

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baylor's Jackson opts for early move into the pro draft

WACO (AP) — Baylor University junior tailback Brandell Jackson said Tuesday he intends to forego his senior season and declare himself eligible for the upcoming NFL draft.

Pardee named head coach of Birmingham, Alabama CFL team

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Former Houston Oilers coach Jack Pardee will be the head coach of Birmingham's new Canadian Football League franchise, one of his assistants said.

John Jenkins, who like Pardee is a former head coach at the University of Houston, told WBRC-TV in Birmingham that he will be offensive coordinator under Pardee for the team announced last week.

Jenkins was interviewed Monday at the Senior Bowl in Mobile.

Team owner Art Williams said last week he was putting up \$10 million to buy an expansion CFL franchise in Birmingham. He vowed to hire a coach that would "blow your socks off" but said he would not name him until the CFL formally votes on the team at a Jan. 27 meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

Pardee was coach of the Oilers from 1990 until midway through this season, when he was fired and replaced by Jeff Fisher. The Oilers made the playoffs in each of Pardee's first four seasons.

Before that, Pardee coached the University of Houston and the Houston Gamblers of the United States Football League.

Jenkins was Pardee's offensive coordinator at the University of Houston, where the Cougars featured a run-and-shoot offense. Jenkins succeeded Pardee at the University of Houston from 1990-92.

Jenkins has spent the past three years with the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the last as defensive secondary coach.

Spurs down Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — Chuck Person scored 24 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 18 rebounds and San Antonio put together a 16-2 fourth-quarter run to defeat the Boston Celtics 101-92 Tuesday night.

David Robinson added 18 points for the Spurs, who snapped a two-game losing streak that followed a run of 13 victories in 14 games. Dino Radja had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Celtics in his best performance since returning on Jan. 9 from a hand injury that sidelined him for 15 games.

The Spurs led 73-69 after three periods and scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter before Boston's Sherman Douglas hit a 10-footer with 2:24 left. Terry Cummings answered with a jumper and Person sank two free throws before hitting a 3-pointer to make it 99-71 with 7:29 left.

San Antonio led by 19 when Boston ran off six consecutive points to pull to 84-81 with 4:16 left. But the Spurs increased their lead again, thanks to Rodman's jumper and another 3-pointer by Person.

The Spurs opened up a seven-point lead after eight minutes and extended it to as many as 14 before taking a 57-44 lead into the half.

With the Spurs leading by 13 points 80 seconds into the third period, Radja connected on three straight baskets to make it 57-50. It was a nine-point game when the Celtics put together another 6-0 run to make it 63-60 with 5:02 left in the quarter.

Person then got the rebound and threw a baseball pass to Robinson, who dunked to increase San Antonio's lead to 65-60. The Celtics never really threatened again.

Aggies' outside shooting no match for Owls' defense

Aggies fall to 1-2 in Southwest Conference, despite stellar performance by senior Wilbert

By Nick Georgandis THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's basketball team continued its road woes Tuesday night, dropping a 66-62 decision to the Rice Owls at The Summit, despite another magnificent performance by senior forward Joe Wilbert.

Behind the entire game, the Aggies finally tied the game on a Wilbert drive at 47-47 with 5:08 to go. But from then on, the Owls went on 19-14 run to pullout the victory.

Wilbert led all scorers with 33, his second 30-plus outburst in the last three games. Despite his individual performance, Wilbert was disappointed in the shooting performance of the team.

"We were kind of surprised they went into a zone defense," Wilbert said. "We had to knock down our shots, but we didn't. We just came up short."

The Aggies shot just 42.4 percent, including a miserable 2-17 from behind the three-point line.

A&M head coach Tony Barone praised the Owls' defense, but indicated that the Aggies still could have won the game with better outside shooting.

"Just look at our stats, we didn't shoot the ball at all from behind the arc," Barone said. "They (Rice) did a great job of packing it in, making us shoot from the outside."

Down 24-18 with six minutes left in the first half, A&M went on a mini-run of 11-7 to trail by only two points at halftime. The Owls, however, made a run of their own to begin the second half, putting the Aggies in a 40-31 hole just three minutes into the second half.

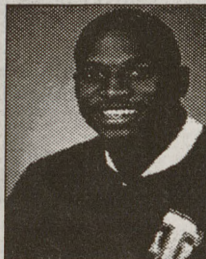
Wilbert brought the Aggies, now 1-2 in the Southwest Conference, back within striking distance off seven straight points.

When senior forward Damon Johnson hit a free throw with 11:18 left, A&M had closed the gap to 42-39.

A crowd of 4,052 watched the Owls move to 3-0 on the year in the conference. Despite his team's win, Owl senior forward Adam Peakes said he was impressed by the Aggies.

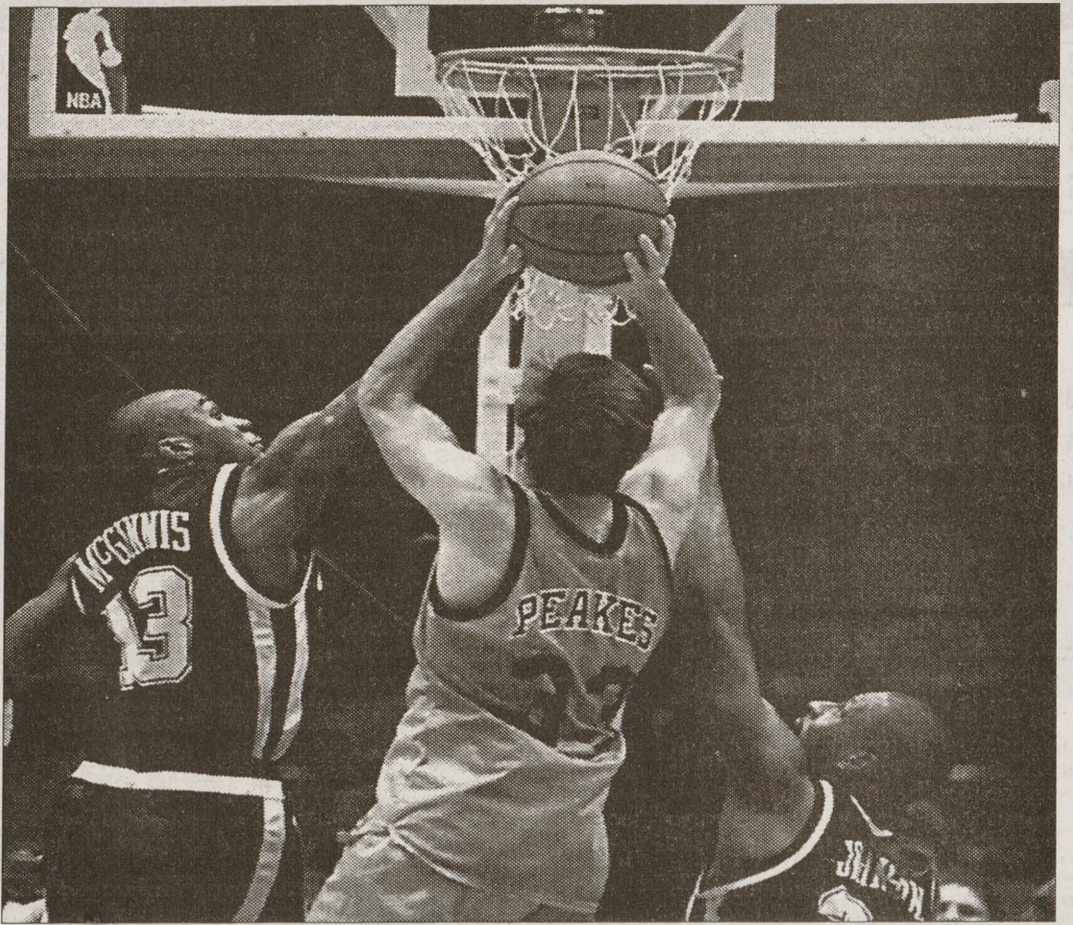
"They're a real good team," Peakes said. "We feel very fortunate to have beat them."

The Aggies return to play Saturday afternoon when they face the University of Houston at G. Rollie White.



"We had to knock down our shots, but we didn't."

— Senior forward Joe Wilbert



Stew Milne/The Battalion

Despite their efforts, McGinnis and Johnson couldn't stop Peakes from scoring in A&M's loss to Rice.

Women's basketball confident in Rice defeat

Junior Branch sports quick recover from foot injury during Texas game, misses no action

By Kristina Buffin THE BATTALION

The Lady Aggies came back strong with a big win over the University of Texas Longhorns on Saturday night overcoming a loss in their first Southwest Conference game to 7th-ranked Texas Tech University. Tonight the 22nd-ranked Texas A&M women's basketball team (10-4, 1-1) will try to collect its second Southwest Conference win when they travel to Houston to play the Rice University Owls (6-7, 1-1) at 7 p.m. in Autry Court.

"The (Texas) game has definitely had a positive effect on us," junior guard Lisa Branch said. "But looking at Rice, they are a tough team. They beat SMU and Houston at Houston, so we are not taking

them lightly."

Senior forward Brenda Conaway has led the Lady Owls in their first two SWC victories. She leads the team in scoring (15.3) and rebounding (8.6) and had her fifth double-double of the season with 20 points and 10 rebounds against Southern Methodist University.

The Owls as a team are outscoring opponents 69.7 to 66.5, outrebounding teams 44.6 to 37.0 and outshooting opponents .422 to .387.

"They are a well-rounded team," Branch said. "All of their starters are equally good. Our defense will not only concentrate on one player, but we will have to stop their top player Connolly."

As a team the Lady Aggies are averaging 78.8 points, 43.6 rebounds and shooting .402 percent per game. Leading the

way for the Lady Aggies is Lisa Branch who leads the SWC with an average of 7.0 assists a game. She also ranks third in steals (2.1), fourth in free-throw percentage (.811) and three-point percentage (.393).

Although Branch injured her foot in the game against Texas, she has fully recovered and will definitely start.

"I'm okay," Branch said. "I was just told not to look at the replay because it was pretty gruesome."

Defensively, the Lady Owls will have to contain Lady Aggies centers Kelly Cerny and Martha McClelland who are ranked third and sixth, re-

spectively, in blocks. The Lady Owls will also have to combat A&M's bench scoring. As the Lady Aggies

"sixth woman," junior center Angel Spinks is averaging 10.2 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

A second threat to come off the bench is junior guard Bambi Ferguson. In SWC games Ferguson is averaging 10 points, 2 rebounds and shooting .285 percent from the three-point line.

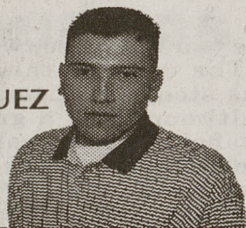
"We are still confident at this point in the season," Branch said. "We are learning each other's strengths and it should be a great game against Rice."



Cowboys get too much attention from media

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

SPORTSWRITER



Super Bowl XXIX will be played in Miami on Jan. 29 and will feature some West Coast flavor. Even though the game will be in Florida, the San Francisco 49ers and the San Diego Chargers will not only represent the NFC and AFC respectively, but also represent the Golden State, California.

What I am about to say will anger many Ags, but I am glad

the Dallas Cowboys will not be in the Super Bowl.

I am one of the few and proud who hate the Cowboys with a passion. Not only do I hate the organization, but I hate the players and the personnel as well. I'm a Chicago Bears fan and was disappointed when they lost to the Niners in the NFC semifinals, but I forgave Steve Young and company after they beat "Da Boys."

Yes, it's a major accomplishment for a team to win a Super Bowl and then repeat the same feat the next year. But, is it necessary to read about the Cowboys' every little move, or traffic accident, in every newspaper or magazine?

The Houston Rockets brought the first world championship to

their city and they did not get much respect. Nor did the Toronto Blue Jays, who became the first Canadian baseball team to win a World Series. I hope the next team to repeat as Super Bowl champs will get as many props as Dallas.

Do the Cowboys really have the best players in the NFL? By far they have the best cheerleaders, but players? Yes, Troy Aikman is a good quarterback, but the best? Try Young or Miami's Dan Marino.

Emmitt Smith, the best running back? Can you say Barry Sanders of the Lions?

Michael Irvin, the NFL's best wide receiver? Sorry, it's the 49ers' Jerry Rice.

Besides being the prima donas of the NFL, the Cowboys are

also the worst crybabies of the league. Case in point is last Sunday's NFC Championship game. Cowboys coach Barry Switzer complained about the field conditions at Candlestick Park as if to say the 49ers had something to do with all the rain that hit the Bay Area that week. Last time I checked, both teams had to play on the same muddy field at the 'Stick that day.

Then, of course, there was the no call in the fourth quarter.

With about six minutes remaining in the game, San Francisco was leading 38-28. Dallas had the ball on the 49ers 43-yard line and Aikman threw deep down the left sideline towards Irvin. Irvin was covered by Deion "Prime Time" Sanders on the play. When both players

reached the 5-yard line, Sanders raked his arm across Irvin, preventing him from catching the ball. No penalty was called and Switzer, acting like typical Switzer, bumped an official and was flagged for a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty.

Yes, a flag should have been thrown on the play and maybe Dallas could have scored. However, San Francisco could have come right back and scored again, since both teams were scoring at will. Don't blame the no call for the Dallas defeat. If you want to blame someone for the loss, blame the person who taught the Cowboys how to man-

See Rodriguez, Page 8

Where women go for answers.



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TONIGHT @ 7:00 & 9:30

Admission \$2.75 w/d. \$3 w/out. P.M. with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification 3 working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability. Aggie Cinema Hotline: 847-8478. All films are presented in the Auditor Theater Complex. e-mail: films.jan@msc.tamu.edu.



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