

Former Baylor coaches let accusations fly

WACO, Texas (AP) — Past Baylor assistant coaches say former men's basketball coach Darrel Johnson was involved in a recruiting scandal at the school, even though a jury acquitted him of the charges.

Former Johnson assistants Kevin Gray and Gary Thomas, who were sentenced last week for their part in the scandal, say Johnson condoned the cheating.

In a deposition recently given to Baylor officials, Gray recalls a statement he made to Johnson and Thomas about the cheating.

"I'm telling you guys something," Gray says. "If anybody ever looks at this stuff, they are going to throw us underneath the jail."

Last week, U.S. District Judge Walter Smith, Jr., placed Gray and Thomas and former Baylor assistant Troy Drummond on three years of probation for their part in giving five junior college recruits term papers and changing the players' test scores in 1993.

The same jury that convicted them of conspiracy, wire fraud and mail fraud acquitted Johnson.

But a different picture emerges in depositions given by Gray and Thomas as part of an ongoing NCAA investigation of the scandal.

Thomas says the cheating "was always discussed in meetings" with Johnson.

"We always reported back to him," he said. "He was my boss and he was telling me what to do."

Thomas said that Johnson once ordered him to check the answers that recruit Tyrone Davis had given on correspondence test from Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God in Lakeland, Fla.

"He missed half the answers," Thomas said. "So basically what I did was went in and just wrote down the correct answers" on a blank answer sheet to mail in for grading.

"He (Johnson) just said 'You know, that's probably the right thing to do,'" Thomas said.

Johnson was unavailable for comment. His lawyer, Jim Darnell, said it's important to note that the depositions were given before the men were sentenced. None of the men took the stand during the trial.

Darnell said Baylor officials made a deal with the men to implicate Johnson in turn for the school writing Judge Smith a letter supporting probation.

"Here were three decent, regular human beings who had never been faced with anything like this and who were scared to death of going to prison," he said. "Baylor went to them and said 'You help us and we'll help you.' If you were Baylor, would you be afraid ... of a wrongful dismissal lawsuit" by Johnson?

Baylor officials have repeatedly declined to discuss the case.

But even Smith has hinted that Johnson might have known more than was revealed at trial.

In addressing a prosecution request for a longer sentence than called for under federal sentencing guidelines for Thomas last week, Smith said: "If any person would be entitled to an enhancement ... that person's not here."

NL power dooms AL in All-Star Game

The Astros' Craig Biggio blasted a solo home run in the sixth inning.

ARLINGTON (AP) — Hideo Nomo began the game with a poignant bow, to his teammates and to the troubled national pastime. Jeff Conine, Mike Piazza and Craig Biggio won it with pure power.

What started as a strikeout duel between Nomo and Randy Johnson turned into home-run derby, with Conine's solo shot in the eighth inning Tuesday night giving the National League a 3-2 victory in the All-Star game.

All of the runs scored on homers, highlighted by Frank Thomas' monster drive for the Americans in the fourth, and all of the Nationals' hits were home runs.

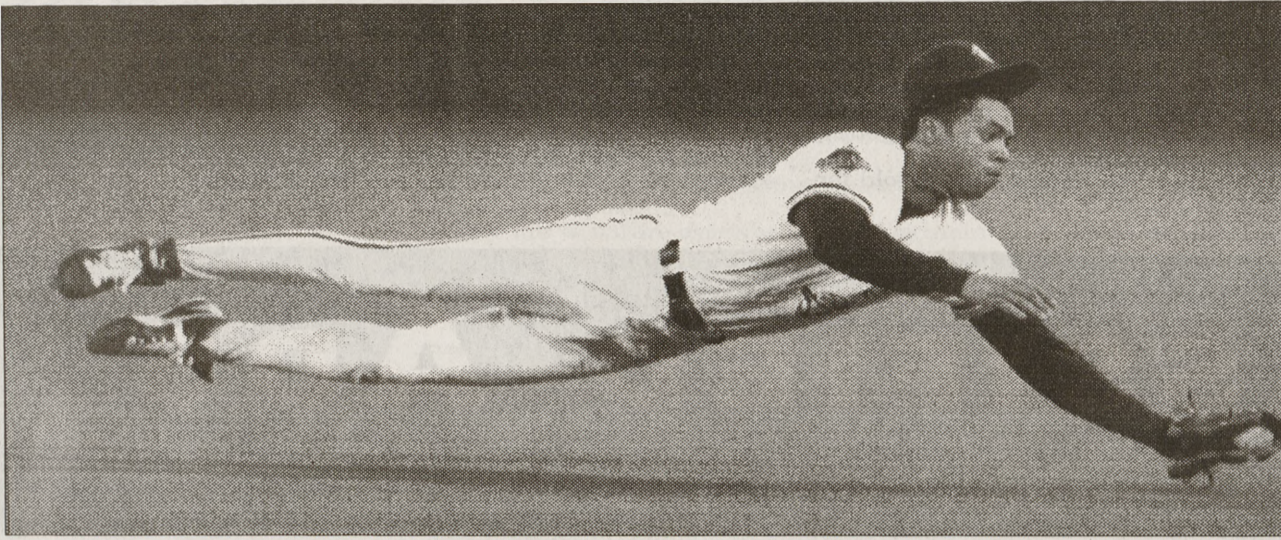
Yet even this relatively entertaining game — which baseball hoped would help rejuvenate interest in a sagging sport — was touched by reminders of the labor problems that soured its fans last season.

Thomas' home run landed in a luxury box in left field that was rented for the day by, of all organizations, the Players' Association. The ball eventually came to rest in the hands of union head Donald Fehr's 9-year-old nephew, Alex.

And, right after Thomas — the home-run derby champion in Monday's workouts and a fan favorite — homered, he exited the game. He had to leave because his Chicago White Sox play Wednesday, part of the rejiggered schedule that cut short the All-Star break.

Still, the crowd of 50,920, the largest in the two-year history of The Ballpark in Arlington, seemed to enjoy the show. About 110 spectators, however, had to seek treatment at first-aid stations because of the 96-degree heat.

Among those not at the park was Mickey Mantle, who was invited by baseball to attend. Mantle made his first public appearance since recent liver transplant surgery on Tuesday afternoon in nearby Dallas, but said he was too weak to watch in person and would instead tune in



AP Photo

Toronto Blue Jays second baseman Roberto Alomar and his American League teammates came up short in Tuesday's All-Star Game. The National League defeated the Junior Circuit 3-2 at The Ballpark in Arlington.

on television.

Conine, the only position player who did not get into last year's All-Star game, homered on the second pitch he saw. Batting for Ron Gant, he connected against loser Steve Ontiveros.

Heathcliff Slocumb escaped first-and-second jam in the seventh by striking out Ivan Ro-



driguez and Jim Edmonds, and was the winner. Randy Myers pitched the ninth for a save.

The victory gave the NL its first two-game winning streak since 1984-85. The total of four home runs was the most since 1981.

Conine, Florida's lone representative, was the game's MVP as the National League ran its record to 39-26-1 in the game. Carlos Baerga, one of six Cleveland players in the game, doubled and singled twice.

That 1981 event, which started the second half of a strike-

split season, marked the last time a rookie started the All-Star game. That time it was Fernando Valenzuela, whose eye-to-sky delivery captivated all of the baseball.

This time, it was Nomo's turn. Baseball, meanwhile, hoped this Los Angeles rookie, the first Japanese participant in an All-Star game, could similarly put the buzz back into the sport.

From the start, Nomo was the showcase player. For the first time since anyone could remember, a starting pitcher was not warming up when he was introduced. Instead, Nomo emerged from the dugout, trotted to the plate, and then went down the third-base line, bowling to each of the NL starters.

Baseball said it specifically asked Nomo to come out and take a bow, so to speak, because he's been the brightest light in the game this year. After receiving a nice ovation, he went to the bullpen and began loosening up with his slo-mo, back-to-the-plate windup.

Nomo's motion, along with a 94 mph fastball and darting forkball, baffled the AL stars the same way he's blown away NL hitters this season. Nomo, leading his league in strikeouts, pitched two scoreless innings and struck out Kenny Lofton, Edgar Martinez and Albert Belle.

NL 3, AL 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE		AMERICAN LEAGUE	
ab	r	ab	r
Dykstra cf	2	Lofton cf	3
Sosa cf	1	Edmonds cf	1
TGwynn rf	2	Baerga 2b	3
RSnders rf	1	RAlmirz 2b	1
Mndisi rf	1	EMrtinz dh	3
Bonds lf	3	TMrtinz dh	1
Echette lf	1	Thomas 1b	2
Piazza c	3	MVghn 1b	0
Daulton c	0	Belle lf	3
McGriff 1b	3	O'Neill lf	1
Grace 1b	0	CRipken ss	3
Gant dh	2	DSrcna ss	1
Conine dh	1	Boggs 3b	2
Larkin ss	3	Seitzer 3b	2
Offrinn ss	0	Puckett rf	2
Castilla 3b	2	MRtinz rf	0
Bonilla 3b	1	IRdriz c	3
Biggio 2b	2	Stanley c	1
Mrdndi 2b	1		
Totals	29	Totals	34
	3		2
National	000	110	-3
American	000	200	000

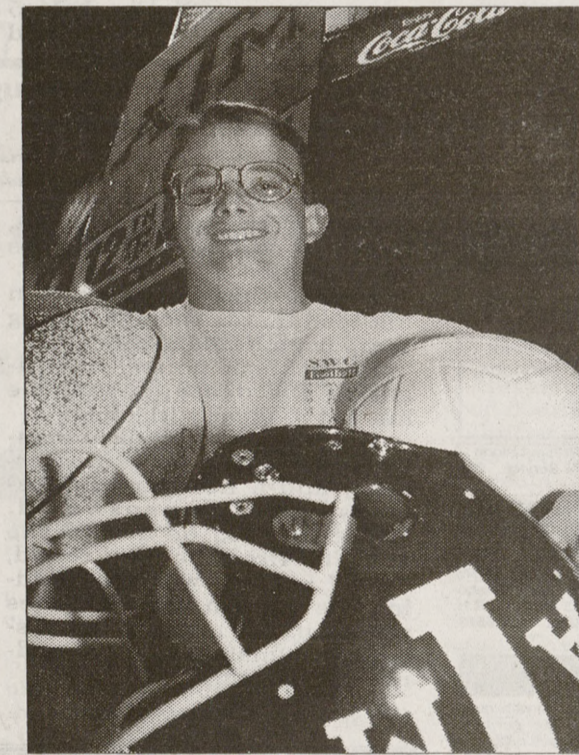
LOB—American 7, 2B—Baerga (1), HR—Piazza (1), Conine (1), Biggio (1), Thomas (1), SB—RALmirz (1), CS—Dykstra (1), Baerga (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
National	2	1	0	0	0	3
Smiley	2	2	2	0	0	0
TGreen	1	2	0	0	1	0
Neagle	1	1	0	0	0	1
CPerez	1-3	1	0	0	1	0
Slocumb W,1-0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Henke	2-3	0	0	0	0	1
Myers S,1	1	0	0	0	1	0

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
American	2	0	0	0	1	3
RJohnson	2	0	0	0	0	1
Appier	2	0	0	0	0	0
DeMartinez	2	1	1	0	0	0
Rogers	1	1	1	1	0	2
Ontiveros L,0-1	2-3	1	1	1	0	1
DWells	1-3	0	0	0	0	1
Mesa	1	0	0	0	0	1

T-240, A-50,920.

Student workers bolster athletic successes



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Senior Cecil Bleiker juggles duties in many sport while working for A&M Sports Information.

The SID employees handle duties from TV scripts to game stats.

By Robin Greathouse
 THE BATTALION

For fans of A&M athletics, the game is done when the final gun sounds or the last out is made. But the student assistants at the Texas A&M Sports Information Department know that plenty of behind-the-scenes work goes into making athletic events successful.

"You never really think about what actually goes into making the game go smoothly," senior student assistant Cecil Bleiker said.

The Sports Information Department is the liaison between the Athletic Department and the media, and handles all interview requests for players and coaches.

Stephen Miller, a community health major, said the SID office can be very hectic, but everyone at the office has the same objective.

"We're here to promote the teams," Miller said. "Our job is to get our athletic programs national coverage."

Bleiker, Miller and other assistants do many jobs during the different sports events that are held on campus.

"We work in the press box handing out statistical information to the media and answering any questions," Bleiker said. "On the field (or court), we help with side-

line security. We also get the injury reports from the trainers and give them to the media."

The assistants help to compile statistics for play-by-play sheets and halftime and finals statistic sheets during games. Working with television crews when games are televised is another of the assistants' major responsibilities.

"When we work with people during game broadcasts, we give them information that they put on the teleprompter that the announcers read on the air," Bleiker said.

The responsibilities don't end when the sports seasons are over, however. During the off-season, Bleiker and Miller help to put together media guides that are distributed to media outlets across the country.

Miller, who is currently working on the 1995 A&M football media guide, said the student assistants do a great deal of research with statistics and past trends, and have compiled some interesting figures for the 1995 season.

"After getting statistics from colleges around the country with top-ranked quarterbacks, we learned that Corey Pullig is the nation's winningest playing quarterback," Miller said.

The wide range of duties means plenty of work, but Miller said the rewards of the job easily make up for it.

"I think this job offers excellent experience," Miller said. "We have a team that will be the national champion. Everything at A&M is first class."

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Football's start spells baseball's downfall



DAVID WINDER
 SPORTSWRITER

Tuesday night's All-Star game signaled that the 1995 baseball season is half over. But come July 29, the season might as well be finished.

In just over two weeks, the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Carolina Panthers will kick off the National Football League's exhibition season.

As the pigskin season begins, fans will start leaving baseball, just as baseball left them last year.

The only reason baseball is getting the fans back is there are no other major sports in season. Most people are interested in baseball right now because they are addicted to sports. Once something better comes along, baseball will be left on the side of the road.

Baseball screwed up this season by not starting a media blitz to get the fans to come back. Its "Welcome to the Show" advertising campaign is not exactly making the fans come out in droves. The All-Star workout wasn't even a sellout.

Baseball is always going to get back the fans who know stats like Howie Krist's 13-4 record for the 1942 St. Louis Cardinals. But baseball is losing the fans who just like to root for the home team.

Baseball used to be my father's favorite sport. Now he could care less if it existed.

After the basketball season ended, he came close to canceling his subscription to the Houston Chronicle until football season began. He didn't want to read anything about baseball.

Last year, was the first time in a while the Houston Astros had a chance to make the playoffs, and my dad got caught up in it. But baseball let him down and has done nothing yet to make up for it.

The owners have tried to win the fans back with promotional nights and ticket giveaways, but all efforts have failed miserably. Now it is time for the players to take over the promotion of the game.

Frank Thomas and Ken Griffey, Jr. should start doing commercials for baseball instead of for shoe companies. Players like Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. who have shown they really love the game should push the Players' Association to make its own media blitz to bring the fans back.

When the players of the National Basketball Association got involved with the promotion of the game, the NBA's popularity took off.

Baseball should follow basketball's lead and get back on track. If not, they can sit back and enjoy football season with the rest of us.

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