

Sports in Brief

Groff announces Aggie Alley lottery

Texas A&M athletics director Wally Groff has announced some new opportunities and additions to the Olsen Field facility. "Our baseball program has won back-to-back Big 12 Championships and the interest level is at an all-time high," Groff said. "We set a record for season tickets sold last season and it looks like we may break that mark this year. In an effort to reward the season-ticket holder, we have instituted parking passes for the lots surrounding Olsen Field. Because of the demand, we have to utilize part of Aggie Alley for reserved parking."

Fans will have the opportunity to purchase 50 reserved spaces in Aggie Alley. The students with an all-sports pass may purchase a space for \$50. The general public may pur-

chase a space for \$100.

Each vehicle has to fit in one parking space. The revenue generated will be put back into amenities for Aggie Alley such as barbecue pits and additional picnic tables.

Forms for the 50 reserved spaces in Aggie Alley are available at the athletic ticket office in the lobby of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

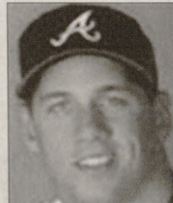
Fans need to leave a credit card number to guarantee a spot for the lottery.

The lottery will be held Thursday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in room 30 of Rudder Tower and individuals will be able to choose their reserved spaces.

Fans who purchase a space and do not have season tickets, or students without an all-sports pass, must purchase a general admission ticket to watch the games from Aggie Alley. Fans may move between Aggie Alley and the stadium.

Players' association files grievance against MLB

NEW YORK (AP)—As the Atlanta Braves returned to Turner Field on Tuesday to start winter workouts, the players' association filed a grievance to overturn John Rocker's suspension.



ROCKER

"I'm glad there's finally a decision," Braves manager Bobby Cox said, a day after commissioner Bud Selig banned Rocker from joining the team until May 1 because of disparaging comments against homosexuals, minorities and foreigners.

"Maybe we can get this behind us one of these days," Cox said.

The players' union asked arbitrator Shyam Das to "rescind the discipline," fully aware that many suspensions by baseball commissioners have been overturned or shortened.

"The discipline is without just cause," the union said in a letter sent to Selig's office. It was unclear when a hearing will be held.

Richard Moss, the association's former top lawyer, said he was surprised Selig ruled Monday without a consensus on the punishment, which also included a \$20,000 fine and sensitivity training.

"For the commissioner's office to just do something without consulting the players' association, without consulting Rocker and without reaching agreement on what was acceptable to everybody was kind of stupid," Moss said in a telephone interview from New York.

"What Rocker did was very wrong. The question is: What's the appropriate way of dealing with it? It should have been worked out with all the parties rather than a confrontational way. It's very stupid for the commissioner's office to do it this way."

Aggies return home to face Bears

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

It is finally February. For the Texas A&M men's basketball team, that means a small break after the Aggies' grueling January schedule which pitted them against the top teams in the Big 12 Conference.

This month A&M (6-12 overall, 2-5 Big 12) will not be facing as many schools with dominating records and national rankings. However, the Aggies will have to play each game with the intensity that allowed them to play 40 minutes against four Top 25 teams.

The Aggies will close out the first half of conference action and open their February schedule Wednesday when they tip off against Baylor University at 7 p.m. in Reed Arena.

While January was tough for the Aggies, it was just plain rough on the Bears (10-8, 1-6) who only won a single game during the month.

"We can't look at the records," senior forward Aaron Jack said. "We have to come out with the same fire that we would if we were playing a ranked team."

The Bears are one of the few conference teams that does not have more depth than the young Aggie line up. BU's front five are dangerous enough, with three players scoring in double digits.

Tevis Stukes leads the Baylor line up. The senior guard is the top perimeter shooter in the conference, averaging over three 3-pointers and 17 points per contest.

In the paint, the Bears are led by junior forward Terry Black, who is nearly averaging a double-double with over 14 points and nine rebounds per game.

Look for the Aggies to take it to the Bears from all aspects of the court. In recent conference action, A&M has built its inside game to be an effective complement to its strong perimeter.

Most recently against Missouri, the Aggie forwards (Aaron Jack and Tomas Ress) led the scoring for A&M, a switch from the usual domination by the Aggie freshmen guards.

Baylor has dropped its last 18 Big 12 road matches, but sees A&M as the place to break the streak.

"We have to make sure we don't underestimate them. I'm sure Baylor would look at their schedule and say that if we're going to get a win on the road this would be a good place to try and get one," A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "We just have to make sure we come out and play. Baylor is a dangerous team for us."

The Bears are coming off a season-low .262 shooting performance from the field, hitting only 17 of 65 against Oklahoma State University while A&M is



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore guard **Andy Leatherman** tries to drive around an Oklahoma State defender during the Aggies' 64-59 win over the Cowboys Jan. 22 at Reed Arena.

coming off a pair of road losses.

For both teams, this first February contest is a must-win situation if they hope to take advantage of the slight break in their schedules.

"We have to have a passion to win this game. This is definitely one of those games you have to win," Jack said. "We don't want to be the end of a streak [BU's road-loss record] like that."

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