

Teachers, not foes, decide games

# Law clips Texas football obsession

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Friday nights in Marathon aren't the same now that the football season has ended prematurely, not at the hands of opponents but of teachers who issued report cards.

Half the members of the football team in the West Texas town of 800 failed at least one class, making them ineligible to play for the next six weeks under the state's no pass, no play rule.

The statute, which runs counter to Texans' obsession with high school football, ultimately will face scrutiny by the U.S. Supreme Court. "It really hurts this town," Gary Lamar, Marathon football coach, told one reporter. "This is a football town. That's all they have here."

The rule, passed during a special legislative session last summer, bars students failing any course during a six-week grading period from participating in extracurricular activities for the next six weeks.

The activities aren't limited to the playing field. In Dallas, the H. Grady Spruce High School Marching Apache Band abandoned all plans of marching during halftime after 26 of the 48 band members failed at least one class.

Band director Don Patmon said, "I had eight trumpet players before. I have one now."

The remaining 22 members, dubbed the "A Team," now assemble in front of the drill team each game and play a single tune.

Statewide, the rule benched 15 percent of high school varsity football players, according to the Texas

court ruling now is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Anthony refused Wednesday to grant an injunction requested by attorney Anthony Sheppard that would have barred schools from enforcing the rule until the federal court decides its constitutionality.

However, the judge set a Nov. 18 trial date to hear testimony on the

But Gov. Mark White, who appointed the panel that suggested the rule, disagrees, saying Texans should put academics before athletics.

"There is more at stake here... than a district football championship," White says. "What is at stake are jobs for those young men and women when they get out of school. The real issue is going to be no learn, no earn."

Within the Houston Independent School District, the state's largest, 637 of 2,771 athletes were removed from the rosters, including 416 of 1,371 sub-varsity football players. Four Houston schools already have scrapped freshman football schedules.

In the San Antonio area, 790 athletes cannot play ball because they failed at least one class.

John Kincaide, athletic director for the Dallas Independent School District, said 123 of 765 varsity football players were declared ineligible.

Schools in Texas' Panhandle fared better, with 40 of 101 schools not losing a varsity football player and 30 losing only one, officials said.

*Within the Houston Independent School District, the state's largest, 637 of 2,771 athletes were removed from the rosters because of the no-pass, no-play rule, including 416 of 1,371 sub-varsity football players. Four schools have scrapped freshman football schedules.*

High School Coaches Association, the only group that monitors the failing rates of football players.

Failure rates among sub-varsity players were higher, about 25 percent in the junior varsity and 38 percent for younger players, the coaches' group says.

Earlier this summer, State District Judge Marsha Anthony of Houston threw out the no pass, no play provisions, but her decision was overturned by the Texas Supreme Court. An appeal of the state high

merits of the case, which now is a class action suit involving Texas' 1,100 school districts.

Sheppard contends the rule impinges on the fundamental rights of students.

"It affects more than sports," he says. "We do not think regulation of extracurricular activities is a compelling state interest."

## Cheerleader flunks typing, cut from team

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A freshman cheerleader, booted out of the ranks after failing an introductory typing course, is asking officials at a Fort Worth high school to investigate their grading policies.

Laurie Schellstede expected to pass her typing class, but when she received her report card Friday, her final grade was a 48.

"I was shocked," Schellstede said. "She (the typing teacher) never told me I was about to flunk her class."

Schellstede was barred Friday from the six-member cheerleading squad under the state's no pass, no play rule.

Students must pass all their courses to participate in extracurricular activities under the new rule.

"At the very least, I expected to make an 85," she said.

Schellstede's problem, her teacher later told her, was her typing technique, she said.

"She checked our posture and how we curved our fingers and said that was half our grade," Schellstede said. "It's not fair because she never

told me before that I was failing. I expected to make at least an 85. If I had known I was in trouble, I would have tried harder. I would have tried to do everything differently."

The typing teacher, T.V. Meek, could not be reached by telephone for comment Wednesday.

Annicie Elliott, the district's director of vocational office education, said she was investigating the disputed grade and planned to meet with the teacher Wednesday.

Elliott said that under the school district's curriculum guide for beginning typing, technique accounts for about 50 percent of the typing grade.

Schellstede complained about her typing grade to school board members Tuesday night. She said she made a 97 on the typing test and averaged 96 in the classroom work.

"I feel I've been treated unfairly," Schellstede told school officials. "I wish you would check into your grading system."

"I thought this (no pass, no play) was for students who don't study hard enough."

## What's up

Thursday

**OFFICE OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION:** Walt Disney World in Florida will have a meeting for students who are interested in an internship position with them in Spring 1986. Students majoring in journalism, speech communications, theater arts, management, marketing, agriculture, and horticulture are invited to attend an information session in 108 Harrington at 6:15 p.m.

**TAMU STUDENT ART FILM SOCIETY:** will show Akira Kurosawa's "The Seven Samurai" and a trailer for an upcoming film "The Canterbury Tales" at 7 p.m. in 103 Soil Crop Sciences and Entomology Bldg.

**SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGERS, APPRAISERS AND CONSULTANTS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg to hear a speaker.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 208 Scoates to hear a speaker. A yearbook picture will be taken at 6:45 p.m. in Zachry lobby.

**TOMBALL HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

**POSSUM KINGDOM AREA HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. at the usual place.

**MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will show "The Forbidden Planet" at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Price: \$1.50.

**AGGIES' SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder to hear a speaker.

**ACCOUNTING SOCIETY:** will meet at 6:45 p.m. in Rudder Theater to hear a speaker.

**CYCLING TEAM:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, VENTILATING & AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS:** will have a speaker at 7 p.m. in 342 Zachry.

**STUDENT YOUTH FUN DAY COMMITTEE:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 225 Pavillion.

**OFF CAMPUS AGGIES:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Rudder Fountain to go to yell practice.

**TAMU FENCING CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 267 E. Kyle.

Friday

**INTER-VARISITYCHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

**HILLEL FOUNDATION:** will have a sophomore/freshman dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**CLASS OF '87:** is selling t-shirts in the MSC through Oct. 25.

**CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder for a leadership training class.

**UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will have Bible study at 6:15 p.m. at A&M Presbyterian Church offices.

*Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.*

## Tumor cells could replace damaged brain tissue

Associated Press

DALLAS — Initial experiments suggest that brain cancer cells, treated so they cannot reproduce, might someday serve as a replacement for brain tissue that has been damaged by disease, a researcher says.

Human brain tumor cells deactivated by chemotherapy drugs and other agents have survived and grown in the brains of monkeys, without triggering new cancer growth, according to Donald Gash of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, N.Y. He reported the finding Tuesday at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

Furthermore, the brain tumor cells grew extensions into surrounding brain tissue. That is an indication that it might be possible to encourage the transplanted tumor cells to make working connections with the

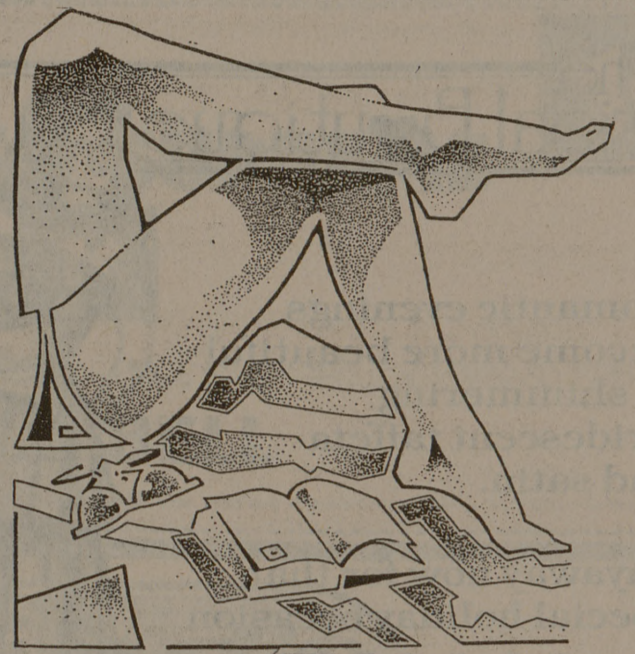
brain and thus restore lost brain functions, Gash said.

Alzheimer's disease is one ailment that might eventually yield to this kind of treatment, Gash said, although human experiments of this sort are likely to be many years away.

A variety of animal experiments have been done using animal brain tissue to correct brain damage. But such experiments in humans pose a central problem: Where will the brain tissue come from? Gash's experiments are intended to show that human tumor cells, grown in the laboratory, can provide the replacement tissue.

Ordinary human brain tissue cannot be grown in the laboratory because normal brain cells eventually fail to reproduce in cultures, Gash said.

However, part of the cellular irregularity of cancer conveys an immortality on the cells.



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