

## Whitwell

(continued from page 7)  
San Angelo State and Southwest Texas State and come to A&M.

"I think I probably could have gone academic if I failed to earn a scholarship in volleyball," she said. "Volleyball is a sport you go into knowing you're not going to make much money out of once you're finished with college. So of course my primary goal in college was to get a good education and a good degree."

Whitwell didn't play much her freshman year, so she said there wasn't much to do except study.

"I started out with some really good grades, and from then on it's been sort of a habit to try to keep up the good marks," said Whitwell, who was the valedictorian of her graduating class in high school.

"It's not as though I set a goal to be on the academic Southwest Conference team, but it came as a result

of the goals I already had — just make the best grade I could and shoot for A's," she added.

Although Whitwell led Cotulla High School to the 3A finals of the Texas state high school tournament and was named to the all-state team, she didn't receive any volleyball scholarship offers from Division I universities. When she made her decision to attend A&M, she also decided to walk on with the volleyball team.

"I felt like I could play a sport at that level," she said. "I wasn't really sure whether I was going to play basketball or volleyball. I guess that I just had the faith in myself.

"I hadn't even begun to learn all the skills of the game well and the strategies of the game, but I had all the physical and mental ability to do that. I felt like I had the athletic ability to play, but that it would be an amount of time before I would see the court."

## Lack of college football playoff laughable

By Doug Hall  
Assistant Sports Editor

When the topic of a college football playoff comes up in the next several weeks, as it most certainly will, take some advice and tell people that a playoff format would be totally ignorant.

After thoroughly upsetting your opposition with such a bold thesis statement, use these points in defense of your argument:

### Viewpoint

First, should the NCAA instill a playoff format, it would be the first practical move that the incredibly mismanaged organization has made in 100 years. Such a move undoubtedly would cause heart attacks and health problems among athletic directors and coaches across the nation.

Second, a playoff would allow players, not press members or coaches, to determine which team should be voted tops in the nation. In doing so, the playoff would virtually eliminate all post-season whining, sniveling and bickering by the No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 teams that "should have been No. 1."

Finally, argue that a college playoff would destroy the all-important bowl system. Imagine what Jan. 1 would be like if a Pac 10 team didn't whip its Big 10 opponent in the Rose Bowl, or if the Orange Bowl or the Fiesta Bowl didn't determine the national champion.

By now, if your opponent hasn't recognized the sarcasm oozing out from underneath your shoes, it's time to find someone else to sucker.

Let's be for real. The college football finale is really a college football fiasco.

In order to determine the best college football team in the nation, games stretch from late August through early January. Thousands and thousands of hours are spent in search of the elusive No. 1 spot. The same distinction, incidentally, that certain college basketball and baseball teams achieve through playoffs each year.

So why doesn't the NCAA adapt a football playoff system? Because it would make too much sense, that's why not.

The format for a playoff, as has been proposed by prominent athletic officials across the country, is already there. Don't change or eliminate the bowl games, but use those as preliminary brackets just as the NCAA does in the Final Four tournament. There, schools across the country are split in to geographic regions, with top-ranked teams as the host team in each division.

The current bowl system accomplishes virtually the same thing.

The Rose Bowl matches the top Pac-10 team (West) against the top Big-10 team (Northeast). The Cotton Bowl pits the Southwest Confer-

ence (South) winner against another team from anywhere across the nation.

Similarly, the Orange Bowl takes the Big Eight (South, Southwest) representative and an unspecified opponent and the Sugar Bowl takes the Southeastern Conference winner (Southeast) against another unspecified team. The Fiesta Bowl changes the format slightly by taking two top-rated, unspecified teams.

Thus, the original pairings are set for the top five games (10 teams). Choose the best three match-ups from the remaining bowl games (six teams) and then determine brackets that hopefully will pit your top two teams against each other in the finale.

True, this 16-team format would tack on three games for the eventual top two teams, but so what.

The NCAA could force teams to drop one of their non-conference pre-season games that are incredibly one-sided anyway. By starting the season a week later, teams will look sharper, play better and eliminate worthless games.

People who oppose the playoff idea say additional games hurt the athlete's attempt to study and gain an education. That's trash.

The regular season for most schools ends in late November, al-

lowing bowl-bound players several weeks to prepare for the upcoming team, study for finals and spend Christmas at home before final game preparations.

Furthermore, the post-bowl games would all be played in January before the semester starts or in the first week of the term. Nobody cracks a book the first week of school anyway.

But don't expect the NCAA to make such drastic changes any time in the near future.

Knowing that it takes them at least two years to produce results from an investigation, such playoff changes are likely to be a turn-of-the-century occurrence. If they occur at all.

If nothing else changes, the NCAA should at least step in and alter the laughable bowl "bidding" process.

Supposedly, bids can't be officially offered until this Saturday.

I guess that's why Notre Dame is "definitely" coming to the Cotton Bowl, why Miami is "locked in" to the Orange Bowl and Clemson is "certain" to get a bid for the Sugar Bowl.

It's a joke. But that's no surprise, because so is the NCAA's No. 1 format.

## White's injury may place Pelluer in starting role

IRVING (AP) — Steve Pelluer will get more work with the first team this week and could start at quarterback against the Miami Dolphins, Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said Tuesday.

Veteran Danny White's sore right wrist "concerns us," Landry said. "Danny is a good quarterback and it's a shame he's had to face it (the wrist problem) all season," Landry said. "The wrist really has no chance of getting better."

Landry said Pelluer, who hasn't thrown a pass this season, will get equal work with the first team.

"Usually the number-one quarterback takes the snaps in practice, but we will probably split 'em now," Landry said. "I haven't decided whether to rest White or not."

Not only would Landry not name White as his starter for Sunday's game against the Dolphins, but he hinted he could possibly platoon

quarterbacks if he thought it would work.

"I'm not sure what will happen but we need to get Steve ready to play," Landry said. "Even if Steve played I wouldn't hesitate to put Danny in there if needed."

Dallas was 1-7 with Pelluer at quarterback last year when White suffered his broken wrist against the eventual world champion New York Giants. The shell-shocked Pelluer was sacked 38 times.

Pelluer had a poor summer camp and suffered a concussion in a brief appearance before the National Football League strike.

"Steve is grasping things better and throwing better and doing things well now," Landry said. "I'll move Pelluer very easily into a game now. The odds are very good you will see Pelluer. And if I do substitute for Danny now it's not because I think we have been defeated; it's be-

cause I think we can win with Steve."

Landry said he also wouldn't hesitate to use third-string quarterback Paul McDonald, who has never played in a regular season NFL game for the Cowboys.

"McDonald is a veteran who has the experience to run our system," Landry said. "It's always a possibility I could use him."

Landry said the Cowboys needed to pass better in the next two games because Miami and Minnesota (on Thanksgiving Day) are high-scoring teams.

"They are very potent teams and we will have to be able to move the ball and score with them," Landry said.

He said opponents would be looking for Herschel Walker.

"They'll gang up on Walker," Landry said. "Of course, that doesn't mean you're always going to stop

him. He's still capable of carrying 30 times a game. But we also have to get our passing game in gear."

Pelluer, a fifth-round draft pick out of the University of Washington, is in his fourth season.

His biggest day in the NFL was against the New York Giants in 1985 after White was knocked out. Pelluer led the Cowboys on a game-winning drive that clinched the NFC East title.

"Steve has looked good since the strike," Landry said.

White pulled out a 23-17 overtime victory over New England on Sunday with a 4th-and-13 completion that led to the game-tying field goal.

However, he also suffered two interceptions that led to New England points.

"Danny's lack of consistency really concerns us," Landry added.

## Bell edges out Trammell for AL MVP honors

NEW YORK (AP) — George Bell of the Toronto Blue Jays became the first member of a Canadian team to win the American League Most Valuable Player award Tuesday, edging Alan Trammell of the Detroit Tigers in the voting.

Bell, the first Dominican to be named MVP, beat the Tigers' shortstop by 21 points, getting 332 points to Trammell's 311 in voting by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Bell will receive a \$50,000 bonus from the Blue Jays. The outfielder's base salary for 1987 was \$1,285,000.

Two association members in each of the 14 AL cities were eligible to vote. Bell received 16 first-place

votes and Trammell 12.

Minnesota outfielder Kirby Puckett was third in the voting with 201 points, followed by Boston's Dwight Evans and Milwaukee's Paul Molitor.

Bell's outstanding season was somewhat tarnished by a damaging slump in the final weeks of the season as Toronto battled Detroit for first place in the AL East.

Bell struggled through a 2-for-26 finish as the Tigers swept the Blue Jays in the final three games to win the division.

Bell, who is not always cooperative with the media, hit .308 with 47 home runs, a league-leading 134 runs batted in and 111 runs scored, the latter three setting club records.

He also had a .605 slugging percentage and 16 game-winning RBIs.

He staged a season-long battle with Oakland rookie Mark McGwire for the AL home run title before McGwire finished with 49.

"He's got a bad shoulder from carrying the rest of the ballclub all summer," Detroit Manager Sparky Anderson said of Bell after the Tigers beat the Blue Jays 1-0 on the final day of the season.

Trammell moved to the No. 4 spot in the lineup during spring training, after the defection of free agent Lance Parrish. Trammell responded by hitting career-high .343 with 28 home runs, 105 runs batted in and 205 hits.

## Nets win first game at Rockets' expense

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Orlando Woolridge scored 29 points and Otis Birdsong made a go-ahead jumper with 49 seconds left as the New Jersey Nets won their first game of the NBA season, a 114-111 victory over the Houston Rockets Tuesday night.

Birdsong scored only four points, but his 12-footer gave the Nets a 112-111 lead.

The Rockets got 26 points and 10 rebounds from Ralph Sampson. Reserve center-forward Ben Coleman scored 18 points, one short of his career-high, and Buck Williams had 17 points and 13 rebounds for New Jersey.

Coleman had three baskets during a 14-6 run by the Nets after the Rockets took their only lead of the third quarter, 77-76,

on a rebound and dunk by Sampson with 5:20 left.

Houston didn't regain the lead until a jumper by World B. Free, who scored 17 points, made it 104-103 with 5:51 left. Free then passed to Cedric Maxwell for an easy layup 23 seconds later.

After a free throw by Mike Gminski put New Jersey ahead 110-109 with 1:27 left, Sampson gave the Rockets their last lead with a bank shot at the 1:10 mark.

Birdsong then put the Nets ahead for good with his jumper, John Bagley hit two free throws with 18 seconds left and the Rockets missed two 3-point attempts in the closing moments.

The Nets, buoyed by Woolridge's 19 points, led 65-58 at halftime.

## U.S., Scotland head field in World Cup of Golf action

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — The United States and Scotland appear to be the leading contenders in the revived World Cup of Golf that returns this week after a one-year absence.

"There was no problem with the money. There was no problem with a venue," Burch Riber, executive director of the sponsoring International Golf Association, said of the one-year break in play.

"We simply needed to do some reorganization to get back to what the World Cup is all about — international goodwill through golf," Riber said.

"Now we're on a solid footing, with a new board of directors, and we're ready to go to the four corners of the world in the next few years," Riber said.

He lauded Ken Scofield of the European PGA, now a board member, for his help in arranging for strong European participation in the World Cup.

And it is from those countries, particularly Great Britain, that the once-dominant United States expects its greatest challenge, Ben Crenshaw said.

"There are a number of very strong teams, particularly from Europe. We'll have to play very well to get the Cup back," said Crenshaw, who will play with Payne Stewart as the American team in the field of two-man teams from 32 nations that begin competition Wednesday.

Both Crenshaw and Stewart played in the Kapalua International on the same Bay course last week, with Crenshaw finishing fourth.

"It's a definite advantage to have had a week of competition on the same course before going into the World Cup," Crenshaw said.

It's an advantage, however, that is shared with Sandy Lyle of Scotland, who was third in the Kapalua tournament and has a history of strong play at the Bay course.

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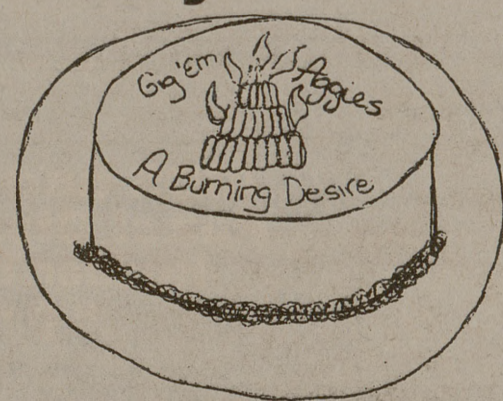
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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation will hold a Public Hearing concerning the proposed highway construction on State Highway 21 from the Little Brazos River east to the Texas A&M Annex; State Highway 47 from the Texas A&M Annex south to Farm to Market Road 60; Farm to Market Road 60 from Farm to Market Road 2818 west to the Brazos River; and Farm to Market Road 1688 from the end of existing Farm to Market Road 1688 south and west to Farm to Market Road 60. The meeting will be held in Assembly Room No. 2 at the Brazos Center at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 15, 1987. Maps and other drawings showing the proposed locations and designs will be displayed at the public hearing together with the Environmental Study. The State Relocation Assistance Program, the benefits and services for displacees, and information concerning the relocation assistance office will be discussed. Tentative schedules for right of way acquisition and construction will also be discussed. All interested citizens are invited to attend this public hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the projects are requested. Comments may be presented either at the hearing or may be submitted to Mr. Carol D. Zeigler, District Engineer, at: P.O. Box 3249, Bryan, Texas 77805, but must be received not later than 5:00 p.m. December 28, 1987.