

Sports

Thursday, April 14, 1994

The Battalion

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Baseball's new alignment kills old divisions, rivalries

Nick Georgandis

Sportswriter



It's only a week and a half into the 1994 baseball season, and I'm already feeling confused. The old adage is true, you don't know how good you've got something, until you lose it.

I'm talking about the new division system in baseball, a system I was originally in favor of because it took the Astros out of regular-season competition with the powerful Atlanta Braves and the San Francisco Barry Bonds, I mean Giants.

But with the arrival of the new National League Central Division comes the departure of some of my favorite rivalries. Scoreboard watching has become a difficult task for me, as I try to figure out just exactly who I'm supposed to be rooting against.

Up until the end of last year, my baseball philosophy was simple. Dodgers? Hate 'em. Giants? Hate 'em. Braves? Hate 'em. And so went each season.

Case in point: As I was reading the sports page Thursday afternoon, I saw the Dodgers had beat the Cardinals on Wednesday night 7-3.

"Damn Cardinals!" I thought, while glancing up to see what the Dodgers record was in relation to that of the Astros.

And there it was, right in front of my face, the St. Louis Cardinals half a game behind the Astros, courtesy of...the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The truth dawned on me slowly. From now on, the Dodgers' winning would help the Astros get ahead. I frantically checked the rest of the Central Division, and was shocked to find that only the Cincinnati Reds were still left over with

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ADs 'optimistic' for new arena

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Athletic Office is "very optimistic" that the proposal for construction of a new special events center will be approved later this year, Athletic Director Wally Groff said Monday.

The new center would house both men's and women's basketball teams, and probably the volleyball team's games as well.

Groff said the new, larger center will bring many more events to Texas A&M.

"Most of the shows won't even come

and visit with us unless we had 10,000 seats," Groff said.

"We'll be able to get shows like the circus and the Ice Capades, those kind of family-oriented events, things for the students and the local community."

In addition, Groff said the center would be host to university functions and other community functions.

Currently, all home basketball and volleyball games are played in G. Rollie White Coliseum. G. Rollie White has been home for Aggie basketball since the 1954-55 season, and has a seating ca-

capacity of 7,500.

Associate Athletic Director of women's sports and head women's basketball coach Lynn Hickey said the new center will be a tremendous asset to recruiting.

"We've been at a major recruiting disadvantage," Hickey said.

"G. Rollie is great when it's full, but hard to sell to a recruit when it's empty. It's imperative that we get this facility to stay competitive."

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A&M tennis plays TCU, UT for titles

From Staff and Wire Reports

Both men's and women's tennis teams from Texas A&M will be vying for a share of the Southwest Conference title today. Both matches will be held at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The No. 25 men's team (19-2, 4-1 in SWC) will face the No. 5 Texas Christian University Horned Frogs (14-3, 5-0 in SWC) at 1:30. TCU leads the conference after an upset win over the University of Texas last weekend. An Aggie win, however, would cause a three-way tie between A&M, TCU and Texas.

A&M head coach David Kent said the Aggies have everything to gain against TCU.

"All we can ask for is a chance to be playing for the conference title, and we'll have that opportunity against TCU," Kent said. "TCU is ranked fifth in the country and might be the best team we've seen this year. We will have to fight tooth and toenail to beat them."

Later at 5:30, the No. 30 women's team (13-6, 5-1) will face No. 1 Texas (19-0, 6-0).

Lady Aggie coach Bobby Klei-neckke said it was nice to finish conference against the defending national champs.

"It's fitting that the conference race comes down to this," Klei-neckke said. "We've had a good year and earned this opportunity. Texas will come in here undefeated and as the defending national champion, but you have to throw all that out when Texas A&M and Texas get together."

"This Texas team is probably the most talented group they've had, but we're not in awe of them anymore. We know we can play with them."

'Scrapper' at second base

By Stewart Doreen
The Battalion

In the age of million dollar players and big league egos to match, Rich Petru plays the game with the enthusiasm and determination of the players of yesteryear.

Petru, a general studies major from Westbury High School in Houston, is the Aggies' starting second baseman waiting to take over his normal position after another Westbury product, All-Southwest Conference shortstop Robert Harris, takes his talents to the professional level. For now, however, the eighteen-year-old is making the most of his chances starting 36 of the 38 games in which he has played at second base.

"For a true freshman to play on a Division I program says a lot about his ability," Texas A&M Head baseball Coach Mark Johnson said.

Petru is third among the starting infielders with a .970 fielding percentage to go along with the batting average that is a shade below .250. These figures pale in comparison to his high school days where the All-State shortstop hit .488 with three homeruns and 34 RBI in his senior season. The shy Petru is not content at the level at which he is playing the game.

"Right now, I haven't done as well as I wanted to do," Petru said. "It's frustrating cause I come from

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Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Wholesale Loose Diamonds

Prices are based on the New York "Rapaport Sheet", a wholesale price guide.

Pear Shape		
Weight	Color	Clarity
1.05	J/K	I1
1.02	J	IS1
.73	J	SI2/I1
.61	I	VS1
.50	F	SI2
.49	H	SI
.47	F	SI

Price
\$2,300 ⁰⁰
3,250 ⁰⁰
1,850 ⁰⁰
1,220 ⁰⁰
1,100 ⁰⁰
1,253 ⁰⁰
1,300 ⁰⁰

Weight	Color	Clarity
1.08	I/J	SI2

Emerald		
Weight	Color	Clarity
1.08	I/J	SI2

Oval		
Weight	Color	Clarity
1.53	I/J	SI1
1.01	H	SI1
.85	J	SI2
.55	F	SI2
.55	E	SI2
.53	G	SI2
.50	J	SI1
.50	I	SI2
.40	J	VS1

Price
5,800 ⁰⁰
3,950 ⁰⁰
1,950 ⁰⁰
1,080 ⁰⁰
1,190 ⁰⁰
980 ⁰⁰
875 ⁰⁰
1,383 ⁰⁰
675 ⁰⁰

Weight	Color	Clarity
9.51	L	I1/I2
1.76	H	SI3
1.80	H	SI3
1.64	J	SI1
1.16	J	SI1
1.12	D	SI2
1.06	K	SI1
1.03	G	VS/VVS2
1.01	E	SI1
1.01	I	SI2
.95	I	SI1
.92	I	SI2
.82	K	SI1
.72	G	SI2/SI1
.70	E	SI2
.70	G	SI1
.70	H	SI2
.70	E	SI1
.52	I	VS2
.50	G	VS2
.46	I	VS2
.43	I	SI2/I1
.52	I	SI2

Round Diamond		
Weight	Color	Clarity
1.08	I/J	SI2

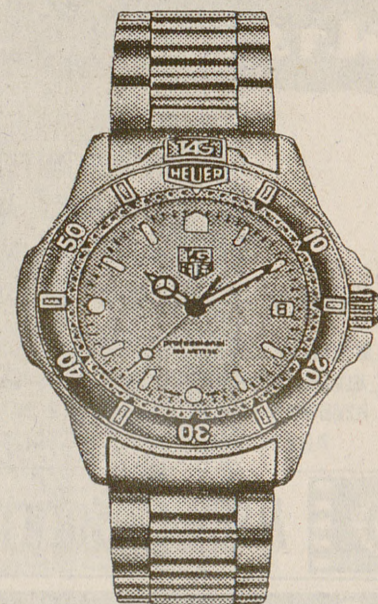
Marquise Cut		
Weight	Color	Clarity
1.39	H	SI2
1.04	J	SI3
.90	F	SI2
.83	D	SI2
.75	G	VS1/VVS2
.71	F	SI2
.58	G	SI2
.57	K	SI1
.49	I	VS2
.49	J	SI2
.46	H	SI1/SI2
.31	I	SI1

Price
\$4,955 ⁰⁰
3,250 ⁰⁰
3,250 ⁰⁰
3,900 ⁰⁰
3,500 ⁰⁰
2,750 ⁰⁰
1,450 ⁰⁰
1,150 ⁰⁰
1,176 ⁰⁰
1,050 ⁰⁰
1,354 ⁰⁰
475 ⁰⁰

Weight	Color	Clarity
.65	I	VVS2
.49	K	SI1
.53	K	VS1

Princess		
Weight	Color	Clarity
.65	I	VVS2
.49	K	SI1
.53	K	VS1

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