

Pokes break training camp

Austin reaps financial benefits

AUSTIN (AP) — The noisy neighbors are leaving, but they will be missed.

By week's end, the sounds of football will die away at St. Edward's University. And even though some who live near the school were apprehensive about having a pro football team on campus, now they can't wait for the Dallas Cowboys to return next summer.

The team's presence has produced an unexpected financial windfall for some who live nearby, including a church that made thousands of dollars from its parking lot.

The Grace Christian Church charged \$2 or \$3 per car to park in the church lot, and up to 100 fans each morning have done so.

"It was just great to have them across the street," said church secretary Brenda Smith.

"This has been a dream come true for me," said David Koch, a Cowboys

fan and resident of the area. "I'll be glad to have them back."

Neighbor Lawrence Lewis echoed Koch's enthusiasm about the football team's training camp, held in Austin for the first time this year.

"I want them back," Lewis said. "I had no problems at all."

Some residents said they greeted news that the Cowboys would be practicing at St. Edward's with trepidation after hearing thousands of fans also were expected. But the fans were well-behaved, and city and university authorities kept the traffic situation well in hand.

Things have been calm since practice opened July 19. The Cowboys will hold their last practice Thursday, then leave town to play their first exhibition game.

"We were kind of worried at first," Koch said. "But things just carried on as normal. I just thought it was run very professionally."

One woman who lives across the street from the practice field said she expected problems as well, but said, "Fans didn't even block our driveway. I thought that was very courteous."

Armando Martinez, who is selling football souvenirs at a booth across

from the camp, said business has been outstanding. "I wish they'd just stay here," Martinez said.

Not everyone, however, did so well.

"I expected more sales than we got," said Michael Jacks, manager of a sports souvenir shop. "It's not what you would expect in this situation."

Motel manager Bob Haynes said he had anticipated hanging out a "No Vacancy" sign during the entire training camp, but it didn't work out that way.

"I personally don't think it has lived up to expectations, he said. "We really didn't see anything until last week."

Haynes said the hotel was full all last week, and said this week also has seen a large turnout, possibly fans trying to catch the final days of the team's stay in Austin.

John Lucas, vice president for enrollment and student services at St. Edward's, said the Cowboys have drawn close to 100,000 people at their practices, and he expects more in 1991.

"It was a success that exceeded our expectations — and we had pretty high expectations," Lucas said.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Dallas defensive back Bill Bates signs autographs as the Cowboys pack up their Austin camp. Bates is unsure of his future with the Cowboys, but insists he'll play in any capacity.

A&M to host tennis tourney

Present and former Texas A&M tennis players will highlight the Gary Stevenson Quality GMC A&M Open tennis tournament that gets underway at 8 a.m. Friday.

Former A&M standout Shaun O'Donovan is the No. 1 seed in the Championship Men's Division and junior Doug Brown from Deer Park is the No. 3 seed. O'Donovan and Brown will play together in the doubles competition and they enter the tournament as the No. 1 seeded team.

Lady Aggies also enter the tournament with top seeds.

Senior Cindy Churchwell from Houston is the No. 1 seed in the Championship Women's Division. Churchwell and Tammi Agassi, a senior from Las Vegas, Nevada, hold the top seed in doubles competition.

ACC shuns Gamecocks, SEC interested in merger

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's chances of rejoining the Atlantic Coast Conference appear to be slim, but the school may soon move a step closer to joining the Southeastern Conference, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Charlotte Observer, citing unnamed sources, reported the Gamecocks apparently have little chance to rejoin the ACC. South Carolina withdrew from the conference following the 1970-71 season.

"I'm afraid they just don't have the six votes necessary to get back in," an unidentified athletic official at an ACC school told the newspaper.

South Carolina is a member of the Metro Conference for all sports except football. But the school wants to join an all-sports conference and is considering a variety of options, including the SEC, ACC and an expanded Metro Conference that would include 16 schools and football.

On Friday, the school's board of trustees is expected to give its interim president power to accept a possible conference offer.

"There has been discussion of a proposal to give the president authority to make the commitment, to respond to an offer to join an all-sports conference," interim president Arthur K. Smith said.

"I think it's a proposal that somebody intends to bring up at the (trustees) meeting Friday," he said Tuesday.

Smith said South Carolina has not received a formal invitation to join the SEC.

"We're still in the exchange of information stage; they're sending information to us on league bylaws and revenue sharing and so on," he said. "We're very receptive to the SEC; we're very interested in them. But at this point, we want to keep all of our options open."

Just call him 01832061

Rose surrenders to federal officials

MARION, Ill. (AP) — Pete Rose became a prisoner on Wednesday when he turned himself in to federal officials to begin a five-month sentence for cheating on his income taxes.

Rose, who had until Friday to surrender, arranged beforehand to have a federal van pick him up in this Southern Illinois town and slipped unnotified into the minimum-security federal prison camp a few miles away.

Baseball's all-time hits leader, prisoner 01832061, arrived around noon and was accompanied by members of his family, Warden John L. Clark said. He did not specify who those family members included.

The former Cincinnati Reds manager would be fingerprinted, photographed and given an orientation

before he joined his fellow inmates for dinner, Clark said.

"Mr. Rose will have all the rights and obligations as all prisoners and will receive no special privileges," Clark said. "We will have his term pass as uneventfully as possible for him and the other prisoners."

Clark said the prison would make a special effort to protect its famous inmate, assigning him to a job that would be out of public view and respecting his request for no interviews.

Rose's release is scheduled for Jan. 7, 1991, prison officials said, and Rose said he hoped to be home for Christmas, with time off for good behavior. But assistant warden

Randy Davis said Rose must serve three months at a halfway house in Cincinnati after he leaves Marion.

The 49-year-old Rose, banned from baseball a year ago for gambling, was convicted on two counts of filing false income tax returns. He failed to report more than \$350,000 in income from gambling, autograph signing and baseball memorabilia sales.

Rose was sentenced July 20 by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel in Cincinnati. He underwent knee surgery that same day and delayed reporting to prison so he could recover.

Clark said Rose was not on crutches and that the knee was "doing well." He said his prison job could depend on how long Rose was able to stand and walk.

Spurs, Cummings agree on contract extension terms

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Veteran forward Terry Cummings and the San Antonio Spurs have agreed to extend Cummings' existing contract by four years.

Team executives and Cummings announced the agreement Wednesday after weeks of sporadic negotiations. At one point Cummings, who has two years remaining on his current \$1.7 million per season contract, said he was considering leaving basketball to pursue private business interests.

Cummings has said he would like to retire in San Antonio. He said he's looking forward to the upcoming season and is glad the agreement was reached.

"We got a lot taken care of," Cum-

mings said. "I really love this city and the team, and I'm looking forward to winning a championship."

Cummings and the Spurs reportedly agreed to a deal averaging \$2.3 million over the next five years. There also is an option for a sixth year.

Team owner Red McCombs in a news conference Wednesday reiterated that the Spurs do not renegotiate contracts and that Cummings' deal is an extension.

Cummings, 29, averaged 22.4 points and 8.4 rebounds last season, his first in San Antonio. He came to the Spurs after the 1988-89 season in a trade that sent Alvin Robertson and Greg Anderson to Milwaukee.

Big Eight, SWC continue merger talks

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Officials from 12 schools in the Big Eight and Southwest conferences met Wednesday to talk about issues facing the two leagues and to lay the groundwork for possible future meetings.

The closed-door meeting — the first ever between the leagues — resulted in nothing concrete, which came as no surprise to the athletic directors and conference commissioners present.

"It was a great opportunity just to exchange ideas and I think it was beneficial to all of us," said Carl James, Big Eight commissioner.

"There's not a sense of urgency," said Frank Windeger, athletic director at Texas Christian. "It was really what we thought going in — an exchange of dialogue between conferences."

Those in attendance touched on topics ranging from drug testing to the possibility of a regional television package in the future.

"Two things are the primary focuses on our minds," said Dan Gibbens of Oklahoma, chairman of the Big Eight faculty representatives.

"One is the fact there have been some shifts in other conference alliances and it's recognized that might present some additional opportunities, possibilities and concerns."

The other thing is the nature of the television — football television in particular — situation."

He added, however, that the two leagues are not moving toward an alliance or merger at this time. "We're exploring common grounds," he said.

Oklahoma athletic director Donnie Duncan said the constant talk of schools jumping conferences or thinking about jumping is "almost athletic hysteria."

"It's senseless for rational people to get into that mode, and we're not in that mode," he said.

Seven of the teams in the Big Eight were represented at the 4½-hour meeting. Five teams from the Southwest Conference were represented, although one of those without a representative was Texas. Athletic director DeLoss

Dodds was on vacation and attending his daughter's wedding, according to an assistant to Dodds in Austin.

Talk in recent weeks has centered on forming a Big Eight-SWC alliance to enlarge each conference's television markets, a move that could mean more revenues.

The Big Eight, which has only Denver, St. Louis and Kansas City as major metropolitan areas, has one of the nation's smallest TV markets. By forming an agreement with the Southwest Conference, the Big Eight could add the large Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston markets.

The SWC also is looking to stabilize after losing Arkansas to the Southeastern Conference.

"I think our concern is to make the conference stronger, both internally and from the outside," said SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby.

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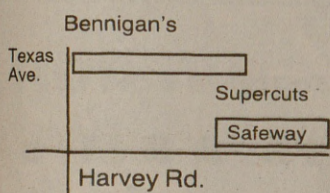
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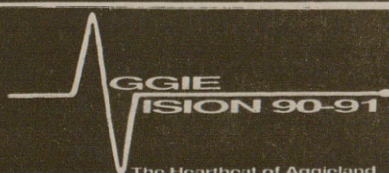
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