

Bringing the Olympic Flame to B-CS

On May 21, 1996, the ceremonial torch will pass by Texas A&M on its way to the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

The 1996 Olympics might not be in the Brazos Valley next summer, but residents of Bryan-College Station will still be able to share in the Olympic spirit.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) announced Monday that Bryan-College Station has been officially named to the U.S. Olympic Torch Relay route. The Olympic Flame is expected to pass through Bryan-College Station May 21, 1996.

"We're very pleased to be on the route because it is not something we applied for," College Station Public Relations and Marketing Manager Peggy Calliham said. "The route goes all over the United States, covering a large number of cities. I think it signals that Bryan-College Station is making a name for itself."

The 1996 Olympic Torch Relay will start in Los Angeles on April 27 and end in Atlanta 84 days later on July 19, the day of the Opening Ceremony for the Games of the XXVI Olympiad.

The relay will cover more than 15,000 miles, traveling through 42 states and the District of Columbia. The torch will also visit Ft. Worth, Dallas, Waco, Houston, Beaumont and Orange while in Texas.

"Our objective is to bring the flame as close to as many Americans as possible," ACOG Spokesperson David Emanuel said. "We're trying to bring the flame within a two-hour drive of 90 percent of the U.S. population."

Besides being carried by runners, the flame will make its way across the country by train, steamboat, packet boat, pony express, oar boat and trolley.

The torch's exact path through Bryan-Col-

lege Station has not been decided because of conflicts with construction.

"The route will go through Bryan, Texas A&M and College Station, but we're not sure how because Texas Avenue will be under major construction then," Joe Brown, the public information officer for the city of Bryan said. "We're going to choose the route that affords everybody the best view to see it."

Over 10,000 torchbearers will carry the Olympic Flame on its trek across the nation. Torchbearers will be community members sponsored by The United Way, along with citizens selected in a Coca-Cola consumer program and up to 1,000 Olympians.

The individuals sponsored by The United Way will be designated "Community Heroes." The ACOG and each host city will choose torchbearers who reflect the spirit of "giving to the community." The program will begin Fall 1995.

"They want the community heroes to be people like your teachers to the guy who pumps your gas," Brown said. "They don't want university presidents and mayors. They want average citizens."

Bryan-College Station is expected to receive between 10-15 Torchbearer slots. Each of the participants will run approximately one kilometer (.62 miles) of the path.



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Associated Press

1996 Olympic Torch Relay Route



Hatchell says first title bids 'awesome'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Two of the six bids received by the fledgling Big 12 Conference for the site of a proposed football championship game were "awesome," conference commissioner Steve Hatchell said Tuesday.

The bids make it more likely the playoff game will be held once the league, being formed by the assimilation of four Southwest Conference schools into the Big Eight, begins play after this season, Hatchell said at a meeting of the Great Plains Region of Associated Press Sports Editors.

Hatchell characterized two of the bids as not very good and said two other bidders would submit revised bids.

Hatchell declined to identify the "awesome" bids, but the front-runners are believed to be Dallas and St. Louis.

Bids also have been made by Kansas City, San Antonio and Houston. Dallas submitted two bids for separate stadiums.

The new conference will be split into two divisions for football, and the proposed championship game will be played between division winners.

Chief executive officers of the 12 schools have not given formal approval to the cham-

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Tyson to fight Nov. 4

□ An opponent was not named for the former champ's second fight.

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson will fight again Nov. 4 in Las Vegas, his manager said Tuesday, the same night Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield are scheduled to meet in another big heavyweight fight just across the Las Vegas Strip.

Setting up what could be a heavyweight battle between competing fights, Tyson manager John Horne said the former champion would fight an opponent to be named at the MGM Grand hotel-casino.

The pay-per-view event would go directly against the Bowe-Holyfield rubber match, which will be announced Wednesday in New York. That fight will be held a block away in an outdoor arena at Caesars Palace.

"Mike Tyson has his dates; they can move their dates," Horne said. "Bowe-Holyfield is a good attraction, but right now the biggest attraction is what Mike Tyson does."

Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, however, said there was no comparison between the two fights.

"They're attempting to serve the people dog biscuits," Newman said. "We're serving filet mignon on Nov. 4."

Newman charged promoter Don King and Horne with trying to bluff their way into the date, with no opponent and no assurance that Tyson will win his Aug. 19 fight against

Peter McNeeley.

"This is another pimp, hustler move by the King-Horne camp," Newman said. "On one hand they want you to spend \$50 to watch on pay-per-view and \$1,500 in person to see Tyson fight what is reported to be a competitive match against McNeeley. On the other hand, they're telling you the outcome is already decided."

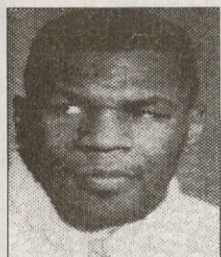
Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said he received a request for the date from Newman on July 14 and two days later received a request from King for the same date.

Ratner said the commission's policy would be to allow both fights to go on.

Caesars World executive Rich Rose said the Bowe-Holyfield fight would go on Tuesday.

It will be the third fight between Bowe and Holyfield, whose two previous title fights were major pay-per-view attractions.

The battle over the Nov. 4 date is important to Las Vegas casinos because it comes at a time when the hotels are not filled with conventions or holiday visitors, as they are much of the rest of the year.



Tyson

SPORTS BRIEFS

'Air' McNair lands at Oilers' training camp

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Steve McNair arrived at the Houston Oilers training camp Tuesday and signed a \$28.4 million contract, then dashed off to join his team as the highest-paid Houston player.

The soft-spoken 22-year-old from Alcorn State, who finished third in the 1994 Heisman Trophy voting, said he's ready for the NFL.

"I'm going to be a leader as I was at Alcorn," he said. "A leader is a leader no matter what category he's in."

Oilers owner Bud Adams wasted no time complimenting McNair's speed, agility and powerful arm. McNair is "probably the finest natural athlete to play the position of quarterback," he said.

Two Pirates injured in outfield collision

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates outfielders Jacob Brumfield and Dave Clark were driven off the field in an ambulance after colliding violently as Brumfield made a spectacular catch Tuesday against Atlanta.

As the two raced into the right-center field gap to run down Jeff Blauser's fifth-inning drive, Brumfield, the center fielder, stuck out his glove to make the catch. Just then Clark, running at full speed, plowed into him.

Clark smacked face-first into the padded outfield fence, knocking him unconscious. Brumfield's head struck Clark's left shoulder before snapping backward and striking the rubberized warning track.

As Pirates players and trainers ran onto the field, Clark lay motionless for nearly 10 minutes before an ambulance crew immobilized his head in a steel harness.

Seahawks' Odomes to miss entire season

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — Seattle Seahawks cornerback Nate Odomes will be lost for a second straight season after having reconstructive surgery on his right knee for the second time in 13 months.

Odomes tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during practice Sunday. It was the same ligament he tore while playing in a pickup basketball game last June in Georgia, forcing him to miss the 1994 season.

At first, the latest injury appeared to be minor. The knee swelled badly, so doctors Monday performed exploratory arthroscopic surgery. After discovering the extent of the damage, team doctor Pierce Scranton then performed reconstructive surgery at Providence Hospital in Seattle.

Rodeo cowboys planning unionization

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Rodeo cowboys, the epitome of Western individuality, are talking about unionizing.

About 100 cowboys competing at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo met Tuesday night to discuss forming a Professional Rodeo Players Association, starting a mailing list and collecting \$50 dues.

Proponents see it as a way to get a bigger share of gate receipts, health and retirement benefits and an avenue for airing grievances.

"This is not going to happen by immaculate conception," said R.G. Keich, a 57-year-old Gilbert, Ariz., steer wrestler leading the move to organize. "It's not going to happen unless we fight for it."

Jeff Klaus, a Denver labor attorney who has represented athletes, said a decision could be made in about two weeks about what the group would do.

"It's just the business of sports in the 20th Century," he said. "We'll ask the question of where is the money coming from and where is the money going."

Reds' Viola successful in first minor-league start

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Frank Viola, trying to get back to the majors after elbow surgery, pitched six hitless innings Tuesday night for Cincinnati's Triple-A affiliate in Indianapolis.

Viola, who struck out six and walked one, got the win in a 2-1 victory over New Orleans. He threw 81 pitches, 47 for strikes.

Viola, 35, used an escape clause in his minor-league contract with Toronto to leave for the Reds. The former Cy Young Award winner agreed to a contract Tuesday with Indianapolis.

Viola had told Reds general manager Jim Bowden that he's still got it. "When Frank Viola tells me on the phone, 'Jim, I can still pitch,' that's a critical part of it," Bowden said.

Bowden and manager Dave Johnson had planned to drive to Indianapolis to watch Viola pitch Tuesday.

Viola, recovering from surgery last year to replace an elbow ligament, agreed to a minor-league contract with Toronto in April. He had been on a rehabilitation assignment with the Blue Jays' Class A team in Dunedin, Fla., going 0-1 in three starts.

Abilene Christian pitcher wins Arthur Ashe Award

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — Abilene Christian's Robby Scott has won the 1995 Arthur Ashe Collegiate Award, the school announced Tuesday.

Scott led coach Ron Elston's team to the 1995 Lone Star Conference championship in men's tennis at the April league tournament in Fortales, N.M. He is from Lee High School in Tyler.

Scott's award from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and Tennis magazine for men's tennis in NCAA Division II is named for the late tennis star.

Ashe, the first black male to win a U.S. Open and Wimbledon and a global advocate for civil rights, died of AIDS in 1993.

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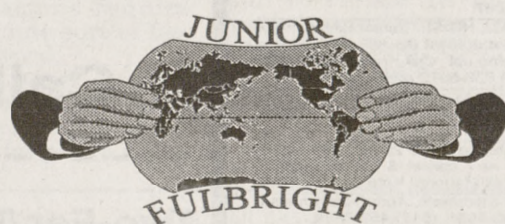
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