

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kidd hospitalized for dehydration, flu

DALLAS (AP) — The first game pitting the top two picks in this year's NBA draft will have to wait for Jason Kidd to feel better.

Kidd, the second overall pick by the Dallas Mavericks, will miss Tuesday's game against the Milwaukee Bucks and No. 1 overall choice Glenn Robinson because of dehydration and flu symptoms.

Kidd, who has started every game this year, was hospitalized overnight in Dallas and also is expected to miss a road game Wednesday against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"He's not feeling very good at all," Mavericks coach Dick Motta said. "He's not responding to the medication. He came to (practice) and looked like death warmed over."

Foreman to fight in WBU title match

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Foreman has another heavyweight championship belt — from a new fringe group called the World Boxing Union.

The WBU is headed by president John Robinson of London and vice president Ed Levine of Miami.

Foreman is the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association heavyweight champion. The WBA has threatened to strip him of his title if he goes through with a proposed title fight against Germany's Axel Schulz on April 22 in Las Vegas.

Henry Holmes, the champion's lawyer, said he will sue the WBA if it takes action against Foreman for fighting Schulz. He said the WBA is on a "vindictive, despotic course."

"Boxing certainly does not need another organization," Holmes said.

Suns outshine Cavs, finish road trip 4-1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Charles Barkley scored 20 points, including the clinching basket with just over a minute left, as the Phoenix Suns beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 89-82 Monday night.

The Suns finished off a 4-1 road trip and won for the 13th time in 15 games. One of their two losses during that span came at home against the Cavaliers.

Phoenix, which lost Sunday in New York, has not lost consecutive games all season.

Neither team built a double-digit lead at any point in the game, which featured six technical fouls on the Suns and two on the Cavs — all for illegal defenses.

Hoopsters to face young SMU team

□ The Aggies hope to bounce back from Saturday's loss.

By Robert Rodriguez
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's basketball team, coming off a heartbreaking loss at Texas Christian Saturday, looks to bounce back against Southern Methodist tonight.

The Aggies, 9-11 overall and 2-4 in Southwest Conference play, finish their tour of the Dallas-Fort Worth schools against a Mustang team loaded with youthful talent. Coach Tony Barone said SMU could be a team to watch in the conference.

"They are a team that can play with anybody when their guards are on," Barone said.

SMU, which has a 1-5 record in SWC play and 4-13 overall, are led by sophomore guards Troy Matthews and Jemel Rich. Matthews averages 15.4 points per game while Rich has averaged around 20 points

in his last four games. Barone said SMU coach John Shumate is doing a good job with the youthful Mustangs.

"People do not understand how tough it is to rebuild a strong program," Barone said. "The Mustangs play a tremendous non-conference schedule and coach Shumate has done an outstanding job over there."

Moody Coliseum has not been a wonderful place to play for A&M. Overall, the Mustangs hold a 57-27 advantage over the visiting Aggies.

"We don't play well there at all," Barone said. "Moody Coliseum is a nice place to play. It would be really nice to get a win there."

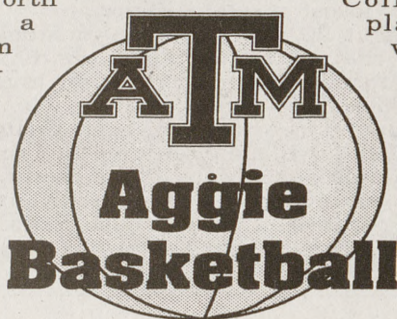
Barone said it will be tough for his team to forget the loss to TCU. However, he said the Aggies must concentrate on the game at hand.

A&M is currently in fifth place in the SWC.

"We have to bounce back and play with aggression," Barone said. "This game against SMU is really important for our team."



Senior forward Joe Wilbert dunks the ball in the Aggies' Jan. 21 game against UH.



Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

Owners, players to return to bargaining table

Union, management still not willing to back down

WASHINGTON (AP) — One week before President Clinton's deadline for progress toward settling the baseball strike, neither owners nor players appeared willing to budge much.

Owners began arriving Monday night and management's negotiating committee was scheduled to meet Tuesday. The union's negotiating committee met for about six hours Monday and about 60 players were expected for an executive board meeting Tuesday, the day before talks resume.

"We'll see what they've got to offer," Detroit's Cecil Fielder said. "If they don't have anything to offer, then we're going to be talking about the same old

things. What they have on the table isn't anything worth considering."

Talks broke off Dec. 22, a day before owners implemented their salary caps. When negotiations collapsed, management was insisting on a luxury tax plan designed to eventually reduce the percentage of revenue going to players from 58 percent to 50 percent. The union's last tax plan was designed to ensure the discrepancy in payrolls between large and small markets didn't get any larger.

Chuck O'Connor, management's chief lawyer, said there wouldn't be any "major changes" in the new proposal owners intend to make Wednesday.

"We're going to talk about it with our committee tomorrow," he said. "We're going to put a menu before them."

If that's the case, mediator W.J. Usery

will have a difficult time producing a breakthrough that would end the strike, which began last Aug. 12.

"If we get a proposal from them that is not significantly different from the last one, our response will not be significantly different from our last one," union head Donald Fehr said.

Last Thursday, Clinton ordered talks to resume and set a Feb. 6 for progress toward a deal. If there isn't any, the president said he will ask Usery to formulate his own proposal for a solution.

While Clinton can't force a settlement, he can lobby for one. He also could ask Congress to enact one as law.

On Capitol Hill, Rep. John LaFalce introduced a bill to establish a seven-member National Commission on Professional Baseball.

Illegal betting on Super Bowl game brings in millions

Super Bowl traditions have become just as fun as watching the game. I'm not talking about those high-priced commercials or the boring halftime shows though.

Illegal gambling is becoming a fast-growing business with much of the growth occurring during the Super Bowl. This kind of gambling is not the football squares with the scores of each team many play, but the kind which is run through a bookie.

It was estimated that in 1993, legal wagering on the Super Bowl was at \$5 million. However,

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
SPORTSWRITER



prosperous, but consider the estimated \$100 billion on illegal wagers in the United States in that same year.

Right now, the Texas legislature is considering bills which would legalize casino gambling and legalize wagering on sporting events. Just imagine if Texas had a city similar to Las Vegas and how much money that would bring to the state in both gambling revenue and in

tourism. Picture the San Antonio Riverwalk loaded with casinos in every hotel and restaurant, or a riverboat casino on the Brazos River. The state of Texas would thrive off gambling.

On many sports pages there are Vegas lines printed which show which teams are playing and what the spread, or margin of victory will be. Not only can someone bet on one game, but they can also group several other games on one bet, or parlay.

Also one can bet whether or not both teams will combine to score over or under a set amount of points. These are the main ways people place wagers on sporting events. These lines are in the paper in order to give the sports fan a sense of who is favored to win a game. However,

it also gives the bookie an idea of what the actual spread is on each game in Las Vegas. Lines in the paper may please some fans and the bookie, but it also has angered the NCAA.

The NCAA has asked for newspapers to stop printing

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lines for college basketball games in the NCAA tournament. Not only does the NCAA want to control illegal gambling, but they also do not

want to risk a player possibly throwing a game away in order to get money.

Yes, losing a game on purpose for money is wrong, but what is the big deal about putting a little money on a game? As long as the wagering is going on the outside and does not involve the players, I don't see anything wrong with wagering on sporting events. Now if the wagering involves an athlete, then there's a problem.

Some well-known incidents have occurred in which gambling has involved some sports athletes. The 1919 Chicago White Sox lost the World Series on purpose in

Soccer game suspension caused by stabbing, riot

ROME (AP) — The stabbing death of a soccer fan and the riot that followed has brought on the cancellation of a round of games in this soccer-mad nation.

Though violence is endemic in and around the stadiums, it's the first time such a step has been taken regarding Italy's deepest passion. Many players, coaches and soccer officials had called for the action.

The presidents of the soccer federation and Olympic committee met Monday on how to respond to Sunday's killing of Vincenzo Spagnolo, a 25-year-old Genoa team fan.

They decided to suspend all national league sporting events Sunday, when Italy's 18 first division teams play, along with the second and third divisions.

The soccer schedule will be delayed a week, with a makeup day to be determined later. International play, such as Davis Cup matches in Naples against the Czech Republic, will be held.

"We realized yesterday that this time we had really hit bottom," Antonio Materese, head of the federation, said. "We made the decision with great grief, but we were forced to."

Mario Pescante, head of the Olympic committee, said the cancellation would signal sport's rejection of violence.

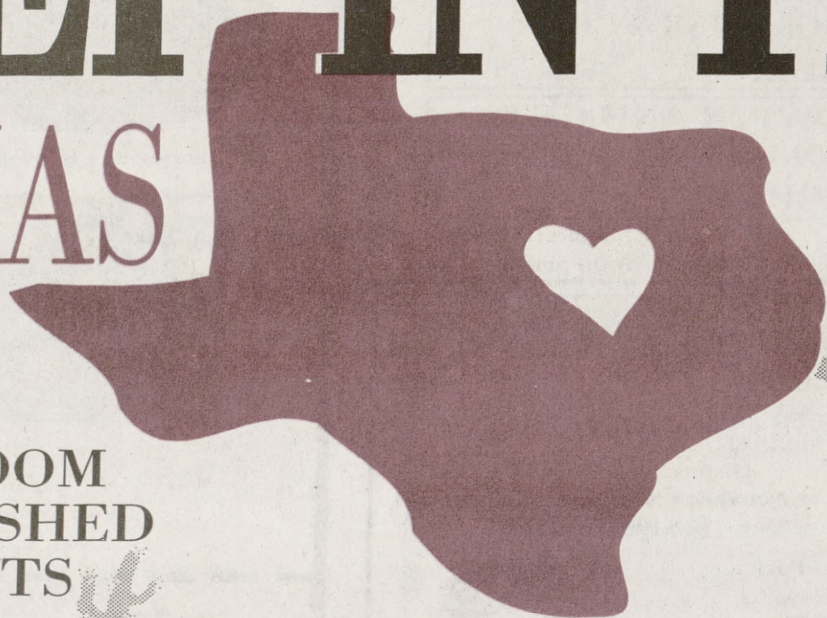
It also will hurt the state and private Fininvest television networks, which together devote some 13 hours to soccer on Sunday, plus follow-up programs on Monday and Tuesday.

On Monday, police said an apprentice gardener from Milan's outskirts, Simone Barbaglia, 19, had been arrested and charged

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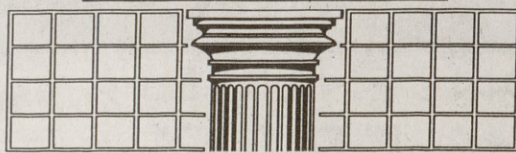
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