

Sports

Sherrill, A&M SID stewing over 'rip piece'



Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray takes a deep breath before reading his prepared statement at Wednesday's press conference. In

the statement, Murray said he would not comment further on the allegations against him — accepting money and a car from an alumni.

By KEN SURY
Sports Writer

A concern over journalistic ethics was voiced by Texas A&M Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill and Sports Information Director Tom Turbiville during Wednesday's press conference.

"We're dealing with a serious problem," Sherrill said of Dallas television's WFAA allegations against A&M quarterback Kevin Murray.

"But also I think we're dealing with... ethics," he said. "There are ethical questions (involved here)."

Sherrill was referring to a taped interview, broadcast on WFAA-TV Tuesday night, in which reporter Gerry Oher showed Murray a signed leasing contract for a Nissan 300ZX.

The station said the car, with payments of \$749 a month, was being paid for by Rod Dockery, an A&M alumnus. Dockery also owns the Dallas leasing company in question, PELCO, Inc. Murray has denied that the signature was his.

Sherrill wasn't aware of Murray's interview with Oher.

"I wasn't there," Sherrill said. "I can't tell you what transpired. I can't comment on how it was handled."

In order to try and answer those questions, Sherrill asked Turbiville to explain the situation surrounding the interview.

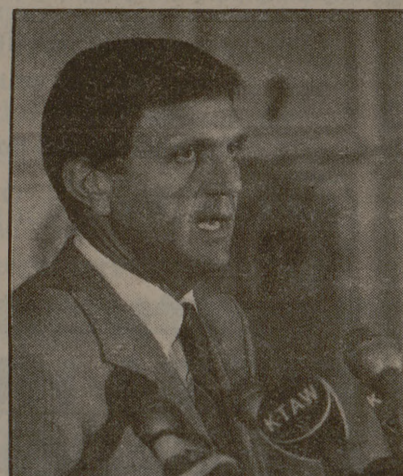
"The sports reporter involved (Oher) called me around 10:30 a.m. yesterday (Tuesday) morning and told me that he'd like to come in and talk to three or four players and Coach Sherrill," Turbiville said.

"And as is my custom, and many SID's (Sports Information Director's) customs, I asked him just briefly about the nature of the story... the angle, so I could be a little better educated as to what he wanted to do."

Turbiville said Oher told him he felt A&M played well in its 23-10 loss to Alabama and he wanted to talk to some of the players and Sherrill about the game.

"He arrived on campus around 1:45 p.m. yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon," Turbiville said. "When I greeted him I asked him again, 'What's the angle of the story?'... he said to me, 'This is kind of a dull week in the Southwest Conference, so we thought we'd come in and do a little feature story on your home opener.'"

Oher then was led to speak with Murray, since Murray had a good game Saturday and was from the Dallas area, Turbiville said.



A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill

Murray and Oher were outside the Cain Hall athletic dormitory, he said, and Oher was making small talk to set Murray at ease before the interview. Oher then asked Turbiville to go inside Cain Hall because it would make the interview more comfortable for them.

Turbiville said he began to get suspicious about the reporter, and said he only would go inside if Oher assured him that he was not doing a "rip piece," or a negative article on the A&M program.

He said Oher told him he was there to talk football.

"(So) I went inside," Turbiville said.

After Murray told him about the incident, Turbiville said he asked Oher to leave campus because Oher had "misrepresented himself" in order to get the interview. Oher left the campus.

This was not Oher's first embarrassment of a SWC player, however. During the SWC Press Tour at SMU in August, Oher, with cameras rolling, asked Mustang quarterback Don King to spell "audible." King spelled it incorrectly and the segment ran on a WFAA-TV newscast.

But near the end of the press conference, Sherrill softened the criticism toward the media when he was asked if he was angry at sports reporters in general due to this incident. He replied:

"No. I'll tell you one thing — if I get angry with the media every day, there's no way that I could work."

"You (sports reporters) have a job to do, and I feel that sometimes when you do that job, I don't have to agree with it. But you don't have to agree with me."

Ag spikers hope history repeats self in California



A&M spiker Margaret Spence

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

SAN DIEGO — Oct. 26 of last year was a significant day in Texas A&M volleyball history.

Terry Condon's Aggies remember that day well.

"Before that match, we were petrified of California teams," said A&M setter Lesha Beakley. "One thing I remember about that day was we walked out on the court and said, 'Let's just play and have fun.' Once we got out there, we just concentrated and played our game. Essentially, we did everything right."

The No. 18 Aggies walked out on the G. Rollie White Coliseum

floor and destroyed No. 8 San Diego State. Most of the A&M players say that match exemplified their 33-4 season.

"Everyone remembers that (match)," said outside hitter Margaret Spence. "It was an emotional match. The California teams always had an advantage over us. They are always ranked and other teams outside California always feel they are better. They have all this stuff they carry in their back pockets."

"That match, we just played our game. We found out we could play with these guys. We surprised ourselves and made history."

Although the A&M players remember the San Diego State match well, they are hoping that the Aztecs have forgotten.

Thursday, the Aztecs (7-2) get a chance at revenge. In the San Diego State Tournament, the No. 15 A&M meets No. 10 SDSU at 9:30 p.m.

"They came down here on a tour," Spence said. "They beat Texas and then lost to us and Houston. I think they had the wrong attitude. They came here thinking, 'We're from California. We're going to win.' They will definitely have a chip on their shoulder. There will be a revenge factor on their part."

But, Beakley said the Aggies will be just as ready.

"I think they'll have a different perspective," said the A&M co-captain. "They know there's a Texas team that can compete with them. I know they'll give us a hard match, so we'll have to be that much more ready. I think we're going to do it again."

The Aggies didn't start the '85 season memorably.

A&M played weakling Sam Houston State in a match the players said they would just as soon forget.

"We don't want to remember that one," said Spence about the Aggies loss to the Bearkats.

"We've left that match in Huntsville. We had something to prove to ourselves this past weekend and we did."

The Aggies of new played like the Aggies of old last weekend as they waltzed through the Southern Illinois Tournament, taking first and upping their record to 4-1 on the season.

"We were very pleased with the way we played in that tournament," Beakley said. "We got off to a bad start against Sam (Houston State). No one did anything in that match. In the (Southern) Illinois tournament, everyone played well. Things ran more smoothly."

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