on NCAA infraction issues

By Stephen Masters Senior Staff Writer

A nine-member panel of journalists and sports information employees disagreed Tuesday about the range and methods of coverage of NCAA infractions in the Southwest Confer-

Bill Cousins, sports information director for Rice University summed up the school side by reminding the panel and audience that the SID is under the command of the university's administration, not the public.

"If the sargeant says shoot the children, we shoot the children," he said. "If we're told not to release some information, we're not going to release

"The thing to keep in mind is that we are the employee of the university first. The number one thing in our reasoning in releasing information is not the public's right to know, but what reflects the best light of the university. Our paycheck comes from the university, not the media.'

Neal Farmer, a sports writer for the Houston Chronicle, had a differing opinion on Cousins' assessment of the public's right to know.

"I'd like to think that there is some need to tell the truth on their part,"

In addition to Cousins and Farmer, the panel also included Colin Killian, assistant SID at A&M, Ron Crozier, sports director for KBTX-TV. Cha-

Bryan-College Station Eagle, Hal Hammons, sports editor for *The Battalion*, Al Carter, sports writer for the *Houston Chronicle*, Kirk Bohls, sports writer for the *Austin Ameri*can-Statesman and lecturer at South west Texas State University, and Richard Kilwine, an intern assistant SID at the University of Houston. The program was moderated by Chip Howard, sports director for KTAM-KORA radio.

Much of the discussion focused on the Texas media's spotlight on NCAA infractions by Southwest

Conference schools. "Why should we investigate the Southwest Conference?" Carter asked. "Why is the government after

the Mafia? "I think it shows the depth of the problem when you have the governor of the state involved in cheating in college football. We look at the Southwest Conference more because there's more going on here.'

Killian disagreed with Carter's

comparison. "I don't think it's fair to compare the Mafia with the Southwest Conference," he said. "I haven't heard of anyone who was killed over a recr-

Carter responded, "But two-thirds of the Mafia hasn't been indicted."

The journalists on the panel agreed that a working relationship can be ries, and Bohls mentioned experiences where coaches and players refused to grant interviews to the

"You can't let anyone intimidate you," he said. "You have to stand up for your rights as a journalist and hopefully your employer will back

you up.
"If they won't talk, fine. I tell them, 'I can still cover the game and write about you.' It makes my job harder, but it can be done.

Farmer said he takes a direct approach in his interviews.

"I go to a coach or administrator, tell them what I know and ask for their comment," he said. "Sometimes I say too much and I lose a story, but I may gain five, 10 or 15 stories down

"As long as I perceive myself as honest, I don't have a problem."

Kilwine said that sometimes the

stonewalling method can backfire.

"If you exclude them (media), they may tend to get you more negative publicity than if you didn't," he said.

Cousins pointed out that while Rice has not been accused of any NCAA infractions, they have lost 12 straight games and not had a winning season since 1963.

"I thought there was a reason and Governor (Bill) Clements showed us - we're haven't been playing with the same rules," he said

Writers, SID officials clash A's finally beat Dodgers on NCAA infraction issues McGwire homers in 9th for 2-1 win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Mark Mc-Gwire hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning as the Oakland Athletics finally broke through for a 2-1 win over Los Angeles Tuesday night.

The victory cut the Dodgers' lead in the World Series to 2-1

McGwire fouled off three 2-2 pitches before lining a drive over the left-center field for his first hit in 10 World Series

The blow came against Jay Howell, making his first appearance since his suspension for using pine tar in Game 3 of the National League playoffs.

It was the first home run Howell had given up to a right-handed batter in 112 at-bats this season.

The Athletics managed just five hits, but McGwire's homer was the difference in a game in which Oakland's bullpen

The Athletics escaped a bases-loaded, no-outs jam in the sixth inning and Rick Honeycutt allowed one hit in the final two innings for the victory

Howell entered in the ninth and retired Jose Canseco on a pop-up before McGwire homered.

The Dodgers will pitch Tim Belcher in Game 4 Wednesday night against Oakland's Dave Stewart in Game 4 Wednesday night in a rematch of opening-game

The home team now has won 13 consecutive games in the World Series. The Dodgers blew a chance to break the game open in the sixth when they loaded the bases with no outs but failed

Danny Heep's double, John Shelby's single and a walk to Mike Davis finished Bob Welch.

The former Dodger has not lasted beyond 24/3 innings in four postseason

The Oakland bullpen, the most effective in the majors this year, did its job

Left-hander Greg Cadaret stopped lefty Mike Scioscia on a foul popup and right-hander Gene Nelson got Jeff Hamilton on a force at the plate and Alfredo Griffin on a grounder to first.

Kirk Gibson, the Dodgers' pinch hitter deluxe in Game 1, was not employed this time, even though Los Angeles was at the bottom of its batting order.

The Dodgers' injury problems worsened as starting pitcher John Tudor and right fielder Mike Marshall each were forced from the game.

Tudor, bothered by hip and elbow problems throughout the season, left during the second inning with more arm

Marshall's weak back stiffened up in

Welch and Tudor, big winners who had done poorly in postseason play, each started out well on nine days' rest.

Tudor retired all four batters he faced

before Tim Leary took over in the sec-

Welch won 115 games in 10 seasons with Los Angeles and became the second pitcher in history to start a World Series game against the team he played for the previous year.

Bob Ojeda was the other, pitching in 1986 for the New York Mets against

Welch gave up a leadoff single to Steve Sax and struck out the next four

He fanned eight in four innings and took a 1-0 lead into the fifth before Los

Angeles scored. Hamilton singled for his first hit in 10 Series at-bats, advanced on Griffin's sac-

rifice and came home on Franklin

Stubbs' two-out double. The Athletics ended a streak of 18 scoreless innings with a run in the third.

Glenn Hubbard opened with a single

off the left-field wall.

Hubbard, who stole only one base all year, cruised into second base when the Dodgers failed to cover the bag and continued to third when Scioscia's throw bounced into center field for an error.

Hassey, a lefty starting against the left-handed Tudor because of his rapport with Welch, singled to left field to score Hubbard.

Hassey was Oakland's hotest hitter in the playoffs, going 4-for-8.

It's old, but pass-less offense is still hurting A&M

There's no question, a team that wants to win the national championship has to have a defense that can stop anything - that's a given. But what separates those who make it to the top and those who get hung up on the top rung is offense.

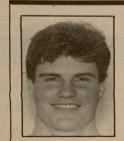
After four straight games of Oklahoma-style inning, the Aggies are on the winning road, but will chugging it out on the ground be able to take them to the top?

Beginning with the Oklahoma State game, A&M has proved they can consistently rack up big yards with talent like Darren Lewis and Bucky Richardson. Coming into the Baylor game, Lewis was the fourth-ranked runner in the country. And having Richardson is like having Fran Tarkenton with a broken right arm.

Passing the ball has just about vanished from A&M's attack. The combo of Chris Osgood and Richardson attempted only 16 passes against Baylor and had seven of them caught.

Against Houston, the Aggie tandem shot for 14 completions in 32 tries. On the season, all Aggie quarterbacks, plus a couple of tries by Lewis, are hitting around 44 percent.

Now 44 percent isn't atrocious, but what is ard to accept is that only two passes went for TDs and 10 for interceptions.



Jerry Bolz Sports writer

For any team that predominantly runs, the passing game is used to set up the run by keeping the defense a little looser. A running team has to have a great defense because they can't catch up if they get very far behind, like A&M against LSU and Oklahoma State.

Defense has been great for the Aggies the last three weeks, but their passing game isn't doing anything to alarm the other team. The opposition knows that the ball will either go to Lewis or Robert Wilson, or in the case of an option, Richardson will keep.

When an Aggie QB does drop back to throw, it's generally either a short pass or an incomplete long one — or an interception. Only two Aggie receivers are averaging more catches per game (Rod Harris with 4 and Larry Horton with 2) than the average number of interceptions per game thrown by A&M (1.67).

The Aggie running attack, however, is averaging around 250 yards a game. The last three weeks, against Southwest Conference teams, the Aggies have run like an elephant escaping the

It's hilarious! Everybody on the defense knows what is going to happen, and at least when playing Southwest Conference teams, they can't do anything about it.

Like former UT coach Darrell Royal said,

"There's only three things that can happen on a pass, and two of them are bad." For A&M, the interceptions and incompletions have destroyed any passing triumphs. But can the Aggies keep winning without passing?

There are only a few "brutes" in the country

that almost always win by using an offense that is weighted so heavily to the run. Oklahoma has done it for years, and they'll probably keep on doing it. Texas used to do it, and Arkansas still tries, although Athletic Director Frank Broyles is pressuring Coach Ken Hatfield to pass or leave.

To run the ball and win, the Aggies must have plenty of beef up front. Guys like Jerry Fontenot and Matt McCall fit the big mold fine. And with the average size of linemen growing every year with or without steroids — keeping up the supply of beef shouldn't be a problem.

Right now, the talent in the backfield isn't any issue either. Richardson and Lewis are sophomores along with Larry Horton and Keith McA-At fullback, two freshman, Wilson and Randy Simmons, have a long time to improve on already good talent. No problems so far.

Opposition defense isn't much to worry about either, especially in the SWC. Let's face it: If A&M is playing like they can, there isn't anyone in the SWC that can go head-to-head with the

Aggies.

Playing outside of the conference has been the only problem for the Aggies this year. The All-Star backfield got stuffed against Nebraska and LSU, and it wasn't enough to beat OSU. In these games, a credible passing game would have made a big difference. But what killed the Ag-

gies in these games was the defense, so that's beside the point.

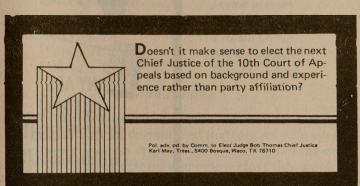
Osgood has had some bright moments passing this season but there have been a lot more shiny spots when Richardson is leaping over the defense. Lance Pavlas has only played sparingly since the OSU game, and there is no telling what it will take for Sherrill to give him another shot.

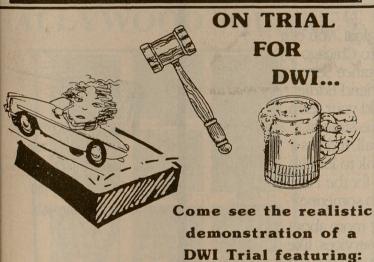
What the Aggie offense of the future will be is like a class syllabus — subject to change. It all depends on who Sherrill wants at QB. It would be nice to have three teams and let each quarterback lead one for a whole season and then pick the starter.

But for right now, the purpose of starting Osgood isn't making much sense. He seems like a football-style decoy that serves no purpose because everyone knows A&M is going to run. The pass just doesn't fit into what Sherrill has planned for now, and that's more of Richardson and Lewis.

The Aggies can run over anyone in the SWC for the next three or four years at least. But to play outside the conference and win the games the rest of the country sees, A&M will have to commit to the run and quit toying with an inept

for Today's Cars





Bob Wiatt, Director of Security and University Police as

The Accused Alex Walter, Students' Attorney, TAMU, and

> Jim Locke, local attorney, as The Attorneys and Local Officials as

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