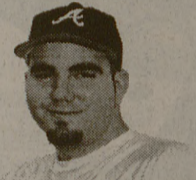


Arterbury: 'Junior' will break record

JOSH ARTERBURY

Sportswriter



This is the year of the chase. Well this is one of those chase-like years. Okay, this year just like all of the other years that players chase the hallowed records of baseball with a vengeance. But this year has got to be the one.

Year in and year out we see players scorch through the first two months of the season only to see them fall back down to earth after the All-Star break.

The most recent was Toronto Blue Jay's first baseman John Olerud, who was in search of being the first player since Ted Williams to hit .400. Olerud was the center of baseball's attention as he flirted with the mark until mid July in 1993, but slumped to finish the season at .367.

This year's frontrunner to break one of baseball's most legendary marks is the young powerhouse Ken Griffey Jr. And like last year, the baseball world his projecting and professing the fate of his 1994 season.

The Seattle Mariner center fielder has mounted 32 homeruns faster than any player in history, and is on pace to hit 64 by the end of the season. And as long as the eternal baseball optimists around the country say, "He's on pace to break that record," there is still hope.

And after all, who doesn't want to see the "Junior" break the seemingly impossible homerun mark (except for opposing pitchers.) Even Roger Maris, who set the record of 61 homeruns in 1961, is probably rooting for the "young one" to swing away.

Maris broke the longstanding record set by the legendary Babe Ruth, who hit 60 in 1928. And no player has come within 8 homeruns of the Maris mark in 33 years.

The record itself, is as hallowed as the players who set and broke it. Only two players in the history of baseball have hit 60 homeruns. So the idea of a player from this era of baseball breaking that record is the fuel that feeds the fire of every baseball fan.

But not so fast. The history of baseball has proven that hitting streaks turn into hitting slumps. So counting on a season pace is like depending on the Ranger's bullpen.

Kevin Mitchell hit 31 homeruns before the All-Star break in 1989, putting him on pace to hit 62. But the record haunted Mitchell as he hit only 16 dingers after the break.

In 1969 Reggie Jackson hit 40 homeruns by August but slumped in the last two months of the season, finishing with 47.

And since no player has entered September with more than 45

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The boys of summer go to camp Aggie

A&M coach Johnson 'runs' tough camp

By Brian Coats
THE BATTALION

Aspiring baseball stars from all over the state and nation are learning fundamentals from Mark Johnson and his staff at Texas A&M this week in the fifth and sixth sessions of the Texas Aggie Summer Baseball Camp.

The campers at Olsen Field are off and running...and running, and running.

Bill Hickey, an assistant baseball coach, said the campers do not do anything other than play baseball the four days they are here. When asked what the kids do apart from baseball, he laughed.

"What do they do other than baseball?" he said. "Nothing. We don't have a cookout with burgers and fries, if that's what you mean."

Hickey said the four-day session is an instructional camp emphasizing offense.

"The younger kids are on the field two times a day," he said. "They get more hitting repetitions here in four days than they probably get all summer on their home teams."

George Bond, 12, from Gainesville, said he has already noticed a change in his skills because of the camp. He labeled the camp as "hard work."

"The camp is really hard when we run, and we run a lot," he said.

Hickey said the camp coaches are countering the hot weather College Station has been having by giving the campers frequent water breaks.

"It's real hot, but we give them cool-down periods," he said.

Hickey, who has been doing the camp all 11 years that he has been an A&M coach, said the camp is an excellent opportunity to show off A&M.

"We'll get 500-600 young kids on campus this summer," he said. "Pretty soon some of them will fall in love and want to come."

The baseball staff running the camp, which includes high school coaches and former A&M players, keeps a tight schedule. A few hours after this camp ends today, and new and older group of campers will be coming in for another four-day session. Hickey said the older players work even harder.

"We have them out three times a day, once on Kyle Field," he said. "We go more in-depth with the older guys, drilling and working on game and hitting situations."

He said sometimes the A&M baseball program benefits from the high school camps.

"Some of the kids that come through here will get put on a recruiting list and we will follow them," he said. "Paul Barber and Richard Petru are two guys now on the team that came to our camps."



Bart Mitchell/The Battalion

One of the players attending the Texas Aggie Baseball Camp goes through a bunting drill on Kyle Field.

Cotton Bowl to stay at fairgrounds, won't go to Irving

DALLAS (AP) — The Cotton Bowl Athletic Association voted unanimously Tuesday to keep the traditional New Year's Day game at the state fairgrounds rather than move it to Texas Stadium in suburban Irving.

In a closed door meeting, board members accepted a counter offer by the city of Dallas intended to keep the game at the same site near downtown where it has been played for 58 years.

The association last week had proposed moving the post-season game from Fair Park to Texas Stadium after Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones proposed putting a retractable roof on the arena.

The city of Dallas responded with an offer that includes \$4 million in improvements at the Cotton Bowl, plus another \$4 million for free food, transportation, lodging and other bonuses aimed at helping the Cotton Bowl remain a top-ranked, New Year's Day college football bowl game.

Commissioners of the National Collegiate Athletic Association have said they expect to retain only the Rose Bowl and three other major bowls for New Year's Day.

"Our main objective is to make sure the Mobil Cotton Bowl Classic survives as a tier one bowl and I think we're arm in arm and in concert in terms where we would like to play that game and continue to play it at Fair Park," Cotton Bowl Association President John Crawford said after meeting.

A major factor in the aborted decision to move the game, Crawford said last week, was the "perception" among college football and network television officials that the downtown stadium is too exposed to inclement winter weather, Crawford said.

Rockets, Spurs, Mavericks looking for different things in NBA draft

DALLAS (AP) — All three Texas teams enter Wednesday's NBA draft looking for different things.

The Dallas Mavericks need anything and everything. The San Antonio Spurs need one thing; a point guard. The Houston Rockets just hope for something.

Dallas has three picks among the first 28, giving the Mavericks a now-or-never chance to turn around the team that's been the worst in the league the last two years.

"It's very important," new player personnel director Keith Grant said. "When a team builds as we are, this should make us even better."

Grant and coach Dick Motta have a can't-miss pick at No. 2 and likely will take Jason Kidd despite his recent off-court problems and the rising stock of Grant Hill.

For Dallas, the thought of a 1-2-3 combination of Kidd and previous top choices Jim Jackson and Jamal Mashburn is too good to pass up.

The real key to this draft for the Mavs is at No. 19 and No. 28 where they must take either a big man — possibly Marquette's 7-foot-1 center Jim Melville — or find guys who can be quality backups for many years.

San Antonio only has one pick at No. 22, which is fine because the Spurs may be only one player away

from turning last year's first-round upset victim into next year's top title contender.

The lack of a point guard may have cost the jobs of coach John Lucas and longtime executive Bob Bass.

So now it's up to former assistant Gregg Popovich, the team's new vice president of basketball operations, to find the right person to bring the ball up the court and get it to scoring champion David Robinson.

An interesting choice to quarterback the Spurs' offense would be Florida State's Charlie Ward, the Heisman Trophy winner bypassed in the NFL draft.

Other possibilities include B.J. Tyler of Texas, Tony Dumas of Missouri-Kansas City and Tony Tolbert of Detroit.

Then there's the NBA champion Rockets, who will have to take off their party hats and scour their ratings charts if they're going to add anyone to their roster.

Houston's only pick this year is No. 53 — the second-to-last of the draft.

The Rockets found starter Robert Horry and sparkplug Sam Cassell in the middle and latter part of the last two first rounds, but even finding anyone capable of making their 12-man roster is unlikely unless they trade up.

Barone enjoys success with '94 A&M basketball camp

By Mark Smith
THE BATTALION

For the past three days, G. Rollie White Coliseum has held some illustrious names. The Celtics, the Rockets, the Bulls.

Unfortunately for basketball fans, these aren't the NBA teams from Boston, Houston or Chicago. They are among the many teams that comprise the first of two sessions of the Texas A&M Basketball Camp.

Approximately 260 campers from all over the state and country are enjoying the tutelage of A&M head coach Tony Barone and the counselors he has assembled.

Barone said the coaches are one of the key elements of the camp.

"We've got some really good coaches," Barone said. "They're hand-picked."

Barone's camp had humble beginnings but has grown in size in his stay at A&M.

"In our first year we had about 100 kids in two camps," Barone said. "We have about 600 kids this year."

The growth of the camp could be related to the successful year the Aggies had during the 1993-94 season, Barone said.

"The camp has really blossomed,"

he said. "I'm sure [our success] has something to do with it."

"But, with the Rockets winning the championship, I think there's a lot of interest in basketball in Texas."

Even though the camp has been small at times, one camper keeps coming back year after year. It is someone Tony Barone is very familiar with, his son Brian Barone.

"I go to all of the camps," Brian Barone said. "I like them because you get to meet a lot of different people."

The younger Barone also likes it for the type of competition played at the camp.

"The good thing is that everybody is nice," he said. "There's no trash talking. That stuff is taken care of the first day."

"And, if you win, you don't take it back to the dorm."

At the beginning of the camp the players divided into different age and size groups. In those groups the players tryout for the various teams.

In the mornings the players run through stations, where they work with coaches on individual skills. Then, in the afternoons they practice with their teams and play scrimmage games.

Please see Hoops Camp/Page 4

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SPEED (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) #1 11:20 1:50 4:25 7:15 10:05 (12:35) #2 12:00 2:30 5:10 8:00 10:35	ON BOTH SCREENS
CITY SLICKERS II (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) #1 11:15 1:40 4:10 7:00 9:40 (12:15) #2 11:40 2:15 4:45 7:40 10:15	ON BOTH SCREENS
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THE COWBOY WAY (PG-13) 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:30 10:10 (12:30)	ON BOTH SCREENS
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THE CROW (R) 12:30 2:45 5:15 8:15 10:25 (12:30)	ON BOTH SCREENS
FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (R) 11:10 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:45 (12:10)	ON BOTH SCREENS
WITH HONORS (PG-13) 12:10 2:25 4:35 7:25 9:35 (11:50)	ON BOTH SCREENS
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