

Wednesday, May 3, 1989

# Ags must sweep Hogs for title

By Richard Tijerina

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The task the Texas A&M baseball team faces this weekend is a difficult one — they must sweep their three-game series against Arkansas for an undisputed Southwest Conference championship.

Going into the series against the Razorbacks, ranked fifth nationally in the latest ESPN/Collegiate Baseball poll, the second-ranked Aggies trail Arkansas by only one game in conference standings.

The Aggies were tied for the conference lead last Saturday after Arkansas dropped the first game of a three-game series against Texas Friday night.

However, the Aggies dropped back down to one game behind the Razorbacks in conference standings when they lost the first game of a doubleheader to Houston Saturday.

The two teams have been tied for the conference lead or within a game of each other all season.

However, now they each only have three conference games left to play — against each other.

The series this weekend at Olsen Field begins with a game Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Saturday with a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m.

Trailing the Razorbacks (42-8, 16-2) by a game, the Aggies (48-4, 15-3) can ill afford to drop one of this weekend's games if they want to win a conference championship outright.

The conference championship comes down to simple arithmetic: If they sweep the series, they win the championship. If they don't sweep the series, the whole scenario becomes a little sticky.

There are several ways the championship can be decided, but all of them come down to this weekend's series.

• If the Aggies sweep the Razorbacks, A&M wins the conference championship outright.

• If the Razorbacks sweep the Aggies, Arkansas would win the conference championship outright.

Team	Record	Pct.
Arkansas	16 2	.888
Texas A&M	15 3	.833
Texas	12 6	.667
Texas Tech	9 10	.444
Houston	7 11	.389
Baylor	7 14	.333
TCU	6 12	.333
Rice	4 17	.190

marking the first time the Razorbacks have won a conference championship and making them the only team other than A&M, Texas or Texas Christian ever to win an SWC title.

Arkansas would be the first team other than A&M or Texas to win the title outright since 1956, when TCU did it.

• If the Aggies win two of three games against the Razorbacks, A&M and Arkansas will end up with identical conference records and would share the conference championship as co-champions.

They each would be awarded a

championship trophy and A&M would be the top seed at the SWC Post-Season Tournament May 17-20 because they would have won the season series with Arkansas.

• If the Razorbacks win two of three from the Aggies, Arkansas would win the championship outright by two games.

• If one or more of the games are rained out and are unable to be made up, Arkansas would win the championship outright because they have a higher winning percentage in conference games than A&M.

In 1980, A&M lost its chance to tie for a conference title with Texas when one of its three games against Arkansas was rained out and never made up.

Texas finished with a 18-6 SWC record and won the title outright. The Aggies finished with a 17-6 record for second place and went on to lose to Arkansas and Texas Tech in the double-elimination SWC tournament in College Station that year.

The four conference teams with the best SWC records go on to the SWC tournament in College Station.

The Aggies, Arkansas and Texas all have assured themselves of being in the top three, but the race remains close for the fourth and final tournament spot between Texas Tech (8-10) and Houston (7-11).

TCU (6-12) is all but mathematically eliminated from the tournament picture.

Texas Tech and Houston play a three-game series with each other May 12-13 at Houston.

# Jones fires Brandt from Cowboys; new owner cuts 'fat' in organization

IRVING (AP) — College player scout Gil Brandt, the last member of the original foursome who built the Dallas Cowboys from scratch, was fired by new owner Jerry Jones, who says the team he bought is "fat, fat, fat."

"He told me finances was the reason, that he's losing \$29,000 a day," Brandt told The Associated Press. "He'll probably fire four or five scouts including Bob Griffin."

"I told him I know I did as good a job as possible. I feel good about the 29 years I had with the Cowboys. But it's a bad way for it to end. He didn't even shake my hand."

Brandt was a baby photographer who dabbled in evaluating professional football talent when he was hired by club president Tex Schramm as the Cowboys chief talent scout.

Schramm, Brandt, owner Clint Murchison and coach Tom Landry built the team in 1960 starting with an office in the Automobile Club building just off Central Expressway.

Murchison died several years ago after he had sold the team to Bum Bright.

Jones, who bought the team from Bright on Feb. 25 for \$140 million, fired Landry. Schramm resigned to become president of the International Football League.

Brandt's brainstorms included drafting track and basketball stars and using computers to analyze talent.

He said leaving the team will be like going from "a mansion to a pup tent. But anything beats the water torture of the last few days. You'd jump every time the telephone rang."

The triumvirate management team of Schramm, Landry and Brandt took the Cowboys to 20 consecutive winning seasons (1966-85), including five Super Bowl appearances and two world championships.

Brandt said he had no immediate plans.

"I have no plans to join another NFL team," Brandt said. "I have had an offer to write a book."

Brandt evaluated the talent for Landry, who made the calls. In the 1970s, the Cowboys were considered the sharpest organization in the NFL at judging talent.

In recent years, the formula didn't work. Of the last 15 players drafted in the first three rounds by Brandt, only four are now starters.

The Cowboys haven't had a winning season since 1985 and finished 3-13 last year — second worst in their history.

Only one player remained on the roster from the 1983 draft.

Jones also has fired public relations director Doug Todd, a member of the front office staff since 1971; Don Wilson, club treasurer for 18 years; Ann Lloyd, assistant ticket manager for 20 years and Bob Friedman, director of photographic services, who had been with the club 28 years.

Joe Bailey, Schramm's assistant since 1977, fled the purge to join Schramm in the International Football League, as did Suzanne Mitchell, director of the Cowboys' cheerleaders.

Jones justified his employee-cutting binge by saying, "I have to make the best decisions I can. We will turn off the lights. Sometimes you have to make hard decisions. You just have to put together the folks you want to go forward with."

Brandt served as a part-time scout for the Los Angeles Rams under Schramm in the 1950s. When Schramm took command of the expansion Cowboys, he immediately hired Brandt.

Brandt, a native of Milwaukee and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, also was a super sleuth at finding free agent talent such as wide receiver Drew Pearson, and defensive backs Cliff Harris and Everson Walls.

On March 2, Brandt said Jones told the front office people in a meeting: "Let me put your minds at ease. You don't have a lifetime contract, but if you do your jobs that's good enough for me."

Schramm said he hated to see all the people he hired "cast aside in a needless manner. It also hurts to see them described as 'fat.' They worked many long hours to make the Cowboys into what they are today. The manner in which this has happened has surprised me."

# Astros' Davis what we need — a hero for kids to look up to

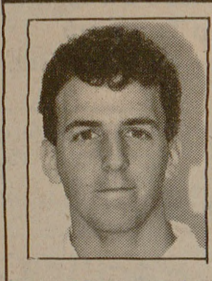
The sports world needs more Glenn Davises.

Davis plays baseball for the Houston Astros and leads the National League in home runs. More importantly though, Davis has told the Houston Astros management that he doesn't want to be associated with the managements' home run production sponsored by Anheuser-Busch.

Budweiser is a major sponsor in the televising of Houston Astros home games. As part of a commercial package, anytime a home run is hit by an Astro, the sportscasters cut away with an Anheuser-Busch/Budweiser screen and announce the player's name along with the slogan, "This Bud's For You!"

The problem is that Davis, the National League's home run leader, is active in anti-drinking campaigns.

"Personally, I don't drink and I don't want to be associated with it," Davis says. "I try to set a standard and be a role model for



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Sports Writer

a lot of other people."

Talk is cheap, so Davis goes the extra mile.

During the off-season, Davis makes about 250 public appearances to talk with high school and middle school students about the dangers of alcohol abuse and drunk driving.

"I don't want to be sending out mixed signals to young fans," he says.

That is the reason he went to the Astros management and asked not to be part of the promotion.

It's refreshing to see an athlete in the limelight take this positive approach and realize a responsibility to the public.

Athletes are people and as such are entitled to their privacy, but as athletes they serve as role models for youth. They must be held accountable for their actions that might influence youth negatively.

Case in point: Lawrence Taylor.

Taylor is an All-Pro linebacker for the New York Giants. He has been instrumental in the Giants' rise during the 80s. Naturally, youngsters look toward Taylor's success and use him for a role model.

What do they do when Taylor is suspected for drug use?

What kind of message is Taylor trying to send to his fans when he writes his autobiography and brags about showing up for games high on cocaine, and when he

relates stories about the relative ease in eluding the NFL's uranalysis tests?

The problem extends deeper than just an isolated player in professional football.

These incidents pop up all over the sports world. Ben Johnson, Canadian Olympic great, and six other Olympians were stripped of their medals after it was discovered they were using steroids.

It seems the public is made aware of athletes' illicit drug use daily. On top of that, we hear the same names over and over. It must be a hard lesson for some to learn.

Davis himself learned the hard way.

Involved in a serious alcohol-related car accident at 17, Davis doesn't want others to learn the lesson the same way.

"That scared me sober," says Davis. "I don't want other kids to have to go through that."

It was only recently Davis learned about the Anheuser-Busch/Budweiser promotion. Upon discovering that his name

was being used in connection with it, Davis went to management and asked to be excluded.

"Players live in glass houses," he says. "People look to us. Kids pattern their lives after us. I think every ballplayer should set an example...people are watching you all the time."

It's time for athletes, management and society to pull together and be responsible for their actions. A stricter policy of drug-enforcement needs to be instituted either to rehabilitate users, or get them out of the public's eye and out of professional sports.

"We need heroes, we need role models, we need guys who can stand up and say you don't need to follow the crowd," he says.

What we actually need is more Glenn Davises.

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