

Forget boycotts: It's time players, fans just play ball

Put down the remote control and stop yelling at the TV, the baseball's labor (greed) dispute is finally over.

The owners and players agreed to a contract late Sunday night, and the regular season will begin April 9, only one week late.

I'm as bored as you are with all the talk about the issues. The fact is that there is too much money in baseball.

New TV contracts have given the owners tons of cash, and the players (not satisfied making an average \$600,000) want some of it. They got it, and now both sides are ready to kiss, make up and start the season.

Now, are we going to make the owners/players pay for this blatant display of greed?

Are we going to make them think twice before they put the national pastime in jeopardy again?

No. We won't.

All the big talk about fan boycotts and other ways of snubbing baseball, is just that: talk.

Don't get me wrong, I firmly believe that television has spoiled the national game at the same time that it has helped it.

Television brings the Texas Rangers into my living room about 100 times a year, and since I can't make the trek to Arlington more than a couple of times each season, I depend on TV to bring the game to me.

But the money that comes with TV has corrupted the game, too. Players have always demanded higher salaries, See Lehmann/Page 11

'Once an Aggie, always an Aggie'

Kubiak returns to help quarterbacks

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

An old friend of Texas A&M football has returned this spring, offering his services to quarterbacks Lance Pavlas and Bucky Richardson. Just a few tidbits of wisdom he's picked up here and there in his seven years of National Football League experience.

He should know. As the Denver Broncos' backup quarterback, Gary Kubiak plays behind one of the best in the business — All-Pro John Elway.

Kubiak volunteered his services to Coach R.C. Slocum this spring during the Aggies' football drills. Making the 40-mile drive every day from his offseason home in Plantersville, Kubiak attends A&M's meetings and practices.

He's doing it for two reasons. One, to help out with Pavlas and Richardson. Two, to sponge some coaching lessons from Slocum and his staff.

Kubiak said he hopes to become a football coach after his playing days are over.

"I'm interested in maybe getting into coaching when I get through with football, so I thought it may be a good opportunity for me to come out here and see what the other side of the ball is like," Kubiak said.

"I want to see how they work. I enjoy being around the kids."

It's been a long time since Kubiak's held a football on Kyle Field. He played for the Aggies from 1979-82, and still holds A&M passing records for single game and season touchdown passes.

His last year at A&M was former coach Jackie Sherrill's first. Kubiak was known for being cool under fire, and had an uncanny ability of reading defenses. But as a Bronco, he's seen little playing time behind Craig Morton and Elway.

He played the fourth quarter in Denver's 55-10 shellacking at the hands of the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIV in January. Kubiak's playing time was, at best, bittersweet.

"It wasn't a whole lot of fun because of the way things went, but with an organization having the opportunity of going to the Super Bowl three times, you can't complain," Kubiak said.

"A lot of guys play all their career and never make the playoffs. It's been a positive experience for me and my family."

Slocum, who was defensive coordinator

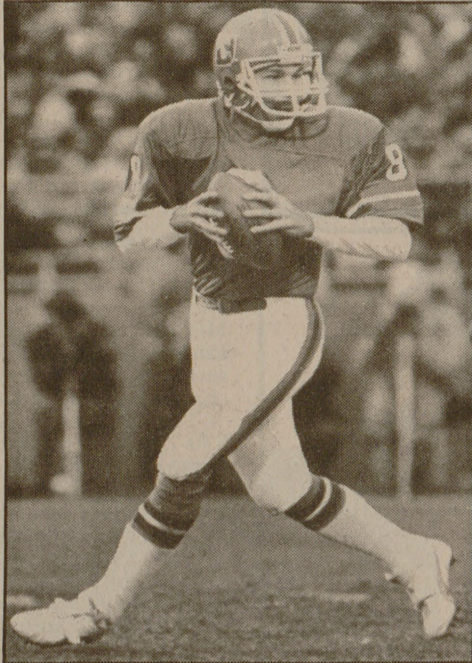


Photo courtesy of the Denver Broncos

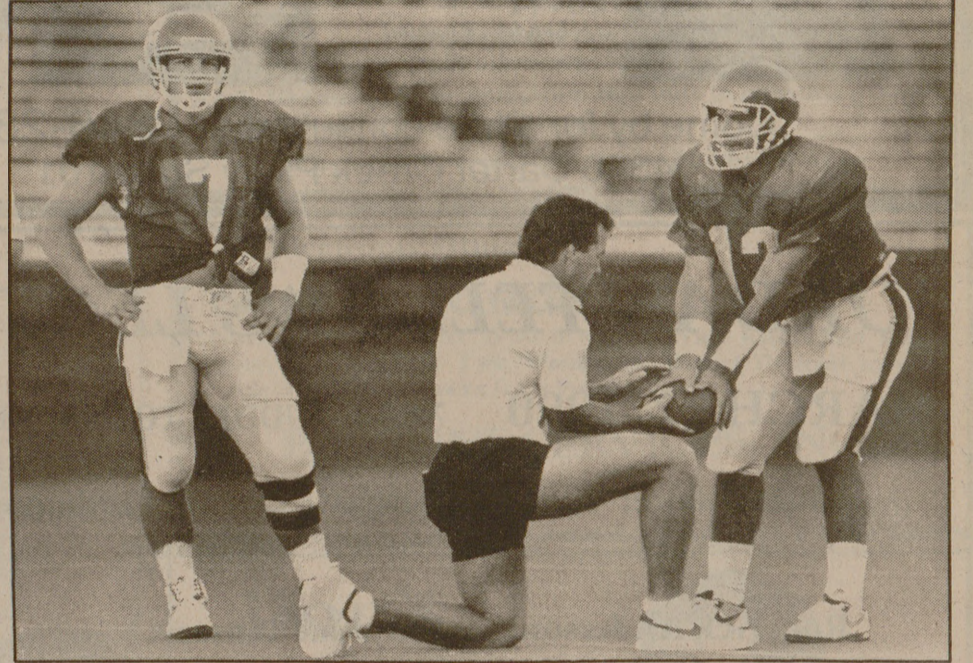


Photo by Frederick D. Joe

Former Texas A&M quarterback (1979-82) Gary Kubiak, now a backup to All-Pro John Elway of the Denver Broncos (above, left), has returned to Kyle Field to help out with A&M spring football practice. He's been spending his offseason with Denver working with A&M quarterbacks, including Bucky Richardson (7) and Lance Pavlas (12) Wednesday (above, right). Kubiak will remain with the Aggies until April 1, when he leaves for a four-day Broncos mini-camp.

when Kubiak played at A&M, said the 29-year old quarterback has the abilities to be a good coach.

With last year's starter Lance Pavlas back, and former starter Bucky Richardson returning from a knee injury, Slocum and Offensive Coordinator Bob Toledo have had their hands full this spring.

That's where Kubiak's stepped in.

"I think it's good for your quarterbacks and your whole team to have a guy like Gary who's out there every day," Slocum said. "He's helping out — just being able to visit with the quarterbacks and tell them about his experiences and see the little things that they're doing wrong. We're happy to have him."

And Kubiak's glad to be here. He said being around Pavlas and Richardson keeps

him young. Maybe, when he watches the quarterbacks practice, he sees a little bit of himself on Kyle Field as well.

But he's not one to make comparisons, either of himself or between the two Aggie quarterbacks.

"I think they're both doing really well," Kubiak said. "Lance knows the offense because he ran it all last season, but Bucky's got a lot of ability and he's a competitor."

"I think it's a nice problem to have when you've got two players who are both that talented and it's going to be good for this football team if they do have two very good quarterbacks."

Kubiak will leave the Aggies during their third week of spring practices to attend a Broncos mini-camp April 1. But he said he'll return for the team's last two weeks.

His immediate concerns are making sure the Broncos recover from three disappointing Super Bowl losses this decade.

"I think we have enough character to bounce back," Kubiak said. "It's always hard when you get that far and you get beat, but we have good people and a good organization. If we prepare well, we'll be back."

In the meantime, Kubiak will be spending his days at A&M, trying to make Pavlas and Richardson want to improve themselves. It is that motivating ability that may make him a successful coach. Someday.

"When they're throwing individually, I watch them," Kubiak said. "They've been in this offense for two years now — they know

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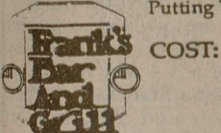
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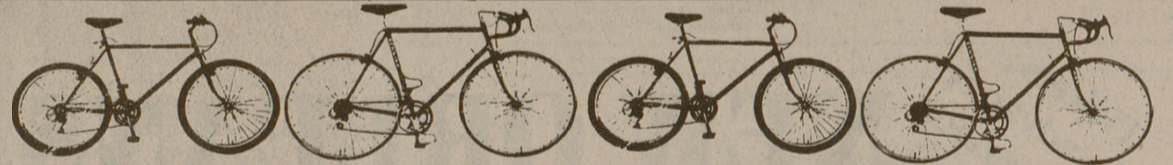
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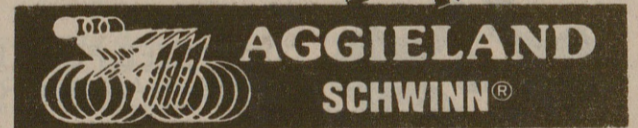


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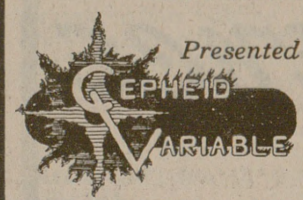
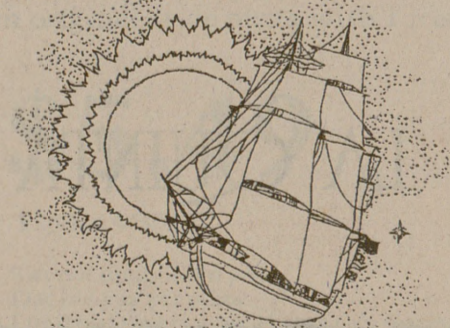
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