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Continued from Page 3

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or the Fightin' Texas Aggie Wrestling team?
These are sports the Athletic Department may have to consider adopting in order to compete alongside its Big 12 buddies

Back on the football front, critics, reporters, coaches and fans can't agree on what

to expect of the inaugural Big 12 season. They only say this year will be one of the toughnational powerhouse.

harder in years to come. A&M won't roll over and die in the Big 12, but I think A&M needs the boost in competition if it ever wants to be considered a true

est in recent memory, and it's only going to get

The Aggies' recruiting should improve in years to come, as well as their recognition across the country.

However, our school needs to be prepared for sharing the spotlight with 11 other schools that want to be the king of the

mountain as much as we do. Texas A&M is carrying into the Big 12 a recent tradition of success, and we can't forget that

when times are rough. With the teams that we will be facing, it's just going to be that much sweeter when we do reach

Officer accused in Irvin plot requests lower bail

DALLAS (AP) — The attor- Smith, 24, dated Hernandez in ney for a police officer accused of trying to solicit the murder of Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin said he would be in court Monday seeking to reduce his \$252,500 bail.

"He's not a danger to himself or others," Frank Perez, himself a former Dallas police officer, said of jailed officer Johnnie Hernandez, 28. Perez also said he would seek to learn more about the evidence against his client.

Hernandez has been in the Lew Sterrett Criminal Justice Center since Thursday, a day after police said he paid an undercover officer, posing as a would-be hitman, \$2,960 as a down payment for Irvin's murder.

A fourth day of jury selection was scheduled Monday in Irvin's trial on drug charges that arose from a police raid on a motel room four months ago.

State District Judge Manny Alvarez refused Friday to declare a mistrial because of Hernandez's arrest, saying the latest events have nothing to do with whether Irvin possessed drugs in early March.

Law enforcement sources have said Hernandez sought Irvin's death because he believed that the football star had repeatedly threatened Hernandez's girlfriend with violence if she testified against him in his drug trial. The girlfriend, Rachelle Marie

Denver and moved with him to Dallas after he joined the Dallas Police Department in 1991.

Like two women who were in a motel room with Irvin at the time of a police raid in the early morning hours of March 4, she is a topless

dancer. Drugs were found in the room, resulting in an indictment against Irvin, 30; An-gela Rene Beck, 22; and Jasmine Jennipher Nab-wangu, 22. Alfredo Roberts,

Irvin's business partner and former teammate, also was in the room, but wasn't charged.

Earlier in the year, Ms. Smith put Ms. Beck up for a month in the Cedar Hill house she shared with Hernandez. Through his girlfriend's involvement, Hernandez also became a subpoenaed witness in Irvin's drug case, law enforcement sources have said.

The district attorney's office apparently has taken the allegation that Irvin threatened Ms. Smith seriously enough to conduct a witness-tampering inquiry and to consider retaliation charges against him, law en-

Hernandez's attorney said Saturday he is assembling a de fense team that will include noted trial lawyer John H. Read. Perez said he believes the murder-for-trial case can be beaten and that Hernandez will

plead innocent. Ms. Smith spoke Saturday on the condition that she be asked no questions about Irvin's or Hernandez's criminal cases. As a subpoenaed witness in Irvin's trial, she is subject to a gag order that prevents her from dis-

cussing any aspect of the case. "I believe in him, definitely, 100 percent," she said.

"John's a good guy, and I just don't want people getting the wrong idea. I just want people to know I believe in Johnnie and that I love him. Everyone just has to keep an open mind. We'll have our day in court.

Hernandez resigned as a policeman after his arrest Thursday. His brother, Kenneth, 30, who joined the Dallas Police Department about a year after his brother did, said Saturday he was just getting over the shock of seeing his younger brother led to a jail cell.

"I believe in him. I'll stick with him to the end," the offi-

"You don't turn your back on family. We're getting ready for a big fight," his brother said.

Dawes overcomes mistakes in floor exercise to earn trip to Atlanta

Dawes soared into the lead with a high-flying uneven bars routine at Sunday's Olympic gymnastics trials, and not even a few mistakes on the floor were enough to bring her down.

78.157 points, the 19-year-old made her second Olympic squad. Kerri Strug, another 1992 veteran, finished second with 78.108.

Amanda Borden, who just missed the 1992 squad, also made the team that will compete in Atlanta. Shannon Miller and Dominique Moceanu, who were injured and couldn't compete, also made the team.

had her soaring high over the top bar, earned her a 9.95, which tied Strug's effort on the vault for high score of the night and gave her the lead. Dawes was cheers from the crowd, which

inning as the Astros beat the New York Mets 9-3 on Sunday.

in the Central Division.

Jason Isringhausen (4-10).

Houston started the scoring in

the fourth when James Mouton

and Ricky Gutierrez hit consecu-

tive singles. A flyout moved both

the mat, then she turned and waved to the roaring crowd that

routine, stepping out of bounds on two tumbling passes, an automatic .20 deduction. Her mark of 9.612 was enough to keep a slim lead over Strug going into the fi-

After finishing the compulsories in third place, Strug was practically flawless Sunday. She opened with a near perfect vault that earned her a 9.95, the highest score of the night. Coach Bela Karolyi grabbed her in a bear hug afterward, before she ran off with television cameras

chasing her. She got the crowd rocking Dawes' bar routine, which with her floor routine, grinning as she swayed and twisted to a Stray Cats medley. She flew across the mat on her tumbling passes, drawing appreciative

gave her a standing ovation when she finished. Karolyi was so excited by

her routine he pushed his wife and fellow coach, Martha, as Strug finished. Phelps started the night in

first place, but a disastrous landing on her beam routine dropped her to third. She sprawled across the mat before finally somersaulting backward. She walked off the stage

with her head down and into the arms of coach Mary Lee Tracy, who gave her some encouragement.

Phelps showed no reaction when her score of 9.287 was announced, and sat on the sidelines for the rest of the rotation.

By winning the trials with

"I'm very pleased, it's a dream come true to be a two-time Olympian," Strug said. Jaycie Phelps, Amy Chow and

was behind her all night. But Dawes put a little too much enthusiasm into her floor

Moceanu has a four-inch stress fracture in her right leg, and doctors said she could break it if she competed in the trials. Miller has tendinitis in her left wrist. Both must be healthy by July 19, two days before compe-

The Astros added two in the

fifth. Gutierrez led off with a

double and scored when Randy

Knorr singled.

Astros stay tied for first with 9-3 win

Kile's complete game leads to series win over New York runners up and, one out later,

Cangelosi singled to make it 2-0.

HOUSTON (AP) — Darryl Kile pitched a six-hitter and John Cangelosi's two-run single highlighted Houston's six-run fourth

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Ayala pitched the eighth and Norm Charlton worked the ninth for his 13th save. Charlton put two runners on, but got Kevin Elster to pop out to end the game.

Cangelosi then stole second and third, the first steal when Isringhausen got in the way of

catcher Todd Hundley's The Astros, who have won four of their last five, remained throw to second. Craig Bigtied with St. Louis for first place gio's single scored Can-Kile (7-5) didn't allow a hit until the fifth when Jeff Kent singelosi, and Jeff gled off the glove of third base-Bagwell folman Orlando Miller with no outs. lowed with a Kile struck out seven and walked one in his first win since May 27.

Cangelosi had three RBIs and stole two bases, on consecutive pitches, in the fourth off starter

walk. Mets center fielder Lance

Johnson then lost Derek
Bell's high fly, letting it drop for a double that scored Biggio and Bagwell. After Bell stole third, Miller singled him home for a 6 0 load for a 6-0 lead.

After Dave Mlicki relieved Isringhausen, Knorr went to second on Kile's sacrifice bunt and to third on a wild pitch. Cangelosi then made it 8-0 with a

single that scored Knorr. Isringhausen allowed eight runs in four-plus innings. He gave up 10 hits, walked five and threw two wild pitches.

The Mets scored in the sixth

when Edgardo Alfonzo led off

with a single, moved to third on Johnson's double and scored on Jose Vizcaino's sacrifice fly.
Bernard Gilkey singled home
Johnson for the Mets' second run.

The Astrodome attendance of 35,981 was well above the season average of 23,227.

Oates ejected in 4-3 loss to Seattle

Mariners win two out of three to cut Ranger's lead to five games in AL West

SEATTLE (AP) — Sterling Hitchcock was staked to an early four-run lead and Edgar Martinez hit two more doubles Sunday, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 4-3 win over the Texas Rangers.

By winning two out of three games in the week-end series, the Mariners cut first-place Texas' lead to five games in the AL West. Hitchcock (7-3) allowed only one hit through

five innings before giving up three runs and four hits in the sixth.

Bobby Ayala replaced Hitchcock with runners at second and third and two outs in the seventh, and got Darryl Hamilton to hit a comebacker to end the inning.

Martinez went 3-for-5 and hit two doubles, giving him a major-league leading 39 this season. He also leads the majors with 59 extra-base hits.

Rangers manager Johnny Oates wasn't around at the finish. Home plate umpire Ted Barrett ejected Oates for arguing from the dugout with Rene Gonzales batting in the third. It was Oates' first ejection of the season. The Mariners got their 4-0 lead on Edgar Mar-

tinez's RBI double in the first inning off Bobby Witt (7-7), Paul Sorrento's run-scoring single in the third and, Alex Rodriguez's RBI infield single and Jay Buhner's sacrifice fly in the fourth. In the Texas sixth, Hamilton had a two-run sin-

gle and Juan Gonzalez added an RBI single. Hitchcock gave up three runs and six hits in 6

2-3 innings. Witt went six innings, allowing four runs and 11 hits.

MON July 1, 1

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