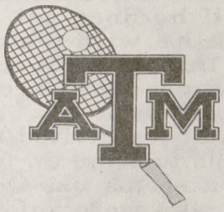


SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's tennis team faces U. of Houston

The No. 32-ranked Texas A&M women's tennis team will try for its second consecutive Southwest Conference victory when it hosts the University of Houston today in a 1:30 p.m. dual match at the Omar Tennis Center.



Stars trade center Broten to Devils

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Stars traded veteran center Neal Broten to the New Jersey Devils on Monday for center Corey Millen.

Millen will join the Stars for their game Tuesday night in Winnipeg. "We're looking for a spark in our offensive game," said Stars general manager and head coach Bob Gainey.

"To get that, we've had to give up a valuable player in another area." The Devils had intended to use Broten Monday night at home against the Montreal Canadiens, but his flight from Dallas did not arrive until 6 p.m., 90 minutes before the start of the game.

"I came to the rink and you can say I was surprised and shocked," said Broten, who had played his entire career with the same team. "I hadn't heard anything about it and nothing was mentioned."

"Neal has the ability to contribute offensively and defensively," Devils' general manager Lou Lamoriello said. "He is the type of player whose style of play makes people around him better. His instincts for the game are exceptional."

Stars, city of Dallas in court over lease

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars and the City of Dallas are headed for court after the team rejected a proposed lease for Reunion Arena on grounds that municipal leaders reneged on an earlier agreement.

The NHL team in its 1993 move from Minnesota, had sought to get the same terms from the city that the Dallas Mavericks now get in the basketball team's lease for the arena.

"We're not unprepared to sign a formal lease agreement," Stars president Jim Lites said Monday. "We're unprepared to sign a formal lease agreement that doesn't include the deal that was negotiated when we first got here."

"So to be quite honest, that's what we're waiting for. And I can't tell you what will happen in the future," he said. "All I know is we are not signing that lease agreement under any set of circumstances."

Former pitcher first to cross picket lines

PLANT CITY, Fla. (AP) — Former major league pitcher Mike Smith said he is planning to be a strikebreaker for the Cincinnati Reds this spring.

The former Baltimore Orioles right-hander said he needs the money to pay bills. He must help former wife Cherry support a 4-year-old daughter (Brandy), a 7-year-old son (Ryan), and a 14-year-old stepson (Darrell).

Smith, 31, said he doesn't mind challenging the major league players' union, which has said it will regard as strikebreakers any players who participate in exhibition games during the players' strike.

"If they want to pay my bills, I won't cross," Smith said. He is the first former big-leaguer to publicly say he would be a strikebreaker with Cincinnati.

The Reds begin their exhibition schedule at home Thursday afternoon against the Cleveland Indians.

Meeting to be held for potential walk-ons

Any full-time Texas A&M student who is interested in becoming a walk-on for the Texas Aggie football team must attend an organizational meeting Thursday, March 2 at 5 p.m. inside the Kyle Field dressing room. The dressing room is located under the first deck of stands on the press box side of the stadium.

Young Lady Ags paying their dues

Former high schools stars are having to adjust to new roles.

By Robert Rodriguez THE BATTALION

They were stars on their high school basketball teams. Now Lady Aggie freshmen Kim Linder and Sutton Helvey and sophomore Christy Lake see most of their playing time during practice.

"These ladies are paying their dues, but they're understanding their roles," A&M women's basketball coach Candi Harvey said. "In the future, they are going to be huge assets to the team and already are to our program." Linder is not used to sitting on the bench after leading Amarillo High School to two state championships. However, she does not regret her collegiate choice.

"I just really liked A&M," Linder said. "I liked the team and they seemed like the people I would like to play with."

Linder has found little playing time backing up posts Martha McClelland and Kelly Cerny.

"Martha and Kelly are bigger, taller, and stronger than me," Linder said. "I am more of a quicker center. It will be different look for us."

Harvey said Linder will be an excellent player down the road.

"We see improvement in her everyday at practice," Harvey said. "There's no doubt in my mind that she is going to have a great career here."

Linder said this season has taught her patience now that

she is not playing in every game. However, she said there is one goal she wants to accomplish this year.

"I know there is only going to be one more year of the Southwest Conference," Linder said. "I would like to win the Southwest Conference title."

Helvey has also played sparse minutes at center. She is different from the rest because of her left-handed shooting style.

"The strange thing is that I'm really right-handed," Helvey said. "I've been shooting left-handed ever since I was 13. I shoot my free throws right-handed."

Harvey said Helvey is another improving player.

"We see Sutton getting better everyday," Harvey said.



"These ladies are paying their dues, but they're understanding their roles."

- Candi Harvey women's basketball coach

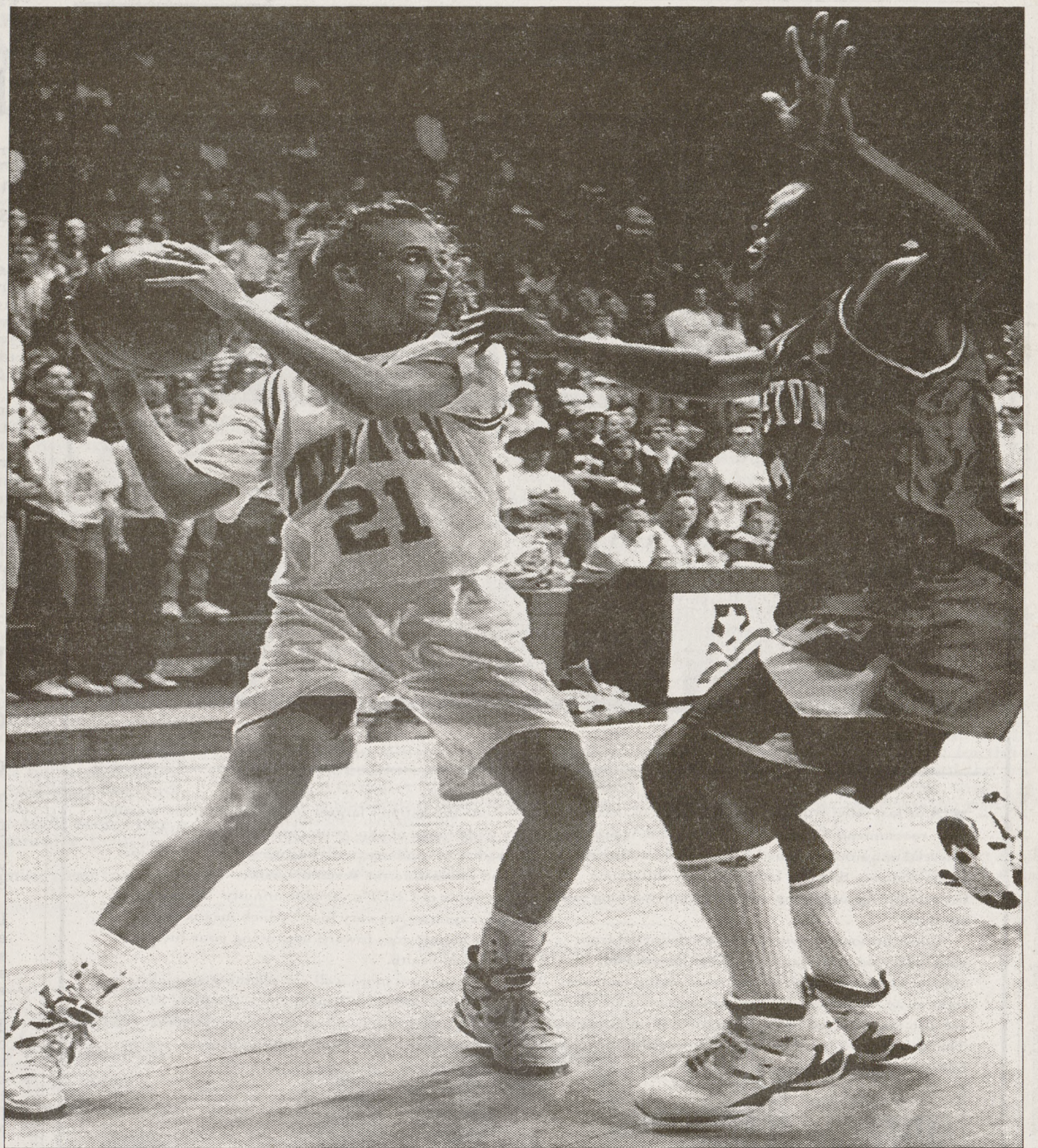
"Against TCU on Saturday night, Sutton had six points and really did a good job in transition offense."

Helvey said this season has taught her to work hard and improve her game.

"I've had to improve on my quickness, my shooting ability, my defense, everything," Helvey said. "I've had to improve so much just to become better and to be able to compete on the college level."

Helvey said at the end of her career she would like to be remembered along with all the

See Reserves, Page 10



Sophomore Christy Lake protects the ball while looking for a teammate to pass the ball to during the Houston game.

Roger Hsieh/ THE BATTALION

Rockets down Cavs for third straight win

Olajuwon scores 20 points in battle of injury-riddled teams.

HOUSTON (AP) — It wasn't until the third quarter but Clyde Drexler finally found the range.

Drexler missed all seven of his first-half shots, including two from 3-point range, but his first basket with 2:20 gone in the third period gave the Houston Rockets a lead they never surrendered as they ground out an 86-78 victory Monday over Cleveland.

"I just missed some shots. What can I say?" Drexler said after collecting 16 second-half points.

The first basket, on a dunk, put Houston ahead 42-40 and seemed to ignite the Rockets, who played a sluggish first half.

"That quickened the pace," Drexler said "I think it woke us up. It got us in a more aggressive mode."

"It's tough when you're struggling and you don't get good looks," said Houston's Sam Cassell. "But he's a superstar, one of the top players in the league. Every night teams are going to try to stop him. He still made some tough shots down the stretch."

Terrell Brandon, who had 26

points for Cleveland, kept the Cavaliers close with 12 points in the third quarter, including a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Then he scored six of Cleveland's first eight points in the final period to pull the Cavaliers within 69-67 with just under six minutes to go.

But baskets by Hakeem Olajuwon and Drexler helped pull Houston away.

"Houston played extremely well in the second half when they had to," Cleveland coach Mike Fratello. "They made the big runs."

Olajuwon led the Rockets with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Drexler chipped in with nine boards. Kenny Smith also had 16 points for Houston and Chucky Brown scored a season-high 13.

The Cavaliers, the Central Division co-leaders going into the game, lost for the first time in three games. It was Houston's third straight victory. The 86 points for Houston was a season-low in a win.

Brandon received little offensive support for Cleveland. The only other Cavalier in double figures was John Williams, who finished with 11 points.

"It looks bad in the box scores

See Rockets, Page 10

Maxwell reinstated

NEW YORK (AP) — Houston Rockets guard Vernon Maxwell was reinstated by the NBA Monday after serving a 10-game suspension for going into the stands and striking a fan.

The reinstatement took effect after Monday night's home game against Cleveland, and Maxwell will be eligible to play Tuesday night at Dallas.

"We are satisfied that Vernon appreciates that his actions were totally unacceptable for a professional athlete, regardless of the provocation," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said.

Maxwell was suspended without pay and fined \$20,000 for the incident during the third quarter of the Rockets' Feb. 6 game at Portland, won by the Trail Blazers 120-82.

The Rockets posted a 7-3 record during Maxwell's suspension.

Before being reinstated, Maxwell was required to meet with senior league officials. He met with Granik, senior vice president of legal and business affairs Jeffrey Mishkin and vice president-operations Rod Thorn on Friday.

Maverick's Jackson may return this year

The Maverick guard could be back in three to six weeks.

DALLAS (AP) — Jim Jackson, the NBA's highest scoring guard, could play again this season. But he's not going to rush his severely sprained ankle.

If all goes well, Jackson could return to the Dallas Mavericks in three to six weeks. The NBA season ends in about eight weeks on April 23.

Team physician Dr. T.O. Souryal said on Monday that Jackson "has a severely sprained ankle. There are torn ligaments. Historically, recovery from a third degree ankle sprain takes from three to six weeks."

Jackson injured his left ankle Friday night against New Jersey when he stepped on another player's foot. He was averaging 25.7 points per game, the fifth-most in the league.

The day after the injury, Jackson had little hope of being back this season.

"I'm looking at it like I'll be out the rest of the way," he said Saturday. "With a bright future ahead for myself and our team next year and beyond there's no reason to rush back this season and possibly get hurt even worse."

Jackson underwent a CAT scan and an MRI test on his ankle Monday.

"I don't know why there was so much doom and gloom," Souryal said. "I guess the swelling scared a lot of people. With Jim's work ethic, he'll be just fine."

Jackson said he was going to handle the injury carefully.

"This is disappointing, but I want to make sure after three or six weeks that I'm well enough to go," Jackson said. "I want to take my time and make sure of the healing process and not rush

"With Jim's work ethic, he'll be just fine."

- T.O. Souryal Mavericks team doctor

things. I want to make sure the ankle is even stronger when I come back."

Jackson's ankle has been placed in a removable cast so he can receive ice compression treatments twice a day.

"This could be worse," Jackson said. "I could have broken the ankle or had a serious knee injury. It will be tough to sit and watch games."

1st Annual AMA Four Man Scramble GOLF TOURNAMENT benefiting Stillcreek Boys Ranch SATURDAY, MARCH 4th, BRYAN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE WIN PRIZES! SIGN UP NOW! '95 Mazda Protege for a year Raffle Giveaway 1st Place (\$400); 2nd (\$200); 3rd (\$150) Wehner: Feb. 27 (Mon.) - Mar.1 (Wed.) Zachry: Feb. 28 (Tues.) - Mar. 2 (Thur.)

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