

SWC bowl picture rounds out

Longhorns close to easy Cotton

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Texas Longhorns are just a game away, a very difficult game away, from their first Cotton Bowl in seven years.

Seventh-ranked Texas has the hard rock duty of playing the Baylor Bears in Waco.

The Longhorns have lost seven of their last eight meetings with Grant Teaff's teams in Waco, including the last three.

Texas has been on what Longhorn players call a "shock the nation" tour and it would be a mild shock for the 'Horns to handle Baylor in Floyd Casey Stadium where Texas hopes have crumbled in the past.

"We're going there with our heads on straight," said Texas linebacker Brian Jones. "It's going to be nice going to Baylor, getting the win and ordering the rings."

Baylor still retains an outside shot of playing in the Cotton Bowl.

Texas, which whipped Texas Christian 38-10 on Saturday, doesn't have a conference loss while Baylor and Texas A&M each have a loss and a tie.

If Baylor beats Texas on Saturday, then the Bears would have to depend on the Aggies doing likewise on Dec. 1 against Texas in Austin. The Aggies are out of the Cotton Bowl mix because any ties with Baylor would still send the Bears to the Cotton Bowl because they haven't been to the New Year's Day classic since 1984 and A&M last appeared in 1988.

Baylor defeated Rice 17-16 and A&M downed Arkansas 20-16 on Saturday.

The Southwest Conference winner will play the Miami Hurricanes, who have an agreement to sign with the Cotton Bowl on Nov. 24. Should Miami keep winning, the Cotton Bowl could have a national championship game on its hands.

"We've been grinning about it," said Cotton Bowl executive vice president Jim Brock. "Miami is a marquee name in college football and, don't forget, is the defending national champion. It's going to be their first Cotton Bowl and we anticipate they'll sign on Saturday."

However, Brock has taken pains not to openly root for Texas to win the SWC host spot although if the 'Horns do it could give the Cotton Bowl a blockbuster game.

"We'll be happy to have either Texas, Baylor or A&M as our host," Brock said. "All three institutions have some great fans."

Peter Gardere tied a school re-



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/The Battalion

A&M's Tony Harrison catches a pass between two Arkansas defenders in the third quarter of the Aggies' 20-16 victory over the Hogs on Saturday. The Ags are just a step away from meeting Brigham Young in the Sea World Holiday Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 29.

cord with four touchdown passes as the Longhorns stayed on course for the Cotton Bowl.

Gardere started slowly and at one point in the second period coach David McWilliams inserted backup quarterback James Saxton into the game.

"I don't know why I'm always so slow to get going, it's just something that happens," Gardere said. "I'm glad coach McWilliams stuck with me."

Gardere said he didn't mind being yanked.

"Playing as bad as I was, I thought I could use the time on the sideline to see some of the coverages and talk with (offensive) coach (Lynn) Amedee," he said. "It really did help."

Gardere added: "Coach Amedee told me it was ugly but it was a win and that's what counts. I guess I had a good day if you consider I had four touchdown passes but I don't think my overall performance was very good."

TCU coach Jim Wacker said Texas proved it deserves a higher ranking.

"I definitely think they're one of the country's top five teams," Wacker said.

In other games on Saturday, Texas Tech ripped hapless Southern Methodist 62-7 and Houston quarterback David Klingler threw an NCAA record 11 touchdown passes in an 84-21 victory over NCAA Division II foe Eastern Washington.

"This whole game was the worst this team has played since I've been here," SMU coach Forrest Gregg said. "I can't think of anything in this game that was good except it was finally over."

Baylor, still in the running for the Cotton Bowl, clinched at least an Independence Bowl berth with the victory over Rice.

If the Aggies finish second in the SWC, they will appear in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego against Western Athletic Conference champion Brigham Young. Arkansas lost its seventh consecutive SWC game as it fell to the Aggies.

In other games on Saturday, Arkansas is at SMU and TCU is at Texas A&M.

Manley reinstated by commissioner

HERNDON, Va. (AP) — NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue reinstated Dexter Manley on Monday, one year after he was banned for substance abuse. The Washington Redskins immediately placed the defensive end on waivers and three teams expressed interest in signing him.

The NFL, in a statement released from New York, said Manley must avoid drug involvement and participate in a "structured support program" to remain in the league.

The league's decision was accompanied by a statement from the Redskins saying they decided to place the nine-year pro on waivers. As the Redskins' all-time sack leader with 97, Manley was in the final year of his contract with the Redskins.

"We are pleased that the commissioner has reinstated Dexter Manley, thus giving Dexter a second chance to prove himself to his football fans. We wish him well," the Redskins' statement said.

The statement from Tagliabue's office said Manley would be eligible to begin practicing today but will not be eligible to play in a game until Dec. 9.

The teams interested in Manley are Phoenix, the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia.

"I would like to thank commissioner Tagliabue for approving my petition for reinstatement," Manley

said in statement. "I am most grateful to the commissioner for the faith, trust and confidence he has placed in me. I will make every effort never to violate that trust."

Manley's attorney, Bob Woolf, said he heard that five teams are interested in signing his client. He named the Cardinals, Rams, Los Angeles Raiders, Miami Dolphins and Denver Broncos.

The 31-year-old Manley was banned from the league a year ago for violating the league's substance abuse policy for a third time.

He tested positive for cocaine use a few days after the Redskins' 37-24 loss to the Los Angeles Raiders on Oct. 29, 1989. Shortly afterward, he confessed in an emotional news conference that he had "messed up" and used drugs.

Tagliabue made the decision after meeting with Manley and Woolf last Friday in New York and reviewing medical and drug treatment records. Some of those records were sent to the NFL as late as Monday morning.

Tagliabue's "decision on reinstatement is conditioned on several factors, including Manley's continued total avoidance of further drug involvement and the player's participation in a structured support program. Manley must be enrolled in such a program before he may play in a game on the weekend of Dec. 9," the NFL statement said.

Pirates' Bonds NL MVP

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Barry Bonds can tell his kids what his father could never tell him: that he was the National League's Most Valuable Player.

Like teammate Doug Drabek, who won the Cy Young Award last week, Bonds was one vote shy of unanimous selection on Monday, outpolling Pittsburgh Pirates' teammate

Bobby Bonilla. Bonds completed a near sweep of top NL awards by the Pirates, receiving 23 of 24 first-place votes and 331 of a possible 336 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' of America Association. Two writers in each NL city voted.

Bonilla, who teamed with Bonds to lead the Pirates to their first NL East title in 11 years, had the other first-place vote and 212 points. Darryl Strawberry, the New York Mets' slugger who recently signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers, was third with 167 points.

"I wish I could split it and give half to Bobby," Bonds said. "I wish I could share it. To me, he's just as much the MVP as I am."

In addition to Bonds and Drabek winning awards for the Pirates, Jim Leyland was voted Manager of the Year.

Bonds has been compared to his father, Bobby Bonds, since he pulled on his first uniform, but this wasn't a case of like father, like son. Bobby Bonds, the former San Francisco Giants' sidekick of Barry's godfather, Willie Mays, never won the MVP award despite enjoying a record five seasons with 30 homers and 30 stolen bases.

Motivated by his father and angered by losing his salary arbitration case last winter, Barry Bonds became the first player to bat .300, hit 30 homers, drive in 100 runs and steal 50 bases.

High school shotputter signs with Ags

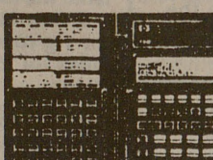
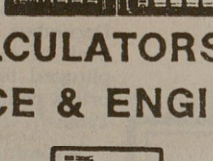
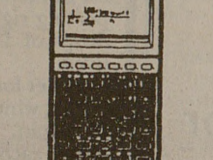
Aaron Echternacht, the No. 2 returning high school shotputter in the nation, signed a letter-of-intent with Texas A&M, Aggie head coach Ted Nelson said Monday.

The 6-3, 210-pound thrower from Titusville, N.J., is ranked fifth in the country in discus and posts personal bests of 63-6 3/4 in the shotput and 177-2 in the discus.


"Aaron has the potential to be an All-American throughout his career at A&M," said Aggie throwing coach Robert Parker. "I feel like he will be the best high school thrower in the country this spring."

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