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Sports

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THE BATTALION

Friday, November 9, 2001

Rangers name GM

REDEMPTION

Continued from

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — John Hart, the executive who turned the Cleveland Indians from one of baseball's worst teams into a perennial contender, was hired Thursday as general manager of the struggling Texas Rangers.

Hart takes over a team that has finished in last place for two straight years, even after spending \$252 million on shortstop Alex Rodriguez.

"There's a core and a nucleus of quality players that are in place," Hart said. "With the proper leadership, proper tweaking of personnel, I don't think this is a club that's far away from contending."

The 53-year-old Hart spent 10 seasons with the Indians, who made the playoffs six of the last seven years and reached the World Series in 1995 and 1997. Before Hart came, Cleveland's last postseason appearance was in 1954.

Hicks fired GM Doug Melvin on Oct. 7, ending a seven-year run that included the

only three division championships in team history.

"This club can contend if the right things happen, but the real focus on this is that we become perennial contenders," Hart said. "If that starts to happen next season, that's fabulous."

Hart had announced during the first week of the season that he was leaving as Cleveland's GM on Nov. 1.

Another contender was assistant GM Dan O'Brien. He'll remain in that position, overseeing baseball operations.

Melvin oversaw the building of the Texas teams that won the AL West in 1996, 1998 and 1999 but lost in the playoffs to the New York Yankees each time.

After finishing last in 1999, the Rangers added Rodriguez with a record 10-year contract even though pitching was a bigger need. Rodriguez hit .318 with an AL-leading 52 homers and 133 runs scored, but Texas had a 5.71 ERA that was the worst in the majors — for the second straight year.

through the air this season. "I am glad they are good football," Gambel said. "That gives us even a reason to want to go on and beat them."

A&M junior quarterback Mark Farris has also seen success this season, passing 1,706 yards and eight touchdowns. Farris has been on the field for the past two games, throwing 138 and 132 yards against State and Iowa State respectively.

In 2000, the Red Raiders had a chance to take the lead fourth and one play in an A&M 25-yard line, but more wide receiver Francis dropped a kick pass in the end zone. The added two late scores kept the Aggies away, 33-15.

Since the Big 12 conference was formed in 1996, the Red Raiders hold a 3-2 record in the series.

"It is always going to be a tough game," Rodriguez said. "What makes it a good match

SUCCESS

Continued from Page 5

had their highest win total ever with a 12-7 record and finished third in the conference, their highest finish until this season. This season, they have won 11 straight games after starting with three losses to teams ranked in the top ten.

Petrucelli has brought in two straight top five recruiting classes, including this year's No. 3 class according to Soccer Buzz, to help fuel the Longhorn's turnaround.

Four of the Longhorns' top six point scorers this season are freshman and the remaining two are sophomores.

Freshman forward Kelly

Wilson has provided the biggest spark for Texas this season. She leads the team with 11 goals and 11 assists for a total of 33 points.

In a 2-1 upset of Nebraska, Wilson scored both of Texas' goals.

Another freshman, forward Kelly McDonald, is second on the team with 18 points off of eight goals and two assists.

Sophomore forward Kylee Wosnuk rounds out Texas' attack and is third on the team in points and goals.

"Their front three are as good as most attacking groups in the country with McDonald, Wosnuk and Wilson," Guerrieri said. "That is a really dynamic threesome and a

young dynamic threesome. However, the Aggies have their own set of dynamo forwards. Senior Nicky Thrasher and freshman Lindsey Johnson have the Aggies scoring three goals a game.

Thrasher has come strong in the last three games, scoring eight goals in three games. Johnson, with 12 for the season, scored a hat trick, her first, in her last outing against Oklahoma State. Thrasher scored a hat trick, her first, in 1999 against Kansas.

Johnson also had a hat trick this season on Oct. 21 against Missouri and leads the team with 29 points. With 12 goals, she is one away from the freshman record set by Csizmadia in 1993.

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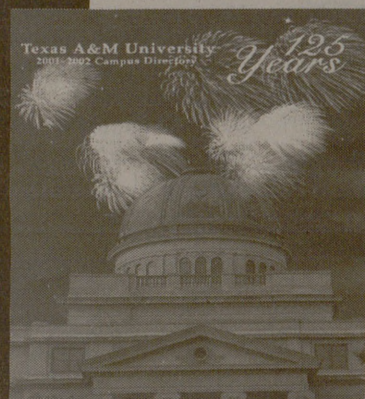
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