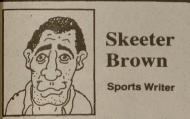
**The Battalion** PORTS

Wednesday, May 16, 1990

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Jones wises up, **Skeeter** ponders **Cowboys** fate

Someone please hand Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones some common sense.

The Cowboys opened their 1990 veterans camp yesterday and Jones, in Dallas' new training facilities in Austin, told reporters that last years 1-15 season had not diminished his enthusiasm.

What does it take Jerry ... a 0-6 mark?

Give him some credit though. Jones has come a long way from statements made last year. Like a true rookie, Jones came

in as the Cowboy's owner, taking charge of a feeble and frail Dallas team that had just suffered a 3-13 record and predicted it to become a playoff contender team in the irst year

What did Jones base his predictions on? The Cowboys vent through the preseason 3-1. But I believe Jones has finally

learned his lesson. "We don't make predictions

anymore," Jones said at the Southwest Associated Press Sports Editor Convention. Bravo, Jerry

But now I must confess. I am not as strong as Jones. And besides, it's only May and no one will remember my predictions come August anyway.

Look for the Cowboys to finally be playoff contenders under the league's new playoff system. Dallas may not be able to win the Eastern Division, but a wildcard spot is not an unlikely scenario.

Troy Aikman, in his second year as the Cowboy's franchise quarterback, will show Dallas why he is paid \$11 million to lead the offense

The Cowboys have made dramatic strides to obtain an offense that is not only speedy, but could be considered a triple threat. With speedy receivers, talented backs and Aikman's ability to scramble, defenses will be kept honest.

That's a big change from last year, when opposing defenses blitzed Dallas' offense on almost every single down. The Cowboys had no receivers, a young line and no healthy backs. Hence the worst offensive output in the NFL and the worst record in the league.

## **College underclassmen go** pro to escape NCAA rules

NEW YORK (AP) - Some are escaping "wicked sanctions" against their universities. Others need the money, or are ducking school work. They are college underclassmen, and they're all seeking one thing — a job in the NBA.

"I made the decision to turn the page on this part of my life and open a new chapter," Maryland's leading scorer, sophomore forward Jerrod Mustaf, said Thursday in announc-

ing his decision to turn pro. Citing wicked NCAA sanctions, Mustaf said he would make a formal application to the NBA by Sunday's deadline. The complete list of underclassmen declaring themselves eligible for the June 28 draft will be available next Thursday.

So far, several potential stars already have announced they'll come out early: Chris Jackson of LSU, Sean Higgins of Michigan and Marcus Liberty of Illinois. Others may will follow. Perhaps they'll be Larry Johnson of UNLV or Dennis Scott of Georgia Tech.

"I guarantee you that some of these guys will change their minds four or five times before the deadline. player agent Eric Fleischer

Thirty-eight college under-classmen declared themselves eligible for the NFL draft, and 18 were taken. Fewer are expected to be taken in the NBA draft, which is

only two rounds long. The 6-foot-10 Mustaf averaged 18.5 points and 7.7 rebounds for Maryland last season, but he may have cost himself a top-10 pick by coming out a year early.

'My feeling is that if a player who has the potential to be a lottery pick later on comes out early, it could cost him a substantial amount of money, Washington Bullets general man-ager Bob Ferry said. "If you know a team is going to draft you, that's fine. But if you're shooting craps, it's a tough situation.'

Mustaf's father, Shaar Mustaf, was quoted as saying his son would not come out early unless he was assured of a first-round selection.

Only the day before, the 6-8 Liberty, who led Illinois in rebounds and assists, announced his decision to turn pro. Financial problems reportedly were the reason.

While Johnson has said repeat-edly he plans to stay at UNLV for a final season, there has been speculation that he would turn pro, espe-

cially since the Runnin' Rebels won the national championship.

'I understand Johnson has decided to stay in school," said Fleischer, who represents many NBA players through International

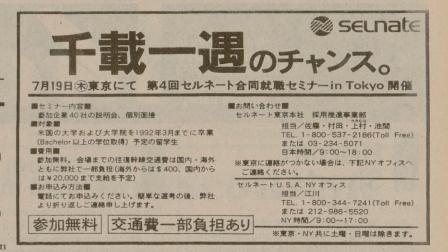
Management Group. Scott, a 6-8 junior who averaged 27.7 points for Georgia Tech, said he would announce his decision at a news conference on Monday.

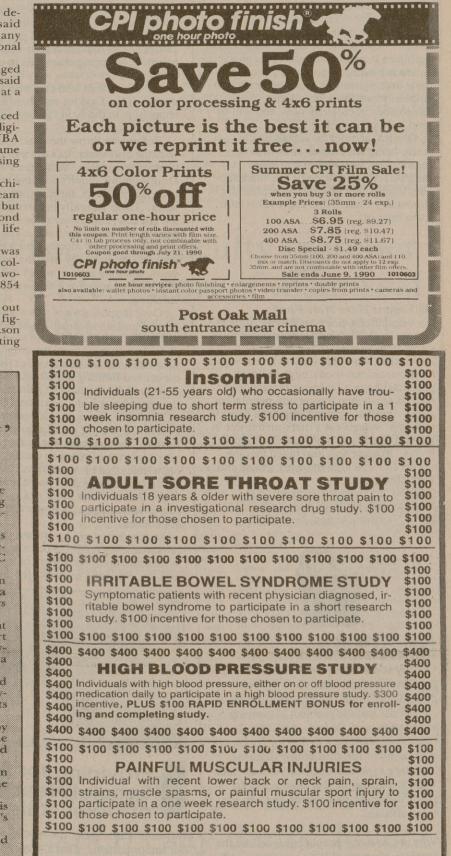
Last month, Higgins announced he would skip his final year of eligibility at Michigan to play in the NBA draft, and Jackson made the same announcement in March, bypassing two years of NCAA eligibility. Higgins, who played on Michi-

gan's national championship team two years ago, liked campus life but apparently wasn't particularly fond of school work. He began college life ineligible to play academically. Jackson apparently felt there was

nothing more to accomplish in college. In two seasons, he was a twotime All-American and scored 1,854 points.

'My college career has turned out better than I expected, and I just figured now was the time," Jackson said. "Things just started floating through my mind."





## IL soccer faces ban Stewart casts off Texas jinx,

DALLAS (AP) - Gina Mazzolini been trading accusations since soc often has defended soccer in her position as the assistant in charge of the sport for the University Interscho-lastic League. She now finds herself accused of trying to ruin the sport in Texas.

Mazzolini has recommended that the UIL place soccer on probation next season. Her frustrations with the conflict between high school pro-grams and club soccer had peaked this year with increasing reports of related misconduct involving players, coaches and spectators.

A UIL ad-hoc committee agreed with her and made an official recommendation that will be voted on by a 24-member legislative committee in October.

'Some coaches have called and said, 'You were our only friend in (the UIL) in soccer, now you turned against us," Mazzolini said. She said she had hoped her recommendation would draw attention to the prob-lem, not lead to the downfall of the sport

The UIL and club officials have

Lady Ags earn berth in

**NCAA Regional tourney** 

cer's sanctioning in 1983. The main stumbling block has been the UIL's rules prohibiting concurrent play on club and high school teams. Mazzolini claims club officials do

not appreciate the UIL's efforts to establish guidelines and make soccer fit within the League's educational goals. Club coaches want easy access to both programs for players. They claim if the UIL really cared about soccer, it would quit forcing the players to choose between programs. "Every time (the UIL puts) in a

piece of (soccer) legislation, I sit back and wonder, 'Who the hell put the time into thinking of this,?' " said John Cossaboon, former director for the North Texas State Soccer Association that involves 80,000 youths. "Surely they're not considering the

Club coaches say their higherquality teams are weakened when players participate on high school teams. High school coaches admit inexperience among their ranks has led to many of the current problems.

eyes Colonial FORT WORTH (AP) - Payne Stewart, is a big favorite going into the Colonial National Invitational on "Hogan's Alley.

Stewart recently overcame his Texas voodoo by winning the By-ron Nelson Classic at the TPC

Course in Las Colinas. The former star at Southern Methodist University had lost in a playoff at the Nelson five years

He has twice lost in playoffs at Colonial Country Club. Stewart has the lowest career scoring average of any player at Colonial, a salty 69.19 for six years.

"I love the golf course and maybe it's my time to win," Stew-art said. The Colonial starts Thursday. "Let's see - it's sponsored by

Southwestern Bell. I won the MCI at the Heritage Classic and the GTE Byron Nelson.

"Maybe something is going on here with telephone services," he aid

Stewart would like to have his name on Colonial Country Club's famed "Wall of Champions." The brick wall is just behind

the first tee box. There are 50 names going back

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I'm not calling for a Super Bowl appearance in '91, but the Cowboys have made moves that appear to be rebuilding the club for another decade of NFL lominance

And who knows? Dallas could be to the 90s what the San Francisco 49ers were to the 80s. Someone please give Battalion

sports writer Skeeter Brown some ommon sense.

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CLINICS

## **From Staff and Wire Reports**

The Texas A&M softball team received an invitation from the NCAA notifying the Lady Aggies that they were among 20 teams that would be competing in eight NCAA Regionals Friday and Saturday.

The Lady Aggies will travel to Lafayette, La. and open their first regional game against the Florida State Seminoles at 4 p.m. Friday. The win-ner of the A&M-FSU game will play the University of Southwestern Louisiana at 8 p.m. Championship play will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Regional champions will travel to Oklahoma City May 23 to participate

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A&M enters the regional match with an overall record of 47-18 and finished ranked 10th in the NCAA's weekly poll. Their opening oppo-nent, FSU, is 43-14 and is ranked

14th in the polls. "We're just glad to be in the play-offs," A&M softball coach Bob Brock "It would have been nice to said. have been able to play at home, but USL comes in ranked higher than us.

The Lady Aggies haven't had much success with either FSU or USL. A&M lost earlier this year to the Lady Seminoles 3-1 and the Lady Cajuns handed the Lady Aggies a pair of losses, 2-0 and 1-0.

to 1941 on the wall, with only six spots remaining to be filled. "After 1991 only three will be

available," said Colonial President Wally Schmuck.

Two spots will be used in 1991 for the Colonial champion and another for the winner of the 46th United States Women's Open, which will be conducted at Colonial in July after the May PGA Tour stop.

The women's winner will become the second U.S. Open champion's name to be displayed on the wall. The first position belongs to Craig Wood, who won the 1941 U.S. Open at Colonial. Last year's champion was Ian Baker-Finch.

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