

SPORTS
BRIEFS

Texas team wins, moves to Little League Final

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Spring, Texas, is headed to the championship game of the Little League World Series.

The team from the Houston suburb beat Yorba Linda, Calif., 3-1 on Thursday behind the pitching of Michael Cepeda, who threw a two-hitter and struck out 13.

On Saturday, Spring will face Taiwan, which beat the Dominican Republic 1-0 in seven innings.

Kyle Foster, a 4-foot-9 shortstop, went 2-for-3 with two doubles for the Texans. He had an RBI and scored the run that put the Spring ahead in the bottom of the fifth.

"This is the opportunity I've dreamed about my whole life," said Foster, 12. "I can't wait."

Taiwan is the heavy favorite to win its 16th Little League championship, but that doesn't bother Foster.

"We've got a heart as big as Texas and that wins ball games," he said.

Former star Higuera plans return to major leagues

JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Former Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Teddy Higuera says he plans a return to the major leagues next season, the government news agency Notimex said Sunday.

He said his fleeting stint with the San Diego Padres did not make him feel washed up.

He said his departure from that team was because the Padres wanted to give opportunities to younger pitchers. Higuera has been playing professional baseball for 18 years.

He will play winter baseball for Los Mochis of Mexico's Pacific League to get in shape for another shot at the majors, he said.

His major league record is 93 wins, 54 losses with 1,043 strikeouts. Higuera's finest season came in 1986 when he finished 20-8.

Rec Center offers sneak peek this weekend

Students can use the new facility Saturday and Sunday before its grand opening on Monday.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

This fall, returning to school early not only gives A&M students the chance to buy their books and get settled in, but also to get a sneak preview into what all the hype on West Campus is about.

The Student Recreational Center will open its doors to the public for the first time Saturday at 6 p.m. to give students a chance to check out the new, state-of-the-art facility. Students will have the opportunity to inspect the facility and use all of the equipment it has to offer until midnight Saturday, then again on Sunday from noon until 8 p.m.

Starting Monday the regular hours will be 6 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight on the weekends. Originally, the Recreational Sports Department had plans to have the center be a 24-hour facility, but Assistant Director Judy Reising said the plan was not feasible for the employees.

"It will take between 1,000 and 1,100 workers to run the facility," Reising said. "With such a heavy workload it



Stew Milne THE BATTALION

The new Student Recreational Center, located across from Olsen Field on West Campus, will have a sneak preview opening for all Texas A&M students Saturday and Sunday. The center opens on a regular basis beginning Aug. 28.

would be very difficult to keep it open 24 hours a day."

A \$50 per student fee is helping to pay for the center's maintenance. The fee allows all students total access of the facility every day of the week. Equipment rentals, aerobics classes and lockers cost extra, but have been computerized to quicken the payment processes.

The only part of the facility that is not completed is the natatorium and the outside swimming pool. Reising said a tentative date of Oct. 1 has been set for the opening of the aquatics facilities.

The natatorium will be used by the Texas A&M Swimming and Diving Teams for practices and meets. It has a seating capacity of 1,300, which can be expanded to 2,500 for bigger meets. Students are welcome to watch practice and use the seating areas for studying or relaxing during the day.

The outdoor pool includes "islands" in the pool for sunbathing and a current for more strenuous swimming.

One of the biggest attractions in the indoor part of the facility is a 42-foot tall rock climbing wall. Reising

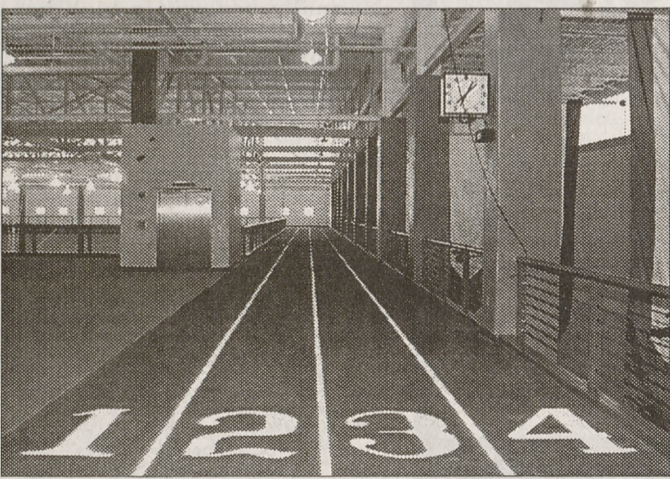
said the wall is expected to be one of the most popular activities because of it is unique in this area.

"This is the only wall of this kind between Houston and Dallas," Reising said. "Students must complete a training class in wall safety before they use the wall, however."

For the two days this weekend, students will have free run of the 14,000 square foot weight and fitness room, the quarter-mile indoor track, the four sand volleyball courts and eight multi-purpose gyms for basketball, volleyball, soccer and badminton.

For those who are not completely dedicated to physical perfection, the center provides plenty of additional distractions. There are lounges interspersed throughout the workout areas, along with a snack bar that accepts Aggiebucks and several snack and drink machines.

In addition to the dozens of physical activity areas available to students, the center also houses a large special events room that can seat 430 people for banquets, meetings dances or small concerts. There are two classrooms in the natatorium area for kinesiology classes, one with 40 seats, the other with 150.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A quarter-mile running/walking trial circles the perimeter of the third floor of the Student Recreational Center.

Wagner named to head swimming job

The former USC assistant has 17 years of coaching experience.

Staff and Wire Reports

The Don Wagner World Tour has arrived in College Station.

Wagner, who has already traveled to Colorado and Japan this summer, was named Texas A&M's head women's swimming coach Tuesday by Senior Associate Athletic Director Lynn Hickey.

"There was a tremendous number of great applicants, but I'm confident that Coach Wagner is the way to go," Hickey said. "He brings immediate high visibility to the program. With his level of enthusiasm and experience, I am confident he can build the type of women's program that we want here at Texas A&M."

Wagner comes to A&M after a 3-year stint as an assistant coach at the University of Southern California. He has 17 years experience at the national, collegiate and club levels.

Wagner said he was very pleased to be coming to A&M.

"This is a chance to build an excellent program," Wagner said. "The potential is unlimited, and I'm really excited to work with the athletes there. It's an opportunity to recruit some great athletes to a

great school."

Wagner is coming to College Station from Fukuoka, Japan, where he served as the head coach of the United States men's swimming team at the 1995 World University Games.

Earlier this summer, Wagner coached the Eastern All-Star Team at the 1995 U.S. Olympic Festival in Boulder, Colo.

Before coaching for USC, Wagner served as head coach of the Fullerton (California) Aquatics Sports Team (FAST). During his 3 years as coach, his team won the Junior Nationals title in 1989. While at FAST, Wagner coached Olympic Medalist Janet Evans, who set the current world record in the 800-meter freestyle.

The Aggie Swimming and Diving Teams were separated into men's and women's teams in late May. Both teams will move into the new Student Recreational Center this season and will host the first Big 12 Swimming and Diving Championships next year.

Wagner said the new facility sweetened the deal for him to make the move to A&M.

"I think this is one of the greatest jobs in the country, with the new facility and the strong commitment from the department," Wagner said. "For me, this is a dream come true. I have high hopes for the program and the swimmers. I expect a lot of fun for everyone."

Injuries stack up as A&M approaches opener

Chris Sanders, Dat Nguyen and Michael Jennings have all missed time due to injuries.

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M football team has spent its next-to-last week of preseason practice nursing bumps and bruises while preparing for the season opener Sept. 2 against Louisiana State University at Kyle Field.

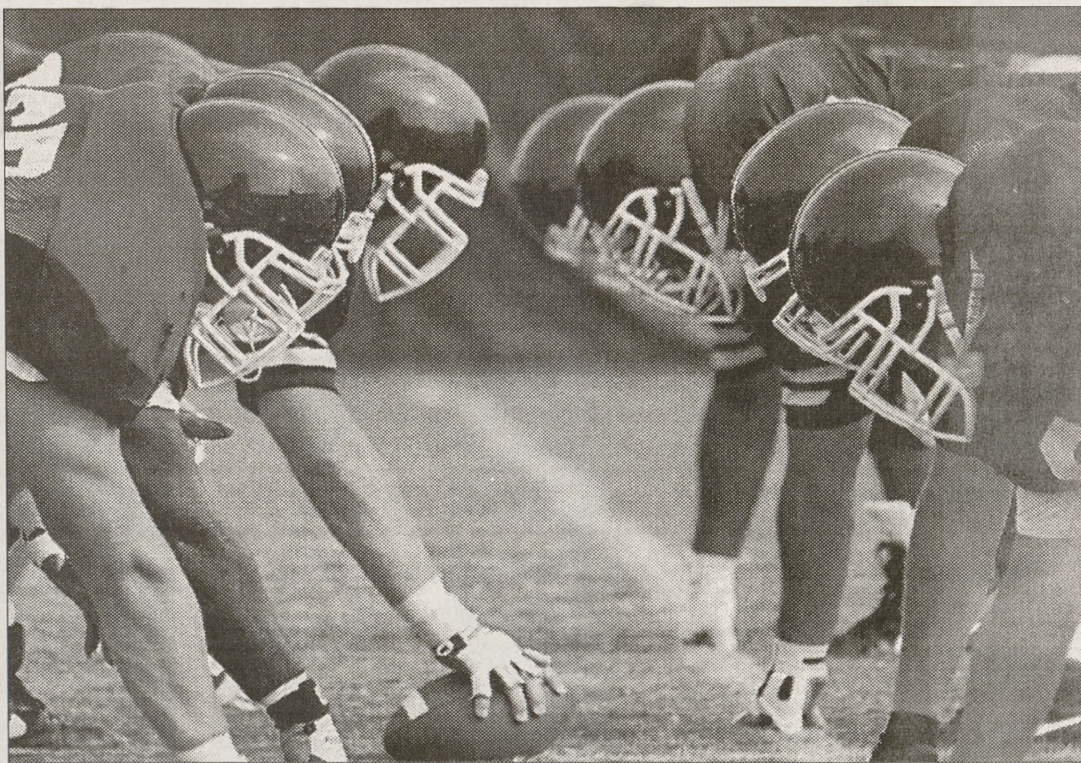
The Aggie offense received a major boost Wednesday when senior wide receiver Chris Sanders returned to practice for the first time since injuring a hamstring last week. Sanders is the Aggies' leading returning receiver after grabbing 22 passes for 422 yards and four touchdowns in 1994.

One player who was not as lucky as Sanders is freshman running back Michael Jennings. Jennings underwent an MRI x-ray on Tuesday which revealed a small tear in the patellar tendon. Jennings, who had been mentioned as the Aggies' starting punt returner, will be out for two to three weeks.

Another of the Aggies' walking wounded is redshirt freshman linebacker Dat Nguyen, who suffered a concussion in Monday's morning workout. After being held out of Monday's afternoon practice, Nguyen returned in a limited capacity on Tuesday.

Wednesday, the team held its second intrasquad scrimmage, and A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said he saw definite progress from the team.

"I thought we improved significantly since our last scrimmage," Slocum said. "The lightning (a storm interrupted the practice) chased us off the field for a while, but when it stopped we got in some good work. I was really pleased with the strides



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M offensive and defensive units meet at the line of scrimmage in a practice at Kyle Field. The Aggies are entering their last week of practice before their home opener Sept. 2.

we made."

Another Aggie player received another national honor on Tuesday when the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Inc. announced its preliminary list of candidates for this year's Butkus Award, given to the nation's outstanding collegiate linebacker.

One of the 62 candidates is A&M senior Reggie Brown, who comes back from a 67-tackle season in 1994.

Other Southwest Conference players up for the award are Southern Methodist's Chris Bordano, Rice's Joe Davis, Baylor's LaCurtis Jones and Texas Tech's preseason All-American Zach Thomas.

Houston gains ground in race to stop Oilers' move

A judge dissolved the team's restraining order Thursday.

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday dissolved the Houston Oilers' temporary restraining order, clearing the way for Houston and Harris County to sue the team if it tries to move to Nashville, Tenn.

But U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes warned lawyers for the city, county and operator of the Astrodome that to move in that direction, they would have to face him first, instructing them not to try to file lawsuits in state district courts.

"The judge said they can file and the first thing they're going to have to do is come and explain to him why it's not something

that's already in this case," said Oilers attorney Phil Sudan.

Hughes lifted the temporary restraining order, but made no move to dismiss the Oilers' lawsuit, which claims the city, county and Astrodome USA, manager of the county-owned Astrodome, are violating the team's civil right to move across state lines.

"I had high hopes he (Hughes) would say this case will be mentioned no more forever," said Gerald Treece, an attorney for Harris County and the city of Houston. "I wanted to take a silver bullet and put it right in the heart of this case."

The judge also ordered attorneys back to court on Sept. 6

when Hughes will decide whether a preliminary injunction against the three defendants will be imposed or a trial will be scheduled to test the merits of the Oilers lawsuit.

Despite the lifting of the restraining order, Sudan appeared pleased with the judge's actions.

"I think the judge's views were pretty clear that if the city and the county can stop the Houston Oilers from

moving to Tennessee than they can stop the man who has the laundromat down on the corner, you can stop the hardware store owner from moving his business," Sudan said. "And that is exactly the kind of parochial lo-

cal governmental interference that the interstate commerce clause was designed to prevent."

In Hughes' courtroom Thursday, a lawyer for Astrodome USA owner Drayton McLane, said his client has made repeated attempts to discuss the dispute with Adams, but the Oilers' owner Bud Adams won't return his phone calls.

"He (McLane) has no intention of suing the Oilers to keep them in Houston," said Wayne Fisher, McLane's attorney, adding that McLane only wants to Oilers to comply with their contract and remain at the Astrodome through 1997.

Because McLane has reached out to Adams and promised not to sue, allowing the Oilers' lawsuit "seems to be unreasonable and unfair," Fisher said.

SWC media tour ends with A&M picked to dominate

LUBBOCK (AP) — According to the 47th and final group of Southwest Conference football media tour members, Texas A&M is the clear-cut favorite to take its fourth SWC title in five seasons.

All 19 members of the media who wrapped up the 1995 tour on Thursday in Lubbock picked the Aggies to be the conference's final champion.

Texas A&M finished with 152 points, with 8 points for each first-place vote, 7 for second place, 6 for third, etc.

Texas finished second in the preseason poll with 115 points, followed by Baylor with 109, Texas Tech with 94.5, Texas Christian with 79.5, Rice with

74, Southern Methodist with 37 and Houston with 21.

Last year, there was a five-way tie for first, with Texas Tech going to the Cotton Bowl by virtue of not having gone since 1939.

Texas A&M finished 10-0-1 overall and 6-0-1 in the SWC, but was ineligible for the title because of NCAA sanctions.

The writers picked Leeland McElroy as preseason Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, and Texas A&M defensive end Brandon Mitchell as Defensive Player of the Year. UT running back Ricky Williams headed balloting for Newcomer of the Year.