

Sports

Magazines pick Aggies as one of football's best

By Homer Jacobs
Sports Writer

It was a cold, damp Saturday afternoon in mid-November in 1984, and the Aggies had just been handed a humiliating 28-0 trouncing by the Arkansas Razorbacks in Fayetteville.

It was the worst of times for Coach Jackie Sherrill's Aggies.

Fourteen games and 12 victories later, Texas A&M is on the verge of enjoying the best of times.

Sports Analysis

"Best" as in legitimate contenders for the national championship. At least that is what some college football preview magazines are predicting, as the annual publications began hitting area newsstands.

Athlon's college preview was the first to arrive, and it picks the Aggies to win the national title in 1986. Oklahoma, Ohio State, Tennessee and Michigan follow to round out the top five.

Athlon also believes Sherrill will be the National Coach of the Year, and 1985 All-America linebacker Johnny Holland will again anchor the Aggies defense and repeat as an All-America.

The college section in Don Heinrich's Pro Preview/86 foresees a perfect 12-0 season for the 1986 Cotton Bowl champs, viewing A&M's chances of a national crown as cushioned because of a "patty-cake schedule." The Aggies' "patty-cake schedule" includes conference road games at Houston, SMU, Arkansas and Texas.

Two other well-respected preview magazines, The Sporting News College Football 1986 Yearbook and the College Football 1986 Yearbook, don't predict such lofty results for the Aggies.

The College Football Yearbook thinks the Aggies will be the fourth-best team in the nation, edging out Baylor for the Southwest Conference crown.

TSN drops the Aggies to No. 10, four spots lower than A&M's finish in last year's final Associated Press poll. Texas is picked 16th and Baylor 18th.

TSN predicts another national championship for Oklahoma, while UCLA, Michigan, Alabama and Miami (Fla.) should give the Sooners the most competition for the top spot in January.

By the way, TSN has failed to correctly pick the national champion the past four years.

In its "Linebackers — Wild and Crazy Men" section, TSN mentions Oklahoma's Brian Bosworth, California's Hardy Nickerson, Ohio State's Chris Spielman, Penn State's Shane Conlan, LSU's Michael Brooks and Alabama's Cornelius Bennett.

Holland did not make the elite list, but was placed on the Division I All-America checklist, along with junior quarterback Kevin Murray and senior defensive end Rod Saddler.

Aggie Notes . . . Heinrich's colorful college football section also contained "The Best (And Worst) of College Football." In this section, the Texas-A&M rivalry was considered as the eighth best in the country; Aggie bonfire was the third-best tradition in college football; and A&M's 12th man kick-off team was regarded as the fifth-best miscellaneous happening in the college game.

ESPN continued its broadcast relationship with A&M by picking out the season opener for the Aggies at Louisiana State in Baton Rouge on Sept. 13. The cable network also bought the rights to the A&M-UT game in Austin Thanksgiving night, after ABC decided to pass on the rights to the annual clash. Both games will be televised in prime time, although specific starting times for the games have not been finalized.

Ags' Heard paces relay team to win

More records broken in sixth day of Goodwill Games competition

Poor crowd, attitude apparent at Games

MOSCOW (AP) — Texas A&M's Floyd Heard ran the second leg of the 400-meter relay and Carl Lewis anchored the U.S. team to a first-place finish and the world's third-fastest time in the event at the Goodwill Games Wednesday.

In other action, Canada's Ben Johnson ran the fastest 100-meters ever at low altitude and continued his recent domination of Lewis, and 400-meter hurdler Edwin Moses won his 11th consecutive race in the final day of the track program at the Goodwill Games.

"If my block didn't slip at the start a couple of inches, the time would have been even better," said Johnson, who was timed in 9.95 seconds.

A fifth world record was added to the list at the games, this one in cycling, as a Soviet squad smashed the record for the four-kilometer team pursuit.

At the end of the sixth day, the Soviet Union had 35 gold medals and 112 overall, compared with 30 golds and a total of 85 for the United States.

Johnson, who finished third in the 1984 Olympics, blasted out of the starting blocks and sped to the finish to tie Jimmy Hines for second on the all-time list and come within .02 seconds of the world record of American Calvin Smith.

Both Smith and Hines ran their races at high altitude — Smith in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1983, and Hines at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968. Moscow is much closer to sea level and the heavier air gives more resistance to runners.

Second was Chidi Imo of Nigeria

MOSCOW (AP) — Empty seats and complaints from some athletes of favored-nation status for Soviet competitors have cast ill will over the Goodwill Games.

After Tuesday night's track events, Harry Groves, the U.S. men's track coach, called the games "international bush league" for the way Soviet athletes appeared to receive advantageous competition assignments. Stephanie Hightower of the United States, who clipped a hurdle and failed to make the finals of the women's 100-meter high hurdles Tuesday night, said the "whole trip has been horrible."

"They couldn't pay me \$3,000 to do this again," she said.

In terms of most common comparisons, the games have fallen far below the Olympics, boycotted or not.

About 3,000 athletes from 70 nations are competing. Athletes numbered 8,200 in Moscow for the 1980 Olympics and 10,825 in Los Angeles four years later, with twice as many nations participating, despite boycotts of both events.

Another big difference is attendance. At Los Angeles, tickets were scarce even for events such as team handball and synchronized swimming. But Tuesday night, when Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union raised his world pole vault record to 19 feet, 8 3/4 inches, less than half of the 100,000 seats in Lenin stadium were filled.

The U.S. women's 400 relay team also won, with Evelyn Ashford anchoring a run of 42.12 seconds.

Moses, running only his second race in almost two years, led from the start and scored a two-meter victory in the 400 hurdles, an event that has become almost his personal domain.

He was clocked in 47.94 seconds, well off his world record of 47.02 but fast enough to beat Alexander Vasiliev of the Soviet

Union and Dave Patrick of the U.S.

Since just after his Olympic triumph in Los Angeles, Moses has been hampered by back and leg injuries and — between late August 1984 and last month — has run only one race, in Finland two weeks ago.

The Soviet Union's four-man pursuit cycling team was clocked at 4:12.830 in qualifications, smashing the old mark of 4:14.264 set by another Soviet team.

Erika Salumae of the Soviet Union, who set a world record in qualifying Tuesday, advanced to the semifinals of the women's 200-meter sprint cycling with a 2-0 victory over Renee Duprel. A second American quarterfinalist, Ellen Braun, also was eliminated, 2-0, by China's Zhou Suyin.

The U.S. women's basketball team remained unbeaten, with a 67-58 victory over Bulgaria. The U.S. women's volleyball team won its first match of the tournament over Czechoslovakia 11-15, 16-14, 15-10, 15-4, and the American men's water polo beat the Netherlands, 12-5.

The Soviets swept the modern pentathlon gold medals, with Vakhthang Yagorashvili winning the men's and Tatyana Chernetskaya the women's. American Lori Norwood took a bronze medal in the women's competition.

Mike Conley of the United States won the triple jump with a leap of 58 1/2 feet.

Doug Nordquist won the high jump with the best outdoor performance by an American this year at 7-8.

Doctor says Bias free-based cocaine

BALTIMORE (AP) — University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias died after apparently smoking a pure form of cocaine free-base, rather than from inhaling the drug in powder form, the assistant state medical examiner said Wednesday.

Redness in the lining of Bias' trachea, or windpipe, caused by the inhalation of heat, and unusual congestion in the throat, indicate Bias had smoked, or free-based, the drug, said Dr. Dennis F. Smyth, the assistant medical examiner.

"We've never seen people snorting get levels that high," said Smyth, adding that the telltale sign was a red lining in the trachea usually present in fire deaths.

The high concentration of the drug, 6.5 milligrams per liter, in the blood also pointed toward the use of free-base, Smyth said.

It was believed earlier that Bias had inhaled the drug in powder form.

Smyth said it was not possible,

from the autopsy, to determine the method of free-basing used.

Free-base is manufactured by freeing the cocaine base from the adulterated powder form, thereby reducing the melting point of the drug and allowing the smoking of almost pure cocaine vapor.

Bias suffered a seizure, collapsed and died June 19 in his dormitory room just two days after the National Basketball Association champion Boston Celtics made him the

second pick overall in the college draft.

A water pipe, which is commonly used to smoke free-base cocaine, was found in a dumpster behind the College Park dormitory where Bias collapsed.

Yale H. Caplan, the state toxicologist who tested the water pipe, said it showed no traces of cocaine, but added that would be expected when free-base is smoked at its maximum efficiency.

Major League Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	54	29	.651	—	California	46	37	.554
New York	47	38	.553	8	Texas	45	39	.536
Cleveland	44	37	.543	9	Chicago	38	44	.463
Baltimore	44	39	.530	10	Kansas City	38	46	.452
Toronto	45	41	.523	10 1/2	Minnesota	36	48	.429
Detroit	41	42	.494	13 1/2	Seattle	36	50	.419
Milwaukee	40	42	.488	13 1/2	Oakland	32	54	.372

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	
New York	55	25	.688	—	Houston	45	39	.536
Montreal	45	36	.556	10 1/2	San Francisco	45	39	.536
Philadelphia	40	41	.494	15 1/2	San Diego	43	40	.518
Pittsburgh	34	46	.425	21	Atlanta	42	42	.500
St. Louis	34	47	.420	21 1/2	Cincinnati	38	43	.469
Chicago	34	46	.425	22	Los Angeles	37	46	.446

Wednesday's Games

New York 3, Texas 4
California 6, Milwaukee 1
Detroit 7, Minnesota 0
Cleveland 6, Chicago 3
Toronto 6, Seattle 5
Boston 7, Oakland 16
Kansas City 3, Baltimore 0

Wednesday's Games

Montreal 2, Houston 1
Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 1
Cincinnati 11, New York 1
Chicago 4, San Francisco 3, 10 innings
St. Louis at Los Angeles, (n)
Pittsburgh at San Diego, (n)

Rookie Joyner gets starting spot on AL All-Stars

NEW YORK (AP) — First baseman Wally Joyner of the California Angels on Wednesday became the first rookie named to an American League starting berth by fan balloting as he won a place for the July 15 All-Star Game in Houston.

Other starters announced by the Baseball Commissioner's Office included New York Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield, who has been in a slump most of the season.

Kirby Puckett of the Minnesota Twins, who never was among the top three outfielders in the previous

voting periods, overtook Reggie Jackson, a 14-time All-Star, for the final outfield berth. Rickey Henderson of the Yankees is the other starting outfielder.

The remainder of the AL starters named were second baseman Lou Whitaker of the Detroit Tigers; shortstop Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles; third baseman George Brett of the Kansas City Royals; and catcher Lance Parrish of Detroit.

Joyner, whose development allowed the Angels to pass up resigning seven-time batting champion

Rod Carew, was batting .298 with 20 home runs and 66 runs batted in through Tuesday's games.

Joyner, 24, attracted 917,972 votes to beat out the Yankees' Don Mattingly, last year's AL MVP winner and a .330 hitter this year, who got 783,846 votes.

This was the first year that rookies appeared on the computerized ballot. Until now, first-year players had to rely on write-in votes.

Ripken, hitting .297 with 12 homers and 46 RBI, collected the most votes, 1,486,806 — more than 1 mil-

lion votes ahead of shortstop runner-up Alan Trammell of Detroit.

In a close race at third base, Brett with 1,257,432 votes, withstood a large surge by Boston's Wade Boggs, the AL's leading hitter, to win the spot by 84,903 votes as both players top the 1-million mark.

It marked the 11th consecutive year that Brett, batting .291, earned a starting job.

Dick Howser is the AL manager, while Whitey Herzog of St. Louis will manage the NL.

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