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# Search underway for kick-off team

By Joe Jimenez  
Reporter

Meeting the qualifications of the Texas A&M 12th Man Kick-off Team was the main topic at this year's first organizational meeting Monday at Kyle Field.

Billy Pickard, coordinator of training, equipment and facilities, and Chris Massey, a graduate assistant, stressed the importance of being enrolled in at least 12 hours at A&M, excluding the required physical education credit.

Members who enrolled in a junior or senior college prior to Fall 1984 are ineligible for the team. Members will also be tested for drug and steroid use, Pickard said.

Massey said students cannot slip past the requirements.

"If you don't meet these qualifications, please don't waste your time or ours," Massey said to approximately 175 people.

Students filled out a walk-on athlete sheet and signed-up for the day they will be able to practice. Practice sessions began Monday at 4 p.m. and will continue today at Kyle Field.

"Because we can't issue contact equipment, our try-outs consist of a 40-yard dash for time and a couple of agility runs," Massey said.

The agility runs are used to determine a person's athletic ability, Massey said.

"There's a difference between running a straight line and somebody who has a few moves who can do some things," he said.

Participants this week are expected to wear shoes that can be used on astroturf. Massey said that participants cannot be issued shoes

until they make the squad and are issued everything.

The first cut will probably be announced Thursday, Massey said. The participants who make the first cut will participate in spring training. Spring training will begin on March 21 and last five weeks, he said.

"We'll probably take 40 guys into spring training and issue them pads," Massey said. "Depending on how many people Coach Sherrill wants is how many we'll keep for the fall."

Not all of the members participating in spring training are expected to finish, Massey said.

"We figure on losing a few for some reason or another," Massey said. "You may decide that's not what you want to do or what you thought it would be."

Massey also warned those attending that they will be involved in collisions.

"One thing we've got to do is find out who will go down and strike somebody and not be shy about it," he said.

He also said that members will not have a lot of free time during practice.

"Sometimes, you may be asked to be on a scouting team or run some drills against the scholarship guys," Massey said.

John Barber, a junior industrial distribution major from Missouri City, said he wants to make the team because this is his chance to play college football.

"I've always wanted play college football, but I've always been too little," Barber said. "This is my chance to play."

# No one is elected to baseball's Hall

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — For the first time since 1956, the Veterans Committee failed to elect anyone to the baseball Hall of Fame, again passing up former stars Phil Rizzuto, Leo Durocher, Joe Gordon and Gil Hodges on Tuesday.

None of the 29 candidates was able to garner 75 percent of the vote required for election.

Former major leaguers, umpires, executives and Negro League players are considered by the Veterans Committee. The panel can elect up to two people.

The 20-member panel, which includes Hall of Famers Ted Williams, Stan Musial and Roy Campanella, was reduced to 18 because broadcaster Red Barber and American League Executive Vice President Bob Fishel were absent.

That meant candidates needed 14 votes, but none got more than 12.

"We couldn't get enough votes to put anybody in," Musial said after the committee met for 4½ hours. "It's disappointing."

Ed Stack, president of the Hall of Fame, said voting was scattered and that there were "some close calls." Vote totals are not announced, although it was learned four people had been in serious contention.

The committee was anxious to elect at least one person this year and there was much give-and-take as members tried to gather enough support for someone. Those efforts, however, failed.

Last year, Ray Dandridge of

the Negro Leagues was the only person selected. Two years ago, Vic Willis received 75 percent but was left out because two others got more votes.

"I just think we're wasting time to meet and not elect anyone," said Monte Irvin, another Hall of Famer on the panel. "With all those deserving people out there, someone should have gotten in."

Willie Stargell, a former Pittsburgh Pirate slugger, was the one elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in January. He will be the lone person enshrined on July 31 in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Several committee members expressed displeasure with the voting process for the old-timers.

A list of 29 candidates was chosen by the panel and a first ballot was taken to narrow the field to 10. After members take turns speaking about those eligible, a second and final ballot was taken.

Often, members try to muster support for their favorite candidates. Williams angrily left last year's meeting after being unable to get Rizzuto, a longtime New York Yankees shortstop, elected.

This year, retired National League umpire Al Barlick had some support, but not enough. Richie Ashburn, a former Philadelphia Phillies outfielder and former Detroit Tigers pitcher Hal Newhouser also lacked enough backing.

"The rules need to be changed," Irvin said. "We need another way."

Stack said the rules might be re-evaluated.

# Soviets touring baseball camps to learn game for '92 Olympics

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — The Soviet Union hopes to be competitive in baseball — a sport introduced to the country only last year — in time for the 1990 Goodwill Games and 1992 Olympics, says the Soviet national coach.

There are only about 25 Soviet teams of 20 players each, ranging in age from 18 to 28, and "baseballists" find equipment so difficult to obtain that they often substitute tennis balls wrapped in tape for regulation balls, said Coach Alexander Ardatov.

But he said enthusiasm for the sport is high, especially after he and assistant coach Guela Chikhradze went on Soviet TV and showed films of major league games.

"Our national sports paper is beginning to run many articles about the rules and the players themselves in the U.S. and in Cuba, which, of course, is a close ally," said Chikhradze, 33.

But, asked if the sport is now purely recreational in the USSR, Chikhradze replied with an emphatic "Nyet!" as he toured the Pittsburgh Pirates' spring training camp.

"We want to develop a very good team," Chikhradze said through an

interpreter. "Once the players are introduced to baseball, they get to love it so much they don't want to give it up."

"We are not having difficulty attracting athletes from other sports. We tell them they may have to wait a long time to make the volleyball or hockey teams, but they can play baseball right away."

Teams from Nicaragua and Czechoslovakia have already visited the USSR, and the Soviets earned their first international victory by beating the Czechs last fall.

Ardatov, 34, said the Soviet sports hierarchy is expected to supply adequate funding to develop players and build regulation diamonds, since baseball will be a medal sport in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Although baseball was only a demonstration sport at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, crowds of nearly 50,000 attended most games at Dodger Stadium.

Ardatov, a former hockey goalie and a professor of physical education, and Chikhradze, a former fencer, spent three days at the Los Angeles Dodgers' camp in Ver-

Beach. After a quick stop at the Pirates' camp, they visited Tuesday at the Kansas City Royals' new \$11 million complex near Haines City.

The Soviets seemed especially interested when trainer Kent Biggers-taff told them the Pirates used the U.S. Air Force's eye examinations and vision tests.

The Russian coaches will also spend time at Florida Southern, Georgia Southern and Tennessee learning more about teaching baseball and the training and conditioning of players.

The biggest problem now in the Soviet Union is the lack of diamonds, the coaches said. Games are played on converted soccer fields, and since a soccer field is rectangular, either left or right field is disproportionate.

Chikhradze said the Soviets already have developed some good hitters "just from working in a gymnasium" but that good pitchers are more difficult to find.

"The kind of movement by a pitcher is not natural to the (Soviet) sportsman," he said. "There are some special techniques they must master."

# Astros sign five players; Ryan in camp

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Houston Astros announced Tuesday that five more players have signed to one-year contracts at the camp, giving the Astros 53 players.

The club said outfielder Bud Hatcher and pitchers Jim Deshaies, Jeff Heathcock, Manny Hernandez and Charlie Kerfeld have agreed to contract terms for the 1988 season. Terms of the contracts were not disclosed.

Hatcher, 27, batted .296 in 14 games with 96 runs, 11 home runs and 63 runs batted in last year.

Deshaies, 27, reached double figures in wins for his second straight season last year.

Heathcock, 28, was 4-2 with the Astros last year and Hernandez, 27, was 0-4. Kerfeld was 0-2 in 1987 with a 6.67 earned run average.

The team also announced that manager Hal Lanier, 1988 National League Manager of the Year, had signed a contract extension for the 1988 season.

# Sidekicks thrash Stars in MISL action

DALLAS (AP) — Godfrey Ingram hit first and fourth period goals that helped ensure the Dallas Sidekicks 6-1 victory over the Tacoma Stars Tuesday night.

The victory was Dallas' 11th in its last 12 home games, including nine in a row, and matches Dallas' largest margin of victory this season.

The game was a rematch of the Major Indoor Soccer League Championship Series of a year

ago, and marked the first time the two teams had met on Dallas' home field.

The victory evens Dallas' record at 20-20 and drops Tacoma to 19-18.

Ingram started the scoring when he scored on a breakaway with 12:57 remaining in the first quarter.

Wes McLeod upped the Sidekicks' lead when he spun in the right corner and fired a shot into

the left side of the net.


Mark Karpun's goal with 4:29 left in the second was disallowed for dangerous play when Beto was called for kicking goalie Mike Dowler.

With two seconds to play on a power play David Stride scored to put Dallas up, 3-0.

Sidekicks' goalie Joe Papaleo had his shutout broken when Peter Ward scored with 11:29 to play in the game.

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