

Leone

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when the pressure is off but can't pull out the "big one." Despite winning 70 tournaments worldwide, Norman's trophy case is filled with just two major victories, the 1986 and 1993 British Opens. Nine times in his career Norman has finished second at a major tournament. He also has the dubious distinction of losing playoffs in all four major championships. Add in a dysfunctional family and an eyeball gouging or two, and the poor guy is a Greek tragedy just waiting to happen. The Masters has proven to be the most frequent site of the "Shark's" nosedives. Three times Norman has led going into the final round at Augusta, and three times he's collapsed, unraveled, fallen on his face and pulled the choke-a-roo. Harsh words, I know, but painfully true. In 1986, Norman led by one stroke going into the last day of play only to lose by a stroke to Jack Nicklaus. The following year Larry Mize broke Norman's heart when he holed a miracle, 140-foot chip shot on the second playoff hole. Those second place finish-

es are almost forgivable, almost make you feel sorry for the guy. But this time, Norman was the lone captain of his ill fate, the master of his doomed soul. To be specific, he turned the gun on himself at holes eight through 12. Norman's miscues over that four-hole stretch pushed him from three strokes ahead to two behind. From there, Dr. Faldo performed surgery on the most difficult course on the planet — playing his precise, controlled, cold-blooded type of golf for a final round 67 and his sixth major championship. The two friends embraced after the 18th, and Faldo whispered a few kind words, which Norman refused to reveal afterwards in his press conference. It was a class move by Faldo and bit on the dangerous side — Norman's luck may be contagious. It was painful to watch a great golfer like Norman have such a miserable day, and I sincerely feel for the guy. However, he can console himself with the fact that he's golf's greatest money winner and has millions coming in from endorsements. For me, Norman's frustrations are further proof that the golf is a rotten sport that should only be played with a bunch of high school buddies and a couple of coolers full of brew.

Tyner said that the Aggies' five-game win streak has helped the team to stay focused on its remaining games. "Every game is important right now, so we're just taking one game at a time," Tyner said. "I think we're a little more focused right now because we know we only have 13 games left, and we know we need to win those."

A&M will return to action Friday when they travel to Houston for a three-game series against Rice at Cameron Field. We've never had an Aggie in the family at all. I had a choice to come here or go to Texas, and I chose here because I really liked Coach Johnson and the coaching staff, and the atmosphere when I came to a game here I thought was just unreal. "Just being out here at Olsen Field with the fans, it just looked like what I wanted to be a part of. I thought it was the best thing for me. When I was growing up, I wanted to be a Longhorn, then I came to A&M and saw how everything was, I realized this is where I need to be."

While Petru said he wouldn't want to be playing baseball anywhere else, his family does not share quite the same sentiments. "My whole family is total Longhorns," Petru said. "Everytime from my uncles to my grandparents, they're all Longhorns."

Baseball

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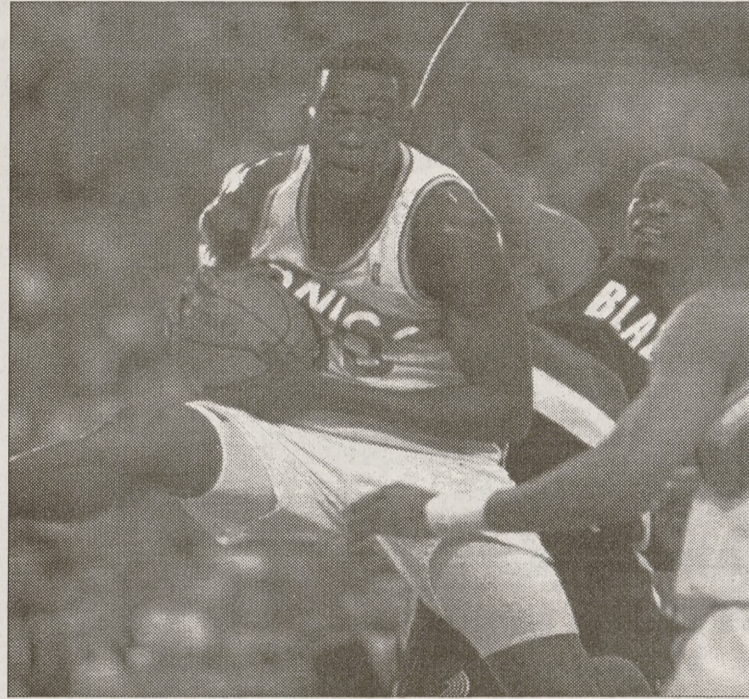
last weekend, defeating the Horned Frogs 13-3, 16-7 and 8-7. They are hitting .339 for the season and are fielding at an impressive .960 clip. The Aggies have two players hitting above .400. Junior Johnny Hunter is leading the team with a .486 average and freshman Jason Tyner is second with a .415 mark.

Petru

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you know, getting so close to Olsen and having that taken away at the end of three innings. While Petru said he wouldn't want to be playing baseball anywhere else, his family does not share quite the same sentiments. "My whole family is total Longhorns," Petru said. "Everytime from my uncles to my grandparents, they're all Longhorns."

Payton leads Sonics past Rockets, 112-106



AP Photo

Seattle's Shawn Kemp pulls down a rebound against Portland in a game last season. Kemp's SuperSonics defeated the Rockets Monday.

Traditional Rocket-killer Gary Payton scored 31 points in Seattle's win Monday

HOUSTON (AP) — Gary Payton scored 31 points and had three steals in the final 1:13 as the Seattle SuperSonics beat the Houston Rockets for the ninth straight time in the regular season, 112-106 Monday night.

The loss prevented the Rockets from catching the Los Angeles Lakers for the No. 4 playoff spot in the Western Conference and home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. The Rockets trail the Lakers by 4 1/2 games with three games to play.

The Rockets were behind most of the game but trailed only 106-104 with 1:13 to go when Payton grabbed an errant pass and went the length of the court for a layup and a 108-104 lead.

He got another steal with 35 seconds to go. After Detlef Schrempf hit two free throws for a

110-104 lead with 30.6 seconds left, Payton got the last of his six steals on an inbounds pass intended for Sam Cassell and drove for the basket with 26 seconds left.

The Rockets fought uphill most of the game but finally took the lead at 97-96 lead with 5:25 to play on a layup by Hakeem Olajuwon. It was Houston's first lead since 3:34 of the second quarter.

Clyde Drexler led Houston with 26 points. Olajuwon had 25 points for the Rockets, who took their final lead at 100-99 with 3:45 to go.

Correction

A Page 10 story in Monday's paper should have stated that Rosa Jolivet set a new track record in the 110-meter hurdles Saturday.

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THE STUDENT MIND DURING A FINAL EXAM.

The prof never covered this!

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The T.A.'s kinda cute.

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Summer break.

Prayers for a miracle flood, fire or tornado.

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I hope the curve is really low.

"Soon this will all be behind me."

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