The Battalion

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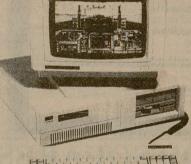
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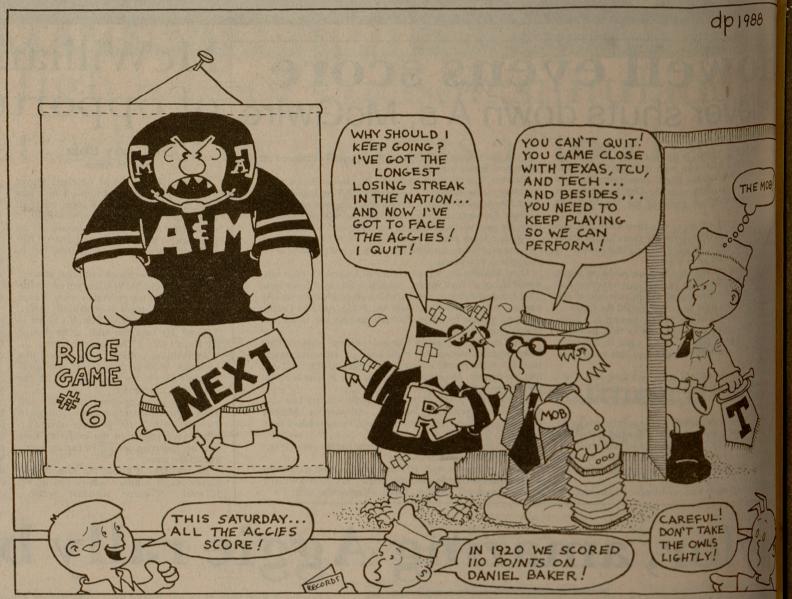
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One of these teams is not like the others

This Saturday the Texas Aggies face one of the toughest challenges they will have all year when the

Rice Owls visit Kyle Field. No. I haven't gone insane! The big challenge isn't beating the winless Owls. Instead, the test for A&M is to avoid overlooking the Owls because of their wonloss record

It wouldn't be surprising to see the Aggie players watching the Arkansas-Houston game on the sidelines Saturday while their own game is going on. What is Jackie Sherrill going to do to get his team

Maybe he'll throw chairs around the locker room and break a blackboard in half. Anything to keep the

If you look at the Owls' won-loss record over the past few years, not to mention their record of the past 25 years, it's almost impossible to imagine Rice beating any team in the Southwest Conference

Since 1982, Rice has won only four SWC games and lost 46. That's a dazzling winning percentage of

The last time Rice had a team with a winning record was when the Owls went 6-4. In all games, beginning with the 1982 season, Rice has a record of 11-60.

The Owls simply don't belong in the SWC!

Rice doesn't spend huge amounts of money on recruiting, and they actually make their players meet the academic standards all the other students at Rice have to meet. Can you believe that?

What Rice needs to do is become a part of a new league made up of teams from schools with either equally high academic reputations or football teams that win about as often as the Owls do.

This league would include ten teams from around the country that have earned membership in the league by virtue of their poor performance in football in the last two decades.

The ten teams I have selected for our fictional conference are: Northwestern, Duke, Kansas State, Kansas, New Mexico, Georgia Tech, Army, Navy, Vanderbilt and, of course, Rice.

The schools would benefit from grouping these teams together because their teams would actually have the chance to have a winning season. While continuing to field teams without buying players and



Doug Walker Assistant Sports Editor

relaxing academic standards for athletes.

Most all of these schools haven't been competitive in the past twenty years. However, there are excep-

Army and Navy have remained competitive with the major powers by utilizing the wishbone offense. They don't usually beat any of the top teams on their schedules, but they are competitive.

By using the wishbone formation, they are able to neutralize the size advantage teams from larger schools have by executing their offense exceptionally well. The wishbone relies on quickness, speed and execution to be successful. Size is not a factor. Army is out to a 5-1 start this year while Navy is 3-3.

Duke is another team that has gotten out to a go start this season after years of hard times. The Blue Devils have used a strong passsing attack to propel them to 5-1 record. Howevr, the gap between Duke and the real powers of college football was made painfully evident last Saturday by the Clemson Tigers. Clemson pounded Duke, 49-21.

jeorgia Tech tradition that has fallen on hard times. For many years the Yellow Jackets were competitive members of the Southeastern Conference. Tech was always an important factor in national rankings and developed great rivalries with Alabama and Georgia.

Tech's withdrawal from the SEC in the late '50s pre-

cipitated its fall from football prowess After years as an independent, Tech joined the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1983. Even with coaches like Bill Curry and Bobby Ross, the Yellow Jackets have not won a league title.

Curry finally left his alma mater, and tool bama job while Ross, his replacement and a several ACC titles at Maryland, just picket first win over a Division I opponent streak of 15 losses) last week against ei South Carolina.

Vanderbilt is another great academic cannot compete week after week with top The last time Vandy strung together ning seasons was in the early 1970s. E while the Commodores spring an upset l week against an injury-riddled Florida te most part, this is a team that, like Rice, or most teams for three quarters before getting in the fourth period.

Northwestern finds itself in a situation to what Rice faces. As a member of the Big Mildcats are fortunate to win any leagu simply can't expect to win many more in

Northwestern is an excellent universit the football team can't compete with members

It's not unusual for the Wildcats to go ence game as 40-point underdogs. they have going against Michigan or Of about 100,000 screaming fanatics yelling

I include Kansas, Kansas State and New the league simply because they are to programs. I find it hard to see why these field competitive teams.

Maybe the top players don't like the sur Kansas or New

Kansas and K-State need to leave their Big Eight Conference) more than any other tioned previously

It must be a sick feeling to walk on against a team like Nebraska or Oklahor that you're going to allow at least 70 point

be lucky if you don't lose by that much. Maybe if these teams could get toget league of their own football would not more rewarding and fun for the player their supporters would be more supportion

McWilliam

(Continued from page 9) there and shattered that mark

O: How did your play compare that

of your teammates?

A: I think it was above. I led in all but one offensive stat —home runs. Defensively, I think I'm a pretty good outfielder. We had a couple of good outfielders and a couple of terrible ones. I was in there every day, unless I needed a day off. Q: Was it a dissapointment not to

get drafted? A: Yes, definitely. Throughout my last season here I thought I had a good chance to be drafted. I didn't know exactly what a scout was looking for. But the way I was hitting, I thought I was good enough. I have average speed, and that might be one of the reasons I wasn't drafted. But I saw a lot of guys in Arizona slower than me that did get drafted. Another reason was probably a lack of publicity while I played here, which is also probably a reason I didn't make the All-Southwest Conference team. If the

word's out on you the scouts will here it's hard to tell when I'll have the time to

Q: It has to be exciting to go back next year after leading the team. How far do you expect to climb?

A: Honestly, I expect to at least go to the highest level of A ball in Riverside, Calif., or possibly an outside shot at AA ball in Wichita, Kansas. But being a non-drafted player, it's extremely hard to tell what the organization has in store for

O: Anything about A&M you

missed when you were away? A: As far as baseball goes, I miss the atmosphere we had at Olsen Field. Especially the announcing of "D.D." Grubbs -my roommate, I told him I would mention him. I missed getting to get on with my degree. I also missed going to see horror movies with "Roach" Medina and Kerry Freudenberg

O: With baseball, are your expectations of finishing school realistic. A: Definitely, but it's hard to put a

timetable on that. After this semester,

come back and finish Q: What are your plans if baseball

doesn't work out? A: If it doesn't work out, I plan to finish my degree and get an honest job

Q: Is baseball not an honest job?

A: According to some people, no. According to me, yes. People look at athletes and they don't like to see them earning tremendous amounts of money

When in effect, being a pro athlete takes a lot of hard work to make it to the top. Q: What do you want to get out of A: The reason I'm playing is that I

would like to make it to the top and make some good money out of it. I have a goal to make the majors if possible. I'm at such a developmental stage, though, it's hard to tell. I might play one more year

Q: Did anything out of the ordinary happen to you in Scottsdale?

There was a midnight fight be-

for missing curfew, which of. But for the time I had in

\$25 was worth it. Q: What is the most imp in your life right now? A: School is importan my grades have a funny it. As soon as the semest becomes a top priority. B

tween some players on the term one guy kicked off. It goes to seasily it all can end. We were

being fined by the coache

(to Tucson) on my day

got back I got shocked w

ball and school is my gir

in Tucson. With her, falls in place Q: Any last words? A: Never give up on was the only 11-year-old team full of 12-year-olds. on, I knew I had somthing

I'm still shooting higher will continue until I reach

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