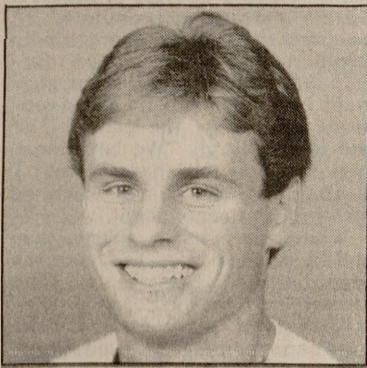


Sports

Livingstone back for 4th year at A&M Olympian shuns pros in favor of school, Aggies

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer



Scott Livingstone

When the 1987 Texas A&M baseball season ended, Aggie third baseman Scott Livingstone evidently was not ready to stop playing ball. He not only was drafted by the Oakland Athletics but also was chosen to represent the United States in the Pan American Games.

With the United States capturing the silver medal by finishing second behind Cuba, Livingstone is on his way to the 1988 Summer Olympics and a long career in baseball.

"The main goal (as a team) was to qualify for the Olympics," said Livingstone, 22 and a senior agricultural economics major from Dallas. "If they would have lost, we would have had to come in first. They get an automatic bid because they're Cuba and they're the number one team in the world. We had to play well."

"If Cuba came in first, we had to come in second," Livingstone explained. "If they would have lost, we would have had to come in first. They get an automatic bid because they're Cuba and they're the number one team in the world. We had to play well."

"Basically the Pan American Games is a warmup for competition and a chance for teams to qualify for the Olympics. They have them the summer before the Olympics."

The team is chosen by the Pan American baseball coaches. "They usually know from the

coaches around the country who the good players are," Livingstone said of his selection. "There are regional directors who call coaches around the region to find the good players. They pool all of those together and pick from there. Luckily my name was one of the ones to come up."

"When they told me I was picked, I was tickled to death. I wanted to go."

During the Pan American Games Livingstone hit for the cycle against Canada and knocked in five of the seven runs scored by the U.S. squad to boost the team into the gold medal game against Cuba. He batted .345 during the summer and tied the team lead in doubles with 11.

For Livingstone, playing baseball also meant leaving the Dallas home front.

"I have completed discussions with Oakland and have decided to return to Texas A&M for my senior

Tennessee and Florida one time. It wasn't a bad trip.

"The only time we went out of the country was to Cuba. That was an experience in itself. It was very scary. That's where I lost all of my weight. I got food poisoning and I spent my birthday in the hospital. It was a good birthday."

Livingstone was right at home playing his usual position — third base.

"We played a 36-game schedule," he explained. "I played third base on about 30 of them."

He continued his baseball career at A&M from Lake Highlands High School where he earned All-State honors his junior and senior years and All-America honors in 1984.

But that was not enough for Livingstone. He came to Texas A&M where he was named All-Southwest Conference his freshman year by leading the SWC with eight home runs, setting a school record. He stayed on the "honor roll" by being selected to the NCAA South II Regional All-Tournament team in 1986.

Are you thinking big league material?

Livingstone was drafted on three occasions — 1984 by the Toronto Blue Jays, 1986 by the New York Yankees and 1987 by the Oakland Athletics. After playing three years of Aggie baseball, he weighed the advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages were heavier.

"I have completed discussions with Oakland and have decided to return to Texas A&M for my senior

year," Livingstone said. "Oakland has been very fair to me and I appreciate their professional manner and interest."

"I respect their final position, but believe their proposal is not sufficient for me to forego the educational and athletic opportunities available to me at A&M."

Aggies should be relieved that Livingstone is returning for his senior year. A&M Coach Mark Johnson is.

"Obviously, we are extremely pleased and excited about Scott's return for his senior year," Johnson said. "We will no doubt be a better team with Scott Livingstone."

"The experiences he has already achieved not only at Texas A&M, but in playing in the tough Alaskan League, and then representing our country on the USA team this summer, certainly have enhanced his overall development, not only as a baseball player, but as a student and person as well. We're pleased he's here."

Livingstone is not the only Aggie in his family. His older brother, Bill, and his sister-in-law are A&M graduates. Bill tried out for the A&M baseball team but was not as lucky as Scott.

"It has been my goal for many years to play professional baseball," Livingstone said, "and I plan to begin that career in June of 1988. For the 1987-88 school year, I am committed to Coach Johnson, my teammates and Texas A&M, and will work hard to contribute to the baseball program and the University."

Dorsett reneges, plays hypocrite by re-entering Cowboys' camp

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Well, now I've heard it all. In all of the idiocy and self-deflection that has gone on in the past few weeks concerning the National Football League players strike, as all of the greedy players lined up in a single file complaining about the greedy owners, I'm all but positive this was the first time I've actually laughed out loud.

Viewpoint

It seems that Tony Dorsett is going to cross the picket line. Dorsett, of course, is the man quoted in newspapers and broadsheets nationwide with complaints about Randy White doing precisely what Dorsett says he will now do himself.

Captain Scab, meet Corporal Scab. How many ethical, moral and biological darts will fit inside this scab? Plenty.

The simple hypocrisy of the thing is the most simple problem to point out. If crossing the line was so terrific in the first place, how could Dor-

sett bring himself to do the same thing?

The answer, of course, is that it wasn't his money being lost when Randy White was fishing.

We've all heard about Dorsett's accounting problems that caused the highly-paid running back to declare himself financially insolvent a couple of years ago. Of all people, Dorsett should know the difficulties that can accrue from losing lots of money in a short amount of time.

And now it seems that Dorsett, like White, will lose lots of bread in annuities if he sits out anymore Cowboy action.

So ethical guidelines of conduct now revolve around Tony Dorsett's wallet. Sorry, fella; I just don't buy it.

I mean, how self-centered can you get? It's practically a crime against humanity for someone with no job, skills or money to try to earn some good money with the Cowboys by taking his vacated job, but if he decides he wants it back, he assumes the rules get changed.

And to top it all off, he won't take credit for doing something he knows his friends won't sanction. Some-

thing he didn't sanction himself a few dozen hours ago.

"My mind was made up for me," he says. "I have no choice," he says. Where's your brain, I say.

Somebody please inform Mr. Dorsett of the practical ramifications of the phrase, "This is a free country."

The same right to strike and cancel his paycheck applies on Wednesdays as does on Tuesdays. I as a freedom-loving democrat (note the small "d," please) resent the fact that a fellow American incorrectly is expressing that his choices are being made for him.

I've been making all of mine ever since I can remember, and not even my parents have been able to legally do it for me for three years. If Mr. Dorsett would reacquaint himself with a certain 200-year-old document, he might see what I'm talking about.

And anyway, precious few people in this world are given the opportunity to exercise their right to make a half-mil for six months of enjoyable work in the first place.

Tony is, and Tony has. Maybe Tony could borrow from somebody the guts to take credit for it.

A&M drops conference opener in 5

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies lost a heartbreaker to Rice on the road 12-15, 15-12, 15-13, 7-15, 15-13; opening the conference season on a bittersweet note.

A&M fell to 5-12 on the season and 0-1 in conference. The Owls are now 14-2 and 1-0.

Lady Aggie Coach Al Givens said, "This one was a tough one to lose. If each game had only gone to 13 points, we would have won in four (games)."

"I was pleased with parts of the match," he said. "We came back strong in the fourth game, but we let it slip away in the fifth."

"Rice is a good team. They had their whole starting lineup returning, and even as good as we were last year, we lost at home in five."

"We'll rebound from this loss."

Vivian Viera led the attack for A&M. She had a career-high 27 kills (also a season-high for the team) out of 49 attempts.

Howdy Ags,

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