

ON THE DOUBLE

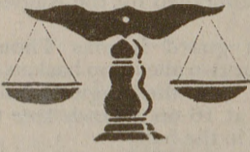
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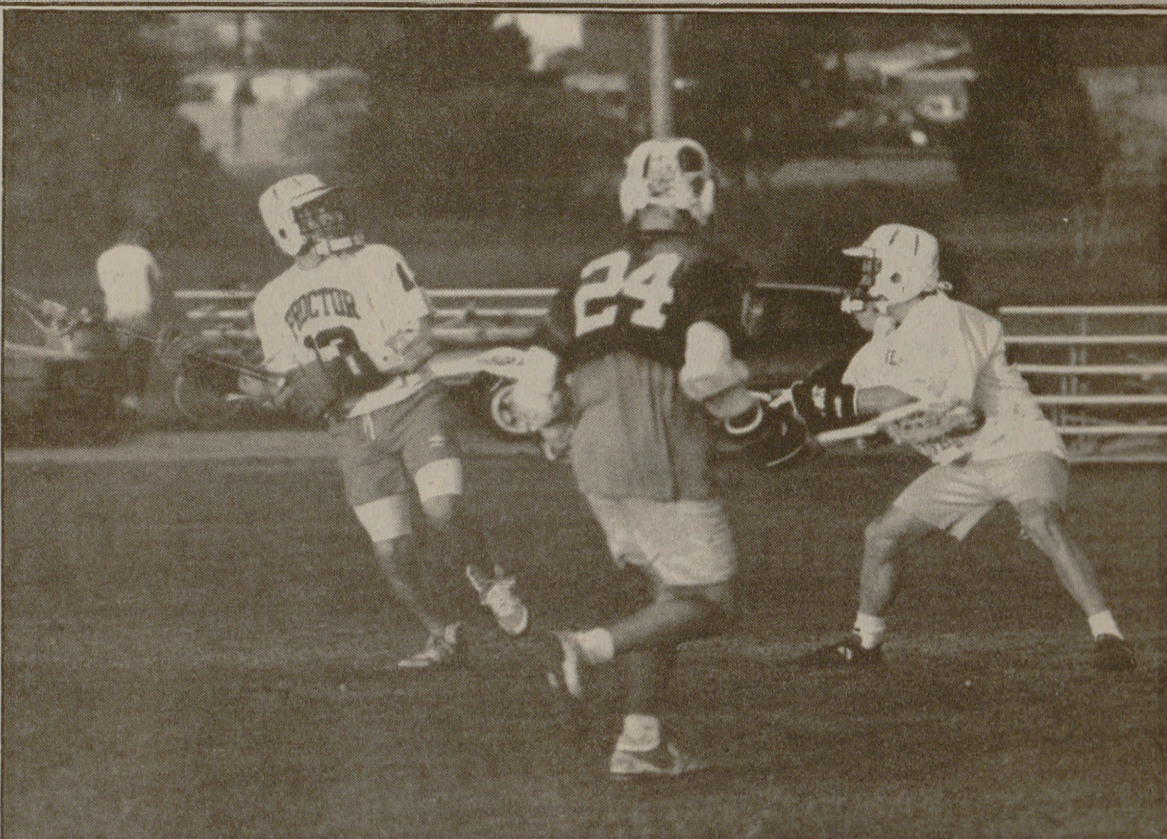
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Looking to Pass



Members of the Texas A&M Lacrosse team practice Tuesday afternoon on the Polo Field for their game in Houston Saturday. The team went undefeated last semester and is 1-0 this season.

DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Giants refrain from Super celebrations

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The New York Giants on Tuesday turned down invitations to celebrate their Super Bowl victory with the New Jersey governor and mayor of New York City, saying it wouldn't be right with war raging in the Persian Gulf.

New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio and New York City Mayor David Dinkins had invited the Giants to celebrate their 20-19 Sunday victory over the Buffalo Bills with fans on either side of the Hudson River.

"We're turning down all deals," said Giants spokesman Ed Croke. "It would be inappropriate to show celebration."

In New York, workers had already started setting up stands for a scheduled ceremony on Wednesday. Dinkins was to present the keys to the city to Giants coach Bill Parcells and owners Wellington and Tim Mara. The mayor also had planned to issue a proclamation honoring the Giants.

"I understand and respect this gesture and share their desire to support the young men and women fighting in the Persian Gulf," Dinkins said.

He said he was "disappointed that

Super Bowl ratings low War steals viewers

NEW YORK (AP) — Sunday's Super Bowl was the second-lowest rated in 17 years and the eighth-lowest ever, according to national figures released Tuesday by A.C. Nielsen Co.

The New York Giants' 20-19 victory over the Buffalo Bills on ABC got a 41.8 rating, which represents the percentage of televisions in the country tuned to the game. A rating point represents 931,000 homes.

The only lower-rated Super Bowl since 1974 was San Francisco's 55-10 victory over Denver on CBS last year (39.0).

ABC officials said they were happy with the rating, which was 7 percent above last year's game.

"We figured it would do in the 42 to 43 range," Alan Grossinger of ABC Sports research said. "It pretty much came in where we expected."

Grossinger and other television analysts said ratings for the Super Bowl have declined along with network ratings in general. They also said this year's game was lower because the two teams were from the same region.

"Considering the game was very competitive, maybe it could have done a little better," Grossinger said. "It was very regional, and that had an effect. The effect of the war, who knows what that meant?"

The Super Bowl started at 6:19 p.m. and ended at approximately 9:35 p.m. CNN's cable rating during the 5-11 p.m. time slot was a 3.1, six times higher than its rating during the 1990 Super Bowl. Approximately 1.75 million homes were watching the all-news channel during this year's game.

In addition, the Bills generally have a much lower national following than other AFC teams, such as the Los Angeles Raiders or Miami Dolphins, if merchandise sales can be used as a guide.

"The Buffalo market is the second-smallest of the NFL markets," Grossinger said. "That could have an effect. This is a fairly new team to a lot of America, even though it showed its stuff in the playoffs."

The game drew a 43.4 rating in New York, down 10 points from the Giants' 39-20 victory over Denver in the 1987 Super Bowl. The 1991 Super Bowl was down 5 points nationally from the 1987 game.

This year's Super Bowl got a higher rating in Chicago (48.1) than it did in New York.

Basketball helps those with parents in Persian Gulf

KILLEEN (AP) — The war is always on their minds.

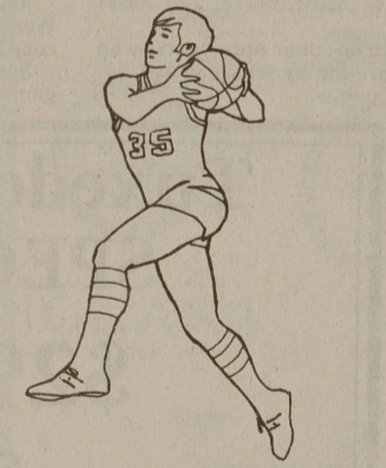
For the children of U.S. servicemen stationed in the Persian Gulf, playing basketball doesn't change that fact. Stepping on court may move the crisis from the front to the back of their minds, but the worry and the wonder don't go away.

Ellison's Gionet Cooper, a 6-foot-6-inch sophomore, says he tries to play his hardest for his dad, who has been in Saudi Arabia since October.

"I've dedicated myself to that after having a talk with my grandma," said Cooper. "I look at the news and get depressed, so I just try to play my best in basketball."

It seems to work. Cooper, who scored 10 points in a recent game against arch rival Killeen, is starting to blossom as a player, says his coach, Billy Gillispie, despite the extra pressure of having a father involved in a foreign conflict.

In fact, it doesn't seem to be adversely affecting any of the players on the local high school basketball teams. Killeen's boys and girls are



45, after having played Killeen close on two nights before.

Still, they are thinking of faraway events.

"It's hard to keep your intensity on basketball, said Marcie Atkins, the Ellison Lady Eagles' leading scorer this season. "You try to focus on basketball only but you can't help thinking about it."

Atkins' father, Ricky Mackey, is a specialist with the 2nd Armored Division in Saudi Arabia, and has been in the Middle East since the beginning of the basketball season.

"I'm more scared now, said Atkins. "I used to worry about him but at least I knew he was all right then. Now I don't know what to think."

Copperas Cove's Aaron Brown says his father has written to him with some advice that he is following.

"He told me to get an education and keep on playing, said Brown, whose father, Jesse Brown, is with the 1st Cavalry Division. "He told me to keep my head up, both for myself and for him."

"I worry about him because we're the closest of any members of my family, said Aaron.

Copperas Cove has numerous players with family involved in the war. At least one member of the Cove girls team has a relative on active duty in Saudi Arabia.

Copperas Cove's Chris Taylor remembers the phone call he got from his father, Master Sgt. Willie F. Taylor.

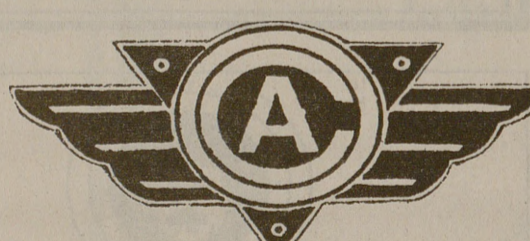
"He called me a couple of days ago and told me to carry on with life. I'll keep on playing because that's what my dad wants me to do."

Cove's Alphonso Jacobs, whose father is Staff Sgt. Alton Davis, says, "I'll try to do the best I can but sometimes it gets me down. I try to keep my mind on the game and not think about what can happen to him."

George McDowell says he tries not to think about it. "Mom has just taken over where he left off."

Jose Gonzales has a brother-in-law, Pfc. George Quiles of the 2nd Armored Division, who is stationed in Saudi Arabia.

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Adams gets nasty notes

HOUSTON (AP) — One of the state's top schoolboy football recruits says an impostor who doesn't want him to attend Texas A&M has been making bogus telephone calls to his agent, Coach R.C. Slocum.

Sam Adams, a defensive tackle at Cypress Creek High School, said Tuesday that the negative recruiting campaign also includes the University of Texas.

"A couple of weeks ago, the date was supposed to go to A&M, somebody called A&M posing as me and he called Coach Slocum at 5:30 the morning and woke him up asking him a couple of questions straight up," Adams told KRIV-TV.

"He (Slocum) called me at six o'clock if that was me and I told him 'no sir, it wasn't me.'"

Adams, 6-4, 260, had 101 tackles, 23 sacks and caused eight fumbles for Cypress Creek.

He said Monday that he has eliminated Texas, and reduced his choices to Texas A&M and Oklahoma.

"One letter I got was with a newspaper article and it highlighted the stuff with the bigotry and the prejudice at Texas A&M and Texas," Adams said.

"I'll get letters at home and at school talking about bad elements at certain schools and they won't leave any return addresses."

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