

Tee-ball gives reminder of sports' nature

CONSTANCE PARTEN

Sportswriter



Once upon a time there was a sportswriter who had a dream. And in that dream Michael Jordan played tee-ball. Michael wasn't your average tee-ball player. He was much taller than all of the six-year-olds around him, and the pre-pubescent uniform didn't fit his hulking frame. But Michael didn't care what he looked like.

He didn't even care if some of the little kids could hit the ball farther than he could. He wanted to play a game that was fun. And basketball just wasn't fun anymore.

The sportswriter awoke sweating - contemplating the proverbial messages of the dream. Where did these strange images come from? After several moments, the answers came.

My neighbors play tee-ball. They are six and seven years old, and they don't think Michael Jordan would ever play on their tee-ball team. They do think he could hit the ball farther than anyone they know though.

But even if he could, it wouldn't matter, because in tee-ball there is no score, no winner, and everyone gets to play. They told me this after my stupid question "Who won?"

After that, they invited me to attend one of their games.

The following week my butt was glued to my seat (literally - I sat in gum) watching those kids whack that tiny ball and then stand there until they finally clued in that they were supposed to run. Then they would start toward the pitcher's mound, confusing it with first base.

If tee-ball were a movie it would be a slapstick comedy. The entertainment value is priceless, but the athletic prowess is questionable. But tee-ball does instill in the kids a sense of fairness and fun. Competition doesn't even enter into it.

In professional sports however, competition is everything. Players fight, coaches throw things, and one team's fans hate the other team's fans (of course, this never happens on the collegiate level). Winning is everything, and breaking rules to do so is all too common.

It seems we have lost sight of the simple enjoyment of watching or participating in sporting events. Teams are not armies, and opponents are not enemies. Players are not heroes, just men and women with strength and dedication. And if you are a fan, then you readily admit you are a fanatic.

Relax. You're not a bad person.

Please see Tee-ball/Page 4

Canucks meet Rangers in Stanley Cup final

NEW YORK (AP) — Two teams; one apparently cursed, the other seemingly blessed. One game. One prize.

The curtain rises on the grand finale of hockey's ultimate show Tuesday night. It's Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals.

"It's going to be the pinnacle of a lot of careers," said Craig MacTavish, whose New York Rangers will be trying to skate around their hellish history — as well as the Vancouver Canucks — at Madison Square Garden. "If we get beat, it's going to be one of the most disappointing things ever to happen."

For the New York fans, too. They have waited 54 years for the Curse to end.

A Ranger fans' worst nightmare: The game. Pavel Bure on a breakaway. Mike Richter deked to the ice. The shot. The score. Tears and silence. Twenty seconds to play.

Official time of the goal — 19:40.

Only in New York. 1940. Only at Madison Square Garden, where the home team has never hoisted the Stanley Cup. 1940. Only for the Rangers ... the jinxed,

hexed, cursed New York Rangers. 1940.

"If we tried to take on 54 years, the burden, the Curse, no one can do that," Rangers captain Mark Messier said. "We respect the Rangers' past and all the things that have happened since 1940, but it's all too much. If we let it creep in, it would have destroyed us a long time ago."

At least the Rangers have won three NHL titles. None since ... what year was that again? ... but they've won them.

The Canucks? Twenty-four seasons and never a serious bid. A team called the Millionaires won

the Stanley Cup in 1915, two years before the NHL was formed, and that's it for Vancouver's proud hockey tradition.

This year's Canucks have had a magical ride to Tuesday's one-game showdown.

After finishing the regular season with the league's 14th-best record, they fell behind 3-1 in their opening series against the Calgary Flames. They pulled off three straight overtime victories to become only the 12th team ever to rally from such a deficit.

Then, after relatively easy series victories over the Dallas Stars and Toronto Maple Leafs, they fell behind the Rangers, the league's best regular-season team, three games to one.

1994 Stanley Cup Playoffs Game 7

Who: New York Rangers vs. Vancouver Canucks
When: Tonight at 7:08 p.m.
Where: Madison Square Garden, New York



Lady Aggie basketball rakes in recruits

Coaches looking to add balance and depth to bench with newcomers

By Mark Smith

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team enjoyed unprecedented success in the 1993-94 season and with the recruiting class they landed during the off-season, that success may very well continue.

Their latest recruiting class was ranked 20th in the nation by the May 1994 Blue Star Report, tied with Florida.

Assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Eileen Feeney said the group of girls that was recruited would add depth to the bench.

"This is another versatile group of student-athletes which will be able to give us quality play at key positions," Feeney said. "They will be able to fill some major voids left by graduation and complement our returning players."

With the departure of senior center Teri Bartlett, Feeney said one of the main areas the coaches were looking to add depth to was the post position.

1993-94 Lady Aggie Basketball Recruits

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl-Exp	Hometown (HS/JC)
Sutton Helvey	C	6-2	Fr-HS	Euleuss, Tx (Trinity)
Christy Lake	G	5-8	So-TR	Duncanville, Tx (Duncanville/Weatherford College)
Kim Linder	F	6-0	Fr-HS	Amarillo, Tx (Amarillo)
Carey Owens	G	5-8	Fr-HS	Corpus Christi, Tx (King)
Angel Spinks	C	6-1	Jr-TR	League City, Tx (Clear Creek/Howard College)

"The biggest loss we wanted to key on was the inside," Feeney said.

Six-foot-one junior Angel Spinks, a transfer from Howard College, and six-foot-two freshman Sutton Helvey from Trinity High School were recruited to fill the depth in the center position.

Feeney described Spinks as a mobile player that has three-point range and Helvey as a defensive post player.

Another area the Lady Aggies recruited for is the small forward spot, vacated by starter Beth Burkett. Feeney thinks six-foot freshman Kim Linder could fill the void immediately, although she will have to convert from the post position she played at Amarillo

High School.

Both Feeney and assistant coach Cathy McDonald agreed on the need to recruit a three-point shooter for the shooting guard position. King High School product Carey Owens hopefully will give the Lady Aggies that three-point shooting threat, Feeney said.

"We brought in long range shooter Carey Owens," Feeney said. "She's a strong shooter with good range."

A deep bench is something the Lady Aggies also strive for.

"We tried to add quality to our

Please see Recruits/Page 4

Please see Camp/Page 4

A&M women's basketball camp gets into gear

By Brian Coats

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie Basketball Camp is an opportunity to teach kids the game of basketball and show off Texas A&M, Cathy McDonald, an assistant coach at A&M and camp counselor said.

The week-long, all-level camp is for girls 10-18 years old. The campers stay on campus in Cain and Keathley Halls and play basketball at G.Rollie White Coliseum. Campers learn basketball fundamentals during the day and scrimmage in game-like situations at night. They are on the basketball court about six hours a day.

When the girls are not playing basketball, activities such as watching films, "SWC Lady Aggie Olympics," a talent show and a game night at the MSC keep them busy. There is an award ceremony the last morning of the camp.

Straight and to the point

Aggie archer wins national championship, earns trip to U.S. Olympic Festival in first year at A&M

By Mark Smith

THE BATTALION

To be the best in a particular field requires both natural talent and a hard work ethic. One Texas A&M archer meets those requirements.

Staten Holmes, a sophomore Wildlife and Fisheries major, used his skill and hard work with the bow to win the 1994 National Collegiate Championship and earn a trip to the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Louis, Missouri.

"When I came to A&M I started training hard," Holmes said. "In high school I didn't have time to train. I

know that sounds strange, but I got here and developed a good regimen."

Holmes' national title comes only six years after he began competition in archery. From the beginning he showed his ability with the bow.

"I got fourth place after shooting for three months," Holmes said. "That was almost unheard of."

Archery head coach Frank Thomas said Holmes' winning ways without the benefit of many years of experience are not shocking.

"There are people who have natural

Please see Holmes/Page 4

Slump, desire to see family causes Cubs' ironman Sandberg to retire

CHICAGO (AP) — Burned out on his game, struggling to fight off a slump and playing for a foundering last-place team, Ryne Sandberg, the best second baseman of his era, retired Monday.

Sandberg, a 10-time All-Star for the Chicago Cubs and nine-time Gold Glove winner, made his stunning announcement at a news conference. He leaves in the second year of a four-year, \$28 million contract. Under a standard payment schedule, he would already have received about \$10.55 million from that deal.

Sandberg claimed he couldn't expect the Cubs to pay him when he wasn't playing the way he thought he

should. "I didn't have what I felt I needed to go on the field every day, give my very best and live up to the standards I set for myself," said the 34-year-old Sandberg.

"I'm not willing, and I do not want to just hang around. I want to be the best player I can be."

Sandberg said he thought before spring training that this would be his final season with the Cubs because he wanted to spend more time with his family and watch his children grow up.

He said he felt fine physically after

Please see Sandberg/Page 4

HP 48GX Calculator

- Hundreds of built-in equations
- 128-KB memory for complex problem solving
- 3-D graphics, calculus, and symbolic math functions
- One year limited warranty

\$259.95

HP Calculators--The best for your success

Professional Computing
505 Church Street
College Station, TX
(409) 846-5332

HEWLETT PACKARD Authorized Dealer

AGGIE RING ORDERS
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 1994

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

1. You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of **95** credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated, cannot count twice as credit hours.)
2. **30** credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University. If you did not successfully complete one semester at Texas A&M University prior to January 1, 1994, you will need to complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in residence. (This requirement will be waived if your degree is conferred and posted with less than 60 A&M hours.)
3. You must have a **2.0** cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
4. You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

If you are a August 1994 degree candidate and have never purchased an Aggie ring from a prior degree year, you may place an order for a '94 ring after you meet the following requirements:

1. Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
2. You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have completed all of your degree requirements prior to **June 10, 1994**, you may request a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies and present it to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure To Order A Ring

1. If you meet the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office **no later than Wednesday, June 15, 1994**, to complete the application for eligibility verification (requires several days to process).
2. If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring by September 7, 1994, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, Visa or Mastercard **no later than June 17, 1994**.

Men's 10KY - \$306.00	14KY - \$415.00
Women's 10KY - \$172.00	14KY - \$200.00

Add \$8.00 for Class of '93 or before. White Gold is available at an extra charge of \$10.83.
The approximate date of the ring delivery is September 7, 1994.

New SOVIET Photography
June 8 - July 22
1994
MSC
Visual Arts
Gallery
m-f 9-5
s-s noon-5