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LEO KOTTKE

Guest: Jimmie Dale Gilmore

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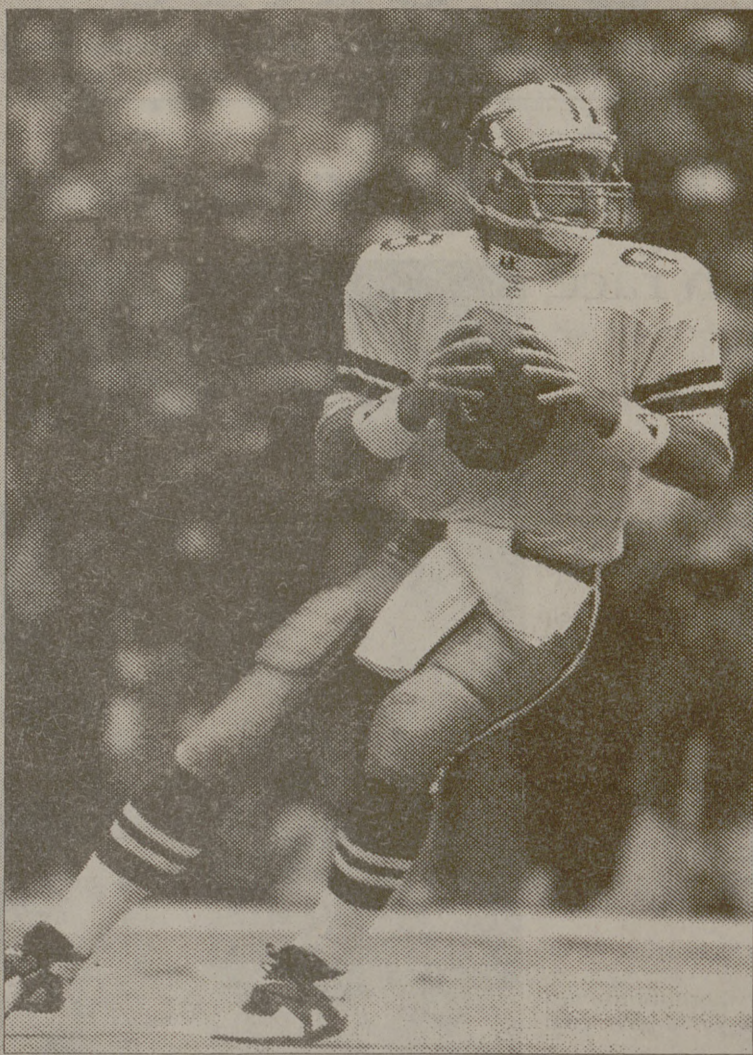
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On his way to Georgia



AP Photo

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, who sustained a concussion in the NFC title game, worked out for the first time since then and showed no ill effects.

Defensive end Charles Haley missed practice because of a bad back. Haley will practice Thursday.

Rookie safety Brock Marion was ruled out for Sunday's game with a knee sprain.

The only Buffalo players who didn't practice were guard John Davis (slight knee injury), cornerback J.D. Williams (calf injury) and wide receiver Bill Brooks (upset stomach).

A&M's Branch bombs error-prone Hornfrogs

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Lisa Branch scored a career-high 24 points, including 6 of 12 from three-point range, leading Texas A&M past Texas Christian 81-71 Wednesday night in a Southwest Conference game.

Beth Burkett added 15 points and Martha McClelland 14 for Texas A&M (12-3, 4-0). Donna

Krueger scored 20 points for TCU (5-10, 1-4).

Stephani Gray had 18 points and 11 rebounds for TCU, and Janelle Hunter added 16 points.

TCU's Lady Frogs led 38-36 at the half, but Texas A&M took charge after intermission, building a lead of as much as 13 points.

TCU had 19 turnovers to just 5 for Texas A&M.

Lions and tigers and Troys, oh my!!!

Zoos to lionize exotic game with winner's moniker

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Zoos in Fort Worth and in Buffalo, N.Y., have rather exotic bet for Sunday's Super Bowl game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills.

There was a similar bet last year, before the Cowboys' 52-17 victory over the Bills, which is why there's now an exotic cat in the Buffalo Zoo named "Emmitt Smith," after the Cowboys' NFL rushing leader.

This time, if the Cowboys win, the Buffalo Zoo will name an African lion after Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman. If the Bills win, the Fort Worth Zoo will name a buffalo after Bills defensive end Bruce Smith.

In addition, the "losing" zoo must post a sign explaining the contest and listing the animal's new name.

"At this rate, we'll have namesakes at the Buffalo Zoo for the whole Cowboy team," said Mike Fouraker, director of animal collections at the Fort Worth Zoo.

"We decided on a serval cat last year for Emmitt because servals are known for their quickness and sleek running style," Fouraker said. "This year, we chose an African lion for Troy, because lions are known as kings of the jungle, and he certainly led the charge for the Cowboys' winning season."

Closest

Continued from Page 9

splinters out of my backside to this day.

In my short but sweet baseball career, I don't recall ever making contact with the ball in a game, much less in practice.

I only dropped one ball in the outfield, but how many chances does a guy who rides the pine get to field a ball?

Oh, I had all the gear: a sweet glove, stylish cleats and a set of batting gloves for practice and one for the games. Neither set got much use.

My junior year we were playing Samuell High School in an exhibition contest. It would be my LAST baseball game.

I was taking the field after striking out (SURPRISE), and there was some kind of delay at the plate.

Problem was I needed to use the facilities really bad. It was

unbearable. So I couldn't take it any longer, and proceeded to turn around, (I was playing centerfield) away from the game and the fans... and well, it was my LAST baseball game.

I did play four years of basketball.

I scored about 17 career points. Texas A&M forward Damon Johnson scored 17 points in 20 minutes in Tuesday night's game.

My junior season I probably scored the most points, played the most minutes, and grabbed the most rebounds of any season in my legendary four years.

Maybe it was because I was one of two or three juniors on the junior varsity team or, more than likely, it was because after grades came out with five games left in the season, I was one of only five or six people that passed all their classes.

Still, there were a few advantages to sitting on the bench.

Whenever I entered a game (usually it was when we were losing or ahead by about 50

points), I was received by a deafening roar of cheers: "DIENER, DIENER, DIENER!"

You would think I was leaving college for the NFL draft.

I felt like a hero, and maybe I was.

To whom? I do not know, but maybe I was to someone. You know if I can make a difference in one person's life... STOP ME! I'm drifting and dreaming of false greatness again. Anyway, back to my stalwart career.

Aside from a legend's reputation every time I stepped on the court, a legend's rejection usually got me off the court.

One time in particular, we were playing my high school's nemesis, Samuell.

It was the consolation championship of the 1991 Dr. Pepper Basketball Tournament. Samuell had the No. 2 team in the state, and we were the tournament's cinderella team. We were just happy to be there. Down 51-49, I got the surprise call.

"Diener," my coach said, almost regretfully. "Go in son."

I got the ball on the break, extended my arms to shoot and SWAT!

Samuell's legendary stud Kevin Miles came out of nowhere and sent my shot screaming into the cheap seats.

I didn't really care. This was a stud, the 50th best high school player in America. He chucked my shot into the next solar system but ya know what, I'll be able to tell my grand kids about it one day.

Surprisingly, I was immediately taken out of the game, but not before I congratulated Mr. Miles on a job well-done.

I could write pages upon pages about my magical sporting career and relate anecdote after anecdote, but there is other important stuff that my editors need to print.

I hope my humble confession will bring other pathetic high school athletes out of the closet.

We may have sat the bench and wasted our time for four years, but dammit we're peop- too.

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February 5, 1994

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TEXAS A&M AND THE NCAA: What is the relationship?

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1994
1-2 pm 228 MSC

A roundtable discussion led by
Tedi Zalesky-Ellison
Director of Athletic Compliance Office

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three(3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability. The views expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the Memorial Student Center, or Political Forum.

Didn't you say last week that you wouldn't wait another week to find out about the Summer Study Abroad trip to Asia?

Don't you realize that this week is last week's next week?

Info Meetings

Tues January 25, 4:00
Thurs January 27, 2:00

251 Bizzell Hall West

Study Abroad Programs, 464 West Bizzell Hall, 845-0543