

Follow the leader

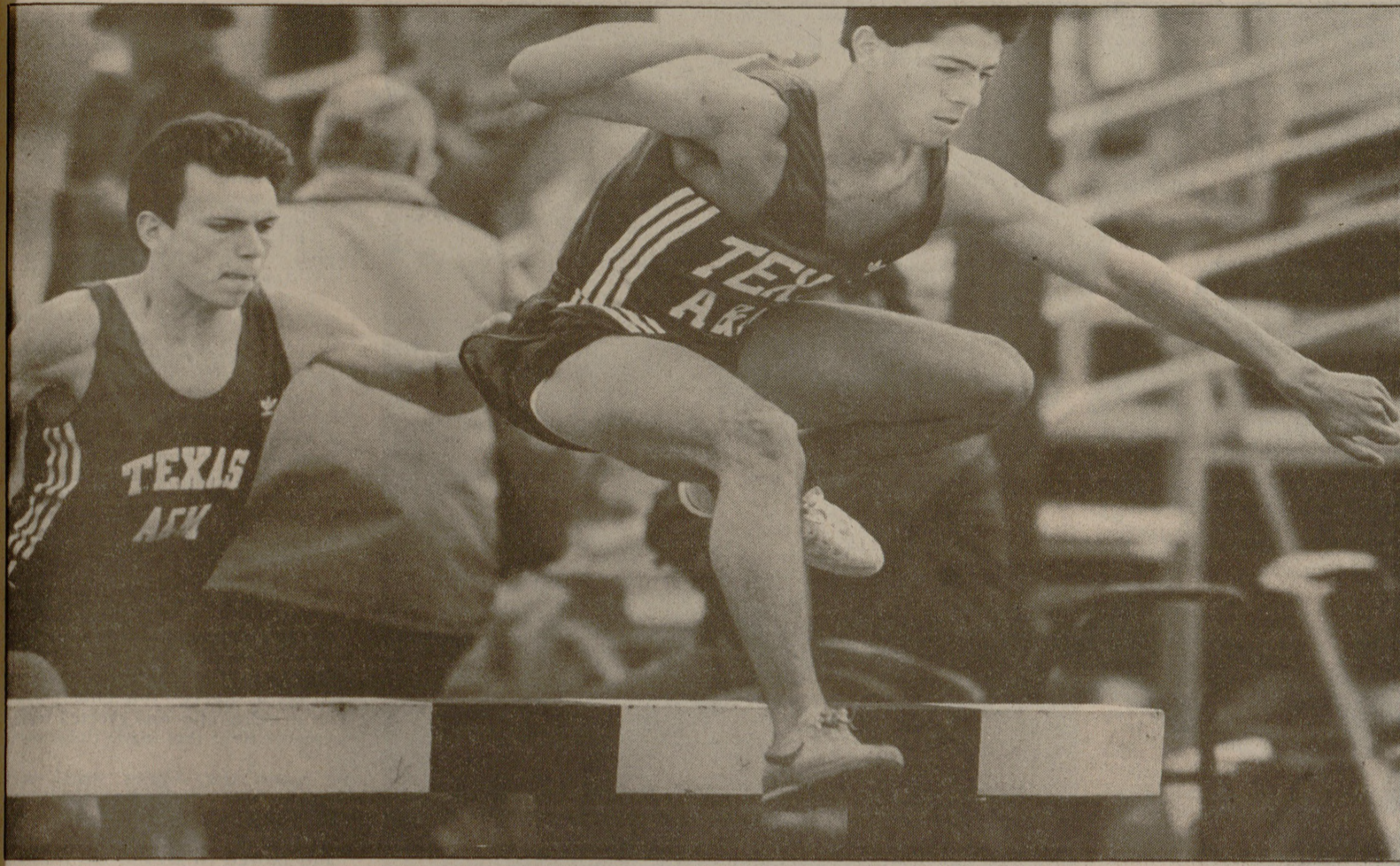


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Track members Donnie Bodron and Brian Bradshears compete in the 3,000 meter steeplechase during last Saturday's CS Relays.

Umpires to return Friday

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Major league umpires will report to work Friday, ending a weeklong boycott of spring training games while their labor dispute goes to binding arbitration.

The umpires' union and league presidents agreed Tuesday to let a retired Philadelphia judge resolve their differences, including whether umpires should be paid for spring games canceled during the owners' 32-day lockout.

"We're delighted to see the umpires go back to work," union head Richie Phillips said. "They need some work, particularly behind the plate, to get ready for the openers April 9."

The agreement was reached with the prodding of U.S. District Judge Norma L. Shapiro, who was scheduled to hear arguments in the leagues' request for an injunction forcing the umpires to work.

Instead, the two sides met for several hours, then emerged to say retired Common Pleas Judge Stanley

Greenburg would decide the issues, starting with a hearing at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

"I'm looking forward to going back — I'd go back tomorrow, if we could," said National League umpire Eric Gregg, one of three umpires present during Tuesday's session.

The umpires began their boycott Monday — the first day of exhibition games — to protest the way regular-season games were rescheduled after the lockout ended. The umpires said they should have had a say in the process.

On Sunday, baseball asked the court for a restraining order to force the umpires back to work. Minor league umpires are working the exhibition games. The boycotting umpires had said they would have reported for regular season games which begin April 9.

American League president Bobby Brown said arbitration could have been used last week to settle matters, as spelled out in the um-

pires' collective bargaining agreement.

"We suggested it earlier, but then we went through all this," Brown said. "I'm neither happy or sad — just disappointed all this had to occur."

National League president Bill White declined comment as he left the federal courthouse.

Also in dispute are increased living expenses incurred by the umpires who gave up apartment leases when the lockout started and fewer days off because of the compressed schedule.

"They will have to work the full season in a shorter period of time," Phillips said.

He said the dispute was not over economics, but "an issue of respect for the umpires."

Phillips said he would continue to press charges of unfair labor practices, which were filed last week with the National Labor Relations Bureau.

Gooden has impressive outing for Mets

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP) — Pitching under a microscope following last season's shoulder problems, Dwight Gooden made an impressive first step back for the New York Mets Tuesday night.

Gooden worked two scoreless innings against the New York Yankees, allowing one hit and striking out three. He threw 30 pitches, 24 of them for strikes and was clocked at 95 mph.

Even Gooden, often his own toughest critic, had to be impressed.

"I felt good," he said. "The main thing was I was throwing nice and easy and having fun out there. The curve was good but really I'm still trying to find it. A couple of them were bad and a couple were good. My location could have been better, but for the first time out, it was OK."

The Yankees hit just four fair balls against Gooden, who was constantly ahead of the hitters. In his first inning of work, he threw nine pitches, eight for strikes. His fastball seemed explosive at times, especially when he struck out Roberto Kelly and Steve Balboni, the last two batters he faced.

Perhaps the most important part of the outing was the fact that Gooden was letting it all hang out.

"I wasn't holding back," he said. "Usually in spring training, you build up to it. By throwing this winter, I think that helped me tonight."

The winter work was part of Gooden's rehabilitation from the small muscle tear behind his right shoulder, the first time in his career he has experienced arm trouble. The Mets were determined not to rush him back, letting him work at his own pace after the 32-day lockout.

"This was a big test," he said. "It was a game situation with opposing hitters. I just let it go."

Rangers' Jeffcoat ready to shine

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — The sounds of Mike Jeffcoat's career the past three seasons have been fizzle, fizzle, sizzle.

He fizzled in 1987 and 1988 after cursory look-sees with the Texas Rangers before being returned to the minor leagues.

But last season Jeffcoat burst into the starting rotation in late May and refused to leave.

He made the most of his third chance in the starting rotation and finished the season with a 9-6 record 3.58 earned run average.

Consequently, he begins 1990 with the unaccustomed security of having a starting assignment.

"It's a different feeling starting out this year but I'm not approaching it any different from any other spring," Jeffcoat said. "I've got to perform to stay where I am."

"I won't be looking over my shoulder to see what the other guys are doing. I'm just going to put in a quality effort every chance I get."

Jeffcoat got his chance when Jamie Moyer went on the injury list for three months with a shoulder injury.

It was just a matter of manager Bobby Valentine giving Jeffcoat a longer look than the two previous years, Jeffcoat said.

"The past two years I'd come up and not done a good job but I still believed in myself," Jeffcoat said. "I just kept telling myself and the coaches to give me five or six starts and then evaluate me."

"Fortunately, it worked out. I kept getting starts and my confidence started to improve."

Jeffcoat is in a rotation that includes fast ball specialists Nolan Ryan and Bobby Witt, knuckleballer Charlie Hough and Kevin Brown, who tied a rookie record with 12 victories last season.

Jeffcoat doesn't pretend he's got the natural talent of some of the other starters.

"I'm what's called, if they want to use the nice term, a 'crafty lefthander,'" Jeffcoat said.

Lady Ag softball team hosts Kent State today

By SKEETER BROWN
Of The Battalion Staff

The red-hot Lady Aggies' Softball team will try to continue their winning ways at home today, as they cool their heels from tournament travels during the past two weekends.

A&M hosts Kent State in a doubleheader at the Lady Aggie Softball Field, with the first pitch scheduled for 2 p.m.

The Lady Aggies are sporting a 29-8 overall record, and have won 22 out of their last 25 games. Kent State is off to an 8-0 start this season.

"I don't want to admit that we're ahead

of where I thought we would be at this point in the season," A&M Coach Bob Brock said. "I'm really excited about this team."

A&M has been on the road in tournaments, with their last played at California State-Fullerton. The Aggies finished tied for fifth, going 3-1 in the Pony Invitational.

The Lady Aggies made it to bracket play at the top spot in their pool, defeating nationally ranked Cal Poly-Pomona, 3-0, later downing U.S. International and Oregon State by identical 2-1 scores. In bracket play, A&M beat Bowling Green by 3-

Snyder

(Continued from page 7)

1989 than a lot of people thought he would, and he did all right. Klingler passed for eight touchdowns and 846 yards while completing 68-of-114 passes. Had Klingler met the NCAA's pass-attempt minimum, his 144.7 efficiency rating would have been 10th in the nation. It did make him the second most efficient passer in the SWC.

Guess who was No. 1? You guessed it. The old one-armed bandit himself.

Old Faithful led the conference with a 152.5 efficiency rating, taking his teammate Klingler to the top with him. What a guy!

OK. The guy can throw and get

the job done as a backup quarterback. But he is ready to accept the throne with all of the pressure built up around it?

The new UH king finds himself in pretty much the same fix as Lance Pavlas did when Bucky Richardson got hurt.

Pavlas accepted the challenge, and the rest, as they say, is history. He led the team to the John Hancock Bowl, and is now the one Richardson has to knock off if he hopes to start.

Klingler has been given the challenge to take control of a team that is on Cloud Nine. Or at least they were despite not being able to appear in a bowl game. I think he should stick to his guns and be himself, and not try to be another whatchamacallit.

After all, it will work out in the end. Just like this column did without me ever mentioning Ware's name. Oops!

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SEMINAR TOPICS AND SCHEDULE:
Tuesday, April 3
8:30 P.M. HOW TO TRAVEL INEXPENSIVELY
Wednesday, April 4
9:00 A.M. SIGHTSEEING
11:00 A.M. HOW TO PACK & GET AROUND
1:00 P.M. TRAVEL TIPS (PASSPORTS, I.D.'S, ETC.)
2:00 P.M. YOUTH HOSTELING

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