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## McMahon not worth all the antics nor talk

**B**ad boys and whining, sleazy agents. Draft time's over and now it's time to sign all that fresh, new incoming talent that your scouts said would save your team and catapult it to the top of the NFL and Super Bowl appearance within five years.

No problems, no worries. This year's draft saw an influx of juniors enter the NFL and get their cut of the big-time contracts. Multi-million contracts seem to be in style lately, but I'm not here to protest the salaries of untested rookies. My gripe stems from the way these athletes enter the NFL and expect those in the league and those that must deal with them to drop to our knees, sing praises and treat them as if they were some sort of god.

**Case in point:**  
Jim McMahon. In 1982, McMahon was the first round draft choice of the Chicago Bears. McMahon started for Brigham Young for two years, leading the Cougars to a 22-3 record and two Western Athletic Conference titles. His stats with the Chicago Bears were as impressive. From 1984 to 1988, McMahon blazed through the NFL. Chicago arose from the ruins of the seventies and began a domination of the National Football Conference that the Bears hadn't known since the sixties. Chicago was 35-3 in games that McMahon started. That includes the 46-10 victory over the New England Patriots in the 1986 Super Bowl. Then the bottom fell out for McMahon.

### The beginning of the end

The Bears released him to San Diego last August. With the Chargers, his career was bitter. McMahon started 11 games with San Diego before being benched in favor of former Texas Tech quarterback Billy Joe Toller.

Many who look at McMahon as the savior of the Chicago Bears will criticize my stance, and point to numerous injuries as the reason for his lack-luster performance in his later years with the Bears and his season with the Chargers. Injuries might have been part of the reason, but I believe his attitude had a lot to do with his problems.

McMahon was always a showboat, and as long as he was winning, Bears coach Mike Ditka put up with the quarterback's antics. But McMahon had trouble convincing Ditka to tolerate his childish pranks and fits. The Bears found a replacement and they also found McMahon a new home ... on the west coast.

You think he would've learned. McMahon went to the Chargers, sporting the same attitude and cockiness that he had worn in Chicago. And like his last days with the Bears, McMahon couldn't post the types of numbers that would make the front office plead with head coaches to give a little leeway. McMahon never gained the following in San Diego that he had in his early days with the Bears.

"Give us proof," you cry?

### Always carry a tissue

Okay, how about the story of McMahon being blasted by the local media after he blew his nose on a reporter last October. After McMahon was asked by management to apologize to the reporter, he refused, commenting later that "it was either sneeze on him or beat the @\*!+\* out of him, but you can't get sued for sneezing."

**Class act.**  
And like the Bears, the Chargers refuse to pay the big dollars to a childish, immature quarterback like McMahon. San Diego released McMahon last week, stating that they weren't interested in a contract dispute.

I guess that's a good enough excuse to give, especially if you have the like of Toliver in the wings.  
My only regret is that they picked him up in the first place, or maybe it's that they picked him up at all.  
McMahon isn't an isolated case. Everyone has heard of the Deon Sanders, Everson Walls and even a whiney Pro-Bowl back named Tony Dorsett.  
My only remaining hope is that the NFL institutes a salary cap. Maybe by denying multi-million dollar contracts to 21 and 22 year old spoiled athletes will also put a cap on poor attitudes.

# Coogs down Aags in weekend series

## Houston sweep causes problems for tourney spot

By Scott Wudel  
Of The Battalion Staff

It had been three years since anyone had swept a series from the Texas A&M baseball team.

This weekend, however, the Houston Cougars came to Olsen Field fighting for a spot in the Southwest Conference Tourna-

### SWC Standings

Team	SWC Record
Arkansas (43-9)	14-4
Texas (43-14)	13-4
Houston (40-19)	12-9
Texas A&M (42-15)	10-8
Rice (30-21)	8-9
Baylor (32-19)	8-12
Texas Tech (31-26)	5-13
TCU (26-28)	3-14

**Friday's Results**  
Arkansas 13, Texas 11, Houston 1, Texas A&M 0, New Mexico St. 8-1, Texas Tech 9-7, Baylor at TCU p.p.d., rain

**Saturday's Results**  
Baylor 4-5, TCU 2-4, Texas 4-5, Arkansas 3-6, Houston 4-4, Texas A&M 3-2, Texas Tech 7-3, New Mexico St. 6-6

ment. They left with three wins and improved their SWC record to 12-9, 40-9 overall. The Aggies fell to a 10-8 conference record and moved to 42-15 overall. As a result, the Cougars moved into third place in the conference on percentage points.

The Arkansas Razorbacks were the last team to sweep the Aggies, taking a three-game series at Olsen Field in 1987. A&M travels to Arkansas for a series beginning Friday night at Cole Field in Fayetteville. Houston robbed A&M in the doubleheader Saturday, squeaking out a 4-3 victory in the opener and a 4-2 victory in 10 innings in the nightcap in front of a crowd of 4,373. Friday night the Aggies were shutout 1-0.

A&M batters struggled with Houston pitchers all weekend, manufacturing a total of 12 hits in the three games. The Aggie defense kept each game close but could not make up for the lack of offensive firepower.

Coach Mark Johnson was disappointed in the team's offensive performance. "We didn't hit the ball well, and that cost us the series," Johnson said. "I thought we pitched the ball well enough to win ball games."

"We didn't get it done and that was a real backbreaker for us."

The Aggies are the worst hitting team in the SWC and will have to regroup in time for the Arkansas series — needing a combination of A&M wins and Rice losses totaling two to assure a berth in the conference tournament.

"We're really going to have to pull it together and see what kind of team we are," said Aggie second baseman Trey Witte.

"We're not playing aggressive baseball right now, we're not putting any pressure on the other team, we're putting it all on ourselves," he said. "Not hitting the ball is



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

A&M third baseman Travis Williams attempts to tag out Houston outfielder Derrik Dietrich after he tried to steal third base during the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. The Cougars went on to win the game 4-3 and sweep the series.

the key to that."

A&M's hopes of escaping Olsen Field with one victory ended in the 10th inning Saturday night.

In the top of the inning, Cougar second baseman Russell Stockton walked following a double by Ricky Torres off relief pitcher Bo Siberz. Torres moved to third on a sacrifice and Stockton stole second base, eliminating the Aggies hopes for a double play.

A Houston groundball slipped by shortstop Jason Marshall for an error that allowed Torres to score the go-ahead run. The Cougars added another run in the inning on James Wambach's fielder's choice grounder to put the Aggies down two runs in their last at bat.

Houston reliever Al Benavides retired the last three A&M batters to record the win while Siberz (2-2) took the loss.

The Aggies had tied the game earlier in the eighth when pinch runner Cornelius Patterson scored from second base on a Brian Thomas one-out single.

Patterson was pinch-running for Sean Drinkwater, who reached base on an infield single.

A&M got on the scoreboard first in the game when Witte scored from third on catcher John Wood's ground ball to the third baseman with one out in the second

inning. Marshall also attempted to score from second base on Blake Pyle's left field single but was called out at homeplate to end the inning.

Houston tallied its first two runs in the sixth inning. With two men out, Keith Darter doubled down the right field line to score the runner from first. Wambach followed with a single down the right field line to bring home Darter and give the Cougars a 2-1 lead.

Aggie pitcher Rich Robertson took his 9-1 record to the mound in the Saturday's opener, needing 13 strikeouts to eclipse the school record of 109 in one season. Robertson struck out two Houston batters before being relieved in the sixth inning.

The Aggies got the day started with three runs in the first four innings.

A&M was sparked in the top of the first inning after Houston's Wambach knocked down first baseman Pyle, who was attempting to field a fly ball on the first base line.

The Aggies came back and scored their first run on a wild pitch from Houston's Ben Weber, bringing Pyle across the plate.

With two outs in the A&M second, Marshall reached base on a Houston error. Wood then slammed a double to the warning track in left centerfield, scoring Marshall from first.

## A&I football coach to discipline players who use drugs

**KINGSVILLE (AP)** — Texas A&I president Manuel Ibanez said football coach Ron Harms has been ordered to discipline those players arrested on drug charges.

In a two-page statement issued after two football players and another A&I student were arrested on cocaine-dealing charges over the weekend, Ibanez said he has formed a fact-finding committee.

"We want to look at the athletic program," Ibanez said. "In addition, we want to look at our drug policy. We don't want to get complacent. We're not going to condone this."

Ibanez said the group will consist of Harms, some members of the Athletic Council, and other faculty and staff.

Ibanez also criticized the Kleberg County Sheriff's Department for not involving A&I in its investigation of alleged drug activities among athletes. Kleberg County Sheriff Adan Munoz said he kept the investigation, dubbed "Operation Play Ball," secret for safety reasons.

District Attorney Grant Jones said Saturday his office is expected to take the three felony cases to the Kleberg County grand jury Thursday.

On Saturday, A&I student and former West Oso High School athletic star Rocky Rannels, 19, turned himself in to authorities after learning a warrant for his arrest had been issued Friday. He joined star defensive end Johnny Eaton and defensive back Ray Anthony Fields in the Kleberg County Jail. All have been charged with delivery of cocaine, a first-degree felony punishable by up to life in prison.

Kiethen DeGrate, a 23-year-old junior guard, was arrested Friday in a raid by sheriff's deputies at two off-campus apartments. He was released after posting \$200 bond on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

A warrant also was issued for the arrest of former A&I defensive lineman Dvas Evans, who reportedly is in Galveston.

## Aggressive play by Caminiti, Yelding, hoists Astros over Mets 2-1 in pitching standoff

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Eric Yelding did his job. Then Ken Caminiti did his — with a little luck from the New York Mets outfield.

Caminiti singled in Yelding, who had reached on an infield hit, stolen second and gone to third on an error with two outs in the 10th inning Sunday to give Houston a 2-1 win over the Mets in a game in which Cy Young Award winners Dwight Gooden and Mike Scott pitched to a standoff.

"I didn't hit the ball all that well. I thought I was going to be out," Caminiti said. "I don't know if he could have dived and caught it. I'm just happy with the results."

With one out in the tenth, Yelding beat out an infield hit to shortstop Howard Johnson off Julio Machado (2-1). One out later, he stole second and went to third base when catcher Mackey Sasser threw the ball into centerfield.

"That's my job, to be aggressive and get around the bases," Yelding said. "Lately, things have been falling in."

Machado then walked Glenn Davis intentionally and hit pinch-hitter David Rohde, before Caminiti's third hit of the game, which made a winner of Danny Darwin (1-0).

"He got a bad jump on the ball," Mets

manager Davey Johnson said of Strawberry. "If the dive would have caught it I wish he would have dived. Usually you don't dive unless you have a chance to catch it."

Strawberry thought he had a good jump but the ball was well placed.

"I didn't get a bad jump. I gave it my best," Strawberry said. "I thought I had a good shot at it but it kept going down. I was running full speed. It's a tough play to make a dive on."

"He just put it in the right spot. Anywhere else, I would have caught it."

## Spurs struggle past Nuggets to two-game lead

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — The San Antonio Spurs got what they wanted — a two-game lead over the Denver Nuggets in their Western Conference playoff series.

But if the Spurs' struggling 129-120 victory Saturday is a preview of things to come, then they may not have an easy time sweeping the Nuggets out of the playoffs.

"It would be nice to end this as soon as possible," Spurs center David Robinson said. "But it won't be easy."

Game 3 of the best-of-5 series is set for Tuesday at McNichols Arena.

Robinson, the NBA's Rookie of the Year, led the Spurs with 31 points and 12 rebounds in Game 2. Willie Anderson added 25 and Terry Cummings 21.

The game remained close throughout the fourth quarter, and the Nuggets closed to 120-117 with 73 seconds left. But three San Antonio field goals put the game out of reach.

"I can't emphasize enough that Denver played great," San Antonio coach Larry Brown said. "That was a tough win."

Fat Lever, who led the Nuggets with 26 points and 16 rebounds, said the Nuggets will be ready for Game 3.

"When you are down 0-2, no one wants to be swept," Lever said. "I think we have enough character to step up and really compete."

Denver coach Doug Moe said defensive rebounds have to improve for the Nuggets to have chance to extend the series.

"From the standpoint of everybody, we don't have a chance in this series," Moe said. "But we are capable of beating them at home."

San Antonio lost 126-99 to the Nuggets in January in Denver, but nine days ago snapped at 10-game losing streak at McNichols with a 112-108 victory. The Spurs won three of the four regular-season games the teams played this year.