by himself. He looked toward the ceiling and uttered two words:
"Thank you."

The Tigers already were celebrating. They had every right to do so after the season they had, starting out by winning 35 of their first 40 games, leading the league all the way and breezing home in front by 13 games.

Anderson was sitting in his office, thinking how sweet it was, when Gibson, his 6-3, 215-pound right fielder, and Lance Parrish, his muscular 6-3, 220-pound Mr. America catcher, came into the room trying to get him to be a bigger part of the celebration.

Gibson had a champagne bottle in his hand and when he turned it over to spill some of the contents on his manager, the top of the bottle accidentally nicked Sparky's head.

"I didn't even feel it," he says. "After awhile, though, someone told me there was blood dripping on my pants. I was so happy and excited over what we had done, I hadn't even noticed it. The doctor told me the top of the scalp is just like the skin on your face, so that when you cut it, it's hard to stop the bleeding."

"It wasn't serious, though. After it happened, Billy Consolo (one of the Tigers' coaches) said to me, 'do you get the feeling some of those boys out there don't like you?' I told him I wasn't going to go out there and find out."

Anderson laughs about that. He doesn't laugh about the message he had for them before Wednesday night's game. It was tied in with a previous one he had delivered last

April 1, the day before the Tigers left their Lakeland, Fla., training camp, and he reminded them of that.

"On that day," Anderson says, "I told them 'this is the finest camp I've ever seen. I thank you for that. Now go out and play.'"

That was five months ago in Lakeland. In the meantime, the Tigers have gone out and played better baseball than any other club in the universe.

Sparky reminded his players of that meeting in Florida when he talked with them again Wednesday evening.

"It's going to get a little hectic from now on and I won't get many chances to talk with you again," he told them. "But I'm taking you back to what I told you about this team the day before we left spring training. We finished first in the division and I thank you for that. Now go out and play."

"Nobody cares what you did yesterday. I don't, and nobody else does. You're gonna get two chances now. You can rock along on this all winter and you can come to camp next spring not being ready to play. Or you can do what you did this past year. It's entirely up to you."

That was pretty much the nub of what Sparky Anderson had to say to his players. He rested three of them — second baseman Lou Whitaker, shortstop Alan Trammell and Parrish — Wednesday night.

Anderson startled some people the very first day he became the Detroit manager on June 14, 1979 when he said that with some of the talent the Tigers had, he felt he should be fired if they didn't win in five years.

Bears' legacy reborn in NFL

United Press International
One of pro football's pioneer powers, long in the shadowland of mediocrity, hopes to convince National Football League powers this weekend that they have regained the status of contenders.

The Chicago Bears and the NFL are virtually synonymous. Former owner George Halas was one of the league's founding fathers and the modern T-formation was one of his innovations.

The team played in eight of the first 11 championship games and won six of them. Toss in names like Bronko Nagurski, Sid Luckman and Bulldog Turner and you're on your way to writing the history of pro football.

But the Bears came on hard times in the 1960s. They've played better than .500 ball in only four seasons

since 1967 and haven't advanced past a divisional playoff since the modern post-season system was organized.

They're 3-0 this season, lead the Central Division of the NFC by two games and are one of four unbeaten teams in the league.

They're still short on believers, however, and find themselves 3 1/2 point underdogs to the Seattle Seahawks (2-1) this Sunday in a game that also is featured by the assaults of the Bears' Walter Payton and the Seahawks' Franco Harris on Jimmy Brown's all-time league rushing mark of 12,312 yards.

In Sunday's other games, Kansas City is at Denver, the Los Angeles Rams at Cincinnati, Washington at New England, San Francisco at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh at Cleveland, Green Bay at Dallas, Tampa Bay at

the New York Giants, Minnesota at Detroit, St. Louis at New Orleans, Houston at Atlanta, Indianapolis at Miami and the New York Jets at Buffalo.

The defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Raiders will be at home seeking their fourth straight victory when they meet the San Diego Chargers Monday night in the ABC-TV game of the week.

Favorites are Miami by 11 points, Atlanta by 9, Dallas by 6 1/2, Detroit and Cincinnati by 6, San Francisco by 5, Pittsburgh by 2 1/2, the Jets by 2, Washington by 1 and the Raiders by 5 1/2.

The Bears have scored only 70 points in three games but have yielded the fewest points (21), fewest total yards (179.3 per game), fewest rushing yards (58.0 average), and fewest passing yards (121.3 average).

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