

Sports

Maybe 0-2's not all that bad; valuable lessons come hard

This might sound real crazy to a lot of you Texas A&M sports fans, but I think it's a good thing that the Aggies are 0-2.



Jerry Bolz

True, I am now a sports writer and in the process of being weaned from sports fanaticism. But this statement is not a backlash of anger because my favorite football team lost again.

A team that scoots through the season unscathed and undefeated learns a lot of necessary principles. But an injured, defeated team learns the lessons that most don't want to learn.

Teams like Oklahoma and Miami know how to savor a victory like few others. They also know how the joy of victory promotes them to work just as hard next season to reach the same goal, or a higher one.

It must feel great to work hard all year and win a national championship like last year's Miami Hurricanes. Week after week they got closer to their goal. The Hurricanes were so physically and mentally prepared, that only in their game against Florida State were they seriously challenged.

Winning also develops confidence in the victors. Confidence is a necessary ingredient for a team to win every week. Players on consistently winning teams usually have no problem being confident.

Goal orientation and confidence are valuable things to learn for team members, but if that is all they learn, they miss some other important principles.

A&M hasn't set any records by losing back-to-back games, especially facing teams like Nebraska and LSU. But two in a row is plenty to teach them some things the Sooners may never learn.

If I can equate the effects of these two losses with hardship, I'll say that hardship brings people together.

The strain of facing a bad situation turns a bunch of individuals into a unit. When a team has a deep-down hope of being 13-0 at season's end, being 0-2 is quite a strain.

With the toughness of this year's schedule, the Aggies need to regroup now and give a solid team effort like never before. About mid-season these losses will be next to forgotten and Ags everywhere will be concentrating on another trip to the Cotton Bowl.

Loosing also develops humility, a trait that has given way to outspoken boastfulness in much of the sports world today. But I believe humility should play a bigger role than overconfidence, even on the football field.

Nothing spreads dissension on a team and among the fans like the high-minded player that thinks the other ten players are on the field just to watch. On the other hand, a player who leads a team with humility has the respect and attention of the other players.

Loosing a few games does a good job of keeping cockiness in check and developing real leaders.

It's also easy to equate having a 0-2 record with suffering, at least for a football team and their serious fans. Suffering produces perseverance.

A team like the Texas Longhorns has been learning perseverance for the last few years, and A&M has had plenty of lessons in years past. Teams like these are used to winning and have to bear down to come back after losing.

After every loss, it's tougher to play with enthusiasm. For the Aggies, loosing their first two games changes their season goal from national title hopeful to Southwest Conference champs. The SWC title is much less illustrious, but the Ags still have to play 10 games to get there.

For the Aggies, fans and players, there is a tendency to throw this season out and wait until next year. But those who hang on and learn will be part of something stronger in the future.

The last A&M team to lose its first two games of the season was the 1979 Ags, that finished 6-5. They beat Penn State the third game.

State worked their way back to finish in the Top 10 the next two years and won the national championship in 1982.

A&M doesn't have the football tradition of Penn State, but they do have the potential to win a national title in the next few seasons. And I'm sure that being crowned best in the country would be worth a few losses along the way.

If there's no baseball, cricket will do just fine

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

An American sports writer in London Third part of a five-part series

Baseball and cricket are second cousins once removed. If I couldn't have baseball while in England, cricket would do just as well.

That is — if the game could be figured out.

During my stay in London I was determined to figure out the sport even though I already enjoyed the game while being blissfully ignorant of how to play.

It looked fascinating, and that was enough for me. I had always heard that an American could never fully understand the complexities of cricket. I believe that the English feel it is not in our sporting makeup to warm up to the sport.

I was not going to be discouraged by these beliefs.

I decided it would be easy to learn about cricket without anyone knowing I was interested because it was broadcast virtually everyday on television.

Most of the Americans I lived with in London showed little interest in Test matches and would have cringed if they had known I cared.

On the sly, when everyone was gone, I would switch on the matches and contemplate the rules.

From day to day watching, some

light was shed on who was batting, which team was up, and what hitting the wickets meant. The game was repetitive, but not all its secrets were being easily unlocked.

At least watching the game became more comfortable. After a while I stopped waiting for a home run.

I was struggling with the game as much as the England team was struggling against the West Indies team. When would either of us show some progress?

Finally, I met some of my English neighbors and had hopes that they could shed some light on cricket. They were helpful with the mechanics, but now what could be learned about the scoring?

The scoring of cricket was a brick wall I slammed against. My English neighbors were even unsure of how it was scored. How then would I ever figure it out?

Maybe it wasn't important to know the scoring. I enjoyed cricket without knowing which team won. Perhaps this was because I didn't feel loyal to any one team.

Now that I had watched matches from the safety of my living room, the challenge was to go watch a match in person.

The obvious choice would be to watch the England club. But who's interested in the obvious?

The decision was made to watch the Eton and Harrow cricket match. Eton and Harrow are two of the old distinguished public boys schools of

England. The cricket match between the two was on par with the Texas-Oklahoma football rivalry.

This match caught my interest more than going to see the West Indies hammer England. To watch Eton and Harrow go at it would almost be like being home at a college ballgame.

The match was at Lord's Cricket Ground, home to the England team seemed to be a serious confrontation. Play began in the afternoon and in the midst of an all day picnic outside the grounds.

There were very few serious fans for either team, although each did have cheering sections filled with semi-interested spectators.

The real action was at the picnic sights.

Parents had spread lavish blankets under every sort of fruit, cheese bread and Pimms beverages.

The members of the cheering sections wandered in and out of the stadium to sample the food and then the cricket.

The match lasted all day and headed toward darkness with both teams still playing. Eton looked good. Harrow looked good.

I'd like to say who won, but as I've mentioned, the scoring was not my forte.

The Eton-Harrow match was not of the win-or-be-shamed category, but it was of interest.

The key to cricket I've learned is not to worry about winning but to enjoy the game.

Lady Aggies open home season tonight against 3-1 Northwestern

By Jerry Bolz
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team plays their first home game tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The team faces the 3-1 Northwestern Wildcats of the Big 10, a traditionally strong volleyball conference.

A&M is 2-1 after weekend victories over Lamar and the University of New Orleans and a loss to Louisiana State.

Northwestern is currently on a swing through Texas. In a tournament last weekend the Lady Wildcats defeated Baylor, Southwest Texas State and Lamar but lost to Texas. They played Houston last

night and play a tournament at Rice this weekend.

The Lady Aggies are led by senior outside attackers Cheri Steensma, a preseason All-America candidate, and Vivian Viera. Steensma leads the team with 27 kills. Viera has 24 kills and leads the defense with 17 digs.

Also starting are middle blockers Kelli Kellen, a junior, and sophomore Amy Cummings.

New in the starting lineup are junior setter Yvonne Van Brandt, returning from a knee injury, and freshman outside attacker Sheri Hermesmyer.

This weekend, the team will face Colorado State, Arizona State and Ohio State in the Texas A&M Invitational Tournament.



Cheri Steensma

Ranger sale on owners' agenda; proposed buyer not going to attend

ARLINGTON (AP) — The proposed sale of the Texas Rangers to a college franchise owner's September meeting in Montreal, but Morsani said he is not planning to attend.

"We have not been invited," Morsani said Monday. "We're not an owner. We didn't expect to be invited. We think it would be preposterous on our part to assume we could go."

In a deal announced Aug. 26, Morsani's MXM Corp. agreed in principle to buy 58 percent of the Rangers from Eddie Chiles. The agreement hinges on whether Rangers minority owner Gaylord Broadcasting decides to exercise its right of first refusal to buy Chiles' interest in the team.

Under Gaylord's 1984 purchase of one-third interest in the franchise, the company has until Sept. 23 to match MXM Corp's offer. Oklahoma City publisher Edward L. Gay-

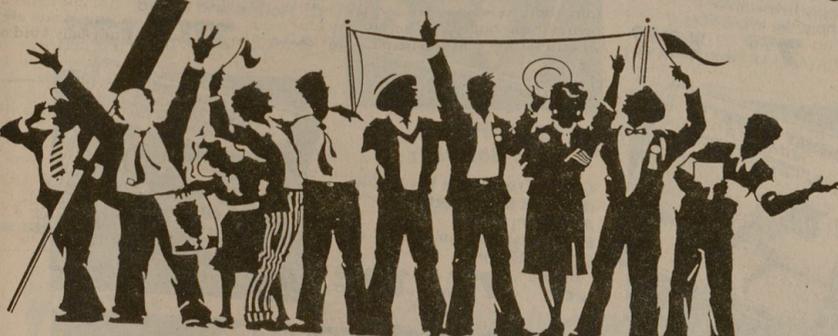
lord has said his group probably will announce its decision by mid-September.

Although the proposed sale of the American League franchise will be on the agenda at the owners' meetings Wednesday and Thursday, no formal action is expected, Rangers president Mike Stone said. Gaylord Broadcasting's role in the sale also is expected to be discussed, Stone said.

"You can hardly talk about one without the other," he said.

MSC Political Forum

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Sept 3	Bus Trip to Delta Downs	
Sept 5	The James Dean Party*	
Sept 7	Smoker at Carney's Pub	
Sept 9	Swamp Party*	
Sept 10	Pool/Poker Party*	
Sept 12	Date Party*	
	* at the Pike House	

For Fall Rush Information:
Sam Noto 764-9155
James Martingano 696-1704
David Mooney 696-0081
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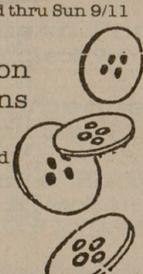
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