

Big Eight move good for A&M

The impending merger of Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor into the Big Eight has been discussed from an economic, athletic and academic standpoint for weeks now. A TV contract is being negotiated as we speak. For posterity's sake, let's take a closer look at how Texas A&M will benefit athletically, since that is the most obvious reason for the alliance.

In all likelihood, the new conference will be split into north and south divisions, with the four Texas schools, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State forming the southern half. Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri and Nebraska would make up the north division.

For football, each team would play eight conference games in a 5-2-1 rotation pattern (the five games in each division, two permanent games against teams in the other division and one rotating opponent from the other division.) The division winners would meet in a championship game (neutral site to be determined) one week after the regular season ends, with the winner going to the Orange Bowl and the loser to the (?) Cotton Bowl.

With that in mind, here is a fictional A&M football schedule:

DIVISION: Texas, Baylor, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State

NORTH: Colorado, Nebraska (permanent) Kansas St. (rotate with other three)

NON-CONFERENCE: LSU, Louisville, Southern Mississippi

Adding Colorado (8-3-1), Nebraska (11-1) and K-State (9-2-1) is a major improvement over SMU (2-7-2), TCU (4-7) and Houston (1-9-1). The above schedule would rival many in overall difficulty. The major question mark with A&M the last three years has been the lack of competition within the SWC. This should no longer be an issue and the Aggies will benefit from the strengthened schedule.

As good as this move will be for improving football, the most enduring benefits will be reaped in basketball. The Big Eight has been a powerful basketball conference for years. Six of the eight were invited to the NCAA tournament last year.

Midwesterners support their

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Aggies fall to Bears in double overtime

A&M now second in SWC, half-game behind UT

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M virtually played their way out of a share of the Southwest Conference championship by falling to Baylor 95-92 in double overtime Tuesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The loss, A&M's second straight, gives the University of Texas sole possession of first place in the SWC while the Aggies fall into second with a record of 17-8 overall and 10-3 in conference.

A&M head coach Tony Barone said Baylor (15-10 overall, 6-7 in the SWC), hit the shots they needed to make in order to win the game.

"We didn't take advantage of the lead when he had it," Barone said. "Credit them (Baylor) for staying in it and hanging in on the road."

After exchanging buckets for the first ten minutes of the game, the Aggies opened it up on the Bears by launching a 15-3 run to take a 35-22 lead with 6:26 remaining in the first half.

The 13-point lead was the Aggies largest of the game as the Bears began to mount a comeback. Down 42-30 with 3:16 left in the half, the Bears converted six of seven free throws and a layup by forward Jerome Lambert to cut the Aggie lead to 44-38 at half-time.

On the Bears' first trip down the court in the second half, Baylor forward Willie Sublett canned

Texas A&M 92, Baylor 95
Texas A&M 44 31 5 12 - 92
Baylor 38 37 5 15 - 95

A&M	min	fg-fga	ft-fa	pts	reb
Murry	25	4-8	2-3	11	5
McGinnis	40	6-7	7-8	19	5
Johnson	23	2-7	3-4	7	5
Edwards	50	4-22	8-9	18	8
Hndrsn, Ch.	45	5-10	2-2	17	3
Barone	5	0-0	0-0	0	2
Wilbert	24	0-6	3-8	3	6
Hndrsn, Co.	14	2-6	2-2	6	2
Broderson	24	4-8	3-4	11	6
Totals	250	27-74	30-40	92	42

Team Rebounds: 6
Turnovers: 14
Steals: 10
Assists: 21
Percentages: FG .365, FT .750
Technical: None

Baylor	min	fg-fga	ft-fa	pts	reb
Banks	45	3-5	7-8	14	7
Lambert	40	9-16	2-7	20	15
Brandt	33	4-13	8-11	16	7
Haggerty	50	3-9	4-4	13	5
Branch	50	5-12	4-5	17	3
Lewis	8	0-0	2-4	2	0
Sublett	14	3-6	0-1	8	2
Hamilton	10	1-3	3-3	5	3
Totals	250	28-64	30-43	95	42

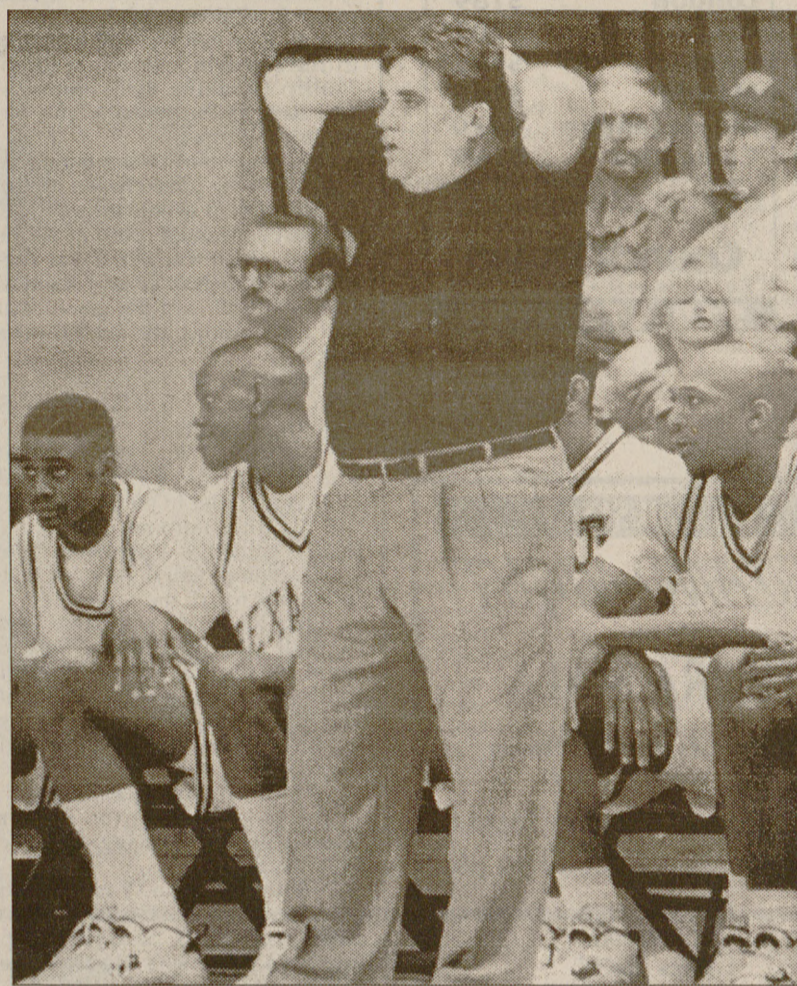
Team Rebounds: 8
Turnovers: 18
Steals: 7
Assists: 20
Percentages: FG .438, FT .698
Technical: None

a three-pointer to close the gap to 44-41.

A&M senior center Brett Murry answered with a trey of his own to push the Aggie advantage back to six.

With 16:40 left in regulation, Baylor was down by five points, 52-47, before A&M went on a 9-2 run, expanding their lead to 12 at

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Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

A&M head coach Tony Barone shows his frustration at the poor shooting of the Aggies Tuesday night against Baylor. A&M shot 36.5 percent from the field and lost to the Bears 95-92 in the second overtime period.

Super Bowl champs honored at White House

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This year, the White House didn't roll out the AstroTurf for the repeating Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys.

But then again, the world champions didn't come out in full force either.

It was a small — albeit stellar — squad of Dallas players that showed up Tuesday at President Clinton's invitation for the traditional ceremony honoring the Super Bowl champion.

Quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith, receiver Michael Irvin and defensive tackle Russell Maryland represented the team, joined by owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson.

"I think that it is just the beginning of what will doubtless be years and years and years of stunning achievement if they can just keep their goals high and keep working for them," the president said during a brief ceremony in the Roosevelt Room.

"Coach Johnson, your team has a knack for coming to the White House."

It's a knack the Cowboys will repeat if Jones has any say in the matter.

As he handed Clinton a copy of the Lombardi Trophy given to the Super Bowl winner, Jones said: "We'd like to put on this trophy 1993 Super Bowl champions, 1994 Super Bowl champions, and we're going to leave a little space open."

Jones also presented the president a fist-sized replica of the Cowboys' diamond-studded Super Bowl ring. "If you can find someone that it fits, send him to the Dallas Cowboys," Jones told his fellow Arkansans.

Clinton admitted to "a bit of parochial pride" that the team is owned by a native of Arkansas. The Arkansas ties don't end there. Texas native Johnson, like Jones, played on the 1964 national champion Arkansas Razorbacks team.

During a visit to the Oval Office prior to the ceremony, Maryland said he had to set Clinton straight on who was responsible for the Cowboys' 30-13 victory over the Buffalo Bills on Jan. 30.

"He was recapping the Super Bowl game, talking about how Troy and Emmitt moving down the field on the Bills made the difference in the game," Maryland told reporters. "I'm the only guy here from Dallas on the defense. I had to say something, you know ... I said it was the defense."



Jimmy Johnson

Big Eight basketball coaches mixed over merger plans

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Big Eight basketball coaches, who once voted 8-0 against merging with the full Southwest Conference, can hardly agree on anything now.

Bringing half the SWC into the fold last week has everyone scratching their heads over a question-filled future for conference basketball teams.

For instance, Kansas' Roy Williams believes adding Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Baylor will make recruiting in Texas much tougher, while Oklahoma's Billy Tubbs figures just the opposite.

Johnny Orr of Iowa State does not believe the four Texas teams will enhance Big Eight basketball. But Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton hails the last weeks approval, as "a tremendous day for the Big Eight."

"With the addition of those

four total athletic programs, I think this league will be the best conference in America," said Sutton, who coached in the SWC for 11 years while at Arkansas. "I can't see it's going to do anything but help our league."

Since discussions with the SWC began, Orr has urged the Big Eight to move with caution.

"I hope they do something that's good for basketball," Orr said Monday during the coaches' weekly briefing. "I know they're going to do things for football. I'm not sure it's a great thing for basketball. I see no reason to go with those schools. That doesn't turn me on going to Baylor or Texas Tech. Or even Texas A&M. That doesn't get me excited."

Kansas coach Williams also remains lukewarm to the idea.

"I'm definitely not one who thinks bigger is better," he said. "But I think it's inevitable because of the nature of what's happening."

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Aggie men's outdoor track looks for SWC title

By Stewart Doreen

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's track and field team is looking to take their second place finish in the 1993 Southwest Conference Outdoor Championships and go one step farther to the conference title.

Head Coach Ted Nelson said he expects this year's team to be one of his most-balanced teams he has seen at Texas A&M. Nelson says the team will focus on capturing the Southwest Conference Outdoor Championship on April 23-24.

Nelson hopes that this depth and the experience from last year's close finish can elevate the team to the top.

"I feel this team has the quality to score in all 19 events," Nelson said. "This group got a taste of what it takes to win a championship and knows how

to do it. Now, it is just a matter of things happening our way."

A&M has the most quality depth at the hurdles. Richard Murphy, Curt Young and freshman Larry Wade lead the group that will defend their Penn Relays and Texas Relays Shuttle Hurdle Relay titles.

The team will expect big-time point potential from the group at the Southwest Conference outdoors. The hurdle crew is filled out by Richard Harrison, another member of the relay team, George Vindiola and Daniel Traylor.

The long and triple jumpers are expecting to charge into the outdoor season with high-scoring performances. Tim Bryant, this year's second-place finisher in the indoor championships and last year's outdoor champion, leads a young squad

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