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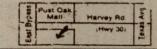
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Letters to the Sports Editor

Ware column another 'Batt' example

SPORTS EDITOR:

After reading Richard Tijerina's article, I am sorry to see that *The Battalion*'s new sports editor is following in the paper's tradition of uninformed sportswriters.

The writers seem to have chips on their shoulders because they were passed up for jobs on the opinion page.

Examples of this unmotivation include Tijerina's col-umn (Dec. 5) on the unimportance of Andre Ware win-ning the Heisman Trophy. He claimed that the *Hous-*ton *Chronicle*'s coverage was overkill, but wouldn't College Station go crazy if Darren Lewis won it? It would probably not even get mentioned until page 12 in our great newspaper.

True sports fans were horrified when they read comments the last two semesters about our national pastime when our baseball team was on its way to its greatest season ever. One writer stated that watching baseball made him sick, while another showed his ignorance by saying that college baseball was "better" than major league baseball because "errors are more fun to watch."

Please, in the future try to get someone who is interested in the sportsworld and stop insulting our intelligence with writers that are just starting to realize that the Cowboys have been rebuilding this year.

Tommy Pearson '90

Pavlas may be good, but he ain't no Bucky!

While everyone is caught up in the hoopla surround-

ing Lance Pavlas, we should stop and think.

Who was it that stepped in for the ineffective Pavlas two seasons ago to lead the Aggies to eight consecutive victories, including a Cotton Bowl victory over Notre

For all you freshman, sophomores and transfers who were not here to see it happen, the man was Bucky

It is funny how quickly we forget these little things. How many upperclassmen remember when Bucky led the game-winning drive against t.u. in 1987? He capped it off by running the ball into the endzone, putting the Aggies up to stay, 20-13

As long as we are talking about t.u., it was Bucky who put 28 points on the board (the Aggies' only points of the game) before going down with a knee injury in the

As a starter, Bucky is 15-2 — with his only two losses coming to Top 10 teams Nebraska and Arkansas. But

who remembers things like that? On the other hand, with Pavlas at quarterback this season, the Aggies have lost three games, two of them to unranked teams (I'm not trying to pin all the blame on Pavlas).

People question Bucky's ability to throw the football. Jackie Sherrill has been quoted as saying that Bucky has a better touch on deep routes. With the short routes involved in the Aggie offense, a little practice and Bucky could easily fit into the offense. He would also add a running dimension to the offense.

Here is something to think about: If we ran the wishbone next year with Bucky, Robert Wilson, Darren Lewis and Randy Simmons, who could stop us?

Patches Fleming '90 Lloyd Cole '92

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each let-ter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

NC State found

guilty, placed

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)

North Carolina State's basketball

team was placed on two years' probation Tuesday and barred from the 1990 NCAA tourna-

ment for violations that included

the misuse of complimentary tick-

pose harsher penalties, including a ban from television, because the

school "undertook corrective and

punitive actions prior to the hear-

Interim chancellor Larry

Monteith said there were no plans to fire anyone, including

Coach Jim Valvano.

Valvano said being barred

from the NCAA tournament was

"as serious a hurt and blow as I have had personally in my life."
"We accept the NCAA findings and its punishment," he said.
The Atlantic Coast Conference

may still bar N.C. State for the

league tournament, which gives the winner an automatic NCAA

"They have the right to take that action," Monteith said. "If

they take that action, we won't re-

inappropriate.
"I don't think that our partici-

pation would adversely affect anyone," he said, noting that as

many as six ACC teams usually qualify for the tournament on re-cords alone.

"I think our conference has

N.C. State earned \$707,000

The NCAA investigation,

sparked by allegations of wrong-doing in the book "Personal Fouls," said that in the four years

examined "there were as many as

650 erroneous designations" of

tickets intended for players' families and that "an excessive number of shoes were issued with little

or no effort to keep track of the

Tickets were sold or ex-

changed for merchandise worth

up to \$150 each, the NCAA said.

Shoes, valued at \$75 per pair, were traded for apparel of equal value at a local sporting goods store, the report said.

that relative strength that prior to

the tournament you know who is

from last year's tournament.

But Valvano said it would be

The NCAA said it did not im-

ets and sneakers.

tournament bid.

in," he said

on probation

Oilers

(Continued from page 8)

from them. This team, we've been through every situation possible this

"At some point or another in the season somebody has written us off."
The Oilers held off Tampa Bay 20-17 while Cincinnati and Cleveland were losing Sunday, projecting the Oilers into position to clinch the title against the defending AFC

champion Bengals. The Oilers won't need to seek out motivation for the rest of the season, guard Bruce Matthews says.

"This is an AFC Central game, and that's motivation enough," he said. "Besides, I'd be happy to clinch the division anywhere.'

The Oilers have won five of their last six games against the Bengals but cornerback Steve Brown doesn't think the Oilers will be easy winners.

"I'd rather be playing Detroit, because having to go to Cincinnati makes it tougher," he said. "The Bengals are a good team, but it can be done. We have to do everything within our care. within our power to make sure we win the game.

Cleveland (7-6-1) is in second place in the AFC Central Division followed by Cincinnati (7-7) and Pittsburgh (7-7).
"You couldn't ask for a better sce-

nario," defensive end William Fuller said. "It's a big game and the Bengals are still in the fight. We can accomplish something that hasn't hap-

pened here before The Oilers finished the 1980 season with an 11-5 record but shared the title with Cleveland.

Sunny Day

(Continued from page 8)

Conference's best rushing defense in the Aggies. Walker almost is a sidenote—the tailback gained 392 yards in 10 games. But that's where the Panthers' weakness is — they have no fullback worth mentioning.

Lewis missed the Texas game because of a knee injury, but should be healthy for Pitt. He came up 39 yards short of another 1,000-yard season this year, but over the last four games Lewis has looked a lot like the running back that rushed for the second-highest total in the nation in 1988. He's rushed for 11 touchdowns, and averages 5.2 yards a carry. Wilson will be the key. He can bruise a defense if he gets a

Pitt 1, A&M 1.

• Offensive production (A&M's 375.3 total yards per game vs. Pitt's 412.6 yards per game). When the Aggies are clicking offensively, they're hard to stop. But sometimes they can look flatter than a three-week old Coca Cola. Pitt has an advantage in the passing game – which means cornerback Kevin Smith and safety Larry Horton could have big days. But the Aggies will rule the ground — and that's usually where close games are won.

Too close to call.

• Defensive production (A&M is holding opponents to 293.6 yards a game, Pitt is holding its opponents to 320.9 yards). A&M boasts one of the best linebacking corps in the nation, but its defensive front is young and thin. A&M's leading tackler has 102 tackles in 1989, Pitt's has 73. But don't start calling that an advantage
— the Panthers' Marc Spindler is a
defensive tackle; the Aggies' Horton is a free safety. Something's wrong

when your safety has 15 more tackles than anyone else on your

Pitt's top five tacklers are two linemen and three linebackers. After Horton, A&M's next three leading tacklers are all linebackers. Pitt has the more dominant front, and that could be trouble for A&M. The key will be how well redshirt freshman Kevin Tucker performs for the

Aggies, and how well Jayson Black can fill noseguard Pat Henry's shoes. While we're there, Aggie linebackers Aaron Wallace and William Thomas will have to have a big day blitzing

Too many questions . . .
Pitt 2, A&M 1.
Special teams. Again, neck and neck. Pitt's top return man, Glenn Deveaux, is averaging 20.2 yards a return. A&M's Horton is averaging 24.7, and has one return for a touchdown. Pitt's kicker Ed Frazier probably has the better distance, but A&M's Layne Talbot has been

reliable when the Aggies need him. The advantage has to go to the Aggies, solely because of Horton's breakaway threat. Pitt 2, A&M 2.

The John Hancock Bowl

executives did their homework in trying to find two teams that are evenly matched. The Aggies and Panthers are so close, the game may go down to intangibles.

How well will Pavlas react to

leading the Aggies in a bowl game? How often can Van Pelt elude A&M's linebackers?

Who'll come up with the big How will the two teams adjust to potentially harsh weather

conditions? Will any Pittsburgh alumni be officiating the game?

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