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Hill's Away!!!



AP Photo
Greg Hill plays catch with his godson Rodney Hill Jr., 4, before the NFL draft on Sunday. Hill was selected 22nd. Three Aggies went in the first round.

Ryan's return benefits TCU Horned Frogs

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — He could have just left it alone, never picked up a baseball again. He could have simply walked away from the game and never looked back.

"Why bother?" he could have said. "What's the point?"

No one would have blamed him. So what if he never threw a baseball again? Who would care?

There are the banks, and the ranches, and the kids, and all those vacations he's supposed to take someday.

Maybe some could have done that. Probably some have.

But their names aren't Nolan Ryan.

You're going to get excited to hear that Nolan Ryan is throwing fastballs in the 90s again.

That's on his own mental radar gun, of course, but it always has been pretty accurate.

Nolan always had a decent idea what his body could and couldn't do.

The first inclination is to tell him to report immediately to The Ballpark in Arlington.

Kevin Kennedy, Claude Osteen and the Rangers need you, Nolan.

They need pitching so badly, Kennedy has been looking at Osteen's left-handed batting practice offerings with the eye of a starving man on a deserted island.

Desperate isn't the word for it.

But let's not be selfish. Ryan is right where he wants to be and where he should be.

He was sitting as unobtrusively as a world-renowned figure could sit on the TCU bench last weekend in College Station as the Frogs wrapped up their first outright South-west Conference title in almost four decades.

Same place he sat the night before. Same place he'll be, if everyone plays their cards right, for another four springs or so after this one.

Assistant baseball coach Nolan Ryan. Restricted earnings coach.

Can't pay a part-time guy like that too much, you know.

"Actually," Ryan said, "my earnings got pretty restricted after last season with the Rangers."

Last season, his final one as a major league pitcher, was a painful year for him, capped by an excruciating elbow ligament tear in Seattle, when his career ended once and for all.

Remember his last pitch, smashed over the King-dome fence for a grand slam by a no-name rookie who isn't even in the big leagues this year?

Remember Nolan's last curtain call, his final goodbye?

Heart-breaking. He would never throw again, it was figured. But this is Nolan Ryan, and he just loves to exceed expectations.

Burned

Continued from Page 7

burned early and I was looking to see if we had enough timber to repair them," Carter said. "And if I could have, we would not be having this meeting, this morning."

Carter asked for a list of 10 positives and 10 negatives on Buckner from eight front office employees.

"I don't think we were wrong in what we were trying to do," Carter said.

"The people who were part of the input on that decision are not going to be a big part of the decision on this one (the next coach). I'm sure we'll be looking at an entirely different model. I want an old whiskers coach involved on this one."

Motta, 61, the Mavs original coach, spent the last three months of the season as a consultant to Buckner and

Carter.

Carter did not rule out the possibility that Motta would return as head coach. He said Motta would help preparing for next month's college draft and would be in charge of drawing up a list of candidates to replace Buckner.

"Let's face it, it was young and old. The bridges that were burned weren't just over young players."

— Donald Carter, owner of the Dallas Mavericks

"I don't believe Dick Motta wants this full-time job. I will not offer him the job, but remember he's the one who's going to make up the

list," Carter said.

"If Dick Motta says he's a candidate, he can be a candidate."

Dallas has a good foundation in Jackson and Mashburn, both of whom are under long-term contracts, and has seven first-round picks in the next five drafts including two next month.

Keith Grant has assumed Sund's job and Carter said he and Motta will recommend the next coach.

"I'll do whatever Keith and Dick ask me to do," Carter said.

Dallas Mavericks' Mashburn hopes to fuel youths' dreams

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Jamal Mashburn hopes to make some dreams come true for six eighth-grade students.

The former University of Kentucky, All-American basketball player presented the Fayette County students with scholarships through the Kentucky Excel Incentive Scholarship program.

Mashburn, now with the Dallas Mavericks, endowed the program with \$500,000 last fall.

He gave each of the recipients a plaque during a news conference Tuesday in Wildcat Lodge.

And the students were appreciative of his generosity.

"My dream has always been to get a college education," said David Douglas Allen of Leestown Middle School, speaking for the award winners. "Thanks to you, my dream has a chance to come true."

"This is very special for us. If you could put your feet in my shoes ... you couldn't thank that person enough. And that's how we feel."

Allen also presented Mashburn with a scrapbook about the students.

For Mashburn, the program involves more than his financial contribution.

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