

Sports

Monday, February 17, 1992

The Battalion

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CHRIS WHITLEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Let Japanese buy Mariners

The hot topic of major league baseball this offseason involves the Seattle Mariners. There's a first time for everything.

However, this is no ordinary news. The events that could take place in Seattle could bring about repercussions that would shake the national pastime out of its state of complacency.

Mariners' owner Jeff Smulyan has until March to take care of a \$39 million loan and, therefore, has put his asset on the trading block.

One set of buyers came forward, but they wanted to move the Mariners to St. Petersburg, Fla. Smulyan said no. I can't say that I blame him. Spring training would be awfully anti-climactic.

The leading candidate to buy the club is a consortium of Seattle-based buyers led by Hiroshi Yamauchi, who owns Nintendo. Anyone who has paid a hundred-some-odd dollars for their little contraption knows very well about the Nintendo empire.

Yamauchi has made a fortune selling video games that will play anything from Pong to Pac-Man. He has mentioned that his son-in-law, who has resided in Seattle for 15 years, will be the general partner.

Yet, there are some people in the baseball community who are hedging at the thought of the Japanese owning a major league baseball franchise. After all, Japan is not exactly No. 1 on America's ally list right now.

Politicians claim that Japan has unfair trade practices. Lee Iacocca fumes at the thought that people are looking past Chryslers to buy Hondas. Even the prime minister of Japan said that the American work ethic, well, needs work.

Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent, who sees the potential for disaster in both directions, said only that it will be difficult for the proposal to gain acceptance. Three-fourths of the owners must approve any change of ownership for a franchise.

Debate has swirled on "Should they?" or "Shouldn't they?" all around the sport's higher circles. But as a member of the lower circle of baseball, I say bring them and their money.

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No two in a row for A&M

Texas avenges earlier loss to Lady Aggies, 71-52

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

Two different women's basketball teams on two different paths were showcased at G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night.

The University of Texas beat Texas A&M, 71-52, for their eighth straight victory, while the Aggies suffered their fifth loss in six games. The Lady Aggies fell to 5-5 in Southwest Conference action and 13-10 overall. The Longhorns improved to 7-3 and 15-7.

But more than three weeks ago, it was a different story.

On Jan. 20 in Austin, the Aggies beat Texas, 74-73, for the first time in 14 years with a last-second basket by senior Dena Russo and were off to their best SWC start ever at 4-0.

The Longhorns left no room for last second heroics Saturday night.

By halftime, Texas had built a 36-27 lead, and with 7:30 left in the game they were beating the Aggies by 19 points.

It didn't take long for A&M head coach Lynn Hickey to sum up her team's problems.

"No offense," she said. "Our halfcourt defense was pretty good, but you have to go down to the other end of the floor and put it in the basket. We forced a number of turnovers, but we gave too many up."

Freshman forward Twylana Harrison led the Aggies with 13 points, and Russo put in 12 points and nine rebounds. Texas forward Fey Meeks led all scorers with 18 points.

The Aggies shot 32 percent from the field for the game, while the Longhorns converted on 50 percent of their shots.

Hickey said the game would have been closer if the Aggies had shot better.

"If you move that shooting up to 50 percent, then we have a chance to win," Hickey said. "When you're having a poor

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KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Lady Aggie Dena Russo fights for a shot Saturday in A&M's 71-52 loss to the University of Texas. The Aggies have lost five out of their last six SWC games.

A&M runs fourth; Williams breaks record

From Staff and Wire Reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Gregory Williams' meet record was the high note for Texas A&M as the men's and women's teams placed fourth in the Southwest Conference indoor track and field championships on Saturday.

Williams was timed at 7.23 seconds in the finals of the 55-meter high hurdles after breaking Richard Buckner's 1989 mark of 7.31 in the semifinals with 7.27. Teammates Nic Pollard and Ricky Barker gave the Aggies a 1-2-3 finish in the event.

"We wanted to be one of the best hurdle crews in the nation," said Williams, who ran a 7.18 last week at the Oklahoma Track Classic.

Meanwhile, the loss of eight-time defending SWC champion

and defending national champion Arkansas propelled the University of Texas to the indoor team title.

"I guess we're the team to shoot at now," Texas coach Stan Huntsman said after the Longhorns took advantage of Arkansas' departure to the Southeastern Conference and won their first indoor crown since 1975.

"We've got a good recruiting advantage now. We're solid and we have good depth in almost every event. I'd like to think of this as the start of something."

The Longhorns, who amassed 140 points and a 52-point margin over runner-up Rice Saturday, followed Arkansas' script by dominating early. After winning all three of Friday's finals at Will Rogers Coliseum, they got 26 more points in the pole vault when Scooter Hesselstine led a 1-2-3-5 Longhorns finish by clearing 17 feet, three-quarters inch.

Aggies drop two games in Arizona

From Staff and Wire Reports

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — John Tejcek lined the first pitch in the bottom of the tenth inning for a home run to give Arizona a 6-5 win over Texas A&M here Sunday.

Arizona (9-5) broke a scoreless tie with three runs in the fourth. Billy Owens' hit a two-run triple and then scored on a wild pitch.

The Wildcats added another run in the seventh on a Jason Bates RBI single.

Texas A&M (4-4) scored an unearned run in the eighth.

The Aggies grabbed a 5-4 lead in the top of the ninth on Conrad Colby's two-run homer, an unearned run and an Eric Gonzalez RBI single.

Arizona tied the game in their half of the ninth on a Robbie Moen RBI single.

Arizona reliever Rob Ippolito picked up his first win of the season while the Aggies' James Nix took the loss in relief of sophomore Jeff Granger.

Saturday, A&M matched its season high of 15 hits and used strong relief pitching to outlast Arizona 11-8.

The Wildcats got off to the fast start in the game.

Arizona scored three runs in the first inning off A&M freshman pitcher Chris Clemons.

But the Aggies erupted in the third inning for six runs, off singles by Brian Thomas and Mike Hickey, Trey Moore, Travis Williams, and Gonzalez. A&M catcher Rob Trimble added a two-run triple in the inning.

Clemons left the game in the fourth inning and was relieved by Brian Harrison. Harrison pitched 5 2/3 innings and recorded the win for the Aggies.

Friday, the Aggies were thumped in the first game of the series, 12-4.

The Wildcats scored in five consecutive innings to take control of the game.

Arizona pitcher Mike Schiefelbein allowed six hits in seven innings, striking out nine batters. The Aggies were 1-for-14 with runners in scoring position.

Moore, 0-1, took the loss in the opener.



Colby

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