

Friday, March 31, 1989

Texas baseball program catalyst for strong SWC

Longhorn coach Gustafson major reason for conference'

WACO (AP) — On a day all the nation's sports hoopla was directed at college basketball, there was a game being played in Ferrell Field last week that spotlighted something the Southwest Conference is good at — baseball.

Mickey Sullivan's Baylor Bears were hosting Cliff Gustafson's Texas Longhorns, and it was fun.

The quality of play certainly rivaled and surpassed some major league games witnessed last year at Arlington Stadium and the Astro-dome.

The crowd was lively: One Baylor student wore a T-Shirt saying "You can buy the Cowboys but I'm not hollering sooooo-iiii-eeee pig!"

There were good natured gibes flying from both sides of the stands as the Longhorns finally prevailed 5-4 in 10 innings.

Kirk Dressendorfer lasted the distance for the Longhorns while Baylor's Tommy Echols hit a monster homer over the leftfield fence and the ball rolled into the nearby Brazos River.

A crowd of 2,500 fans paying \$4 a ticket attended the game. The next

day 2,700 jammed the facility for a doubleheader that the two clubs split.

SWC baseball is a big-time sport,



not just an afterthought as it is in some conferences.

Texas A&M, with a 30-1 record when the week ended, was rated the No. 1 team in the nation in all the polls.

Arkansas (24-4) and Texas (31-9) are in the Top 20 and Baylor at 27-6

deserves to be there. Houston lost a weekend series to Arkansas but still had 29 victories.

At one time last week A&M, Texas, Houston and Arkansas were rated among the top 17 teams nationally.

There are many reasons for the SWC success in baseball, but perhaps the primary catalyst is number 18 in your program, Gustafson.

In 1988, Gustafson saw his baseball team win for him his 1,000th game.

He's only the third man in NCAA Division I history to surpass that mark.

He's fewer than 300 wins shy of the all-time mark of 1,332 set by Southern California's retired Rod Dedeaux.

Gustafson has two national titles and 19 SWC titles to his credit.

In the College World Series, his teams have also finished second two times, third six times, and fourth on three occasions.

His winning rate of 82 percent is amazing.

Gustafson has caused other SWC schools to upgrade their programs

and become more competitive. He has noticed it's harder for him to win.

"The competition just keeps getting better," Gustafson said. "Other schools are recruiting harder; there is increased emphasis on college baseball."

"There are new parks, and a lot of ambitious, eager guys who are coaching."

Recruiting for Texas' excellent high school baseball talent is so tough that Gustafson has reached down for an ace in the hole — son Deron.

"He has taken over the bulk of our recruiting," Cliff said. "We want to make sure we do the best job we can of showing off our program, our University and our city."

"It's become a fulltime job. Now, recruits are coming in during the fall and are committing to universities then."

"The professional draft is the next June. Following that, a player can sign a pro contract until he enrolls in school. We have to stay on top of it from September until August, and then it starts all over again."

Schools are doing everything they can to get more fans through the turnstiles, including the installation of lights.

Night baseball is coming to the SWC to accommodate the growing crowds who want to see their favorite team play after work.

For example, Texas A&M and Texas had series scheduled this weekend under the lights.

During the Baylor-Texas game last week, Baylor assistant sports information director Terry Tacker made periodic announcements asking the public to support a drive to put lights around Ferrell Field.

SWC baseball is being seen frequently on national television (ESPN) and getting lights also helps national exposure.

The SWC might not be able to get to the Final Four, but baseball is another story.

Through games of March 19, SWC clubs had a 168-37 record against outside competition, an .820 winning percentage.

Ag swimmers have poor start at NCAA meet

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M men's swimming team got off to a slow start yesterday at the NCAA championships in Indianapolis as all A&M competitors failed to qualify for the finals.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Matt Cerizo, Mike Varroza, Aaron McDonough and Ed Altman was disqualified for a false start in their preliminary heat.

Their time would have placed fifteenth and landed them in the consolation finals.

The 400-yard medley relay team of Peter Staruch, Don Boyd, Varroza and Altman swam a time of 3:21.90 in the preliminaries.

The time was almost two seconds off their season best and left them in 28th place.

"We just didn't put one together," A&M Assistant Coach Jay Holmes said.

The Aggies didn't fare any better individually. Varroza finished 42nd in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.04 seconds.

Mavs', Spurs' dismal seasons could be blessing for next year

It now appears the San Antonio Spurs aren't the only team in Texas that will be getting a lottery pick in this year's NBA draft. The Dallas Mavericks are perched in the precarious position of being one place away from participating in draft roulette.

Yes, the team that took the Lakers to six games and 41 minutes in last year's Western Conference final is now on the brink of holding the dubious privilege of being one of the "magnificent seven". And that's fine with me.

This season for the Mavs is a wash. You weren't really going out on a limb when you may have predicted that this season was in the tank after Roy Tarpley went back for a second stint at Camp Detox. But it just kept getting worse. Rolondo Blackmon missed multiple games with a broken finger. A.D.



Thomas Kehoe
Sports Writer

didn't want to move to Big D. James Dondalson went down for the season with his knee.

I'll bet (wait I can't say that, I'm not Pete Rose), I'd imagine John MacLeod's wife is leaving decals with the stress and suicide hotline on the family phones.

But should he be killing himself to make the playoffs?

This year's draft crop is the richest harvest in years. Pervis Ellison, Sean Elliot, Stacy King, Glen Rice, Sherman Douglas and Player of the Year Danny Ferry are all seniors. I think all six are going to forgo grad school and go straight to the NBA.

Then there's the "hardships" that are forgoing undergrad school and coming out early. Derrick Coleman and Jay Edwards have already committed to the draft and most sources indicate that super Tar Heel J.R. Reid will skip his last season too.

So there you have it, nine terrific picks. The Mavs are solid at only two positions: shooting guard (Blackmon) and big forward (Sam Perkins). Any of those nine would help immediately, lottery or not.

Add to the stud draft pick the return of a healthy Donaldson a clean Tarpley (courtesy of Bolivian Boot Camp) and A.D. resolving himself to play and the Mavs could very well be back on the road to the NBA's "elite".

That is if the road isn't blocked by the team that could be the new terror in Texas. The San Antonio Spurs.

No. Wait. Don't turn the page and start reading entertainment. This could really happen. I know it sounds like some Orwellian fantasy but it could really happen.

Think about it. The Spurs are a lock for yet another lottery pick. They've only won six more games than Miami. So they get to pick from the best. And as they say on the

Home Shopping Channel: Wait! There's more!

The Man, David Robinson, will finish his tour with Skipper and Gilligan this year and is bound for S.A. That will make a lineup including Robinson, the stud pick (probably a forward), potential-loaded Johnny

Dawkins, Olympian Willie Anerson and All-Star Alvin Robertson. Add to that Larry Brown, described by Denver coach Doug Moe as the best coach in the world, and the Spurs might actually return to the playoff form they enjoyed when the Snowman, I mean Ice man haunted the hardwood in the Alamo City.

So get your licks in now on the lesser teams in Texas, because next year the Lone Star could be on the rise again.

The Yellow Submarine

The Wizard Of Oz

It's All In
Your Mind !!!

March 30 -
April 2, 1989

The oldest and one of the largest Science Fiction/Fantasy Conventions in the Southwest United States.

MAJOR GUESTS :

- Writer Guest.....George R. R. Martin
producer of Beauty And The Beast (CBS)
- Special Guest.....Octavia Butler
Hugo Award winner in 1984 and 1985
- Media Guest.....Richard Arnold
official STAR TREK archivist
- Artist Guest.....Real Musgrave
official Texas Renaissance Festival Artist
- Toastmaster.....Kerry O'Quinn
editor of STARLOG magazine
- Comic Book Guest.....Chris Claremont
writer for the X-Men



Produced By
MSC Cepheid Variable

REGIONAL GUESTS :

- Carole Nelson Douglas, Brad Foster, Danny & Jude Gillies, Steve Gould, Kurt Busiek, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ardath Mayhar, Laura Mixon, Katherine Eliska Kimbriel, Barbara Bartholomew, Sam Douglas, Rory Harper, Warren Norwood, Doug Potter, Lewis Shiner, Howard Waldrop, C. Dean Andersson (Asa Drake), Gregor Puchtaz, Nina Romberg, Vicki Ann Heydron, Joe Lansdale.

EVENTS :

Art Show, Panels, Dealers' Room, Quest, Video Room, Masquerade Guest Reception & Ball, Party Room, Gaming, Warren Norwood Charity Auction, Game Shows, Readings, Lazer Tag, Hall Costume Contest, Autograph Sessions ... and much, much more !!!

MOVIES :

All movie prices are included in convention passes. Star Trek IV and Blade Runner (midnight movies) can be seen without convention passes for one dollar each.

ENTRY FEES :

	Adults	Students	Children (4-12 years)
Full Convention	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 6.00
One Day Pass	\$ 8.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.00

Children under 4 years old are free

- Dealer's Room \$ 50.00 per table
- Quest \$ 5.00 per person
- Art Show \$ 5.00 per artist

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE MSC BOX OFFICE AND AT ALL TICKETRON OUTLETS

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
Raiders of the Lost Ark

EXCALIBUR
Blade Runner

Star Trek II :

The Wrath Of Khan

Star Trek III :

The Search For Spock

Star Trek IV :

The Voyage Home