

Sports

All-Star Weekend festivities show up pro football, baseball counterparts

Now this is what basketball is all about — legends, dead-eye shooters going ballistic with long-distance bombs, and aerial acrobats at their flashiest.

Professional football and baseball's all-star games pale in comparison to the festivities of the National Basketball Association's All-Star game.

The National Football League's Pro Bowl was played Sunday night and the best of the best in the NFL could produce only one touchdown. The game's Most Valuable Player was Buffalo Bills' defensive end Bruce Smith who amassed a whopping three tackles and two quarterback sacks.

However, the NBA's All-Star Game, also played Sunday, was a potpourri of slick offensive shots and fan-pleasing open-court moves at breakneck speed. Scoring was certainly no problem. The Eastern Conference, led by Michael Jordan's 40 points, beat the West 138-133. Jordan was selected the game's MVP.

But the real fun was the day before the game.

I'm talking about the Legends Classic, the Long Distance Shootout and the Slam Dunk Competition.

The Legends Classic featured former NBA stars ranging in age from 34 to 59. The old timers' vertical leaps were at best minute, and if some of them had been moving any slower, they would have been going backward.

But their killer instincts were still intact. The old guys are still competitors and still fun to watch. And some of them haven't lost their magic.

Chicago Bulls coach and former Philadelphia 76er Doug Collins hit a three pointer in the final minute to tie the game at 45 and send it into sudden-death overtime, a first for basketball. Former Boston Celtic Dave Cowens followed a missed shot in the overtime to propel the East over the West. Rick Barry led all scorers with 12 points.

The Legends Classic was followed by the third annual Long Distance Shootout, which determines the league's most accurate three-point shooter. Shooters have one minute to shoot 25 balls from five designated spots on the three point line.

Two-time winner Larry Bird, Byron Scott of the Lakers, Dale Ellis of the Seattle SuperSonics and Detlef Schrempf of the Dallas Mavericks ad-

vanced to the semifinals of the Shootout.

In the second round Bird was unconscious and unreal, hitting 23 of a possible 30 points. Ellis nosed out Scott 12-11 to advance with Bird to the finals. Schrempf forgot to loosen his necktie and as a consequence choked and scored an embarrassing five points.

Ellis hit his first four shots in the championship round, but cooled near the end to finish with 15 points.

However, that was not good enough to keep Bird from collecting the \$12,500 prize for the third straight year.

Bird started off cold, but as he moved around the perimeter he began to heat up. With less than 15 seconds remaining, he needed to hit his last three shots to win.

After swishing the first two, he released his last shot and pointed upward with his index finger before the ball started its downward arc. (Yes Larry, we know you're No. 1.) Bird knew he had made the shot the moment he released it. He was right, of course.

Then came the *creme de la creme* — the Slam Dunk competition. The dunk is the most expressive art form in basketball. The slam virtually made Julius "Dr. J" Erving into a legend. A slam can bring a crowd to its feet and an opponent to its knees.

This year's contest featured three former winners: Dominique "The Human Highlight Film"



Anthony Wilson
Sports viewpoint

Aggie tennis squads beat North Texas St.

By Hal L. Hammons

Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M tennis teams each swept North Texas State Tuesday at Omar Smith Tennis Center, losing only two sets in 18 total matches.

The match was the season opener for the men. The women are now 2-0 for the year.

Dean Johnson led the men's effort singles by rebounding from a 3-5 deficit in the second set to beat Jim Kohr 6-1, 7-5 in No. 1 singles.

A&M Men's Tennis Coach David Kent said, "Dean does that a lot, but he's a street fighter. He just keeps coming after you. He's a good leader to have on the team."

In other men's play, Shaun O'Donovan defeated Mark Fahey 6-2, 6-0; Steve Kennedy beat Keith McKay 6-1, 6-3; Craig Whiteaker beat Todd Taylor 6-3, 7-6; Michael Chambers beat Sandeep Chhabra 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; and Jeffrey Livshitz beat Chris Tibbets 7-6, 6-0.

Kent said, "We did what we had to do to win the matches. This should help us get ready and give us the experience we need."

Gaye Lynne Gensler beat Susan Mainz 6-4, 6-2 for the No. 1 women's match. It was the only singles match in which A&M dropped more than three games.

Cindy Churchwell defeated Lori Delatt 6-0, 6-1; Cindy Crawford beat Cara Paapahronis 6-1, 6-2; Susan Williams beat Alex Liske 6-2, 6-0; Derryn Haygarth defeated Holly Purgley 6-1, 6-2; and Traci Nix beat Holly Ricker 6-0, 6-1.

Women's Coach Bobby Kleineke said, "Gaye Lynne turned her game around and played well. Derryn Haygarth and Traci Nix played their first singles matches of the season, and they came on and played well. It's hard to go into that first singles match."

Both A&M teams will travel to Baton Rouge to play Louisiana State Friday.

Navratilova advances easily at Virginia Slims tournament

DALLAS (AP) — Martina Navratilova needed just 40 minutes to get past unheralded Camille Benjamin 6-0, 6-1 on Tuesday in the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Dallas.

Navratilova, ranked No. 2 in the world, was seldom challenged during the match and faulted herself for the lone game she lost to Benjamin.

"It was awful," said Navratilova. "I

missed a return, and then another, and then she aced me.

"She was serving so soft, I had a difficult time deciding how to hit it back."

Navratilova gave the first point of the match to Benjamin when she double-faulted.

But Benjamin later could not score more than twice in any given

game except in the second game of the second set — the only one she won.

Benjamin, 22, of Bakersfield, Calif., went through three of the match's 13 games without scoring a point, and watched as Navratilova aced her three times.

"I don't know how much is intimidation and how much is just playing

well," Navratilova said when asked if she had intimidated Benjamin.

"It's all relative. If you lose a few matches people get fired up and say, 'Hey, I can beat Martina.'"

In early matches, No. 5 seed Lori McNeil was upset by unseeded Mary Lou Daniels 6-2, 6-4 and No. 2 seed Pam Shriver defeated Lucky-Loser entry Sandy Collins 6-0, 6-0.

Ag baseball season tickets on sale at G. Rollie White

Season tickets for the upcoming Texas A&M baseball season are now on sale at the Athletic Ticket Office in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The package provides reserve seating for 26 home games, 13 of which are doubleheaders. Adult ticket prices are \$30, and children's tickets (high school and under) are \$18.

Reserved seat tickets for individual games are \$3, general admission tickets are \$2, and children's tickets are \$1. The lone exception is the April 18 exhibition game with the Houston Astros. Tickets for that game are \$5.

A&M, ranked sixth in Baseball America magazine, begins its season Friday afternoon at 3 with a game against Lubbock Christian.

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