

A&M still No.1; Hogs 3rd

By Jerry Bolz

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Despite falling from first place in the Southwest Conference by losing one game to the University of Texas Saturday, the Texas A&M baseball team held on to its No. 1 national

rank from the No. 10 Longhorns over the weekend.

A&M lost its top spot in the Southwest Conference race with the single loss to Texas. The Aggies (42-2, 11-1 in SWC) fell to second place behind third-ranked Arkansas (36-5, 12-0) who swept a three-game series from

final team in the SWC tournament if they held that position.

On the national scene, Mississippi State won four of six games to keep their No. 2 ranking in the poll and Arkansas jumped from No. 5 last week to the third spot.

Arizona made the biggest leap into the top ten, going from 11th to No. 4 in a week where they went 4-0-1. Louisiana State dropped three spots to No. 6 after a 2-3 week.

Fresno State won three and lost one since the last poll to climb from 12th to No. 7. Wichita State and Clemson each dropped two positions, to No. 8 and No. 9, respectively. The Longhorns rounded out the top ten, holding last week's position.

Two teams fell from the top ten from last week. Florida posted a 3-2 record for the week and dropped from eighth to No. 11 while Oklahoma State, the only team besides Texas to beat the Aggies, dropped from No. 9 to No. 13 with a 3-3 ledger for the week.

The Aggies had several superlatives for the week.

ESPN/Collegiate Baseball Poll

Team	Record	Rank	Change
1. Texas A&M	42-2	1	↓
2. Mississippi St.	30-7	2	↑
3. Arkansas	37-5	3	↑
4. Arizona	33-12-1	4	↑
5. Arizona St.	34-12	5	↓
6. LSU	36-7	6	↓
7. Fresno St.	30-13	7	↑
8. Wichita St.	38-7	8	↓
9. Clemson	33-5	9	↓
10. Texas	37-12	10	↓
11. Florida	32-11	11	↓
12. Florida St.	36-11	12	↓
13. Oklahoma St.		13	↓
14. Miami		14	↓
15. Long Beach St.		15	↓
16. BYU		16	↓
17. San Jose St.		17	↓
18. Pepperdine		18	↓
19. South Florida		19	↓
20. Michigan		20	↓
21. USC		21	↓
22. UNLV		22	↓
23. Oklahoma		23	↓
24. Notre Dame		24	↓
25. Loyola-Marymount		25	↓

ranking in the ESPN/Collegiate Baseball poll for the eighth straight week.

The Aggies defeated Texas Southern in a doubleheader one week ago before taking two of three

games from Baylor. The Bears fell from fourth to fifth in the SWC.

Texas (37-12, 8-4) remained third in the conference. Houston (37-9, 6-6) moved into fourth by winning two of three from Rice and would be the



Sports figures should be moral example for American youth

Forgive me for bringing up morality in sports just after one of the most exciting moments in Texas A&M sports history — the Aggie baseball team's wins over Texas Sunday.

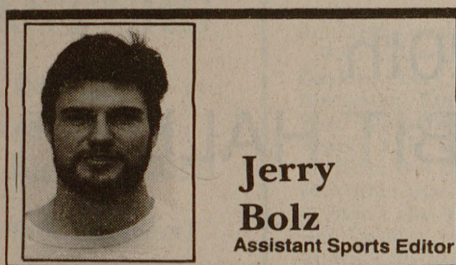
I realize everyone, including me, is still thrilled and amazed over the Aggie's superb effort that broke the long-standing hold the Horns had on A&M baseball teams.

But a recent conversation with a friend is still on my mind and I want to lay it out in print.

The conversation dealt with how people take issues that are moral in nature and try to fit them into other structures where they don't fit.

Although the issues in sports don't seem as emotion-laden as something like the abortion problem, they are still examples of the way our culture is handling moral matters by legal means.

Being at a major university, we can easily



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see an example of this: the way universities pay football players to compete for their school.

So how do we confront problems like this and really get to the bottom of the problem?

The most recent suggested solution is for state governments to pass laws to punish those involved in paying players to attend a

school. The plan isn't really new, it's just a more severe way to handle what the NCAA is already trying to do.

On the surface, the plan looks good. Lawbreakers are dealt with, everyone screams "justice" and the hounds look for the next criminal. With some good detective work, all recruiting violators would soon be in jail or paying off their guilt in some other method.

But what purpose is this justice serving? What does it help the real problem to put away athletic lawbreakers? They may sit in jail 10 years, get out and do the same thing again.

Can you see how a law like this would only punish someone for what they did, but do nothing to actually change the person's moral makeup — the real problem?

That's why criminals serve their time and commit the same crime again — doing time in itself, doesn't change a person's morality. If it did, problems in sports would be

decreasing. They aren't.

Have you noticed how many more fights there have been in basketball games in recent years? Or how much drug abuse by athletes has increased? Not to mention the increased incidence of paying college athletes.

How about Pete Rose? Suppose he is suspended for life from Major League Baseball. Is that going to change his gambling problem? Not unless the man's problem is actually dealt with on a moral level.

If Rose could see why gambling was wrong, instead of simply being told it was wrong and receiving the punishment, he would have the opportunity to be free from it. Then he might be able to enjoy sports, which is their purpose.

And if college coaches and athletes could see that giving or receiving money defies integrity and character — and really believe it — they would choose to recruit legally.

Unfortunately, our country and world check to see if something is legal before they look at the morality of their actions.

We are backwards. The moral rightness of actions should be the top priority, not whether or not we can do something without getting caught. Or whether the things we do appear right to the world, even though in our hearts we know they are wrong.

I don't know what can be done, but the moral fiber of our country is deteriorating and people are afraid to face the true issues. Instead, we try to put a law on everything so we can say we are right or wrong according to a legal standard of good and bad instead of a moral standard.

Sports are only a small part of our world, but athletes are looked up to by young people. Sports figures have the responsibility to stand up before the world for what is morally right, and I hope they will.

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