

Networks, bad rules cheapen pro football

Pardon me, but professional football has become a game for patsies.

As we edge closer to Super Bowl weekend, we can look back and see how pathetic the real man's game has become.

Football was a game that, decades ago, was played by men who wore leather helmets and little or no padding. They grinded each other into the natural turf and then bled as they left the field.

But now the sport has turned into a mockery of flap-jackets, commercial endorsements, and numerous ifs, ands, or buts.

A bureaucracy of league officials decided to change the game in the last few years to protect the health of the players and cater to the networks and their millions of dollars of advertising revenue.

But the league officials were overlooking the very reason the game exists—the fans.

Let's look at a few of the more frivolous changes that have occurred in the last few years.

The most upsetting is the instant replay. When it was first brought into the National Football League three seasons ago, it was met with divided support.

Some believed the officials were capable of making mistakes and that the change would eliminate that degree of human error.

Wrong.

The idea had potential, but it has yet to live up to its expectations.

The device is supposed to be used to correct flagrant blunders that officials make when their mind is somewhere other than the game. It would eliminate those "oops" calls that can change a game's outcome.

Instead the instant replay has become a privileged instrument the referees have sought to abuse. At times every other play becomes subject to the replay machine.

Officials have more trouble making a decision than a 16-year-old does figuring out how to ask for a kiss on his first date. So they pass the buck to a more definitive mind upstairs, who reveals his decision.

That decision is usually inconclusive. Inconclusive? That kind of answer is incomprehensible. Why bother taking the time? It leaves fans frustrated and pondering the question: "Who's paying these guys?"

Money. The big dollars of TV contracts have considerably changed the flow of the game.

It is true that without advertising most entities in the world would not exist. Such is also the case with the NFL.

See Wudel/Page 7



Scott Wudel
Sports Writer

Palmeiro leads by example

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

Ask Rafael Palmeiro about prospects for the upcoming Texas Rangers' season and the standard answer of any ballplayer with high preseason expectations comes rolling off his tongue.

Only this year the answer doesn't call for the Rangers simply to be competitive, but for them to be a serious contender for the division crown.

For most of the Rangers' existence in the American League's Western Division, the team has year in and year out come up short in the victory column. This year, the hot-hitting Palmeiro said, the team has a legitimate title shot.

"I think definitely we'll be able to make a run at it this year," Palmeiro said. "We're going to have a healthy team this year. If we get out to a good start and everyone stays healthy, then we definitely have enough talent to win the division."

Palmeiro, the Rangers starting first baseman for the last two years, was in town Tuesday as part of the 1991 Texas Rangers Winter Caravan which also included shortstop Jeff Huxton, relief pitcher Kenny Rogers and radio announcer Eric Nadel.

Palmeiro credits the nucleus of the team being together for two years as the reason for such high expectations.

"Everybody's in the right frame of mind this time," he said. "I think everybody's going in there thinking we have a good enough team to win. Realistically, I believe we can get there, because I see teams that make to the playoffs and even to the World Series that aren't as good as we are."

"I know we're in a tough division that includes Oakland, Kansas City and the rest of the strong teams, but we're as strong as they are. The only difference is, they've been there before."

Citing the team's growth over the past couple of years and the fact that the nucleus is finally steady with outfielders Pete Incaviglia, Ruben Sierra, infielders Steve Buechele, Julio Franco, Jeff Huxton, Palmeiro and a pitching staff led by the ageless Nolan Ryan, the Rangers now find themselves with a solid base.

A similar situation to that of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who after years of struggling, won a division title in 1990 on the shoulders of home-grown talent and several key acquisitions.



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

Texas Rangers Rafael Palmeiro (left) and Kenny Rogers sign autographs for fans at Post Oak Mall. The Rangers caravan passed through town Tuesday after appearing in Austin earlier.

Palmeiro was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1964. However, it was in Miami, where Rafael and his family moved when he was six, that he started believing he could make a career out of playing baseball.

Palmeiro credits his father, José, for pushing him and making him work toward achieving that goal. From Miami, Palmeiro went to Mississippi State University, where he played on the same team with future major leaguers Will Clark of the San Francisco Giants and pitchers Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox and Jeff Brantley of the Giants. All four are Major League All-Stars.

Upon leaving MSU in 1985, where Palmeiro was a three-time All-American and the Southeastern Conference's first-ever triple crown winner, he became the first-round draft pick of the Chicago Cubs.

Palmeiro made his major league debut in September 1986 and made 29 plate appearances before New York's All-Star pitcher

Dwight Gooden was the first to make him swing and miss. In his next at-bat Palmeiro cranked a home run off of the right-handed fireballer.

Midway through the next season he was called up and became a fixture in the Cubs' outfield. In 1988 he was named to the National League All-Star team and he finished second in league hitting. Heseemed destined to be a Cubbie for a long, long time.

Then, to Palmeiro, it appeared that disaster struck and he was traded to the Rangers.

"I wasn't happy with the trade at the time," Palmeiro said. "But when I got to Texas they accepted me with open arms and they made me feel like I had been playing there for years."

It wasn't that Palmeiro was upset about becoming a Texas Ranger, he felt like he had been betrayed.

See Palmeiro/Page 7

Clemens' court hearing postponed

HOUSTON (AP) — A scheduled hearing concerning felony charges that Boston Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemens and his brother assaulted a Houston police officer was put off until next month.

Neither Clemens, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, nor his 39-year-old brother, Gary, was in the courtroom of State District Judge A.D. Azios for the probable cause hearing Tuesday. The proceeding was rescheduled until Feb. 18.

Instead, their lawyer, Mike Ramsey, requested the delay so he could interview witnesses.

Clemens and his brother were arrested for aggravated assault on a police officer during a Saturday morning disturbance at the Bayou Mama's nightclub.

They remain free on \$2,000 bond. "What I did was go in and read the offense reports and the case has not been indicted yet," Ramsey said. "If there's an indictment down on the 18th, both of them will appear. It's filed presently as a felony and that would be a matter for the grand jury."

Ramsey said he would be discussing the case with prosecutors in hopes of getting it reduced to a misdemeanor or have it dismissed.

"Regardless of whose version you believe, it is a very light-running case to be before the court," he said.

Police said the two were involved in a shouting match with other club patrons when an off-duty officer working there as a

security guard tried to break up the group and got into a wrestling match with the brothers. Roger Clemens is accused of jumping on an officer's back and choking the policeman who tried to arrest his brother.

Ramsey declined, however, to detail his clients' version of the incident.

"I don't want to start to do that yet except to say it's very, very different from what's been reported," he said. "Frankly, I want a complete investigation before we start to go public with the position the defense believes to be true."

"Traditionally, we don't talk about these things in the media before they go to court, but this is a kind of a special circumstance because Roger is a newsworthy guy."

Aggies face tough trip to Arkansas

By SCOTT WUDEL
Of The Battalion Staff

As if the Aggies didn't already have enough problems.

The Texas A&M basketball team has travel plans for Fayetteville, Arkansas. But the trip will be no vacation.

The Aggies face the second-ranked Arkansas Razorbacks in Barnhill Arena tonight at 7:00.

The Aggies (5-11) will face almost insurmountable odds as they try to upset the unwieldy Razorbacks on their home floor to pick up their first Southwest Conference win.

Arkansas (18-1, 6-0 in SWC) has won 15 straight games, the third longest streak currently in the country, and offers no consolation to a struggling Aggie team that has lost seven of its last eight.

Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson said he will approach the A&M game just like any other day at the office.

"When A&M comes in here, we're going to get after them, it's just as simple as that," Richardson said.

Richardson says he expects his team to respond after grinding them during practice.

"That's what I always tell the guys, 'if I'm going to work you this hard, somebody needs to pay for making you work like this,'" he said. "So every team that you've got to play against, you've got to make them pay."

A&M faces a host of challenges when it takes the floor tonight.

Arkansas boasts one of the most potent talent levels in the country. A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. says he is well aware of that fact.

"You've got maybe four NBA draft choices on that team, it makes them so good, they've got so many weapons," Davis said. "They score inside, they score outside, they bring guys off the bench that they don't lose anything with."

Davis said he doesn't have plans to stop any particular player.

Junior forward Todd Day leads the conference with 22.5 points per game, and is coming off a 30-point performance in UA's victory over Florida State Monday night.

Guard Lee Mayberry posts 14.6 point average, and leads the conference in steals.

What the Razorbacks don't do from the outside they make up for on the inside.

Oliver Miller fills the middle of the Arkansas lineup. The 6-9 center is leading the SWC in blocked shots per game (3.6) and field goal percentage. Miller also adds over 13 points a game.

Davis said he will also have to match the Razorbacks' depth.

"I've never seen a team in college basketball in years have 10 or 11 guys that they play, and they play effectively," he said.

The factor that may wear down the

See Aggies/Page 6

Business Career Fair '91

Women in Business Symposium
Monday Jan 28th Rudder 601

Executive Women of Dallas

- 9:00 a.m. - "Great Expectations: A Reality Check"
- A. Entry Fee For Success
 - B. Learn to Love What You Do In Order to Do What You Love
 - C. Skill and Cunning Beats Fear and Superstition Every Time
- 10:00 a.m. - "American Business: What It Means to the College Graduate"
- A. Banking
 - B. Real Estate
 - C. New Directions
- 11:30-1:00 p.m. Luncheon at the Hilton
"Male and Female Leadership: The Difference"
- 2:00 p.m. - "Great Expectations: A Reality Check"
- 3:00 p.m. - "American Business: What It Means to the College Graduate"

The Executive Women of Dallas are:

- Elaine Agather.....Executive Vice President, Texas Commerce Bank
- Pauline Graivier.....President, Verbal Communications, Inc.
- Susan Gwin.....President, The Gwin Real Estate Companies, Inc.
- Dr. Scherry Johnson.....Vice President for University Affairs at the University of Texas at Dallas
- Elizabeth Morris.....President, Insight Research Corporation
- Wanda Tomas.....President, Legal Documentation Systems, Inc.

Luncheon Tickets Available in Blocker Lobby
On sale now through January 25th For more info, call 845-1320

MSC TOWN HALL is now accepting APPLICATIONS for NEW MEMBERS

Pick one up in the Student Programs Office. Applications are due Friday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Wed., Jan. 23
7:30 p.m.
268 Read



DANCE ARTS SOCIETY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

January 30, 31, 1991 (6-10 p.m. & 6-10 pm)
February 8, 9, 1991 (6-10 p.m. & 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
STATE APPROVED DRIVING SAFETY COURSE
Register at University Plus (MSC Basement)
Call 845-1631 for more information on these or other classes

D&M EDUCATION ENTERPRISES

ON THE DOUBLE

4¢ COPIES

846-3755
113 COLLEGE MAIN

- COPYING
- TYPING
- LAMINATING

- Wed., Sat., Sun.
- Self-serve machines only

- RESUMES
- FAX SERVICE
- PASSPORT PHOTOS

TOPPINGS
PEPPERONI
CANADIAN BACON
JALAPENO
GROUND BEEF
GREEN PEPPERS
ONIONS PINEAPPLE
MUSHROOMS
BLACK OLIVES
SAUSAGE



76-GUMBY

HOURS
SUN.-WED. 11:00 AM-1:30 AM
THURS.-SAT. 11:00 AM-2:30 AM

\$1.00 OFF

14", 16", 20" pizza
on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

AGGIE SPECIAL
16" 1 item pizza with 2 sodas
\$7.06

WILD GUMBY SPECIAL
14" 1 item pizza
\$4.80

Offer may expire without notice. Prices do not include tax.
Valid only with coupon. 5-10 p.m.