

Looking at the future A&M football recruits showcase talents in 1999 Southwestern Bell Texas All-Star Game

BY REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

Eight players from Texas A&M's 1999 recruiting class were invited to play in the 1999 Southwestern Bell Texas High School All-Star Football Game.

Last Tuesday night these future Aggies were given the opportunity to showcase their talents in this game along with some of the best high school players from the northern and southern parts of Texas.

The game was held in Amon Carter Stadium on the campus of Texas Christian University. In a game won 10-3 by the South squad, A&M's recruits on both the North and South teams had impressive nights.

The most notable player on the field was the South's Richard Whitaker from Jacksonville. The 5'10" running back carried the ball 18 times for 78 yards and was named the game's offensive MVP. After an interception by the South late in the third quarter gave the team possession of the ball on the North's 21 yard line, Whitaker had an opportunity to showcase his running skills.

He ran the ball three straight plays, gaining 14 yards to move the ball to the North's seven yard line.

On the very next play, Whitaker plowed his way seven yards through the right side of the

line and scored the only touchdown of the game.

Richard Whitaker Sr., Richard's father, said he enjoyed watching his son play.

"He had a nice game and did a good job," Mr. Whitaker said. "I'm real proud of him."

One reason Whitaker was able to play so well was due to the efforts of three other Aggie recruits on the South squad.

Center James Milkavich from Alief Elsik was joined by offensive linemen Andre Brooks from Brazoswood and Britt Lively from Silsbee. These three worked together to successfully protect their quarterback and provide some gaps for the running back.

"I think I had about seven pancake blocks so I think I played a real good game," Lively said. "A few guys played with me that are going to A&M. They had very good games so I'm excited about it [playing with them again]."

Britt's father, Mike Lively, was impressed with the team effort he saw from the future Aggies.

"I saw them already bonding," Mr. Lively said. "There's a strength already with those teammates and it looks very promising."

Working the defensive side of the ball for the South was Jarrod Penright from Aldine Eisenhower High School.

Penright continuously pressured the opposing quarterback

from his defensive end position and even recorded a sack for a five yard loss.

Leading the way for the North was quarterback Colby Freeman from Brownwood.

With the North running a ground-oriented offense, Freeman was only able to throw the ball twice in the game, one of which went for an interception.

Freeman was constantly harassed by the South's defense all night but was able to avoid some tackles and limit the damage by scrambling to safety.

Freeman ended the game with -13 yards on the ground.

Ty Warren from Bryan dominated the defensive play for the North. The 6'5", 285 pound defensive end was able to use his size and power to plug holes in the offensive line and record seven tackles, one of which was behind the line of scrimmage.

Warren said he was pleased with his performance in the game. "I feel real good about it," Warren said. "I played my heart out and I did what I had to do."

Joining Warren on the North defense was free safety Terrance Kiel. The Lufkin native harassed the South's receiving unit all night long by breaking up one pass and recording six tackles.

Kiel's biggest play of the game came early in the second quarter when he made a leaping interception with outstretched arms



PHOTOS BY BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Above: Aggie recruit **Richard Whitaker** from Jacksonville was named offensive MVP of the 1999 Southwestern Bell Texas High School All-Star Football Game last Tuesday night. He rushed the ball 18 times for 78 yards and scored the game's lone touchdown for the South squad.



Left: Aggie recruit **Ty Warren** from Bryan receives his award for participating in the All-Star game. Warren dominated the defensive side of the ball for the North recording seven tackles, including one behind the line of scrimmage.

Umpires getting exactly what is deserved in dispute with baseball



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

Usually when Major League umpires are in the news it is for something that actually has to do with a baseball game.



DOUG SHILLING

Things like blowing a strike call, calling someone out when they are safe and vice versa. These are things that are usually chalked up to human error and are forgiven. However, umpires are now in the news for a completely different reason, which is something totally unrelated to the game of baseball.

Yesterday, Major League umpires filed an unfair labor practice charge against the American and National leagues, capping off a wild three-week period for the umpires and Major League Baseball — a period which may have irreparably damaged the relationship between the two.

It all started on July 14, the day after the All-Star game, when union head Richie Phillips convinced most umpires in the union to submit their resignations effective September 2, a ploy to get baseball to renegotiate their labor agreement which expires on December 31.

When the mass resignation was announced, Major League Baseball's executive vice president of baseball operations Sandy Alderson was quoted as saying that, "It was a threat to be ignored or an offer to be accepted."

From the get-go there were problems with Phillips' plan. At first he pledged that the umpires were unified in the decision to resign. On the other hand, it turns out that 13 umpires never even submitted resignations. Then, when it became apparent that their tactics were not going to be successful, all of the umpires withdrew their resignations.

There was one problem however; in anticipation of the umpires resigning, MLB hired 25 replacement umpires. This means that although their resignations were withdrawn, some umpires still were going to lose their jobs. Rather than take the consequences of their actions and accept them, the umpires did what any good group of people would do — sue.

Because baseball accepted the resignations of some of the umpires, after they willingly submitted them, the umpires feel they have been wronged. The umpires' labor lawyer Susan Davis said, "It was unlawful for the leagues to convert these [resignations] into discharges. It is illegal

to punish who stood up for their union and in a retaliatory manner pick and choose who you chip."

So the umpires contend that Major League Baseball fired the umpires who were union backers? Baloney.

What happened is that the umpires bluffed and baseball called them on it.

It is hard to determine what is the most unbelievable thing in this situation. Is it the fact that Phillips conceived this cockamamie scheme, that he got people to actually follow him on it, or is it that umpires are accusing baseball of accepting resignations that they willfully submitted?

Smart money is on the latter. If the umpires were to go along with this plan, which they never should have in the first place, they should have been prepared to lose their jobs. There should be no crying when they lose them and there is no turning back. Instead they should look to their leadership, Phillips, and try to replace him. Then maybe the umpires would have some peace. Maybe those 22 umpires who are on vacation and have nothing better to do can look into that idea.

Doug Shilling is a junior agricultural journalism major.

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