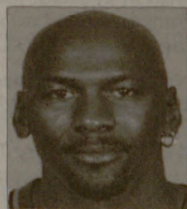


SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jordan's return probable after knee surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Jordan will probably be able to play again this season. Whether he can make it back in time to save the Washington Wizards' drive for the playoffs is another matter. Jordan had surgery for the first time in his career Wednesday morning. Team physician Dr. Stephen Haas found a



JORDAN

and repaired torn cartilage in the 39-year-old forward's right knee, an injury Haas said was the result of normal wear and tear for an athlete of Jordan's caliber.

Typically, recovery time for such an operation is two to six weeks, and many variables — age, severity of the tear, work-out ethic — can determine where a patient fits in that range.

"Michael will rest over the next few days, then begin therapy," general manager Wes Unseld said. "At that point, we will have an idea of the time frame for his return to action."

If Jordan's falls in the middle of the range — four weeks — he would miss 16 games, including the entire six-game road trip in mid-March that could make or break the Wizards' season. He could join the road trip in progress if he misses two or three weeks, while a six-week layoff wouldn't bring him back until the final week of the regular season.

Cowgirls rope Ags in season finale



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M junior forwards Kim Moore and Tammika Sims defend Oklahoma State's Shelby Hutchins in the Aggies' 62-49 loss to the Cowgirls on Wednesday night at Reed Arena.

A&M women's basketball team shoots 27 percent from field in 62-49 loss to OSU

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Oklahoma State Cowgirls rode sophomore Trisha Skibbe's career-high 30 points to a victory over the poor-shooting Texas A&M women's basketball team on Wednesday in the final regular season game at Reed Arena, 62-49.

The Aggies (13-15, 5-11 in Big 12) survived a 21.6 percent field goal shooting performance in the first half by forcing 17 Cowgirl turnovers and holding Skibbe to only seven points.

A last-second 3-pointer by A&M freshman Sabrina Mitchell gave the Aggies the 24-23 lead entering the break.

"I told the girls when I went into the locker room that I don't think I've ever been angrier at a performance since I've been coaching," said Oklahoma State head coach Dick Halterman. "To hold a team to 21 percent shooting and then enter half-time trailing is disappointing. The girls had their heads down and weren't ready to play in the first half."

However, the Aggies failed to score in the first five minutes of the second half while racking up four team fouls and were

never closed the lead after a 12-0 OSU run.

"We had something to build on after the first half," said A&M head coach Peggie Gillom. "The first five minutes of the second half is always important, and we should have come out fired up. They were the ones that came out-fired up, and they took control."

The second half saw improvement by the Aggie shooting, but they went 0-for-10 from behind the 3-point line in the second half to finish the game with a 27 percent field goal percentage, their lowest of the season.

The Cowgirls took advantage of the shooting trouble by A&M by racking up 40 defensive rebounds, the most allowed by the Aggies this season. OSU's 57 total rebounds was also a season-high allowed by A&M.

"We just didn't work the offensive boards nearly as hard as we usually do," Gillom said. "We'd miss a shot and immediately start running to the other end of the court. When we're shooting that poorly, we've got to get in there and not allow all

See **Rope** on page 2B

Astros pay \$2.1 million to drop Enron name from park

HOUSTON (AP) — It was worth \$2.1 million to Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr. to rid the team's ballpark of the Enron name.

After aggressive negotiations with bankrupt Enron Corp.'s largest creditors, McLane announced Wednesday the team will pay \$2.1 million to buy back rights to the name of Enron Field. The ballpark will go into its third season this year as

"Astros Field" until the team finds another buyer for the naming rights.

"We will be very selective," McLane said, noting that at least seven companies have approached the Astros about replacing Enron's logos prominently displayed throughout the ballpark. "We learned a lot from this experience."

The deal still needs final approval from U.S. Bankruptcy

Judge Arthur Gonzalez in New York.

"We are pleased to have resolved this issue with the Astros with a deal that is beneficial to all parties, including Enron's creditors and the city of Houston," Enron president and chief operating officer Jeff McMahon said.

Enron officials have said the company, assuming it successfully reorganizes, eventually will

change its own stigmatized name.

When Enron in 1999 pledged \$100 million over 30 years to plaster the Astros' new ballpark with its name and logo, the company was on its way to being one of the top 10 of the Fortune 500.

But as the once mighty company plummeted into the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history amid allegations of accounting abuses last year, its name became synonymous with corporate malfeasance.

"We thought we had the perfect sponsor in America," McLane said. "We just need to put that behind us."

Dean Bonham, whose Denver-based Bonham Group negotiates naming rights deals for venues and corporate sponsors, called Wednesday's deal "the best investment the Astros have made since they signed Jeff Bagwell" to a five-year, \$85 million deal in December 2000.

Schedule of Events

FOOD:

Free Soda & Popcorn 9pm to 1:30am
in the Hullabaloo area

Free Pancake Breakfast served at Midnight
in the 12th Man

ENTERTAINMENT:

Karaoke Contest w/ prizes 9:30pm to Midnight
in the Flagroom

Free Bowling & Pool 9pm to 1:30am
in the Hullabaloo area

Crafts and Balloon Animals 9pm to 1:30am
in the Hullabaloo area

Cards & Domino Tournaments w/ prizes
in the Hullabaloo area

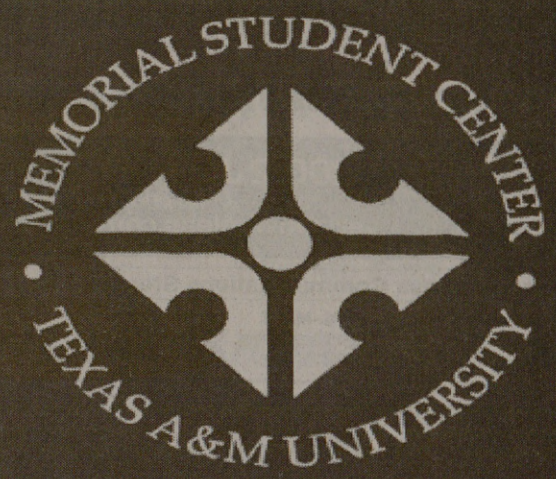
J.T. of Last Free Exit 10pm to Midnight
in Rumors



Door Prizes every half hour

\$250 Give-Away at Midnight

Must show A&M ID at Door



Friday, March 1 from 9pm to 2am in the MSC