

Sports

What's the big deal about it, anyway?

There's just gotta be a way. Now, come on people — I want the truth. Do you actually like reading three stories a day every day for two weeks about the Super Bowl?

I personally find it redundant, overemphasized and insulting. Don't papers think we have anything better to read about in the world of sports than one game over 1,000 miles and three days away?



Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Why does the American media make such a big deal about 60 minutes of football every year?

A recent "Tank McNamara" cartoon jabbed at the "20 reporters doing pieces on other reporters doing pieces on the Super Bowl." How overpublicized can you get? Articles on people doing articles? C'mon.

By now the reporters of the world have hovered over San Diego to determine everything concerning Sunday's game between Washington and Denver. And I mean everything.

Does Doug Williams resent the publicity John Elway gets? Does Elway resent the publicity Williams gets about Elway getting attention? Does Denver linebacker Karl Mecklenburg dream in blackface?

Inquiring minds want to know, I guess. But the details! Do readers really want to know every intimate detail about every significant player or factor?

What brand of shampoo does John Elway use? How many blades of grass per square foot at Jack Murphy Stadium? How many of those ignorant-looking Redskin "hog noses" are going to be at the game? What's the name of the organist's maternal grandmother? Gimme a break.

You know, the media ought to be wholeheartedly in favor of a college football playoff. It would give them an excuse not to dig up 483 story angles for the Super Bowl; the hype could be split half-and-half, with the college and professional Big Games getting 241½ stories apiece.

As a sports fan, I resent the way the media harps on the Super Bowl like it was the Second Coming. As one astute athlete said once, "If it's such a big game, how come they're playing it again next year?"

And chances are the game won't be worthy of average publicity, much less the circus of attention being given it.

If history has anything to say in the matter, the game will hardly be reminiscent of the Spartans vs. the Athenians. More like the ground vs. Humpty Dumpty.

Admittedly, this year's game looks pretty close — but

Lady Ags lose to Tech 68-64 on free throws

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Three Alexis Ware free throws in the final minute clinched a 68-64 win for Texas Tech over the Texas A&M Lady Aggies Tuesday night at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

A&M fell to 9-6 overall and 3-3 in Southwest Conference play. Tech is 8-9 and 2-4.

The Lady Aggies led 32-30 at halftime, but they shot 38.2 percent in the second half while Tech shot 56 percent.

A&M led by as many as four points in the second half but lost the lead for good at the 15:34 mark. After that the Lady Aggies only could manage a tie twice, the last of which came with 5:15 remaining.

Tech's Stacy Sievert gave the Red Raiders a 65-59 lead with 2:48 left in the game with a four-foot jumper.

A&M's Traci Thomas hit a three-point shot with 1:40 remaining, but Ware hit two free throws with 46 seconds left to give Tech a 67-62 lead.

Evelyn Sanders hit from five feet out to pull the Lady Aggies to within three with 11 seconds left. Wendy Jennings then fouled Ware on the inbounds play.

Ware killed any A&M hopes by hitting the front end of another one-and-one.

A&M's Donna Roper led all scorers with 20 points. Thomas had 13 points for the Lady Aggies, and Lisa Jordan added 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Sievert led the Red Raiders with 13 points and eight boards, while Ware and Renna Lynch added 11 points.

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said, "We played hard tonight. It would have been easy to fall apart after Sunday's loss at Houston. We're disappointed, but we're on the right track."

"The little things in the last two minutes meant the difference between a win and a loss. I was pleased with the intensity and effort we showed."

"It's real important we get home and get ready for Texas Saturday night."

The Lady Aggies play host to the SWC-leading Lady Longhorns Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

then, so did the Skins-Raiders matchup a few years ago. Something like 38-9, wasn't it?

After fiascos involving, in reverse order, New York Giants/Denver, Chicago/New England and San Francisco/Miami, the football establishment has pretty much accepted the fact that Super Bowls aren't necessarily that super.

Only a handful of them actually have been close, and

Rangers blame poor year on injuries, inconsistency

By Cray Pixley
Sports Writer

Injuries and inconsistencies attributed to a dismal 1987 season for the Texas Rangers, players said Tuesday night in College Station.

Outfielder Pete Incaviglia, catcher Geno Petralli and pitcher Bobby Witt were in town during a four-city promotional tour of Waco, Austin and Temple.

The Rangers finished the 1987 season tied for sixth in the American League West with a record of 75-87. The team ended a disappointing 10 games behind the World Series champion Minnesota Twins.

Injuries plagued the Rangers throughout the season and the visiting players attributed the poor season to an unhealthy lineup.

Petralli said at a press conference at the Ramada Inn, "We had several injured players — especially on the pitching staff — and we felt a lot of pressure to pick up the slack."

"We struggled throughout the season and never caught up," he said. "Whenever we had a chance to gain some ground, we didn't play well."

Incaviglia agreed that injuries were a key factor in the poor season.

"Our injuries were definitely a problem, and once we started going downhill it was difficult to recover," he said.

Incaviglia missed 23 games during the 1987 season because of injuries.

Witt, another injury-prone player, missed a month of the season with shoulder problems but said he is recuperated and ready to begin spring training.



Photo by Shelly Schluter

Texas Ranger Pete Incaviglia signs the shirt of Allyson Corn, 6. Three Rangers were at Post Oak Mall on a promotional tour.

"My shoulder is 100 percent better," he said. "I have a good training program, and I'm not feeling any strain on the shoulder."

Despite recurring health problems, Witt averaged an impressive 10.07 strikeouts every nine innings, the best ratio among American League starters.

Witt and teammate Mitch Williams were the only American League pitchers with 100 or more innings who had more strikeouts than innings pitched.

"My main goal this season is to stay healthy and to help the Rangers win as many games as possible," Witt said.

Witt agreed with Incaviglia about the changes the Rangers must make to have a successful season.

"The key to a good season is consistency," he said. "The Minnesota Twins have it, and we need to have it."

The Rangers start gearing up for the 1988 season with spring training beginning on Feb. 21 in Port Charlotte, Florida.

the most recent of those was Super Bowl X — Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17. And that was 12 years and XII games ago.

Is a game like that worthy of all this hype? Is the media leading the public on, tricking them into believing something interesting is going on?

It must be working; the most lopsided one of them

all — the Bears' mauling of the Patriots — was and is the most-watched television program in history.

But since the other papers are all doing it, I guess *The Battalion* will have to follow suit. Of course, don't expect the average quota of stories you'll find in the metropolitan papers — we can't afford to send three staff writers to spend two weeks in California. Although at least one volunteered.

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