

Norwood

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ever-humble Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the Oilers and Saints turned the Heimlich maneuver into an exercise in futility, that week turned out to be the longest one of my life. In fact, I still wonder if it's completely over.

I had little hope of improvement with the new basketball season. But even though the Aggies finished with another losing record, the improvement of the team made this season pass by at light speed compared to last year.

Now that the local college season is over, we get to experience three radically different situations. For those of us partial to the Rockets, the past two months have been a giddy blur. In Dallas, hours have been more like eons for the Mavericks' faithful. San Antonio's season has been a combination of both

extremes.

March is the best and worst month for me. I delight in the yearly overdose on NCAA Tournament games, even if three of the teams I picked to make the Final Four this year have already been eliminated. But spring training seems to last longer than the Energizer rabbit, and for each step closer to opening day it seems to get farther away.

There is a new twist now, though. With opening day straggling in, it's amazing to think that A&M's baseball season is already half over. If you're wondering where the first half of the season went like I am, the answer is probably in the Aggies' 25-3 record and place among the top five teams in the nation.

As far as problems go, this is not a major one. I could be basing my sense of time on the state legislature's ability to pass an education funding bill. Or basing it on the anticipation of graduation, which seems like it's a lifetime away. And there's al-

ways the issue of wondering how many playings of Tibetan monk chants it will take to roust David Koresh out of his Waco love nest.

Maybe it's just time to wake up and smell the Gatorade. The way the seasons ebb and flow, everything will even out in the end.

If all indications are correct, this summer will last a millisecond for Astros and Rangers fans. Next fall should seem like another short one for all the joyriders on the Cowboys bandwagon, and for their true fans as well, while the following postseason will probably be a long, Columbia blue one for the rest of us. And if the NCAA uses some good judgment in their investigation of Warren Gilbert, we'll once again wonder where all the time went in Kyle Field.

So that's it. No more worrying about the long wait for the NBA Finals, the World Series or the Cotton Bowl. It's over. Finished.

By the way, how many days to Super Bowl XXVIII?

Grieving Indians attempt to move ahead and deal with teammates' boating tragedy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — The awful sound of silence filled the Chain O'Lakes ballpark Tuesday in the wake of an unprecedented tragedy.

The death of two Cleveland Indians pitchers and the injury of another in a boating accident late Monday left the team in tears, shock and sorrow.

Steve Olin was killed instantly when the power boat rammed a dock in darkness at almost head level. Tim Crews, who officials said was driving the boat, died a few hours later after being hospitalized with head and lung injuries.

Bob Ojeda suffered cuts on his head and was in serious condition after surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery.

It was the first time two major-league baseball players were killed in the same accident.

The 18-foot Skeeter bass boat, which had a 150-horsepower motor and a top speed of 60 mph, "was at near-full throttle," said Lt. Bruce Cooper, a regional fatality investigator of the Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission.

Cooper said it would take several days for toxicology reports to determine if the players had been

drinking. Cooper said investigators, "found full beer cans in an ice chest and a liter of vodka almost full."

The accident occurred on Little Lake Nellie, about 27 miles north of Winter Haven, at the end of a day the players spent picnicking with their families on the team's only break of the spring.

Second baseman Carlos Baerga said most of the players had gathered at the Holiday Inn near the ballpark by about 3 a.m.

"Everyone was crying," said Baerga. "I went over to the Holiday Inn because that's where a lot of the guys are staying. When something like that happens, you have to be strong."

Shortly after dawn, Indians' manager Mike Hargrove and John Hart, the club's general manager, gathered the ballplayers at the clubhouse. It was a meeting filled with talk and tears.

"What happened is hard for our team," Baerga said. "Right now we are surprised about what happened. The team is real down. We hurt for their families and kids."

Hart said counseling would be made available to any players who need help in dealing with the loss.

The Indians' scheduled exhibition games Tuesday and Wednes-

day were canceled. They will practice on Wednesday.

"We want to start the healing process as soon as we can," Hargrove said. "There are going to be enough reminders that Steve and Tim are no longer with us. We don't need to be reminded of that. So, with that in mind, we are going to start to work out Wednesday."

"We know we have a season to play," Hart said. "We'll try to do that. We'll try to operate in the way they would want us to do if they were here."

A memorial service for players and families is scheduled for Wednesday night. Andre Thornton, a former Indians' player who is an ordained minister, will lead the services.

Olin, 27, came up in the Cleveland organization in 1989 and emerged as their best reliever last season, when he led the team with 29 saves. He was 8-5 with a 2.34 ERA.

Crews, 31, who came from Los Angeles as a free agent this year, was 0-3 with a 5.19 ERA in 49 games with the Dodgers last season. He was in the Indians' camp as a nonroster invitee.

Ojeda, 35, also came to the Indians as a free agent this winter. Last season, he was 6-9 for Los Angeles with a 3.63 ERA.

NORML

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involved with drug abuse will sort themselves out," Reardon said. "From what I've seen, I'm not so sure they will."

Lt. Bert Kretschmar of the University Police Department said reckless driving while under the influence of marijuana is his major concern.

"Three thousand pounds of metal, flying around, out of con-

trol worries me," he said. "As time progresses, law enforcement may have to increase DWI and Public Intoxication enforcement to facilitate the increase in marijuana abuse in public places or driving. This may mean additional officers, contingent on budget constraints."

Continued use of marijuana also can cause brain function problems such as lack of judgment, and little is known about its possible toxic effects, Reardon said.

Bra Edge, associate director of

the Bryan-College Station NORML, said there are medicinal advantages hemp could provide in treating diseases such as glaucoma.

NORML distributes a report stating cannabis (the drug's crude form) relieves fluid pressure on the eye associated with glaucoma and can have therapeutic effects for people suffering from nausea and multiple sclerosis.

Mitchell said, "NORML is about the facts. This is not for a bunch of hippies to get high legally."

Court TV

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president for Court TV, said the network does not sensationalize trials and open courts are part of the legal tradition.

Don Tomlinson, an attorney and professor of journalism at A&M, disagrees.

"To some extent, an aired trial is more sensationalized," he said.

"But as long as Court TV does not infringe on the criminal defendant right to a fair trial, whatever Court TV does is fine."

Currently, 46 states allow cameras in the courtrooms and the federal government is experimenting with televised trials.

"The courts are open and that's part of the tradition of not having private trials," Brown said. "Through televised trials, our job is to explain why decisions are made within our court system."

Tomlinson said he has mixed

emotions about televised trials.

"I'm a firm believer in the openness of the judicial process because conducting trials in private conjures up images of (the movie) 'The Star Chamber,'" he said.

However, Tomlinson said trials should not be made into a media event.

"If trials become a media event, the danger is that the criminal defendant's sixth amendment right to a fair trial will be compromised," he said.

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