

Top-ranked Aggs tangle with Frogs

SWC Tennis meet, Baylor track event round out busy slate

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The top-ranked Texas A&M baseball team continues its quest for a Southwest Conference championship this weekend with a three-game series at Fort Worth against Texas Christian to head a busy weekend for spring sports teams.

The A&M tennis teams also travel to Fort Worth to compete in the Southwest Conference Championships while the Aggie men's and women's track teams participate in the Baylor Invitational in Waco.

Mark Johnson's Aggie baseballers are coming off a big SWC series with Texas and hope to keep pace with third-ranked Arkansas (12-0 in the SWC) in the conference race. The Aggies (11-1) will be looking for a

sweep against last-place TCU (2-10). In other SWC action, Arkansas visits Rice (3-12), Houston (6-6) visits No. 10-ranked Texas (8-4) and Texas Tech (3-9) meets Baylor (6-9).

In tennis action, the 19th-ranked Lady Aggies will hope for success in singles action as Jennifer Jones (10-1), Cindy Churchwell (13-7) and Lynn Staley (14-10) lead the way at the SWC Championships. The duo of Lisa Keller and Robyn Mawdsley lead the way for the Lady Aggies in doubles play.

The hard-luck men's team will be counting on strong outings from senior Shaun O'Donovan and freshman sensation Doug Brown to give them a respectable team showing in the men's SWC tournament. O'Donovan teams with Matt Zisette to form the top Aggie doubles contingent.

The A&M Track team, which has qualified nine men in nine events in the men's division and three women for the NCAA championships, will travel to Baylor today to take part in the 16th annual Dr. Pepper Invitational.

Howard Davis who has qualified in the 400-meter dash, the 400-meter relay and the 1600-meter relay will try to qualify in the 200-meter dash.

Andre Cason, who is running with a broken jaw, will try to improve his time in the 100-meter dash. Cason owns the fifth best time in the nation in the event.

Mike Stulce, the defending NCAA champion in the shotput will compete in only his second outdoor meet of the season as he tries to improve on his throw of 65 feet 1

inch, which he threw last week at the Texas A&M Relays.

In the women's division, Melinda Clark will continue her personal quest to jump 6 feet 4 inches in the high jump. Clark has jumped over 6 feet 1 inches in the last three weeks, with the third best jump in college ever at 6 feet 3 1/2 inches two weeks ago at the Texas Relays.

The men's 400- and 1600-meter relays will pull double duty as they will travel to the Mt. Sac Relays in California on Sunday after competing at Baylor.

"We are looking forward to Mt. Sac to see how we stack up against teams like UCLA and other top relay teams," A&M Head Track Coach Charlie Thomas said.

Aikman signs pact to play for Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — UCLA's Troy Aikman, considered one of the best NFL quarterback prospects since John Elway, on Thursday signed a rookie-record six-year, \$11.2 million contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

Aikman, who will be the No. 1 choice in Sunday's NFL draft, said he hoped that within five years "the fans will be comparing me with Roger Staubach."

He said he wanted to sign with the Cowboys because every Sunday he used to watch Staubach on television from his home in Henryetta, Okla.

"I remember all those comeback victories and I'd like to be part of that someday," he said. "I can't step into Roger's shoes but maybe I can do some of the things he did."

Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson said the third time was the charm in trying to attract Aikman. "He turned me down out of high school and went to Oklahoma," said Johnson, who was then coach at Oklahoma State. "Then when I was at Miami I tried to get him when he left Oklahoma but he went to UCLA. I was afraid he would turn me down a third time."

Ironically, Aikman broke his leg during a game against Miami. He sat out the rest of the season and decided to transfer to UCLA after Oklahoma coaches announced they would return to the run-oriented wishbone offense the following season.

"Thanks for breaking my leg, Coach," Aikman said. "You did me a favor."

Vinny Testaverde of Tampa Bay signed a six-year, \$8.2 million contract when he came out of Miami in

1987. Warren Moon recently signed a contract with the Houston Oilers for five years at \$2 million per season.

Leigh Steinberg, Aikman's agent, also negotiated that contract.

Aikman's \$11.2 million contract included a signing bonus that is believed to be worth more than \$2 million.

"It was the highest contact for a rookie," Steinberg said of Aikman's deal.

"I was proud to pay it," said Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. "In my opinion Troy could have gotten more money if he had played for another team in the NFL."

Johnson wanted Aikman badly. "Everybody kept saying I had a poker face but at times I had to bite my lip to keep my enthusiasm inside," Johnson said.

Aikman said how soon he plays in the NFL depends on how quickly he picks up the system.

"The ideal way would be to take things slowly," he said. "I'll have a lot of talent around me and that will help."

Johnson said he and Aikman would begin studying film Thursday night.

"There's no timetable for when Troy will play," Johnson said. "We'll go at his pace. We'll see what happens in training camp."

Aikman said he will donate some of his bonus money to UCLA and Henryetta High School. He also plans to donate \$1,000 to charity for each Cowboys' victory next year.

"I hope to give \$16,000," he quipped.

Hickey signs another Top 30 prospect

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

Nothing helps recruiting more than winning and the Lady Aggies basketball team has proven it this spring by signing their fourth Top 30 high school player.

Yatisha Bosh, the Texas Class 3A High School Player of the Year in 1988 and No. 15 player in *The Houston Chronicle's* Top 30 basketball prospects, Thursday signed a national letter of intent to play at

A&M next year.

Bosh, a 5-9 guard from Nome, Texas, averaged 29.7 points, 13.3 rebounds, seven assists, and six steals her senior year as she led Hardin-Jefferson High School to the 3A state championship. Hardin-Jefferson won the state championship her freshman year and finished as runners-up her junior year.

"Signing Yatisha is a big compliment to our program," A&M Head Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey said. "She is a great athlete who knows

how to score and a good student. She will be a definite asset to our program."

Bosh will graduate sixth in her class at Hardin-Jefferson with a 4.07 grade point average.

Bosh is just one of four top high school stars to sign with A&M. Early last week A&M signed the No. 13 prospect in the state according to *The Houston Chronicle*.

Yolanda Brown, a 5-11 forward from Pampa High School, signed last week with A&M. Brown aver-

aged 21 points and 11.4 rebounds her senior year and scored 1,552 points and 438 rebounds during her high school career.

"Yolanda is one of the best athletes in the state," Hickey said. "She has an excellent shooting touch (Brown shot 56 percent from the floor last season) and she is a good student."

Hickey said that Brown reminds her of Arkansas' Shelly Wallace, who was an All-Southwest Conference performer the last two years.

Detroit would be foolish to pass up Heisman winner Sanders

It's amazing what a relatively new coach and a new offense can do for the attitude of a team. But in the case of the number three first-round pick that the Detroit Lions are trying to trade away, the new attitude is getting ridiculous.

The Lions have the golden opportunity to draft Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders in the first round and they are trying to trade him away for lower-round picks.

What seems ironic is that a team that finished under the cellar in the NFC Central last year is trying to trade away a potential NFL superstar because he may not mesh completely into the Lions' offensive scheme.

I think the phrase "looking the gift horse



Steven Merritt
Assistant Sports Editor

in the mouth," is appropriate here. The Lions organization publicly said that Sanders would be Walter Payton reincarnated. Maybe that's why they're

trying to trade the pick to the Chicago Bears. Chicago turned down an offer to take the No. 3 choice for the 11th and 12th first round picks.

Detroit has also tried to talk the Phoenix Cardinals out of its 10th and 17th picks, but the Cardinals also said no.

Evidently, no one told Gene Stallings that Barry could be the next Otis Anderson.

Sanders' agent David Ware has said that Barry is concerned about the sincerity of Detroit's interest in him as well as what his role with the team will be.

He shouldn't be that concerned with carrying his share of the offensive load next season with the new "Run and Shoot" variation that the Lions have adopted.

The offense features three or four receivers and one running back in most cases, a situation that should give Sanders plenty of room to run both inside and outside the tackles.

Detroit Head Coach Wayne Fontes said that the whole offense wouldn't be changed for Sanders and that the scheme in general is suited for him.

If Sanders is worried about his role in the new passing-oriented offense, then Fontes or offensive coaches Mouse Davis and June Jones need to be specific in letting him know. By entering the draft younger than most, Sanders needs a firm commitment from a team to make the transition easier.

Detroit is not in the position to give up a

franchise player like Barry Sanders. The offense has suffered in recent years, primarily due to the nonexistence of a passing game. James Jones has carried the load in rushing offense and has done a fair job, but he is no one man show.

Opening the style of offensive play to the "Run and Shoot" variation can only help the Lions, but trying to rely on the passing game can be dangerous.

Trading the pick for lower first round picks in search of more receivers or linemen doesn't balance out.

When the Detroit front office praised Sanders as the next Walter Payton, they should have reflected farther into their own past — to Billy Sims.

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