

SPORTS BRIEFS

Michigan breaks Hoosiers' streak

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — The pattern was familiar. This time, though, Indiana's resilience and its long winning streak finally snapped. A 65-52 loss to Michigan on Tuesday night was the Hoosiers' first in Assembly Hall since 1991, although they had come perilously close to defeat for more than a year. With the loss of three starters from last season, even coach Bob Knight knew it was only a matter of time. "I don't have any pretense that we're a national contender," he said. "I'd just like to see us develop an attitude toward play that makes us as good as we can be ... not game-by-game but possession-by-possession. Then it would be interesting to see what kind of team we have." Indiana dropped to 11-7, 3-3 in the Big Ten.

U.S. men dominate Down Under

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — In all the decades American men sailed over or flew in to play Grand Slam tennis tournaments on foreign soil, they never ruled one as they have this Australian Open. Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Aaron Krickstein, the all-American semifinalists, accomplished a feat unmatched in the golden years of Bill Tilden and his buddies in the 1920s and the fiery days of Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and friends in the 1970s and '80s. The last time American men dominated a Grand Slam like this — and the only other time since the Open era began in 1968 — was at the U.S. Open in 1979, when Connors, McEnroe, Vitas Gerulaitis and Roscoe Tanner reached the semis. "That's pretty amazing ... when you include me," said Krickstein, the last and least likely of the foursome to get so far in the Australian. "I think the other guys expect to get there every time. But it was nice for me to pop in there after five years."

Young named NFL Player of the Year

MIAMI (AP) — Steve Young joined former teammate Joe Montana on Wednesday as the only two-time winner of the NFL Player of the Year Award. "It's an amazing thing," Young said. "The second time makes it even more amazing." The San Francisco 49ers' quarterback also won the award in 1992. Montana was the winner in 1989 and 1990. The 49ers will face San Diego in Sunday's Super Bowl at Joe Robbie Stadium. San Francisco set a team scoring record, and Young set an NFL record with a quarterback rating of 112.8. "In a lot of ways I was able to get votes because our offense is so great," Young said. "And they think, 'Well, their offense is so great, let's give it to Steve Young.' " "I don't feel like it's just me. If it was just me, I don't think I would make it." The winner was selected from six finalists by 168 members of the media. Other finalists were 49ers receiver Jerry Rice, Dallas running back Emmitt Smith, Detroit running back Barry Sanders, Buffalo defensive end Bruce Smith and Pittsburgh linebacker Kevin Greene. All but Sanders attended the award ceremony. The award is sponsored by Miller Lite in conjunction with the NFL Hall of Fame.

Texas baseball teams struggle with strike

Baseball veterans see complexities of finding middle ground.

By Nick Georgandis THE BATTALION

Bucky Dent has seen baseball strikes before. As a player with the New York Yankees in 1981, Dent and fellow players walked out on their owners for two months, splitting the '81 campaign into two mini-seasons. As manager of the Yankees in 1990, Dent watched as the owners locked the players out of spring training and the



Astros' commentator Larry Dierker says issue has more than two sides.

first week of the season, forcing a slew of doubleheaders later in the season to make up for lost time. Now, in his first season as the Texas Rangers' bench coach, Dent is getting another look at a strike, arguably the worst in major league history. "I've been on both sides, so I can understand both sides' opinions," Dent said Monday as the Texas Rangers' caravan rolled through College Station. "I just hope they (the two sides) can get it done. What they need to do is both sit down and just decide to settle it."

Larry Dierker has also seen both sides of the coin when it comes to the players versus the owners. The former Astro standout and current Astro radio and television color commentator has been out of the league for over 15 years and said the uniqueness of this strike is that there are actually more than two sides to the issue. "The problem is every side, the small-market teams, the large-market teams and the players all have a legitimate case," Dierker said. "It's a lot harder to find a middle ground for three viewpoints than it is for only two." As far as salvaging the 1995 season with regular players, Dierker said he sees two plausible scenarios. "I think right now baseball people are waiting for the government to intervene, since some of the senators and congressmen are trying to remove the anti-trust exemption," Dierker said. "But I have a feeling that as Opening Day approaches, there will be pressure to solve the problem 'within the family.' "It will be a few players that need the money or an owner that makes a few

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Rangers and Astros brace for the reality of replacement players.

By David Winder THE BATTALION

Terry Collins will begin his second year as the manager of the Houston Astros this spring. But this time he will not be filling his line-up card with the familiar names of Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio. If the Major League player's strike is not resolved by late February, Collins will have to make due with replacement players. The Astros will field a team made up of minor leaguers and former professional baseball players. "I managed in the minors for a number of years," Collins said. "I know that Triple A players can execute and do other things to play this game."

Collins said he did not know if his job would be tougher with the replacement players. "I really won't know what we (the Astros' coaching staff) have to do until I see the players that we've brought in," Collins said. "We're trying to get the best players we can. All we need is 32." Texas Rangers' bench coach Bucky Dent said he is not going to go about his job any different. "My job is to go to spring training and prepare the best team to take the field," Dent said. "With whatever players we have."



Astros' manager Terry Collins says he has faith in minor league players.

Rangers' assistant general manager Sandy Johnson said his team will use minor leaguers and minor league free agents as replacement players. "We've been relying on reports going over the free agent lists and talking to our scouts," Johnson said. "Playing replacement players has also caused the Rangers to slash ticket prices. "For one thing we can afford to do it because these players will not be making millions," Rangers' radio play-by-play announcer Eric Nadel said. "We're not trying to fool anybody into thinking that the caliber of play is going to be the same, so we're trying to make this as affordable as we can." See **Replacements**, Page 10

Tough softball schedule to bring unity to team

The Lady Aggie team will use this season to prepare for Big 12 play.

By Shelly Hall THE BATTALION

As the first Texas A&M team to gear up for Big 12 Conference play starting next year, the Lady Aggie softball team will spend a lot of time on the West Coast this season. Head coach Bob Brock said the tough schedule, which includes a road trek through California in mid-March, will help prepare the team for the Big 12. "The schedule we have this year is tough," Brock said. "We will be playing

against top ten teams mostly on the West Coast, making it one of the strongest in the nation."

Brock said the Lady Aggies tough schedule should produce team unity. "This road schedule will bring the team closer together," Brock said. "Playing on the West Coast will make a family out of the team." After losing senior pitcher Kim Gonzalez to eligibility, Brock said sophomore pitcher Christy Bunting will need to carry the load on the mound this season. "Bunting will need to step it up for our team to continue the success we had last year," Brock said. The Lady Aggies, who return only seven players, will introduce ten rookies to the field this season. The top newcomer is junior infielder Erin Field is a junior col-

lege transfer from Sacramento City College where she earned first-team All-American honors. "I expect Erin to make an immediate impact," Brock said. After a week and a half of practice, Brock said he is positive about the team's progress. "I think practice has gone well," Brock said. "The team came back in shape and focused for the season ahead."

Senior catcher Beth Gerken, who tied for a team lead 83 hits last season, said the team's focus can be attributed to a strong desire to go to the softball World Series. Gerken said the team will step up to the challenge and prove to other teams that they are contenders. "We play better on the road, especially after last year's road schedule," Gerken

said. "We will show the West Coast teams that we are contenders and that we will give anyone a show down."

Sophomore second baseman Merry Mapp, who had a team-leading 46 runs ranking her third in the A&M record books, said the young team is bonding before they hit the road. "We have a lot of talent on the team this year with the new players," Mapp said. "We are already blending together as a team." Bunting said the talented opposition the Lady Aggies will face is positive for the team. "Since we are a young team, playing the West Coast teams will teach us a lot," Bunting said. "The teams outside of Texas are better. We're just going to have to take it one game at a time."

Fan fanaticism taints idea, image of 'good sports'



Shelly Hall Sportswriter

It's no secret that people all over the world love sports. Loyalty abounds in football stadiums across America. On any given Saturday or Sunday, fans pay well over \$100 to watch their chosen heroes lead their teams to victory or defeat. A circus-like atmos-

phere radiates from the television screens as millions of fans put their lives on hold to cheer their favorite team and pray for a win. A mirage of color covers the stadium as fans, faces painted and bearing signs, become the sideshow to the game at hand. While this sideshow adds to the atmosphere of sports, fans have been known to take victory and defeat to the extreme and step past the limits of their stadium seats. Fan fanaticism, while not a new phenomenon, has come into the news once again. Just recently in San Francisco, a few fans were gathered in celebration of the victory of their 49ers when a man walked up. He proceeded to ask them if they were 49er fans. When the group of fans answered, "Yes," the man pulled out a gun and shot a round of bullets into the carousing group, killing one man and severely wounding another. To this sick man, the game meant life and death. The battle for victory and the reality of defeat has driven fans past the limits that, in the past, confined them to the sidelines.

Fan fanaticism came into the news in the mid-80's when Tom Landry was leading the Dallas Cowboys to a victory at RFK Stadium against the Washington Redskins on Monday Night Football. A fan called the stadium personnel and said he was going to shoot the Cowboy coach. Police had to escort Landry off the field during the game and equip him with a bulletproof vest before he could return back to the field and do his job. This is not a problem that is only invading football stadiums in the United States. Many remember the World Cup game between Colombia and the United States this past summer. Colombia's Andres Escobar kicked an autogol into the U.S. team's net giving the U.S. team a 2-1 victory. A few days later, Escobar was shot and killed outside of a bar in Colombia by a fanatic soccer fan who did not possess the attitude of a "good sport." Also, let's not forget all of the many lives that have been affected in soccer stadiums in Europe. Many people have sat in disbelief watching the horror on

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Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office to complete the application for eligibility verification. Although February 7, 1995 is the deadline to apply for this ring order, it is highly recommended that you complete this process by January 31, 1995.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on April 18, 1995, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) no later than February 10, 1995.

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