

SPORTS

Should athletes get special treatment?

Editor's note: This is the first in a three part series exploring how college athletes are treated once they've been recruited. Part I focuses on the mainstreaming practices of Notre Dame University and Penn State University.

By **BRANDON BERRY**
Sports Writer

Are today's college athletes students or high-priced exiles? As sports fans we idolize the athlete because we win when he does. As sports critics we stress alumni pressures and recruiting violations as signs of a corrupt, overemphasized institution. As sports journalists we look for that certain charm, charisma and affective flair that characterizes a "good interview."

But what of the athlete himself? Does his happiness matter? According to several of the most influential coaches in the nation today, the integration of the collegiate athlete into the mainstream of college life is an issue dealt with individually, fundamentally, regionally, not very well and sometimes, not at all.

While the methods to achieve this integration vary widely, the effects of successful integration are rarely disputed and seldomly overlooked. The effects cited most often are academic performance and personal happiness. They are also frequently mentioned as factors in describing a team's success at game time.

Because this success is so vital to fan support, Texas A&M Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf said athletes are often placed in a "Catch 22" cycle in which they "go it alone" when their team loses.

"It's human nature to support a winner," Metcalf said. "You have to earn their respect. Talk is cheap."

"There's no doubt in my mind that with the band and the big crowd, we're a 10 to 15 point better ballclub," he continued, "but you have to play well to get the crowd there in the first place."

But because for every winning team there is a losing one, the importance of dealing with this alienation is a statistical necessity. John Heisler, sports information director at Notre Dame Uni-



"It's hard to tell the average student that athletes really have problems when all (the non-athletes) see the fancy dorms, the fancy food and all the other special treatment." — Notre Dame Sports Information Director John Heisler

versity, said the integration problem is related to special privileges given athletes and can be eliminated from the beginning of an athlete's collegiate career.

"It's hard to tell the average student that athletes really have problems when all (the non-athletes) see the fancy dorms, the fancy food and all the other special treatment," Heisler said. "At Notre Dame, we view the fact that we have no athletic dorms as plus. Our kids eat the food the rest of the students eat, study along with the rest of the students and live with the rest of the

students. The only difference is that they play football on Saturday."

"But Notre Dame is a special place," he continued. "When you look at the size of the school (6,500 undergraduates), what makes sense here doesn't necessarily make sense at some of your bigger schools."

A more outspoken opponent of separate athletic living and dining facilities is Penn State Head Football Coach Joe Paterno.

"How can you expect 19-year-old kids to get ready for the real

world when they're given so many special privileges," Paterno said. "They aren't going to have these privileges when they get out of school, so why should they have them now?"

"It's important to get (the athletes) in with the rest of the kids," he continued. "How can they learn how to get along in life when they're removed from it?"

Penn State's Assistant Sports Information Director Bill Kowalski and Notre Dame's Heisler both agreed their schools'

See **ATHLETES**, page 17

Buzzer shot lifts Ags over Owls

By **BRANDON BERRY**
Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M women's basketball team wasn't alone in Atrium Gym during its 70-68 victory over Rice Tuesday night.

Only a blue-and-white striped vinyl partition kept an intramural volleyball game away from the action on the court.

Only a late second half rally kept the Ags from stalling the progress they've shown in strong showings against Southwest Conference powerhouses Texas, Texas Tech and Houston.

And only a last second shot, from the top of the key, by Beth Young kept A&M from losing to a team it took for granted.

"We were afraid that this might happen," said A&M Coach Lynn Hickey. "We just weren't ready to play. We've been emotionally up for the past three games and we came out flat."

So flat, that A&M was repeatedly out-rebounded and out-hustled.

So flat, that A&M was losing by 16 points with just over seven minutes remaining in the game.

"Everything (Rice) threw up there went in," Hickey said. "They were all hustling once their leading scorer got hurt."

Forward Holly Jones, who has shouldered most of the Rice offensive load throughout the season, hurt her ankle with six minutes remaining in the first half. The Owls preceded to outscore the Ags 14-2 in a run that spanned halftime and lasted until A&M called timeout, three minutes into the second half.

"I'm not surprised at all that they took Houston into overtime," Hickey said. "They're a scrappy, well-coached team. If Jenni Edgar hadn't been shooting well, it could've been a long night for us."

With Edgar's sixth point, scored with 3:45 left in the first half, she became the all-time leading scorer in the history of women's basketball at A&M.

Edgar finished with 18 points and was joined by Lisa Langston and



A&M's Beth Young



A&M's Jenni Edgar

Michell Tatum in double figures with 22 and 12 points respectively.

When Young's floater from the top of the key went in, A&M recorded SWC win No. 3 (against five losses) and victory No. 10 on the season.

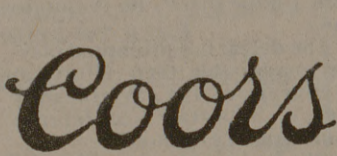
But not without considerable effort.

"The key is that we won," Hickey said. "We didn't play well, but we won the game. A win like this has got to give you confidence. Maybe we got help from somebody out there."

Anything was possible on a night in which A&M was definitely not alone.

MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR COMMITTEE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH



ALL-NIGHT COUNTY FAIR

FEBRUARY 2, 1985

7 P.M.—3 A.M.

MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

\$1.00 ADMISSION

FEATURING

1984 **Wrangler** Country Showdown **NATIONAL WINNERS**
powered by **DODGE**

"THE DEBONAIRES"

- 🐎 OVER 100 CARNIVAL BOOTHS
- 🐎 B-B-Q CAFE & WESTERN MOVIES ROOM 201, MSC
- 🐎 HAYRIDES
- 🐎 SQUARE DANCING
- 🐎 CONTESTS AND PRIZES

Additional Promotional Support Provided by **Rothers**

