

SPORTS BRIEFS

A&M football banquet set for Aug. 8

The A&M Club will hold its annual Coach's Night Banquet Aug. 8 at the College Station Hilton.

The event, which will feature Texas A&M Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum as its main speaker, will feature a silent auction containing many pieces of Aggie memorabilia. All proceeds from the auction will go to the A&M Club's four-year endowed scholarships for local high school graduates.

Tickets for the dinner are \$20 per person. For more information, call 775-0336.

Strike causes All-Star ticket value to plunge

Not even an elegant stadium, a pennant contender or that swaggering Texan Nolan Ryan can heat up the demand for tickets to the 1995 All-Star game.

The game July 11 at The Ballpark in Arlington will go in the books as a sellout, but look again. Out on the street, the market for tickets appears to have taken a direct hit from last season's strike.

"The All-Star game has been a total flop," said Barry Lefcowitz, head of the National Association of Ticket Brokers, many of whose members are stuck trying to get rid of seats at the midsummer classic. "Without any question the strike has had a dramatic impact on interest in the All-Star game. Or should I say lack of interest."

Surgery will end Astro Hudek's season

HOUSTON (AP) — The season appears to be over for Houston Astros relief righthander John Hudek, who will undergo surgery to remove his top right rib as a way to relieve pressure in his right arm.

The rib is causing a vein to constrict, affecting the blood flow to Hudek's arm.

Although no date for surgery has been set, Hudek has chosen Dr. David Roos of Denver to perform it.

Hudek was examined by Roos, who invented the surgical procedure and has performed some 1,900 such operations over the last six years. Hudek said Tuesday Roos was optimistic about the pitcher's full recovery.

"He said there's not reason I won't be able to pitch again next year," said Hudek, who leads the Astros with seven saves but has been on the disabled list since June 23.

"It's going to be a long rehab process (six months), but I feel better knowing that the operation will make it better."

Seles plans return to tennis next month

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Monica Seles plans to return to women's tennis next month despite infighting among players on the WTA Tour that led to a rejection of a proposal to give her special ranking considerations.

"I never asked for anything," Seles said Wednesday from her home in Florida, according to her spokeswoman.

Seles is set to announce her comeback Saturday during a news conference at the Special Olympics in New Haven, Conn., and is expected to play her first Grand Slam event in 2 1/2 years at the U.S. Open in August.

First, Seles will play a televised exhibition with Martina Navratilova in Atlantic City on July 29.

She's been practicing daily, coached by her father, and her comeback does not hinge on any allowances the WTA Tour makes for her ranking.

"Monica has never asked for special ranking consideration, and her decision on whether or not to return has nothing to do with that," said Linda Dozoretz, International Management Group's spokeswoman for Seles.

A&M Football's Field of Dreams



Nick Rodnicki, The B...

Kyle Field was expanded for the third time in 1980, with the addition of the third deck. Plans for another 3,000 seat expansion are being considered.

Nearing its seventh decade as the home of Aggie football, Kyle Field keeps A&M fans cheering and opponents at bay.

The following story is the third in a series of features on Texas A&M's athletic facilities.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

"It should be on the Code of Honor, Aggies don't lie, cheat, steal or lose at Kyle Field."

Former Texas A&M All-American linebacker Antonio Armstrong said those words the week before the Aggie football team went out and extended its home field undefeated streak to 34 games, the longest in the NCAA, on Nov. 19 against Texas Christian University.

In recent years, especially during R.C. Slocum's six-year tenure as head coach, Kyle Field has become one of the toughest places for opposing teams to win.

Named for Edwin Jackson Kyle, former dean of agriculture and president of the athletic council at A&M, the stadium's construction began in 1927. The Aggies won the inaugural game at Kyle Field, routing Trinity 45-0 on Oct. 1, 1927, and went on to win eight more games at home over the span of two seasons before finally dropping a home game.

The first loss at the Aggies' new home came courtesy of Centenary, which dropped A&M 6-0 in 1928. Despite several mediocre seasons in the early 1930s, the team was always successful at home, winning 16 of its first 20 games.

The second phase of Kyle Field was completed in the fall of 1929, with a completed east grandstand and a horseshoe section in the north end zone that increased the seating capacity to 32,000.

In the years to come, Kyle Field would expand as the Aggie football team made its long climb into national prominence. In 1967, the seating was expanded, and in 1980, a third deck was added to bring the seating capacity to 70,210.

The biggest crowd ever at Kyle Field is 78,573, for a game against the University of Texas in 1987. Additional seating on the surface surrounding the field provided the extra seats as the Aggies defeated the Longhorns 20-13 to clinch their third consecutive Southwest Conference title.

That same season, A&M set a school record in 1987 by averaging 66,623 fans per game, a 95 percent capacity rate.

At full capacity, Kyle Field is the second largest football stadium in the Southwest Conference. Only UT's Memorial Stadium seats more people.

Plans for an extra 3,000 seats, to be added in area around the south end zone have been proposed, but Texas A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff said the idea is "still in the works."

A large number of great games and sparkling plays have been witnessed at Kyle Field, but several moments stand

out as some of the greatest in college football history.

In the 1991 home opener against Louisiana State, freshman Greg Hill set an NCAA record by rushing for 212 yards in the first game of his collegiate career. The Aggies routed the Tigers 45-7, beginning a 10-2, SWC title season.

In 1976, placekicker Tony Franklin boomed field goals of 65 and 64 yards, at the time the two longest field goals in NCAA history, as A&M blanked Baylor 24-0.

In 1956, the A&M played Texas Christian in the famous "Hurricane Game". TCU was ranked No. 4 at the time and A&M was ranked 10th. The game was played by high-speed winds and a torrential rain storm, and reports of tornadoes in the area kept coming in during the second half.

The Aggie defense stopped the Horned Frogs six times within the A&M 25-yard line six times in the fourth quarter. The Aggies scored in the last minute of the game to take a 7-6 victory.

During R.C. Slocum's six-year stint as A&M's head coach, the Aggies have a 34-1-1 record at home. The only loss at Kyle Field in Slocum's tenure came against Arkansas, a 23-22 heartbreaker, in 1989.

Perhaps even more impressive than the Aggies' record at home is the way in which they have won the games. Since 1989, the Aggies have outscored their opponents 1,298-451, a difference of nearly 20 points per game.

As the home winning streak continues to grow, A&M's opponents continue to attempt to be the team to knock the Aggies out of the record books. Former standout running back Rodney Thomas said that was part of what makes the streak fun to keep alive.

"You've got so many people gunning for you," Thomas

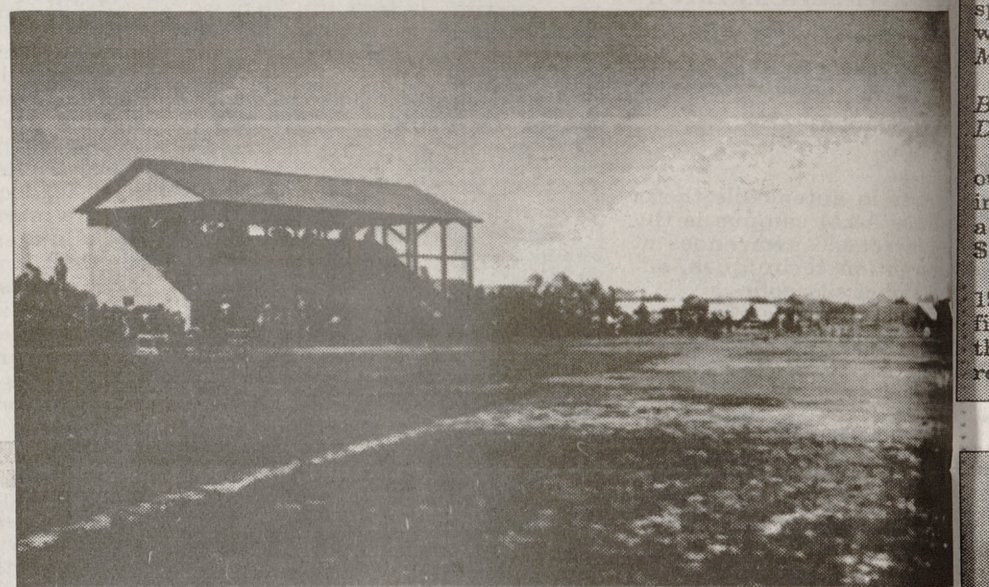


Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Archives

Texas A&M's original football stadium housed the football team from 1894 until Kyle Field first opened in 1927.

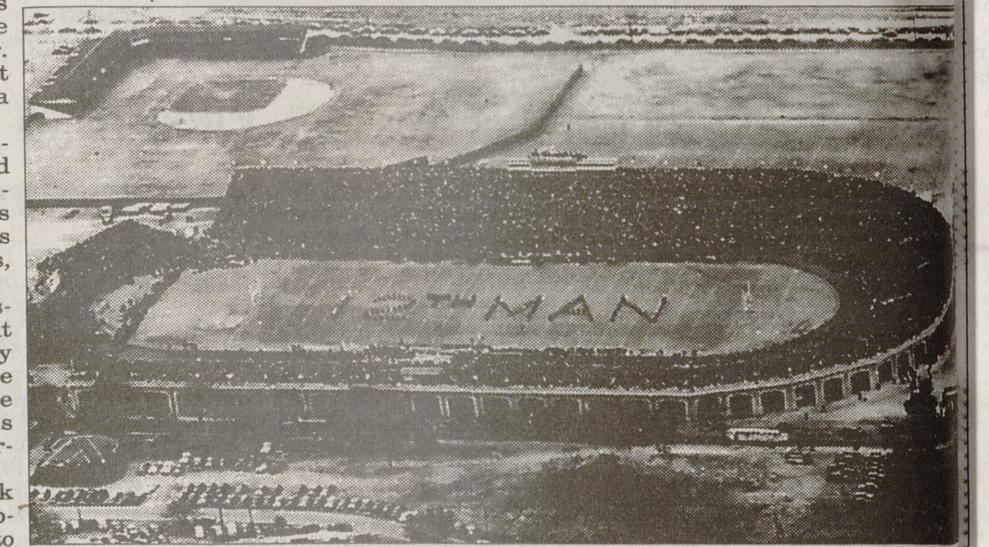


Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Archives and Special Collections

The Aggie band performs at Kyle Field in the 1930s. The facility was built in 1927, and the Aggie football team won 16 of its first 20 games there.

now a member of the Houston Oilers, said. "(Keeping the streak alive) is all about chemistry and making it work together."

THE BATTALION

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