

Sports

A&M exes beat Cowboys Fans call exhibition 'better late than never'

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

Anxious fans waited 35 minutes longer than expected for the start of the benefit basketball game between the Aggie All-Stars and the Dallas Cowboy Hoopsters.

The Hoopsters couldn't quite find G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night.

"We were given Aggie directions and went the wrong way on University," Cowboy cornerback Everson Walls said. "We were headed for Houston."

The Cowboys mission was to take on the Aggies — not the Houston Oilers — to benefit the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center.

Fans breathed a sigh of relief when the Cowboys finally found their way to the A&M campus.

Walls acted as the unofficial coach for the Cowboys by shouting directions to Eugene Lockhart, Thornton Chandler and the rest of the team.

"I'm not really the coach," Walls admitted. "I just like to tell people what to do, and sometimes they follow my advice."

The Cowboys with all the basketball experience, Manny Hen-

dricks, was surprisingly silent. "I played basketball at Utah, but I don't coach," he said. "I'll leave that to Everson."

Former A&M standouts Rod Bernstine and Ira Valentine tore up and down the court as if they were on Kyle Field again. The players dribbled about four times from one end of the court to the other. Not much finesse, but there was speed and power.

Keith Woodside played in tennis shoes, not high-tops, but racked up 20 points for the Ags. His efforts were topped only by Bernstine who contributed 21 points.

"I like to play because it's a benefit game, and it's good to see the fans," Woodside said.

Former A&M player and Harlem Globetrotter Willie Foreman seemed to settle for "only" 17 points.

Both Woodside and Bernstine showed NBA sparks with long three-point shots.

Lockhart acted the clown by shouting, "You're cheating,"

when the officials' calls went against his team.

"I'm a loudmouth, and I like to make jokes," Lockhart said.

Hendricks, Walls and Lockhart said they enjoy playing benefit games because it keeps them in shape.

Chandler was the Cowboys' Larry Bird with 31 points, while Lockhart and Steve Gogan chipped in 23 and 22 points respectively.

"It's good to break a sweat and do some running," Lockhart said.

The Aggie All-Stars led most of the game to win 123-116, but fan satisfaction was the important factor.

Both benches were mobbed by autograph seekers the entire second half.

Although the Cowboys arrived in College Station without a promised top name, the fans didn't seem to mind.

Danny White, Tony Dorsett or Herschel Walker had been guaranteed to appear but didn't make the trip.

Ags rebound for sweep

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Editor

Texas A&M showed no signs of self-destruction after being swept by the Texas Longhorns as they rebounded for a sweep of their own against Texas Christian Friday and Saturday.

The Aggies staved off a late rally by the Horned Frogs for a 10-7 win Friday. They followed with a nail-biting 4-2 win in extra innings and a 9-1 blowout Saturday.

The first game Saturday mathematically assured A&M of a berth in the Southwest Conference tournament. The top four teams in the conference get invitations.

A&M is now 46-11 on the season and 15-4 in SWC play, trailing conference-leader Texas by three games. TCU falls to 26-31 and 7-12.

The weekend was dominated by A&M's Chuck Knoblauch and Scott Livingstone. Both went 7-for-12 for the weekend. Both had home runs and game-winning hits. They even both had "Olympic-moment" plays in the field.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said, "Chuck and Scott both hit the ball well this weekend. They came out and played well. They played well defensively, too. That's something that gets overlooked a lot."

TCU trailed 8-2 Friday before erupting in the top of the sixth. The first five batters got hits off A&M

starter Sean Snedeker, 8-1 on the year and 5-1 in conference, and four had scored before Nick Felix came in to stem the tide.

It didn't look like it was going to work at first, as Felix balked in the fifth run while pitching to the first batter, Brad Owen. That put Mike Moore on second with no outs.

Owen followed with a sharp grounder up the middle, and Knoblauch turned a spectacular double play by tagging Moore out and throwing to first to retire Owen.

Felix was in complete control after that, retiring the Frogs in order the rest of the way and striking out seven of the nine.

The Aggies got started early, as Knoblauch was hit by Tim Mauser, 7-5 and 3-3, on Mauser's first pitch of the game. A walk by Terry Taylor, doubles by Livingstone and John Byington and a single by Mike Easley brought in four runs to start the game.

Homers by Kirk Thompson and Livingstone added to the total.

The first game Saturday, scheduled to be the short game, wound up being the long game when the Aggies scored in the bottom of the seventh to tie the score at two.

Knoblauch doubled to right field with two outs, and Kerry Knox was brought in to relieve starter John Briscoe.

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Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack
A&M second baseman Terry Taylor throws to first during Saturday's second game against TCU. The Aggies won 9-1.

Close, but no cigar; perfection one step away

I was about to cry Friday night.

I was in the Olsen Field press box, and periodically the Sports Information people would update scores from around the country. I cheered when the Rockets were ahead. I booed when the Rangers were behind. But none



Hal L. Hammons
Sports viewpoint

of them shook me up like the scores from Comiskey Park in Chicago.

My Orioles were winning. Perhaps I'm weird. No, scratch that — I know I'm weird. Perhaps I'm weird in this particular way. But I was really rooting for them to keep up the good work.

Perfection is a precious rare thing in this world, but the Orioles are pretty close to having it. Perfect incompetence.

I personally know how difficult the quest can be. Many times I as a sports reporter have failed to get the right quote from some coach or athlete. At times it was because I didn't ask the right question. Occasionally it was because I couldn't read my notes.

But when the quest is meeting with success, it is necessary for others to treat the would-be perfectionist with either honor or jealousy. I choose honor.

But perfection necessitates continued action, and the O's came up a bit short Friday.

Different people get disappointed at different things. Some get upset when they get a B instead of an A. Some get upset when they get mustard instead of mayonnaise. I hate to be disappointed when I see a promising streak come to an end. Is that so strange?

No one thought I was strange when I wanted Pete Rose to keep up his 40-plus

game hitting streak. Anyone back in the glory days of baseball who would have tried to make Lou Gehrig miss a game during his "Iron Horse" streak of more than 2,000 consecutive games would have been shot.

Same basic concept here. I find it comforting to see the natural order of things coming out so plainly even in the world of sports. The Baltimore Orioles are a perfect example of putting together a combination of poor pitching, poor fielding, poor hitting and poor coaching, shaking the whole mess together, and pulling out exactly what you think you should. An altogether poor team.

But you've got to give them credit for

being as close to perfection as can be reasonably expected. Indeed, they have exceeded all expectations. Currently they stand as having lost 23 out of 24 contests.

But Chicago isn't comparable to the O's. And much in the same way as my boys in orange and black, we on the Battalion sports desk for the coming semester promise to strive for nothing short of perfection.

We don't expect to reach it. We don't expect to get as close as the O's, even. But you can know for a certainty the sports section you read this week, manned by next fall's staff, will be as good as possible.

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