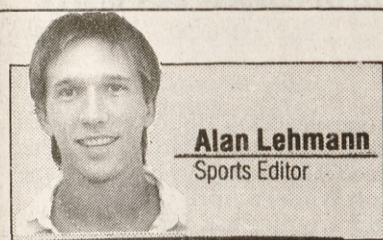


Monday, April 22, 1991

The Battalion



Alan Lehmann
Sports Editor

Pokes chose wisely, Argos didn't

Draft day is always good for a laugh. And I started chuckling Saturday when I heard that the Cowboys traded for the top draft pick. "Great, why do they need the Rocket?" I asked.

It seemed ludicrous to waste a pick on Raghbi "Rocket" Ismail, a highly-overrated receiver/kickoff returner. What the Pokes really needed was defensive help. And I laughed even harder when the Rocket blasted off for the Canadian Football League. I could just see the Toronto Argonaut fans dancing in the streets north of the border, and Jimmy Johnson crying in Dallas.

But, the Cowboys eventually wheeled-and-dealed themselves into a slew of talented picks. Johnson then used those picks to not only bolster but rebuild his defense. The Pokes even said that they intended to draft Russell Maryland — who they took with their top pick — as early as Friday.

I don't think anybody in Dallas will be crying about the draft four years from now, but they will be in Canada.

The Argonauts obviously think that they've bought themselves and their little-known league some credibility for \$18 million. But the Argos could be stuck for as much as \$26 million, if Ismail's contract stipulations are met.

Can anybody in Canada count to 20 million? If so, they didn't learn by counting fans at CFL games.

How will Toronto get the money to pay him? The CFL doesn't even have a national television contract in the U.S.

After Rocket spends a couple of years outside the spotlight of Notre Dame football, he'll be much less than a household name. In fact, after a couple of seasons in the frozen wastes of Canada his popularity will crash like a Scud missile.

Anybody remember the United States Football League? It folded after two seasons because of lousy attendance and inflated salaries.

The CFL is an established league in its market, which is almost exclusively Canada and the northern fringe states of the U.S. And it has so far remained financially stable by sticking to the \$2 million per team salary cap imposed on each CFL franchise.

But for the Argonauts to make their payroll, they're going to have to dramatically increase their revenues.

How?

Will they get a U.S. television contract now that they have the Rocket as a calling card? No.

Will more fans go to CFL games? Probably, but not that many fans. I know that I won't trek up to the "Great White North" to see Rocket play. I got more than my fill of watching him play last season when almost every Fightin' Irish game was televised.

And what will the league do if Rocket suffers an injury? It can happen to anyone. Bo Jackson is a much better athlete than Ismail and he went down with a career-threatening injury.

Will the Argonauts overuse Rocket? If I was paying him that much money, I'd expect him to be on the field every play. Heck, I'd even have him wash the car and do my windows for that kind of green.

I haven't always been a Jimmy Johnson fan, but I have to admit that he did a good job with this year's draft. Much like his deal in 1989 that sent Hershel Walker to the Vikings for defensive help, Johnson has again made the best of a difficult situation.

His choices from this year's draft will leave the Cowboys defensively sound for years to come.

Meanwhile, Rocket will misfire in the CFL, leaving Argos fans disappointed and Toronto management bankrupt.

And Ismail will laugh all the way to the bank, or banks.

Ags sweep UT, jump into tie for 1st

A&M completes climb from cellar to top

By Alan Lehmann
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team is no stranger to pressure, but it reacted strangely this weekend: by sweeping the Texas Longhorns.

The Aggies, who blew a 9-0 lead Tuesday night and lost to Sam Houston State, beat the Longhorns 4-1 Friday night and took both games Saturday 8-4 and 6-5. The sweep marked the first for the A&M over Texas since 1966 and the first time since 1972 that the Longhorns had been swept by a Southwest Conference foe.

"We didn't ever give up," said Aggie right fielder Dan Robinson. "A lot of times this season, the bloopers have fallen in for the other team, but not today."

The bloop that fell in for the Aggies Saturday night wasn't even a bloop.

In the series finale A&M trailed 5-2 going into the bottom of the eighth. The Aggies, who had given the Longhorns three runs on two errors earlier in the game, roared back.

First baseman Conrad Colby drew a leadoff walk, and was taken out for pinch runner Tim Holt. Robinson, who had misplayed a fifth-inning single into a run-scoring error, belted his third homer of the year to make the score 5-4. The mammoth shot came when Robinson turned on a Chris Cox's inside fastball and rocketed the ball high off the left field foul pole.

"I had a feeling he (Cox) would come back with a fastball," Robinson said. "This is probably the biggest homer of my career."

Travis Williams, whose two errors

early in the game did not hurt the Aggies, followed by working a walk off a 3-2 count. With the Texas infield playing the bunt, A&M shortstop Jason Marshall laid down a perfect bunt to advance Williams.

After a groundout, pinch hitter Brett Weinberger bounced a single up the middle to score Williams from second and tie the game.

| SWC Standings | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|----|------|--------|----|------|------|---|------|
| Team | Conf. | | | Season | | | Pct. | | |
| | W | L | Pct. | W | L | Pct. | W | L | Pct. |
| Texas A&M | 9 | 6 | .600 | 37 | 17 | .684 | | | |
| Texas | 9 | 6 | .600 | 37 | 15 | .712 | | | |
| Baylor | 8 | 7 | .533 | 35 | 12 | .745 | | | |
| TCU | 8 | 7 | .533 | 30 | 18 | .625 | | | |
| Houston | 8 | 7 | .533 | 32 | 14 | .696 | | | |
| Arkansas | 9 | 9 | .500 | 34 | 17 | .667 | | | |
| Texas Tech | 9 | 9 | .500 | 40 | 15 | .727 | | | |
| Rice | 8 | 15 | .286 | 16 | 34 | .320 | | | |

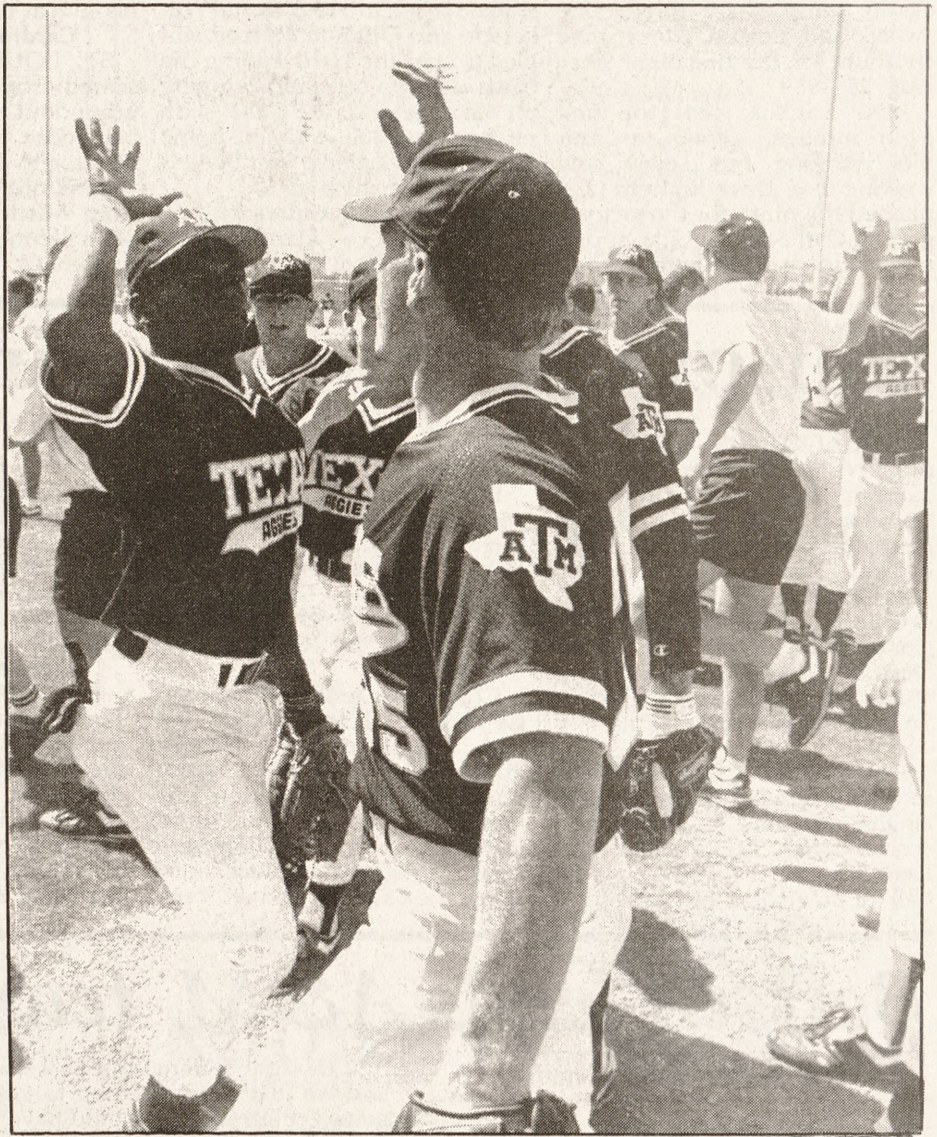
Designated hitter Billy Harlan then ripped a double into left field off the glove of Texas outfielder Calvin Murray.

Aggie reliever Trey Witte survived a pair of two-out singles in the ninth to pick up the win. Witte (4-0) struck out Texas' Charles Abernathy with a called third strike to end the game.

A&M's Brian Harrison started the nightcap against Texas' Scott Harrison. Each pitcher went 4 1-3 innings before giving way to relief help.

The Aggies had a fresh bullpen thanks to complete-game victories Fri

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A&M outfielder Tim Holt congratulates pitcher Ronnie Allen with a high five after Allen turned in a complete-game victory over Texas Saturday afternoon. The Aggies came back for another win in the nightcap, and swept the Longhorns for the first time since 1966.

A&M netters fall short in SWC title bid

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's tennis team fell short of winning the Southwest Conference Tennis Championship this weekend.

Texas Christian University, the SWC top-seeded tournament team, defeated the Aggies 5-2 Sunday at Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The third-seeded Aggies reached the tournament championship after upsetting second-seeded University of Texas, 5-0, Saturday.

The fifth-seeded A&M women's team lost to Southern Methodist University Friday, in the first round of their tournament.

The Lady Longhorns won the SWC championship Sunday, beating TCU 6-1.

A&M men's Coach David Kent was proud of his team's performance despite losing in the final.

"We've had a good year and I have no regrets about the season," Kent said. "TCU just has a great team and they outplayed us."

"I have no excuses, they were just better than us."

Steve Kennedy and Scott Phillips grabbed the two wins for the Aggies during the championship match.

Kennedy, a senior, defeated his opponent 6-3, 6-3, and might have played his last match for A&M if he doesn't qualify for the NCAA tournament.

"That's the best match I played this season," Kennedy said. "That's the last singles match competitively that I'm ever going to play in my life, and I'm happy to end it this way."

The A&M men's team defeated SMU in the first round of the tournament Friday.

Saturday's results:
A&M 5, Texas 0

- Singles:
1. Matt Zisette, A&M, defeated Mitch Michulka, Texas, 6-4, 6-3
 2. Mark Weaver, A&M, d. Hubert Karrasch, Texas, 6-3, 6-4
 3. Clayton Johnson, A&M, d. Scott Stewart, Texas, 6-2, 6-1
 4. Doug Brown, A&M, d. Richard El-

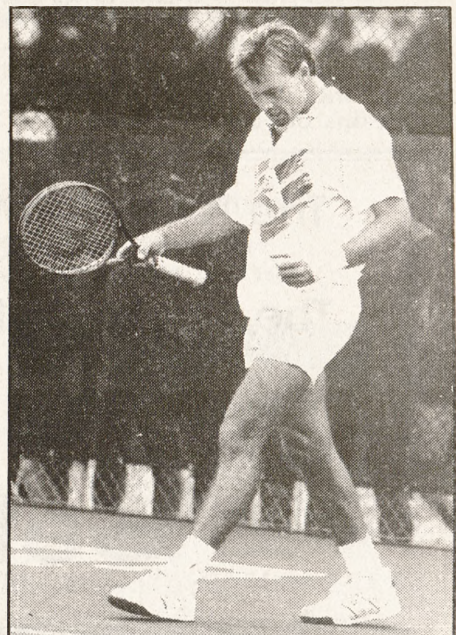
man, Texas, 6-3, 6-1
5. Scott Phillips, A&M, d. Andy Mathis, Texas, 6-2, 7-5

Doubles:
Suspended because match was clinched

Sunday's results:
TCU 5, A&M 2
Singles:

1. Luis Ruetter, TCU, d. Zisette, A&M, 6-0, 6-1
2. Tony Bujan, TCU d. Weaver, A&M, 6-3, 6-4
3. Mark Tjia, TCU d. Johnson, A&M, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3
4. Ricardo Rubio, TCU, d. Brown, A&M, 7-5, 6-4
5. Phillips, A&M, d. Gerard Ronan, TCU, 6-3, 6-3
6. Kennedy, A&M, defeated Devin Bowen, TCU, 6-3, 6-3

Doubles:
1. Suspended, match was clinched
2. Rubio-Jeff Giese, TCU d. Blake Barsalou-Zisette, A&M 7-6, 6-1
3. Suspended, match was clinched



A&M's Clayton Johnson vents a little frustration after being overruled by a judge Sunday.

Cowboys wheel and deal successful draft

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys made University of Miami defensive tackle Russell Maryland the first pick in the NFL draft, saying he — not Raghbi "Rocket" Ismail — was their No. 1 choice all along.



Miami's Russell Maryland was drafted No. 1.

The 6-1, 275-pound Maryland rejoined his college coach, Jimmy Johnson, on Sunday following a trade the Cowboys say they made 48 hours earlier with him in mind.

"We 100 percent traded up to get Russell Maryland," Johnson said. "We had every intention of doing what we had to get Russell."

The Cowboys traded their No. 11 pick, a second round pick, and undisclosed veteran players to New England for the first pick — which many assumed would be Ismail, the Notre Dame wide receiver-kick returner.

"We made good faith negotiations with the Rocket but his numbers were totally out of our range," said Dallas owner Jerry Jones. "We found out pretty quick he was headed for Canada."

Ismail signed with Toronto of the Canadian Football League early Sun-

day in a deal that could pay him more than \$26 million for a four-year period.

Johnson said he was afraid of losing Maryland, whom he recruited out of high school and signed for the Hurricanes.

"I was afraid we might lose him and I heard teams were trying to move to the second spot to take him," Johnson said. "If I had a chance in 100 to lose him, I didn't want to risk it. I didn't want to be feeling sick on Sunday night. We needed to bolster our run defense and we did."

Jones said an agreement had been reached with Maryland and agent Leigh Steinberg which was over a \$1 million per year for five years plus signing bonus.

Jones also said an agreement has been reached with Tennessee wide receiver Alvin Harper, who was taken with the 12th pick in the first round.

"We'll have both contracts signed Sunday night," Jones said.

Harper caught the Cowboys' eye when he was the most valuable player in the Senior Bowl.

"He's got tremendous leaping ability, good speed and good hands," said Dallas offensive coordinator Norval Turner.

"When the Rocket left for Canada I knew I had a good chance to go to the Cowboys," Harper said. "It's great. I like coach Johnson's style."

The Cowboys knew they were going to take Maryland on Friday night even though they negotiated with Ismail's advisers on Saturday just to see what it would cost them.

"We asked for and received an offer but we could see Ismail was off to Canada," Jones said.

"We knew two days ago Russell was our pick," Johnson said.

Maryland, the Outland Trophy winner and Associated Press All-American, said he was "flabbergasted and overwhelmed" to be the No. 1 pick. "It's going to be great being reunited with coach Johnson," Maryland said. "Coach Johnson took a chance on me coming out of high school when he signed me. Now, I believe I can be successful in professional football with my work ethic."

Maryland said his short stature didn't mean a thing.

"A lot of 6-4 guys are lazy and don't want to work," Maryland said. "What's a few more inches? I rather have a hard working 5-10 guy than a 6-4 guy who slacks off."

Dave Wannstedt, the Cowboys defensive coordinator, said Dallas desperately needed run defense help. "In our division (NFC) East if you can't play run defense you have no chance," Wannstedt said.

Oilers pick up defense

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers, who traded away their first round selection for second-round depth, made Indiana free safety Mike Dumas the first pick of the second round in Sunday's NFL draft.

They followed up by taking Arizona defensive back Darryll Lewis with their second pick in the second round.

They also had the 17th pick in the second round and two more selections in the third round.

The New York Jets did not have a first round pick in Sunday's draft, leaving only 27 first round selections and making Dumas the 28th pick, normally a first round choice.

Will Dumas negotiate as a first rounder?

"I haven't thought about that, but thanks for the information," Dumas said.

Dumas was more concerned about just getting drafted.

"When the first round ended, the anxiety started to build up," Dumas said. "Then I got that telephone call and the tension eased a little bit."

Dumas, 5-10, 178, finished second on the team with 102 tackles last season.