

Memories of Sundays, the Cowboys & Dad

DREW DIENER

Sportswriter



The Dallas Cowboys were minutes away from their sixth Super Bowl appearance when a young Joe Montana gallantly led his San Francisco 49ers downfield on what would become one of the most famous comebacks in NFL history...

Montana rolls right, the pigskin is sent spiraling toward the end zone. From out of nowhere, Dwight Clark appears at the bottom left of my television screen. Leaping and stretching in one poetic motion, "The Catch" is made...

San Francisco 28 - Dallas 27. Denied, the Dallas Cowboys returned home empty-handed. Two weeks later, the 49ers made their first of four Super Bowl appearances, and returned to the Bay Area with a World Championship.

After "The Catch" was made, I turned away from the TV and looked at my father. There was a moment of silence, like someone had died. Turning back toward the TV, I began to cry.

The Cowboys and my father were among the most important people in my life when I was growing up.

Dad knew that I had a great deal of love for football and almost always joined me in the den on Sunday afternoons, as I watched my heroes play their game.

Some of my greatest memories from my childhood involve watching football, being with my dad, or watching football with my dad. He was by no means a football fanatic, but he nonetheless would willingly give up his Sunday afternoons to watch the Cowboys, if for no other reason than to spend time with me.

At the time, I expected it. I took it for granted. Now I appreciate it

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Lady Ags defeat No. 15 Colorado

Volleyball team ties for third in tournament

By Jason Holstead THE BATTALION

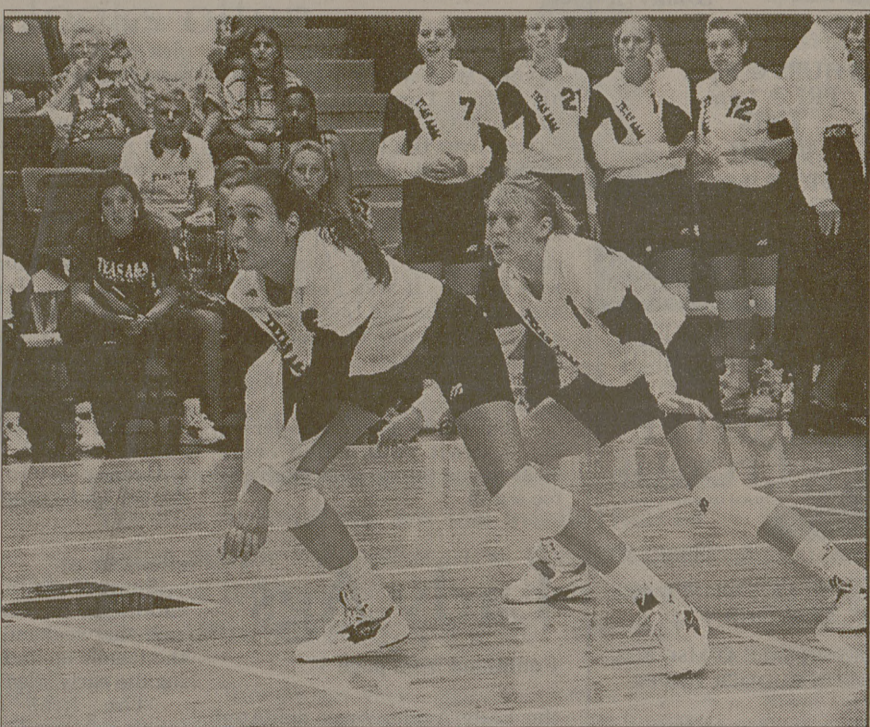
After tying for third at the University of Colorado Coors Tournament last weekend, the Texas A&M volleyball team resumes Southwest Conference action tonight as they travel to Lubbock to play Texas Tech at 7 o'clock.

Despite losing two games out of three in the tournament, head coach Laurie Corbelli said the team learned several lessons over the weekend that should come in handy as the season progresses.

"I think the main things we learned this weekend was the need to focus on consistent performances and the need to be well-prepared as individuals within the team's game plan," Corbelli said.

A&M's sole win in the tournament came against 15th-ranked Colorado. Colorado was the highest ranked team

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Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Joni Keister, junior middle blocker, returns the ball as her teammate Jan Scudder, sophomore outside hitter, watches.

Cause of Gerulaitis' death found

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Former tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis was killed when a faulty propane heater filled the cottage where he was staying with such high levels of carbon monoxide that investigators had to retreat for gas masks, authorities said Tuesday.

Gerulaitis, 40, was found dead Sunday afternoon. Tests showed "between 72 and 77 percent of his blood was saturated with carbon monoxide — extremely, extremely high levels," said Norma Dill, assistant to the chief medical examiner.

Police said the fumes seeped into the heating and air conditioning system of the cottage, which sits near the beach on an estate in this affluent Long Island community.

The Suffolk County medical examiner found carbon monoxide traces during an autopsy Monday afternoon. Investigators then returned to the house and recorded carbon monoxide levels that were described as "off the scale."

Detective Sgt. David Betts said it was not clear if Gerulaitis was asleep when fumes swept through the house or how long he had been dead. When a servant entered the cottage Sunday afternoon, the television was on and Gerulaitis was still wearing clothes he'd worn Saturday morning at a tennis clinic.

Betts said that although the deadly gas apparently came from the heating and cooling system, the exact source had not been determined. The system had been serviced within the last two weeks, Betts said.

Gerulaitis was a frequent guest at the cottage on the 4.7-acre, \$5.5 million estate of developer Martin Raynes. He arrived there last weekend after a late-night flight from the West Coast, where he'd played in a tennis tournament with former greats Jimmy Connors and Bjorn Borg.

Raynes last saw Gerulaitis around 5 p.m. Saturday and the two agreed to have dinner. When Gerulaitis failed to appear that evening, Raynes assumed he was sleeping.

For the 24 hours after his body was found, the tennis world buzzed with speculation that Gerulaitis' death was linked to drug use.

Gerulaitis acknowledged using cocaine during the late 1970s and '80s, and said that his appetite for drugs and discos undercut a career that was based on quickness and endurance. He was treated for substance abuse and was implicated, though never charged, in a cocaine-dealing conspiracy in 1983.

Offensive line ready to face Golden Eagles despite injuries

Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M head football coach R. C. Slocum tagged inexperience of and injuries to the team's offensive line as the biggest problems experienced by the A&M running attack as the team prepares for this week's match-up with the University of Southern Mississippi.

"The number one factor is the offensive line, which is not an experienced unit," Slocum said. "We've also had problems keeping all of our offensive line healthy. Jeff Jones, John Richard, Hunter Goodwin and even Calvin Collins have missed some time due to illnesses and bumps and bruises."

Both Richard and offensive lineman Koby Hackradt missed practice Tuesday due to viruses. Also missing work-outs were tight end Hayward Clay (knee) and linebacker Warrick Holdman (thumb).

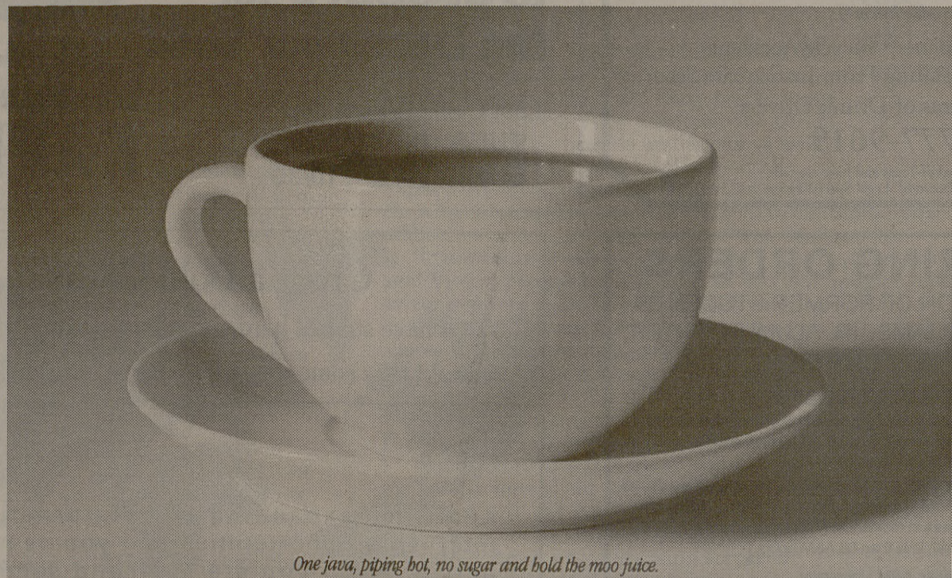
Despite the inexperience of the offensive line and the success of A&M's passing attack against both Oklahoma and Louisiana State, Slocum said the running game is still an integral part of the Aggie attack.

"The ability to run the football is a basic ingredient of championship caliber football teams," Slocum said. "It's easy to be seduced into throwing the football all of the time. We're committed, and we will be able to run the ball."

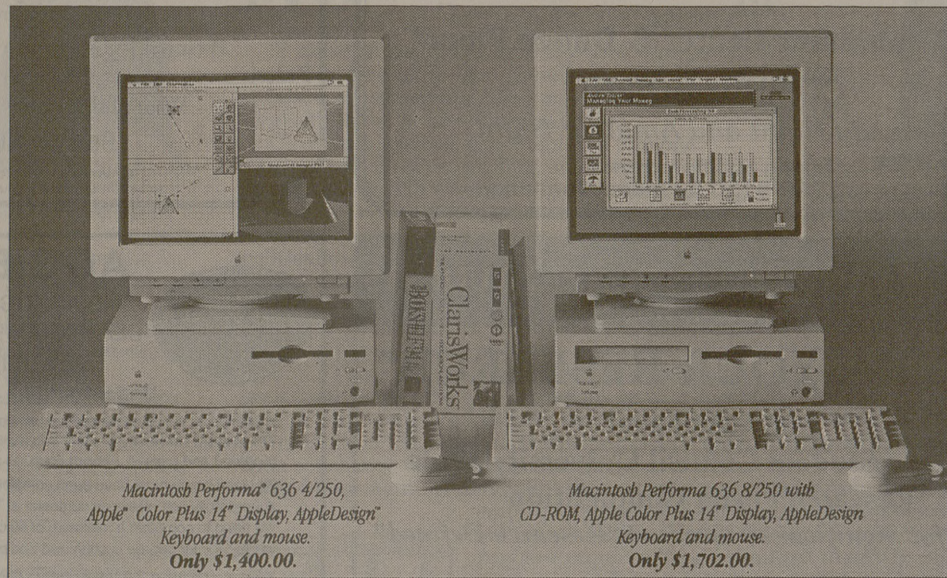
This Day In Aggie Football...

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