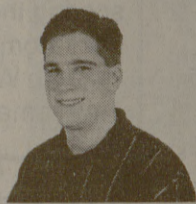


Are blowouts just a part of the game?

TOM DAY

Sportswriter



This past weekend, I was in South Bend, Indiana, to visit my brother and see a Notre Dame football game. The Fighting Irish, who had fallen out of the top 25 for the first time since 1986 following back-to-back losses to Boston College and Brigham Young, were badly in need of a victory over Navy.

As expected, the Irish pummeled the Middies to the tune of 58-21. However, Notre Dame's final touchdown, a 15 yard scoring strike through the air in the game's last minute, raised a stale and meaningless question. Did the Irish run up the score?

You be the judge. Up by 30, Notre Dame had the football on first down, deep in Navy territory with about a minute and a half left in the game. Lou Holtz decided to have his quarterback take a knee and let the remaining time tick off the clock.

But on third down, Navy laughs at Notre Dame's mercy offering and calls timeout to stop the clock. The Irish responded with a touchdown pass. Is this running up the score?

After the game, I listened to the local post-game radio talk show and the topic wasn't on Notre Dame's dominant win, their revamped offense, or Emmett Mosley's four touchdowns. The only thing on the locals' minds was Holtz's lack of class in running up the score.

I have one thing to say to these people. Get a clue.

Think about it. Notre Dame elected to mercifully let the clock wind down by sitting on the ball. Whether out of stupidity or a demand of respect, Navy called a timeout, basically forcing the Irish to run another play.

This was an engraved invitation for the Irish to stick it to them one more time, and their competitive nature guided them to do so. Is it unsportsmanlike to score in the final seconds when the other team dares you to?

Another controversy emerged following Penn St.'s 63-14 shellacking of Ohio St. on Saturday. The Nittany Lions stand accused of running up the score against the Buckeyes to impress the pollsters and justify their number one ranking.

After building a 35-0 halftime lead, however, Joe Paterno toned down his offensive blitz to a mere ground attack. He called on eleven different players to carry the ball in an attempt to show he was trying to slow things down.

However, the yards still stacked up and the accusations were flying. Is it Penn St.'s fault that an over-matched Ohio St. squad couldn't stop anything they ran at them?

Closer to home, Aggie fans can recall last season's game against Missouri. That day, the Aggies could do no wrong in a 73-0 trashing of the Tigers. R.C. Slocum called on 2nd, 3rd and 4th string players to play, and the points still piled up.

Was this running up the score? Heck, the next step would be to lie down and play dead.

To find a real example of running up the score, all you have to do is look back at the University of Houston's play in recent seasons. Cougar High's powerful run-and-shoot offensive assault demoralized

See Day/Page 8

Soccer stars recall beginnings

By Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

When you look at the five seniors of the Texas A&M women's soccer team, you see how far the soccer program has come in a short time.

"The program has come so far," forward Anna Whitehead said. "Now we definitely have a shot at the playoffs. So it is a new awakening for us. It is something. We didn't think we'd have this opportunity."

For Whitehead, Kristi Dillinger, Heather Pinkerton, Michelle Crofts and April Gallagher, Wednesday's game against Southern Methodist University holds more than the opportunity to defeat a nationally-ranked power or the chance to make playoffs.

What this will bring is the riches that come with the sacrifices made during their first two seasons.

"We gave up two years of our life, our school, our social life," Whitehead said. "We'd drive to the games ourselves, spend the nights four to a room, pack into vans. We're not given any credit for that."

The first two years were rough while the soccer program existed at the varsity/non scholarship level. There was minimal support from the University. They were also disregarded by their opponents.

Two years later, a decision in the athletic department to add soccer changed all that. G. Guerrieri was named to lead the program and their soccer lives would never be the same.

"It's been a great experience," Dillinger said. "It was nice to get a coach in here, have the facilities available to us and be recognized by the school and supported by the student body."

The seniors are enjoying the rewards. There is an appreciation

by these five players of what they have now. Some players think that both types of lifestyles have had positive effects.

"It has been the best of both worlds," Gallagher said. "It was close bonding when you had five people to a seat in a van. People now fight over getting your own seat on the bus."

The financial support has improved the quality on the field. The Aggies are now making a name for themselves on the field against teams that used to give them verbal abuse during the lean years.

"The game on Wednesday is important," Pinkerton said. "We can be the best team in Texas. The game is personal because we took a lot of flack from them."

Guerrieri said that the seniors have brought the leadership and experience necessary to a young A&M team.

"Any seniority and maturity that we can bring to that group, you can't put a price to it," Guerrieri said. "We have this seniority and seasoned veterans we can turn to in tough situations."

These positives can be seen on the field.

Whitehead is the physical forward who Guerrieri said has become a "huge factor" in the Aggies' attack.

Dillinger has collected two Most Valuable Player awards one for her play last season and another for her play in this year's Post Oak Mall tournament.

Crofts is 9-1-2 as the Aggie goalkeeper including five shutouts. Guerrieri said that her effort "is the reason we didn't lose against N.C. State."

Pinkerton and Gallagher are midfielders who give the Aggies added stability and leadership. Guerrieri labels their importance in the ability to push everybody else and the maturity and experience they bring to the field.

"They are a tough group for us replace," Guerrieri said.



Lady Aggie soccer seniors (L to R): April Gallagher, Heather Pinkerton, Kristi Dillinger, Anna Whitehead, (front) Michelle Crofts

Mackovic defends team, own ability

AUSTIN (AP) — The talk around the University of Texas has moved from Cotton Bowl chances to coaching changes.

With nemesis Texas A&M rolling into town on Saturday, Texas coach John Mackovic's weekly news conference normally would be focused on one of college football's fiercest rivalries.

But Mackovic on Monday was defending his 2 1/2 seasons at Texas (5-3, 2-2 Southwest Conference).

That's because a season filled with Cotton Bowl promise has crashed in the past three weeks with devastating losses to Rice and Texas Tech, who now command the driver's seat to Dallas.

Despite a rash of injuries and player suspensions, Texas beat Pittsburgh, Louisville, Texas Christian and Oklahoma to go 4-1 and reach No. 12 in The Associated Press poll with the only blemish a last-second loss to Colorado.

Mackovic's preseason claim that the Longhorns be considered a Cotton Bowl favorite, with or without the Aggies on probation, looked solid.

That was before the Longhorns did what many orange blood faithful thought was unthinkable, losing to Rice for the first time in 29 years and then showing almost no vital signs in a 33-9 blowout at Texas Tech on Saturday.

It was the most lopsided loss by Texas in SWC play since a 50-7 defeat by Baylor in 1989.

The Rice loss also recalled another crippling defeat under Mackovic, a 23-14 victory by TCU in 1992 that ended 24 years of Longhorn domination over the Horned Frogs.

A column in the Austin American-Statesman on Sunday said Mackovic and his team had become emotionless and demanded the coach be fired. Longhorns fans have jammed radio call-in shows to express their displeasure with people already proposing replacements.

"Let them talk. I can't stop people from talking can I? What is there to say," Mackovic said.

"Our team does have emotion, and I am basically the same person I was the week we lined up to play Colorado and Oklahoma," Mackovic said.

"I don't rant and rave on the sidelines, and I don't throw things at people, and I don't call them down to embarrass them in public. I know that screaming at people does not improve everything. I learned that as a child."

Players say they support Mackovic, who is 13-10-1 and

without a bowl appearance at Texas. Before coming to Austin, Mackovic had compiled a record of 30-16-1, including four bowl games in four seasons at Illinois.

"Everyone is behind coach Mackovic, and I think we are going to be able to turn it around this week against A&M and do a great job," said sophomore quarterback Shea Morenz.

Mackovic, who has repeatedly said it will take up to five years to return Texas to national prominence, says he should be judged on more than just winning football games.

"We have done a number of things academically," he said. "We have built and mended a number of fences and improved the quality of life and the quality of academic pursuit on this campus. Those should be taken into consideration and they are not always."

Mackovic lumped himself in with a host of coaches having down years, including Oklahoma's Gary Gibbs, Ohio State's John Cooper and Michigan's Gary Moeller.

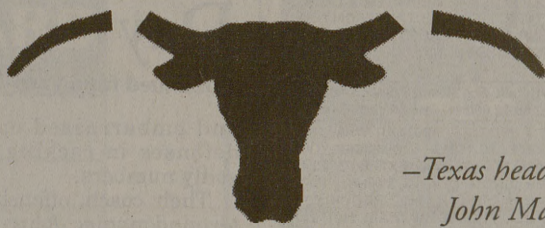
"I am not alone. It's a frustrating year for a lot of us," Mackovic said.

"We're at a level where we have a lot of attention and people follow our game and follow it closely.

"We understand that, and we know that winning is important. But we also know that you have to look at more than just a short snapshot of everything.

"We will put the Texas football program in a position with honor, integrity, with class and it will be in a position again at the top of college football."

"We will put the Texas football program in a position with honor, integrity, with class and it will be in a position again at the top of college football."



—Texas head coach John Mackovic

it will be in a position again at the top of college football. I know that because we are doing it the right way.

University of Texas Chancellor William Cunningham and school President Robert Berdahl, who will ultimately make any decisions concerning Mackovic, didn't return telephone calls by The Associated Press.

Mackovic said Monday that he, Cunningham and Berdahl "have a good relationship. I think they understand. We have talked many times."

Meanwhile, 11th-ranked Texas A&M (7-0-1, 4-0-1) should be pumped up for Texas this week after suffering a loss-like tie (21-21) against lowly Southern Methodist (1-7-1, 0-4-1) Saturday. The tie ended the Aggies' 26-game SWC winning streak.

Dallas Cowboys distracted by Blake's Bengals

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys did what good teams do, survive a bad day at the office.

Their 23-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday gave the defending Super Bowl champions a 7-1 record at the midway point of their first season under coach Barry Switzer.

"Some days it ain't easy being a Dallas Cowboy," offensive lineman Nate Newton said.

Sunday was one of those days.

The usually reliable secondary gave up two long touchdown passes by quarterback Jeff Blake and it took some blunders by the Bengals, including a late fourth down hit by James Francis on Troy Aikman to keep a touchdown drive alive.

Distracted Dallas, worried all week about the traffic wreck that injured offensive Erik Williams, showed just enough to get by the Bengals (0-8).

"Erik was definitely in the back of our minds," running back Emmitt Smith said. "We wanted to win the game for him."

The Cowboys had Williams' No. 79 jersey number on their wristbands and helmets. They even had his uniform in a locker in the dressing room at Cincinnati.

"There was no doubt we were thinking about him," wide receiver Michael Irvin said. "We were emotionally drained."

Williams suffered a knee injury in the wreck that will keep him out six weeks and possibly the

See Cowboys/Page 8

Experience the Culture

of

England!

Germany!

and the

Dominican Republic!

Persons with disabilities requiring assistance at MSC-sponsored programs are requested to call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs.

Last Informational Meeting
Nov. 2 at 8:30pm 302 Rudder
Application Due Nov.11 by 5pm

Intern and Living Abroad
Program
Informational Meetings

For more information and applications,
contact the
L.T. Jordan Institute Office at 845-8770.



MSC COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARENESS
OF MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

PRESENTS

El Dia de los Muertos

Come celebrate the annual Day of the Dead with us. Enjoy pan de muertos and an informative presentation!

November 2, 1994
206 MSC
7:00 p.m.



Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.