

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

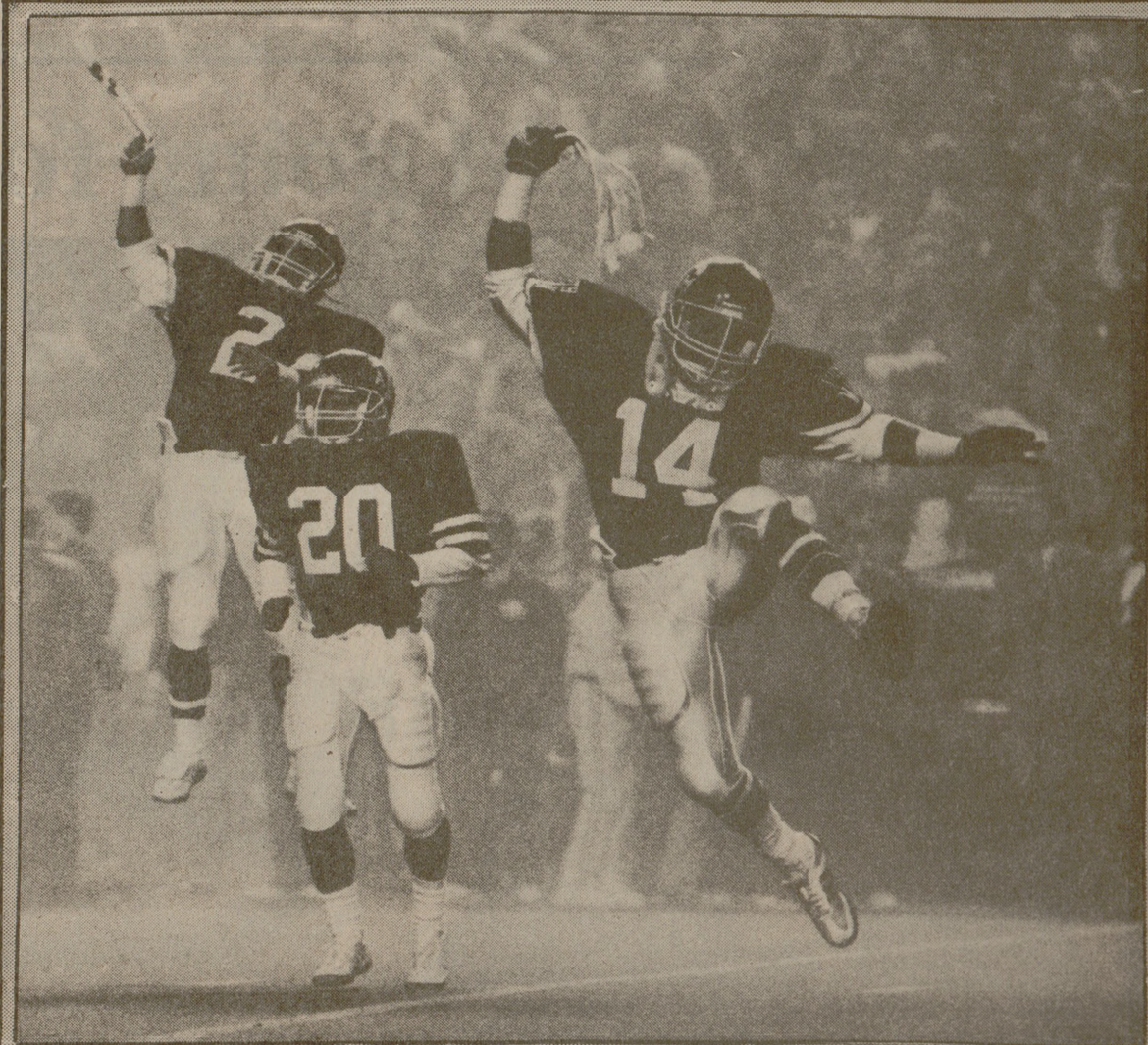
STUDY ABROAD

IS HAVING AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING SESSION SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR TAMU ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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Trying for the 12th Man



Battalion file photo

Members of the 12th Man Kickoff Team leap onto Kyle Field before the opening kickoff in the 1987 Texas A&M-Texas game. The Aggies won that game, 20-13, and went on to win the Cotton Bowl over Notre Dame.

off returns at all Aggie home games. An organizational meeting for any students interested in trying out for the 1990 12th Man team, or becoming a walk-on onto the football team will be held Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Cain Hall.

Lady Aggies softball begin season at No. 1

The 1990 women's softball are out, and Texas A&M coach Brock is pleasantly surprised by his team in the Top 20 in both NCAA and Wilson Polls. 'I am really flattered that we earned this kind of recognition, particularly after having an off-year last year,' Brock said.

The Lady Aggies entered the NSCA Softball Poll at 17th, the NCAA poll at 20th. The Wilson Poll is a compilation of votes from coaches around the nation. Defending national champion UCLA tops both polls.

Brock isn't swayed by A&M's season position in the polls. 'I'm more concerned with where we end this season than where we began it,' Brock said. 'Still, we're appreciative of being ranked among the top softball teams in the nation.'

The Lady Aggies boast two national titles, winning the Softball World Series in both 1983 and 1984. A&M opens its 1990 season Feb. 24 at Southwestern Louisiana State University, in the Louisiana Softball Classic.

'Our goal is to get back to playoffs,' Brock said. 'We're looking forward to a good season and hope that we can live up to our Top 20 ranking.'

Longhorns tabbed No. 1

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas baseball coach Cliff Gustafson received the best kind of birthday present Monday, but he says it's one that many will try to swipe. The 23-year coaching veteran celebrated his 59th birthday as the Longhorns grabbed the No. 1 position in this week's Collegiate Baseball poll.

'It's not much of a birthday present,' Gustafson said Monday afternoon. 'Everyone will be trying to take it away from me.'

The 6-1 Longhorns earned the top spot after taking two of three games from eighth-ranked Arizona State over the weekend.

SWC Tourney may be Hog heaven

AUSTIN (AP) — Arkansas will practically have a home-court advantage at the SWC Tournament in Dallas next month, in part because of the conference's ticket renewal package.

Razorback fans could have in excess of 11,000 of the 16,713 seats for the March 9-11 Southwest Conference Post-Season Classic at Reunion Arena, according to Allen Archer, assistant to SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby.

That would leave only about 5,700 tickets for fans from eight other schools, including Texas.

There are three reasons why Arkansas will have so many fans there and Texas so few: The conference's renewal policy on tournament ticket packages, the long-time dedicated contingent of Razorbacks' fans and the lack of the same for the Longhorns.

The SWC allows people who bought packages at the previous tournament to renew their tickets the next year. 'We had 10,000 pre-sale last year, and each of those people have priority to buy as many as 10 seats,' Archer told the Austin American-Statesman. 'We had

about 80 percent renewal and 11,000 tickets sold by renewal.'

Most of those were Arkansas fans who were at last year's tournament. The Razorbacks have been the only SWC team to regularly bring a large following to the tournament. SWC Assistant Commissioner Bob Genarelli said the Razorbacks faithful held about 70 percent — more than 11,300 — of the tickets last year.

'Right now, the other schools are basically stuck,' Genarelli said. 'Everyone has a chance to buy tickets when we started this in 1988, but people from schools like Texas and Houston didn't buy them. Chances are slim it will change, but that's something the athletic directors could vote to change.'

This is the third season the conference has used the renewal system but the first time the event is a complete sellout before tip-off. The policy was initiated during a period when the tournament was not a hot ticket.

'We've done this for two reasons. One is to have a base from which to start the next year. The other is to develop a conference fan instead of just fans for individual teams,' Archer said.

Seven feet and still growing ...

Lanier being wooed by recruiters

ABILENE (AP) — As the tallest player in college basketball and the tallest twin in the world, sophomore Mike Lanier is used to being the center of attention. But never like this.

Lanier is turning heads at more than 80 universities, where recruiters promise to stitch a custom uniform to fit his 7-foot-6 frame.

He is leaving Hardin-Simmons University at the end of the season because the small Baptist school in West Texas decided to drop its basketball program from NCAA Division I status next year.

The school that lands Lanier also will have to remodel his dorm room, raise the shower head and build him a special bed. And when the team travels by air, they'll have to make sure Lanier sits alone in a first class row or at least gets the seat by the emergency exit. It has more leg room.

Lanier, who weighs 285 pounds, is just a tad taller than twin brother Jim, who plays for the University of Denver. They're identical in weight and appearance, though Mike is a

better basketball player. The Guinness Book of World Records lists them as the world's tallest twins.

HSU coach Dennis Harp said he gets an average of five calls a day regarding his 20-year-old center, who stands 7-7 when he dons his sneakers and can dunk the ball without jumping.

'Here's one from Drake,' Harp

offered Lanier a scholarship when he graduated from high school in Troy, Mich., two years, 20 pounds and 2 inches ago.

At the time, Lanier was another undiscovered, uncoordinated big center.

HSU Athletic Director Merlin Morrow, who has supervised strenuous agility drills for Lanier, said

'I have to keep adjusting my shot every time I grow. I hope this is it. I don't need to get any taller.'

— Mike Lanier, basketball player

said, flipping through pink call-back messages on his desk. 'UCLA, another from Kansas State. N.C. State. Kentucky.'

'And I'll probably have two or three more at my house when I get home tonight. And every last one of them wants to know about Mike.'

Nobody knows him better than Harp, the only Division I coach who

him to improve his game dramatically.

'I have to keep adjusting my shot every time I grow,' Lanier said. 'I hope this is it. I don't need to get any taller.'

Lanier is averaging 7.5 points, rebounds and 1.2 blocked shots per game, but his modest output, but considerably better than last season, when he averaged 2.1 points, 1.7 rebounds and fewer than 10 minutes in 14 games. He blocked seven shots as a freshman.

But observers say that because of his height and stubborn work ethic, Lanier could develop into an elite defensive player, much like Utah Jazz center Mark Eaton.

One college coach who saw Lanier as a sophomore at Cypress Junior College in Cypress, Calif., recently visited Hardin-Simmons to see Lanier.

'Mike is farther along at this point than Eaton was,' said the coach.

Snyder

(Continued from page 9)

the fight resumed. But as fate would have it, he was saved by the bell, giving him the chance to brush away the stars in his eyes.

The 29-year-old boxer from Columbus, Ohio, reached deep down in his heart to continue the fight, knowing that Tyson could have finished him off if time would've allowed.

Only the International Boxing Federation, which sanctioned the bout as a championship match, said Douglas was the winner. The IBF, however, isn't recognized by the Japan Boxing Commission.

Douglas should be the heavyweight champion of the world. He worked hard for it and displayed his determination in taking it away from Tyson.

'Iron Mike' can cry all he wants about the fight, but he showed no willingness to win like Douglas did. Tyson looked like a 'heavy bag' hanging from a gym throwing counter punches that did not even resemble the Mike Tyson of yesterday.

Maybe all the pressure and attention has finally caught up with him, slowly taking away his once eager and youthful spunk that he portrayed a couple of years ago.

The future for Tyson remains in his own hands. He should go back to his old trainer who helped him become undefeated, and return to his old ways of brawling.

As for 'Buster' Douglas, his future still remains in the hands of the WBA, despite the feelings of certain sports writers.

Schools appeal UIL district assignments

AUSTIN (AP) — Sixteen schools have appealed recent district assignments to the University Interscholastic League District Assignment and Review Board, which scheduled a Tuesday meeting.

Each school will have 15 minutes to appeal district assignments announced Feb. 1 by the UIL.

None of the 16 schools, including five Class 5A schools, have asked to change conferences.

Travel is the reason given by most schools for wanting to change districts.

If a school wins an appeal, the six-member committee, the district it would leave or the district it would enter can appeal that decision Feb. 20.

The 5A schools that have asked to change districts include San Antonio Southwest, San Antonio South, Houston Forest Brook and Houston Smiley.

Also, Pflugerville, which was evated from 4A to 5A, has asked to be moved into the six-member district and out of a district that would have the Panthers travel as far as Waco.

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