

# Sports

## Rivalries — the spice of sports

You know, nothing spices up competitive athletics quite like a good rivalry. You can't beat 'em — you've got action, drama, triumph and heartbreak, bad blood, bad language and all kinds of neat stuff.

For example, what's the biggest thing in Kansas? Wheat, you say? OK, what's the second biggest thing? That's right, Kansas versus Kansas State, good old KU against righteous K-State.

But there's more — just about every state lays claim to some particular rivalry, like Texas A&M vs. those heathens from Austin, Indiana vs. Purdue, Alabama vs. Auburn, Georgia vs. Georgia Tech, and on and on and on.

Wait, we aren't finished — the interstate rivalries get even better. There's Texas and OU, A&M and those heathens from Baton Rouge (my personal pick to supplant the heathens from Austin as public enemy No. 1 around here, at least

where football is concerned), Harvard and Yale, USC and Notre Dame, Kansas and Missouri.

And let's not forget Republicans vs. Democrats, the Hatfields vs. the McCoys and sports writers vs. those heathens from the Opinion Page, but these rivalries are for another time, another column.

This column celebrates the growth of the college rivalry, not the decline of all the fun like that cheesy column on today's Opinion Page.

This column celebrates the birth of a brand new rivalry right here in Aggieland. Of course, I'm referring to A&M vs. those heathens from Stillwater, Okla.

Otherwise known as Oklahoma State.

Quite a nice baseball slugfest has developed from this little interstate tussle. Last year, the Aggies fought valiantly in front of a capacity crowd in Stillwater and a national television audience.

OSU's powerful hitting attack was just too much, and A&M fell 14-11. It was probably the most exciting game shown on ESPN all year.

The same two teams met in the Midwest Regional during the NCAA playoffs. They played for the championship and a bid to the hallowed College World Series, and the three games were classics.

A&M, in the true spirit of the underdog, annihilated Purdue and traditional power Mississippi State to reach the finals and once again face the invincible — and 2nd-ranked — Cowboys.

The Aggies had the support of the partisan Mississippi State crowd behind them as they stunned OSU 4-1. All they had to do was win one more game and they were in.

Alas, the Cowboys won the second game 7-4 and also won the deciding game 11-9 in a game that came down to the wire.

Just like Monday's 5-4 OSU win. Once again ESPN was there, but this time the game was here at Olsen Field and a rowdy record crowd of 5,373 was on hand.

The Aggies had two men on and two out before losing in the 10th inning.

Surprisingly, the A&M-OSU series hasn't been that exciting until recently. The Cowboys hold a 9-5 series advantage over the Aggies, and the first game was played way back in 1916.

Instead, the Aggies seem to have padded their schedules with another Oklahoma team, Oklahoma City University.

Huh? Oklahoma City? What wussies! You can't win a national championship by dominating little OCU to the count of 21 wins and

eight losses, A&M's advantage over the Chiefs.

And get this, the Aggies didn't even play OCU until 1976. Twenty-nine meetings in 12 years, huh? Heck, let's let 'em join the Southwest Conference.

I say forget OCU and bring on OSU. All the ingredients are there for a mean-spirited, good old-fashioned rivalry.

In Monday's game, OSU's bench cleared when its pitcher, after being tagged out, seemed to punch A&M first baseman Mike Easley.

Easley stood there calmly while the entire Cowboy team appeared ready for a fight. Down the third baseline, the Aggie bench responded in kind, just in case the situation came to blows.

From what I hear, OSU tends to play dirty. The Cowboys don't shake hands after games, part of the reason why the Mississippi State faithful suddenly became Aggie fans during the playoffs.

Hopefully, A&M and the Cowboys will meet again in playoffs this year and the Aggies can even things up a little.

OSU may be No. 1 in the country, but the Cowboys can be beaten. If things turn out OK, A&M is just the team to do that.

So bring on those Cowboys and let this soon-to-be-classic baseball series join the other great rivalries of college athletics.

## Ags bounce back

By Curtis L. Culberson  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M baseball team bounced back from Monday's heartbreaking loss to Oklahoma State in its home national television debut to gain an 8-1 anticlimatic victory over North Texas State Tuesday night at Olsen Field.

The scene for the game seemed almost totally opposite of the carnival atmosphere surrounding A&M's confrontation with No. 1-ranked Cowboys. No TV cameras were to be found; attendance was closer to 57 than Monday's record-breaking 57 hundred; and the weather had taken a nasty turn from the sunny 70s experienced earlier this week to cold and rainy with wind chills in the 30s.

The 3rd-ranked Aggies up their season record to 29-7 and stay at 2-1 in Southwest Conference play while NTSU drops to 5-25.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson said he knew there was a possibility of the players not being up for the game.

"We played a bunch of tough games in a row, multiply that by the cold weather and that makes this a tough game," Johnson said. "We're pleased with the win."

Johnson was most pleased by the pitching. Anthony DeLaCruz pitched the first five innings and got the win improving his record to 3-0. But Randy Pryor and

southpaw Jeff Jones also pitched two innings apiece. NTSU's Jack Bunn took the loss for the Eagles.

The Aggies got on the scoreboard first when center fielder Kirk Thompson came home off a sacrifice fly by third baseman Scott Livingstone after Thompson got a double on an NTSU error in the first inning.

A&M scored another run in the fourth inning and the game remained 2-0 until second baseman Terry Taylor knocked the only home run of the game over the left field fence in the bottom of the sixth with none on.

NTSU scored its only run in the seventh after Jones walked second baseman Mike Sanders, who stole second after a wild pitch. Then, designated hitter Mike Thompson and catcher Cecil Vega both threaded the same hole in left field for back-to-back singles the latter of which brought Jones home.

A&M took complete control in the seventh when it scored five runs off a Livingstone single and six walks, including a wild pitch that hit left fielder Deron Dacus in the face, opening up a 2-inch gash above his left eye.

Dacus was taken to the hospital and Johnson said the swelling was too severe to tell the extent of his injury.

The Aggies are in action at Olsen Field against NTSU today at 3 p.m.

## Cowboys want 'Kitchen' to trim down for camp

IRVING (AP) — Dallas Cowboys minicamp continued Tuesday with the team trying to deal with its "extras" — Nate Newton's extra weight and the backfield's extra running-back.

The Kitchen is back, big as ever, and Dallas Cowboys officials are not amused.

And even less humorous is the still lingering problem of the failed Dream Backfield of Tony Dorsett and Herschel Walker.

Newton, nicknamed 'The Kitchen' because of his size, checked in to the team's veterans minicamp Monday at 345 pounds.

The camp is voluntary and Newton is not subject to a fine, but he has been subject to a few jibes from team members who laughed and called him "Body Wonderful."

Last March, Newton's weight was 347 pounds, but he slimmed down to 298 during the season in an attempt to shake the nickname.

"I went home to Florida after the season because everybody told me to relax," Newton said. "Maybe I went a little overboard. I went back to Florida to see my people. But everywhere I went somebody was fixing me a big meal."

Offensive Coach Jim Erkenbeck criticized Newton, as he attempted the agility drills Monday. Trainers tried to measure Newton's body fat, but the machine wouldn't calibrate his bulk.

"He did OK in the drills," Erkenbeck said. "But if we had to play in a Super Bowl tomorrow, he would have a hard time finishing. Still, it's not unusual for a player to come to minicamp with a little extra weight."

Bigger wasn't better for Landry. "His future hinges on weight, and if you don't have pride then you might not have a career in the NFL,"

Landry said. "It's pretty hard unless you just stay on their back, especially in the off-season. They get hungry and they gain weight."

Landry's attention also was turned to Dorsett who is still waiting to be traded. A film of highlights shown Monday featured Dorsett's NFL-record 99-yard run six years ago.

"A great run," Landry said. "He can still do that."

The inability to make the Dream Backfield a reality was a problem of Walker and Dorsett being unable to adapt and then losing the enthusiasm to make it a success, Landry said.

## A&M men's tennis team plays Horned Frogs today

The Texas A&M men's tennis team, recovering from a 6-3 loss to Texas Saturday, returns to action against Texas Christian today at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

A&M, 10-5 overall and 0-1 in the Southwest Conference, used dominating singles play to defeat Illinois 7-2 Friday.

The Aggies have an eight-game winning streak at home, but have lost five-of-seven on the road.

Dean Johnson will take the court as A&M's entrant in the No. 1 singles bracket, followed by Shaun O'Donovan and Steve Kennedy in the Nos. 2 and 3 singles brackets.

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