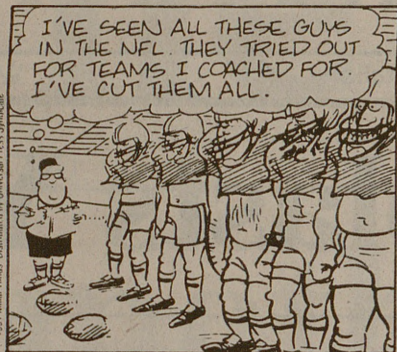


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Center

September. "We're planning on a 24-month construction period," he said. "It is a unique project to construct, and it will take some 'not unusual for this campus' construction methods."

The facility will be constructed north of Anderson Track and Field Complex on the westside of campus, in a field formerly occupied with cattle.

Fourteen consultants contributed to various aspects of the project.

The floor of the facility has a 300-pound per square foot wide-load capacity that can hold such shows as rodeos, the Ice Capades, circuses, convention exhibits, and the basketball court.

Donathen said the roof structure has been beefed up compared to what most events centers use today, designed to hold up to 100,000 pounds, 30,000 more than its predecessors.

Between the floor and the ceiling will be various levels designed to meet specific purposes.

Numerous storage areas will support what occurs on the floor.

A food service component will support banquets held in the 10 meeting rooms located in the arena.

The 14,500 seats will all be fully-upholstered armchair seats, subject to budget considerations. Donathen said the seats will be modified to prevent acoustical problems of various shows.

The arena will be designed to allow for center-stage seating (360 degrees around), side-stage for low number crowds, and end-stage seating for commencement ceremonies and concerts with crowds larger than 5000, that the Coliseum cannot hold.

Outside the complex 1500 on-site parking spaces will be located.

"Our intent is to develop a fine facility, one that's not available in this area," Donathen said. "I think the primary purpose of this project is to offer to the students and the local community the type of facility that will support University and community activities at this time."

The special events center will serve the surrounding community as well as A&M.

Art King, President of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, said the twin cities have a lot to offer now, but a complex of this size will greatly benefit the area.

"Obviously there will be events there we don't have any place in Bryan-College Station to hold at this time," King said. "Conventions and trade shows, things that will bring people here that don't come here now."

"That's not to say the sporting events the University will be holding there won't be able to attract more people because of the facility," he said. "But just from a business standpoint, outside what the University will do, I think its just going to be a tremendous boom to the area because of being able to do the things we just can't do now."

King said the Chamber will use the new arena as a selling tool to bring people to the area. He said it will increase business in local hotels, restaurants, and shopping malls.

The facility will add to the University's world-class credentials while helping the local population develop into a respected metropolitan community.

The arena will house an A&M basketball team that will thrive on respect from its big-name opponents.

The special events center will change the future of Aggieland.

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wrong call, and they have been inconsistent when using the correct judgment to make a call.

Ask A&M coach Kermit Davis, Jr. Ask Houston Cougars coach Pat Foster. Ask just about any coach in the league and they will probably remember being shortchanged by a conference referee this year.

When the Aggies hosted Houston in late January, Kermit Davis had reason to blow his top.

A&M was trailing the Cougars 65-53 with more than two minutes remaining and trying to rally. Lynn Suber was caught reaching around a Houston guard and called for a foul.

A correct call until the referee decided to count the basket off a layup that occurred eons after the original foul.

There is no continuation in college basketball, that rule is saved for the aging players of the NBA. And Davis let the referee know it.

The coach exploded across the court in frustration, threw off his sportcoat, and danced in the referee's face, just asking to get thrown out of the game.

Even the most objective sports-writer wanted to jump from his seat in disbelief at the call.

Then last Saturday, Foster became livid over a last second call in the Cougars loss to Texas Christian University.

Foster claims TCU's Allen Tolley passed an inbound pass to himself, a play which ultimately led to the Horned Frogs winning basket in the closing seconds.

Tolley looked to have bobbled the ball and then catch it himself before passing it into play. At that time the referee's decided to not to call the player for traveling.

Foster was so upset about the call, or lack of, that he has since discussed the situation with SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby.

Monday the SWC supervisor of officials reviewed the play and agreed the referees blew the call. Too late now.

Those who have witnessed their share of SWC basketball games this year have seen evidence of the growing problem.

Again, people make mistakes, and not everyone can agree on a particular incident.

But all too often the mistakes made by this conference's referees can be detrimental to a team, as in Houston's case. The Cougars are on the bubble right now, trying to draw an NCAA Tournament bid.

If the Southwest Conference expects to compete with the rest of the NCAA powers, it must find qualified officials who are capable of making smart decisions, and limiting their goofs.

Hogs crush Bears, lock up title

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Seniors Ron Huery, Arlyn Bowers and Ernie Murry, playing their final game at home, combined for 39 points as No. 3 Arkansas methodically destroyed Baylor 106-74 and moved into the Southwest Conference record book.

The victory wrapped up the Razorbacks' third straight undisputed SWC championship, the first team to turn that trick since Southern Methodist University in 1955-56-57. Arkansas will go for a perfect 16-0 in the league at Texas on Sunday.

Arkansas, which moves to the Southeastern Conference next year, topped 100 points for the 16th time this season — also a SWC record.

With 4:01 left and Arkansas leading 98-66, Razorback center Oliver Miller held up a T-shirt with SWC and See Ya! on the front and a huge red 3 with the word PEAT in black on the back.

Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson started all three seniors, even though Huery and Murry normally come off the bench.

Huery led the seniors with 19

points. Bowers had 11 and Murry 9. Todd Day also contributed 19 for Arkansas (28-2). David Wesley scored 19 for Baylor (12-13, 4-11).

Baylor led once, 2-0. It was tied once, 2-2. From there, Arkansas ran off 11 straight points — a fast-break basket by Day after a pass by Bowers, a steal off the inbound pass and a stuff by Miller, a long 3-pointer by Bowers, Huery's free throw after a technical on Baylor coach Gene Iba and a 3-pointer by Day.

A Bowers' layup raised it to 20 with more than six minutes left.

McMullen: media vicious

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros owner John McMullen, a target of media criticism for most of his 11-year ownership of the team, says recent attacks against him are vicious.

"They're all over me so viciously for something that's great for the community," McMullen said. "They (media) won't even let me leave in peace. Even Grant let Lee keep his horse."

McMullen agreed to allow the Republican National Convention to take over the Astrodome for an entire month next year without first getting approval of major league baseball.

"Can't you people (media) see that we're going to bring \$80 to \$100 million to the economy of Houston?" McMullen asked.

McMullen has the club up for sale and said he would not have a drawn out negotiation.

"I'm not going to let this drag on," he said Sunday from Kissimmee, Fla. "I'll get it done this season."

Veeck, Lazzeri elected to Hall

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Fun-loving Bill Veeck, the maverick owner who infuriated the bosses of baseball but delighted the fans, was elected to the Hall of Fame Tuesday by the veterans committee.

Also named was power-hitting second baseman Tony Lazzeri, an integral member of Murderer's Row, the New York Yankee team that dominated baseball in the 1920s and '30s.

Veeck, remembered as one of the game's greatest promoters, and Lazzeri, who played on six championship teams during the Babe Ruth era, were selected from among 30 nominees who had survived a screening process. They will be inducted next summer with Rod Carew, Ferguson Jenkins and Gaylord Perry, who were elected last month by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Veeck, who died in 1986, owned the Cleveland Indians from 1946-50, the St. Louis Browns from 1951-1953 and twice owned the Chicago White Sox, first from 1959-1961 and then again from 1975-1980.

In 1948, he brought Larry Doby to the Cleveland Indians as the first black player in the American League and the Indians won the pennant and World Series that season. In 1959, he won another pennant, this time with the White Sox.

Those were his triumphs, but he is better remembered for his gimmicks.

It was in August, 1951 with the Browns buried in last place that Veeck decided to spice up their season by sending a midget to bat. Eddie Gaedel, who stood 3 feet, 7 inches, was inserted as a pinch hitter in the second of game of doubleheader against the Detroit Tigers and warned by the owner not to swing the bat.

Gaedel followed orders and walked on four straight pitches. American League owners were outraged at the stunt and censored Veeck.

Jack Brickhouse, longtime Chicago broadcaster and a member of the Veterans Committee remembered Veeck's lighthearted approach to baseball. "His attitude was: 'Baseball's a game, let's have a little fun at it,'" he said.

Veeck's right foot was shattered by a recoiling anti aircraft gun during World War II. He underwent 30 operations and eventually his leg was amputated.

He ignored the handicap, and often sat bare-chested in the bleachers at Comiskey Park, drinking beer with the fans.

Lazzeri played for 14 years, with the Yankees, Chicago Cubs, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants, compiling a career batting average of .292 with 178 home runs and 1,191 RBIs. He drove in 100 or more runs seven times.

His best year was 1929 when he hit .354. On May 24, 1936, he set an American League record by driving in 11 runs in a single game.

Veeck and Lazzeri, who are both deceased, will be inducted into the Hall, along with Rod Carew, Ferguson Jenkins and Gaylord Perry, during ceremonies at Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 21.

Others receiving support, but not the necessary three-fourths vote of the veterans committee, were former major leaguers Wes Farrell, Nellie Fox, Joe Gordon and Vic Willis. Ex-manager Leo Durocher, Negro League star Leon Day and umpires Bill McGowan and Nestor Chylak were among the frontrunners in the other category.

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