

From the Bleachers

BATTALION READERS:

Battalion sports needs your help, Aggies. We have made a couple of executive decisions that, we think, will help our section immensely. The trouble with both is that we can't do either one ourselves.

That's where you come in.

Those of you who read our section last spring will remember the "12th Man Scoreboard."

It was an effort to do what sports editors at the *Batt* had said for years could not be done — effectively cover club and extramural sports.

We want to continue that tradition this fall.

If you are on a team that is having tryouts, competitions, or some other function, let us know about it. We'll do our best to include it.

We have to emphasize that this is no guarantee of coverage. It is only a guarantee of an effort on our part if you provide some effort on your part.

The second decision involves the new feature you see across the page — "From the Bleachers."

If you are from a major metropolitan area (meaning at least slightly larger than Bryan-College Station), you may have noticed a letter section that appears in major dailies' sports sections about once a week.

We would like to try that here.

Now, I don't know every one of you out there, but the ones I do know tend to have strong opinions about sports, and lots of them.

And no matter what you may think after reading our columns, we consider your opinions just as valuable and important as our own.

Just because you don't get paid to voice them like we do doesn't mean you shouldn't be allowed to do it for free.

Give it a shot, Ags. After all, why should you let Anthony Wilson, opinion page editor and sports desk defector, get to have all the fun and attention?

Bucky's still our man

SPORTS EDITOR:

Since Saturday night's football game against Nebraska, I can't count the number of times I've read about or heard someone complaining about Bucky Richardson's performance and the performance of the offense in general. All of the armchair quarterbacks have been screaming, "What about Lance and Chris?" In my opinion, the decision to leave Bucky in the whole game was based on several things.

First, since Bucky is the best scrambler of the three, he probably had the best chance of dodging or outrunning Broderick Thomas and company on pass plays.

Second, there were several cases of receivers running the wrong routes. Even John Elway won't complete many passes to receivers who run wrong routes.

Finally, I think the coaches realized that there wasn't much anyone could do against the Nebraska defense in the second half. So, they opted to stay with the more experienced Richardson.

The people who wanted a change aren't crazy, though.

Lance and Chris are both talented and deserve some playing time in the near future. But I still think the man who is going to lead us to the Cotton Bowl wears #7.

Robert Brown '89

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Walling goes to Cardinals for Forsch

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals acquired utilityman Denny Walling from Houston Wednesday and sent veteran right-hander Bob Forsch to the Astros, who are trying to stay in the race in the NL West.

Forsch, 38, ranks third in St. Louis history with 163 career victories, 1,079 strikeouts and 2,658 innings pitched. He is 9-4 in 30 games with a 3.72 ERA this year as both a starter and reliever.

"Forsch brings us a quality starter and a quality major leaguer, and he's had a good year," said Houston manager Hal Lanier. "The bottom line is you never have enough pitching."

Lanier said that Forsch could receive his first start in an Astros uniform as early as Friday, when Houston opens a three-game series at the Astrodome against the Cardinals.

He also said that how Forsch is used depends upon whether Mike Scott is recovered sufficiently from a hamstring injury. If Scott can pitch, Forsch's first start for Houston will be next Tuesday against the Cincinnati Reds, the Astros' manager said.

Houston, which lost 3-1 to the Chicago Cubs Wednesday, entered the day trailing NL West-leading Los Angeles by 6½ games.

St. Louis general manager Dal Maxvill said Forsch, a Cardinals pitcher since 1974, is "a fine gentleman and competitor who will always be remembered as one of the Cardinals' all-time greats."

Walling had 81 pinch hits for the Astros, a franchise record. The total included a pinch single on Tuesday night against Chicago and a pinch double that produced their only run Wednesday.

"I really enjoyed the last two at-bats," said Walling, who batted .244 in 65 games for Houston. "It (trade) was a business decision; I understand that."

Forsch, whose approval was required for the trade, compiled a 5-1 record with a 2.25 ERA in six August starts for St. Louis.

Forsch said he had been contacted by Maxvill concerning the trade and had also spoken to Lanier, a former Cardinals coach, and to Houston general manager Bill Wood. He said he surmised from Maxvill that "it doesn't sound like I was going to be here (in St. Louis) next year."

Walling played in 110 games last season, batting .283. In 1986, his best season, he batted .312 with 13 home runs and 58 RBI. He played mostly at third base a year ago, but Buddy Bell has been the starter since being acquired earlier this season.

Forsch, who was playing under a one-year contract that paid him \$400,000, said he had mixed feelings about the trade.

"It's not that I didn't expect it. Maybe it even took longer than I thought," he said. "I would have liked to have pitched (for the Cardinals) some more, but it didn't look like it was going to work out."

Forsch's accomplishments for St. Louis included 20-7 record in 1977 and no-hitters in 1977 against the Philadelphia Phillies and 1983 against the Montreal Expos.

Owners guilty of collusion to ax baseball free agency

NEW YORK (AP) — For the second year, baseball owners were found guilty Wednesday of collusion to destroy free agency. An arbitrator said the clubs engaged in a "patent pattern" of bid-rigging that defied fair play and a free market.

Damages involving such stars as Montreal's Tim Lincecum, Detroit's Jack Morris, Philadelphia's Lance Parrish and the Chicago Cubs' Andre Dawson will be determined after this season, avoiding any disruption of the pennant races.

Arbitrator George Nicolau, in a harshly worded 81-page opinion, found "there was no vestige of a free market" between the 1986 and 1987 seasons. It was replaced, he wrote, "by a patent pattern of uniform behavior" in "deliberate contravention" of baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

He found that communications between clubs were designed to further the free-agent boycott.

Nicolau's decision will precipitate another round of multimillion-dollar damage hearings and will allow several of the free agents in the case the opportunity for free agency.

Another arbitrator, Thomas Roberts, ruled last Sept. 22 that clubs

conspired against free agents between the 1985 and 1986 seasons. Nicolau's opinion was much more expansive and, among other things, accused baseball officials of making offers "for public relations purposes" and of having "remarkable lapses of memory" in their testimony.

He also found that American League president Bobby Brown and two AL club owners pressured Philadelphia Phillies owner Bill Giles not to sign Parrish, one of the two premier free agents who switched teams by taking pay cuts.

Donald Fehr, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, said "the owners stand exposed as willing to make a contract and then deliberately violate it, to collude and conspire to violate their solemn contractual commitments to the players; to avoid their obligations to the fans to put the best possible team on the field."

Barry Rona, executive director of the owner's Player Relations Committee, maintained the teams were innocent.

"Not only was the conduct of the owners consistent with guidelines established in the Basic Agreement,"

Rona said, "such conduct, it should be noted, in no substantive ways differed from that of player agents and other representatives of the players."

Economic experts hired by the union have proposed damages of between \$20 million and \$30 million in the first collusion case, according to information obtained by the Associated Press. The experts will argue the damage in the second case was between \$50 million and \$60 million, according to a source with knowledge of the reports.

Rona said Wednesday that he and Fehr have had settlement discussions but would not discuss how much the owners were willing to pay. He also said that there is a possibility that the remedy phases of the 1985 and 1986 cases would be consolidated.

The union filed the second collusion grievance on Feb. 18, 1987. Of the 79 free agents, 37 re-signed with their former clubs, 21 switched teams and 21 didn't return to the major leagues. The union alleged that except for Dawson and Parrish, the free agents who changed clubs were not wanted by their former teams.

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