

Boneheaded Barry Switzer strikes again

From somewhere in the general vicinity of the sprawling metropolis known as Dallas, one could hear a certain multi-millionaire owner contort his facial features and utter a resounding, "Doh!" Ah, another Dallas Cowboys training camp, another contest to see which player can attract the most attention with his off-the-field follies.

Only this time, the coach decided to play, and darned if he didn't end up winning the whole dang shooting match.

Head Coach Barry Switzer's arrest in Dallas, for carrying a revolver through an airport baggage

check, kicks training camp off with distraction for yet another season. Same song, seems like hundredth verse.

It turns out that for all of his expensive surveillance cameras and late-night restrictions on his players, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones should have been keeping an eye on his head coach instead.

And all that bull about the Cowboys being put under a microscope because of their wide-spread popularity and many flamboyant personalities is just that. All NFL teams have had their share of unprofessional behavior on the part of their athletes, the picture of Kansas City Chief Mike Mamula showing off the hardware in a nightclub springs disgustingly to mind.

Perhaps it takes professional athletes that long to re-focus on another long season, and we allow occasional slip-ups, just as we do in the regular season.

But does anyone remember things like this happening when Jimmy Johnson was still mousening it up in Valley Ranch?

I know, I know, let the past die already. It's hard to argue, however, that the fiery coach's absence has only served to spotlight Switzer's inability to control his own troops, as well as his penchant for momentary abandoning common sense at critical junctures.

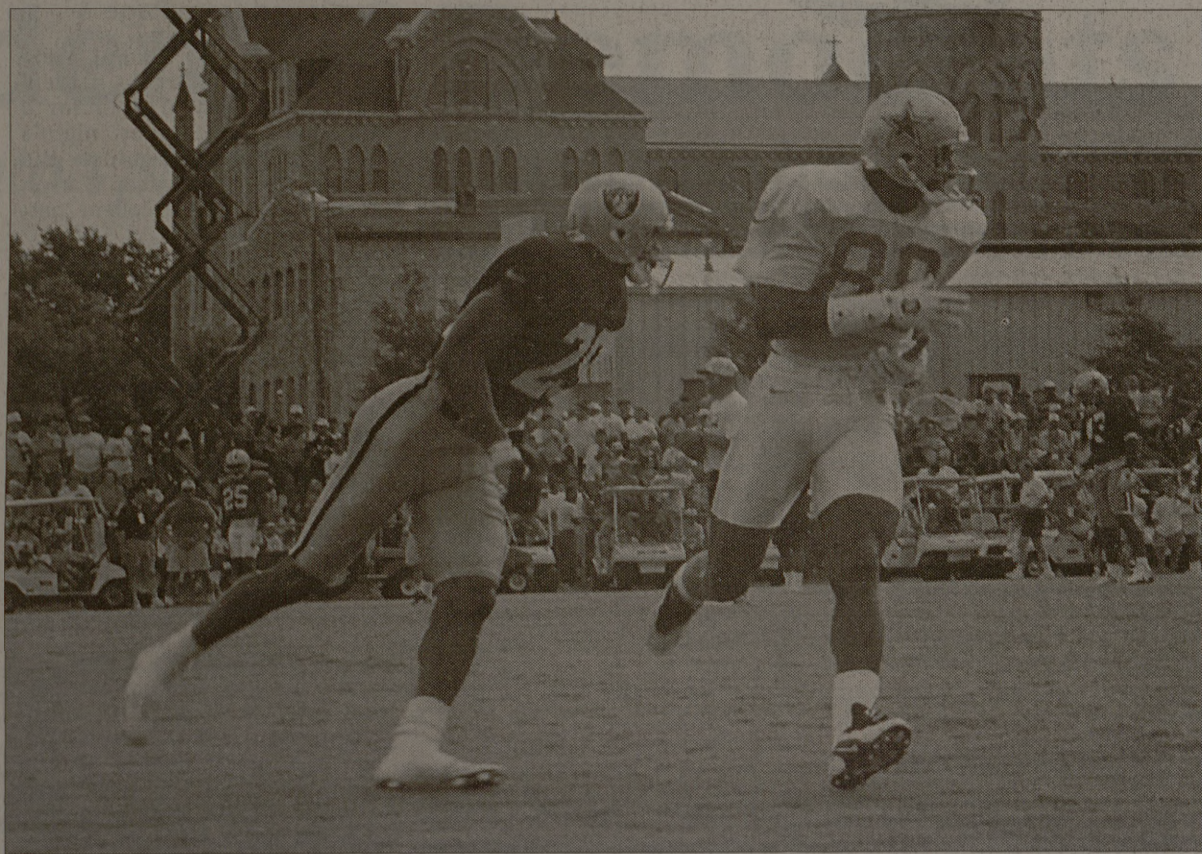
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Sportswriter



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PHOTOGRAPH: Keith McPhail

Oakland Raider cornerback Albert Lewis covers Cowboy wide receiver Michael Irvin in a scrimmage at Saint Edwards University in Austin.

Big D ready for '97 season

By KEITH MCPHAIL
THE BATTALION

Football excitement is heating up as the Dallas Cowboys enter the preseason. The Cowboys, currently at summer camp at Saint Edwards University in Austin, spent last week practicing with and scrimmaging the Oakland Raiders.

With the season fast approaching the Cowboys are in good form.

RECEIVERS

The strengths of the 1997 Cowboys included its receiving corps. Michael Irvin has returned from hardship and is the hardest working man in training camp. No player on the practice field maintained the level of energy Irvin has displayed this summer. Battling sweltering heat which led defensive lineman Tony Casillas into the mist tents designed for fans, Irvin seems unfazed. No receiver ran more patterns. No player was more focused.

Not even the coaches were talking as much as Mike. With the problems of last season behind, 1997 should see a Michael Irvin with unshakable mental toughness.

The Cowboys also have added standout receiver, Anthony Miller. Miller's hands and speed will be a threat to opposing secondaries. Since the departure of Alvin Harper, the Cowboys have not had a legitimate 1-2 combination at receiver. While Harper's glory was because of a defensive focus on Irvin, Miller brings talent that would be an asset to any team. Miller has recently been sidelined due to injury, but his return to the field will mark the return of greatness to the receiving corps.

Also impressive have been rookies Macey Brooks from James Madison University and Kenyatta Watson from Boston College. At 6 feet, 5 inches and 220 pounds, Brooks brings size and strength to the position.

Please see COWBOYS on Page 4.

Switzer has support of team but not Jones

AUSTIN — Barry Switzer, arrested on a gun charge as the Dallas Cowboys were trying to clean up their image, won the support of his players Tuesday, but not his boss.

One team source said owner Jerry Jones was talking with the NFL about an appropriate punishment for his coach. One option would be a fine, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jones has spent months saying he won't stand for the kind of behavior that led to the suspensions of five players, including Michael Irvin and Leon Lett, for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy in the past three years.

"I really feel even stronger than I've ever felt that we've got to look at even how a mistake is perceived and how it does reflect on what we're about," Jones said.

"I don't have anything to say at all at this time about any action at this particular time," he said when asked about possible discipline for the coach. "Anything that you read

into that is sheer speculation."

Switzer was one of the first to arrive at practice, and after the team conducted special teams drills, he huddled with his players to explain his arrest.

Jones, who showed up later, did not talk to Switzer but instead climbed a tower between two practice fields and watched the team from above.

Players quickly forgave their coach and said they were ready to put the incident behind them.

"In light of what the organization has tried to do and having gone through a good camp up to this point, it gives us a little bit of a black eye," said quarterback Troy Aikman, a critic of Switzer in the past. "But we'll put it behind us and move forward. It was an honest mistake."

After the four-minute team meeting, during which Switzer had his head down most of the time, running back Herschel Walker put his arm around the coach.

"He said he was sorry and explained what happened," said tight end Eric Bjornson. "He apologized and said, 'You guys are doing great, keep up the good work.'"

Fullback Daryl Johnston said, "I don't think it's anything at all. I think it's a very innocent act."



Jones

Harry Caray's time is up

Memo to the Tribune Company in Chicago. Remove Harry Caray from the broadcast booth immediately. Don't wait another year. Don't wait another day. And don't wait until he retires, because he never will. Help us out Tribune, and do your viewers a favor.

Those who have had cable television at any time during the past 15 years are probably familiar with Caray's act. For everyone else, Caray is

the old man with expanding blue glasses who slobbers on the microphone while mixing in pointless commentary during broadcasts of Chicago Cubs baseball games on WGN-TV.

Some of Caray's famous quotes include, "Holy cow," "It might be, it could be, it is a homerun," and "the average attendance at Wrigley field this year is 48 degrees."

And, according to Caray, Ken Caminiti is the San Diego Padres MVP third baseman. Caray's latest name botching came last week when he tried not once, not twice but three times to pronounce Yankees pitcher Hideke Irabu's name. That was painful.

But this is not the worst part of Caray's broadcasting, by any means.

Two years ago, while interviewing Los Angeles

Dodgers Manager Tommy

Lasorda during a pre-

game interview,

Caray asked if the

Dodger's, "slanted

eyes" pitcher would be

pitching that day.

Knowing he would

mangle yet another

name, I'm guessing

Harry thought he

could get over by

making a

joke about

Hideo Nomo.

Nice going,

Harry. The last time I

checked, "slanted

eyes" was not an ac-

ceptable term to use in

place of Asian-

American.

But it's all good,

because Harry is an "insti-

tution." Just ask the Tribune Company.

Please see SMITH on Page 4.



Staff Writer



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The Memorial Student Center's Public Relations Committee regrets the ad for MSC Open House published in Monday's *Battalion*. The ad did not follow the MSC's review procedures. It does not reflect the values of the students nor staff of the MSC.

Please accept our sincere apology.



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