

## Media hype gives undue credit to some

TOM DAY

Sportswriter



In sports, there are some teams and players that get respect, and there are some that don't. There are those who earn the respect of their peers, the hype of the media and the adoration of fans, and there are those who can only dream about it. Some of these sports figures may be deserving, and some may not be.

The following teams and players are the most overrated and underrated figures in all of sports according to this frustrated sportswriter.

### Top Four Most Overrated Sports Figures:

4) Bill Walsh  
The one-time head coach of the San Francisco 49ers is now losing games at Stanford. In his hey day, this "coaching great" won three Super Bowls with the Niners as the media dubbed him a "genius."

But who couldn't have been successful coaching a team with such immense talent led by a hall of fame quarterback by the name of Joe Montana?

Today the "genius" has come crashing back down to earth as he and his program have found that winning is not always that easy.

3) Seattle Supersonics  
Last year, the Sonics won a league-best 63 games during the regular season. Before the playoffs, the media, in awe of their dominance, proclaimed the Sonics as the future NBA champions. However, writers ate their words as eighth seeded Denver shocked the basketball world by defeating Seattle in the first round of the playoffs.

2) '63 t.u. football team  
Considered by many to be t.u.'s greatest team, the Longhorns won the national championship that year. However, the sips had to rely on an official's mistake to defeat a pitiful 2-7-1 A&M squad.

They never would have been the champs had their game winning touchdown pass that was caught out of bounds been ruled just that.

For years, my dad carried a picture around in his wallet clearly showing that their receiver was out of bounds.

1) Shaquille O'Neal  
The Orlando Magic superstar is already being considered as the league's best center. His bone-rattling dunks are the emphasis of his game as he has very little creativity to work with. But can Shaq do anything besides use his size to bring down backboards? How can the big guy be in Hakeem Olajuwon or Patrick Ewing's class when he can't hit a shot outside of three feet?

Top Four Most Underrated Sports Figures:

4) Recent Texas Aggie football teams

Six SWC titles and Cotton Bowl appearances in ten years

26 consecutive SWC victories

Third winningest football program in the '90s

Enough said.

3) Buffalo Bills  
The Bills have become a national

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# Dallas tramples New York Giants, 38-10

## Harper's injury could prove costly to Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys didn't get caught looking ahead to San Francisco. In fact, the New York Giants caught them in a fighting mood.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 163 yards and scored twice and Troy Aikman threw a touchdown pass and ran for another Monday night as the Cowboys won 38-10.

The two-time Super Bowl champions improved to 8-1, best in the NFL, with their 12th straight victory over an NFC East opponent.

The victory may have been a costly one for the Cowboys. Wide receiver Alvin Harper sprained his left knee just before the teams scuffled heading to the locker rooms for halftime, and owner Jerry Jones said the injury "didn't look good."

"It could be a tear and we're worried about him being out for the year," Jones said in the press box during the game. "The way the doctors were talking, I didn't like the way it sounded."

Dallas plays at San Francisco (7-2) next Sunday in an important game for playoff home-field advantage. But the Cowboys apparently weren't thinking about San Francisco as they handed the Giants (3-6) their sixth consecutive loss.

It was the first time the Giants

had lost six straight games since 1980 under Ray Perkins. Dallas, which has won five consecutive games against New York, hadn't beaten the Giants this badly since a 52-7 romp in 1966.

Dallas put the game away quickly.

Aikman and Smith took the Cowboys 95 yards in 10 plays for a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter. Smith ground out 58 yards on the drive, and Aikman finished it with a 17-yard pass to Michael Irvin and a 22-yard touchdown strike to Harper, who beat rookie Thomas Randolph.

Dallas traveled 80 yards in 13 plays for a second touchdown in the second quarter, highlighted by passes of 22 and 13 yards to full-back Daryl Johnston. The second completion put Dallas on the New York 6 and Smith scored from the 1. Smith joined Jim Brown as only the second player in NFL history to score 10 touchdowns a season in his first five years.

Dallas turned the game into a rout in the third period with Smith scoring on a 1-yard run after a 36-yard Aikman-to-Irvin pass. Smith rushed a franchise-high 35 times.

Later, Smith ran 28 yards, Aikman completed a 22-yard pass to Kevin William and Aikman scam-

bled 3 yards for a touchdown, his first since 1992.

Johnston bulled 9 yards for a touchdown after Dixon Edwards recovered Dave Brown's fumble. Brown completed only 4-of-17 passes for 56 yards before he was replaced by Kent Graham, whose first pass was intercepted.

The Giants got their only touchdown late in the fourth quarter on a 9-yard pass from Graham to Howard Cross.

Aikman completed 19-of-24 passes for 241 yards before Rodney Peete took over in the fourth period.

Smith, seeking a fourth consecutive rushing title, has 911 yards, 171 behind Detroit's Barry Sanders.

The first half ended on a bizarre play when Harper and Giants defensive back Tito Wooten went down in a tangle in the end zone on a long Hail Mary pass. Harper injured his left knee on the play, missed the second half and will undergo an MRI on Tuesday.

After the play, Irvin and Jarvis Williams of the Giants exchanged swings as more players gathered around. No damage was done as both teams pushed and shoved their way to their separate dressing rooms, scattering cheerleaders and halftime performers.



Michael Irvin (left) and quarterback Rodney Peete celebrate after defeating Arizona on Oct. 23. The Cowboys beat the New York Giants last night, 38-10.

## Diving, swimming teams to face UT

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

The 24th-ranked Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team will try to get their second win of the season tonight at 6:00 p.m. when they face the 2nd-ranked University of Texas Lady Longhorns in a dual meet at P.L. Downs Natatorium. The diving portion will begin at 1:00 p.m.

"It should be a really good meet," head swimming coach Mel Nash said. "We're a little stronger than we've been in the past. They (Texas) are obviously one of the best teams in the country, but we think we can keep them a little bit more honest than they've ever had to be in the past when they swam us."

Leading the way for the Lady Aggies is 1994 All-American Susie Geyer. Seniors Janet Kliem and Kym Johnson, juniors Julie Bates and Denean Knapp combine to form a more complete Lady Aggie team.

"It is not just one swimmer," Nash said. "This year's team is well-balanced."

The Lady Longhorns present a challenge in the form of nine returning All-Americans. Senior Tobie Smith, Megan Kleine, Jennifer LeMaster, Kris Sunday and Taryn Taylor swim for a Texas program that owns all 12 Southwest Con-

ference titles awarded.

"With the exception of maybe two events we have the capability to win in every event," Nash said. "We will use Texas as an opportunity to swim against the best people in the country."

For only the second time in three seasons a team has agreed to compete against the Lady Aggie diving team in the outside facility.

"I think it will be another good opportunity to get on the boards and do some diving against good competition in our own pool," head diving coach Kevin Wright said.

Freshman standout Jodi Janssen posted a first place finish last weekend at Rice and qualified for the NCAA prequalifying meet at the SWC relays.

"If we do well, our outlook will be that we can compete against anyone," Wright said.

The primary diving threat is Texas senior Terri Seipel. Seipel is a three-time All-American and member of the United States Diving Team.

"I think we'll swim really well," Nash said. "I know I was very pleased with what we did Friday against Rice, and I think the ladies are kind of psyched up."

"It should be a really good meet. We're a little stronger than we've been in the past."

—Mel Nash, A&M head swimming coach

## Oilers' management, coaches at odds

HOUSTON (AP) — First, Houston Oilers players pointed fingers at each other. Now they're directed at the coaches and management.

Everybody's trying to coach the sputtering run-and-shoot offense, including owner Bud Adams and general manager Floyd Reese. The results are obvious — a 1-8 record that includes Sunday's 12-9 overtime loss to Pittsburgh.

Reese decreed that Cody Carlson would play the entire game against the Steelers, although Carlson missed eight passes in a row at one stretch of the first half and was ineffective most of the game.

"We felt like he could play. Physically, it was time," Reese said. "We were going right down to the end with a chance to win and if he's the best you've got..."

But Carlson wasn't healthy. He said he felt weak from the start of the game and admitted he was out of shape because of his season-long bout with shoulder and knee ailments.

"Floyd pretty much made the decision, which I was happy with. But I'm out of shape, no doubt about it," said Carlson, whose biggest problem has been mobility, caused by a chronic knee injury. "I haven't been able to run since the beginning of the season."

Billy Joe Tolliver was scheduled to make his second straight start for the Oilers, but the change came down Saturday.

Assistant head coach Kevin Gilbride said instructions came "from above" to start Carlson.

"The decision was made going in, the parameters were set," Gilbride said. "We tried to win with what we were given. I expressed my opinion to the people who needed to know."

What opinion?

"I'd rather not say."

So why did the Oilers stay with Carlson, who appeared slow at evading the Steelers, who sacked him six times for 45 yards in losses?

Coach Jack Pardee said the coaching staff wasn't instructed to stay with Carlson the whole game.

"I certainly wasn't told I had to play him," Pardee said. "I talked to Floyd and he's a good football person. I asked him who he thought was ready. The last couple of weeks we didn't feel he was ready."

Adams, who earlier instructed the Oilers to use more of the tight end phase of the offense, said he wished the assistant coaches would keep quiet and let Pardee be the coaches' spokesman.

"You don't see Don Shula's assistant coaches talking," Adams said.

Gilbride's response?

"I'd love to be out of it. If these remarks weren't directed to me, I wouldn't say anything."

Wide receiver Ernest Givins, who suggested last week conditions would improve if the quarterbacks threw to him more often, didn't complain after Sunday's loss.

## Capriati makes comeback in Virginia Slims tournament

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court Monday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

The 18-year-old who lost interest in tennis more than a year ago was all business at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ignoring a crowd watching her as she returned balls to new coach Jose Higueras.

Capriati has a first-round match Wednesday night (7 p.m.) against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of personal problems, including drug addiction.

But Monday Capriati looked like she wanted to play again. She returned serves with powerful forehands for more than 30 minutes without a break, stopping occasionally to wipe her forehead.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement, declining interviews. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

### This day in Aggie football

November 8, 1924: SMU halts the Aggies juggernaut in a 7-7 tie. The Aggies go on to lose two of their final four games.

INFORMATION MEETING  
Wednesday, November 9, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in 127 ACAD, Texas A&M

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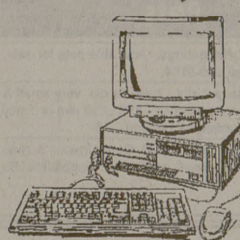
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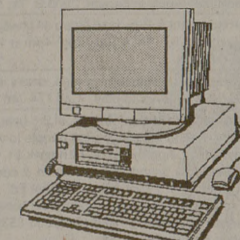
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