

Tuesday, July 17, 1990

Officials discuss SWC expansion

Vick stresses unity, change

By CLAY RASMUSSEN
Of The Battalion Staff

DALLAS — Tired of waiting for Arkansas, Texas and Texas A&M to voice their intentions about their futures in the Southwest Conference, conference officials launched their own attack to try and strengthen the SWC and keep it intact.

And the spearhead of its attack could be conference expansion.

SWC officials, athletic directors and faculty representatives met Friday at the Hyatt Regency at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport to discuss the future of the conference.

Conference president James Vick emphasized that the meeting was not an attempt to offer incentives to Arkansas, which has expressed an interest in joining the Southeastern Conference.

"There was no talk of demands, concessions or anything of the sort," Vick said. "It was all constructive — to strengthen the league for the teams."

Conference Commissioner Fred Jacoby said Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles attended the meeting as an active member of the SWC board and was not present so officials could "woo" the university.

"The University of Arkansas was very active in the discussions, and they were very supportive," Jacoby said. "They are a full participating member of the conference and they're a valued member."

The meeting produced seven proposals that will be forwarded to conference presidents meeting today in Dallas. These proposals are:

- Distribution of bowl revenue among participating teams — officials said these might be revised.
- Distribution of NCAA basketball tournament revenues — expected to be modified to give participating teams more money.
- Television revenues were discussed — officials stated no changes were expected.
- Gate splits for conference football and basketball games — no moves to make changes.
- Elimination of the round-robin conference schedule — officials took no action.
- Legislative proposals, including reduction of coaching staffs, the phasing out of athletic dorms and the reduction of grants in aid.
- Expansion of the SWC — officials discussed the possibilities with other teams and other leagues.

Vick confirmed that the SWC had informally approached other teams to discuss merger possibilities.

"There has been some interaction between our conference and other conferences," Vick said. "All these items are under active consideration and will be pursued in the next couple of months."

Vick also stressed that the meeting was intended to convey to the big three — Arkansas, Texas and Texas A&M — that the meetings were to determine, discuss and make proposals about the future of the conference.

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Oomph!

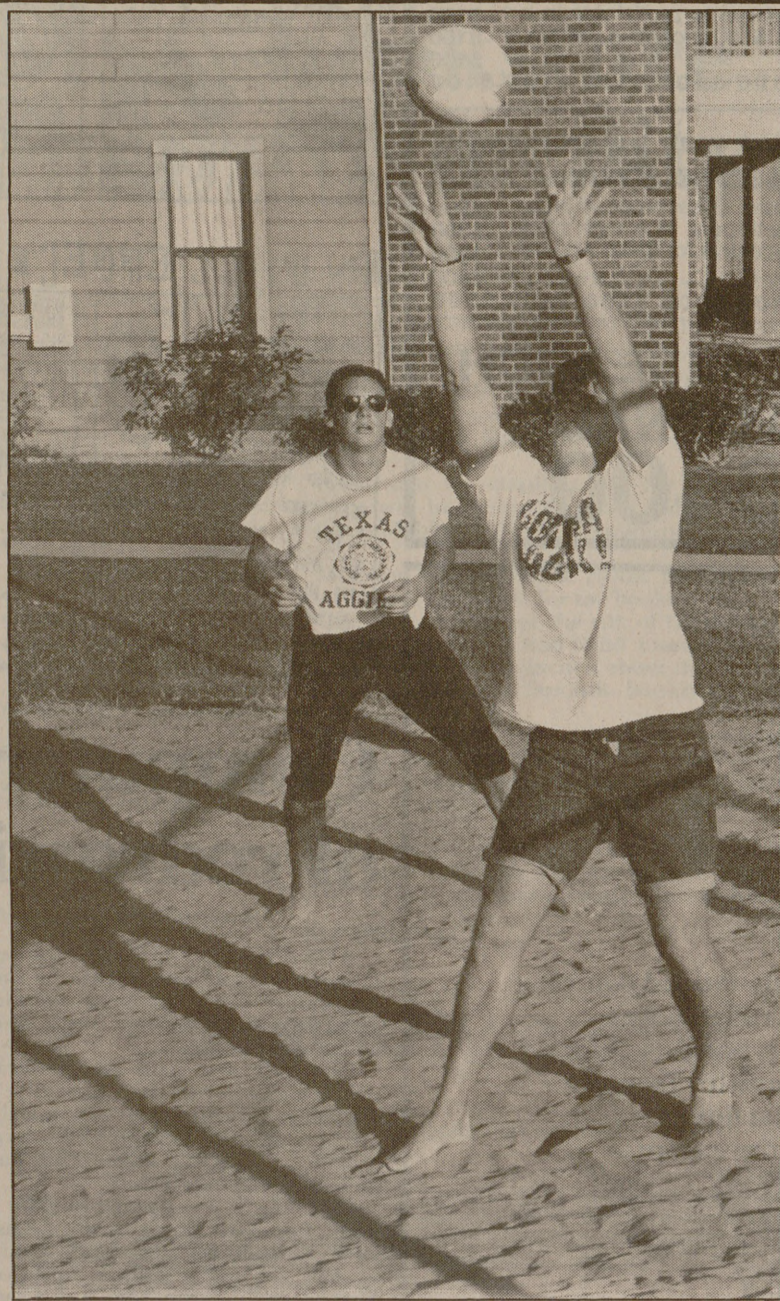


Photo by Sondra Robbins

Mark Thompson, a senior speech communications major, sets the ball for Al Reider, a junior mechanical engineering major, during a volleyball match this weekend at Treehouse Village.

Aaaarrggghh!

Pirates keep afloat despite Mets' attack

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Fizzle. Sputter. Thud.

Those are the sounds the Pittsburgh Pirates were expected to make by now as their pennant ship capsized and the New York Mets cruised to the NL East title they were supposed to win all along.

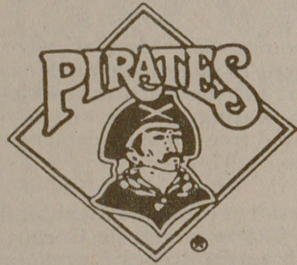
Don't look now, but the Pirates have withstood the Mets' pre-All-Star game surge and still lead the division as the dog days of August approach.

The Pirates? The only NL East team that failed to win a division title in the '80s? Maybe they ought to be told they weren't supposed to challenge for their first division title in 11 years.

"That's all you hear is the Mets, the Mets, the Mets ... and I'm getting tired of hearing it," Pirates manager Jim Leyland said. "We're in first place and they're in second place ... they're chasing us, we're not chasing them."

"We're for real," Wally Backman, the former Met, said. "We're not going to collapse. We're going to win more than 90 games."

Even when the Mets won 26 of 31 games, they didn't overtake the Pirates, who have led the East for all but three days. The Mets sliced nine games off their 9 1/2-game deficit of June 8, but they're still pursuing the



Pirates, the Pirates aren't trying to catch them.

"People thought that once the Mets got hot that would be it," outfielder R.J. Reynolds said.

"Why are we in first place? We're in first place because we've earned it and we're a good club," Leyland said. "We've played more consistently than any team in the league."

The Pirates have been a model of consistency, never losing more than five in a row, never winning more than six in a row.

And, rather than torching Pittsburgh as they sizzled before the All-Star break, the Mets only seemed to light the Pirates' competitive fires. More than one Pirate heard the prevailing talk at last week's All-Star game that the Mets were ready to bury them.

Douglas, King continue battling in the courtroom

NEW YORK (AP) — James "Buster" Douglas and his lone post-Tyson opponent, promoter Don King, finally agreed on something Monday: they have not settled a lawsuit which would get the heavyweight champion back in the ring.

Douglas' comments to The Columbus Dispatch about a done deal in the federal case were premature, said John Johnson, the fighter's manager.

Douglas reportedly said Sunday there was an agreement severing his ties with King and permitting a title defense against Evander Holyfield.

Douglas has not fought since his stunning Feb. 10 knockout of ex-champion Mike Tyson.

"Basically, it's still being talked about. If and when it's settled, it will be something we are happy with," said Johnson. "The one thing to remember is that Don King was wrong, he is wrong, and he always will be wrong in this case."

A spokesman for the shock-haired promoter said Monday that while there could be negotiations involving King, there was definitely no deal.

"The situation remains this: I've talked to our attorneys, and there is no settlement signed. There is no agreement. And we are ready to go back into court tomorrow," said John Solberg, a spokesman for Don King Productions.

Even Douglas' attorney, Stan Hunterton, had refused to confirm his client's remarks. "I have no comment. Everybody's working hard until it's finished," he said.

Douglas, Johnson and The Mirage hotel and casino in Las Vegas are suing King in Nevada for breach of contract, asserting that King tried to overturn Buster's defeat of Tyson in Tokyo.

King responded by suing The Mirage for tortious interference for its signing of Douglas to a two-fight contract despite an existing King-Douglas deal. He also sued Douglas and Johnson for breach of contract. The Nevada suit was stayed pending resolution of the other case.

King's suit is in Manhattan, where Douglas was scheduled to take the stand Monday as the trial entered its third week. U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet sent the jurors home Monday, telling them both sides had asked for a day's recess.

Tech coach fills vacant spot

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M completed its 1990-91 track and field coaching staff by hiring one of the best in the nation, Aggie head coach Ted Nelson said.

Nelson announced Monday that Abe Brown, assistant track coach at Texas Tech, will fill the spot left vacant when Nelson was promoted to head coach in early June.

"We are very fortunate to have him on staff," Nelson said. "Abe is a great addition and is one of the most knowledgeable coaches in the country. He will help us continue the great track tradition at A&M."

Brown, who was an assistant at the University of North Texas for three years before joining the Tech staff in 1983, said he couldn't be happier about coming to A&M.

"It thrills the heck out of me to be coming to a team that has consistently proven to be one of the top two or three teams in the country," he said. "Tech was a great experience but I can't go wrong coming to a program like A&M's."

"I'm also enthusiastic about the women's program," Brown said. "The program's really on the move and I look forward to being a part of that."

Last season Brown coached Tech's All-American 400-meter relay team that finished sixth at the NCAA Championships.

Brown graduated from the University of North Texas where he was a successful triple jumper, winning Missouri Valley Conference titles in 1973 and 1974.

Ag hoopsters sign Hoya guard

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M basketball team took one more step toward a Southwest Conference Championship Monday when Georgetown guard David Edwards announced he will transfer to A&M in the fall.

The 5-11, 170 pound Edwards will have three years of eligibility left after sitting out the 1990-91 season under NCAA regulations.

"David is an important addition to our team who should have a tremendous impact on our program," A&M head coach Kermit Davis said. "He is an excellent ball handler, an outstanding scorer and a strong defender who will be able to help us in many ways."

Last season, as a true freshman, Edwards averaged 5.4 points and 2.3 rebounds a game. He was second on the team with 4.8 assists a contest and had 42 steals as the Hoyas compiled a 24-7 record.

Edwards, who averaged 41 points a game at New York City's Andrew Jackson High School, is the second Big East player to transfer to A&M this year. Syracuse forward Tony Scott announced similar intentions in May.

"We feel we signed several players who will be able to help us immediately, and with Edwards and Scott we have a solid foundation to build on for next year," said Davis. "They both come from first-class programs and have a lot of Division I experience. We hope to surround them with some top high school players in our next class."

Georgetown refused to comment on the transfer.

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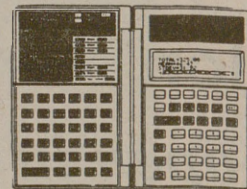
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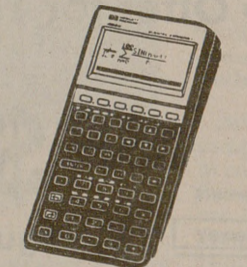
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