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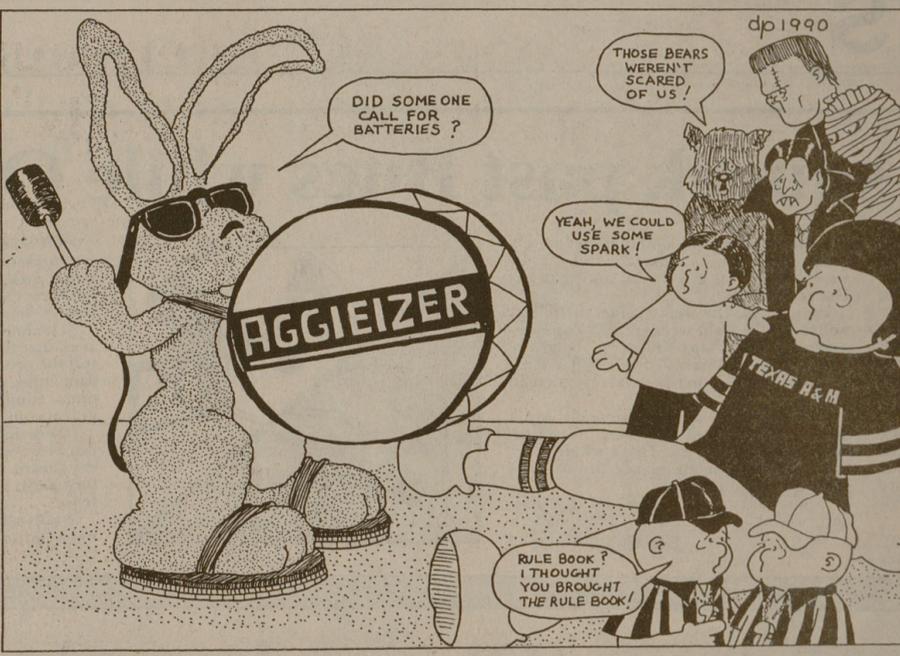
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**Lady spikers take on Bears in Waco den**

The Texas A&M volleyball team will travel away from home tonight to face their next South-west Conference opponent. The Lady Aggies will face the Baylor Bears tonight in Waco, Tex.

The Aggies are 10-13 and 13 in conference play. A&M is 1-1 on the road this season, compared to its 9-3 record at home.

Baylor is winless in five conference matches and at the bottom of the SWC standings. The bears are 4-19 overall.

The Aggies have won seven of their last 10 matches, the three losses coming against conference opponents. They almost upset two nationally ranked teams at Texas Tech and the University of Texas.

The Lady Aggies will return home Wednesday night to face Stephen F. Austin University.

**Ewing vaults Knicks over Mavs 110-99**

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing sparked New York with eight quick points at the start of a blowout third quarter Sunday night, leading the Knicks to a 110-99 victory over the Dallas Mavericks in an NBA preseason game.

Ewing, who scored only six points in 18 first-half minutes, finished with 14 points, 11 below his average in three previous exhibition games, while Gerald Wilkins led the Knicks with 16.

The Knicks, who led by seven points three times in the first half, outscored the Mavericks 30-16 in the third quarter to give them a 87-67 lead. They opened 24-point leads twice in the fourth quarter.

Ewing hit two layups, a jumper and a slam dunk in the first 4:30 of the second half but was replaced less than two minutes later and never returned.

Roy Tarpley topped the Mavericks with 25 points and Randy White added 12.

Ewing and Tarpley exchanged shoves during a brief skirmish at the end of the second quarter and were both charged with technical fouls.

The Knicks, leading 28-26 after the first quarter, fell behind 42-38 before going on a 13-4 streak that carried them to a 57-51 halftime lead.

The Knicks, who were making their debut at home, upped their preseason record to 3-1. The Mavericks dropped to 1-4.

**Spurs' Mitchell tries life without drugs**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Groping for light in a life dimmed by the haze of alcohol and cocaine, San Antonio Spurs forward Mike Mitchell cried out for help on March 11, 1987.

He hadn't fallen off the proverbial cliff, but he definitely could see the end of the road coming up quickly. The sight scared him.

"Everybody likes to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but I saw no light," Mitchell says now. "I could see myself losing everything. Not only financially, but my kids, my wife and everything I had worked for. I was broken spiritually more than anything else."

So, after trying to cope with alcohol and cocaine problems for nearly eight years, Mitchell interrupted his NBA career that spring day by checking into a rehabilitation center in California.

March 11, 1987, is a date crystallized in Mitchell's memory, marking what has turned out to be a milestone in his life.

"I took control of my life," Mitchell told the San Antonio Express-News before an informal workout with other Spurs players at Incarnate Word College. "I knew it would be a turning point. Periodically, I had been using cocaine since my third year in the league."

"I hadn't gotten to the point where I was doing what others have done when they're addicted, but I knew I had a problem with it. I didn't want to go down that road. I felt like I could handle it, but I couldn't."

Mitchell's wife, Diana, said her husband sought treatment for drug and alcohol problems after the rehab. "When Michael entered the rehab, it saved our marriage," Diana said. "I had had enough. We had gotten as low as you can get. If he knew if he continued, he would kill himself."

Mitchell's drinking problem started earlier in his NBA career when he was playing with the Cleveland Cavaliers. But it was the cocaine addiction that drained him financially and nearly wrecked his life and marriage.

"My trouble was with both of them," Mitchell said of the alcohol and cocaine. "I never was high on the floor. I never played high. I'd use (cocaine) after a game and when I had a day to recuperate."

The cocaine habit sapped Mitchell emotionally and physically, but his addiction took its biggest toll on his wallet.

"If you're not a multimillionaire, it will break you," Mitchell said. "And if you are a multimillionaire, it will kill you."

**Rusher likes OU's style**

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma fullback Mike McKinley has heard friends imitate what the Sooners' radio announcer says when McKinley is carrying the ball.

"McKinley, he's in the open," the fullback says, changing his voice just a bit. "There's one man to beat ... and he finds him!"

That may be stretching things, but not by much. At 6 feet and 230 pounds, McKinley is a bruising runner who enjoys the physical side of the game.

"If you don't enjoy being physical, playing fullback at Oklahoma, you're at the wrong position," said McKinley, who has a choirboy's face and a polite, easy manner to match.

"You better find some other interests," he said. "You better learn to enjoy it or you're not going to be successful at it."

McKinley and his playing partner, Kenyon Rasheed, have enjoyed plenty of success this year. Rasheed is the team's leading rusher with 47 yards on 75 carries. McKinley has carried 52 times for 310 yards, with his 5.9-yard average is the best among the running backs.

Coach Gary Gibbs said from the start of the season that the fullback would be a strength, and that has been the case. Both are strong physical runners, although Rasheed — a great tailback in high school — is more moves.

There have been times this year when McKinley has thought about trying to juke a defender, or perhaps split between two tacklers — just that he usually doesn't want to

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