

Cotton Bowl bid still in the air for SWC

TOM DAY



Sportswriter

Entering this football season, the Texas Longhorns were heavily favored to win their first Southwest Conference title in four years.

In fact, the Texas players were so confident, that several took offense to this assessment.

But after a 4-1 start, the Horns came crashing back down to earth in a hurry.

In the usual SWC style, the league's remaining teams have beaten up on each other, keeping the conference's reputation for parity intact.

In a year when there are points awarded for second place and the runner up won't be termed the first loser, there isn't an SWC team playing with "No Fear."

As Texas was starting its nose-dive, Rice moved into the driver's seat following a quick, 2-0 conference start.

But the Owl's stay behind the wheel was short-lived. With three losses in their last four games, Rice has crashed and it would take a miracle for the Owls to claim the title.

Baylor jumped out of the gate with an impressive 5-1 start. However, question marks surround the Bears as their two conference losses to A&M and Tech came by a combined score of 79-28.

Texas Christian has turned many heads this season with their 6-3 record. But the Horned Frogs' title hopes are dim as they must defeat A&M at Kyle Field and Tech to have a chance.

Baylor and TCU are depending on help from other teams to win the title. The Red Raiders, however, are in control of their own destiny, as they need only to win their remaining games against Houston and TCU to secure the crown.

If you put things into perspective, with A&M ineligible, it really doesn't matter who wins the conference. With early projections showing either Colorado or Florida State coming to Dallas on January 2nd, the game could be the equivalent of lambs entering the slaughter.

But no matter how bad the conference is embarrassed, the Aggies can still hold their heads up high. Unlike the other teams of the SWC, A&M can confidently say, "Wait 'til next year."

Missed free throws cost A&M victory

Mexican National basketball team beats Aggies in last seconds of game, 73-72

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Guard Oscar Castellanos hit a running 30-foot three-pointer as time expired, and the Mexican National team defeated the Texas A&M men's basketball team 73-72 in an exhibition game at G. Rollie White Coliseum Monday night.

The Aggies appeared to have the game won with just six seconds left when senior forward Joe Wilbert was fouled with the Aggies leading 72-70. But Wilbert missed the front end of a one-and-one situation and the Mexican National team hustled downcourt for the winning score.

"It was a hell of a shot," Wilbert said. "I'll take the blame, I needed to make some big free throws at the end."

Despite taking the blame at the end, Wilbert enjoyed his second straight brilliant exhibition. He led all scorers with 30 points, and also added 11 rebounds and three steals in 37 minutes of play.

A&M head coach Tony Barone said he was pleased with the team's improvement since their last game on Saturday. "Our effort was pretty good but not as physically tough," Barone said. "It was a lot better from the last game, and let's be honest we should have won this game."

Although they shot much better from the field in the second half (46.7), the Aggies fell behind with 17:36 left. Seniors Tony McGinnis and Corey Henderson helped relieve the scoring load from Wilbert, scoring 13 and 10 points respectively. But the team's free throw shooting plunged to six of 13, including zero for five in the final 2:41, in the second half, and the Mexican National team was able to steal the game away.

Texas A&M was the Mexican National team's third stop on their tour of several American colleges, having already lost close games to New Mexico and Southern Methodist. Forward Arturo Montes led the team with 22 points on nine of 13 shooting, while Castellanos added 13 points, five assists and five steals. For the game, the Mexican National team hit 55 percent of their shots, including a red-hot 18 of 29 (62.1 percent) in the second half.

Turnovers also wreaked havoc on the Aggies throughout the game. Although A&M actually had fewer turnovers than their opponents, the Aggies were only able to score 14 points on the 30 Mexican miscues, including none in the second half. Meanwhile, the National team turned 25 Aggie turnovers into 26 points.

Henderson said he was very disappointed in the team's outside shooting in the first half and that this kind of defeat is the very worst.

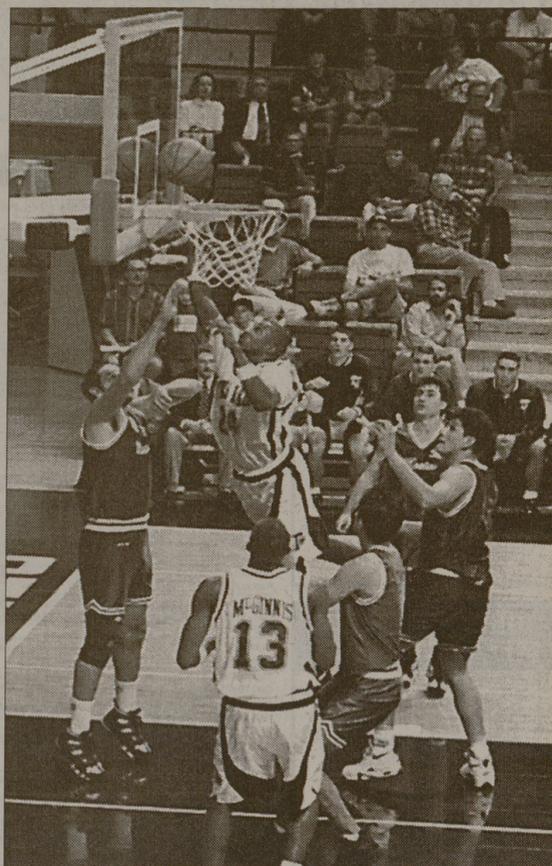
"We had to depend on Joe (Wilbert) too much," Henderson said. "It's all about confidence. The shots were there, we just had to knock them down. I'd rather lose by 50 than (lose) a game like this."

Although the loss seemed tough for the players to handle, Henderson said it was a tremendous learning experience, especially with the team's upcoming visit to the Maui Invitational starting November 21.

"This helps because we have to go to work as soon as we get to the tournament," Henderson said. "This is a good tuner, we've got teams like Michigan, Indiana and Tulane coming up. We know that to be the best, you've got to play the best."

"We had to depend on Joe (Wilbert) too much. It's all about confidence. The shots were there, we just had to knock them down. I'd rather lose by 50 than (lose) a game like this."

-Corey Henderson, A&M senior guard



Senior forward Joe Wilbert makes a layup against the Mexican National team Monday night, while Tony McGinnis, No. 13, looks on.

Netters to face Lady Bobcats

Road victories give Lady Aggie volleyball team needed momentum

Jason Holstead
THE BATTALION

After two weekend road victories over Southwest Missouri State and Iowa State, the Texas A&M women's volleyball team returns home tonight to play Southwest Texas State at 7 o'clock in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies are riding a three-match winning streak going into tonight's game with the Lady Bobcats.

Head coach Laurie Corbelli said the Lady Aggies are finally getting "chemistry" between the players.

"I really think the team is starting to come together and I still think we still have some areas we could improve on," Corbelli said. "We do have some momentum."

Freshman middle-blocker Cindy VanderWoude said the team is starting to play like one unit.

"It feels like we're playing together a lot more, as one team instead of six individuals," VanderWoude said. "It seems like we get on the court and it feels real good, (even) if we get down (in the game) we stick with it and turn it around."

Corbelli said the team responded well to playing two tough teams last weekend, especially on the road.

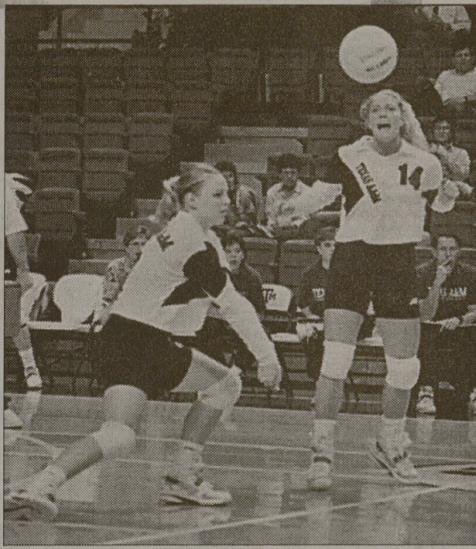
"We played really well on the road and I think the players feel it and are starting to come together a little more," Corbelli said. "Their confidence is greater, which is really important."

The Lady Bobcats (18-13, 9-4 conference) are coming in tonight's game riding a five-match winning streak.

They are led by Krisha Neimann, a 5-10 sophomore from Pflugerville, Texas, who paces the team with 3.79 kills and a .278 hitting averages per game.

Corbelli said the Lady Bobcats will be a strong test for her team.

"I think they are a improved team from last year and are a very good, solid defense team," Corbelli said. "They have some



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Freshman middle blocker, Jennifer Wells (left) returns the ball as teammate Dana Santleben cheers her on.

good ball-handling skills and we know that they have some attackers who hit areas of the court that we have not (in the past) defending very well."

After tonight's game, the Lady Aggies return to action Friday night, as they play Rice University in the first round of the Southwest Conference tournament.

Manley charged with drug possession

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Pro Bowl defensive end Dexter Manley, who was banned from the NFL for violating the league's drug policy, has been charged with felony possession of crack cocaine.

Manley, 36, was arrested Sunday night and was released Monday after posting \$5,000 bail.

Unable to read until 1986, Manley had been an inspiration and also a frustration to the fans who followed his turbulent career.

In 1981, Manley was drafted by the Washington Redskins in the fifth round and went on to play in three Super Bowls.

He had 97 sacks in his NFL career, which ranks fourth in league history. The 6-foot-4, 270-pound Manley was perhaps the most dominant defender in the NFL during the mid-1980s while helping the Redskins win two Super Bowls.

He was banned for life from the NFL in December 1991 after failing the fourth drug test of his career. In his 1992 book, "Educating Dexter," Manley wrote how he "gave up a \$650,000-a-year contract for a lousy \$20 worth of cocaine."

CHRISTIANITY & HOMOSEXUALITY



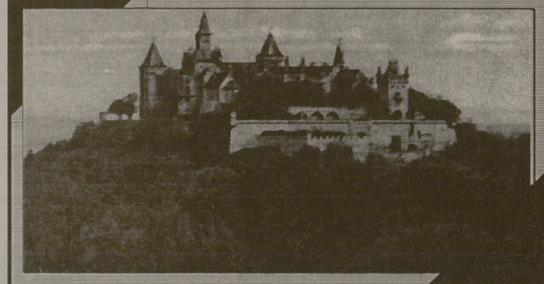
DR. MEL WHITE, a gay minister and former speech/ghostwriter for OLIVER NORTH, PAT ROBERTSON, & JERRY FALWELL, will discuss being gay and Christian in America. This program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

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