

SPORTS

sports GLANCE

Diamond Vision newest addition to Kyle Field

A Diamond Vision Display System will be installed at Kyle Field before the start of the 1996 Aggie Football season. The system, which will be installed by Gameday Sports Programming Network, will allow fans to see both instant replays and close-up views of activities on the field.

"This advanced video system will keep Kyle Field in the forefront of major sports complexes," Dr. Ray M. Bowen said. "It is particularly appropriate as we prepare to receive guests from the new Big 12 Conference."

To allow the existing 20-by-27 foot scoreboard to be used for the system, four additional scoreboards will be installed at Kyle Field, two each on the face of the third deck.

Stewart named Lady Aggie assistant coach

Tracy Stewart has been named women's assistant basketball coach, Texas A&M head coach Candi Harvey announced June 4, 1996.

Stewart, 31, comes from Westwork Community College in Fort Smith, Ark., where she was an assistant coach. Stewart also had assistant coaching stints at Mississippi State University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

"Tracy is a great hire for Lady Aggie basketball," Harvey said. "She brings to us a variety of recruiting and coaching experiences at the highest levels of Division I and junior college basketball."

A native of Batesville, Ark., Stewart was an all-conference guard at Arkansas College in Batesville in 1985 and 1986.

LSU wins CWS in dramatic fashion

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A dreary season had a dream ending for LSU's Warren Morris.

Down to its last out in the bottom of the ninth inning, LSU got a two-run homer from Morris to beat Miami 9-8 Saturday for the championship of the College World Series.

It was the most dramatic finish in the 50-year history of the CWS.

"It still seems like it happened to someone else and not me," said Morris. "Coach has talked about seeing yourself winning a game, dreaming about it, and if you do it enough, it will become real."

Morris missed 40 games after breaking his hand in April, then came back to play in the NCAA regionals. The Tigers were 22-0 with him starting at second base.

'Kalashnikov' wins first French Open

PARIS (AP) — Yevgeny Kafelnikov is no longer just a can't-miss prospect with a catchy nickname. He's a Grand Slam champion.

Kafelnikov made his breakthrough Sunday by beating Michael Stich in straight sets to win the French Open and become the first Russian to capture a Grand Slam singles title.

He came from behind in the last two sets to win 7-6 (7-4), 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) in 2 1/2 hours.

"It is just a dream," the sixth-seeded Kafelnikov said. "I never felt I could do it, winning a Grand Slam at age 22 ... I never felt I could make it."

Nicknamed "Kalashnikov," after the Russian-made assault rifle, he broke into the top 10 but failed to win all the way at the Grand Slams, earning a reputation as the best player never to win a major.

SCORES ROUNDUP

AL
Milwaukee 11, Boston 8 (10)
California 8, Cleveland 6 (13)
New York 3, Detroit 2
Chicago 12, Baltimore 9
Seattle 3, Kansas City 2
Texas 8, Toronto 6

NL
New York 3, Florida 0
Chicago 4, Montreal 2
Houston 2, Philadelphia 1
Atlanta 8, Colorado 3
San Francisco 9, St. Louis 0
Los Angeles 3, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 0

Help Wanted

A&M program helps former athletes find jobs

By Brandon Marler
THE BATTALION

Most students do not envision themselves in a management-training position at Wal-Mart fresh out of college — especially a collegiate basketball player. But that prospect was a reality for former A&M basketball player Damon Johnson.

A four-year starter at center for the Aggies from 1991 to 1995, Johnson realized that attaining a career in professional basketball would be a long shot.

In a May 1995 interview with The Chronicle of Higher Education, Johnson said he was realistic when considering his future.

"I always knew basketball wasn't going to last forever," Johnson said.

With that in mind, Johnson spent many of his off-season months working with A&M's Career Center for Student Athletes. After learning to write resumes, polishing his interviewing skills and scheduling numerous job interviews, Johnson landed a position at Wal-Mart in June 1995.

This kind of story is repeated at colleges and universities across the nation each semester, as many athletes walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

But this ideal scenario is not the case with many athletes. Some, deeply involved in their practice and game schedules, don't have the time their class-

mates do to develop and explore possible career options.

At the same time, some college athletes refuse to acknowledge the fact that their athletic careers are coming to an end. Johnson had reason to believe his might not.

After his freshman and sophomore years, he was considered one of

thought, yeah, I'm going to go pro," Johnson said. "But when the phone wasn't ringing off the hook [my senior year] like I hoped it would, I realized, realistically, it probably wasn't going

just 3 percent of football players make it.

Prompted by findings such as these, the A&M Athletic Career Services department created a program in May called Athletic Career Employment Services

Jennifer Bohac, the program's goal is to maximize job opportunities for student athletes and to assist them in securing meaningful career-related employment, both part- and full-time.

Sports management intern Kellie Conner was put in charge of getting ACES off the ground this summer.

"I had to come up with the name and present the program to a board to be approved," Conner said. "It's great experience for me to be in the middle of the program."

The program's mission is to "support Texas A&M Athletics by assisting in procuring employment for student athletes upon graduation and during permissible vacation periods, thus aiding in the student's career development process."

If Damon Johnson's story is typical, ACES will become a very valuable asset, not only to the athletes, but also to the Athletic Department.

Helping to build a standard of excellence for athletes, ACES not only aids athletes on the field of dreams, but also on the field of life.



the top players in the Southwest Conference. The center finished his career as the 10th highest scorer in school history.

"During my first two years, I was really successful and

to happen."

According to a study by the NCAA, fewer than 2 percent of college seniors playing men's basketball at NCAA institutions make it to the pros, and

(ACES). The service was created as an opportunity for businesses, both locally and nationally, to assist student athletes while giving back to Texas A&M.

Headed by A&M graduate

Aggie golfers save best for last in '96

The men qualified for Nationals while the women finished 2nd in the SWC

By Ross Hecox
THE BATTALION

It took the Texas A&M Men's Golf Team close to three-and-a-half months to capture its first tournament victory in '96.

Disappointing? Not if that team triumph comes at the NCAA Central Regional Tournament and qualifies them for nationals.

With a score of 871 in three rounds, the Aggies took the regional title, beating powerhouse teams from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and the University of Texas.

With the win A&M advanced to the NCAA Championships held in Chattanooga, Tenn., May 29 through June 1.

Head Coach Bob Ellis said, like every year, it was the goal of the men's team to advance to nationals.

"You're always under a lot of pressure," Ellis said. "A lot of it you put on yourself by setting goals, and when you do make those goals it's very gratifying. We not only qualified (for nationals at the Regional Tournament), but won it. That was the icing on the cake."

Unfortunately, the Aggies played only two rounds at the

NCAA Tournament before missing the cut and returning to Aggieland. After a steady first round, they missed advancing to the finals by eight strokes after the second day, hitting a team total of 614.

Junior Jeff Brown said he and his teammates were disappointed with their showing at nationals after winning the talent-packed Central Region.

"I think our region was the strongest," Brown said. "Going into the tournament, we had every belief that we could win. It just didn't work out for us at nationals. It was a very difficult golf course and difficult [to play in]."

The men's team finished third in the final Southwest Conference Tournament behind Texas Tech and Southern Methodist, not the type of finish Brown had expected.

"It was very disappointing," Brown said of their SWC finish. "I think if we would have played a good round, not even a great round, we would have won."

Overall the Aggie men's team competed strongly throughout the spring. In eight of nine tournaments, the Aggies finished in the top 10, finishing in the top five on six of those 10 occasions.

The women's team advanced

to the NCAA West Regional Tournament in Omaha, Neb., for the third time in four years.

After a strong performance in the SWC Tournament, they finished 17th in Regionals (318-333-334=985), failing to place in the top 10 for the NCAA Championships by 25 strokes.

"We played so well at the conference championships that we felt confident going into Regionals," Head Coach Jeanne Sutherland said. "But we simply didn't play very well in the regionals."

Ranked 23rd in the nation at the time, A&M finished second to sixth-ranked Texas in the conference championships.

"We would have liked to have won, but it didn't happen," Sutherland said. "We can't feel too bad about losing to a team of that caliber."

In the farewell season of the SWC, a record of four women's teams advanced to regionals, including A&M, Texas, Texas Tech and Texas Christian.

Although the Lady Aggies remained at the same level of play as last year, Coach Sutherland said the team did improve.

"As a team, we continued to improve, although we didn't on paper," Sutherland said. "The

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Photo Courtesy of Texas A&M Sports Information Department

Junior Jeff Brown swings away during a practice session at Pebble Creek Country Club.

Should fans really "Love this Game?"

Mark my words — the NBA is losing its appeal.

You don't believe me? Ask yourself this: Did I know the NBA Finals are taking place this month? Secondly, do I care?

Rising ticket prices, ridiculous salaries and players who fail to live up to their role-model status are turning fans off.

Don't get me wrong — I still tune into the game. I still make little bets with friends and subscribe to Sports Illustrated. I still dream of being a sportswriter, having realized long ago that I am not the professional athlete type.

But I am not blind to the cresting of a sport's popularity. If the NBA continues on its current track, it will suffer the same fate as baseball.

By now, you have seen the implications of the baseball player strike. Sta-



COLBY GAINES
SPORTSWRITER

diums remain empty while fans search for the excitement that existed before greed brought the game to a screeching halt two years ago.

On the basketball front, more and more NBA teams are losing money and threatening to move to other cities.

Remember when you could name all the players on a particular NBA team? Today, that's a tougher task.

Chances are, if someone tells you 10 players' names on a particular team, four or more of those players will not be on the same team next year. This is because trades have become as commonplace as jockstraps, making team recognition impossible.

Free agency has also played a key role in the takeoff of salaries, while facilitating team-to-team movement of players. Now, players market their talent like a farmer pushing cattle at a livestock auction.

However, the highest bidder doesn't always bring home the bacon. Soon-to-be free agents Alonzo Mourning and Shaquille O'Neal should each command

more than \$13 million next season, but neither have proven to be championship worthy.

Obviously, team loyalty is becoming a forgotten concept.

In general, players seem to care more about themselves than their fanatic followers or any particular city. In the end, players log enough mileage to keep Ryder in business.

On a different note, the NBA's current show of athleticism and competition for overall entertainment leaves me wondering: Do I really "love this game?" Having been to a handful of games this past season, I can say that Barnum and Bailey have nothing on the NBA.

During timeouts, advertising sideshows and promotions take place. Meanwhile, players such as Dennis Rodman prove that an unusual lifestyle and painted flesh create more intrigue than basketball talent.

Prima donnas, showboats and players that just don't care what fans think are tarnishing the once-respectable im-

age of professional basketball. Perhaps that is why many people now look to college and high school sports to satisfy their competitive craving.

I realize the NBA is about making money. However, the league's concentration on marketing, merchandising and business, paired with player attitude and greed, will be its downfall.

Eventually, rising ticket prices will cause demand to plummet and salaries to level off.

Stadiums built on tax dollars will become more of a burden than a delight when ticket prices become unattainable for the common man footing the bill.

And fans who haven't been turned off will become fed up with player egos and find better investments for their time.

All professional sports are heading in the same direction at a different pace. With baseball as a historical indicator, maybe NBA owners can foresee the future.

Perhaps when all is said and done, basketball can return to what it is...a game.