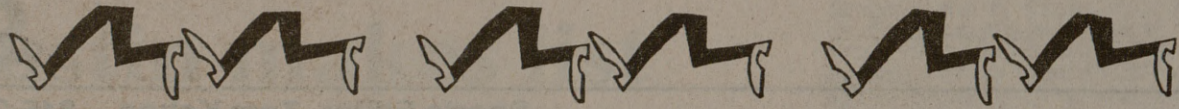


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Rice drops Lady Ags cold A&M beaten in straight games, now 1-4 in SWC

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team continued their losing ways by dropping a match to Rice Tuesday night in Houston.

A&M fell 15-10, 15-8, 19-17 to drop to 9-10 on the season, and 1-4 in Southwest Conference play. Rice improved to 17-6 and 2-3 in SWC play.

The Lady Aggies were led by Kelli Kellen who had 11 kills and eight errors in 26 attempts for a .115 attack percentage. Amy Cumings added 10 kills and a .600 percentage, while Elizabeth Edmiston chipped in 10 kills and a .159 percentage.

Rice was led by Tricia Bolen, who had 14 kills and a .212 attack percentage.

Coach Al Givens said that A&M played flat in the first two games but looked good in the third game.

In the final game, A&M grabbed a 4-0 lead before falling behind 14-10. At that point, the Lady Aggies rallied, but didn't have enough to win.

"I want to know where the fight that we showed in the third game was in the first and second games," Givens said. "We didn't play particularly well, and Rice executed their game better. We're definitely capable of playing better."

"We've been in this position before. The scenario is a lot like 1987 (when A&M was 1-4 after the first round of conference play, but went 4-1 in the second round). This puts us in a spoiler role."

The Lady Aggies will return to action this week-end with two non-conference matches. They play Brigham Young at 7:30 Friday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum, and face Hofstra Saturday night.

Barring interference from rain and Stones, Series ready to go

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Finally, a bright day at the World Series.

Candlestick Park is safe, the weather forecast looks good and the Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants worked out with spirit Tuesday, exactly one week after an earthquake shook the Bay area.

"We know the definite date we're going to play and we need to get ready," Will Clark said before a soggy, but sunny, Giants practice.

Candlestick Park, meanwhile, is set to go for Game 3 Friday evening. Mayor Art Agnos on Tuesday certified the stadium as structurally sound.

"It's as safe as any facility can be, before or after an earthquake," he said.

The weather also seemed ready to cooperate. After a week of scattered showers, the National Weather Service predicted clear skies for the weekend.

But it might rain before then, so the Athletics are leaving for their spring training camp in Phoenix for workouts. They will depart Wednesday morning and return Thursday evening, surely accumulating more frequent-flyer miles than they ever expected at a subway series.

"If they could guarantee we could

do everything we planned, it would be better to stay," Oakland manager Tony La Russa said.

The Rolling Stones rock group is scheduled to play at the Oakland Coliseum on Nov. 4-5 and nearly 250,000 tickets have been sold.

The Stones say their contract allows them to move into the stadium five days earlier to set up, and that could conflict with Games 6 and 7 of the World Series, if necessary, on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

"Maybe we could be the opening act," Athletics general manager Sandy Alderson said.

"I'm sure something can be worked out. It might mean a delay of a day or two for the concerts."

Concert promoter Bill Graham said that his options included postponing the show for a day or having the Rolling Stones play at the Coliseum on a smaller stage that would not take as much time to set up.

"What we're saying is that baseball's interests come ahead of rock 'n' roll ... That's what makes my hair stand up."

"As we're getting closer, I think it will be easier," Oakland's Dave Stewart, who will start Game 3, said.

"It's like opening a present on Christmas eve and then opening everything else the next morning.

There's a growing sense of anticipation."

Both practice sessions Tuesday were lively.

Shouts echoed through Candlestick as the Giants took batting practice, while Rickey Henderson and Dave Parker kept the Athletics laughing as they tried to catch field grounders.

"We're feeling a lot better now because we know what's going on," Giants pitcher Kelly Downs said. "It would be real tough if they would've needed to delay it again. If that happened, I'm sure a lot of guys would feel that they should just cancel the World Series."

There will be a moment of silence at exactly 5:04 p.m., the time the earthquake shook northern California. The honor of the ceremonial first ball, which was to be thrown by Giants Hall of Famer Willie Mays will go to a representative, or representative, of the relief efforts.

"I keep hearing we shouldn't play the game, but that's from a minority, not a majority," Giants owner Bob Lurie said. "I think everyone is ready to play."

Frog and Bear are SWC players of week

Jim Wacker had no idea what Leon Clay could do. Neither did Leon Clay.

Clay, a redshirt freshman from Gladewater, hadn't distinguished himself in his brief appearances at quarterback for the Texas Christian Horned Frogs. He had two fumbles lost and two interceptions.

But what he did on Saturday to the 19th ranked Air Force Falcons made him The Associated Press Southwest Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

With senior quarterback Ron Jiles coming out of the game with a sprained wrist on his passing hand, Clay threw two touchdown passes in the Frogs' stunning 27-9 upset of the high-flying Falcons.

Baylor linebacker James Francis, playing what coach Grant Teaff said was the best game since Mike Singletary held forth for the Bears, earned The AP's Defensive Player of the Week with 19 tackles, 12 of them solo, two quarterback sacks, a fumble recovery, a pass broken up, and a blocked punt for a safety.

Defense

(Continued from page 9)

going into this season. His linebacking corps was depleted and his defensive line was young and had little depth.

So far in 1989, the Aggies are fourth in total defense in the SWC. They're seventh in pass defense, giving up an average of 205.1 yards a game. However, A&M ranks first in run defense, letting opponents average only 2.7 yards a run.

Slocum has three new linebackers starting in 1989 — Anthony Williams, Jeroy Robinson and William Thomas. Two of the three linemen are redshirt freshmen — noseguard Patrick Henry and end Kevin Tucker.

"They've gone into a situation that I was really concerned about," Slocum said. "Our defense, with all the question marks, has really turned out to be effective. It wouldn't have surprised me if we had a lot more problems this year on defense."

That good fortune all comes back to successful recruiting and coaching — two things that the Aggies have done well in the 1980s.

"Being able to go out and recruit to that style of defense says something for our stability," Slocum said. "We've continued to do the same things with the same leadership throughout a number of years."

"We're not one of those teams where one year we have an OK defense but the next year we're horrible. I think that shows why we're consistently a pretty good defense."

With A&M on its way to not only a pretty good defense, but a pretty good year as well, the Aggies hope to reap recruiting rewards next spring.

That should please Slocum. He'll have a few more fresh horses to put into that stable Aggie defense in 1990.

"When I told Leon he had to go in he had a big frown on his face," Wacker said. "I told him to show me a big smile and have some fun. His face lit up. I had no idea what Leon would do. I don't think he had any idea either but he came through for us."

Clay, a 6-2, 210-pounder, said it made him nervous to know that just all of sudden he was "it" and that the responsibility for the Frogs' winning rested on his right arm.

"I had big butterflies," he said, "the biggest since my first game in high school."

Wacker said Clay, besides his touchdown passes of 86 and 23 yards, was clear headed enough to make audibles at the line of scrimmage.

Rasmussen

(Continued from page 9)

forgot my glasses and had a hard time seeing some of the plays.

Obviously the officials forgot their specs too.

I watched the replay Sunday and realized I'm not just partial to poor A&M calls. The Bears themselves were rooked on a few calls, most notably the clip call on a punt return that forced Baylor to punt again.

Their second punt resulted in a fumble in the endzone and an Aggie touchdown.

After the game, Baylor coach Grant Teaff was not happy with the call.

"The clipping call on Jeffery Murray had to be something the referees were looking for," Teaff said. "It made a big difference in the game because A&M went from having the ball on the 20-yard line to having a touchdown."

Bills coaches trade blows during films

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) Buffalo Bills offensive line coach Tom Bresnahan had the look of a battered boxer, after a 15-round title fight, Tuesday as he walked through the Rich Stadium locker room carrying a bag of ice.

His face was swollen, there was a bandage the size of a baseball card on his chin and he wore sunglasses that didn't quite cover the shiner under his right eye.

Bresnahan and wide receiver coach Nick Nicolau were watching videotapes Monday when a brief battle occurred.

Nicolau, the smaller of the two, apparently decked Bresnahan with a solid uppercut, grabbed Bresnahan in a headlock and drove his head through a wall in the team's administration building.

The Bills had no comment about the altercation, according to spokesman Scott Berchtold, and neither coach had much to say about the brawl, called "Footballmania I" or "The Billsbutters."

Nicolau, 56, however, confirmed the sequence of events that led to Bresnahan receiving several stitches. But, he said, "Everything is fine. That's all I can say."

"I didn't see it, but the officials saw what they saw."

That's "coach" for "I can't believe those idiots."

And neither can we Coach Teaff. So, what do you do? Complain to the officials?

According to Aggie safety Gary Jones, that's not a good idea.

"I was getting blocked ten yards out-of-bounds," Jones said. "When I started complaining about it to the officials, they just said 'How you like us to call you for unsportsmanlike conduct?'"

"I couldn't believe them."

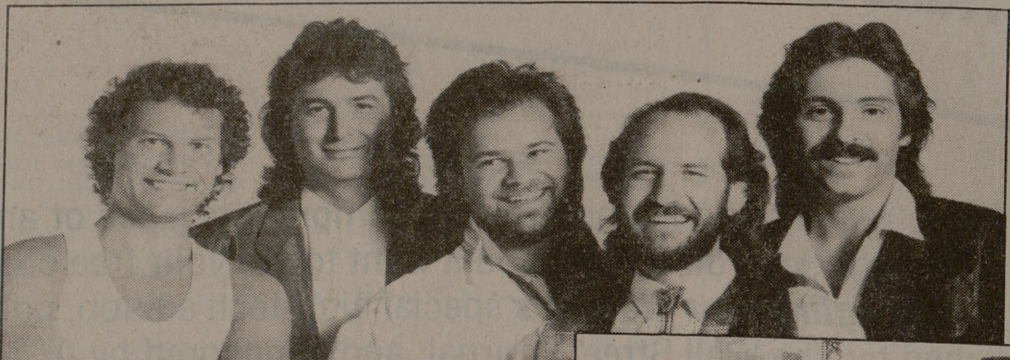
There were over 20 penalties called in the A&M-Baylor game. Six were questionable facemask penalties, three pass interference calls (two of which that looked like perfect defensive coverage) and numerous other calls.

Some good calls, but mostly bad ones.

The officials in the SWC are acting as if it is their job to control the tempo of the game. They stop and start the game on what seems their whim.

Just let the boys play ball.

Restless Heart



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