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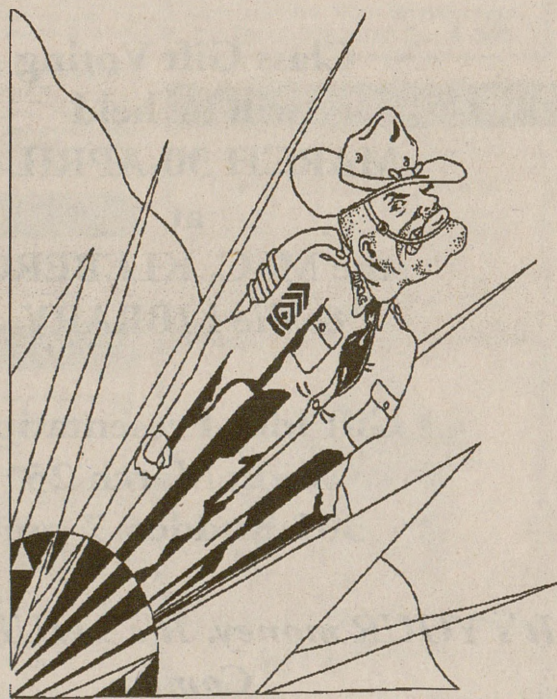
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Table with 4 columns: Ticket Type, Adult, A&M Student/Staff, Children (6-12)

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Mavericks, Rockets struggle in the Northwest

Dallas loses 22nd consecutive road game to playoff-bound Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Terry Porter scored 19 points, nine of them during a 16-6 run in the third quarter, as the Portland Trail Blazers clinched a playoff berth and handed the Dallas Mavericks their 14th consecutive defeat and 22nd straight road loss, 109-83 Tuesday night.

The Trail Blazers' reserves outscored the Mavericks' bench players 50-23 while Portland's leading scorer, Clyde Drexler, finished with just 10 points, 15 under his average, on 5-for-14 shooting. Doug Smith scored 15 points and Rolando Blackman 14 for Dallas, now 5-29 on the road this season and winless away from home since Dec. 23.

Leading 48-32 at halftime, Portland extended the margin to 55-36 before Blackman scored five points during a 9-2 run that closed the Mavericks to 57-45 with 6:24 left in the third quarter.

Portland responded with the 16-6 spurt for a 73-51 advantage with 2:09 remaining in the period.

The Blazers finished the quarter with Danny Ainge and Mark Bryant hitting from the outside, giving the Trail Blazers their largest lead, 79-55.

Leading 26-19 at the end of the first quarter, Portland built its lead to 33-21 by starting the second quarter with a 7-2 run.

Portland's reserves were instrumental in building the lead as backup guard Robert Pack, who finished with 16 points, scored seven points in the second period.

"We came out and did what

we had to do - both starters and the bench - especially in the third and fourth quarters," Portland coach Rick Adelman said.

Blazers center Kevin Duckworth was 6-for-9 from the field and finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

"Duckworth rebounded very well, ran the floor and played a good all-around game," Adelman said. "When we run the floor and pass the ball, everybody has an opportunity to score."

Playing without Derek Harper, Fat Lever and Terry Davis, who sat out with lower back spasms, the Mavericks couldn't match Portland's offensive barrage.

"Our cold shooting killed us," Mavericks head coach Richie Adubato said. "Their defense is good. You have to shoot it quick against them and you have to move the ball."

Portland's pressure was too much, especially in the second half. The Blazers had 13 steals, three from Ainge, and had 22 second-chance points.

"We have to rely on perimeter shooting and they really exploit us on that," Adubato said. "Pack, Ainge and Bryant combined for 16 of 23. That meant that even when we did get to within 12 points, they got it back to a comfortable margin in a hurry."

Pack was 7-for-9 from the field. "We kept the ball moving well," the rookie guard said. "We wanted to play aggressively and not let Dallas come out in the second half and get into the game."

Hakeem-less Houston falls to Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) - Derrick McKey scored 23 points and Shawn Kemp led a 21-9 third-quarter spurt with seven points Tuesday night as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Houston Rockets 128-106.

The Sonics led 73-63 midway through the third period, then turned the game into a rout with a 94-72 lead after three quarters.

The Rockets played without center Hakeem Olajuwon, who was suspended indefinitely by the team on Monday. Though cleared to play by team doctors last Friday, Olajuwon has refused to play games against Sacramento and Seattle, complaining of a sore hamstring.

Ricky Pierce scored 20 points for the Sonics, while Kemp had 19 points and 11 rebounds. Vernon Maxwell led Houston with 19 points.

The Rockets, who fell to

eightth place in the Western Conference, lost their third straight game.

Without Olajuwon, the Rockets were dominated inside by the Sonics, who beat Houston for the third time in four meetings. Michael Cage joined Kemp with 11 rebounds for Seattle.

The Rockets, 2-8 without Olajuwon this season, were unable to overcome the loss of the center, who is among the league leaders in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots.

The Sonics, sixth in the conference playoff race, went to games above .500 for the first time this season. They also won their fifth game in seven outings.

The Sonics outscored the Rockets 33-20 in the third period. Kemp had 11 points, Pierce and Gary Payton each in the quarter. Payton finished with 18 points.

Baseball to OK Mariners sale

SEATTLE (AP) - Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent and the head of baseball's ownership committee plan to support a Japanese-backed bid to buy the Mariners, a Seattle newspaper reported Tuesday.

Two sources who asked not to be identified said Vincent and Fred Kuhlmann, president of the St. Louis Cardinals and chairman of the ownership committee, told the Seattle-based buyer's group they would endorse the sale, the

Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported.

Approval of the transaction will require the support of the 14 American League owners and seven of the 12 National League owners.

Vincent and Kuhlmann said the Baseball Club of Seattle Friday that they would support the offer by Hiroshi Yamamoto, president of Kyoto-based Nippon Do Co. Ltd., and by West Washington business leaders, sources said.

Aggie bats ignite against Bearkats

Continued from Page 7

with his first homer of the year to give the Aggies a 1-0 lead.

A&M added two more runs in the second on Harris's triple that scored Eric Gonzalez and a passed ball that scored Harris.

In the fourth inning, Brian Thomas walked, stole second base and scored on Harris's double to give the Aggies a 4-0 lead.

A&M blew the game open in the bottom of the fifth inning. Jay Estes started off with a single, and Conrad Colby walked to put men on first and second. After a sacrifice, a passed ball allowed Estes to

score. Keller then singled to score Colby and give Keller two RBIs on the night.

Third baseman Paul Barber singled, and Gonzalez followed that with a ground rule double to score Keller. A Bearkat error scored Gonzalez and Barker and gave the Aggies a 9-0 lead.

The homer by Harris capped off the Aggie scoring and gave A&M a 12-0 victory.

While the Aggie bats ripped twelve hits, the A&M pitching staff limited the Bearkats to four.

Freshman pitcher Chris Clemons, whose record improved to 4-1, picked up the win after going five innings, giving up

three hits and striking out four.

Jay Hogue, Jason Hutchins and Brian Barker finished up the shutout for the Aggies. The trio combined to strike out five and give up one hit.

Johnson praised his pitchers' performances.

"Our guys came in and believed they could throw the pitches," he said. "I think all our guys pitched pretty well."

The win improved the Aggies record to 21-10, while the Bearkats fell to 12-19.

A&M faces Texas Christian University this weekend in Fort Worth in a three-game Southwest Conference series.

Barone keeps commitment stays at A&M

Continued from Page 7

what it takes to get a team moving in the direction of the Top 25.

"I think we can do it better A&M than at either of those places. So why would I leave A&M?"

Barone said his decision to stay or go was not a matter of personal losses, or of generous contracts or adequate facilities.

"I've made the decision to stay at A&M was a great place for me and my family," Barone said. "It doesn't mean that if someone else offers you to talk to them about that, that you don't have a discussion with them, which I did."

"The discussion ended quickly as it started because I didn't have the things in place you need to have a Top 25 program."

Barone took the pledge in April to upgrade an A&M baseball program that was in disrepair because of an old facility and revolving door of coaches. Barone, who is less than two weeks away from his first anniversary in Aggieland, said he is on the long haul to put the Aggies on the basketball map.

"You have to have the commitment and a plan that is going to be instituted over an extended period of time," he said. "I want to see that plan. It isn't a short-term plan."

Andro

Continued from Page 7

undermined the authority of the officials. In the good ol' days if they had a dispute about a play, the officials gathered around and made a decision. But lately, they send it to the booth to see who was right.

And the replay booth wasn't always right, either.

Fans could watch a play time after time on television and clearly see what would happen. Color commentators would say, "There's no doubt they're going to reverse that call." And about the same time, the head referee

would announce, "After further review, the play stands."

There were a number of cases like that, and if you're a real football fan, you would see that most of the time the plays went against the Dallas Cowboys.

So instant replay is gone and everyone should rejoice. Fans and their less-concerned loved ones should be happy. Sunday afternoons won't be spent on the couch any more. Instead of laying around from noon to 6 p.m., football fans probably will be finding their way off the couch by around 5:30 p.m. because of this rule change.

And the people who aren't

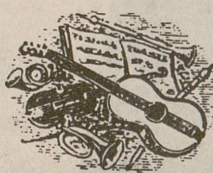
watching the game should benefit from this decision. With that extra half hour, that studying that needed to get done or that house that needed to be cleaned will actually get done.

And why? Because NFL owners finally woke up.

Maybe there is an occasional play that the replay might have been able to help. But in its six-year existence, the replay took credibility from the officials and left the key decisions in the hands of someone not even on the field.

So, thanks to 17 of the 28 NFL owners, we don't have to worry about instant replay any more. Thank you fellas.

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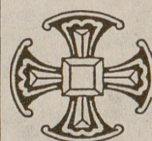
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