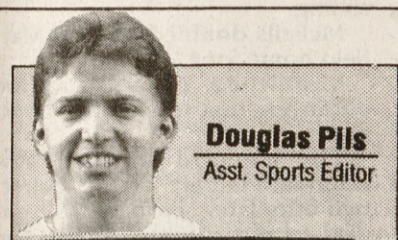


Friday, April 19, 1991

The Battalion



Douglas Pils
Asst. Sports Editor

Pokes should consider trades for Rocket

Wouldn't this sound nice? Pat Summerall: "Troy Aikman brings the Cowboys to the line in the shot-gun formation, Emmitt Smith and Alonzo Highsmith stay with him in the backfield as the Giants show blitz. Alexander Wright goes in motion as Aikman takes the snap. Blitz is coming as Aikman delivers a bomb toward the endzone. Ismail slips in behind cornerback Everson Walls and Ismail makes the diving grab!"

A 65-yard touchdown grab for the Rocket Ismail, the rookie from Notre Dame.

To steal a phrase from a broadcaster with a certain Irish accent (Keith Jackson) "Oh lordy, lordy" what a steal the Cowboys could make if they could draft Raghob Ismail.

News from Foxboro, Mass., said the New England Patriots were listening to trade talk from the Cowboys and the Atlanta Falcons for the rights to the Pats' first pick in the draft on Sunday.

The Falcons own the No. 3 and 13 picks in the draft, while Dallas will pick 11th, 12th and 14th if things remain the same.

The approach of draft day annually stirs up wild rumours and outlandish trade talk that usually is just a bunch of hype. However, this time the Cowboys should think long and hard about taking what the

See Cowboys/Page 7

Ags host Longhorns for crucial SWC series this weekend

Freshman Harlan makes most of time, role

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

Redshirt freshman Billy Harlan has learned to take things in stride.

Harlan, a part-time designated hitter for the Texas A&M baseball team, missed all of last year because of a shoulder injury.

"It was just a bad shoulder and there wasn't much I could do about it," he said. "I've never been in that kind of a position before."

"I was having to sit on the bench and there was nothing I could do about it."

This weekend, Harlan may get a chance to wipe away the memories of last year as A&M (34-17) hosts the Texas Longhorns (37-12) for a sold-out three-game series.



Billy Harlan has rebounded from an injury to hit .311 with 14 RBI this season.

Aggie freshman Jeff Granger (5-2, 3.51 ERA) will face Horn freshman Brooks Kieschnick (4-0, 2.45) Friday in the 7 p.m. opener.

Saturday, junior righthander Ronnie Allen will take on Texas junior Scott Harrison (10-0, 2.44) in the 1 p.m. contest. Starters for Saturday's 7 p.m. finale have not been determined.

Texas comes into the series on top of the Southwest Conference with a 9-3 mark and is ranked third in the nation. A&M, which swept Rice on the road last weekend, is tied for fourth with a 6-6 mark, but is unranked in the national polls.

Harlan has not looked back since the injury.

"Everything has gone great since the injury because now I'm getting a chance to play," he said.

Harlan has split the designated hitting chores with junior Brett Weinberger to provide the Aggies with nearly identical stats from the designated hitter spot.

Harlan is hitting .315 for the Aggies with three homers and 14 RBI while

Weinberger has hit .286, to go along with three home runs and 14 RBI.

It has taken some time for Harlan to adjust to not playing the field.

"If I had my choice, I'd be playing somewhere in the field," said Harlan, who is a first baseman-outfielder by trade. "My shoulder is not ready though so I'm just glad to be able to hit."

Speed is an important asset in Harlan's game.

"I'm one of the fastest guys on the team," said Harlan, who ran a 4.64 in fall practice, the best on the team. "I hope it helps out the team."

The shoulder injury, which required surgery last spring, is one of the reasons that Harlan came to A&M from Corsicana.

"It wasn't a real tough decision," he said. "Not many schools were looking at me because of my arm."

Harlan said he was impressed by the baseball team when he visited the campus in 1989.

Harlan knows the Aggies must be impressive this weekend against Texas in a crucial SWC series.

"If we could win two from them it would be great," he said. "A sweep would be the ultimate."

"Texas has to come here, which will be tough, but it won't be easy for us either."

After A&M's sweep of Rice last weekend, the Aggies vaulted into a fourth place tie with TCU in the SWC. A&M now owns a 6-6 league mark.

Harlan doesn't know what to expect from the Aggies.

"Against Rice, we put it in our minds that we had to sweep them, and we did," he said. "In our losses, it just seems like the hitting is good one day and the pitching is good another and we can't put it together."

The rest of the season seems pretty cut and dry to Harlan.

"It's pretty obvious," he said. "We just can't let anyone take two games from us."

Facing a demanding conference schedule, a series loss would be too much for the Aggies to take in stride.

A&M plays host to SWC tennis championships

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M's Omar Smith Tennis Center will play host to the Southwest Conference tennis championships this weekend.

The is slated to begin this morning at 8:30 a.m. In men's competition, top-seeded Texas Christian and No. 8 seed Baylor square off and No. 5 seed Rice takes on No. 4 seed Arkansas. In the women's tournament, top-seeded Texas Christian faces No. 8 seed Texas Tech while fifth-seeded A&M meets Southern Methodist.

In the 1 p.m. first round matches, the third-seeded Texas A&M men face sixth-seeded SMU and No. 2 seed Texas takes on No. 7 seed Tech. For the women, No. 3 seed Arkansas meets No. 6 seed Houston, while No. 2 seed Texas squares off against No. 7 seed Rice.

The Lady Aggies lost to SMU 6-3 Thursday, setting up a rematch. A&M won the first three singles matches, but couldn't follow through for a win.

A&M's first player, Cindy Churchwell came back to defeat Claire Session 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. Tami Agassi, playing second, defeated SMU's Raquel Colvin 3-

6, 6-0, 6-1. Lady Ag third player Janine Burton-Durham whipped Jennifer Brennan 6-3, 6-4.

A&M coach Bobby Kleinecke, who has seen his team slump since losing Lynn Staley — his best player — to injury, said his squad is eager for a rematch.

"We are looking forward to playing SMU tomorrow in the tournament," Kleinecke said. "It will be a brand new day with, hopefully, a new outcome."

The winners from today's early matches will play Saturday at 8:30 a.m., while the late winners play at 1 p.m. The championships will be held Sunday at 1 p.m.

Both TCU teams breezed through SWC play undefeated. It marked only the second time that any school has swept both men's and women's titles in the same season.

Last year, Texas edged TCU 5-4 for the men's crown. The Lady Longhorns whipped Arkansas 7-0 for the women's title.

Texas' Susan Gilchrist is the top-ranked woman competing, although Staley was ranked 16th in the nation before she was injured. For the men, TCU junior Luis Ruetter is ranked 6th in the nation while A&M's doubles team of Doug Brown and Steve Kennedy is ranked 24th.

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