

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Thursday, July 11, 2002

## AD says Tech football budget to be balanced by September

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Texas Tech's overbudget football program, which couldn't afford to send its outgoing mail this summer, will have a balanced budget before September, athletic director Gerald Myers said Wednesday.

Fund-raising money and some of a \$1.62 million payout from the Aug. 24 season opener at Ohio State will shore up a \$400,000 overrun before the fiscal year ends Aug. 31, Myers said.

In recent weeks, news of the

football program's budget problems created a rift between coach Mike Leach and school administrators. But Leach and Myers said at a Wednesday news conference that they worked things out in a Tuesday meeting with school administrators.

Leach said the situation was made more difficult because he was out of town in the days after news broke that the program was denied outgoing mail privileges in May and June because it owed \$5,000 to Tech's mail service.

"With people scattered



LEACH

around the county and things of that nature this time of year, yesterday was a great chance to get together, and I think everybody's headed in the same direction," Leach said.

Leach said the move to stop his mail was detrimental to recruiting efforts in that it occurred at a time when tele-

phone calls to recruits were prohibited.

Leach's job performance was never part of discussions Tuesday afternoon with Tech President David Schmidly, Myers and Leach, university spokeswoman Cindy Rugeley said.

Leach said he did not believe the budget has affected the players or their preparations for the upcoming season and that he is putting the controversy behind him.

Myers said Wednesday he

didn't blame coaches for the shortfall.

"We knew at the beginning of the year that our budgets would be extremely tight," Myers said. "I don't think our coaches have been reckless with the budget."

Less than two weeks ago, Myers said he was tired of hearing comments from some Tech coaches about how the football program's budget compared with other Big 12 schools. The program's operating budget was \$1.2 million for fiscal year 2002, placing it in the bottom

three in the Big 12, excluding salaries and scholarships.

"Well this is what we have at Texas Tech. We're going to do the best we can with what we have," Myers said in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* on June 29. "I'm tired of hearing about what they do there. Maybe they should get a job there if they think that's so great."

Myers apologized for his comments Wednesday.

"In the heat of the moment, public comments were made that we all regret," he said.

## Spaniards capture stage 4

### 'Good ride' by USPS helps Armstrong gain ground

CHATEAU-THIERRY, France (AP) — The Spaniards sped to victory and a blown tire stalled the rival Danes, ensuring a "good ride" and a second-place finish Wednesday for Lance Armstrong's squad in the Tour de France team time-trial.

Team Once won the stage, clocking 1 hour, 19 minutes, 49 seconds in the 41.85-mile run from Epernay to Chateau-Thierry, northeast of Paris. Armstrong and his U.S. Postal teammates were 16 seconds behind.

"As close as it was, there's a little bit of regret," said Armstrong, bidding for a fourth Tour championship. "We could have been a little more aggressive in the first 20 kilometers (12.4 miles)."

Still, he said, it was among the best showings by USPS in its current form.

"I'm happy with the team," he said. "We had a good ride."

The strong performance by U.S. Postal helped Armstrong move into third place — seven seconds behind — after starting the day in fifth.

Igor Gonzalez Galdeano, riding for Once, became the first Spaniard in seven years to don the yellow jersey of the overall leader. Joseba Beloki was in second, four seconds behind his teammate.

Thousands of fans lined the route for Wednesday's fourth stage, marked by cloudy skies

but only one brief dose of rain near the finish. That was a contrast to the downpour during the time trial a year ago, when two of Armstrong's teammates fell on the slick roadway.

"Compared to last year, it's a big relief — coming in second without any problems," Armstrong said.

The Danish team CSC-Tiscali finished third, but had a rough ride.

CSC-Tiscali, whose racers include France's Laurent Jalabert and American Tyler Hamilton, clocked the fastest time through the first two intermediate splits. Then Michael Sandstod got a flat tire and had to change his bike. His teammates slowed to wait for him before speeding ahead. But the damage was done — the team lost time.

"There was a misunderstanding," Jalabert said. "We had agreed on a strategy of not waiting for anyone — and we didn't keep to it."

CSC-Tiscali finished 30 seconds behind USPS.

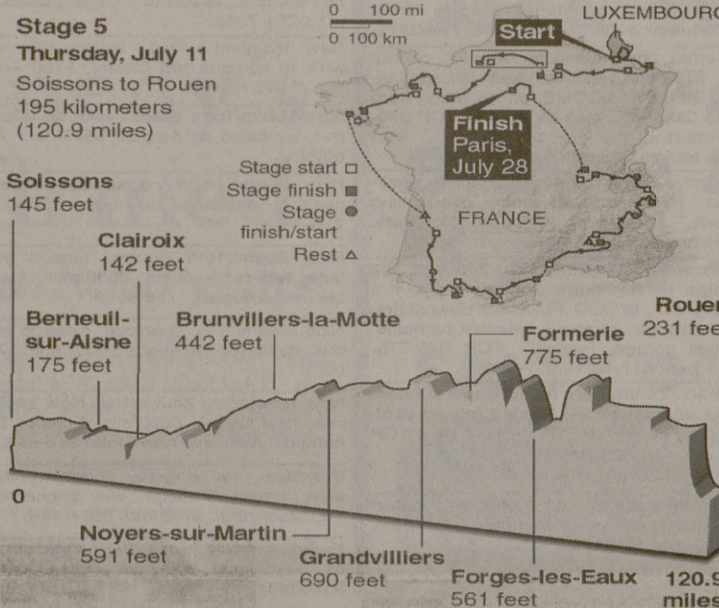
The overall standings underscored the importance of faring well in the team time trial.

After Wednesday's stage, the first 14 racers in the overall standings were either from Once or USPS. The Telekom team of German sprinting specialist Erik Zabel, who held the yellow jersey coming into the day's action, finished nearly three

2002 TOUR DE FRANCE

### A win for Once; yellow for Igor

Spanish team Once won the fourth stage of the Tour de France on Wednesday, a team time-trial through the heart of Champagne country. Once's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano of Spain took the overall leader's yellow jersey.



SOURCES: Associated Press; Societe du Tour de France; ESRI AP

minutes behind Once. Zabel sank to 39th place overall.

In addition, the team time trial winner can reap an important psychological advantage over other riders, said Frenchman Bernard Hinault, one of only four riders to win the Tour de France five times.

"The time trial gives us an idea of the strength of each team," he said. "It's difficult to make any predictions about them before this test, because

the teams have changed so much since last year."

Last week, at a news conference before the start of the Tour, Armstrong said he believed this year's Postal Service team is the best yet. The team gained two new riders — American Floyd Landis and Czech Pavel Padrnos — and saw the return of Benoit Joachim of Luxembourg, whom team leaders selected for the 2000 Tour but not last year's.

## All-Star game has worst TV rating ever

NEW YORK (AP) — There was not a winner in the All-Star game but there was a loser: the sport's television rating.

Tuesday night's controversial 7-7, 11-inning tie in Milwaukee set a record for baseball's lowest-rated All-Star game, getting a 9.5 rating and 17 share, Nielsen Media Research said Wednesday.

The rating was down 14 percent from the 11.0 for the American League's 4-1 victory last year in Seattle. The previous low was a 10.1 for the AL's 6-3 win two years ago in Atlanta.

Like network ratings in general, the All-Star game rating has steadily declined. From a peak of 28.5 in 1970, dropped below 20 for the first time in 1987. The game drew a 15.7 rating in 1994, then dropped to 13.9 the following year after a strike wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years.

Tuesday night's game was seen by an average of 10,023,000 households, less

than half the 20.38 million that tuned in 20 years earlier.

The rating is the percentage of television households in the United States watching a broadcast, and each point represents 1,055,000 homes. The share is the percentage watching a program among those households with televisions on at the time.

Because of a lengthy pregame show, the game started later than in recent years, after 9 p.m. EDT. Commissioner Bud Selig stopped it at 12:35 a.m., when the teams ran out of pitchers.

Some in the sellout crowd of 41,871 threw bottles on the field, booed and chanted "Let them play!" and "Bud must go!"

ESPN's telecast of the Home Run Derby on Monday night drew a 6.11 rating — the second-highest rated show this year on the network. The competition, won by the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi, was up 18 percent from last year's event, which drew a 5.19.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Stars to start away from home in 2003

DALLAS (AP) — The new-look Dallas Stars will open the upcoming season on the road against Colorado on Oct. 9, then will make their home debut two nights later against Anaheim.

The Stars, entering their 10th season in Dallas, are coming off their first non-playoff

appearance since 1996. They have a new coach, new goaltender and three new high-priced free agents to try returning the team to among the NHL's elite.

The season schedule released Wednesday shows that the Stars will play only four of their first 13 games at American Airlines Center. The flip side is that from Nov. 6 to Dec. 13 they'll have 11 of 18 games at home.

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