

Sports

A&M volleyball team has lively scrimmage

Associated Press
 Anthony Wilson
 A maroon team consisting of returning lettermen Yvonne Van Brandt, Kelli Kellen and Cheri Steensma defeated the white team 15-5, 15-13 in a Texas A&M volleyball team intrasquad scrimmage Monday night.

The event, called the media game, was a chance for the public and media to watch the team in organized competition for the first time this season. The maroon team was coached by KBTX-TV sportscaster Jeff McShan and A&M assistant coach Fran Ralston. The white team was coached by Bryan Eagle sports writer Larry Bowden and A&M assistant coach Tom Dumper.

The maroon team jumped to a 7-0 lead in the first game behind Kellen and Steensma's spikes and Van Brandt's blocks. The white team came back to score four straight points before the maroon team cruised to the win by scoring eight of the last nine points. In the second game, the lead switched hands five

times with neither team leading by more than three points. Head coach Al Givens said the game was basically "a dress rehearsal."

"It was an opportunity to get in uniform and look at some different combinations to check relationships and see how the chemistry is coming along," Givens said. "I think there were moments this evening where you could see that we have the potential to be really good," he added. "There's definitely a lot of talent on the court. But there's so many new faces that I think the key is going to be how well everyone meshes."

"I don't think our problem is going to be offensive in nature. I think it's going to be getting to know people and playing more mature."

Givens pointed out that an intrasquad scrimmage doesn't necessarily tell much about the team. Players know the weaknesses of their teammates and try to exploit them in order to win a starting position, he said.

Cowboys back to old form in preseason shellacking

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have regressed to their miserable 1986 form.

The Cowboys, who have scored only two touchdowns in three preseason games, committed 17 penalties for 163 yards in Sunday night's 34-10 NFL preseason loss to the Los Angeles Raiders.

"We were poor from an execution standpoint and we were poor from an effort standpoint," said Dallas quarterback Danny White.

Dallas still doesn't have a passing touchdown in its 1-2 preseason. "I have confidence that everybody will do whatever is necessary to get this team back on the right track," White said. "I'm going to worry about me and what I have to do, and that's a lot right now."

Offensive guard Crawford Ker said the team just had a letdown after a rough training camp. "I'm optimistic that we're going to have a heckuva season," Ker said. "We did have a tough camp, but we should be putting the ball into the end zone."

White said he thought the team could be ready for its season opener against St. Louis in two weeks.

"I think we'll be OK," White said. "My wrist is not bothering that much on my throws. Most problems against the Raiders were decision problems and some inexperience problems by the guys I was throwing to."

White suffered three interceptions by the Raiders and Steve Pelluer was picked off two times. "It was a good case of not being on the same page with my receivers," White said. "This has got to be a whole lot of people who will be looking for moving van and new houses and everything else. I know Coach (Tom) Landry is not going to stand for this type of performance."

White added, "I don't know what I've been as embarrassed as I was against the Raiders. I'm not very patient right now because I don't think we've got the luxury of time to be patient."

Saints, Falcons should challenge NFC West

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — One of these seasons, the New Orleans Saints might reach the NFL playoffs and make San Francisco 49ers Coach Bill Walsh look good.

"It seems like I say this every year, but I think New Orleans is on the verge of breaking out and getting into the playoffs," Walsh said in a preseason look at the 49ers' National Football Conference's Western Division foes.

Walsh is heading into his ninth season with the 49ers, who won their fourth NFC West title in the last six seasons by finishing 10-5-1 last year and edging the Los Angeles Rams, 10-6.

The Rams have one division title and four second-place finishes so far in the 1980s.

The Saints, in their first season under Coach Jim Mora, were 6-5 at one point last year but faded out of the division race and finished 7-9.

In 20 NFL seasons, the team has never posted a winning record or made the playoffs.

The Saints have, besides Walsh's encouraging words, a highly regarded defensive line and linebackers, 1,000-yard rusher Rueben Mayes and their superb placekicker, Morten Anderson.

David Wilson and Bobby Hebert again are competing for the starting quarterback job. Hebert, former USFL star, was knocked out of the starting lineup by a broken foot last season.

The two passers combined for 12 touchdowns and were intercepted 25 times.

Lonzell Hill, a rookie from Washington, could break into the lineup as a starting wide receiver, and several rookies are getting shots at winning jobs in the defensive backfield.

The Falcons, the Saints' perennial conference rivals, last made the playoffs in the strike-shortened 1982 season, and haven't had a winning season since.

Last year, the Falcons went 7-8-1, and an off-season change brought Marion Campbell back for his second tour as head coach.

Atlanta's 25-year-old quarterback David Archer was another of the many NFL quarterbacks injured during the 1986 season.

He helped the Falcons get off to a 5-1 start, but the team was 5-5-1 when he suffered a shoulder injury in November, and backup Turk Schonert took over. The Atlanta passing offense ranked 25th in the NFL, and the quarterbacks were sacked 56 times.

The Falcons' strong rushing attack is led by Gerald Riggs, who has surpassed 1,000 yards three straight seasons. Second-round draft pick Kenny Flowers from Clemson joins the running back contingent this year.

Defensively, Atlanta ranked in the middle of the NFL pack statistically last year with a mix of veterans, such as linebackers Buddy Curry and Joel

Williams, and young players, including linemen Rick Bryan and Tony Casillas.

Campbell, who was head coach in Atlanta from 1974 to 1976, returned to the team last year as defensive coordinator.

Coach John Robinson of the Rams has a new offensive coordinator, Ernie Zampese, formerly with the San Diego Chargers, hoping to give the team a passing offense to complement NFL rushing champion Eric Dickerson. The Rams' passing offense ranked dead last in the NFL last season.

Jim Everett became the Rams' starting quarterback late in his rookie season and is the undisputed No. 1 passer going into his first full NFL season.

The Rams should have full-time play from Henry Ellard, the wide receiver who missed the early part of last season because of a contract holdout. Ellard caught 34 passes for 447 yards in nine games last season, after gaining 811 yards on receptions in 1985. He's also got a career 12.7-yard average on punt returns, best mark in NFL history.

The Los Angeles offensive line is one of the league's strongest and most experienced. Tackle Jackie Slater and guard Dennis Harrah are heading into their 12th and 13th pro seasons, respectively.

The defense, which ranked fourth in the NFC last year, includes safety Nolan Cromwell, linemen

Reggie Doss and Gary Jeter, a linebacker Carl Ekern, all with at least 10 seasons of experience.

San Francisco's veteran players include several who starred on the per Bowl championship team in 1981 and 1984. Quarterback Montana, 31, heads that list and would like to be the 49ers' starter several more seasons.

But it's unlikely that Walsh envisioned more than a year or two of backup duty for Steve Young when he traded with Tampa Bay for the 25-year-old quarterback, former Brigham Young All-American.

USFL player, Young was a star most of last season and took plenty of lumps, being sacked 47 times and intercepted 13 times while throwing for 2,282 yards and eight touchdowns.

Montana had back surgery in September and played only eight regular season games last year, yet posted for 2,236 yards.

Keith Fahnhorst, the 35-year-old offensive tackle, center Fred Quain, tight end Russ Francis and wide receiver Dwight Clark are all veterans nearing the end of their careers.

The 49ers' most talented young players include wide receiver Fred Rice, the 1986 league leader in receiving yardage with 1,570, fullback Roger Craig, and defensive linemen Michael Carter and Charles Hall.

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Abandoned SMU facilities termed 'ghost town'

DALLAS (AP) — Former Southern Methodist defensive back Franky Thomas left his East Texas home recently to report to preseason practice with his new team, the University of Houston Cougars.

But he couldn't resist a last swing by Dallas and SMU's athletic facilities for one last look at the school where no Southwest Conference football will be played this fall.

"It was like one big ghost town. It made me kind of sad," Thomas said.

He scaled a six-foot chain link fence surrounding Ownby Stadium, where he spent the first three seasons of his college career practicing for a football team that no longer exists. He sat alone for an hour, reminiscing about the days before the NCAA suspended the Mustangs' football program for repeat recruiting violations.

"That was the first time the reality of the situation really hit home," Thomas told the Fort Worth Star-

Telegram. "I sat there thinking about how a lot of guys had shed a lot of blood, sweat and tears on that field. Then, some guy comes along with a pen and a piece of paper and takes it away from you."

At last count, the brunt of SMU's 56 scholarship football players had scattered to 26 different universities — from Columbia University in New York (defensive end John Robinson) to the University of Hawaii (linebacker Ken Masterson).

SMU players were allowed to transfer anywhere in the United States with immediate eligibility after the NCAA announced on Feb. 25 that it was shutting down the program for a year. The decision was based on a \$61,000 slush fund involving 13 members of last year's team.

Faced with departing players and a loss of scholarships, SMU officials voluntarily canceled the 1988 season as well.

When SMU opens its doors for fall classes, it will have no athletic director, no football coach and no football team.

One of three scholarship players who did not transfer is linebacker Ricky Roden. He spent most summer afternoons this year lifting weights at the tiny training facility at Class 2A Godley High School.

Roden will have two years of eligibility remaining when SMU resumes football. He made a couple of trips to SMU in early summer but did not return, he said.

"It was sad to be over there. There are big signs all around saying 'SMU Football' but no one in there has anything to do with SMU football," he said.

With the rest of the SWC in training camp, Roden got an uneasy feeling in his stomach every afternoon, he said.

"This is the first year I haven't played football since the fifth grade.

I'm used to going to practice. It doesn't feel natural not to be there," he said.

Wide receiver Mitchell Glieber, another who didn't transfer and has eligibility in 1989, when SMU football returns. Defensive end Bill Kershaw is the other.

"This whole place is deserted," Glieber said. "It's hard to work when there's nothing to get ready for. Your mind really isn't into it. It's hard to be when the place was used to be and everyone was joking with each other."

He added, "This program ranked No. 1 in the nation going into the 1985 season. It's hard to believe it's come down to this."

Defensive tackle Robert McDuffie, who joined Thomas and offensive tackle Del Montgomery as part of Houston's "Three Mustangs" last year, said his heart goes out to

M S C
A G G I E
C I N E M A
 Eleni Gatzoyiannis tried to organize the escape of her children from Greece and its civil war, but was discovered and executed by Greek Communist guerrillas. 1985's *Eleni*, starring Kate Nelligan, John Malkovich and Linda Hunt is the story of her son's journey to reveal her story and obtain retribution. Directed by Peter Yates.
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