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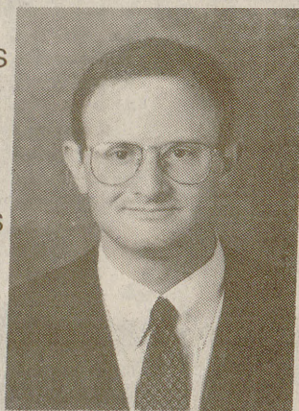
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Barone

Continued from Page 3

task he accepts without resignation. "What you do is you try to be honest with the team," he said. "I don't think you can hide the fact that you missed key free throws during the late stages of the game."

"I don't think you can dwell on it, but there are many other losses you're going to face in your life that are worse than losing a double-overtime game."

And so again following these two disappointing losses, Barone finds himself in a rebuilding mode - striving to improve what he started the day with.

Kicking and screaming, the fiery Barone has spurred his team from mediocrity to SWC contention. He said that while he doesn't necessarily favor this method, the team determines how much it requires outside motivation.

"The really good teams are self-motivators. We have some guys who are self-motivating, but in general, no (we are not a self-motivating team)," Barone said.

"(North Carolina coach) Dean Smith has a 12-man roster of McDonald's All-Americans. You have (Temple coach) John Chaney, who basically has a lot of inner-city kids that you have to motivate another way. Chaney serves as father-figure, counselor and disciplinarian."

"It depends on the personality of the team." As for the personality of the coach, Henderson said he respects his coach for the level of preparation he brings to the court.

"Coach Barone is a very intense person, I think that he tries to get the best out of us," he said. "He knows all about the guys on (an opposing) team, if they go right or left, their free throw percentages - he's a really good coach."

"He knows what color a guy's shoes are."

Beneath preparation for the Tech game there are several issues swirling in the past weeks that have affected Barone off the court - A&M's alliance with the Big Eight Conference and the continued speculation regarding a proposed 12,500-seat special events center to an-



William Harrison/Tulsa

chor the program, replacing the antiquated G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Going down the list of Big Eight facilities - I have played in every one of them, and every one of them is better than G. Rollie White," Barone said. "When you're talking to recruits, you hear, 'I don't want to play in the Southwest Conference.' We have eliminated that criticism."

"You have to have something that is attractive to the (recruits). They can look at G. Rollie White and say, 'You're not serious about basketball.' The special events center is a necessity if you're going to have a quality basketball program."

"It needs to be a basketball arena that is a special events center."

Despite the recent disappointments, Barone remarked that although his still-fledgling pro-

gram has exceeded many expectations, he to solve the recent wobbly performances.

"If someone had said we'd have 17 wins this particular point of the season, most people would've said no way," he said. "If you at 6-22, this year will be a reversal of what we did three years ago."

"From a record standpoint that sounds pretty cool, but I'm more interested in establishing consistency."

Establishing consistency is something that drives Barone to confront his players and demand more on a daily basis.

But he is really any good at pushing players and getting under their skin? "Oh, yeah," Henderson smiled. "He's at that."

The proof can be seen pushing up down the court Saturday versus Tech.

Moved

Continued from Page 3

I'm not a religious guy, and the issue of heaven and hell, death and the after life, aren't subjects I occupy my free time with. I've always believed you are guaranteed a life and a death, and no one can tell you what one or the other will hold.

But Lasorda's comments got me thinking about what happens when you pass on, what I would like to happen, and if there was such a place, what Drysdale and Campanella were doing right at that moment. It inspired me to write. Everyone may not understand all the names, but I hope you get the idea.

"Heaven"

"Campy!" yells Leo, "New pitcher today!" "Now?!" thinks Roy, who has just begun to play.

And as he turns around, his face grows pale, For coming up the ramp is... Don Drysdale. They walk to the field, joyful and talking, Don still amazed that Campy is walking.

Reaching the field, Don's heart goes a-flutter, Before him are all the boys of summer. A shout goes up with a high drive to right, At home, at the plate, the Babe flexes his might.

Don looks all about and he lets out a sigh, His eyes go to Honus, Dizzy and Ty. Another pitch, the Babe, the ball is blasted, This one tracked down by Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Thurman Munson saw Roy, smiled as he did, "You were my hero when I was a kid!"

Campy just smiles and turns to Don with glee, He says, "This is how I dreamed it would be."

In left here's Speaker, in right, Clemente, Between them, six thousand hits a-plenty. There's Foxx and Greenberg and ah, but of course, Immortal Lou Gehrig-The Great Iron Horse.

And now they come in pairs and in threes: Chesbro and Appling and Cool Papa Bell, Medwick and Satchel and Hornsby as well. The line-ups are filled and the stands come alive, People, all ages, colors and sizes.

Drysdale, now pitching, with flames in his eyes,

A single for sure, by big Johnny Mize, Big Don whirls, and then throws his glance, A 6-4-3-, Tinker, Evers, to Chance!

The night comes on and the sun sinks low, Each boy with his head on a soft pillow. Big Don and Campy, up talking all night, Finally decide to sleep and to dream. Don whispers soft, as they turn out the light, "Campy, Heaven's got one hell of a team."

All right, I'm no Robert Frost, but my mom embraced it as a future Pulitzer winner (of course, she does that with all my articles, too.) and apparently someone at the Dodgers was kind enough to take a minute and read my poem.

For me, writing the poem this summer and getting that envelope on Wednesday reminded me then, and now of something that I tend to forget in the heat of a pennant race or the tension of a double-overtime thriller.

It's this: People don't live and die because of sports, sports help people feel alive, and be remembered when they're gone.

Cassell helps Rockets win

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Sam Cassell, helping Houston coach Tomjanovich enjoy the three-day respite from the schedule.

The Rockets had lost straight games when they Orlando in the Summit last night.

A three-game losing streak would have been hard to take until they host Los Angeles Saturday.

But Cassell, a rookie last year for playing time, helped Rockets end their abbreviated season and gave Tomjanovich that the Rockets' struggling offense is showing signs of improvement.

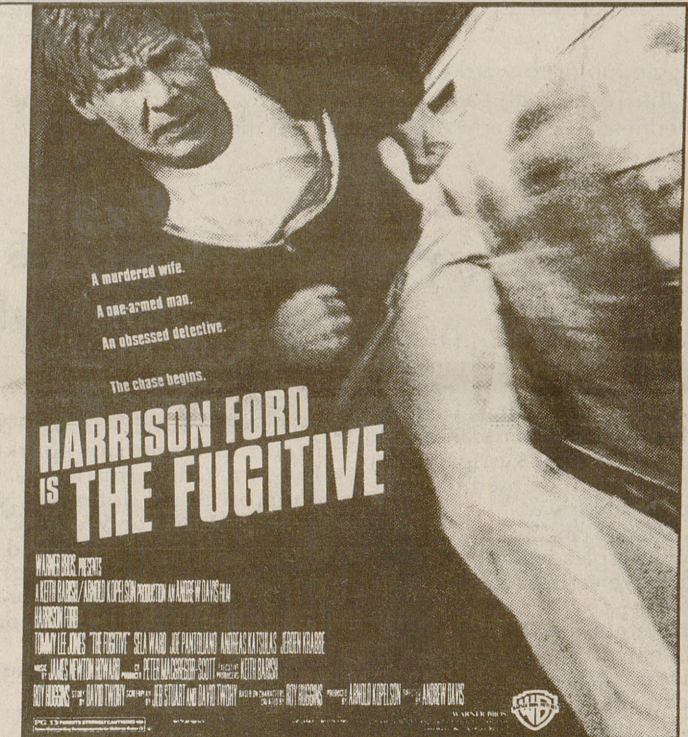
"Now I see a lot of possibilities for us growing as a team," Tomjanovich said.

"Obviously, our offense has been struggling since the Star break. Sam came in and added a new dimension with penetrating."

Cassell scored 16 second points, had five assists and steals in 25 minutes.

He had six straight steals plays near the end of the quarter and at the start of the fourth period, to keep the Rockets at bay.

The Rockets won 97-85.



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-Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Costner's performance signifies that the Oscar race has begun in dead earnest." -Joe Leydon, HOUSTON POST

"Eastwood and Costner are in prime form. An ambitious two-handed drama." -Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE

★★★★★ Brilliant directing by Eastwood. A revelatory performance by Kevin Costner - surely the best thing he's ever done." -John Anderson, NEWSDAY

"Another triumph for Clint Eastwood - he has become a reflective and moving artist - a classical master." -David Denby, NEW YORK MAGAZINE

"It's Costner's scrappiest performance since 'Bull Durham'. Clint and Kevin do themselves proud." -Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE



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