

Friday • September 12, 1997

'Hello Win Column'

Holtz's golden voice was a baseball treasure which will be missed

Before the age of television, kids spent summer afternoons sitting around the radio listening to the play-by-play calls of such legendary broadcasters as Vince Scully, Red Barber and Mel Allen. Their golden voices emerged from the little black box, descriptively painting a picture of America's favorite pastime. When you have the privilege to hear the great ones, it's better than actually being at the ballpark.

One of the aforementioned Great Ones was long-time broadcaster Mark Holtz. Holtz, who spent 17 seasons as the "voice of the Texas Rangers" died Sunday of complications stemming from a June 18 bone marrow transplant.

Holtz is most recognized for his energetic "Kiss It Goodbye" home run call and bellowing "Hello Win Column" that followed the final out of every Ranger victory. But he will best be remembered for his seemingly friendly delivery. Countless numbers of fans who never had the honor of meeting the legendary broadcaster have said they felt as though they were long-time friends.

Holtz' long-time broadcast partner Eric Nadel said in a recent article in the Dallas Morning News he has never known another person like Holtz.

"Mark was blessed with one of the greatest voices I've ever heard," Nadel said. "His sound was unique, as he combined those beautiful tones with an outgoing, friendly personality and buoyant enthusiasm."

Holtz truly loved sitting behind the microphone and the game of baseball. He endured many seasons of subpar, minor league quality baseball, but somehow always appeared to be optimistic and in good spirits.

"Mark was perfectly dramatic when the game was on the line," Nadel said. "I've never heard any announcer who handled the climatic moments as well as he did. But when the game situation was less critical, he had a tremendous ability to entertain and appropriately lighten the mood."

Some of those dramatic moments included future Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan's 5,000th strikeout, sixth and seventh no-hitters, former Ranger pitcher Kenny Rogers' perfect game and the Rangers' first ever Western Division pennant race. Holtz' emotion and enthusiasm brought tears to my eyes and chills to my skin. I can still hear some of his most famous calls echoing in my ears.

■ "Strikeout No. 5,000! He struck him out swinging! Strikeout No. 5,000 is history for Nolan Ryan. Monday June 11th in Oakland..." (August 22, 1989)

■ "Flyball to right, Sierra's under it... H-E-L-L-O no-hitter No. 6! A date with destiny tonight. He's thrown no-hitter No. 6. A man with a bad back..." (June 11, 1990)

■ "Roberto Alomar at the plate. H-E-L-L-O no-hitter No. 7. Alomar has struck out. Ryan is 44 years old..." (May 1, 1991)

Prior to his passing, one of the saddest days in Ranger history was May 22, the day Holtz called his final game. Weakened by his battle with leukemia, Holtz found it difficult to make the short journey from the press box to the field for player and manager interviews.

"That was my last game," Holtz said, as he left the booth following the Rangers 10-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics. "I'd give anything to work another one, but I've got too much knowledge for me to expect to ever be back... It's over."

I vividly remember the day I met Holtz. Major League Baseball was sponsoring a road tour of several artifacts from Cooperstown. Holtz was one of the featured guests at the stop in Dallas. Because he had always worked radio prior to 1995, I did not know what he looked like. I just heard the distinct voice from the distance and knew immediately who the jolly old fellow must be.

Holtz' passing was an enormous loss for the Rangers organization and their fans, but an even bigger loss for baseball. His golden voice and unmatched friendly nature will never be forgotten and can never be replaced. I will always remember Holtz for the enthusiasm he had for his job and for the love he had for the game. Holtz you will be missed.

"When people write to me and say, 'When I hear your voice, I think of Rangers baseball,'" Holtz told an interviewer last year, "my life is complete."

Jamie Burch is a senior speech communications major

A&M renews rivalry with UH

By JEFF WEBB
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team rolls into Houston to renew their battle with old Southwest Conference rival the University of Houston, Friday night. The Aggies boast a 4-2 record after beating Southwest Texas 3-0 on Monday and are undefeated in their last four contests.

Sophomore outside hitter Summer Strickland said the

"Momentum is definitely a factor, especially in Volleyball," said Strickland, "We have to stack up points early and play our game instead of their game."

The Houston Cougars, who enter the game with a 3-3 record, are a familiar team to the Aggies. Setter Bethany Hill, who averaged 13 assists per game, returns for Houston along with Emily Leffers and her 5 kills per game. Houston Coach Bill Walton always makes sure the Cougars play tough and have a similar speed of attack to A&M. One concern of Coach Laurie Corbelli is the moti-

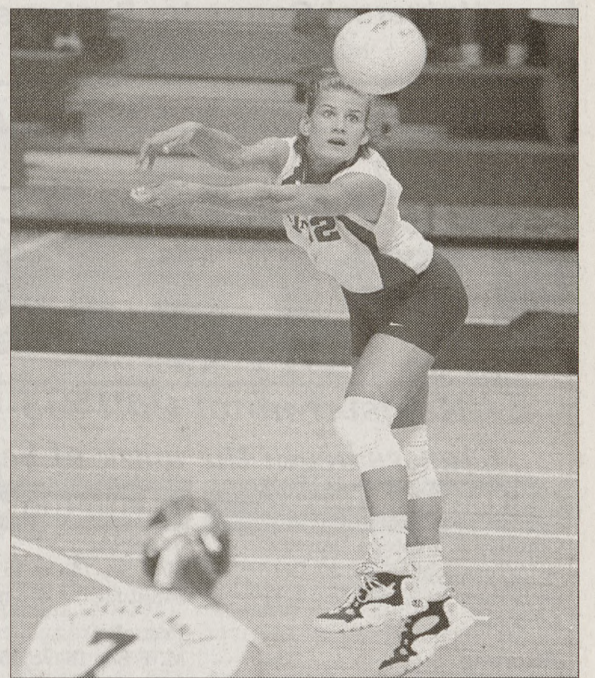
vation of the team, which seemed to be lacking in the Southwest Texas game.

"The team needs to look at themselves to get fired up for the next game," Corbelli said. The coaches can't do it for them."

"The team needs to look at themselves to get fired up for this game. The coaches can't do it for them."

Laurie Corbelli
Volleyball Coach

A victory would put Corbelli one victory away from a milestone mark in her career. She is just two wins short of reaching her 200th career win and her 100th here at Texas A&M. Despite the emotion level in previous games, look for preseason all-Big 12 selections Stacy Sykora and Kristie Smedrud to be in rare form and improve their record to 5-2.



Junior Stacy Sykora and the Texas A&M Volleyball Team travel to Houston tonight

Undefeated Aggies ready for homestand

By STEPHEN BOUDREAU
Staff writer

The fifth-ranked Texas A&M Soccer team will hope to improve on their 4-0, 3-0 record tonight when Iowa State rolls into the Aggie Soccer Complex at 7 p.m.

"When we played them last year they hung on and hung on. It was actually a tougher game than the score would indicate," coach G. Guerrieri said. "Their players are in better shape and they are much improved. They are going to be a very dangerous opponent."

The two teams met for the first time last season in Ames, Iowa where the Aggies outwinded the Cyclones 3-0.

"We're not taking them lightly, which we shouldn't. We shouldn't take any team lightly," senior midfielder Sonia Ibanez said. "They are one of the most improved teams in the Big 12. So we should be expecting some strong one-on-one battles."

Guerrieri hopes to establish a rhythm and pace on the game from the start.

"We'll try to set a tone early on," he said. "We want to play patient, but with speed. Just like we did last

weekend. We played fast and made good decisions."

The Aggies are coming off a successful two-game road trip where they outscored opponents 10-2.

"The two games on the road were good for us because we didn't change anything from our first two games," Guerrieri said. "We concentrated on doing the things we were doing better."

Senior All-America Bryn Blalack is questionable for this weekend's games.

"I've got a dozen stitches just below and above my eye, but I don't think that will affect me that much. I've got a hamstring that's kind of strained," Blalack said. "Hopefully I'll see a few minutes Friday and play the entire game Sunday."

Blalack did not play in last weekend's victory against Missouri. This Sunday, the Aggies will be taking on fourth-ranked Nebraska.

"We're gelling, we're getting to know each other better on the field better. Our consistency with hitting the goal is rising," Ibanez said. "If we finish strongly like we did last weekend, we should do good."

Men's and Women's Cross Country heads to Iowa for prestigious race

STAFF & WIRE

The Texas A&M Cross Country Team will travel to Ames, Iowa this weekend for the prestigious Iowa State Open.

The field will include the host Iowa State University Cyclones and perennial power house Wisconsin.

"This will be one of the toughest meets we run all season," coach Greg Hinze said in a press release.

"Iowa State and Wisconsin are always among the top cross country teams in the nation."

Both Aggie teams had strong showings in their season openers.

The men's team won the Rice Relays in Houston and the women finished third in the team standings.

"The Rice meet allowed us to get our feet wet," Hinze said. "And we were able to come away with some good results."

Golfers set to get season under way against top field

By JASON WHITCOMB
Staff writer

The Texas A&M women's golf team will open the 1997 fall season as the No. 15-ranked team in the country and the favorite to win the Big 12 title.

This weekend, the Aggies will play in the third annual Rolex Fall Preview at University Ridge Golf Course in Madison, Wisconsin against an 18-team field that features 15 ranked teams. The field is led by the No. 1-ranked Arizona State Sun Devils and the No. 2-ranked Arizona Wildcats, who are the defending tournament champions and feature two-time college player of the year, junior Marisa Baena.

The Aggies are once again led by Coach Jeanne Sutherland, who was the 1997 Big 12 and NCAA West Region Coach of the Year. T coming off a successful season that featured a top 20 national ranking and a second place finish in the Big 12.

"We are excited about playing against such a strong field to start the year," Sutherland said in a press release. "We always want to compete against the best teams."

For this tournament, the Aggies will have a five-player lineup that consists of seniors Jamie Hullett and Isabelle Rosberg, sophomore Anna Becker and freshman Amanda Rayford, and Mimi Epps.

Hullett, a second-team All-American and first-team All-Big 12 selection last year, enters this fall season as the fourth ranked player in the GolfWeek Women's Amateur Rankings and is the No. 16-ranked collegian in the country. This summer, Jaime showed that she is one of the best in the country winning the prestigious Southern Amateur and making the final four at the Broadmoor Invitational. In August, Hullett traveled to Tsu City, Japan and walked away with a tie for second in the World Students Championship Pacific Rim Tournament.

Rosberg is also coming off an impressive summer that featured leading Sweden to the European Amateur Championship. Last year, she finished second in the Big 12 Championships and was selected to the All-Big 12 team.

Becker is coming off a season that established her as one of the top freshmen in the country. She appeared in 10 tournaments and compiled the third best stroke average on the team, behind Hullett and Rosberg.

"I think our top three players- Jamie Hullett, Isabelle Rosberg and Anna Becker- match up with anyone in the country," Sutherland said. "They all had great summers. It's just a matter of performing as well as we think we can. We also have two freshmen- Amanda Rayford and Mimi Epps- who can help us. They could be big assets."

This year could turn out to be a very special one for A&M, and as play ends Sunday morning, the rest of the country may realize that the Aggies are a serious contender.



Hullett

The Battalion's 1997 Staff Picks (Against the Spread)

The Match-Ups	Chris Ferrell	Paul Mitchell	Jeremy Furtick	Kristina Buffin	Jamie Burch	Matt Mitchell	Stephen Boudreau	Travis Dabney	Margaux Harris	Nicole Hooven	Jeff Webb	Jason Whitcomb	Consensus
Central Florida at #6 Nebraska (-43)	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	C. Florida	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska: C. Florida lost by 76 points last week
#8 Colorado at #14 Michigan (-1)	Colorado	Michigan	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Michigan	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado: History always repeats itself
UCLA at #11 Texas (No Line)	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	UCLA	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas: Brown questionable for Saturday
SW Louisiana at Texas Tech (-25)	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	SW Louisiana	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	SW Louisiana	SW Louisiana	Tech: USL used up its magic last season
Fresno St. at Oklahoma St. (-8)	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Fresno St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Fresno St.	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.: We had to pick somebody
Missouri at Kansas (-2)	Kansas	Kansas	Missouri	Kansas	Kansas	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas: Great basketball game
Ohio at Kansas St. (-23)	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Ohio	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.: This one could get ugly
Iowa St. at Minnesota (-9)	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Iowa St.	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota: Go-pher broke
#17 Stanford at #7 North Carolina (-13)	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina: Defense too tough for Cardinal
#24 Arizona St. at #13 Miami (-9.5)	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami: No chance for ASU in Orange Bowl
Eagles at Cowboys (-9)	Eagles	Cowboys	Cowboys	Eagles	Cowboys	Cowboys	Eagles	Eagles	Eagles	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys: Looking to vent frustration
Jets at Patriots (-9)	Jets	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Jets	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots: Students spank the teacher
Last Week	5-7-0	4-8-0	6-6-0	6-6-0	4-8-0	4-8-0	6-6-0	5-7-0	5-7-0	4-8-0	3-9-0	6-6-0	58-86-0: Breakin' the new guys in
Cumulative	5-7-0	4-8-0	6-6-0	6-6-0	4-8-0	4-8-0	6-6-0	5-7-0	5-7-0	4-8-0	3-9-0	6-6-0	58-86-0: Hey, at least we look good

NOTE: The Battalion Staff will be picking against the spread this semester. We in no way encourage any illegal wagering with the use of these betting lines, they are presented solely for entertainment purposes.