

SPORTS

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Page 6

sports GLANCE

Nebraska's Berringer dies in plane crash

RAYMOND, Neb. (AP) — Brook Berringer, the backup quarterback who helped Nebraska win the 1994 national title, was killed Thursday when the small plane he was piloting crashed in a farm field.

Plane owner Harry Barr said the other person killed in the two-seat plane was Toby Lake, the brother of Berringer's girlfriend.

Berringer, 22, who was expected to be drafted by the NFL this weekend, held a pilot's license and often flew the two-seat plane, Barr said. Berringer had often said he wanted to be a commercial airline pilot.

The small plane struggled to a height of 250 feet before crashing in a field near this east-central Nebraska village minutes after takeoff from a grass airstrip.

"We could tell it was going slow," said Jim Jeffers, who lives about a mile from the crash site 11 miles northwest of Lincoln. "After takeoff, when the wing dropped, I knew it was going to hit the ground."

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner said the bodies were removed from the crash site about 6:25 p.m. and were taken to a Lincoln hospital for official identification.

Morris pleads innocence, court date set

ROCKWALL (AP) — A July 15 trial date has been set for the Pittsburgh Steelers' Bam Morris, who pleaded innocent Thursday to two drug possession charges stemming from his arrest last month during a traffic stop.

Morris, wearing a mustard-colored suit, entered a written plea during a brief hearing before state District Judge Bill Lofland.

"I can't talk about it now," the 24-year-old running back told reporters. "There will be a time."

Asked about the case's affect on his career, Morris replied, "It'll handle itself."

Morris is one of two players from this year's Super Bowl to be charged in a drug case. Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin was indicted April 1 on felony cocaine and misdemeanor marijuana possession charges.

Morris, the leading rusher in Pittsburgh's Super Bowl loss to Dallas, is free on \$50,000 bond following his March 22 arrest. He was stopped outside the Rockwall city limits for swerving and not wearing a seat belt, officials said.

Dallas drubs Nuggets in home finale, 132-98

DALLAS (AP) — Jim Jackson hit four 3-pointers in the third quarter and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Denver Nuggets 132-98 in their final home game of the season.

The Mavericks won in what also may have been their last game at home during owner Donald Carter's 16-year tenure.

Carter, who brought the NBA to Dallas with his purchase of the franchise in 1980, has been negotiating to sell the majority of the team. Talks reached a snag Thursday night and no sale will be announced until next week at the earliest.

The Mavericks recorded their most lopsided win of the season. They defeated Boston by 21 points on Jan. 7.

Jackson led Dallas with 25 points, followed by George McClellan with 23 and Jason Kidd with 19. Jackson hit three straight 3-point shots as the Mavericks built a 37-point lead midway through the third period.

SCORES ROUNDUP

- NL**
Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 2
Chicago 7, San Francisco 6
Philadelphia 9, Montreal 8
Florida 5, Atlanta 3
- NBA**
Orlando 119, Atlanta 104
Milwaukee 111, Charlotte 103
Cleveland 92, New York 77
Chicago 110, Detroit 79
Dallas 132, Denver 98
Houston 115, L.A. Clippers 107
San Antonio 103, L.A. Lakers 100
Utah at Vancouver (n)
- NHL PLAYOFFS**
Tampa Bay 2, Philadelphia 1, OT
Montreal 5, New York 3
Toronto 5, St. Louis 4
Vancouver at Colorado (n)
- AL**
Boston 10, Baltimore 7
Milwaukee 8, Kansas City 2
Toronto at California, (n)
Detroit at Seattle, (n)

King Of The Hill

Shane King doesn't have the overpowering fastball, just a fiery desire to win

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

He may not throw the hardest or have the highest velocity of Texas A&M's hurlers, but when it comes to pitching, sophomore southpaw Shane King is king of the hill.

In his second season pitching for the Aggies, King has worked his way into the starting rotation, compiling a 6-2 record on the mound with a 4.05 ERA.

He tossed a complete game against Texas Christian last weekend and leads the team in that category with three. He is expected to get the starting nod for the Aggies tonight against Rice at Cameron Field in Houston.

With 10 appearances and eight starts under his belt, King knows he has what it takes to get the job done for the Aggies.

"I'm really confident," King said. "I don't get intimidated by anybody, and pressure really doesn't affect me that much."

"You can put me in any situation, and I'm going to do the best job I can do. I think the hitters and position players sense it; and that kind of carries on, and we actually play a little better."

Senior catcher William Shiflett — King's usual battery counterpart — feels that confidence as well.

"He's a very confident pitcher," Shiflett said. "It's hard to find a guy that doesn't have a 90 mile per hour fastball to come in and think that batters can't hit his stuff, but he has that attitude."

King said he works hard to compensate for his lack of an intimidating fastball.

"Considering I don't throw that hard, (a pitch) over the middle of the plate is going to

get hit really hard," King said. "Some of the other guys that throw pretty hard can make a mistake every now and then and get by with it, but I can't. I just have to work harder than anyone else because I don't throw as hard."

"I think it will help me a lot if I intend to go on with this career in baseball into the professional ranks, if I can, because I'm learning how to pitch now."

King's first start for the Aggies came his freshman year against the Texas Longhorns at the SWC First Pitch Tournament. He responded with a complete-game nine-inning effort and struck out seven. He went on to compile a 1-1 record that season with his only loss coming to Rice, when he started and lasted four innings.

As a pitcher King is in a starring role, and his performance could make or break the team. This kind of pressure would be unbearable for some, but not for King.

"It really doesn't affect you that much," King said. "It's not something I think about. It's all of us out there, it's not just me. We work hard enough in practice, and I know we're going to play well; and even if I'm not throwing real well, I think that the hitters, they always pick it up, and it seems like we're going to win anyway."

King came to A&M from Burleson High School where he posted a 9-2 record in 1994 with a 0.65 ERA and 115 strikeouts. He was named the district's MVP and was also named All-Area.

He played his first two years at Alvarado High School, where as a sophomore, he struck out 146 batters and compiled a 11-2 record with a 1.56 ERA.



Texas A&M's Shane King deals to the plate against the Texas Christian Horned Frogs last weekend at Olsen Field. King has compiled a 6-2 record so far in the 1996 season.

Baseball team hoping to make a meal out of Rice

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

Fresh off its 9-2 drubbing of Sam Houston State on Tuesday, the red-hot Texas A&M Baseball Team travels to Houston today looking to extend its winning streak in a crucial South-west Conference series with Rice University.

Since dropping a doubleheader to Dallas Baptist on April 6, the Aggies have rattled off six straight victories, including last weekend's sweep of Texas Christian. At 31-14 overall, A&M is tied for third place with the Horned Frogs in SWC play with an 8-7 record.

After a slow start in conference play, the Aggies look to repeat last year's late season surge that pushed them to an eventual second-place tie with the University of Texas.

Rice, 29-15 overall, heads into this weekend's action in sixth place in the conference with a mark of 4-10; however, in their last SWC series, the Owls took two of three games from then-undefeated Texas Tech.

The Owls also won their first meeting with A&M this season in the SWC First Pitch Tournament by a score of 6-2. Though pleased with his club's play of late, A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies will have their work cut out for them facing Rice on their home turf.

"You're never totally confident going up against Rice because they have a good ball club, and we'll have our hands full," Johnson said. "We're playing better right now than we were earlier, so I like that. I just don't like going on the road a whole lot."

Sophomore left-hander Shane King will take his 6-2 record and 4.05 ERA to the mound for the Aggies in the first game of the series on Friday. Rice counters with its ace right-hander Shawn Onley, who sports a 6-1 mark and 3.18 ERA.

A&M senior catcher William Shiflett said Friday's match-up between King and Onley may determine how the rest of the series turns out for the Aggies.

"Right now we're really confident going to Rice, so if we can win Friday's night game, I think Saturday will fall into place for us," Shiflett said.

Rice is led on offense by sophomore outfielder Lance Berkman, who is in second place in the SWC in home runs (15) and RBIs (66).

The hot man at the plate for the Aggies is Jason Stephens. In his last three games, the junior designated hitter/third baseman hit a blistering .667 to improve his season batting average to .381. Stephens leads the Aggies this season with 63 RBIs and his seven home runs ties him with Shiflett for the second-most on the team.

Aggie bats as a whole have enjoyed a recent increase in production. With a .339 team batting average, A&M is tied for 10th in the nation with Texas Tech.

Shiflett believes this improved offensive output, combined with the momentum of a six-game winning string, should propel the Aggies past Rice this weekend.

"We're on a roll right now and have hit the ball around pretty well lately," Shiflett said. "We're going to ask our pitchers to try to just keep us close and hope we outscore them in the end."

Lady Aggies host final SWC champs

By Nicole Smith
THE BATTALION

Looking to take the spotlight this weekend, the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team is hoping to putt and drive its way to the finals of the Southwest Conference Championships this weekend at Pebble Creek Country Club.

Starting today and running through Sunday, the Lady Aggies will host five teams, including three in the Top 25: Texas, Texas Tech and Texas Christian University.

Even though the Lady Longhorns are ranked in the nation's top 10, Aggie coaches and players feel they can come out victorious with three solid days of competition.

"If all five of our girls give 100 percent in every round and stay focused, then we should have no problem taking the championship," A&M Head Coach Jeanne Sutherland said. "We have been playing extremely well the last few weeks, so hopefully that will carry over into the tournament."

The Lady Aggies beat every SWC team during the regular season at least once, including a split with the Lady Longhorns.

"Texas is going to be harder to beat because they recruited the number one girl in the nation, Kelly Kuehne," sophomore Isabelle Rosberg said. "They definitely have more experience, which will help them overall, but we have the home course advantage."

If the Lady Aggies are to be victorious this weekend, the team needs a solid effort from all five players throughout each round.

"It would be nice if we all could have a great round at the same time," sophomore Jamie Hullett said. "We have a lot of experience though, so hopefully all five of us will come through when it counts."

A team victory this weekend would not only win the Southwest Conference championship for A&M, but the Lady Aggies would also enter the regional tournament being among the top five seeds.

With that in mind, the Lady Aggies are determined to prove to themselves and to their fans that they deserve a bid to the National Championship in Omaha, Neb.

In addition, they urge more people to come out and support them as they complete their last season as a Southwest Conference team.

A&M's Bates traded to Atlanta

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders picked up another second round draft pick today in a trade with the Atlanta Falcons.

The Raiders sent safety Patrick Bates to Atlanta in a deal contingent on Bates passing a physical today.

A first-round pick by the Raiders in 1993, the 6-foot-3, 215-pound Bates sat out the 1995 season because of a dispute over playing time.

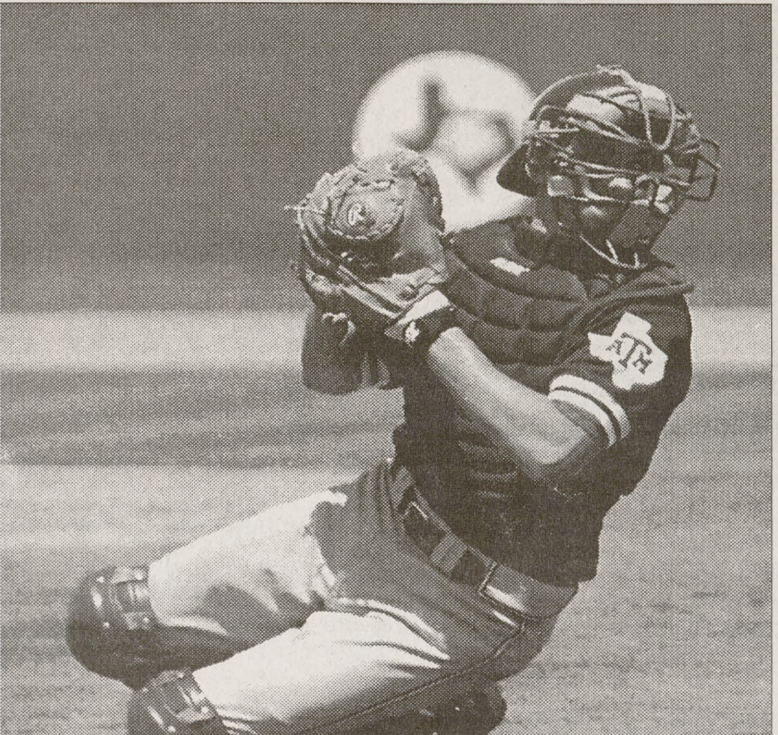
The Raiders got a three-day head start on the NFL draft Wednesday when they made a couple of deals to fill a need on the

defensive line. Oakland acquired tackle Pat Harlow from the New England Patriots for a second-round draft pick from San Francisco.

Harlow, who played right tackle and left tackle during five seasons in New England, answers a need at one of three positions the Raiders identified as the focus of their draft.

The others being tight end and safety.

"I've long been impressed with Pat Harlow's playing ability," said Joe Bugel, assistant coach in charge of offense. "He is adept at playing both offensive tackle positions, which is rare in this league."



Texas A&M Matt Garrick comes up with the ball in front of the plate during last weekend's action against TCU at Olsen Field.

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