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SATURDAY 2/26

Billy Cobham
 Jazz Fusion \$10. Advance \$12. Door
 2 Shows: 8 & 10 p.m.

Advance tickets available at Marooned CD's and Tip Top Records in Bryan

FILM REVIEWS



Shaquille O'Neal stars as a highly sought-after college basketball recruit in "Blue Chips."

'Blue Chips' - more than basketball

By Cliff LeBlanc
 THE BATTALION

"Blue Chips" Starring Nick Nolte, Mary McDonnell, J.T. Walsh, Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway Directed by William Friedkin Rated PG-13 Playing at Hollywood USA

Nick Nolte stars in this season's first big sports film. And being a big college basketball fan, I had heard all about the film last summer and I couldn't wait to see it. But this is not a film about the tactical skill of coaching or the courage of the star athletes. It touches on a tender subject in all college sports, the paying of players for their play. Nolte plays Pete Bell, a nationally known basketball coach who

has fallen on bad times. He has just had his first losing season and he wants to win again, but he must first get talent. Nolte tries to find the players that will lead him to victory. He finds three "blue chip" prospects played by Shaquille O'Neal, Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and Matt Nover. He realizes that he can get all three of these players for his team, but only if he can give them something in return. Nolte resorts to using an alumnus (J.T. Walsh) to pay the players for him and then does not want to accept that he is cheating in the game that he loves so much. Instead of using actors for the basketball footage, the producers used real basketball players which gives the effect of a documentary. Some of the best players in the world are in these scenes; so, what could go wrong? Unfortunately, it seems they forgot about actors. Nolte dominates the film so much that you

leave with the feeling that he was in every scene. And O'Neal should stick to basketball and those sneaker commercials. He's no Harrison Ford, or even Tom Cruise. He's more like Big Bird. However, the basketball is amazing and the sound is wonderful because it sounds like you are right there for the games. Over 50 former college players have spot parts as players on opposing teams or back-ups to Nolte's team. You can really feel the emotion when Shaq or Hardaway dunks the ball. "Blue Chips" is not a film about basketball. Instead, it is about the testing of the human soul set against a basketball background. It also makes a point to raise issues like the importance of a college education and glitches in the college recruiting process. In the end, it's a good film for all ages and well worth the money if you realize it is not a basketball film.

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Wynonna fans corralled by Houston rodeo security guard

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Wynonna beckoned, two responded eagerly. But instead of getting to dance on stage with the country singer, they got tackled. It's Wynonna's trademark to invite a cowboy from the end of her concerts. She did that Monday night at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in the Astrodome. Jeff McDonald, 23, of Houston, started sprinting for the stage but he was stopped by a security officer. Across the Dome, another security officer was wrestling with 25-year-old Michael Eberman, also of Houston. Wynonna's image of that tussle flashed on the concert screen. "Mr. Security Guard can let than man go," Wynonna trilled in a hurried but musical voice. The guards held the two down as the crowd booed. Released them shortly afterward. Apparently, rodeo officials say, the security officers heard Wynonna's invitation to the audience or her words to them. Rodeo officials apologized to the two and, to make amends, offered to pay a trip to another Wynonna concert.

'You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nicholson is being sued for using a golf club to beat a Mercedes-Benz that supported him off in traffic. A motorist accused the endary star of such films "The Shining," "One Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Batman" of flailing his car, breaking the windshield and denting the roof, police said. The city attorney's office may determine this week whether to file a misdemeanor vandalism charge, spokesman Rick Schmidt said. In a Superior Court lawsuit filed last week, Robert Nicholson, 38, said he feared for his life during his Feb. 8 confrontation with Nicholson. The lawsuit alleges assault and battery claims Blank was "severely injured" but does not say in what manner.