

Canseco could bring Rangers wins and fans

The Texas Rangers were picked by many so-called experts to compete for a division title this season the same way they were supposed to win one in 1986.

K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Writer

On the road to nowhere, the Rangers traded away three members of those purported title teams to the Oakland Athletics for erstwhile slugger Jose Canseco.

Oh yeah, your Rangers threw in some cash to boot.

Ruben Sierra, Bobby Witt and Jeff Russell became trade fodder on the eve of the trading deadline for many reasons, none of which included playing a memorable game in September.

What the luckless Arlington franchise received in return was a winner.

Canseco will bring his huge bat, hard play and domestic squabbles with his wife on the road to the Metroplex and impress everyone but A's General Manager Sandy Alderson who let the greatest player of this generation walk out the door of Oakland Coliseum.

Rangers' GM Tom Grieve may have saved his franchise and his job by pulling the trigger on the biggest trade in recent memory.

Grieve and his buddies from an ownership group headed by George W. Bush, known better as the President's son, solved the biggest problem they had: How to put the ticketholders' butts in seats.

On a team that depends on the ever-diminishing returns of Nolan Ryan for September excitement, Canseco is a God-send.

All those bleacher rowdies that jeered Canseco last month will greet him as the hometown hero next Monday when he returns as a Ranger after the current road trip.

But Canseco's impact will be felt long after the close of this dying season.

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Aggies working hard to end Louisiana jinx

By CHRIS WHITLEY

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M linebacker Marcus Buckley is on the road to good health, and the offense is getting a thorough once-over in practice.

So, head coach R.C. Slocum should seem optimistic about his next battle against Louisiana State on Saturday. Au contraire.

Slocum said Tuesday at his weekly press luncheon that winning the Aggies' first game in Baton Rouge since 1975 will be a challenge.

"It'll be tough," Slocum said. "This is their opening ball game, and they're opening at home. They've watched us play, and we're a ranked team. All those things are pretty easy to use in trying to get a team motivated to play."

"So we know that we're going to get their best shot."

Buckley has continued to improve after his mysterious ankle ailment that caused him to miss a week of practice before last week's Disneyland Pigskin Classic against Stanford. He recovered in time to play and even made a fumble recovery after sacking Cardinal quarterback Steve Stenstrom.

He said that he should be more effective this Saturday after having been through a week of practice beforehand.

"I just feel more comfortable when I'm prepared," Buckley said. "Right now, it's just a matter of taking care. I'm taking it

day by day trying to be able to get back into the scheme of things."

This is good news for Slocum, who had reason to be dismayed after his team's poor offensive showing against Stanford, despite winning the game in the final quarter, 10-7.

The team practiced Monday, for nearly three hours, and Tuesday on A&M's grass practice field trying to correct the problems of last week before Saturday.

"We have got to get some of the rough edges smoothed out of our offense," Slocum said. "We've got to run the ball better, and we've got to be able to throw and catch better."

Slocum confirmed that the quarterback position is "still a big question mark." Starter Jeff Granger was taken out in the third quarter and substituted with Corey Pullig, and later Matt Miller.

Although Granger moved the offense when it counted in the stretch, Slocum believes with more experience in game situations, Granger will make fewer mistakes like the ones he made in California.

"This is a young kid who has not played football," he said about Granger, who spent last spring on the baseball team, instead of spring football practice. "A redshirt sophomore quarterback would be a young quarterback, but he's even younger than that because of what he's been doing with the time that he's not in football."

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ROBERT REED/The Battalion

Texas A&M tailback Rodney Thomas breaks through the Stanford line in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic last week, which the Aggies won, 10-7.

Lady Aggies take season opener against Sam Houston in four games

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies traveled to Johnson Coliseum in Huntsville last night winning their volleyball match against rival Sam Houston State, 15-12, 15-4, 12-15, 15-4.

A throng of 1,151 onlookers watched as Sheila Morgan and Liz Edmiston charted 15 kills apiece to pace the Lady Aggies

to victory in the season opener for both squads.

Morgan, a junior outside attacker from Houston's Cy Creek High School added six digs and two solo blocks as Edmiston added 15 digs to two assisted blocks.

Genny Wood, a junior setter from San Antonio led the Lady Aggies in assists with 38 while charting 19 digs and three serving aces. Wood added six kills in 16

attempts to help the cause.

The Lady Aggies were only three points away from a three-game sweep of the LadyKats when Sarah Womble guided Sam Houston on a 10-point rally to take the third game after the Lady Aggies had led 12-5.

Womble had 16 kills in 56 attempts and added 23 digs and three aces in an effort to stem the Aggie tide.

While the Lady Aggies had more errors than the LadyKats, 23 to 11, A&M hammered out 63 kills to Sam Houston's 46.

Those numbers added to a 10 to 6 Lady Aggie advantage in solo blocks combined to give A&M a decisive victory before playing in the University of Texas-Arlington Invitational this coming weekend.

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