



INSIDE

Football Fever — features on all the area gridiron teams and more.

Sexual assault charge filed against former teacher

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

An arrest warrant has been issued for a former Big Spring Independent School District teacher/coach, charging him with sexual assault of a child.

Brian D. Morris, 23, of Lubbock, was named in the warrant issued by Howard County District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson Tuesday morning.

According to the warrant, Morris is accused of sexually assaulting a female student on or about March 31.

The student was under the age of 17 at the time of the alleged incident, Wilkerson said, adding that the assault allegedly occurred in Big Spring.

Until August, Morris was employed by the local school district as a teacher and coach at Big Spring Junior High

School.

Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes said Morris had just completed his first year with the school district as a social studies teacher and coach at the school when he submitted a letter of resignation Aug. 17. The resignation was received and accepted by the district that day, Downes added.

Since his resignation, he has

been living with relatives in Lubbock, authorities said.

Morris had not been arrested by press time, officials said.

Big Spring Police Lt. Terry Chamness said Morris has cooperated with authorities throughout the investigation.

"He said when the warrant was issued, he would voluntarily turn himself in," Chamness said. "We have no

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First-year junior high school teacher, coach named in arrest warrant.

Morris

Drug busts

Five people arrested by task force

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Five Big Spring residents were arrested Tuesday night in a pair of busts conducted by the West Texas Narcotics Task Force that netted illegal drugs and cash.

According to a statement issued by the WTNTF Wednesday afternoon, two warrants were served Tuesday, the first coming at 8:45 p.m. at the Mayo Ranch Motel, Room 20.

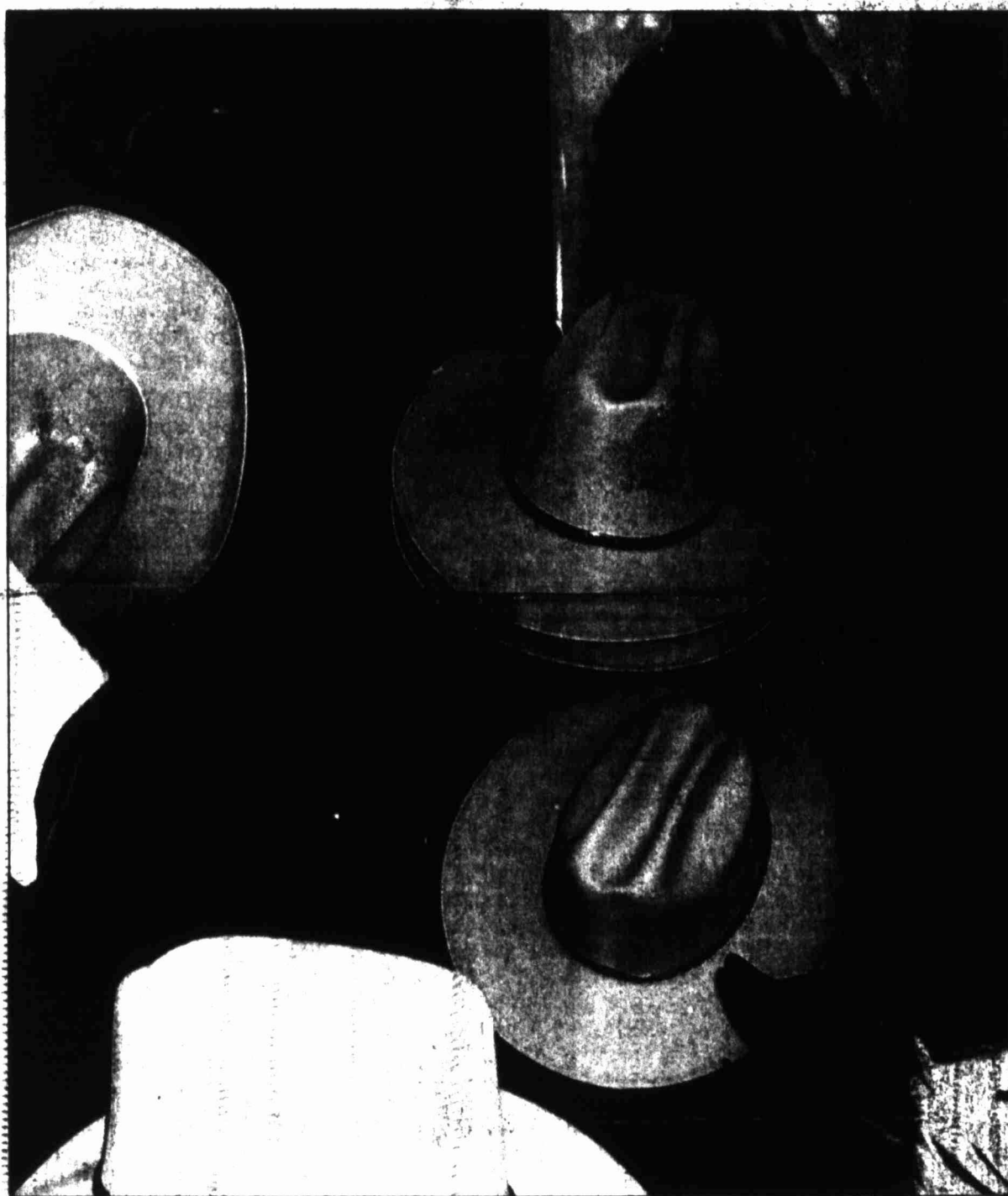
In addition to the four arrests made during the first bust, investigators seized an undetermined amount of crack cocaine, marijuana and cash from the room.

Debra Denise Ausbie, 43, of 903 Sgt. Paredez, was arrested on a charge of bondsman off bond for theft and possession of a controlled substance; Howard Brandon Johnson, 21, of 1211 Wood, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance; Brandy Conswella-Nicole Olivas, 18, of 1211 Wood Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance; and John Peter Gordon, 17, of 2502 Cheyenne, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

All four were arrested at the Mayo Ranch Motel, located at 1202 E. Third Street, during a bust orchestrated by a combination of investigators and officers with the West Texas Narcotics

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SHOPPING AT THE FAIR



At the Howard County Fair Wednesday night, Deanna Grant and LaDonna Hudgins of Coahoma select some colorful cowboy hats for Hudgins' granddaughter to wear in the upcoming Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo. The fair continues through Saturday.

Superintendents sound off on 65 percent rule

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Public school districts in Texas are going to be held more accountable as to how they spend their tax dollars.

A recent executive order from Gov. Rick Perry instructs school districts to expend at least 65 percent of their operating budgets directly on classroom instruction. This "65 percent

rule," as it's commonly called, has been something of a hot-button topic among educators for quite some time.

Under Perry's executive order, districts will be required to spend no more than 35 percent of their budgets on non-classroom expenses such as transportation, school

lunches and administration. The limit will be phased in over several years in a program to be designed and implemented by Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley.

Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes said he has no problem with the rule, as long as certain areas that don't currently fall under "classroom education" definitions, such as media, library

and counseling services, are included in the final tally.

"Given the right definition, I have no problem with the 65 percent rule," he said.

Downes supports an amendment that was introduced by State Sen. Kel Seliger during the last special session of the Texas Legislature that combines classroom, library, professional staff

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

COMING THIS WEEKEND

Cover Story:

When American Profile asked readers to tell us about their grandparents, we received a mailbox full of endearing letters describing how special these people are in the lives and memories of their grandchildren.

LOVE OUR LAKE

Volunteers are needed for Keep Big Spring Beautiful's "Love Our Lake Cleanup," set for 9 a.m. Saturday at the tennis building, north of the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring your own gear if possible. Disposable gloves will be available.

The group could use two or three paddle boats or boats with small motors (10 hp) to assist cleaning on the lake while other volunteers work the shoreline.

For more information, call Pat Simmons at 263-4307 or 213-6444.

BSISD BOARD TO MEET

Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to formally approve the district's budget and tax rate for the coming fiscal year when they hold a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. today in the high school board room.

Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said both the tax rate — \$1.5763 per \$100 valuation — and budget expenditures — \$24.4 million — will be mostly unchanged from the previous year.

Also tonight, trustees will consider resignations and employments, final amendments to the 2004-05 budget and local policy updates.

Obituaries

Bernetta Gaston



Bernetta Gaston, 61, of Big Spring went to be with the Lord Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2005, in a local hospital. A memorial service and visitation will be held at 7 p.m. today, Aug. 25, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel, with the Rev. Sammy Segundo, pastor of Family Faith Victory Center, officiating.

She was born May 25, 1944, in Big Spring and married Calvin Gaston May 27, 1961, in Stanton.

Bernetta was raised in Sterling City and attended Sterling City schools. She and her husband had lived in Weatherford for five years, returning to Big Spring in 1982. She was a homemaker and self-employed.

She was a faithful member of Family Faith Victory Center.

Her greatest priorities and greatest joys were her love for the Lord, her husband, her three daughters, her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Survivors include her husband, Calvin Gaston of Big Spring; three daughters, Deedra Bouldin, Kimberley Cogburn and husband, James and Amanda Patterson and husband, Brian, all of Big Spring; one sister, Karen Austin of Shiner; eight grandchildren, Brandon Yates, Kelley Yates, Dustin Lloyd, Derek Lloyd, Leah Kay Lloyd, Aaron Salazar, Jamison Cogburn and Haley Kate Patterson, all of Big Spring; and one great-grandchild, Destani Robinson of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville Williams and Edna Glendenning-Williams of San Angelo.

The family suggests memorials be made to Family Faith Victory Center Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 507, Big Spring 79721.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Vona Bingham

Vona Bingham, 76, of Big Spring died at 2:10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 26, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Elder David Machiavello officiating. Burial is in Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 28, 1928, in McAdoo, Crosby County to Thomas and Maudie Jones. She married Wilborn G. Bingham Sept. 27, 1947, in McAdoo. He preceded her in death June 21, 2003. They moved to Big Spring from Wickett in 1963.

Vona was employed at Medical Arts Hospital from 1973 until 1977, and West Texas MHMR from 1979 until 1992. Vona was a member of the Philadelphia Primitive Church.

She is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Pam Jones and her husband, Velton of Big Spring; one son, Norwin Bingham of Austin; one sister, Lila Cathey of Brownwood; one brother, Hilton Jones of Lubbock; and seven grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Lavoice and Troy Don Jones.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Rose Medlin

Rose Medlin, 82, of Big Spring died Thursday morning, Aug. 25, 2005, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dolores Carpenter

Dolores Carpenter, 67, died Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, in an Abilene hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sage Gibson

Sage Gibson, 13, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Bonnie Tidwell

Bonnie Tidwell, 83, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Teodora Rodriguez

Teodora Rodriguez, 90, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Around town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. today:

- **BIANCA PONCE**, 22, of 1803 State, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants.
- **CHARLES JOSEPH WILSON III**, 55, of 809 Circle, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended - enhanced.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lancaster.
 - in the 2000 block of Johnson.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- **DAVID A. REINERT**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **CORY BLAKE PAYNE**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of service.
- **TONY LOPEZ BERNAL JR.**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **LUIS ADOLFO PENA**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated kidnapping.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Wesson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3900 block of Rice Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Second Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3400 block of West Seventh Street. Service was refused.
- **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported in the 2500 block of Barksdale.

Take note

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH** celebrates 20 years of ministry in Big Spring with three Canadian ministers as guest speakers. Services are 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. The public is invited to all these services. Call 267-5321 for more information.

• **DONATIONS OF NEW STUFFED TOYS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** are being accepted through Sep. 1. Drop off new, up to 18-inch stuffed toys at any fire station or at one of the EMS booths at the Howard County Fair. Cash donations to purchase stuffed toys are also being accepted. For more information, contact Joel Miller at 267-4082 or 213-1221.

Weather

Tonight—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. Light and variable winds.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Saturday—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Monday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Tuesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Tuesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows around 70.

Wednesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY
• Howard County Fair.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

FRIDAY
• Howard County Fair.
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY
• Howard County Fair.
• Love Your Lake cleanup at Comanche Trail Lake begins at 9 a.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Call Pat Simmons at 263-4607 or 213-5444 for more information.
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY
• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center at the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

THURSDAY
• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 10-15-18-23-29.
Number matching five of five: none.
Number matching four of five: 96. Prize: \$461.
Matching three of five: 3,069. Prize: \$10.
Matching two of five: 32,596. Prize: \$2.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-14-21-26-44. Bonus Ball: 23.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,045.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 13. Prize: \$1,748.

Number matching four of five: 529. Prize: \$93.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 380. Prize: \$114.

Number matching three of five: 19,794. Prize: \$5.
Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5,247. Prize: \$5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 23,767. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$44 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-2-5

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Bob Kennedy shows the psaltery he built and entered in the county fair.

Enough hobbies to pass some around

Bob Kennedy is a man with so many hobbies he's thinking about advertising some of them for sale. One of them led him to the creative arts department of the Howard County Fair to enter his handmade bowed psaltery in the crafts division.

A psaltery is a musical instrument on which psalms were played.

"You can read about it in the Bible in the book of Daniel," Kennedy said.

He saw one several years ago at a fair and asked the maker if he would sell him a kit to make one. The man refused, saying, "I don't want anyone to blame me for their mistakes." Bob (who insists he isn't a "Robert") decided he'd find the materials and make his

own mistakes. A company in Minnesota supplied instructions and some of the materials, and Kennedy launched into a new hobby in his repertoire of 21 pastimes.

The psaltery he entered in the fair is the third one he has made. The sound hole on the top is in the shape of a script E, the initial of the person who ordered it.

The triangular wooden instrument for his entry has a backboard of Bolivian rosewood. Bob vows never again to use this type of rosewood, even though it is a beautiful color.

"I realized that I'm aller-

gic to that particular kind of rosewood; my arms broke out every time I worked with it," he explained.

The sides and the bridge are black walnut from south central Ohio, and the top soundboard is Sitka spruce from Alaska. He orders the metal pegs, but he has to file grooves in them to fit the tuning tool. The strings are made from the D string for a violin, which are 1/12,000th of an inch thin.

The bow for playing the psaltery is made of bois d'arc wood from Howard County, with horsehair strings. The avid hobbyist mentioned that he has a large piece of bois d'arc that he plans to turn into a bass fiddle some day.

"I only work when I get an order — and when I feel like it," said the retiree from the

local oil refinery. He worked at Cosden — now ALON — for 31 years until, following a heart attack, his doctor recommended retirement.

Other hobbies he pursues include gem-faceting, metal-engraving and scrimshaw. Bob also builds muzzle-loading rifles, shotguns and pistols. He holds a grand champion ribbon for his wood carving of a Brahman bull and three reserve championships for carvings.

He brings the products of his craft to the fair to share with others.

"Some people have no hobbies," mused Kennedy, "I have enough to pass them around."

Nancy Koger writes a daily article for the Herald during the Howard County Fair.



NANCY KOGER

Large-item pick up slated Friday in District 4 TEACHER

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Old couches and broken down appliances beware, as the city of Big Spring gets ready to take its large-item pick up to District 4 Friday.

According to Todd Darden, director of public works for the city, the program targets elderly and handicapped citizens who don't have the means to transport large items, such as couches and broken-down refrigerators, to the city landfill.

"It's a widely used program. This is a service the city is going to provide as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their



Darden

premise they might not be able to otherwise," said Darden.

While there is no charge to use the program, Darden said there are a few rules to keep in mind.

"Some of the more typical items we pick up are tree branches, appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses," said Darden. "Those are the kinds of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. We can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car

batteries and tires and things of that nature."

Darden said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up in an effort to protect their services and the city employees helping with the program.

"The reason we need people to be cognizant of where those meters are is because a lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make

sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill.

For more information on the program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Web site at <http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us>, or call 264-2504 to arrange a pick up.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Continued from Page 1A

worries about his absconding at this time." Chamness said that police also are investigating whether Morris committed additional offenses, but did not comment further.

Sexual assault of a child is a second-degree felony, punishable by a term in state prison of between two and 20 years, and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

seem somewhat low for a project that could take much longer than expected, is also an indication of the personal interest Hance Scarborough and Wright has taken in the Big Spring area.

"I recognize and appreciate their concern for our community, because they've really been engaged on the state hospital issue and did an excellent job for us," said Churchwell. "I feel like they have our best interests in mind and that's why they priced it where we would be able to afford it. I think they feel for our position and I think they'll do an excellent job

of representing us in Washington, D.C."

Robert Floyd, legislative consultant for Hance Scarborough and Wright, said his company has a special stake in the proceedings, thanks in part to its principal.

"Our principal, Kent Hance, is a former U.S. Congressman and represented this area when he was in Congress and as a Texas State Senator," said Floyd. "So we feel really strong personal ties to this area. We think we have the contacts and relationships and a very strong staff to open the doors. We feel like we can do a good job for Moore Development and Big Spring."

Floyd said the work his firm did in representing Big Spring and the Big

Spring State Hospital during a recent "realignment" effort has him ready to head right back out to the political battle lines of Washington, D.C.

"We have a commitment to the area. We represented Moore Development in this previous legislative session working with the Big Spring State Hospital," said Floyd. "On that basis we feel like we can provide value and feel good about being able to represent this area. So there's really no risk on our part. We think it's a fair proposal and we're certainly going to work as hard as we can to get it done."

The study Floyd's firm will be trying to influence in Washington is the current effort to realign the Veterans

Administration's service, which includes the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

In December 2002, former VA Secretary Anthony Principi established the VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission to provide a review of the national plan to realign the DAV's health care system.

In its massive report, the commission suggested that a feasibility study concerning the Big Spring facility be conducted. Specifically, the commission suggested that a study be made to see if the Big Spring facility should be closed and services moved to a new care center that would be constructed near Midland or

Odessa.

The second of four Local Advisory Panel (LAP) hearings concerning the future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center is slated for Sept. 1, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Public comment is slated from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. during the hearing, with PricewaterhouseCoopers expected to explain its proposed options for the facility during the morning hours.

Moore Board members also welcomed newly appointed board member Michael Niklasch to the organization during its Tuesday meeting. Niklasch, along with Larry McLellan, were appointed to the board

Tuesday during the Big Spring City Council's meeting.

The terms for Churchwell and fellow board member Ben Bancroft are up at the end of September.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

development and counseling costs when considering whether school districts meet the 65 percent guideline.

Under that standard, Big Spring would have finished the 2002-03 school year — the most recent figures available from the Texas Education Agency — expending 64.1 percent of its budget on instruction. In comparison,

Coahoma expended 63 percent of its budget on instruction in 2002-03, while Forsan expenditures came in at about 59 percent.

Downes said smaller districts like Forsan would have a harder time meeting the 65 percent guideline because non-classroom salaries and expenses are spread over fewer students.

"The rule penalizes smaller districts," he said. "There are certain functions that every district must have, and in

larger districts, those salaries are spread out over more kids. It's not as big a piece of the budget as it is in smaller districts."

Coahoma Superintendent Jerry Johnson said latest figures show that his district will have little or no trouble adapting to the new rule. According to CISD figures, almost 78 percent of the 2004-05 budget was earmarked toward instruction costs as defined in the Seliger amendment.

That doesn't mean Johnson fully supports Perry's action.

"I don't have any trouble with the premise behind (the rule), but I think it's becoming more political now," Johnson said. "I think things didn't turn out like they had hoped (in the Legislature this year), so this rule is

taking some of the pressure off that."

Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson was unavailable for comment today.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

BUSTS

Continued from Page 1A

Task Force, Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and Drug Enforcement Administration.

"We had gotten several tips from Crimestoppers and calls from concerned citizens about the activity at that location," said Scott Knight, an investi-

gator with the WTNTF. "We had the location under surveillance for some time and did an undercover buy as well."

Knight said the bust went down smoothly with no injuries.

"Everything went by the book," said Knight. "Real smoothly."

In a related bust at 10 p.m. that evening, Tony Bernal Jr., 39, of 3612 Hamilton, was arrested on similar charges of possession of a controlled

substance.

Investigators with the WTNTF and DEA seized approximately a 1/4 ounce of cocaine, 1/4 ounce of marijuana and an undetermined amount of cash from Bernal's home. No injuries were reported as a result of the bust.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

It's time to start another football season in Texas

Time for preparation has expired. The 2005 high school football season officially gets under way in the Crossroads area tonight when Garden City's Bearkats travel to Grandfalls for a game against the Cowboys at 7:30.

But the remainder of the area's teams will officially open their seasons this weekend — designated as Week O in the Texas University Interscholastic League's 11-week schedule.

Big Spring's Steers will open their season at home, playing host to Odessa High at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Memorial Stadium.

But the rest of the area's teams will be opening on the road. Coahoma's Bulldogs travel to Big Lake to take on Reagan County's Owls. Kickoff will be at 7:30.

Forsan's Buffaloes and Stanton's Buffaloes will start their seasons at 7:30 p.m. taking on traditional Class 1A powerhouses. Forsan's herd faces Iraan's Braves, while Stanton takes on Roscoe's Plowboys.

Sands' Mustangs will travel to Ropes in six-man action, facing the Wildcats at 7:30 p.m.

But Grady's Wildcats will be the first team to get into the action Friday, as they take on Woodson with a 5 p.m. kickoff in Jayton.

A great many thrills are certain to come before the playoffs begin, and we're looking forward to each of them.

What's more, we need to remember that high school football in Texas is much more than just a contest between young athletes. It's an opportunity for bands, cheerleaders, pep squads and the like to display their talents.

In fact, there's little question that we put some of the best our communities have to offer on display when the lights are turned on each Friday night.

All of these youngsters should be a source of pride and deserve our unqualified support in all their endeavors.

We here at the *Herald* have looked forward with great anticipation to the season's start and wish all the area's teams and their following the best of luck.

We'll see you at the stadium!

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we spend more time with our faith than with our fears,
Lord. Amen

Why can't county jail be housed in an already existing building?

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a continuing series of "Question and Answer" features in which the Herald will ask local officials the questions posed by our readers and place the answers on our opinion page. This week's response comes from County Architect Phil Furqueron.

The question was posed, "Why couldn't the new jail be constructed in one of the vacant buildings around town, such as the old K-Mart building?"

The short answer is that it could be and that it has been done in other locations.

The in-depth answer involves a comparison of an institutional occupancy building such as a jail facility with a retail occupancy building like K-Mart.

The typical "big box" commercial building such as the K-Mart building is constructed to lower construction requirements than those of institutional type jail facilities. The existing conditions of the K-Mart building include an unreinforced masonry envelope and floor slabs that are designed to support only the moderate loading of a retail establishment. In addition, there are absences of fire proofing of the steel columns, joists and deck, a smoke evacuating mechanical system and, in the case of the K-Mart building, a fire sprinkler system.

By comparison, jail construction can be characterized as heavy construction. Exterior walls and partitions are required to be constructed of fire resistive materials, such as concrete panels, reinforced masonry or heavy gage modular steel components.

The weight, or dead load, of this type of construction would stress normal floor construction to the point of failure. This would necessitate the need to remove a significant portion of the slab in the detention area in order to install an adequate foundation and a secure floor system, adding significantly to the cost of reconstruction. In addition, structural fireproofing, a fire suppression system and a smoke evacuation system would need to be retrofitted to the K-Mart building.

On a positive note, office type occupancies retrofit into an open bay system quite easily. The dead load for the construction of these types of occupancies is relatively light in weight. Typical metal

stud, drywall and acoustic ceilings can be very effective in accommodating this type of construction at a reasonable cost. Therefore, the greater the amount of office and administrative spaces that are incorporated into the facility, the more reasonable the cost per square foot will be.

A code consideration that is usually not addressed in commercial construction is the need for occupancy separation. A retail establishment may have one class of occupancy throughout the structure. A facility, such as a jail, can have multiple occupancy classes.

An institutional facility in simple terms, is defined as a structure where the occupant's movement and freedom is limited or restricted, such as in a mental hospital, jail or prison.

The construction for these types of structures, for obvious reasons, is designed to a higher degree of safety and fire resistance, and this is accomplished at a much higher cost than a business class occupancy structure.

In order to keep from having to build the entire structure at the higher rate of cost, building codes allow the separation of occupancies by way of fire and smoke barriers, affording the designer the ability to construct the balance of the building at a reduced unit cost.

However, when this construction technique is utilized, consideration has to be given to the worst-case scenario of a catastrophic fire occurring on one side or the other of the barrier.

Current codes dictate that two separate and complete structural systems have to be designed for both sides of the barrier in the event that a fire causes a collapse failure to occur. This will ensure that failure on one side will not lead to a "domino" effect, causing sequential failure of the other.

The bearing and roof framing systems of an existing retail building are definitely not configured to accomplish this type of separation. This would necessitate the removal of a significant portion of the roof framing and supporting systems so that a complying structural system could be installed during the reconstruction to accommodate this code requirement, again raising the cost of construction significantly.

Another challenge in locating a jail facility into an existing open bay building is the limiting factor of the wall heights. The primary detention component of the jail that has currently been designed is a podular design, meaning that

there are four open bays that are arranged around a central core, allowing two personnel to control a maximum of 96 inmates with full-time observation capabilities.

In order to gain an efficiency in space, two of the pods are two-story spaces utilizing a mezzanine for access to the individual living units.

This reduces the footprint, or area taken upon the ground, of the pod.

Since the height of the K-Mart building is only 16 or 17 feet, the mezzanine would not be possible. The impact would be that the size of the facility currently designed would not fit within the envelope of the building, which is only about 65,000 square feet, resulting in the need for an addition to the building.

From a site design perspective, large retail centers are constructed with ample parking to accommodate the vehicular demands of facilities ranging from a full county/city law enforcement center to a self-contained jail. Additionally, there is normally enough gross land area surrounding the structure to easily allow for future expansions.

In conclusion, the concept is not without merit but would require a much more in-depth investigation, weighing the many variables that would impact retrofitting a jail facility into a retail center.

To construct a jail-only facility with minimal supporting administration space, in this situation, may not be the most cost efficient expenditure of public funds.

The extensive amount of reconstruction would cause project costs to compete with or exceed the cost of new construction.

The best opportunity to achieve a construction cost at or below the cost of a new facility is to include as much office and administrative space in the project as possible, in an effort to reduce the cost per square foot. The same dynamic of combining as much of the types of spaces that require softer construction, such as offices and administrative spaces, with the harder detention spaces, in order to reduce cost-per-square foot, can be applied to the construction of new facilities as well.

Do you have a question for city, county or school district officials in the Crossroads that you'd like answered? If so, send them to the Herald. They can be mailed to Managing Editor John A. Moseley at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79721 or they can also be sent by e-mail to editor@bigspringherald.com

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Giving assassination a bad name

Leave it to Pat Robertson to give assassination a bad name. The religious broadcaster recently called for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who is more friendly with Fidel Castro than he is with George W. Bush.

That is no reason to whack the guy, however. We do get 15 percent of our oil imports from Venezuela.

And Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and the State Department were quick to distance themselves from Robertson's statements.

"Our department doesn't do that kind of thing," Rumsfeld said. "It's against the law."

The fact is, however, that the U.S. "law" banning assassination is no law and no ban at all.

It is a 1976 presidential order that can be set aside by any president.

Gerald Ford drew it up after revelations that the United States had

repeatedly tried to assassinate Castro. (The United States also was probably involved in the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Binh Diem in 1963.)

But as long as that 1976 presidential order is in effect, we don't try to assassinate world leaders, right? Wrong.

After a Berlin nightclub bombing in 1986 in which U.S. soldiers were killed, President Reagan unleashed eight F-111 bombers against Libyan President Moammar Kadafi's personal compound. Although the planes dropped 64,000 tons of explosives, Kadafi escaped harm (though we did kill his 15-month-old daughter.)

The Reagan administration denied this was an assassination attempt, however.

According to published reports, "Administration legal counselors advised that the strike could be justified as self-defense and preemptive military attack. And deaths, the legal analysis held — even the death of the head of state — could not be considered political assassination."

In other words, assassination is whatever we say it is.

Take Osama bin Laden. Please.

According to The Washington Post, President Bush signed a "finding" shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, telling the CIA to use "lethal covert operations" to kill Osama bin Laden and destroy Al-Qaida.

Why would that not be an attempt at assassination? Because "the ban on political assassination does not apply to wartime" and does not apply to "action against terrorists," according to the article.

In reality, should the United States want to assassinate somebody, all the president has to do is set aside the 1976 presidential order and go do it.

Or, all we have to do is define the assassination as "self defense" or define the target as a "terrorist."

The appeal of assassination is that it is much cheaper than launching a war.

The drawback is that killing one bad guy rarely works.

There are usually more bad guys to take his place.

To find out more about Roger Simon, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

COUNCIL
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By THOMAS

Staff Writer

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County's value increase not enough to offset costs

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County is expecting to take in approximately \$460,000 more in taxes this year thanks to elevated oil and mineral values, it may not be enough to offset increased operating costs and down revenues. "From what I've seen so far, all of our income is down," said Howard County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore. "All of our other income, except for taxes, has dropped. Court fines, document fees and things like that are down. Of course, we've known this for a long time, but it's rather bothersome from a budget standpoint."

Although Kilgore's sense of humor surrounding the subject is intact, he and the rest of the court still struggle to overcome the drop in county revenue.

"Maybe someone's not doing their job," said Kilgore with a laugh. "I really don't know. That's what we're trying to look at and figure out. To be fair, some of it is because the legislature has changed some things. Like DPS Sgt. Jason Hester explained to us today, they've changed the way some traffic tickets can be handled, affecting how much the county gets from the tickets. That could play a role in this as well."

Commissioners voted to begin public hearings on the proposed tax rate, which is 54.546 cents per \$100 valuation. And while the proposed rate, which is right at the rollback limit, is lower than last year's 55.337 cents per \$100 valuation, it's expected to bring in \$465,933 more thanks to elevated mineral values.

Kilgore said he and the

rest of the commissioners had hoped the increase in tax revenue would help offset soaring energy and utility costs, but to no avail.

"Unfortunately, it won't level things out," said Kilgore. "That was the whole purpose of this. When you get the values and set the tax rate — minus about 3 percent for delinquent taxes — you know pretty well on the money what the revenue is going to be."

"But it's hard to project what the other fees and factors will bring. Also, we're at a point where we have to guess on the utility and fuel costs, which have really gone up. That's what makes the budget process so hard."

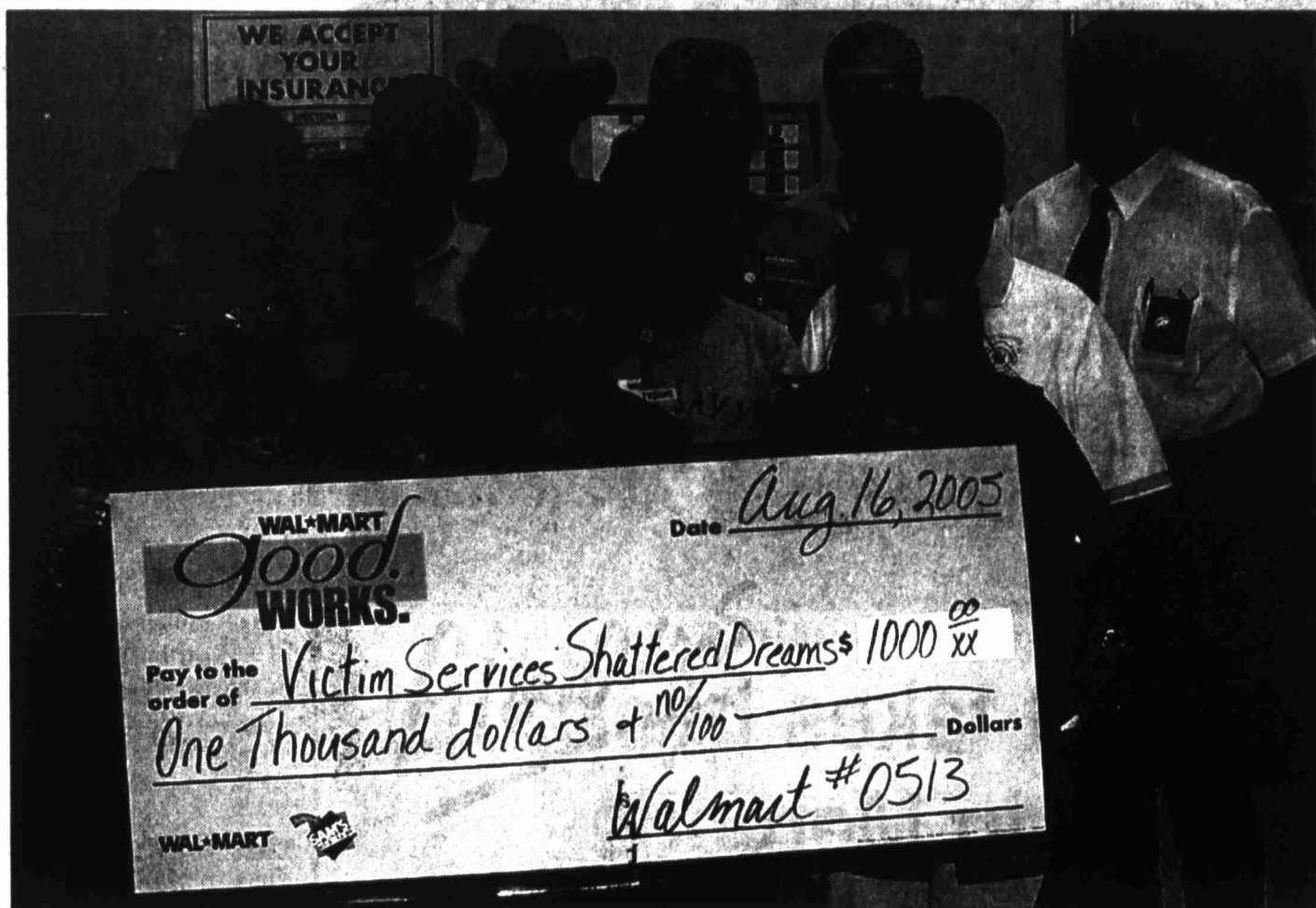
"We're budgeting much closer to the line, so to speak, and I'm a little bit concerned," said Commissioner Bill Crooker. "We're only projected to have a month and a half of money available at the end of the year and we normally like to keep three months available. We're cutting it pretty close, I think."

Although the coming year doesn't look promising for the county's coffers, Kilgore said it's important to try to remain optimistic.

"We were hoping to cover all of that and increase some of the funds through the increase in tax revenues," said Kilgore. "A lot of it's going to depend on whether we can have a good year and nothing breaks. We definitely need to build the fund balances up, but there is a possibility we could come out of the year lower than we are now."

Commissioners will meet Monday at 10 a.m. for a public hearing on the proposed tax rate, as required by state law. The

SHATTERED DREAMS



Victim Services received a \$1,000 check from the local Wal-Mart Store for the Shattered Dreams program, part of the store's community grant program. Those pictured are Renee Burleson, front row, Denise Hester, Linda Perez, all with Victim Services, Yvonne Goodner and Virginia Bravo with Wal-Mart, Big Spring Fire Department Chief Deputy Alex Calvio, Shann Thomas, Victim Services director, back row, Big Spring Police Department Chief Lonnie Smith, Department of Public Safety Sgt. Jason Hester, Brian Goodner and Roman Weatherman, co-manager of Wal-Mart and Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission officer James White.

Herald staff report

Shattered Dreams is an educational program presented in the local high schools that roll plays real teen-age deaths due to drinking and driving. The two-day program involves all facets of law enforcement, emergency personnel and school personnel as well as parents and community assistance. The program shows how

the dreams of high school students and their families and others may be shattered as a result of underage drinking and driving.

Teen deaths in Texas are among the highest in the country. Every 15 minutes, a person died in an alcohol-related car crash. The program features the Living Dead, where every 15 minute during the school day, a student is declared "dead" and removed from the

classroom. The Living Dead spend the rest of the school day in silence, in theater make-up wearing a Living Dead T-shirt.

The two-day event culminates with an all-school assembly that provides a video beginning with the decision to drink and drive followed by the accident, death notification and parent interviews and obituaries. Shattered Dreams is presented to all schools in the Howard County area.

meeting will take place in the commissioner's court room, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

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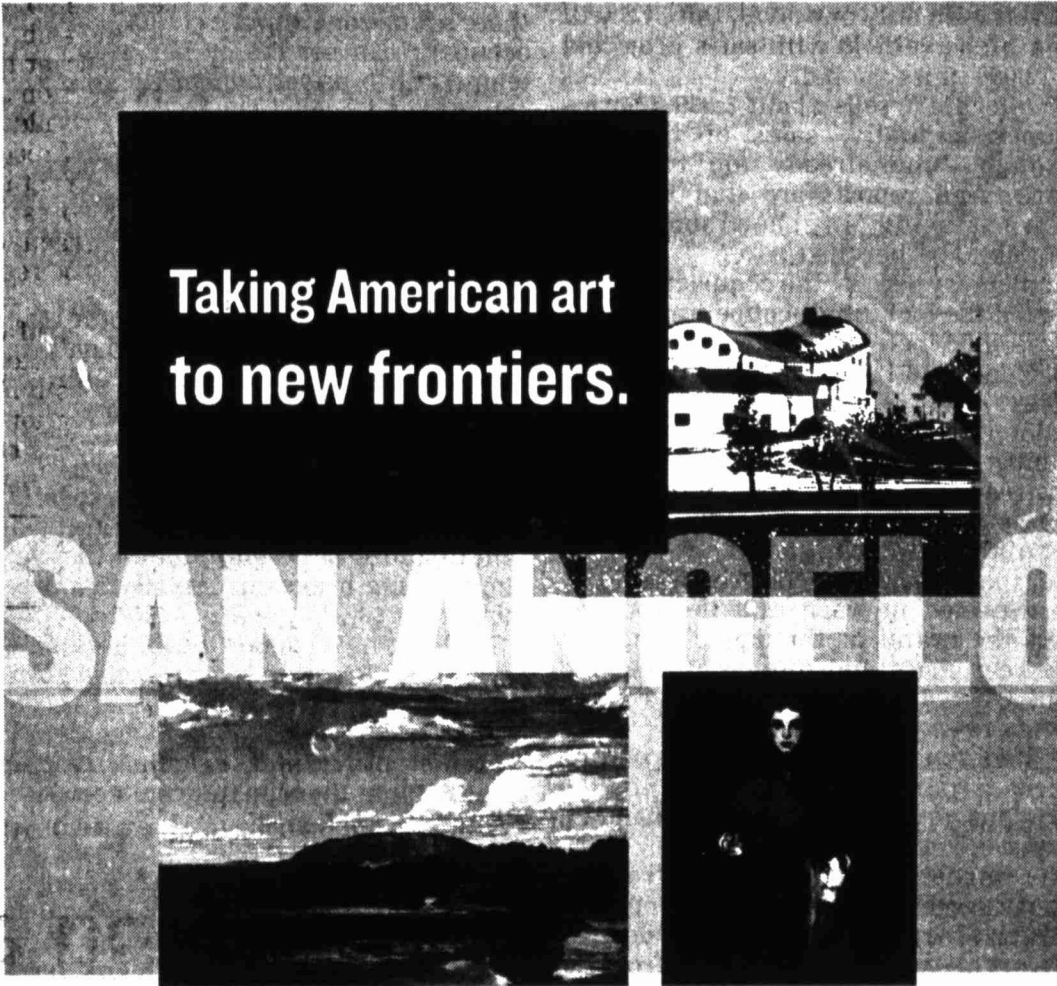
Program Title	Day & Time	Master Gardener
Shade Gardening	FRI—6 p.m.	Ricky Sneed
Landscaping	FRI—8 p.m.	Brad Richardson
Texas Native & Flowering Perennials	SAT—10 a.m.	Kathy Lusk
Xeriscape	SAT—11 a.m.	Kathy Lusk
Water Gardening	SAT—12 p.m.	D.W. Overman & Robert Kilpatrick
Plant Propagation	SAT—1 p.m.	Mark Webb
Entomology/Insect Control	SAT—2 p.m.	Ricky Sneed
Pruning	SAT—3 p.m.	Joyce Hollingsworth
Compost	SAT—4 p.m.	Linda Hunnicut & D.W. Overman
About Master Gardeners & Junior Master Gardeners	SAT—5 p.m.	Kathy Lusk & Kathleen Liggett
West Texas Landscape	SAT—6 p.m.	Kathy Lusk
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The 2006 Mercedes CLS500

Comfort takes back seat to style in Mercedes CLS

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

If what Mercedes says is true, a quick check of the e-mail would serve as proof. Let's see. There are 348 invites to buy Viagra cheap; 231 messages saying a mortgage has been approved; and, as always, a couple missives from Nigeria promising to send a fortune this way if we first send one that way.

But no threats from Mercedes owners to hold their breath until their skin turns as blue as their blood unless the automaker produces a four-door sedan that looks like a coupe.

Yet, Mercedes has done just that. For 2006, it has come up with the CLS500, a four-door "coupe" derived from the E-Class sedan platform to satisfy driving enthusiasts enamored with two-door models.

"We wanted the styling of a coupe, the four-door function of a sedan," Mercedes spokesman Rob Moran said. "Enthusiasts place a big emphasis on style and luxury, and the coupe styling of the CLS500 makes a statement."

"Our only rival is the BMW 6-Series, a traditional two-door," he added. Even with only one rival, the CLS will be a niche vehicle with sales projected at 12,000 units annually.

While BMW sells about 8,000 6-Series coupes annually, sales of the CLS through June already top the 8,400 mark. And reports are that the cars aren't staying in showrooms long enough to gather dust.

If memory serves, the compact C-Class started the look-like-a-coupe trend a few years ago when it abandoned the stand-up sedan roof line in favor of the coupe sloper.

When testing the car, a surprising number of admirers took two to three glances and smiled in approval. Of course, none were invited to get in or out of the back seat.

Mercedes says the look stirs emotions. It neglected to warn that the roofline stirs the brains as the melon bangs off the rear glass and bumps against the roof when in the back seat and when trying to escape.

When you open the door, the roofline offers a minuscule entryway, not the spacious arch provided by a stand-up roof.

In fairness, cabin room upfront is pretty good, thanks to door panels curved sharply outward to provide massive arm room. But whether front or back, a center console and transmission tunnel separate occupants so you feel compartmentalized.

Next up for the coupe look is the top-of-the-line S-Class sedan that comes out in the first quarter of next year as a 2007 model.

On the positive side, the 5-liter, 302-horsepower V-8 does a good job of moving the more than 4,000-pound car, with a zero to 60 mph time of less than 6 seconds.

But such quick propulsion results in a 16 m.p.g. city/22 m.p.g. highway rating and a \$1,300 gas-guzzler tax.

The V-8 is teamed with a new 7-speed automatic, which Mercedes said made for a wider spread of ratios between first and top gear and smaller increases in engine speed as the car accelerates to maximize performance and mileage. But it didn't maximize enough to avoid that guzzler tax.

Those who want more action can opt for the high-performance CLS55 AMG version with its 5.5-liter, 469-h.p. V-8. But be prepared to dig deep into pocket

or purse because it starts about \$20,000 more than the CLS500 at \$87,375.

And with a 14 m.p.g. city/20 m.p.g. highway rating, add a \$1,700 guzzler tax.

While short on mileage, the CLS500 is strong on ride and handling. It's very mobile for its weight, and you don't feel all the poundage in the wheel. It's not cumbersome, and the turning radius is surprisingly tight.

The CLS comes with a computer-controlled air suspension system to continuously upgrade ride quality based on road surface and vehicle speed.

It also has electronic stability control, traction control and four-wheel anti-lock brakes. Can't fault the quality of the ride or the precision of the handling.

The CLS500 starts at \$64,900 and, as you'd expect, comes with power windows, mirrors, locks, sunroof and AM/FM/CD systems. You also get dual-stage front air bags with sensors that detect whether a passenger is in the seat and the size of that passenger to determine at what speed the bag should deploy. And there are front and rear side-impact bags as well as side-curtain bags with rollover sensors.

When it comes to attention to detail, there's four-zone climate control so each occupant can set his or her preferred temperature; power adjustable steering column; and heated wipers and washer jets.

To help spot the car in a dark lot, not only do head and tail lamps light up when you press the key fob, so do parking lamps, license plate lamp and front fog lamps.

You can get a slew of other goodies for a price, though, unfortunately, a helmet for rear-seat occupants isn't offered.

A power-operated rear window sunshade and ventilated front seats that heat in the winter, cool in the summer, are part of a \$3,650 premium package.

Adaptive cruise control that keeps a safe distance between you and the car ahead using brakes or engine management runs \$3,130.

Self-leveling bi-xenon headlights that turn in the direction of a curve and keep the proper aim even when the car accelerates quickly or brakes hard are \$1,220. Bi-xenon provides a brighter, whiter light without the blue tint common with regular xenon lamps.

And there's a power deck lid. Press the key fob or button on the driver's door to open (or a button on the deck lid or driver's door to close) after paying \$510. With the coupe slope, the trunk isn't very deep once open.

Rather than camouflage a sedan to look like a coupe, Mercedes should have devoted its energy to scoring better in the influential J.D. Power and Associates studies.

In the recent Power dependability study, for example, Mercedes placed 27th, up from 28th a year ago, but still behind Pontiac, Volvo, Jaguar, Dodge, Nissan, and, for heaven's sake, the deceased Oldsmobile.

"Power surveyed owners of 2002 models, and there's a lag time between problems reported and changes made," Moran said.

"We were marked down for excessive brake dust, cupholders (small and flimsy, as the survey says) and uneven tire wear, but we've made changes to our cars in those areas since 2002."

"We now give owners concerned about excessive brake dust a wheel cleaning kit and starting with the '05 models we offer a complimentary tire rotation at 6,500 miles for those concerned with tire wear."

2005 Property Tax Rates in Glasscock

This notice concerns 2005 property tax rates for GLASSCOCK COUNTY. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
Last year's operating taxes	\$2,086,558	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Last year's debt taxes	\$217,844	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Last year's total taxes	\$2,304,402	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Last year's tax base	\$435,862,342	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Last year's total tax rate	\$52891/\$100	\$0.0000/\$100	\$0.0000/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$2,304,402	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$548,726,630	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$419954/\$100	\$ -0-	\$ -0/\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$419954/\$100		

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$2,086,557	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$548,726,630	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
= This year's effective operating rate	\$380254/\$100	\$ -0/\$100	\$ -0/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$410674/\$100	\$ -0/\$100	\$ -0/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.01690/\$100	\$ -0/\$100	\$ -0/\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	\$412364/\$100	\$ -0/\$100	\$ -0/\$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$412364/\$100		

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Glasscock County adopts a 2005 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$419954 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2004 taxes by \$920.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
General Fund	\$625,000

Schedule B - 2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Glasscock County Community Center	\$265,000.00	\$7,088.55	\$535.00	\$272,623.75
Total required for 2005 debt service			\$272,623.75	
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A			\$0.00	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$263,827.00	
- Excess collections last year			\$-0-	
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2005			\$8,796.75	
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 97% of its taxes in 2005			\$263.91	
= Total Debt Levy			\$9,060.66	

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the Glasscock County Tax Assessor/Collector's Office.

Name of person preparing this notice Royce Fruit
Title Glasscock County Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared August 22, 2005

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IN BRIEF

Henson Memorial fund-raiser set

The Second Annual P.C. Clayton W. Henson Memorial Scholarship Fund-raiser golf tournament has been set for Sept. 10.

The tournament will be a four person scramble and will cost \$80 per person.

It will take place at the Phoenix Golf Club in Stanton.

Tee times will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Wally Hazelwood at 756-2424 or the Phoenix Golf Club at 756-2556.

Local bowling leagues now forming

Bowling leagues at Bowl-A-Rama Lanes are now being formed.

There will be several leagues throughout the week.

A senior league will take place Fridays at 6 p.m. for players 55 and over. The league meeting will take place Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. and the league will begin Sept. 9.

For more information, call 267-7484.

B.S. travel football team now forming

The Big Spring Youth Football Travel League is now being formed for anyone in grades three through six who would like to play.

If interested, contact Randy Phillips at 267-7141 or Denise Carillo at 816-1685 or 263-1945.

Howard sets mini cheerleading camp

Howard College will hold a mini cheer camp Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for grades first through six.

Registration will take place at 8 a.m. and the cheer/dance class session will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants are supposed to bring a lunch to eat at noon and bring a water bottle and wear tennis shoes. They are also supposed to put their names on their belongings.

The cost of the camp is \$25.

For more information, call 264-5024.

Last chance to sign up for Crossroads football program

The Crossroads Youth Football Association signups will end Saturday so anyone wanting to play has a few more days to register. The registration will take place at the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call Daphne Castilaw at 714-4688.

Quarterback club sets remaining weekly meetings

The Big Spring football booster club will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at the ATC through the football season.

For more information, contact Gene Pierrfeldt at 816-1134.

Rangers suddenly hot on mound, get another good start

ARLINGTON (AP) — For the second straight game, the Texas Rangers got a quality outing from a young starter. This time, it was rookie Juan Dominguez's turn.

Dominguez pitched two-hit ball over six innings for his second career victory, and Kevin Mench homered to lead the Rangers past the Seattle Mariners 8-1 Wednesday night.

Dominguez (1-3) allowed one run and five walks while striking out three in his 10th major league start.

"Everything was working fine," Dominguez said through an interpreter. "I was able to make good adjustments throughout the game."

Texas starters have struggled over the last two months with a 6.64 ERA in a 58-game span heading into Wednesday night.

However, Dominguez's sharp effort came one day after Chris Young gave up one run and four hits in five innings of a 6-4 victory over Seattle.

"It's definitely a boost for us," said Rangers catcher Rod Barajas, who went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. "I want to help these young guys, get them through as many innings as possible. It was good to see (Dominguez) throw strikes and get outs."

Dominguez, 1-1 with a 3.93 ERA in three starts since being recalled from the minors on Aug. 13, threw his fastball for strikes and used a change-up to keep the Mariners guessing.

"He kept us off-balance with the changeup," Seattle slugger Richie Sexson said.

Young and Dominguez combined for a 1.64 ERA in their consecutive starts. Texas got back-to-back wins from starters for the first time since Aug. 6-7.

"We've gotten two quality pitching performances and our offense has held its own," Texas' Mark Teixeira said. "We're feeling good right now."

Mench, Barajas, Hank Blalock, Adrian Gonzalez, Michael Young, Alfonso Soriano and Teixeira all had two hits in the

Rangers' 15-hit attack. Mench, 9-for-13 in his last four games, hit a two-run homer — his 22nd — in the fifth off Ryan Franklin (6-14) to improve to 11-for-17 with four homers against him.

John Wasdin pitched the final three innings for his second save.

The Rangers have won the first two of a 10-game homestand following a 1-12 road trip that was the worst in club history.

Texas is trying to avoid a last-place finish in the AL West for the fourth time in five years. The Rangers (59-66) are third in the division, six games in front of the Mariners.

"We didn't swing at good hitter's pitches," Seattle manager Mike Hargrove said. "It's tough to win with only four hits. A couple of times we had two men on and nobody out and we couldn't get a run across."

The Rangers' offense got rolling in the first off Franklin on Blalock's RBI single. Texas made it 4-0 in the second on Gonzalez's run-scoring double, Barajas' RBI single and David Dellucci's triple.

Franklin, 1-5 with a 9.99 ERA in seven career starts at Amerquest Field, allowed six runs and 10 hits over five innings.

"I think his command the first two innings was not good at all," Hargrove said. "Everything was over the middle of the plate and waist high and when you get it waist high like that, you should get hit."

Dominguez retired nine in a row before issuing consecutive walks with two outs in the fourth. He got Mike Morse on a grounder to end the inning.

"He was able to throw quality pitches when he got in a bind," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said.

Mench's two-run shot in the fifth gave Texas a 6-0 edge, but Seattle came back with a run in the sixth on Adrian Beltre's run-scoring double.

Texas made it 8-1 in the eighth on Barajas' RBI double and Michael Young's run-scoring single.

Huggins forced out of Cincinnati by school

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer
CINCINNATI (AP) — All that Bob Huggins can do now is negotiate terms of his surrender.

One of the country's most successful basketball coaches agreed to step down Wednesday at Cincinnati, coming out on the wrong end of a power struggle with a willful university president.

Huggins, 51, will get an approximate \$3 million buyout for leaving the only job he wanted. He left his attorney's office Wednesday wearing a black Cincinnati jacket, declining comment because parts of the buyout were still being negotiated.

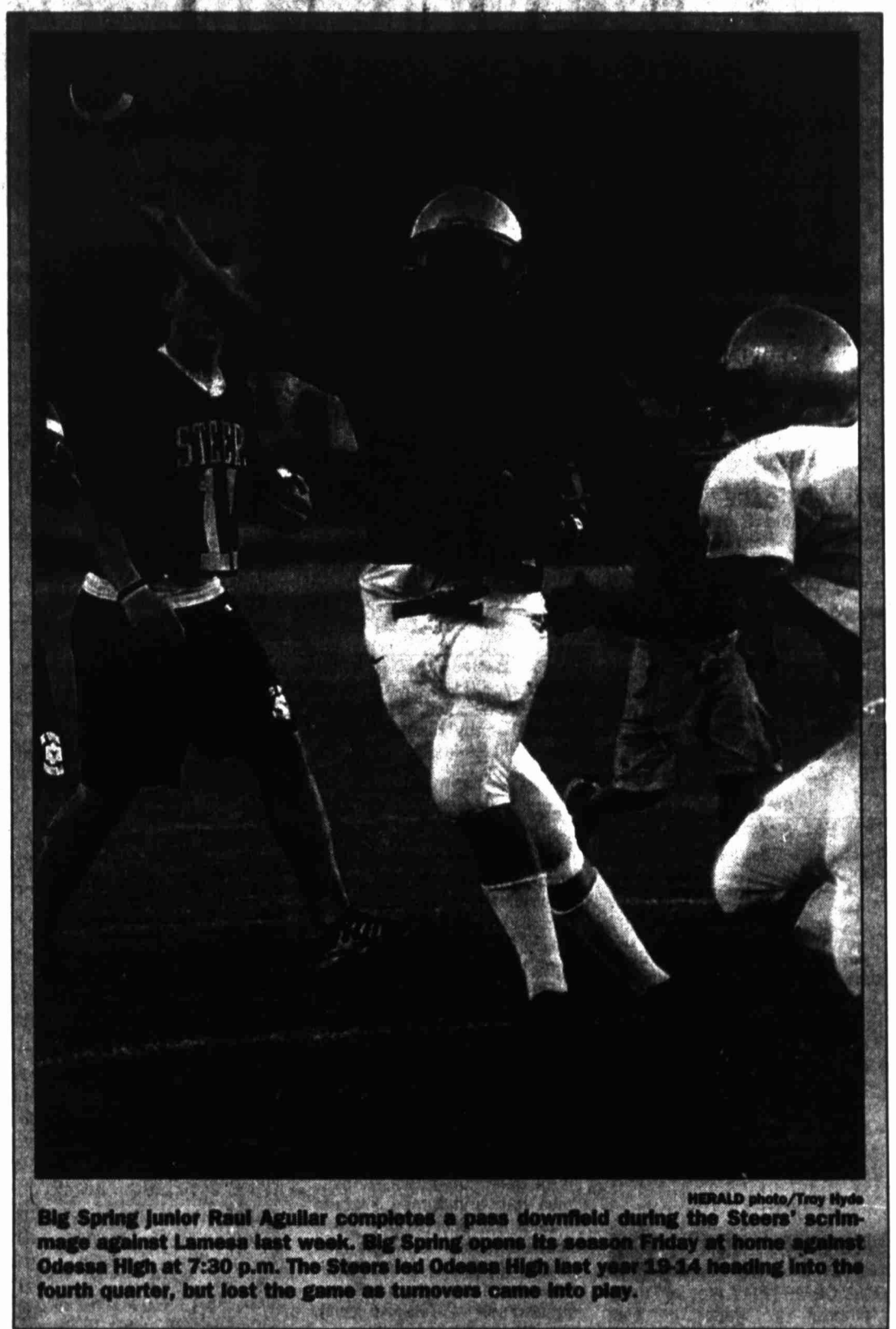
Still up for discussion are exactly when he will leave and how much he

will get. The school has offered him a chance to stay in an advisory role for three months, helping with the immensely painful transition from big-name coach to lame-duck interim.

The Bearcats will have to slog through their first season in the Big East with no head coach and no chance of landing top-notch recruits. No player will commit to a school that doesn't even have a head coach.

The fallout could affect the program for years.

Zimpher will be looking for someone who is the antithesis of Huggins, who liked hard-edged recruits and overlooked his players' shortcomings as long as they won. The third-year president has her eye more on national academic rankings than the Top 25.



Big Spring junior Raul Aguilera completes a pass downfield during the Steers' scrimmage against Lamona last week. Big Spring opens its season Friday at home against Odessa High at 7:30 p.m. The Steers led Odessa High last year 13-14 heading into the fourth quarter, but lost the game as turnovers came into play.

Hoffman reaches milestone as San Diego gets win over Astros

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Trevor Hoffman has gotten used to the blaring music and cheering fans when he jogs in from the bullpen in the ninth inning, and the feeling Wednesday night wasn't any different than the hundreds of other times he'd done it.

The result, though, was definitely significant.

Hoffman earned his 425th save to take sole possession of second place on the career list and the NL West-leading San Diego Padres beat the Houston Astros 7-4 on Wednesday night to climb back to .500.

Hoffman broke a tie with John Franco for second place, pitching the ninth for his 32nd save in 34 chances this year. With 54 more saves, the closer will pass Lee Smith, who retired with 478.

Hoffman has been pretty durable during his march up the career list, with the exception of 2003, when he had zero saves as he rehabbed from two offseason shoulder surgeries.

"The ability to do it for a long period of time, I think, is something that kind of separates a little bit from other guys that had phenomenal years," Hoffman said. "The ability to hold the position down for a few years and go out and do your job is something I'm proud of."

All but two of Hoffman's saves have been with San Diego, which acquired him from Florida on June 24, 1993, in a five-player deal that sent Gary Sheffield to the Marlins.

Hoffman tries not to think about catching Smith.

"Having gone through a

couple of surgeries with the shoulder, and as close as maybe the numbers do look after 12 years and seeing where you've put yourself, I don't really allow myself to kind of look too far beyond that next opportunity," he said.

"But you know that it's in reach. There were a few years back there when I'm going through rehab that you're just worried about getting back on the mound. I'm excited where individually it stands, but more importantly, I'm glad it's happening in a San Diego Padres' uniform."

Hoffman saves the ball from each of his saves, and he got a lineup card from Wednesday night's game.

He said he'll remember this save because long-time bullpen catcher Mark Merila, who's battling a brain tumor, warmed him up in the bullpen. Merila has been working home games only since he had a seizure in New York during a road trip in late July.

"Really, the hard work that I get accolades for, he's the guy behind the scenes that has much more on his shoulders than going out and pitching a ballgame," Hoffman said. "This is something that we'll share together."

Brian Giles had three hits and two RBIs, Joe Randa had three hits and three runs, and Miguel Olivo drove in three runs for San Diego. Giles was 7-for-12 with five RBIs in the series.

The Padres took two of three from the Astros, who dropped 1 1/2 games behind Philadelphia in the wild-card race. The Phillies beat San Francisco.

San Diego increased its

lead to six games over Arizona, which lost to the New York Mets, and Los Angeles, which lost to Colorado.

Leading 5-2 in the sixth, the Padres loaded the bases with one out against Mike Gallo before Chad Qualls came on and struck out Xavier Nady before hitting Damian Jackson and Olivo on consecutive pitches to force in two runs.

"It wasn't too pretty," manager Phil Garner said. "We were in trouble the whole night, it seemed like. We couldn't find the plate."

The Astros pulled to 7-4 in the eighth on Brad Ausmus' RBI single and an unearned run that scored on a fielding error by Randa, the third baseman.

Giles drove in runs with a single in the first inning and a triple in the third. On Tuesday night, he drove in both of San Diego's runs in a 2-0 win over Roger Clemens, including a seventh-inning homer.

Padres starter Chan Ho Park (3-1) allowed two runs, one earned, and five hits in five innings. He struck out two and walked two.

Lance Berkman had two RBIs for the Astros.

Giles tied the game at 1 in the first when his single bounced off first base, bringing in Dave Roberts from third. Roberts drew a leadoff walk, stole second and advanced on Randa's groundout.

Berkman, who had an RBI double in the first, tied it in the fifth when his hit-and-run single brought in Ausmus from second.

But the Padres went ahead 5-2 in the fifth on four hits and two walks off two relievers.

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BACK YARD Sale: 2505 Lynn Dr. (Kentwood), Sat. 8:00-4:00. Craft stuff, material, patterns, 3 wheeler, yard tractor, dish washer, Safeway scaffold, 8' metal door, shop heater, misc.

GARAGE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 8:00-? 3225 Auburn. Lots of baby clothes & items, men's & women's, maternity, boys clothes, lots of miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE: 600 Boatler, Saturday 8:00-?. Gun cabinet, lots of collectibles, brand name clothes, baby items, games, books, knick-knacks and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 607 Circle, Saturday 7:30-2:00. Stereos, vacuum cleaners, dishwasher, storm windows, in line skates, jewelry, more.

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Garage Sales

HUGE BACKYARD Sale, 2706 Central Dr. Friday & Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Furniture, microwave, lots of miscellaneous.

INSIDE SALE, 1903 S. Gregg. Tue.-Thur., 1:00-6:00. Fri. 10:00-6:00 & Sat. 10:00-2:00. \$3.00 a bag clothing sale excluding infant clothes & scrubs, angel, clown & cow collectibles.

LARGE WAREHOUSE Garage Sale: Behind 1009 Gregg - Health Essential Life Products Store. Near Medicine Shoppe. Saturday Only 9:00-4:00.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale. 1525 East 17th Street, Saturday 8:00-?. Toddler clothes & toys, treadmill, deco. items, Coca Cola stuff and lots more.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD Sale, Saturday, 8:00-5:00. Computer stuff, fax machine, desk, crafts, knickknacks, clothing, jeans, picture frames, books and too much else to list! 1008 Hickory St. in the rear (off of Wasson or Old San Angelo Hwy). No Early Sales!

RELAY For LIFE Garage Sale: 3600 East 11th Place (Bus Barn), Saturday 7:30-?. Scanners, dressor mirror, VCR, printer, 10 speed bike 26", exercise bike, misc.

YARD SALE: 800 West 18th., Saturday 8-? Dresses, sizes 16 to baby, sweaters, bedspreads, furniture, miscellaneous. Also have watermelons & canteloupes. You make the Price!!

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MARTIN CO. Hospital Home Health is looking for a full-time LVN to join their energetic staff. Person must be willing to travel to surrounding areas. Bilingual preferred and salary DOE. Interested parties may call Allison @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

MYSTERY SHOPPER Needed in Big Spring. E-mail mary@qams.com

NURSES UNLIMITED, Inc. Needs attendants in the Big Spring and Coahoma areas to assist with personal care, meal prep. and light housekeeping. Part time basis. Please call Sulema @ 1-800-458-3257. M-F; 8A-5P E.O.E.

OUTSIDE SALES Person Needed. 150 Mile radius, Orange County Chopper energy drink. Call (951)2365-7343 or (325)728-8365 High demand product!!!!

PIZZA INN accepting applications for qualified people to join our Management Team. Looking for individual with management and food experience. Apply in person with resume, 1702 Gregg Street.

Help Wanted

Taking applications for Counter Help. Must be very enthusiastic. Duties include filing, computer, phone and etc. Benefits include paid vacation, health insurance & retirement. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls Please.

Taking Applications: Experienced only Road Service Tireman & Diesel & Gasoline Mechanic. Must have Valid Driver Lic., Top Pay Plus Commission for Experienced Person. Apply in Person Only/ No Phone Calls.

TUBING TESTER operator/derrick person. Must pass drug test. Good wages. Call Jesse, (432)267-5818 after 7:00 p.m. only!

WAITSTAFF NEEDED Must be able to work Split-shifts. Monday-Saturday Apply at, Red Mesa Grill 2401 South Gregg No Phone Calls

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Instructional

PIANO & VOICE LESSONS Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

Items for Sale

1989 MAZDA Pickup \$2,500.00. Double door Refrigerator w/ice maker & water dispenser- \$400.00. Whirlpool washer- \$250.00. Dryer- \$150.00. Sectional w/two recliners- \$400.00. Call cell (432)816-9317.

GOOD CONDITION on both. Maytag Washer- \$200.00 and Upper & Lower Kitchen Cabinets- \$300.00. Call (432)264-1813, cell 213-1642.

Lost and Found

LOST: SEVERAL sets of keys attached together. North of town, old Gail Hwy. Call (432)264-7518.

Miscellaneous



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Miscellaneous

BIRD LEASE on 160 acres, CRP land in Lomax area. Up to four guns, \$500 per year. Call (432)398-5525.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceaneras, Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

CUSHMAN GOLF cart, excellent condition, new batteries, top, tires. \$1,500.00. (4) Golf Carts or yard trailers- \$295.00-\$695.00. New Fork lift- \$550.00. (432)213-0426. 1301 East 4th.

TANKS: 110 Gallon reef, ready- \$550.00. 75 gallon reef ready- \$300.00. 30 Gallon test. Good wages. Call Jesse, (432)267-5818 after 7:00 p.m. only!

Pets

JACK RUSSELL Puppies. Ready. Call (432)263-3255.

REGISTERED JACK Russell (Female)- \$250.00; Pomeranian male stud- \$150.00. Also 1/2 Jack Russell & 1/2 Pomeranian puppy- \$50.00. Appt. (432)213-0426, 2102 Alledale.

Real Estate for Rent

SOUTH PLAINS APARTMENTS Studios, 1 & 2 Bdrm Units. * Freshly Remodeled with New Paint, Appliances & Fixtures *

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\$99 Move In Special
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KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
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267-5444
263-5000

1404 TUCSON. Two bedroom, one bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

1607 SYCAMORE. Clean 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Carport, CH/A, fenced yard. \$375.00 month \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

2008 Nolan. 1 bdrm. \$295. month, \$150. deposit. All bills paid. **2004 Johnson.** 1 bedroom, \$195. month. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1900 MORRISON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, fenced yard and carport. \$550. Month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath cute older, renovated home. Corner lot. \$450.00 Monthly. (432)816-9881.

2210 LYNN. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, garage, fenced yard. One year lease required. No indoor pets. \$595. month + \$400. deposit. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

3 BEDROOM @ 1607 Stadium & 1410 Robin. 2 Bedroom @ 1410 Park & 1107 Lloyd. 1 Bedroom @ 502 Goliad. Call Moren (432)267-7380.

Real Estate for Rent

631 CAYLOR. Very large nice home. 4 Bedroom includes large Master suite, 3 1/2 bath. Wheelchair access. Central heat and air. Washer/ Dryer. Like new stove. Fenced backyard, single carport. Deposit \$200, Rent \$650. Call (432)267-2112 Leave message.

709 WEST 14th. 3 bdr, 1 bath, CH/A, carprt, fenced yard. \$425.00 month or \$40,000.00 to buy. Call (325)853-3463 for appt.

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

ALL BILLS Paid on furnished three room apartment. \$350. month. 908 West 4th. Call (432)263-3855 or 263-7648.

BUILDING FOR LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$750. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

GARAGE FOR LEASE. Car lift and over head doors at 608 West 4th. \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)263-5000 after 6:00 p.m. call 264-7711.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS \$200. Move-In Special \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

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THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A. \$525.00 monthly, plus deposit. 2410 Carleton. Call 432-263-6997.

TWO BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A. 506 East 16th. \$325. month, \$125. deposit. Call (432)267-4536, (417)276-8083.

Real Estate for Sale

10,000 square ft Commercial building, plus 2000 sq ft metal building on 5 ac.. Close to hospital on Scenic Mountain. Call (432)213-2319.

1507 ACRES in Fisher County. Excellent hunting. \$495.00 per acre! Call (817)300-0345 wtxranch.com

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty on everything. Call **Marla** (432)263-3461.

2,340 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace, office, barn, 5 acres. 3001 South Moss Lake Road. **Reduced more \$125,000.00.** (432)393-5705, 816-9969

2705 CAROL- 3/2, double garage covered patio, 10x15 storage. Home warranty thru July 2006. Asking \$70,000. Please Call (432)263-6948.

50 ACRE tract on I-20 in city limits. Super commercial building site. All or part. Call (432)213-2319.

804 Settles. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

Real Estate for Sale

BEAUTIFUL 140 acre tract in city limits. Flat, great commercial building site. All or part. Call (432)213-2319.

BY OWNER Colorado City lake, two deeded lots on water, 3 bedroom trailer, 2 added rooms, 6x10 cellar, 16x24 storage. \$39,500. Call (432)366-7075.

REDUCED \$150K. New Family Home, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath. 2610 Crestline- Coronado Hills. Open House, Sunday, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Call Linda or Coldwell banker (432)816-3901, (432)267-3061.

GREAT WEEKEND getaway with 165' of frontage on Lake Colorado City. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 half baths, slab for addition, storm cellar. \$30's. Call Holly Sorrells Realtors, Inc. Odessa, (432)366-3623.

LARGE, OLD two-story home with 2 acres on Old Davis Road. Lots of work but tons of potential with wood floors, high ceilings, leaded glass and original doors and hardware. \$13,000 cash. Call (432)218-6511.

Vehicles

DEALS OF THE MONTH
7 New 2004 Models Still In Stock!
Up to **\$11,000** off - Don't Miss It!
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300 W. 10th 267-7121

1992 FORD Taurus Station-wagon, in good condition, brand new tires, runs good. \$1,600. 200 Young. Call (432)267-3535.

1995 GMC Diesel Dually 1 ton extended cab pickup. 78,000 Miles on original motor. Excellent condition. \$11,000.00. Call (432)267-5420.

1996 FORD Mustang. Good Condition. \$3,750.00. Call (432)270-4903.

1996 LINCOLN Town Car (Maroon). Very good condition \$5,950.00. Also 1991 Ford T-Bird, will sell for parts. \$500.00 OBO. 1301 East 4th.. Call Bill (432)213-0426.



1997 Ford Expedition XLT (Blue). Power door-locks & window, tilt, cruise, rear air cond., keyless entry, luggage rack and towing package. \$7,900.00.



2001 GMC Yukon SLE (Red). Power door-locks & windows, tilt, cruise, rear air condition, keyless entry, alum. wheels, towing package and luggage rack. \$15,900.00.



2001 Ford F-150 Supercab XLT (Blue). Power door-locks & windows, tilt, cruise, bed liner and nerf bar. \$10,900.00.

Jimmy Hopper 1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, Tx (432)267-5588

1998 GT Mustang (Black), 5 speed. \$7,995.00. Also have a 1987 F250 4x4 Super cab, 4 speed. \$3,595.00. Call (432)263-0808.

2002 AMERICAN Iron Horse Tejas. 107 C.I., 240 rear tire, custom paint. Garage kept. \$17,500.00. Call Rocky (432)264-7891. Serious inquires only.

FOR SALE, yellow 2000 Ford Ranger, V-6, good mileage, 26k miles, garage kept. Factory 560 watt stereo. \$8,300. (432)213-0771

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Legals

The 118th Judicial Juvenile Probation Departments is accepting bids for the following services: Bootcamps, Psychological/counseling, short and long term detention. Bids should be mailed to: PO Box 2262, Big Spring, Tx. 79720 by August 31, 2005.
#4677 August 25, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor is accepting sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on September 9, 2005 for Diesel and Gasoline.
Specifications may be obtained in the County Auditor's Office, in the Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. Room 203, Big Spring, TX, or by calling (432)264-2210.
Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on September 12, 2005 for their consideration.
The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
#4664 August 25 & September 2, 2005

Legals

NOTICE OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS
STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HOWARD
BAA MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

- 1- Managed Care L.C. attention % Harold Stewart Pres/CEO, 901 Goliad St. Big Spring, TX 79720. SC 43 & SC 44 BK 32 1N (1055), also known as 901 Goliad St.
- 2- William L. Woods, attention % Billy Wood, 3593 Boudry, San Diego, CA 92104, SC 42 BK 32 1N 100X60 (67) also known as 103 NW 12th St.
- 3- Anthony Dawson, 2505 Chantane, Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 12 BK 39 COLLEGE HEIGHTS, 50x140 (1247), also known as 2101 Johnson St.
- 4- Dwayne Key, 310 N Scurry St. Big Spring, TX 79720, N/2 of LT 7 BK 11 ORIGINAL TOWN 63x150 (0112), also known as 310 N Scurry St.
- 5- Mrs. Ernest Bryd, PO Box 145, Big Spring, TX 79721-0145, W/2 of LT 12 BK 99 ORIGINAL TOWN 50x190 (0213), also known as 619 Sgt. Paredes St.
- 6- David Higgins, PO Box 1001, Big Spring, TX 79720-1001, PT W/2 of SC 43 BK 32 1N, 80X 300 (236 & 237), also known as 604 W 3rd St.
- 7- Regallex Properties Inc. 350 Dowlen Rd. Beaumont, TX 77706, NE 4 of SC 44 BK 32 1N, 125x110 (181), also known as 1630 E. 3rd St.
- 8- Ralph Hicks, 250 Palomino Rd. Abilene, TX 79602, SC 31 BK 33 1N, 100x210 (178), also known as 3324 W Hwy 80.
- 9- Jeter Sheet Metal Company Inc. % 3009 Garden City Hwy, Midland, TX 79701, LTS 5-6 Less W/15 of LT 6 BK 01 CEDAR CREST 100X132.5 (411), also known as 815 W 3rd St.
- 10- David Grosse, 3009 Garden City Hwy, Midland, TX 79701, LT 4 & PT LT 3 BK 1 CEDAR CREST (410), also known as 813 West 3rd St.
- 11- Jim Nelson, 1704 Richie Rd. Big Spring, TX 79720, LTS 3-4 BK 7 JONES VALLEY 100x130 (533), also known as 1005 W 3rd St.
- 12- Joe Albert Deanda Sr., 3700 Parkway, Big Spring, TX 79720, LTS 5-10 BK 1 PRICE 273X130 ALBERT'S UPHOLSTERY (485), also known as 1208 W 3rd St.
- 13- David Mitchem, 7515 W Interstate 20, Big Spring, TX 79720, E/65 of LTS 01-2 & E/65 N/40 of LT 3 BK E EA LES 65X140 (425), also known as 701 W 3rd St.
- 14- Jaime & Caroline Cuellar, 3503 Airport, Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 01 BK 01 WRIGHTS 2nd, 94x195 (541), also known as 3503 Airport Rd.
- 15- Felipe Valdez, 1209 W 6th St. Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 2 BK 01 PARKER, 50x140 (783), also known as 1209 W 6th St.
- 16- R Acosta & Janie Mendez, 1906 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 6 BK 4 MESA 50X142 (33) 1S (23), also known as 1311 Elm Dr.
- 17- Jose Mendez Cuellar Jr, 1906 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 5 BK 4 MESA 50x142 (24), also known as 1309 Elm Dr.
- 18- Janie & Juanita Mendez % Cuellar, 1906 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720-3804, LT 5 BK 4 CEDAR CREST (905), also known as 815 W. 6th St.
- 19- Tyrone Banks, 1606-A Gregg St. Big Spring, TX 79721-4522, PT LT 12 BK 102 ORIGINAL TOWN 50x140 (153), also known as 401 NW 4th St or 401 Sgt Paredes St.
- 20- Joe Torres, 601 N Douglas St. Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 6 BK 8 BAUER 50x140 (692), also known as 601 N Douglas St.
- 21- Julia Bonilla, unknown, Big Spring, TX 79721, SE/4 OF LT 18

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING
HERALD APPRECIATES
YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury and Mars are like cowboys in the old West who face each other in the bar.

One exclaims, "Them z' words..." For the final time this year, these planets have a showdown. Mere irritations become grievances. Mistakes that would have gone undetected now seem important to bring up. But don't. It only makes things worse.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). With every goal comes an automatic guidance system. So there's no reason to be afraid that you won't know what to do next. Just start, and the rest will come quite naturally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone or something in your environment may cause you to regress. When you know, but you don't know that you know, you need a wake-up call. Sagittarius or Leo can provide this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your powers of concentration are excellent. You'll do well with projects that require a lot of focus. Consider reconnecting with a former romantic partner. This person could provide you with a new source of inspiration.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Admit when you're wrong. It's a lot less painful and time consum-

ing than going point by point over what you meant to say. With a little bit of truth-telling, hard feelings melt away like magic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your approval puts a plan in motion. It's good to be king — or queen, as the case may be! You're prone to passionate whims and could even take a spontaneous road trip. Responsibilities could magically disappear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Remember your talent for negotiating sensitive terrain with style and grace. Others cannot articulate what you have the ability to say. But this is a "use it or lose it" kind of deal. Practice your diplomacy. Perfect it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a growing fascination with how other people live and love. The more in tune you are to how people interact, the greater your awareness will be. Pay attention to the subtext of a situation, and you become wise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can minimize negativity and maximize results by being sensible. Separate what is truly happening to you from the emotional baggage that might come with it. Attaining riches involves mastering the art of detachment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have intellectual property. Shine it up today. The things you say and the way you influence others stands out as an effective tool. Someone would like to learn your method.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Some relationships boost your energy and others drain it. Observe the dynamics you have set up. Then release problems, and ask the universe to show you what to do. Walking clears your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes the only mature way to handle serious matters is to laugh out loud. Maybe no one else will get the big joke, but that's OK. If someone does understand your humor, this is a kindred soul indeed!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Instead of mixing business with pleasure, find one activity that falls into both categories. Creative people inspire you, and cynical people deter you from a bad idea. Comforts of home are featured tonight.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born June 14, 1958 in Springfield, Mass., and she was born Aug. 19, 1972 in Moscow, Russia. One minute we are staring at each other and promising the future, and the next, we aren't speaking to each other. She feels like destiny to me, but do we have a future?"

On "destiny": There is destiny (lowercase d) and Destiny (uppercase D). The former will yield to your slightest influence, and the latter has its own impetus and is very reluctant to change. It's often difficult to distinguish your intense desire for a certain outcome and Destiny's call. Indeed, intense desire is sometimes all that is needed to make providence move.

And sometimes, our real destiny in a given situation is just to want something to happen so badly and not to get what we want. We then learn how to be more effective, appreciative, etc. in the future. In the case of your Gemini/Leo connection, you weren't dreaming. It was very real and in the moment. But once a Leo woman turns off, for whatever reason, it is nearly impossible to get her to change her mind. Your best hope is to take the lesson and move on. If it's really Destiny, then she will find you and recreate the magic.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Chad Michael Murray is a teen heartthrob of the first order, having played the iconic role of the prince in "A Cinderella Story" opposite Hilary Duff. Generally, Virgo people are embarrassed when people make a fuss over them, let alone pin their faces on the wall in a frame of hearts and kisses. But Murray is likely to get past such feelings in pursuit of serious, maybe even Shakespearean, acting.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My father turns 80 this year, and my three siblings and I were thinking of giving him a birthday party. We are doing this mostly out of obligation, as none of us enjoys my father's company and hair-trigger temper.

My father lives four hours from me and even farther from my siblings. He has been married to my stepmother for 20 years, and we all adore her. My stepmother has a son, "Leo," who is married with children and lives close to my father and his wife.

I mentioned to my father that we would like to have Leo and his family at the birthday party, and Dad exploded. He said if Leo comes, he will not attend. He went on to say he hates Leo and never wants to see him again.

My stepmother told me that Dad has felt this way for many years. She admitted that it makes her nervous when Leo calls because just the mention of his name sends my father into a tirade.

Annie, my father has never been a reasonable man. He is selfish and angry, blaming everyone else for his bad decisions. I hate to see my stepmother suffer so much, even though I know it is her choice to stay with my father. I would rather not have this party because we are doing it only out of guilt. What do you say? — Disgusted in the Northeast

Dear Disgusted: If you choose to have this party, you do not have to include Leo. Your stepmother will understand. However, there is no reason you must celebrate this way. We vote to tell Dad the distance between all of you makes it too difficult to plan events. Take him out for a fancy dinner instead.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Out of Patience," who said the new co-worker, "Louise,"



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

inserted herself into every conversation, whether it involved her or not. That letter could have been written by one of my staff. In fact, I suspect it was.

On more than one occasion, I have heard complaints about Louise. The woman has an opinion on everything. After six months, she can tell the 10-year employee how things should be done, even though she has no experience in that department. She butts in on conversations regarding office business and then gets behind with her own responsibilities and complaints ad nauseam.

I have tried speaking to Louise behind closed doors to help her develop a better rapport with the staff, to no avail. I told her she might want to keep the negativity to a minimum, and the next thing I know, someone asked her how she was doing, and she replied, "I'm not allowed to talk about that."

I have come to realize that Louise has no social skills, and I don't know how to help her or the staff with this issue. — Caught in the Middle

Dear Caught: If you think you can teach Louise better people skills, by all means, give it a try. Otherwise, the staff should try to ignore her social breaches, irritating though they may be. She can't help herself.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Concerned Neighbor

Pennsylvania," who thinks her neighbor, "Nancy," may be overdosing her elderly husband, "Tom," to keep him docile. If this is happening, it is abuse and needs to be reported. The neighbor can notify the local Area Agency on Aging so a Protective Service Investigation can be done. The number is in the phone book.

I am an employee of our local Area Agency on Aging and have been involved in many similar cases. Make no mistake, this is abuse. — Case Manager in Pennsylvania
Dear Case Manager: If Nancy is indeed withholding or overdosing Tom's medication, she needs to be reported, and we hope the neighbor is willing to make the call.

Dear Annie: I have 19-year-old sister who I think is sexually active. A few weeks ago, I went over to "Carol's" apartment to help with some cleaning. When I went to throw some garbage away, I noticed her jewelry box was open. I looked inside and spotted an unopened condom at the bottom. I was shocked.

Carol has been seeing her boyfriend, "Vince," for about three years, but I never thought they could be having sex. I know my parents don't agree with having sex before marriage (neither do I), but I don't know if they are aware of this.

As a concerned sister, what should I do? Should I tell my parents, talk to my counselor or talk to Carol personally? She would kill me if she knew I went through her stuff, but I want to protect her. — Confused and Concerned

Dear Confused: We know you may not agree with Carol's personal choices, but she is 19 and an adult. Her decisions are her own now, right or wrong. Say nothing.

Dear Annie: My husband is a baseball card collector, and through the

years, his hobby has evolved to include basketball cards, sports memorabilia or anything else he thinks is worth saving. He also frequents gambling boats, and all of the giveaways have now made it to his treasure trove. I can't handle it any longer.

We have a four-bedroom home with a spare room for his card collection. We can't open the door anymore because the stacks have fallen over and blocked it shut. There is a corner of our bedroom housing Christmas presents from past years that he won't put away, and he can no longer get into the room with his collectibles.

I used to clean up as well as I could, but it's just too overwhelming now. Other than torching our home and starting over, please tell me what to do. I'm ashamed to have anyone visit, and he won't let me touch his stuff. — Love Him, Not The Mess

Dear Love Him: Your husband started as a collector, but seems to have moved into compulsive hoarding.

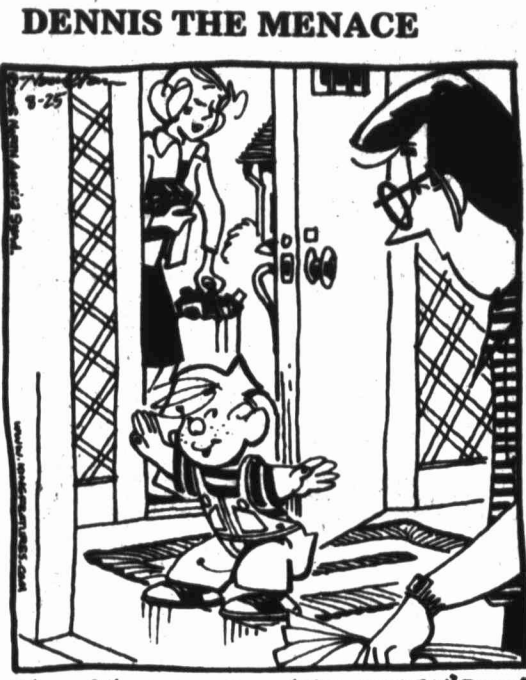
Would he be willing to stash his card collection and other items in a storage facility? Tell him his things will be safe there, and he will have more space to continue collecting. If he agrees, you may have to move his collection when he is not home, because he may never be able to actually do this himself. Meanwhile, contact the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation (ocfoundation.org) at 676 State St., New Haven, CT 06511, for more information.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

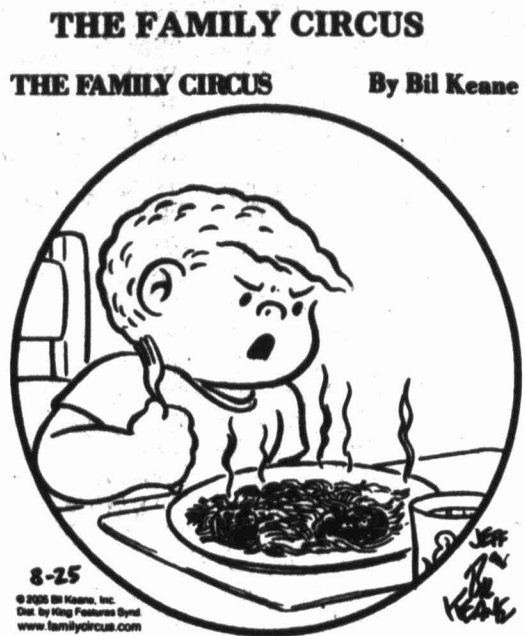
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THURSDAY

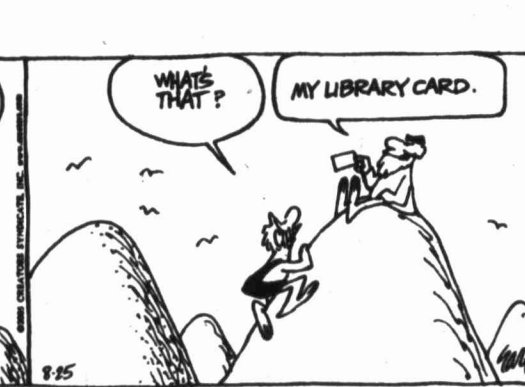
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KYLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTDS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DNC (19)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (25)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (31)
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Incorra de 11	King of the Hill	News	Amelia Ad	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Letter	American	Chopper	CSE: Crime	Law & Order	Line	That's Raven	With Small	Courtroom	Beyond Belief
7:30	Movie: Evolution	Movie: Evolution	Aguila por un Amor	Movie: Sweet Home	Big Brother 6	El Ciego del Desierto	Jay & Gino	Friends (CC)	Upstart	West Yr Jm	Witness	Movie: Never Say Never	CSE: Crime	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Eddie's Million Dollar	World Series	NFL	Great Hunters
8:30	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Aquí y Ahora	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	El Páspalo	ER (CC)	Family Guy	Movie: Not	The Hour of	Witness	Never Say	The Ultimate	Movie: Paris	Highway News	That's Raven	Women's Pilot	Baseball	Great Hunters
9:30	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	News	News	Movie: Not	The Hour of	Witness	Never Say	The Ultimate	Movie: Paris	Highway News	That's Raven	Women's Pilot	Baseball	Great Hunters	
10:30	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Latterman	Laura	Late Night	Movie: Not	The Hour of	Witness	Never Say	The Ultimate	Movie: Paris	Highway News	That's Raven	Women's Pilot	Baseball	Great Hunters	
11:30	Live (CC)	Edis (CC)	Amigos y Rivales (88)	Spin City	Procesando	Spin City	Procesando	Movie: The	Upstart	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The
12:30	News (CC)	News (CC)	Mercury Media	Procesando	Procesando	Procesando	Procesando	Movie: The	Upstart	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The	Movie: The



"ME AN' MOM HAVE BEEN MALL-SURFIN', DAD!"



"I'm not eating this pasghetti till it stops smoking."



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 25, the 237th day of 2005. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Aug. 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.

On this date:
In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.
In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 22 hours.
In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.
In 1943, U.S. forces overran New Georgia in the Solomon Islands during World War II.
In 1944, Romania declared war on Germany.
In 1950, President Truman ordered the Army to seize control of the nation's railroads to avert a strike.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1985, Samantha Smith, the schoolgirl whose letter to Yuri V. Andropov resulted in her famous peace tour of the Soviet Union, died with her father in an airliner crash in Maine.

Five years ago: A bogus Internet news release picked up by financial news agencies sent the stock of high-tech firm Emulex Corp. plunging more than 60 percent, but the shares recovered after the company refuted the reports. (Mark Jakob, the author of the phony press release, was later sentenced to nearly four years in prison for wire and securities fraud.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Van Johnson is 89. Actor-producer Mel Ferrer is 88. Game show host Monty Hall is 84. Actor Sean Connery is 75. Talk show/game show host Regis Philbin is 74.

Actor David Canary is 67. Movie director John Badham is 66. Actress Anne Archer is 58. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 56. Actor John Savage is 56. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 51. Movie director Tim Burton is 47. Actor Blair Underwood is 41. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 39. Television chef Rachael Ray ("30 Minute Meals") is 37. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 35. Model Claudia Schiffer is 35. Actor Kel Mitchell is 27.

Thought for Today: "The chains which cramp us most are those which weigh on us least." — Anne Sophie Swetchine, Russian-French author (1782-1857).



Answer to previous puzzle

J	U	S	T	T	H	E	R	M	S	P	E	E
A	S	I	A	R	O	D	E	O	P	A	L	O
M	U	D	S	L	I	N	G	E	R	A	P	S
B	A	L	S	A	M	E	D	S	T	A	I	L
S	L	E	E	T	S	E	C	U	R	E	S	
L	E	V	A	R	L	O	L	A				
T	U	B	S	I	T	E	M	K	A	Z	O	O
A	S	A	B	A	T	C	A	V	E	Z	O	O
P	A	R	T	I	N	A	N	O	S	O	P	H
P	E	T	S	P	I	X	I	E				
C	L	A	R	E	T	S		T	E	P	I	D
H	U	I	T	S		O	H	M	A	L	P	A
A	C	R	E		P	O	O	L	P	L	A	I
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Newsday Crossword

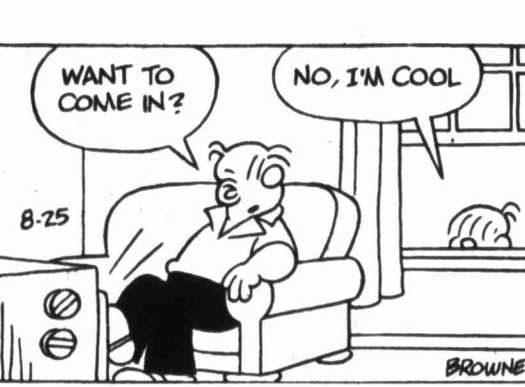
THE ROYAL WE by Charles E. Gersch
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

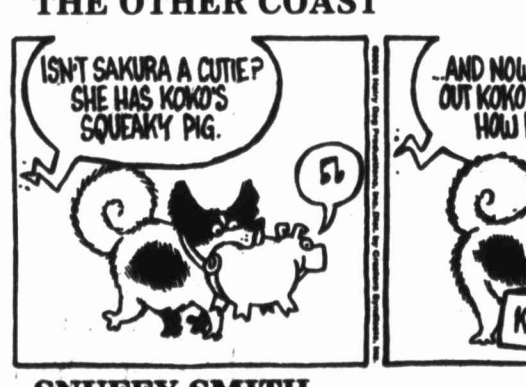
- 1 Opposite of *guerre*
- 5 WWII naval craft
- 10 Skier's aid
- 14 MacDonal'd's partner
- 15 Pave the highway again
- 16 Palindrome closer
- 17 Subject of this puzzle
- 19 Nursery item
- 20 ___-tzu
- 21 ___ Grosso (region of Brazil)
- 22 Gleason costar
- 24 Jean who played 17 Across in '53
- 26 Pick-me-up
- 27 Mine find
- 28 Suave
- 31 First action figure
- 34 Man of fables
- 35 Superfund org.
- 36 Part of speech
- 37 Mideast bigwig
- 38 Put a stop to
- 39 &
- 40 Palindrome opener
- 41 Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos
- 42 Tipper's beneficiary
- 44 Calendar abbr.
- 45 Academic figures
- 46 Glenda who played 17 Across in '72
- 50 Singer Easton
- 52 Goller Ballesteros
- 53 "It's ___brainer"
- 54 Peck's partner

DOWN

- 9 It flies over the Elysée Palace
- 10 Video game from Russia
- 11 Cate who played 17 Across in '98
- 12 Up to the task
- 13 Slightly improper
- 18 Love, in Venezia
- 23 "There's quite ___ in the air"
- 25 Phobos or Deimos
- 26 Where Bobby Shaftoe went
- 28 Hammer heads
- 29 Olympic sword
- 30 River blockers
- 31 Chew (on)
- 32 New York college
- 33 Oscar winner as 17 Across in '98
- 34 Pile up
- 37 Open, as to compromise
- 38 Defeated, in Battleships
- 40 Irish island group
- 41 Confronted
- 43 Gain a canine
- 44 Hugo villain
- 46 Ballet jumps
- 47 Stompin' site of song
- 48 Safely secured
- 49 What chaperones may count
- 50 National League park
- 51 Grp. Alger Hiss ran afoul of
- 52 Daze
- 56 Corn unit
- 57 Mrs. Sinatra #2



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Does winning matter?

Consistency, not victories, is still rewarded in NASCAR's Chase format

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Has NASCAR's new championship format for the Nextel Cup Series made winning any more of a priority than the old one? That's a particularly pertinent question going into Saturday night's Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway, the 24th race among 26 that will choose the 10 drivers who'll spend the season's final 10 weeks fighting for this year's championship.

When Jeremy Mayfield stretched his final tank of fuel to win last week at Michigan, he became the 10th different driver to win a race this year.

Only six of those drivers, however, would qualify for the Chase for the Nextel Cup if the cutoff came today instead of three races from now. Jeff Gordon, a three-time race winner in 2005, would be left out of the title mix, as would Mayfield, Kasey Kahne and Kevin Harvick.

Jeff Gordon believes that consistency is still the key to winning a title.

Rusty Wallace, Mark Martin, Ryan Newman and Jamie McMurray, meanwhile, would be in the Chase without having won a points race this season. As much as they'd like to, Wallace and Martin certainly don't need to win here or at California and Richmond in subsequent weeks to wrap up spots. Wins would help Newman and McMurray more, of course, but it's not a requirement for them, either.

Should it be?

When Mayfield's team elected to bring his No. 19 Dodge in on the final lap of what turned out to be the final caution of Sunday's race at Michigan, it did so with the intent of staying on the track the rest of the way to try to win.

Even though crew chief Slugger Labbe knew that Mayfield's car had gone 52 laps on one fuel load in a test at Michigan, it was still a gamble. Michael Waltrip, who also topped off on the final caution, ran out of fuel in the final moments of the race. Had Mayfield done the same, not only would he have lost a potential race victory but he could have suffered a blow to his hopes of making the Chase for a second straight year.

"You race to win," Labbe said. "You wake up every day, waking up thinking you can win races. That's what we did today. We had a 20th-place car, took a gamble and won the race. We're here to win, and that's what pays the bills. It pays the most points and helps to pay the bills, so that's all you can do. That's all we know how to do."

But is that attitude still the predominant one in the sport?

The inaugural Chase last year showed that winning is not necessarily the best formula for claiming a title. Kurt Busch won one of the final 10 races and Jimmie Johnson won four, but Busch won the championship with nine top-10 finishes while Johnson's late rally fell short after he'd struggled early in the Chase.

There certainly is no less talk now about the "big picture," a euphemism for "points racing,"

than in 2003 and before. Drivers might be even more points-obsessed than ever, both in trying to qualify for the Chase and in trying to win a championship in it.

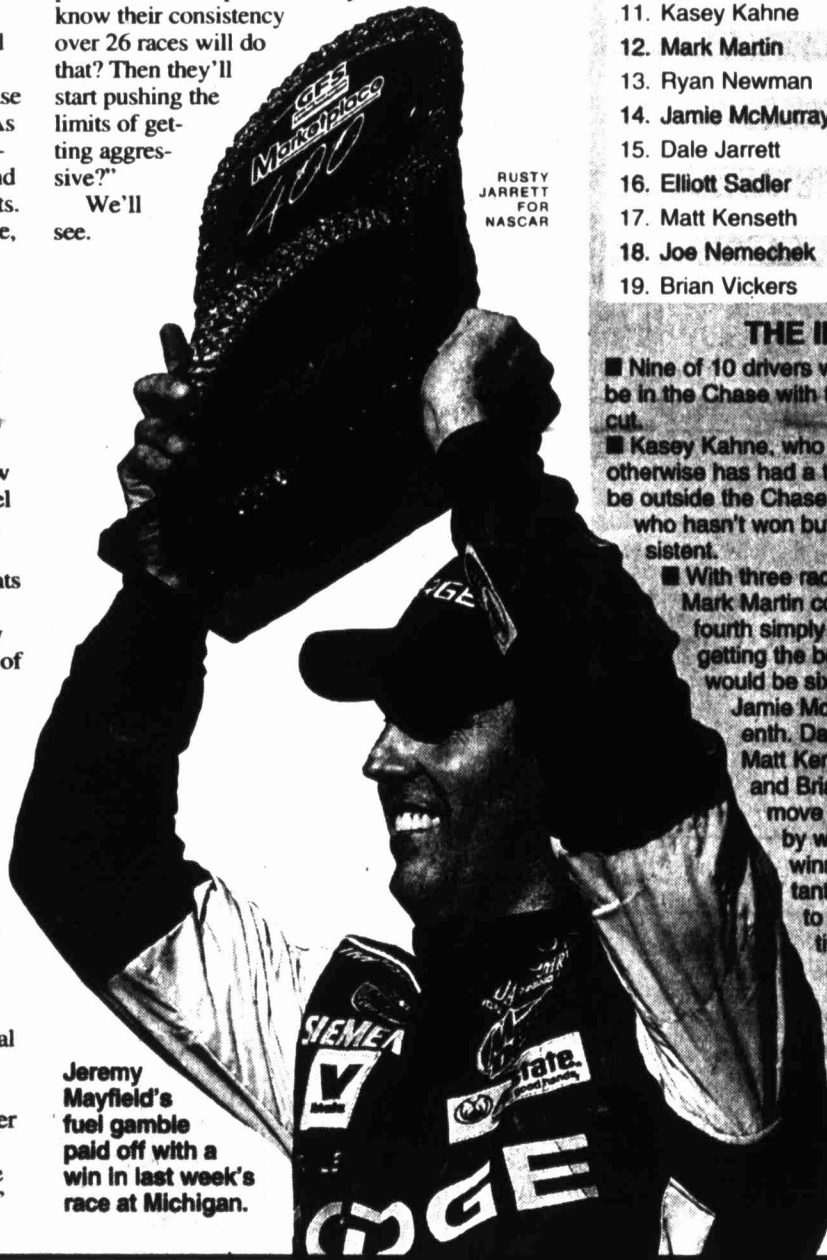
And there certainly seems to be no less chance that a driver could win the championship without winning a single race all year — something that has never happened in NASCAR's top series but still certainly could.

"The Chase is really based on trying to build excitement and push guys to be more aggressive and win more races," says Gordon, who finds himself 58 points behind 10th-place McMurray going into Saturday night's race. "We've got a points system that's built on consistency and then we change how it's structured to make this exciting 10-race stretch but then it's still about consistency."

"A guy could finish top five every weekend in those last 10 races and still win that championship. It's very possible that it could happen."

"The guys who haven't won a race yet who have been consistent and are in the top 10, I'm curious to see, if once they get into the Chase if they step it up a notch. Is it that they're playing that card because they just want to secure their position in the top 10 and they know their consistency over 26 races will do that? Then they'll start pushing the limits of getting aggressive?"

We'll see.



Jeremy Mayfield's fuel gamble paid off with a win in last week's race at Michigan.

The Poole Rule

That's Racin' motorsports writer David Poole believes that giving Nextel Cup drivers a 500-point bonus for their first win (not for each win, just the first) in the season's first 26 races, then resetting and giving the same bonus for a driver's first win during the Chase would make winning races the sport's top priority. Here's how things would look right now if "the Poole Rule" were in place.

Rank/Driver	Points	'05 wins
1. Tony Stewart	3,768	5
2. Jimmie Johnson	3,642	2
3. Greg Biffle	3,516	5
4. Jeremy Mayfield	3,369	1
5. Kurt Busch	3,348	2
6. Carl Edwards	3,258	2
7. Jeff Gordon	3,144	3
8. Kevin Harvick	3,120	1
9. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,044	1
10. Rusty Wallace	2,979	0
11. Kasey Kahne	2,905	1
12. Mark Martin	2,899	0
13. Ryan Newman	2,773	0
14. Jamie McMurray	2,702	0
15. Dale Jarrett	2,651	0
16. Elliott Sadler	2,636	0
17. Matt Kenseth	2,598	0
18. Joe Nemechek	2,533	0
19. Brian Vickers	2,487	0

THE IMPACT:

■ Nine of 10 drivers who've won races would be in the Chase with three races left until the cut.

■ Kasey Kahne, who won at Richmond but otherwise has had a tough year, would still be outside the Chase behind Rusty Wallace, who hasn't won but has been more consistent.

■ With three races to go before the cut, Mark Martin could move all the way to fourth simply by winning a race and getting the bonus. Ryan Newman would be sixth with a win and Jamie McMurray would be seventh. Dale Jarrett, Elliott Sadler, Matt Kenseth, Joe Nemechek and Brian Vickers also could move directly into the top 10 by winning a race, making winning THE most important factor in earning a right to race for the Nextel Cup title.

■ Resetting the bonus for the Chase virtually assures that the sport's champion will win at least one of those races. (Non-Chase drivers would have to win all 10 Chase races for that not to be the case.)

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

- 1. Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** "Only" fifth at Michigan. Ten of those in the Chase and he'd run away with the title. Last week: 1.
- 2. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Funny, but nobody's asking this team about peaking too early this year. Last week: 2.

3. Greg Biffle (car No. 16):

Another win before the Chase might reignite the fire this team showed in season's first half. Last week: 3.

4. Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):

It'd be remarkably fitting to see Rusty win in the last Bristol race to sew up a Chase spot. Last week: 4.

5. Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):

Hallelujah for this team's willingness to step out of its comfort zone to win a race. Last week: 6.

6. Mark Martin (car No. 6):

This team's safe enough to stop worrying about "the big picture" and win somewhere. Last week: 5.

7. Kurt Busch (car No. 97):

Just because he didn't win at Bristol this April, don't forget his brilliant record there. Last week: 7.

8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12):

Two Penske teams are in the top eight in points but neither has a win in 2005. Last week: 8.

9. Carl Edwards (car No. 99):

Sometimes you forget that Edwards has just completed his first year in the Cup series. Last week: 10.

10. Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):

All of a sudden the "bubble" between McMurray and 11th in standings is 51 points. Last week: 9.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

Former driver finds challenge racing on small scale

Late last summer, Lance Norick knew he had a problem.

He'd built a track for radio-controlled race cars at his farm in Huntersville, N.C. It was a very nice track, and the first time he welcomed other folks in to race there, about 40 showed up.

By the time the former NASCAR Truck and Busch series driver held a pro series event at his track, he had 273 cars entered. Counting neighbors and other spectators, Norick reckons more than 600 people were in his yard.

"It was like a carnival," Norick says.

Norick knew that not all of his neighbors approved, however, so he was already looking for a place to build a new, even better track.

He found and leased a 200-foot-by-200-foot corner on land behind the Metrolina Expo, and spent three months turning it into a 16-turn course

with all manner of humps and jumps and twists and turns that measures 1,250 feet at its centerline.

Norick, who also owns the Victory Lane Karting Center, held his first race at the track he calls The Farm II in November.

This week, more than 300 entrants from all over the country will bring their radio-controlled racers to Norick's track for the Summer Nitro Festival, which will feature races in three classes on Saturday and two more on Sunday.

Admission is free, and Norick expects several hundred people to watch competitors steer their cars around the track at speeds that, no kidding, will reach up to 50 mph.

"This is my NASCAR now, now

that everyone thinks I am too old for a 'real' race car" Norick joked Monday morning after returning from a race in Sumter, S.C., over the weekend to begin prepping the track for a week's worth of racing.

Norick will also be a competitor this week, running his one-eighth-scale buggy in the fastest of the five classes that will compete. A car and everything needed to get it on the track, Norick says, costs around \$1,500.

A set of tires runs \$60, and Norick will use five or six sets through the course of the competition here. "But I'm sponsored by a tire company, too," he said, with a smile.

Norick started racing radio-controlled cars when he was still driving in NASCAR. A number of NASCAR

drivers list radio-controlled racing as a hobby, and several have visited The Farm II, where Norick gets more than 125 racers for monthly local events.

On Monday, Norick was waiting to see what the weather would do before he tilled, drug, watered and packed the red-clay surface of his track and then treated it with calcium chloride to keep the moisture in. He's also installed a 26-foot-long sand trap in the track, filling it with 20 tons of sand that drivers will have to power their cars through in this week's competition.

"These guys are so good, they can 'feel' what they need to do to their cars to make them go faster," Norick said. "They'll run a practice lap and come in and adjust the oil in the shocks, or their springs, or ride heights to make them better."

"It gets pretty involved, just like NASCAR." Too involved for his yard, for sure.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SHARPIE 500
Where: Bristol Motor Speedway, a 0.533-mile concrete high-banked oval located in Bristol, Tenn.
When: Saturday at 7:40 p.m. (all times ET).
Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: TNT.
Radio: Performance Racing Network.
Purse: \$5,928,193.
Last year's winner: Dale Earnhardt Jr.
Worth mentioning: Only three drivers have won poles at Bristol since 2001: Jeff Gordon (four), Ryan Newman (two) and Elliott Sadler (one).
Kurt Busch has won four of the past seven races at the track.
Cale Yarborough holds the record, having led all 500 laps of the 1973 Southeastern 500.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
That's Racin' writer David Poole makes a case for NASCAR adding a 500-point bonus for a Nextel Cup driver's first win of the season. What do you think?

Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
The NASCAR brass is touring candidate cities as an announcement nears on where its multimillion-dollar hall of fame will be built. Do you think that decision has already been made?

Number of votes: 5,394

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Yes. Another city will be selected.	2,344	43%
Yes. The hall is going to Kansas City.	1,809	36%
No. NASCAR execs are keeping their minds wide open.	611	11%
No. The choice will be a wild card.	530	10%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT
■ **Jeremy Mayfield** has eight straight top-20 finishes. His past three finishes have been 11th or better, including his first victory of the season last weekend at Michigan.
■ **Brian Vickers** has six consecutive top-15 finishes, including three straight top 10s.
■ **Matt Kenseth** has jumped from 24th to 15th in points over the past 10 races behind six top-10 finishes during that span.

WHO'S NOT
■ **Tony Stewart?** Well, at Bristol he has only one top-10 finish in his past seven races at the track.
■ **Kevin Harvick** has finished 15th or worse in eight of his last nine races.
■ **Dale Jarrett** has finished 14th or worse in his last six races and has led a total of two laps this season.

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Aug. 21:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	3,268	21. Jeff Burton	2,359
2. Jimmie Johnson	3,142	22. Kyle Busch	2,329
3. Greg Biffle	3,016	23. Casey Mears	2,217
4. Rusty Wallace	2,979	24. Bobby Labonte	2,209
5. Mark Martin	2,899	25. Ricky Rudd	2,169
6. Jeremy Mayfield	2,869	26. Scott Riggs	2,115
7. Kurt Busch	2,848	27. Sterling Marlin	2,076
8. Ryan Newman	2,773	28. Mike Bliss	2,062
9. Carl Edwards	2,758	29. Ken Schrader	2,051
10. Jamie McMurray	2,702	30. Kyle Petty	2,044
11. Dale Jarrett	2,651	31. Jeff Green	2,042
12. Jeff Gordon	2,644	32. Dave Blaney	2,004
13. Elliott Sadler	2,636	33. Scott Wimmer	1,911
14. Kevin Harvick	2,620	34. Travis Kvapil	1,816
15. Matt Kenseth	2,598	35. Jason Leffler	1,538
16. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,544	36. Mike Wallace	1,521
17. Joe Nemechek	2,533	37. Bobby Gordon	1,425
18. Brian Vickers	2,487	38. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1,399
19. Kasey Kahne	2,405	39. Kevin Lepage	1,085
20. Michael Waltrip	2,364	40. Terry Labonte	712

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Aug. 20:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	3,606	11. J.J. Yeley	2,693
2. Clint Bowyer	3,402	12. Jason Keller	2,692
3. Reed Sorenson	3,282	13. Greg Biffle	2,476
4. Carl Edwards	3,255	14. Johnny Sauter	2,456
5. Kenny Wallace	3,078	15. Stacy Compton	2,384
6. Denny Hamlin	3,053	16. Randy LaJoie	2,357
7. Paul Menard	2,847	17. Justin Labonte	2,317
8. David Green	2,828	18. Jon Wood	2,303
9. David Sostme	2,802	19. Kevin Harvick	2,138
10. Ashton Lewis	2,728	20. Stanton Barrett	2,138

NEXT RACE: Friday, Food City 250, Bristol, Tenn.

THE LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 13:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Danie Setzer	2,400	6. Jimmy Spencer	2,069
2. Ted Migrove	2,222	7. Matt Crafton	2,017
3. Bobby Hamilton	2,186	8. Mike Skinner	1,996
4. Ron Hornaday	2,133	9. Ricky Craven	1,982
5. David Reutemann	2,114	10. David Starr	1,978

NEXT RACE: Sept. 8, NCTS 200, Richmond, Va.

FOOTBALL OVER 2005



A Special Sports
Supplement From

August 25, 2005

What's Inside ...



• Preview stories and photos of all five Big Spring fall sports teams



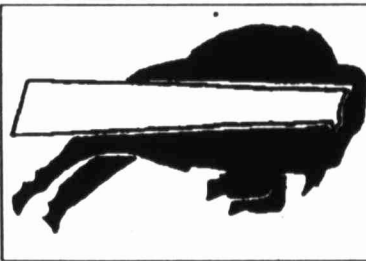
• Garden City's football team seeks return to playoffs ... and more.
PAGE 16



• Grady seeks to dethrone Wellman-Union as district champions.
PAGE 23



• Coahoma enters new era under head coach Ken Cates.
PAGE 27



• Depth should not be an issue this season for the Buffaloes in Forsan.
PAGE 30



Steer athletic teams develop new philosophy for new start

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The first big priority new athletic director Tim Holt focused on when arriving in Big Spring this summer was a new philosophy of how the athletic programs were going to be run.

"I have come up with a new phrase called "committed to ..." and I hope to implement that into every sport when school starts," said Holt a few weeks before fall classes began. "The football players have already got a taste of what I mean and hopefully the other sports will too."

There is a lot behind the new philosophy. Here are a few examples of what Holt talked about.

— The biggest thing is Holt wanting to commit to is making sports a priority in the school. He wants

to improve the self-discipline of the student athlete and wants to improve the mental, physical and financial side of athletics too.

"The philosophy is not just for high school sports either," said Holt. "I want to start in seventh grade and even implement this during the summertime. The summer has to be a priority to athletes."

— Holt wants to make a commitment to developing the kids.

— Strength training will now be a big priority in all sports — not just football.

"I like the fact that the new staff is putting more of a focus on the strength training side," said Big Spring junior Caleb Choate, a football and baseball player at the

See COMMITTED, Page 3

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RITCHEY
"We need to be committed to our teammates on and off the court."



TANNEHILL
"This new philosophy will even things out sports-wise. Every sport is equal."



LEWIS
"It means to never give up. If you fail at something just keep fighting."



PIERCEFIELD
"I think the school is now going to be committed to Big Spring as a whole and not biased toward one sport."



SAGE
"I think it means to give everything you got."



WHITEHEAD
"I hope this makes the community want to come see our games."



TOVAR
"To be dedicated."



HOLT
"The slogan goes deeper than athletics."

COMMITTED

Continued from Page 2

school. "And that the philosophy is true for all sports and not just football."

— The best news for parents is that Holt plans on making academics just as much of a priority as athletics. There will be mandatory tutorials on most days for all athletes who are having grade troubles. There will also be weekly grade and discipline checks to make sure the student athletes stay on schedule.

"This will be required for all student athletes who are not at 80 percent for a class and will be implemented until the percentage is above 80," said Holt. "Missing them will be like missing a practice in your sport."

Big Spring senior Krista Chesworth, who plays volleyball and softball at the school, adds, "If your committed in the classroom then you'll be committed on the court (field)."

— Holt also wants his athletic department to be committed to the recruitment of athletes who aren't currently involved in sports.

"We need to get some people out for sports who aren't out right now because there is a lot of talent roaming the halls," he said. "We will try to do this by issuing highlight films, giving out questionnaires and promoting sports at the next level."

— Another big one in the eyes of the students is the effort to be committed to making all sports equal at Big Spring. Holt said he wants to encourage to play as many sports as they want.

"I think the new philosophy will even things out sports-wise," said Big Spring junior Ryan Tannehill, this year's starting quarterback on the football team. Tannehill has also been apart of the basketball, baseball and golf programs in his first two years of high school.

— Some of the other coaches have their ideas as to what the new philosophy means to them.

Big Spring volleyball coach Jason McAden, who has started his first year at Big Spring, thinks it is a great slogan and added that



MCADEN



CHESWORTH

Football Fever

his team has already implemented it into their workouts.

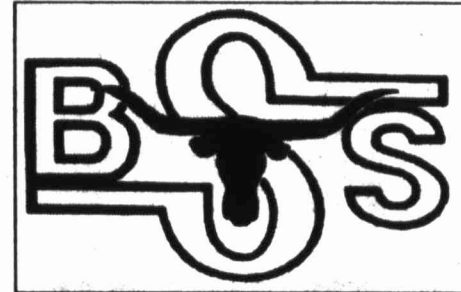
"Anything worth doing is worth doing 100 percent," said McAden. "Athletics is a lot of work and there is so much more to it than just playing the sport."

Big Spring tennis coach Kathy Boland, also in her first year at the school thinks it has a lot to do with heart.

"Its all about heart to me because you have to have heart in sports," said Boland. "Heart and commitment go hand in hand. I also think it means you hate to lose."

Big Spring senior Kyle Piercefield, a multiple sport athlete at the school, said he is looking forward to some of the new changes that have been made and hopes the community is too.

"Its like we are turning over a new leaf," said Piercefield, who plays football, basketball and baseball. "I think the school is now going to be



committed to Big Spring as a whole and not have a bias towards one sport. We are going to be committed to whatever we do.

"I think it is going to be a good thing. I like the guys we had here before, but there is always room for improvement. I hope everyone in town understands what we're doing and wants to be apart of it."

Big Spring senior Kalin Whitehead, the starting halfback on this year's football team, went as far as to encourage the community to get out to games.

"I hope the community wants to now come to our games," said Whitehead, who also plays on the basketball team. "We have not been much fun to watch the last couple of years and I can see why fans wouldn't want to watch us, but we are all looking forward to the season and we hope the fans are too."

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A New Beginning

Steer football team starts over with new coach

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

A revamped coaching staff for the Big Spring football program will have fans watching a different style of offense for the first time in more than 15 years as new head coach Tim Holt will emphasize a lot more running than throwing.

"We are going to probably be running about 70 percent and throwing the other 30 percent," said Holt. "And several different players will be used to run the ball. That's the beauty of the offense."

The Steers had run a pass-happy offense under former head coach Dwight Butler. The quarterback rarely stood under center and running the ball was second to often deep pass plays. This year, Holt wants to become more run-oriented and will do so by using a slot T formation, which is similar to the more popular wing T.

"The halfback is the one who will get the ball the most in this offense, but it is designed to get everyone involved so the defense can't key on just on guy," said Holt. "Most of the plays are misdirection plays and if the offense is run right the other team will have

trouble locating the ball."

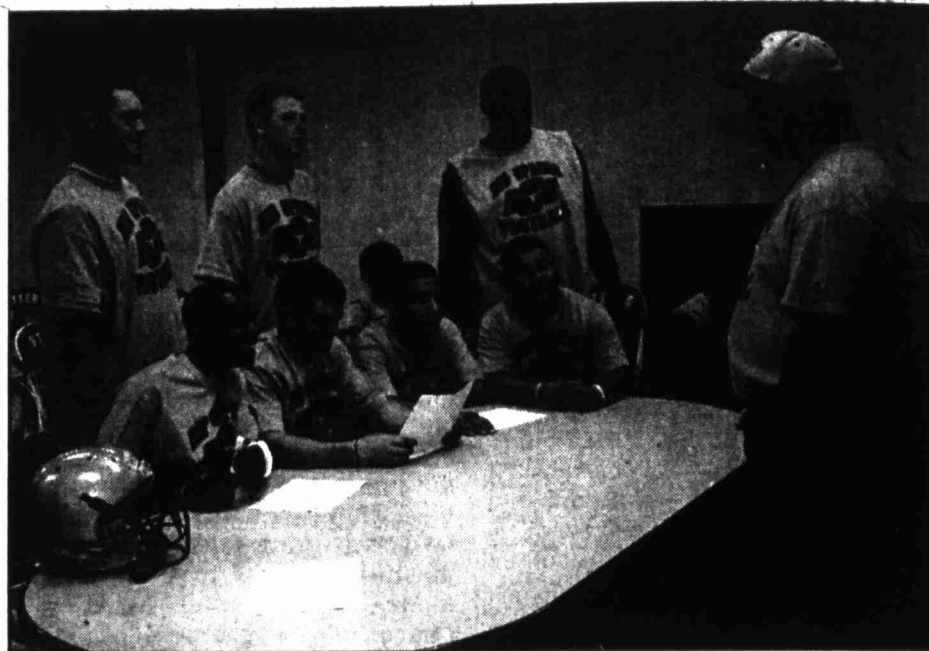
Perhaps the most important runner this year for the Steers will be senior halfback Kalin Whitehead, who was one of two primary runners last year.

"We need leadership and patience out of him this year," said Holt. "I say patience because it may take some time for the offensive line to get used to a run first philosophy. He also needs to stay healthy."

Other players which could see time at the halfback position include senior lineman Calvin Butler and junior Caleb Choate. The fullback position will be manned by junior Lance Tissue and senior Zac Chesworth. Holt will also have a tailback position on the field at times this season and that will be filled by seniors Alex Castillo, Matt Hilario or Jacob Nichols.

Castillo is the team's leading returning receiver from last season so expect him to possibly line up out there, as well.

There will be a change at quarterback this year for Big Spring. Junior Ryan Tannehill will take snaps under center this season as he replaces senior Andy Lasater, who will move to receiver on



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring's football team starts over this year with a new head coach for the first time in more than 15 years. Tim Holt, far right, is the new head football coach and athletic director. He will have several seniors returning to the starting lineup this season. Front row, from left: Johnny Williams, Kalin Whitehead, Matt Hilario and Matt Rodriguez. Back: Kyle Piercefield, Andy Lasater, Dexter Straughter and Calvin Butler.

offense.

Holt said the decision to take Lasater out of the quarterback position was a choice made by the former quarterback.

"Andy came to me when I arrived here and said that he didn't want to play quarterback because he didn't want to hurt his shoulder again," said Holt. "He really wants to pitch this year during baseball season and wants to save his arm."

The switch will not really affect the team this year because of the new offensive philosophy. And both players will be very key in their new positions.

"Ryan is going to be the leader of the offense and he must stay healthy this year," said Holt. "He has great mobility and throws the ball well on the run and when he gets a grip on the offense, he will do some special things for us.

"The faster he gets the routes of the receivers down, the better off we will be in the passing game."

The other three wide receivers this year besides Lasater will be senior Robert Finn, sophomore Terrance Clemons, who Holt described as a fast talent and possibly Hilario some as well. The tight end position will again be played by senior Kyle Piercefield.

The offensive linemen could see troubles early on because of the new style of offense, said Holt, but by district time should have things down.

The three key players on the line this year will be returning center Matt Rodriguez, senior Dexter Straughter and junior Michael Green. Junior Ricky Nunez is expected to make a strong push for a spot as is senior Josh Hernandez.

See BEGINNING, Page 5



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BEGINNING

Continued from Page 4

Junior Gus Waddy could also figure into the mix.

"The offense looks slow right now to be honest, but it will get better," said Holt. "They are working hard and responding well to what we ask of them."

This year's defense will be under the direction of new Defensive Coordinator Keith Barnes. Holt said they will run a split six formation, which means they will run a four or six man front and either one or two linebackers.

The purpose is to stop the run first, according to Holt.

"We want to force teams to throw by stopping the run first," he added.

Several players return on defense this year for the Steers. The line will feature Butler, Piercefield and Waddy. Holt expects the linebacker position to be held down by several different players. Chesworth is going to be key this year as is Hernandez.

"Zac is small in stature but big in heart," said Holt. "He needs to have a big year."

"We are also expecting Josh to have a big year and show strong leadership on the field."

Other possible fillers at linebacker include Tissue and Choate, said Holt.

Hilario was an all-district first team selection last year in the secondary and will return there this year, but is versatile enough that he may see action elsewhere as

well. Also expected to play a key role in the secondary will be Castillo, who played primarily on offense last year.

Holt mentioned several keys which must happen this year if the Steers want to be successful on the field.

"We first have to forget about what happened in the past and concentrate on this year," said Holt.

How fast the athletes can buy into the system and develop consistency were also mentioned by Holt. The team also has to be disciplined into doing things it takes to win.

Frenship and Plainview are the early favorites in District 4-4A according to Holt, some of the players and Texas high school publications such as Dave Campbell's 2005 Texas Football.

Campbell's predicts Plainview will win the district this year and also ranked them 19th on the pre-season poll. Frenship is picked to finish second, while Andrews and Big Spring are slotted in the third and fourth spots, respectively.

"Andrews will be tough again I am sure and Lake View could also do some good things," said Holt.

Lake View is picked fifth, while Lubbock Estacado's predicted finish is sixth.

The main reason Plainview is predicted to win the district is due to the return of 2,000 yard rusher Jamar Wall. Tyler Lyons returns to the quarterback position for Frenship after throwing for 2,628 yards last year. Lake View returns dual threat quarterback Donnell Harris and Estacado will feature speedy back Tony Glynn.

"We want to beat Andrews more than anything after that article that was written about us," said Choate. "We also plan on playing on Thanksgiving Day."

Holt's expectations are just playing as well as they can can.

"If they start buying into things that we are teaching then I will always believe we have a chance," said Holt.

The Steers went 3-7 in each of the past two seasons and went 1-4 in the district last year. They graduated mammoth offensive lineman J.R. Rodriguez, defensive lineman Steven Heffington and utility receiver Jerry Doporto as all three will be playing football at Cisco Junior College this year. They also graduated starting linebackers Daniel Castillo and Quentin Vanderbilt as well as J. Rich Sparks and Daniel Garza.



BARNES



RODRIGUEZ



TISSUE



Holt brings new offense, 15 playoff trips to Steers

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Several changes were made to the Big Spring athletic department during the summer and new Athletic Director and head football coach Tim Holt was at the forefront of all the decisions.

Holt revamped nearly the entire athletic department upon arrival as the only head varsity coaches returning from last year are golf coach Steve Ward and cross country coach Randy Britton, who will not be heading up the boy's track

program this season.

In Holt's defense, much of the athletic department staff chose to leave after former Athletic Director Dwight Butler, who served at Big Spring for more than 15 years, resigned from his position late last year.

Holt comes to Big

See HOLT, Page 6

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Big Spring head coach Tim Holt, left, goes over things with an assistant coach during action at the Lamesa scrimmage last Thursday. The Steers won the scrimmage five scores to one.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

HOLT

Continued from Page 5

Spring with an extensive background in football.

He began his coaching career in 1983 at a Class 3A school in Durant, Okla. where his team went 13-1 on the year and won the state championship. He then became a head coach of a Class 2A football team in Colorado and won the state title there in 1985 after going undefeated.

After his two-year stint in Colorado, Holt moved to Texas and became the linebacker and strength coach at Alice and went to the Class 5A playoffs in both of his years there.

From Alice, he moved on to become the defensive coordinator at Gregory Portland where he served two years at the Class 4A level. He advanced to the regional semifinal and final, respectively, in his two seasons there.

His first head football coach and athletic director position came at Falfurrias, a Class 3A school in Texas. And he guided that team to its first winning season in 12 years before heading to George West one year later.

At George West, he again served as the athletic director and head football coach, this time for five years. In his five years there, he compiled an overall record of 45-15 and made the playoffs every year, including two trips to the regional quarterfinals.

Holt then went back to Gregory Portland, this time as a head football coach and athletic director. He spent three years there and his record improved from 2-8 to 5-5 to 9-2 (playoff loss).

From Gregory Portland, Holt moved to a Class 4A school near Austin called Taylor. He spent four years there and went to the playoffs three out of the four years.

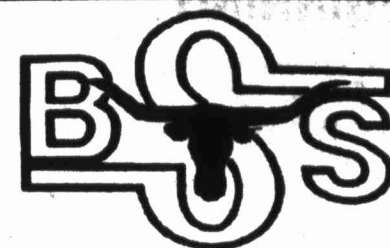
In all, he has been to the playoffs 15 times in his coaching career.

He came to Big Spring because of its tradition and the fact that he believes there is a lot of potential here.

"I think this is a diamond in the rough so to speak," said Holt.

He also liked the area for his family and the fact that the school is a bit more conservative than Taylor and will allow him to imply some old-fashioned methods which he still uses today such as hard work and dedication.

"I have the utmost respect for what has been here, and I want



everyone to know that I am following a good person," said Holt. "At the same time, we feel like we need to make our own assessments."

Hopefully those assessments will translate into success in the athletic programs. Holt's goal for next season is to see how good they can get and set a bar for the upcoming years.

"My big thing is excellence," said Holt. "We want to find out what the benchmark is and then get as good as we can get based on that benchmark. I don't know where that is yet, but we want to make as great strides as we can to become a solid program all around."

Holt brings with him to Big Spring his wife Gwen and four children. He will have two kids in high school next season.

Cortnee will be a sophomore and is involved in cheerleading, volleyball, track and was a state qualifier in power-lifting this past year, all while being an honors student.

Chayson will be a freshman this year at Big Spring. He was the starting quarterback in eighth grade last year and was involved in track and will be encouraged to play basketball, as well. He was also an honors student.

"I want my son and other children to have to earn their way," said Holt, who responded to a question involving whether or not Chayson would be the starting quarterback next year. "I think I am not teaching him or my other kids anything in life if I make things easy for them."

Holt's other two children are Cayleb and Caysi. Cayleb is going to be in seventh grade and has competed in football and track, while Caysi will begin fifth grade next year and is also heavily involved in athletics.

"The type of community we live in is very important," said Holt. "I have heard a lot about West Texas hospitality and that all sounds good to me."

Holt and his staff will run their offense out of the slot T, but will have many multiple formations, including one-back sets, wing T sets and some misdirection plays.

The defense will be mostly an eight-man front, according to Holt.

•BIG SPRING STEERS•

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	Odessa High	7:30
Sept. 2	@Odessa Permian	7:30
Sept. 9	Hereford	7:30
Sept. 16	Lubbock High (Homecoming)	7:30
Sept. 23	Open	
Sept. 30	@San Angelo Central	7:30
Oct. 7	@Lake View	7:30
Oct. 14	*Andrews	7:30
Oct. 21	*@Estacado	7:30
Oct. 28	*Frenship	7:30
Nov. 4	*@Plainview	7:30

* denotes district games



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By TRO
Sports

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HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
From left: Seniors Brenn Swinney, Carmen Lewis, Raegan Ritchey and Krista Chesworth are going to be counted on heavily to lead this year's Lady Steers volleyball squad. All four athletes are hitters and will look to attack the nets this season.

Lady Steers seek District 4-4A title in 2005

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

After two straight playoff seasons under former head coach Revis Daggett, the 2005 version of the Big Spring volleyball squad expects no less this season and

much more.

Last year's team went 8-2 in District 4-4A action and lost in the first round of the postseason, but several key contributors will be back this year to try to make another run at a state title.

"The playoffs are very much expected this year," said new head

coach Jason McAden. "And I will be disappointed if we don't win the district."

Lake View won the district last year as they defeated the Lady Steers twice.

Big Spring didn't have much trouble with any other team, but settled for second place after the

Maidens ran the table.

"I hate to limit this team because I would like to think we can get to state this year," said McAden, who was fortunate enough to take over an already legit squad.

McAden expects Lake View to be

See TIED, Page 8

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McAden brings different style of action into play

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

New volleyball coach Jason McAden gave two reasons as to why he decided to come back to the high school level and take over the Big Spring volleyball program.

"The program has been success-

ful and I know the kids," said McAden. "Those are two reasons why I decided to come to Big Spring. The only way I wanted to come back to high school volleyball is if I knew I didn't have to build a program. The program

See **McADEN**, Page 9

TIED

Continued from Page 7

tough again as well as Frenship, but also knows that Andrews will compete and you can never count them out. Lubbock Estacado could be a surprise, as well, said McAden.

The strengths of this year's team is depth. McAden not only has several key returners back for another season, but he also plans on using some young talents, as well, which should keep his players fresh throughout a tough District 4-4A season.

Leading the way this year for Big Spring will be four returning hitters

from last season — seniors Raegan Ritchey, Carmen Lewis, Brenn Swinney and Krista Chesworth.

Ritchey, who play in the middle, brings a lot to the table besides her volleyball skills. McAden will count on one of his senior captains to lead by example and continue to bring encouragement and positivity to an experienced team. In 2004, Ritchey earned first team all-district honors.

"Raegan is the kind of kid every parent, teacher and coach wants to deal with," said McAden. "She will be very key to our team this year because my offense and defense is based around our middle hitters. They are our first option and I want them to be worn out in the front row."

Lewis played the middle last year, but will move from that position this year. McAden said where she will play is still up in the air, but she will definitely be involved in the action and could end up on the right side. Lewis also captured a district honor last year as she was voted to the superlative team as the district's best serve receiver/passers.

"I am moving her from the middle because it is tough on a setter when the middle hitter is left-handed like Carmen," he added. "Carmen is fun to watch, is quick and has good ball control."

Swinney, who was also voted to the first team last year as a hitter, is also left-handed and a possible right side hitter.

"Brenn passes well and has good control, and she also works around the not-so polished parts of her game."

Another outside hitter

this year will be Chesworth, who is the hardest hitter on the team, according to McAden.

"She will literally knock you out with the ball," he said. "Not many girls are going to want to try to block her because it will hurt."

"Krista works hard at everything. She is not flashy, but she finds ways to get it done."

Helping Ritchey out in the middle this year will be sophomore Amanda Caskey. Caskey is a huge blocker who should shut down opposing team's best hitters.

"I am really excited for her this year after what she did in the off-season," said McAden.

Another first-team starter will be junior Mallory Dunn, who will taking over the setting duties vacated by Shannon Higgins and Kendal Adams. McAden is counting on Dunn to be the coach on the floor.

"Mallory's improvement from last year to this year is like night and day," he said. "And the team is getting comfortable with her, too."

Several other players will see some action at the varsity level this year, including seniors Heather Policky, Britni Rodriguez and Chalesa Johnson.

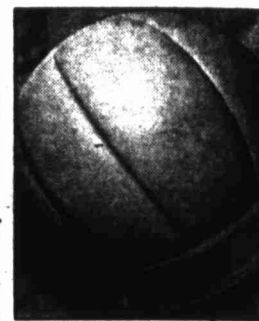
Rodriguez will see action on the floor as defensive specialists, while Policky could play several different positions, but will most likely end up as a right-side hitter.

A new position — the libero — was added to high school volleyball this year and it is geared strictly toward defense. The libero was used before this year at the college level and olympic level, but never at the high school level.

Big Spring's libero will be played by junior Katy Abner, who is "without a doubt" the team's best defensive player, according to McAden.

"The position of libero is pretty much described by Katy," said McAden. "She just gets a hand on every ball and really will lead us on defense this year."

The person playing in the libero position will play six rotations of



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Libero added as another position for H.S. coaches

• Abner, Rodriguez will each share time at new defensive position this season for B.S.

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

A new position will be added to the high school volleyball ranks this season as the libero will be incorporated into play in the state of Texas.

It is a defensive only position which allows coaches to get more players on the court, doing so by taking up less substitutions.

"We get 18 subs per game and it used to be something we had to worry about," said new Big Spring coach Jason McAden. "But now I don't anticipate having any team go over that limit. I would even think the limit may be lowered in the near future."



ABNER



RODRIGUEZ

The libero may play six rotations in the back row instead of just three and is the only player on the court who can sub in for more than one person each game.

"It allows a kid that excels in defense to be an intricate part of the team," said McAden. "It also opens up more playing time for the shorter players who were always told they were too short to play."

"It is huge at the high school level because you are always trying to get in more players and now we have an extra position to work when trying to accomplish that."

The libero is allowed to replace any player in a back row position, but must be replaced by the same player whom she replaced. The player can also go in at any time during a dead ball. Every other player wanting to check into the game must request to be subbed, the official must acknowledge the sub and then give permission to the sub to enter. And that sub also counts against the sub count.

"Coaches that have used it before will have the advantage," said McAden. "I would anticipate every

See LIBERO, Page 10

TIED

Continued from Page 8

defense, wear a different color jersey and can check into a game without approval from anyone. Rodriguez could also see time at that position this season too.

Besides depth, the overall team chemistry is another positive as most of the players played together last year and everyone of them get along on and off the court.

"Our chemistry is great right now," said Ritchey. "We all get



POLICKY

along great."

A realistic goal set by McAden was to qualify for the regional tournament. He also doesn't want to get upset in the playoffs anymore.

"If we can get things to click then we are as good as any Class 4A team in the state," he added. "And if we lose in the playoffs we better get our tails kicked because I want to leave it all out on the floor."

Besides winning, Ritchey hopes to get the school involved more this year.

"I want to go 10-0 in the district and get to the regional final, but I also want the school to come watch us play and cheer us on," she added. "When we get backed up by fans we do a lot better."

McADEN

Continued from Page 8

here has been successful and that was a big factor to me.

"They are good kids that work hard and that is something every coach wants when they take over a program."

McAden also wanted to stay in West Texas because that is where his family is. He comes to Big Spring from Western Texas College in Snyder, where he started the program and coached for one season. After Western Texas College, he moved on to McMurry University in Abilene for a brief time in the off-season and then decided to take over at Big Spring.

"I was the first coach at Western Texas College and to be honest that was a tough situation for me,"



McADEN

said McAden. "Some things weren't done right there and for the program's sake I hope things change."

McAden started his college coaching at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene where he served as a player/coach in 1996. During the midway point of the season, the head coach at the school left for another position and McAden was given the interim head coaching title, but did not coach there after that.

McAden coached in Hobbs, N.M., Sanger, where he won the school's first playoff game and A&M Consolidated in College Station before heading to Snyder.

The first-year coach said he is very detailed-orientated and thinks volleyball is all about chemistry.

McAden, who recruited Higgins last year to play at Western Texas College, is married to Kellie and has a 4-year-old son named Jackson and a 17-month-old daughter named Jaron. The family will continue to live in Snyder.

LADY STEERS

2005 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26-27	@San Angelo Tourney	TBA
Aug. 30	@Midland High	5:00
Sept. 2-3	@Seminole Tourney	TBA
Sept. 10	Wink @Andrews	TBA
Sept. 13	Lubbock Coronado	7:00
Sept. 17	*@Lake View	3:15
Sept. 20	*Andrews	7:15
Sept. 24	*@Estacado	3:15
Sept. 27	*Frenship	7:15
Oct. 1	*@Plainview	3:15
Oct. 4	*Lake View	7:15
Oct. 8	*@Andrews	3:15
Oct. 11	*Estacado	7:15
Oct. 15	*@Frenship	3:15
Oct. 18	*Plainview	7:15

* denotes district games

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SKY'S

The Limit

Tennis squad will need youth to step up play

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Several seniors graduated from last year's Big Spring tennis team, but a few regulars return from the team which finished second in the district.

First-year head coach Kathy Boland, who took over for Sarah

Corse after she resigned at the end of last year, will have plenty of youth to develop.

Three key seniors on both the boy's and girl's teams last year are now gone.

Veronica Villarreal was the girl's team's No. 1 player for four straight and reached the state tour-

See SKY'S, Page 11



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Seniors Jamie Jordan, left, and Natasha Neighbors hope to lead the Big Spring tennis team this year. The two will also pair up in doubles action this fall.



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LIBERO

Continued from Page 9

school in our district will take advantage of this option."

There are some disadvantages for McAden, but they don't outweigh the advantages.

The libero cannot serve and it is harder to develop a well-rounded player because of it.

The player can't set in front of the 10-foot line and can't attack from above the net.

"There are not a lot of things I don't like about it," said McAden.

The position was started in International volleyball and in European Professional Leagues

before making its way into the Olympics in 2000. The libero position was adopted in college around 2002 and Texas is one of the first states to start using it at the high school level.

"That to me is kind of shocking since Texas was one of the last states to adopt the rally scoring and the best three-of-five format for matches," said McAden.

The first American to play the libero position at the Olympic level was Stacy Sykora, who is from Texas and attended Texas A&M.

Big Spring fans can expect either senior Britni Rodriguez or junior Katy Abner to play the libero position this year.

However, the one who is not playing the libero spot will see extensive playing time this year in the back row.

McAden wants his libero player to have quickness, be athletic and vocal and have good balance and body control.

They also must have aggressiveness within their body control and know their limitations.

"Katy and Britni are perfect examples of what this position is because they are both good defensive players," said McAden.

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SKY'S

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-nament in the fall in singles. The Lady Steers also lost Alex Gariepy and Jessica Rodriguez, the team's No. 2 and 3 players from last year's fall team.

The guy's team lost its No. 2, 3 and 4 players in Nick Rivera, Nick Pardez and Jason Vela, but return their ace from last year in junior Roshan Shroff.



WARD

Shroff, who comes from a strong tennis family, will be the key returnee on the boy's side with experience this year. Four other players have some experience, but not in the roles will play this year.

Junior Bryan Juan was in the top six last year on the boy's team, but will jump all the way up to No. 2 this season. And with that comes a strong responsibility.



JUAN

"Bryan is a consistent finesse player, but he can play with some power at times, too," said Boland.

The boy's No. 3 player will be sophomore Ainhon Nghiem, the team's vocal leader.

"He is only a sophomore, but I think he is the team's vocal leader," said Boland. "I think he will surprise some people this year because he is much improved."

The boy's No. 4 and 5 players this season will be sophomore Jeremy Landin and junior Robert Andrade, respectively. The sixth and final position is still undecided at this point. Freshman James Bowen, sophomores Braden Schaffner and Shane Bowles and junior Matt Callison are the four candidates for the final spot in the lineup.

Committed To...



"It means that you're not a quitter and you will stay with one thing and continue to work hard."

Neighbors

The six guys who make the final lineup for Big Spring this season should also expect to play doubles this year, too, according to Boland.

"I don't have the teams figured out yet, but they will each be paired with someone," said Boland.

In her final campaign at Big Spring, senior Natasha Neighbors takes over as the team's No. 1 player and will have big shoes to fill as she replaces Villarreal.

"Natasha is a big hitter, but she can be erratic at times too," said Boland. "She hits the ball harder than the guys sometimes."

Boland also said Neighbors' goals this year is to go to state in doubles and to keep a good attitude and she also wants to play tennis in college.

Sophomore Allison Ward makes a huge jump from her sixth position last year and takes over the No. 2 spot vacated by Gariepy. Ward is young and a bit inexperienced, but she has big-time potential in tennis, said Boland.

"If she works and improves on her mental game and her game at the net, she'll be a great player," she added.

The only other senior on the team this year is Jamie Jordan, who, like Neighbors, will be looked at to lead by example this season. She will be paired with Neighbors this fall on the No. 1 doubles team, as well.

Junior Rosie Alcantar and freshman Brittany Farmer will be the No. 4 and 5 players, respectively, while sophomores C.J. Riddle and Michelle McMurtrey and freshman Elizabeth Wheeler will all battle for the sixth and final position.

Alcantar will pair with Ward on the doubles side as of right now, but the teams could change as the season goes on. The mixed doubles team has not been finalized either, according to Boland.

Last season, Big Spring lost to rival Frenship during the District 4-4A season and took home second, but was able to make a big-time run at the regional tournament. They reached the final four after defeating Pampa and Arlington Heights in the first two rounds, but lost in the semifinals to Class 4A powerhouse Wichita Falls High.

Frenship should be the favorite this season again, but Big Spring, as well as Andrews, plans on giving the Tigers a run for their money. Big Spring narrowly defeated



Boland's tennis history helps her get head job

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The community will not be able to look to find many familiar faces this year during the athletic seasons, and the Big Spring tennis team is no exception.

Kathy Boland steps into the fold this season as the director of a young and inexperienced squad. It will be Boland's first head coaching position, but she comes from an extensive background in the sport.

Boland's high school team — Vernon — won the state championship her senior year in 1998 and placed third in doubles.

She attended college at Martin Methodist College in Tennessee where she played for three years and was nationally ranked in the

top 10 in doubles during two of those seasons. Her and her doubles partner finished seventh at the national tournament during her junior year. She also became an assistant coach at Martin Methodist during her final year of school.

After college she went to work for a tennis company in Atlanta, Ga., before returning to Vernon as an assistant under legendary head coach Ruben Vargas. Vernon has not finished below third in the state in Class 3A during the last 18 years.

Boland will take a lot of what Vargas taught her when she tries to develop the young talent at Big Spring.

"He taught us to work hard and to be consistent and that is what I am going to try to do here," said Boland. "My main focus right now is to try to find a balance between both teams in all six spots."



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See SKY'S, Page 12

Out

Of Nowhere

Big Spring swimmers seek return trip to state

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Plenty of experienced swimmers with optimism return to the pool this season for Big Spring. And after the year they had last year, hardly anyone in town blames them for the optimism.

Senior Daniel Pike and junior Ryan Hughey lead this year's boy's team, while sophomore Lauren

Sage takes over as the girl's top swimmer after three-time state qualifier Jessica Hughey was lost to graduation.

Pike and Ryan Hughey were both a part of the boy's 400 meter relay team which advanced to state last year. That group finished 14th at state, but arguably returns the best two swimmers from that team.

Both Pike and Hughey have lofty



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Junior Ryan Hughey, sophomore Lauren Sage and senior Daniel Pike should have legitimate shots at state this season in the pool for Big Spring. Hughey and Pike went together last year on a relay team, while Sage just missed qualifying at the regional meet.

goals this year, including a return trip to the state meet in Austin. But this time, they are seeking trips in their best individual events.

"I want to get to state in the 100 breaststroke and maybe even break the school record," said Ryan Hughey. "I am three seconds away from the record and I was two seconds away from qualifying

for state last year."

Pike will most likely compete this year in the 200 and 500 freestyle events. He also may swim in some relays again.

"I would like to get to state in both individual events," said Pike. "I am a ways away from breaking the school records, but I will try to get them and I think I

See **OUT**, Page 13

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SKY'S

Continued from Page 11

Andrews last year, but easily defeated Lubbock Estacado and Plainview, 19-0. They also defeated Lake View.



LANDIN

Boland, who will be assisted this year by Vanessa Conatser, said she first and foremost wants to work on getting better with her young and inexperienced team, but expects good things this season.

"I want to be serious about getting seriously better," she added.

Big Spring started the season Aug. 20 against Odessa High.

They travel to Lubbock Aug. 27 holding its first home match Sept. 1 against Sweetwater.

They also take on Snyder Sept. 6 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Big Spring.

The team's first district match will take place in San Angelo against Lake View Sept. 17.

The regional tournament will take place Oct 28-29, while state will be Nov. 5-6.

SCHEDULE

When	Who
Aug. 27	@Lubbock (2)
Sept. 1	Sweetwater
Sept. 6	Snyder .
Sept. 10	@Levelland (2)
Sept. 17	*@Lake View
Sept. 20	@Permian
Sept. 24	*Plainview
Sept. 27	@Sweetwater vs. Wylie
Oct. 1	*@Frenship
Oct. 4	@Sweetwater
Oct. 8	*@Estacado
Oct. 11	@Midland
Oct. 15	*Andrews
Oct. 18	@Snyder
Oct. 28-29	Regionals @Wichita Falls
Nov. 5-6	State @Austin

*denotes district matches

OUT

Continued from Page 12

eventually will be able to."

Pike is just three seconds away from breaking the 500 freestyle record, he said.

While both Pike and Ryan Hughey have similar individual goals, their goals for the boy's team are a bit different.

"We lost a lot of good swimmers so if we get a medal at regionals I will be happy," said Ryan Hughey, who will compete this year in the 100 breaststroke, 100 Individual Medley (IM) and some freestyle relays.

Pike is as confident in his team as anyone could be.

"I expect to be good," said Pike. "But what I want more than anything is for the guys to get crazy during meets. The more screaming and yelling the better it will be for me. We should be good all-around and the girl's team should have a lot more swimmers to work with this year and I think they will win some meets too."

That's where Sage comes in. Just a sophomore, she will have much of the pressure this year for the girl's team and must follow in the footsteps of one of Big Spring's all-time best swimmers.

"I was worried about having to live up to Jessica late last year," said Sage. "I am not a vocal leader so I am nervous. But, at the same time I am excited to be getting back into the pool. I feel like I have to live up to her level and it is going to be added pressure that I don't really want. However, she has taught me enough and I think

I will be OK."

Sage has swam with Jessica



Hughey each of the past two summers to get ready for the upcoming season. Jessica Hughey will not return this year, but she will take her talents to the University of Texas at the Permian Basin. Now it is Sage's turn to shine and hopefully break some records along the way.

"I want to get to state this year and I also want to break the 200 freestyle relay record," said Sage. "I also want to win district as a girl's team, which has never been done at Big Spring before."

Sage will compete this year in the butterfly and IM events, in all three freestyle events and some relays, as well.

"I want to break the 200 freestyle record this year, too," said Sage.

Jessica Hughey broke the 200 freestyle school record last year.

Joining Sage, who qualified for regionals last year in several events, on this year's girl's team will be juniors Amber Sleight and Tawna Mills and sophomores Ashley Oliver and Stormy Hart. Sleight, Mills and Hart all qualified for the regional meet last year, as well.

Sleight should again return to the pool with her sites set on the IM and breaststroke, while Mills will hold down both long-distance freestyle events. Hart will also compete in the IM and short distance freestyle events, while Oliver will try her luck in the 200 freestyle, 100 backstroke and some relays.

Junior Bradley Foster and senior Steve Lucas are two other notable swimmers returning to the guy's team. Foster is a regional qualifier who will compete in the butterfly and relays this year, while Lucas will swim in the short distance freestyle events.

The third installment of the Hughey family makes his way into the pool this year as freshman Cameron Hughey attempts to live up to his older siblings. Expect him to swim in the backstroke and short distance freestyle events.

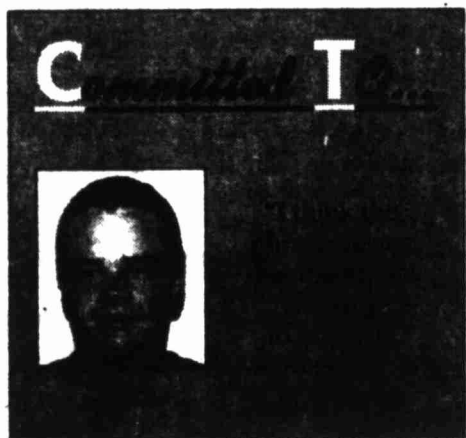
The boy's team was hit hard by graduation last year as state qualifiers Todd Seber and Scott Thomas will not be back. Randy Yanez also graduated. Besides Jessica Hughey, the girl's team also graduated regional qualifier Kendra Weeks.



SAGE

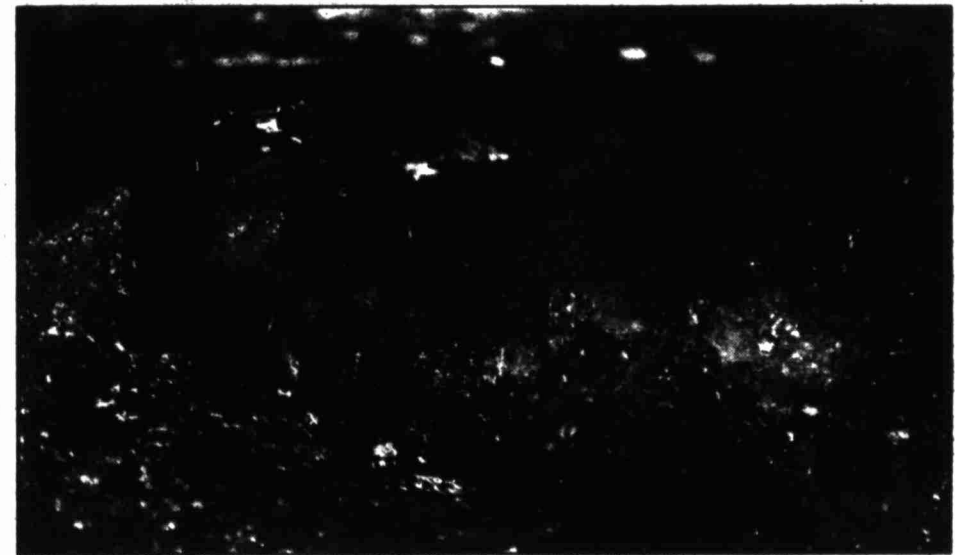


R. HUGHEY



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Junior Ryan Hughey, senior Daniel Pike and 2005 graduated seniors Todd Seber and Scott Thomas pose at the UIL state swim meet in Austin last February. Hughey and Pike each return this year and both have goals of getting back to Austin — this time as individuals.



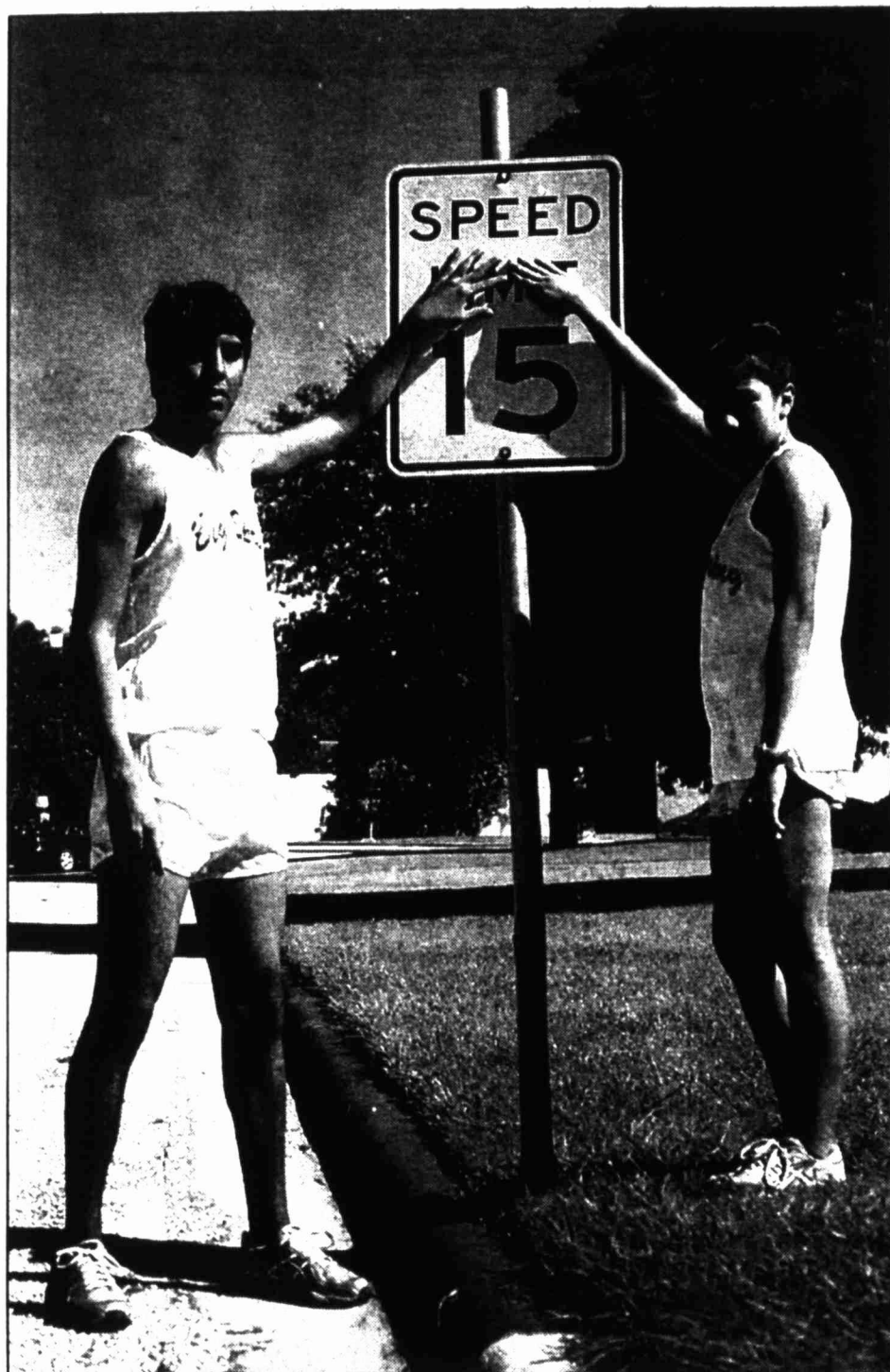
HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring's Ashley Oliver swims during the Big Spring Invitational last season at the YMCA. Oliver returns this year as a key participant on the girl's swim team.

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Good Luck to all Area Teams!!



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring junior Michael Rodriguez and sophomore Esther Tobar will be just as much responsible for their team's success this year as anyone as both return to the cross country squad as the top runners. Rodriguez placed 11th at the state meet in Round Rock last year and wants to get in the top five this year.



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NO LIMITS

Rodriguez, Tobar return as leaders of the pack

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Big Spring cross country coach Randy Britton returns for his 28th season at the school and fortunately has his best runners from last year returning for another shot this season.

Junior Michael Rodriguez and sophomore Esther Tobar will be leaders of the boy's and girl's teams, respectively, this season after being in the same role last year.

Rodriguez did about as much as a coach could ask for last year as a sophomore. He won the district and regional meets before heading to Round Rock and claiming 11th in the state meet — but was just one second away from fifth as several guys finished near him.

"The biggest thing for him last year was that he got confidence when he placed 11th at state because now he knows he can run with the best," said Britton. "Whether he does better this year is up to him, but I am hoping the experience of running at state will help."

Rodriguez has begun the season slightly injured as he suffered a reoccurrence of a hip flexor injury from his freshman year. However, Britton does not think the injury will keep him out at all and he should be fine coming district, regionals and hopefully state.

"If I can just get four other guys to run with the mindset that Michael has, I would never stop smiling," said Britton. "The other guys can do what Michael has done but they have to start thinking that mentally. Running is a lot more mental than it is physical."

Tobar and the girl's team made it to the regional meet last year, but this season Britton would like his now experienced sophomore to get their individually.

"Nobody made it last year for us as an individual so that is what I would like to see her gunning for this year," said Britton. "She likes to run, is a good competitor and student and has a strong cross country family."

Tobar's older sister, Eve, will be a junior runner this year at Wichita State University in Kansas.

In order to get to regionals this season, Tobar might have to go alone as the girl's team is made up of only one more runner — sophomore Mistie Aguilar.

"Sometimes you just go through cycles like this when no one comes out to run," said Britton. "I don't really have a reason as to why. Esther and Mistie have run all summer long and they deserve to be on a team this year."

Britton said a couple of freshman ran last year in junior high and

See **LIMITS**, Page 15

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LIMITS

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did not come out this season, but he is hoping they change their minds and eventually join the team.

"I would like to find at least three more girls so we can have five total — which is what is needed to make a team," said Britton. "We need the kids to start applying peer pressure to some of the ones who are not out."

Britton said he hopes that Aguilar also has aspirations at regionals. She is not quite as fast as Tobar, but works hard and gives everything she has to the program, said Britton.



MARTINEZ

"That is all I can ask from anyone," he added. "Winning in this sport is not always the one who comes in first."

The boy's team has won the district championship the past two years, but this year Britton has bigger goals in mind.

"We just don't want to win districts this year," he said. "We want to get all of our guys up to the front of pack and really try to dominate the whole race."

In Britton's 27 years at Big Spring, he has led the Steers to five district titles and eight second place finishes.

Trying to help Rodriguez get the sixth district championship and third in a row will be several young, but talented runners as most of last year's core returns.

Freshman Jordan Valle and junior Chris Martinez will be looked at to push Rodriguez this year as they will be the second and third best runners on the team.

Martinez is a battler, according to Britton, but he doesn't have what it takes mentally yet.

"He has all the talent in the

world, but just doesn't believe that yet," said Britton. "He needs to get it mentally. His biggest problem is he thinks about it too much."

Valle ran on the team last year as an eighth grader but wasn't able to score points for the varsity team. This year, he will get that chance as he is expected to be near the top in most races.

Sophomore Zack Dawson could become the No. 2 or 3 runner by season's end.

"I just can't get a feel of where he stands because he competes a lot better than he works out," said Britton.

The three Salazars — Chris, Mike and Jessie — and junior Dylan Yarbrough make up the rest of the team's varsity runners.

Mike Salazar is the only senior on the team and Chris Salazar has begun the year injured as he suffered a knee injury in early action, but is expected to return shortly.

"If these guys ever tasted victory at a big meet together, they would probably do it every time," said Britton. "I just have to get the kids to believe they can do it."

Britton is looking ahead to the regional meet than he is the district meet, but said he can't overlook the District 4-4A meet because you just never know.

"Frenship and Lake View are both well coached but might be down this year and then you never really know how Andrews is going to do," said Britton. "If we get through the first six weeks OK grade-wise then we should be OK."

The boy's team placed fifth at regionals last year, which was a disappointment to Britton after his team won the meet in 2003.

"We didn't run our best last year at that meet and I wasn't happy, but I think we have a shot this year to go to state as a team," said Britton.

Fort Worth Northside, El Paso Austin and Hereford were the three regional team qualifiers last year and are expected to be right there with Big Spring this season. They placed third, fourth and fifth at the state meet, respectively.

"I am not really concerned with what our times are early on, but we need to be ready to go when we run at Lubbock in three weeks," said Britton.

The team's first meet will take place Sept. 3 at Sherrod Nelson Park in Abilene. The Big Spring Invitational is Sept. 17 and the Lubbock Invite is Sept. 24. The district meet is Oct. 29, the regional meet is Nov. 5 and the state meet at Round Rock is Nov. 12.



BIG SPRING

2005 Varsity Schedule

When	Where
Aug. 27	Practice meet @Birdwell
Sept. 3	Sherrod Park in Abilene
Sept. 10	Lubbock (W.T./Micro-Graphics)
Sept. 17	Big Spring Invitational
Sept. 24	@Lubbock Invitational
Oct. 1	McNeil Invitational (Round Rock)
Oct. 8	@Odessa Invitational
*Oct. 15	@Midland Invitational
Oct. 22	Big Spring practice meet
Oct. 29	Districts @Lubbock (Mae Simmons)
Nov. 5	Regionals @Lubbock (Mae Simmons)
Nov. 12	State @Round Rock

Oct. 15 was tentative at press time

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HIGH

EXPECTATIONS

Garden City seeks return trip to playoffs ... and more

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Garden City's first year at the six-man level went a little better than planned for the Bearkats as they went 8-3 overall and advanced to the playoffs after winning their district.

Now with success, comes expectations and a follow-up season for the Bearkats.

Early season predictions have Garden City picked to win District 8 again and ranked as one of the top 10 teams in the state.

And despite the good praises from the ones in charge of predictions and rankings, the Bearkats don't feel any pressure.

"The guys aren't pressured by the rankings because rankings don't win us football games," said Garden City head coach Ken Hoskins, who begins his second six-man season with the Bearkats. "The guys know we are ranked because I don't hide anything from them. Someone thinks these guys are pretty good, but now we just

have to work hard and stay up there throughout the year."

The team's No. 1 goal this year is to make the playoffs. Then they want to advance farther than they did last year, which was a first-game loss to area rival Ira. Ira begins the season in the top-10, as well.

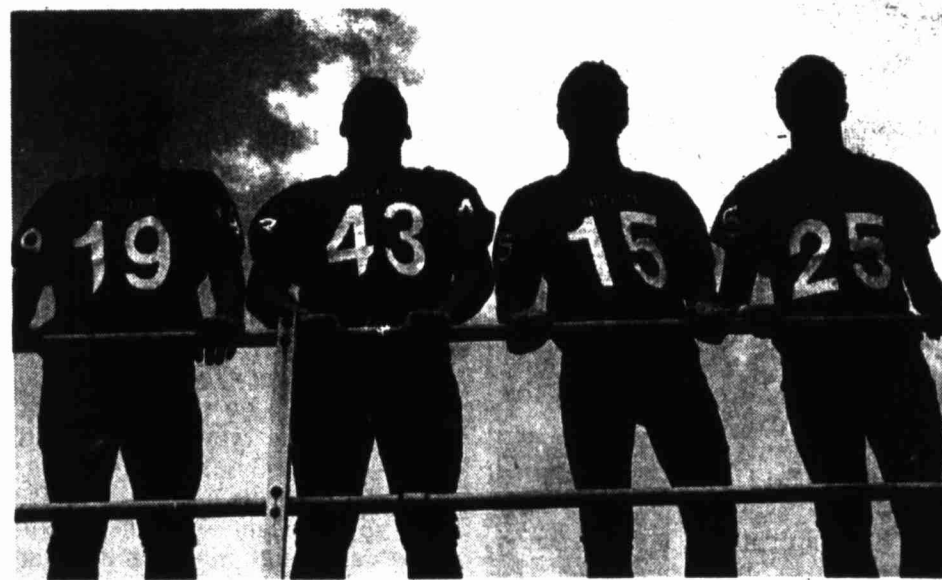
"I think Ira deserves to be ranked ahead of us since they beat us twice last year," said Hoskins. "I think our team is good enough to get past the first game, but you just don't know what is going to happen."

Like last year, depth should not be a problem for the Bearkats as they began two-a-days with 15 kids on the varsity squad. And all 15 will see significant time this year.

"I thought the depth would help us more last year, but that ended up not being the case," said Hoskins. "The biggest thing we have going for us this year is that we have one year of six-man com-



HALFMANN



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: junior Alex Halfmann, senior Cory Multer, junior Taylor Niehues and junior Jared Bradford hope to lead the Garden City Bearkats to the playoffs this year. The team reached the playoffs last year in its first six-man season and has aspirations of getting past the first round this time around.

petition under our belts. This year the guys will be able to do things instinctively."

Some key players return this year for the Bearkats, but the team will still have to find replacements for seven graduating seniors from last year.

All seven seniors lost from last year's team — Trey Hillger, Wade Machicek, Tim Schniers, Robert Lopez, Travis Coats, Mitch Rider and Colby Hirt — received some kind of all-district honor.

Big shoes to fill? Maybe, but a few guys should be ready for the task.

The offense will be led by junior

and third-year starter Alex Halfmann. Halfmann will play quarterback on most downs, but will also see action at running back when the Bearkats are in tight sets.

Halfmann threw for more than 1,500 yards and ran for more than 400 last year and threw 29 touchdowns and only three interceptions.

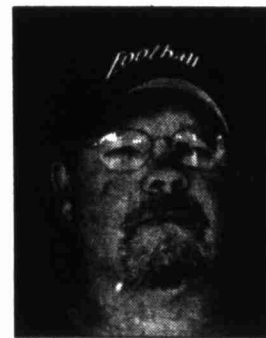
Those statistics allowed him to capture District-8 MVP honors as well first team all-region and honorable mention all-state.

"Alex is a key for us on offense again this year, but we are not a one-man team," said Hoskins.

See **HIGH**, Page 17



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HIGH

Continued from Page 16

"Putting him at running back at times will give us the run-pass option. He brings experience to the table and besides having a strong arm, he should be able to be more of a threat running the ball this year."

The defense is led by senior Cory Multer. Multer will again play on the defensive line this season after garnering first-team all-district honors on both sides of the ball last fall. He was also a second-team all-region member. He had 50 tackles last year with five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

"He brings a lot to the table on both sides of the ball, but will be featured more on defense for us this year," said Hoskins. "He is very strong and hard to block and loves to hit."

Garden City has three other players who will be featured on both sides of the ball. Taylor Niehues, Jared Bradford and Colton Schwartz are all juniors who return to the varsity this season after successful 2004 campaigns.

Niehues was a first-team all-district and second-team all-region wide receiver last year. He is a smart player and has really good hands, according to Hoskins. Last year, Niehues caught 18 passes for 361 yards and five touchdowns.

"He was kind of Alex's go-to guy last year when we needed a play," added Hoskins. "On defense, he won't always make the hit, but he will be in the right place and in good position all the time."

Bradford was also a first-team all-district wide receiver selection last year, but will most likely see more time at running back this fall. However, his versatility will allow him to play some receiver and defensive end and cornerback on defense. Bradford had 21 catches and eight touchdowns last year

and also scored two touchdowns on the ground and added 38 tackles on defense.

"He has good hands on offense and is a good tackler on defense," said Hoskins. "He likes to hit and has a good nose for the ball."

Schwartz will be primarily used on defense this year for Garden City, but expect to see him as a tight end and center at times on offense. He will play defensive end and cornerback on defense. He was an all-district first-team defensive lineman last year and blocks and catches very well, according to Hoskins. Schwartz finished with 85 tackles last year and had six forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries. On offense, he caught 11 passes and scored three times.

"He is hard to block on defense because he gets off blocks well," he added.

Garden City's newcomer of the year could be senior Cade Doss. Doss was a move-in from Early last season and played on the junior varsity, but Hoskins expects him to move into a starting linebacker position this fall.

"He is a good hitter and tackler," said Hoskins.

Junior Evan Jansa will handle the quarterback position when Halfmann is lined up in the backfield. Jason Flores and Dusty Walker are two others expected to start on offense this year, while Blaine Walker and Flores could also start on defense. Walker had 61 tackles on defense last year.

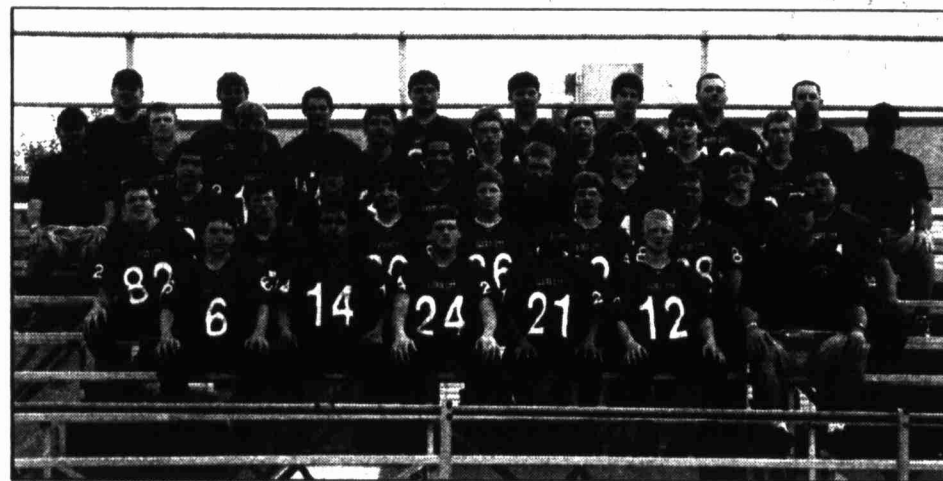
Hoskins also plans on senior Uriel Talamantes, juniors Ryan Machicek, Sam Long and Cade Halfmann and sophomore Bo Eggemeyer to see extensive time this year.

For the most part, Garden City's district is not too strong. Water Valley and Robert Lee should compete for the second playoff spot and Paint Rock brings back five starters from last year. The district also includes Veribest and Blackwell, which couldn't field a team midway through last year and may not be able to have one this year due to lack of numbers.

The team's non-district schedule includes a trip to Grandfalls-Royalty Aug. 25 and a home meeting with state-ranked Ira Sept. 2. They also travel to Sanderson and host Midland Trinity and El Paso Jesus Chapel.

Grandfalls is picked to win its district and could have the best team it has had since 2000, according to Hoskins. Wes Kellner

See HIGH, Page 18



BEARKATS

2005 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 25	@Grandfalls-Royalty	7:30
Sept. 2	**Ira	7:30
Sept. 9	@Sanderson	7:30
Sept. 16	Open	
Sept. 23	El Paso Jesus Chapel	7:30
Sept. 30	***Midland Trinity	7:30
Oct. 7	*Robert Lee	7:30
Oct. 14	*@Water Valley	7:30
Oct. 21	*Veribest	7:30
Oct. 28	*Paint Rock	7:30
Nov. 4	*@Blackwell	7:30

*District games

**Senior night

***Homecoming



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HIGH

Continued from Page 17

returns at Ira and the team also brings back very good skilled position players. Midland Trinity will feature Matt Roam, who rushed for more than 2,000 yards last year.

"We just want to be better today than we were yesterday," said Hoskins. "And we need to practice with a purpose."

"We expected to be ranked and had a good offseason, but we need to execute better on offense and be more aggressive on defense this year. We gave up way too many big plays on defense."

Coach Koby Abney will handle the offensive coordinator duties this year, while coach Josh Fee takes over the reigns of defensive coordinator. Coach Alonzo Garcia is also an assistant, while coach Jimmy Fine is the trainer and coach Brent Kirkland will do the filming every Friday.



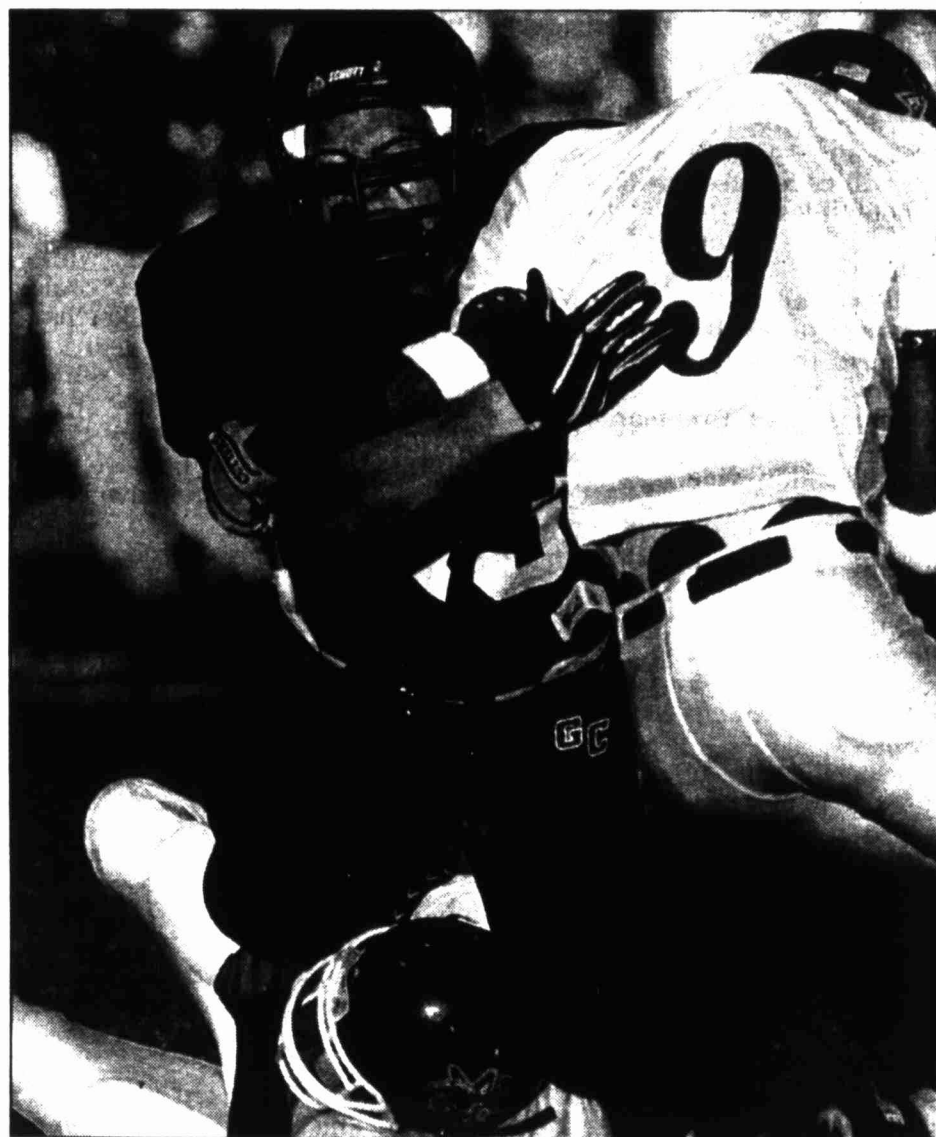
HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Front row, from left: Cory Multer, Cade Doss, Uriel Talamantes, Taylor Niehues and Dusty Walker. Back: Alex Halfmann, Jared Bradford and Colton Schwartz. The Bearkats start the season ranked fifth in the state among six-man teams and look for a further run into the postseason this year.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Garden City junior Jared Bradford carries the ball during action last season. Bradford will be one of several keys on the field this year for the Bearkats as they seek another trip to the postseason.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Garden City senior Cory Multer tries to fight off a block and bring down a ball carrier during action last season. Multer will most likely lead the defense this year.



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ARMED and DANGEROUS

Return trip to playoffs has Stanton optimistic

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Stanton head coach Lee McCown returns for his third year after taking the Buffaloes to the postseason last year.

The Buffaloes finished second in District 4-2A last year. They lost to only district champion Colorado City, but began the playoffs with a bi-district loss to Coleman in San Angelo.

This year, Stanton brings back lots of experience at the skill positions and tons of speed.

Bobby Gutierrez, Matthew Ruiz and Sloan Kelly will be this year's main focal points on the offensive side of the ball as all three return after playing big roles in 2004.

Gutierrez moves from wide receiver to running back this year and will share carries in the backfield with Kelly. Gutierrez and Kelly will both be running backs, but each will try to hurt their opponents in different ways. Gutierrez is the fastest guy on the team and is good in the open field, while Kelly, who has some quickness, should be able to get his yards running through tacklers.

"Sloan is one of the hardest workers we have on this team," said McCown. "He is strong and dedicated and has a lot of natural talent."

Both Gutierrez and Kelly will also be key on the defensive side of the ball. Gutierrez will try to cover wide receivers in the defensive

backfield, while Kelly will attack running backs and quarterbacks from his linebacker position. Fans can also expect Gutierrez to be Stanton's primary special teams returner.

Another player who will be key on both sides of the ball will be Ruiz. Ruiz is the team's leading returning wide receiver and he got better as last year went on, according to McCown.

"He has great hands and speed and he continues to get better," said McCown.

Ruiz will also be a factor on defense as he will join Gutierrez at a defensive back position.

The new addition this year to the skill positions on offense will be sophomore quarterback Garrett Fulton, who will take over under center as he replaces Michael Washington after Washington moved to Greenwood during the summer.

"Garrett has a good arm and is smart," said McCown. "I think he'll do all right as he takes a big role for us on offense."

Replacing a quarterback will not be a big issue this year for Stanton as McCown has gone through a change in that position every year since joining the Buffaloes three years ago.

The question mark heading into the season will be on both sides of the line.

"The lines may start slow, but they will get things figured out as the season goes on," said McCown.

Senior Marcus Aguello remains



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
From left: Senior Bobby Gutierrez, senior Sloan Kelly, sophomore Garrett Fulton and senior Matthew Ruiz will be Stanton's bread and butter on offense this year. Gutierrez, Kelly and Ruiz all started last year and Fulton will take over at quarterback this season.

the one constant on the line this year. He has started the past two years and should be the anchor this year.

"He knows the system and has a great attitude," said McCown. "We are going to need him to lead us this year on the lines because we will have some young and inexperienced guys with him."

"A lot of things changed from last year so it will take some time."

Juniors Angel Verastigui and Mike Carmona will also play key roles on both sides of the ball this season.

Verastigui, along with Kelly, will be looked upon to lead the defense from his linebacking position. Verastigui was a second-team all-district selection last year at linebacker.

"He is very coachable and physical," said McCown. "Our lineback-

ers will be the key to our defense this year."

Carmona is expected to play significant minutes at wide receiver and defensive back.

Carmona played tailback at the junior varsity level last year, but he has great hands and speed and is very versatile, which is why there will be a place for him on the field this year, said McCown.

"We are expecting a lot from our five key returners this year," said McCown. "We need them to be strong for us."

Stanton will have many players seen on both sides of the ball this year, which is why McCown says staying away from injuries is a key to the team's success.

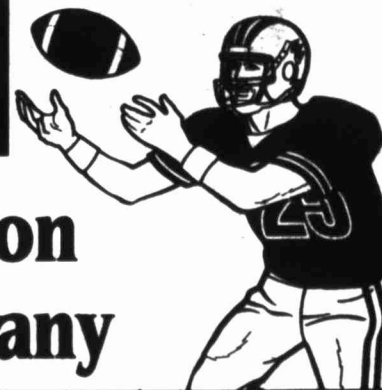
"We can't get hurt because our depth is just not there," said

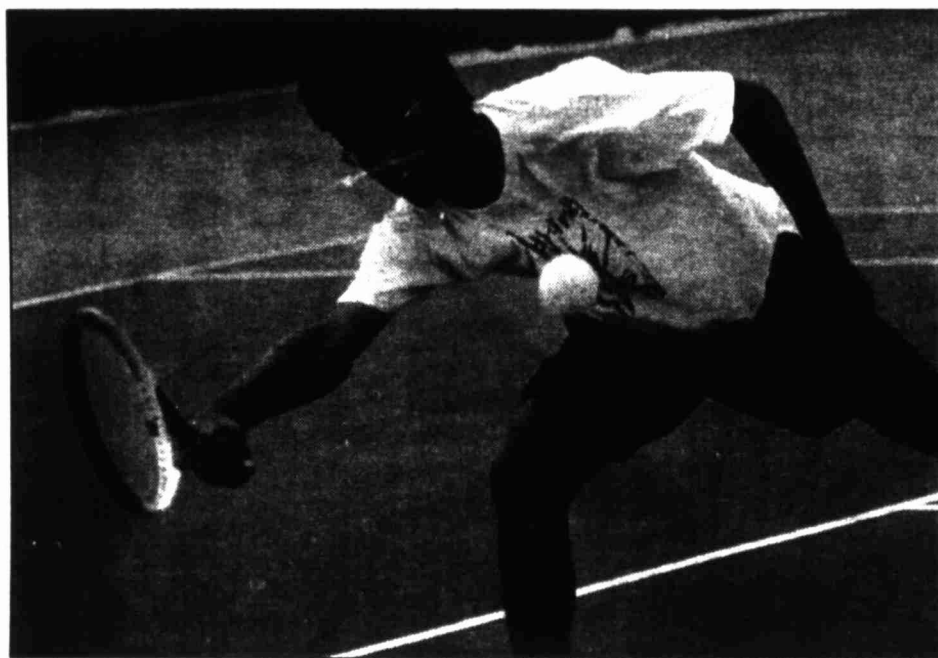
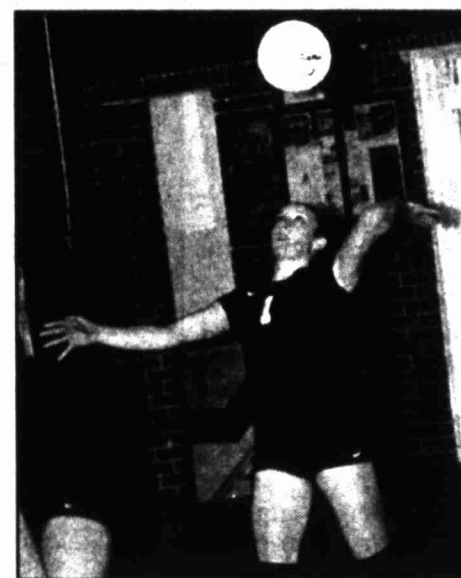
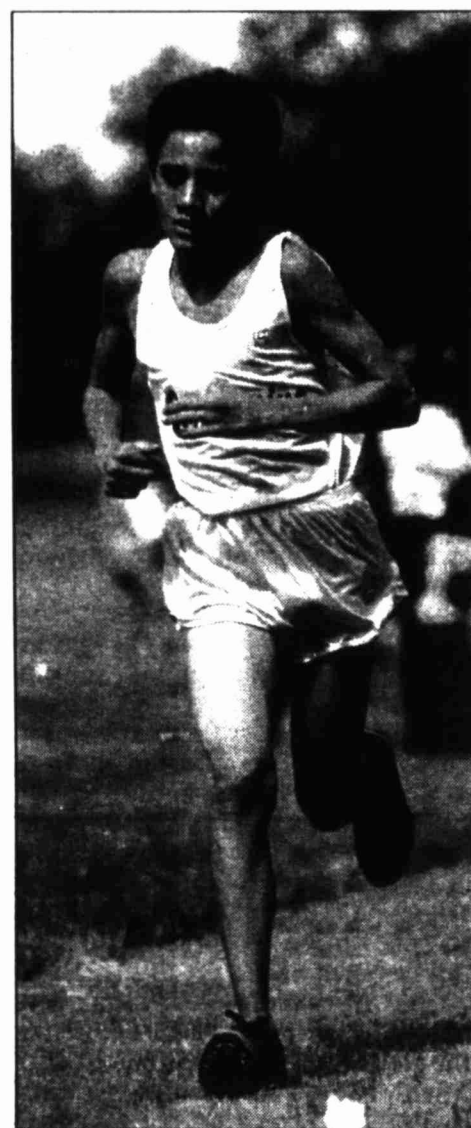
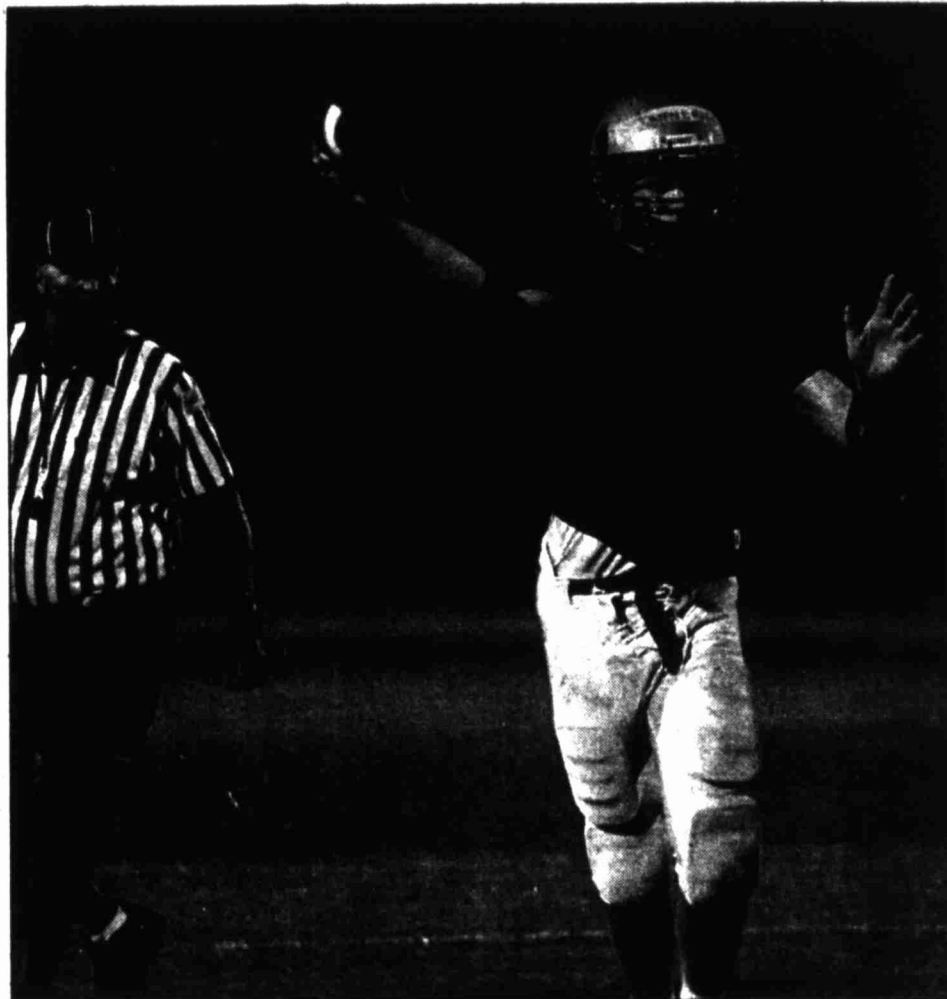
See ARMED, Page 22

Let's Play Ball!

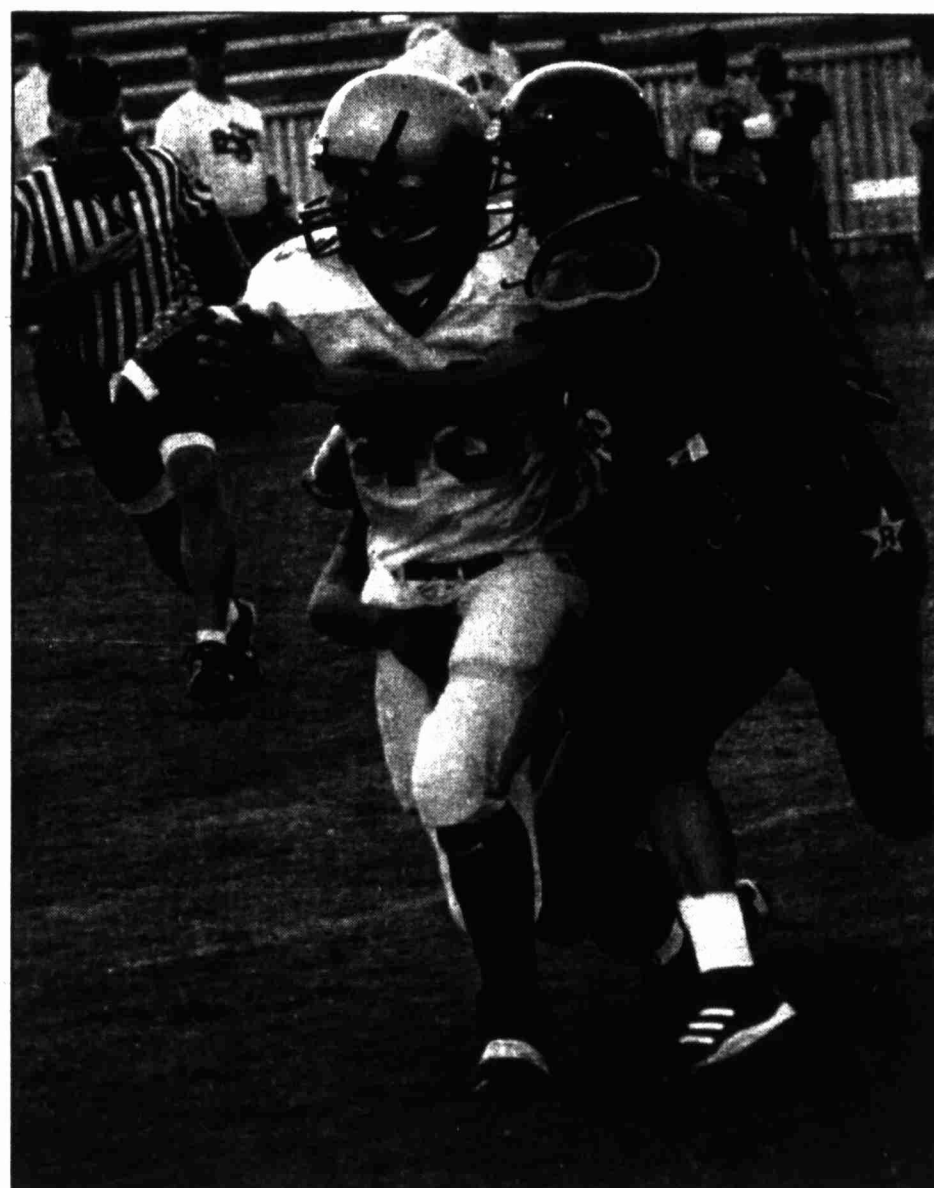
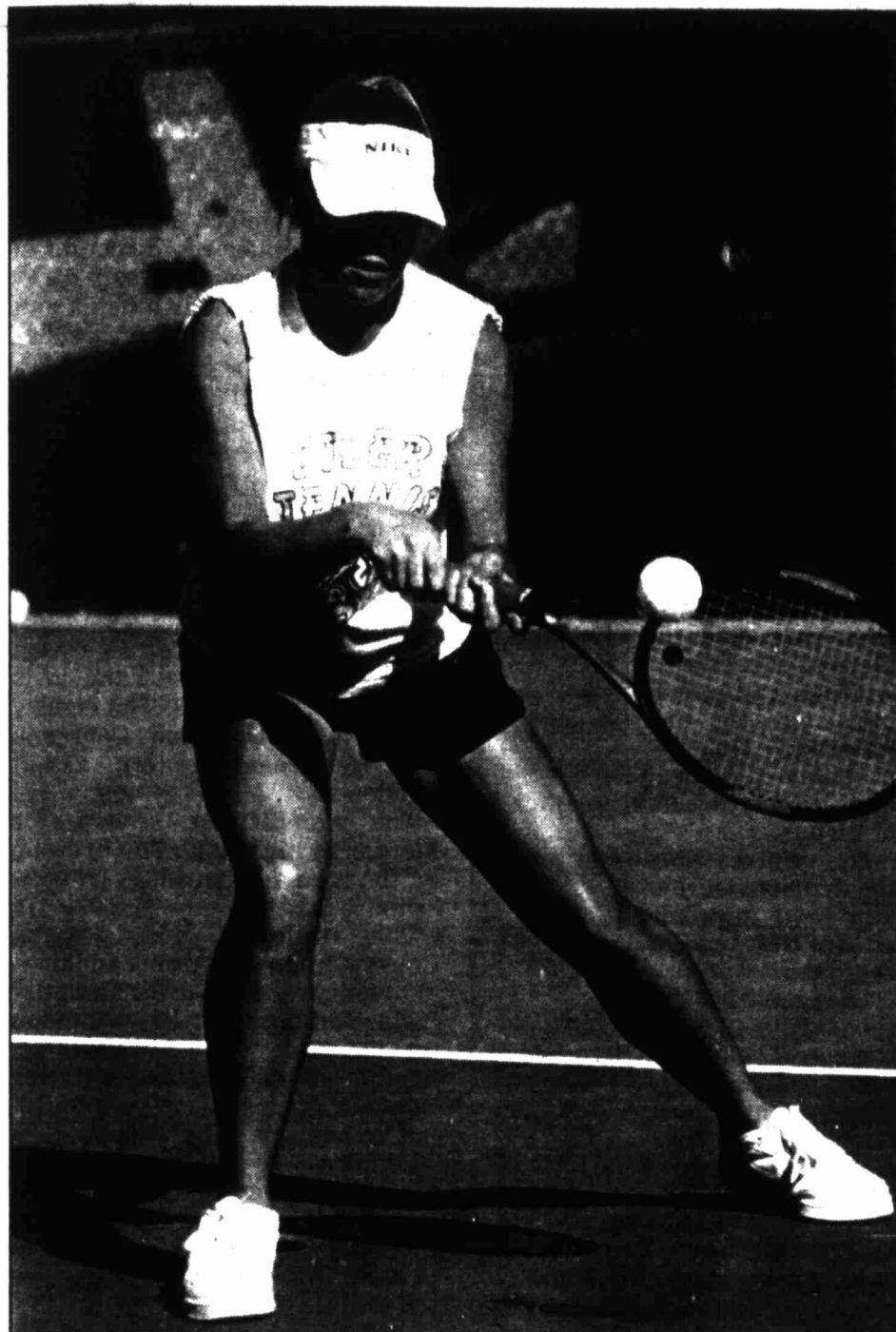
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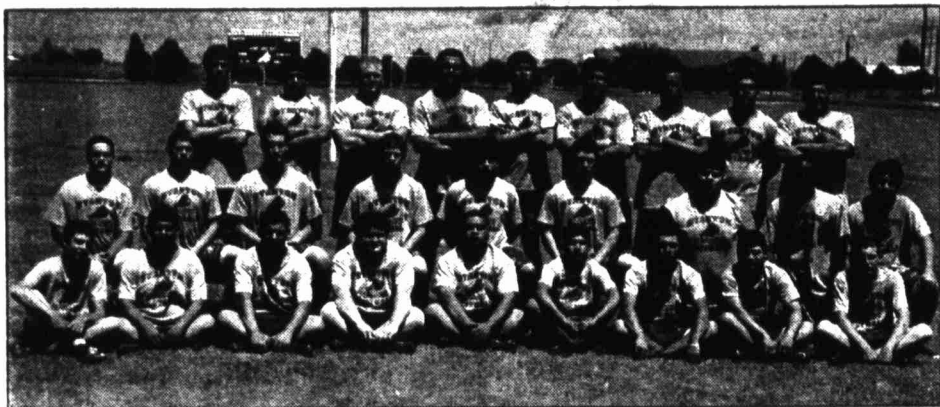


HERALD photos/Troy Hyde
 Clockwise from left: 1)Big Spring sophomore Zack Dawson runs during action at the B.S. cross country invite last year. 2)Big Spring junior Bryan Juan dives for a ball during tennis action last year. 3)Big Spring junior Ryan Hughey participates at the 2005 UIL state meet last season in Austin. 4)Sands senior Santos Ybarra runs for yardage during action against rival Grady last year. 5)New Big Spring quarterback Ryan Tannehill completes a pass during the Steers' scrimmage earlier this year. 6)Big Spring junior Katy Abner serves the ball during action against Midland High this season.



HERALD photos/Troy Hyde

Clockwise from left: 1) Big Spring junior Amber Sleight competes during a swim meet last season. 2) Big Spring senior Natasha Neighbors sends a backhand return over the net during a match on the tennis court last season. 3) Big Spring senior hitters Raegan Ritchey, left, and Krista Chesworth get up high for a block attempt during a volleyball match last year at the Steer Gym. 4) Big Spring senior Andy Lasater pitches the ball on an option play during a scrimmage at the start of last year's football season. Lasater played quarterback last fall, but is expected to switch to wide receiver this year under new head coach Tim Holt.



STANTON

2005 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	@Roscoe	7:30
Sept. 2	Reagan County	7:30
Sept. 9	@Seagraves	7:30
Sept. 16	**Iraan	7:30
Sept. 23	Alpine	7:30
Sept. 30	Open	
Oct. 7	*@Anson	7:30
Oct. 14	*Stamford	7:30
Oct. 21	*@Coahoma	7:30
Oct. 28	*Colorado City	7:30
Nov. 4	*@Hawley	7:30

*District games

**Homecoming

ARMED

Continued from Page 19

McCown. "Another key for us will be how fast the young players adjust into their new roles on varsity."

Although punting is not something McCown or other coaches want to think about, Stanton should have a good one this year in Travis Tripp.

"He is one of the best punters I have ever seen in this area," said McCown.

McCown said the district schedule is wide open this year, but confessed that Colorado City is probably the clear favorite just because of history.

The Wolves won the district last year and went undefeated in the regular season.

They have been to the playoffs 10 out of the last 11 years and are expected to make a run at a district title this year.

They are led by Brik McGuffin and get back the services of Kenneth Scott, who missed all of last year with an ACL injury. Scott led the team in tackles in 2003.

"He gave us fits the first two

years he played against us," said McCown.

The postseason will include the top three teams in each district in Class 2A and expect Stanton and Anson to be the favorites to capture the other two spots.

Hawley, Stamford and Coahoma will all be under the direction of new head coaches this year.

"I really don't know much about the teams in the district because three of them have new coaches, but I do know that Anson is supposed to be tough this season," said McCown.

Anson is led by Devin Robinson, who was selected to the Big Country Super Team. Cord Garcia led the team with 92 tackles and Justin Lewis is expected to take over at quarterback.

Stanton opens the district season this year at Anson Oct. 7 and hosts Colorado City Oct. 28. The rivalry between Stanton and Coahoma will get renewed Oct. 21 at Coahoma.

The non-district season for Stanton is highlighted by opening on the road against Class 1A powerhouse Roscoe.

The Buffaloes host Reagan County, Iraan and Alpine and travel to old rival Seagraves, as well.

The Buffaloes started the season 0-4 last year before knocking off Alpine on the road and winning five of their last six games to finish 5-5 in the regular season.

"Winning is contagious," said McCown. "Once you get a taste of it you get used to it, but it works the same way with losing. We need to start this year right where we left off last year."



CARMONA



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KELLY

• DRILL BITS •



LEE McCOWN

Years at Stanton: 2

Coaching Record: 8-13

Coaches Pick: Buffalo Alley

Who it benefits: Everyone

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In Numbers

Grady looks to dethrone defending champions

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Grady head coach Joe Helms returns to Grady for his second year on the job and looks to propel his Wildcats to the top spot in District 5-six man.

And getting that district championship is the ultimate goal for Helms.

"I know Wellman-Union has been the team to beat in recent years, but we are going into this season with the thought that we can win the district," said Helms.

Last year, led by graduated seniors Andrew Villa and Ben Hirth, the Wildcats took second place in the district with a 4-1 record, losing to only Wellman-Union. Villa and Hirth were a big part of that team, but with plenty of depth on this year's team, replacements for those two all-district members should not be a problem.

Juniors Aguedo Najera and Taylor Fields are both going to be looked at to do much of the replacing this season, as the duo will be counted on heavily on both sides of the ball. Najera is the strongest kid on the team and could see time this year in several different positions including nose guard, linebacker and fullback. Najera earned all-district honors as a tight end and defensive end last year and will have to deal with a position change this season.

Fields, like Najera, will be counted on heavily at many different positions. He is the team's leading

receiver from last year, but Helms expects the 6-1 Fields to play all over the field this season.

"Right now he is working in at running back, but we will most likely use him as a receiver and offensive end, as well," said Helms. "He will also play defensive end and/or cornerback on defense."

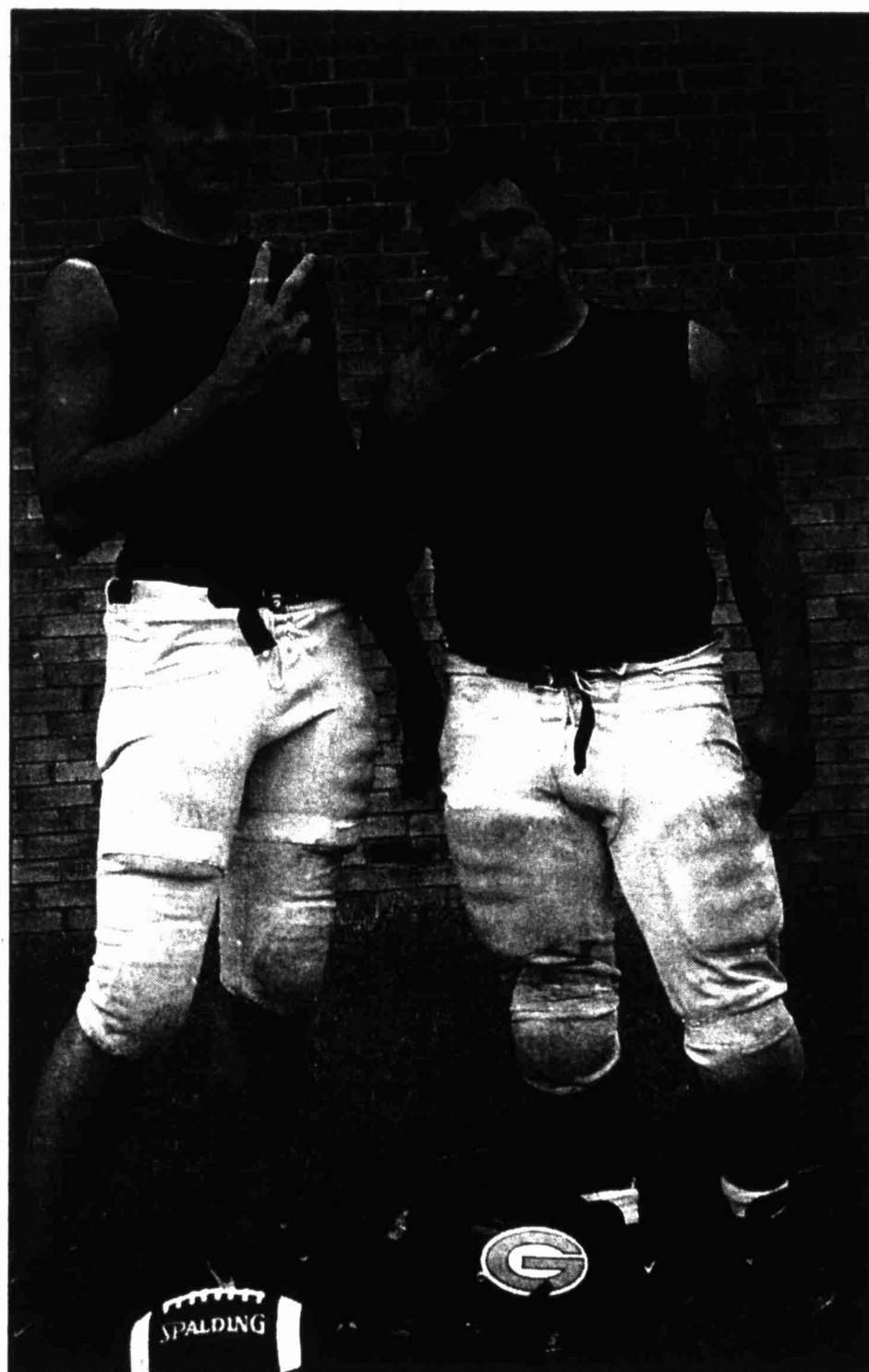
The quarterback position this year is still in limbo as three guys spent most of two-a-day practices battling for the spot. And all three could see action there this year at some point.

"We have three guys who could see time at quarterback, but if they don't play quarterback then they will play somewhere else on the field," said Helms.

Juniors Clay Mitchell and Brody Pinkerton, as well as sophomore Tommy Lee Rivas, are the candidates squaring off for the spot. Pinkerton is good when the Wildcats are in the tight set formation, while Rivas is a better spread set quarterback. Mitchell is fairly good at both sets, said Helms.

Others who should work their way into the mix this season for Grady include sophomores Roy Rodriguez and Justin Tubb as well as Jacob Meeks, the team's only senior. Sophomores Lane Shands and Ernesto Juarez could both be key contributors, as well.

"Rodriguez comes to compete everyday," said Helms. "He will



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Grady Juniors Taylor Fields, left, and Aguedo Najera will be looked at to lead a very deep Wildcat team this fall. Grady could have up to as many as 24 kids on this year's six-man squad.

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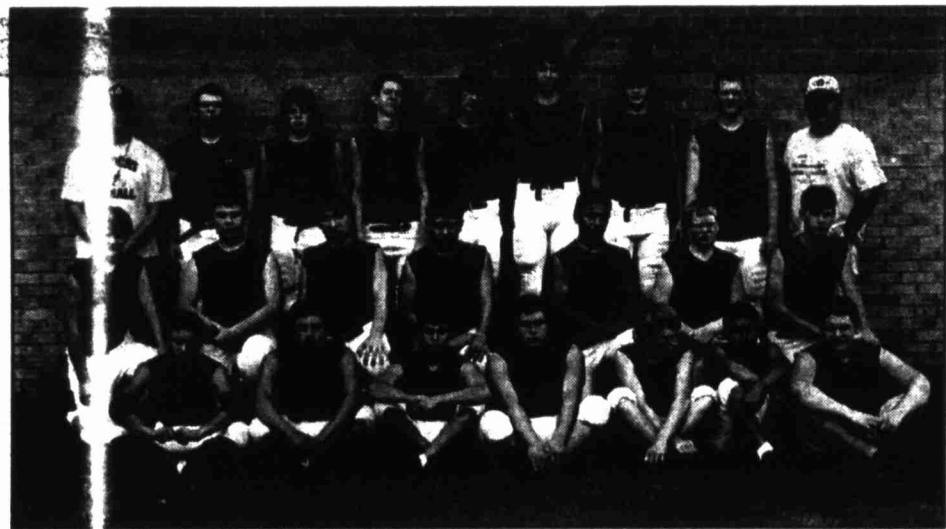
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See NUMBERS, Page 24



WILDCATS

2005 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	Woodson@Jayton	5:30
Sept. 2	Rule	7:30
Sept. 9	@Ira	7:30
Sept. 16	@Borden County	7:30
Sept. 23	@Highland	7:30
Sept. 30	Open	
Oct. 7	*Loop (Homecoming)	7:30
Oct. 14	*@Wellman	7:30
Oct. 21	*Dawson	7:30
Oct. 28	*Klondike	7:30
Nov. 3	*@Sands	7:30

*District games

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NUMBERS

Continued from Page 23

play middle linebacker on defense and could see some time at running back on offense."

Tubb has made big strides from last year and could see time this year at offensive end and defensive back. He is an intelligent player who is a big target (6-5) with good hands.

"Justin will most likely play on both sides of the ball," said Helms.

Meeks is a strong athlete who is battling for a spot at center on offense. He missed all of last year with an illness and will need some time to catch on to the system.

"He is a year behind with knowing our system, but he could figure into the team at some point," said Helms.

Shands is competing for a spot at center, nose guard or defensive end, while Juarez will be a key as well, despite missing early two-day action.

Helms has put a lot of early season emphasis on the defensive side of the ball because he feels like his team needs to be able to stop more teams this season than they did last year.

The Wildcats scored a lot of points last year, but gave a lot of points in return on defense.

"In a game involving equally competitive teams, if you can get two stops in the game you can win," said Helms, who wants to be more physical on defense this year.

Helms' offense will run mostly out of wide open sets and fans can

expect the Wildcats to throw.

"I like players who are diverse on both sides of the ball and can play multiple positions in multiple sets," said Helms.

Another thing that has changed in Helms' two years at Grady has been the strength of his players. The athletes lift weights all year round.

"I really emphasize the strength side," said Helms. "We have a structured weight program and the kids are getting stronger."

Besides Wellman-Union, the pre-season favorite led by David Franco at running back, Helms expects Sands to also compete with Grady for a playoff spot this season. And Loop, according to Helms, should be much better than what preseason publications are saying.

Last year, Grady and Sands met in the final game of the year to decide the second and final district playoff spot. Grady won that game at home, but this year the contest will be played in Ackerly. The meeting with Sands will take place Nov. 3.

Grady opens the district season at home against Loop Nov. 7 and it is also the team's homecoming. They meet Wellman-Union in the battle of the Wildcats Nov. 14 at Wellman.

After placing second in the district last season, the Wildcats lost in the first round of the playoffs to Dell City and finished the year 5-6.

Grady's non-district schedule is definitely nothing to sneeze about. The Wildcats play three teams in the preseason top 10 in Highland, Ira and Rule and also meet rival Borden County.

• DRILL BITS •



JOE HELMS

Years at Grady: 1

Coaching Record: 5-6

Coaches Pick: Oklahoma Drill

Who it benefits: Linebackers

The purpose: The drill improves technique and teamwork amongst the players and also helps with the physicality of the game.

TOP

CLIMBING TO THE

Health will be biggest concern this year in Ackerly

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Two key components to last year's 5-5 Sands Mustangs football team return to this year's squad in hopes of getting back to the playoffs.

Senior running backs Cevan Smithson — the power — and Santos Ybarra — the speed — return for one final year in the backfield for the Mustangs and there is no real secret as to who will get the ball in Ackerly.

Both rushers ran for more than 1,000 yards last year. Ybarra ran for 1,500 yards and scored 28 total touchdowns, while Smithson — who missed the first game due to injury and played through a hip injury late in the year — ended with 1,257 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He also led the team on defense with 96 tackles.

"Cevan is the fire under the team," said second-year head coach Wayne Henderson. "He gets the guys going and calls all of our defensive plays.

"Santos is the quiet leader who just does his leading on the field. Both are going to be very important in what we do this year and I am looking forward to both of them being leaders, as well."

Depth is going to be the biggest thing to overcome this year in Ackerly for Henderson as numbers are low this season and some players have already been sidelined due to injury, including junior Garrett Nichols. That in turn has led to putting players in positions they are not necessarily familiar

with.

"We are going to have to keep the right guys healthy this year," said Henderson. "We can't afford to get hurt because we don't have a lot of bodies."

Besides Smithson and Ybarra, Henderson will look to junior Kenneth Peacock for big things this year, too. He will take over the quarterbacking duties vacated by graduating senior Marcelo Barraza.

"Kenneth is the most competitive kid we have on this team," said Henderson. "He hates to lose."

Peacock will try to keep the defenses honest with the pass, but Sands expects to still be a run-first offense and pass only when needed, according to Henderson. Peacock will also be key on defense as he had 94 tackles last year, which was second on the team behind Smithson.

Another skill position player expected by Henderson to have a good year is Mathew Ybarra, Santos' cousin.

Mathew Ybarra will be the fill-in running back for Smithson and Santos Ybarra and he will also start at safety on defense.

Besides an experienced backfield, the Mustangs should have a big offensive line unit, which could give the running backs better numbers than a year ago.

Senior Trent Rogers missed half of last season with an injury after starting his sophomore year.

He is 230 pounds and is expected to play on both sides of the ball this year.

The other two big linemen are juniors Emmanuel Gomez and Juan Mojica. Mojica is 260 pounds and should play offensive end. Gomez, who weighs around 250 pounds, was thrown to the wolves last year on the offensive line due



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Sands seniors Santos Ybarra, left, and Cevan Smithson hope to run the Mustangs to the top of the district this season. The Mustangs could have to battle health issues early on, but should find themselves right in the mix for a playoff spot as the season goes along. Both Ybarra and Smithson ran for more than 1,000 yards last year as Sands just missed the playoffs.

to injuries suffered by other players, but picked up his play late in the season.

"With our strengths being experienced running backs and a big offensive line, we can hopefully wear some teams out as the game goes along," said Henderson.

Fans can expect to see the Mustangs run the same types of offenses and defenses this year as they have three starters on both

sides of the ball returning.

Henderson likes to run the ball down the field and will mostly run his offensive sets out of a tight "T" or "I" formation.

"I would like to throw more this year than last, but my goal is to still try to run the ball," said Henderson. "The defenses will be keyed on Cevan and Santos a lot so

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MUSTANGS

2005 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	@Ropes	7:30
Sept. 2	Grandfalls	7:30
Sept. 9	Westbrook	7:30
Sept. 16	**New Home	7:30
Sept. 23	@Lorraine	7:30
Sept. 30	Open	
Oct. 7	*@Klondike	7:30
Oct. 14	*@Dawson	7:30
Oct. 21	*Loop	7:30
Oct. 28	*@Wellman	7:30
Nov. 3	*Grady	7:30

* denotes district games

**Homecoming

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TOP

Continued from Page 25

we will have to throw some misdirection passes at them to keep them honest. Overall, I think we need to be efficient with the passing game.

"Kenneth should help us get there because he sees the field well and just likes to compete."

The offense last year was able to score points on mostly anyone, but had troubles at times keeping other team's from getting into the endzone. The Mustangs will run a 3-2-1 this year and Henderson hopes to get five people around the ball on every play.

"We need to play better defense," said Henderson. "We can't stand around anymore and wait for the ball to come to us."

The preseason favorite in District 5-six man is defending undefeated champion Wellman-Union. Aaron Martin and David Franco will lead the favored Wildcats this year and the team could have a better squad than last year under head coach John Cornelius, who should record his 200th win this season.

"They are the kings of this district until someone stops them as far as I am concerned," said Henderson. "They have a good team every year."

Besides Wellman-Union, Henderson sees the other playoff spot coming down to Grady, Loop or his Mustangs.

Grady was a playoff team last year at 5-5 as they went 4-1 in the district. The Wildcats lost nine seniors from last year's team, but

Henderson said the fact that they have so much to choose from makes them a favorite in some way.

Loop is always picked at the bottom of the standings, but will be better than people think this year as Jayson Conner returns from a 2,500 yard and 43 touchdown season a year ago.

The other two district teams are Klondike and Dawson, but Henderson said graduation hit both teams hard last year.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs this year," said Henderson. "We want to have two running backs gain more than 2,000 yards and our quarterback to throw for more than 1,000 yards this year."

Henderson also wants his defense to allow less than 30 points per game.

"I want to be the most aggressive team on the field every week," he added.

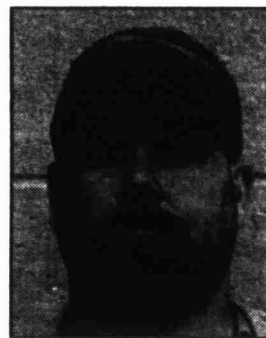
The Mustangs were also affected by not converting the extra points after touchdowns last year and Henderson would like that to change this year.

"We probably converted 30 percent of them last year and I would like to convert on 75 percent this season," he said. "We have to put these down because it keeps teams in games when we could be blowing them out."

Last year, Sands made few extra points against Loop and still scored 69 points.

"If we converted more extra points in that game we would have scored 80 points and 45-pointed them, but instead the game went the whole way and we allowed them to stay close."

• DRILL BITS •



WAYNE HENDERSON

Years at Sands: 1

Coaching Record: 5-5

Coaches Pick: Hamburger Drill

Who it benefits: Running backs

The purpose: The running backs run through several defenders and the purpose is to toughen up the runners.

2005 as coach takes Bulldog finishes year.

This Bulldog back f on offer on defe and wil five sen ning tra

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The fi be expe Terrell Holguir Cody G Bibb i

player starting backer.

Time To Step Up

Coahoma seeks bounce back year under Cates

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

A disappointing campaign in 2004 has the Coahoma football team starting over in 2005 as new head coach Ken Cates takes over a Bulldog team which finished 3-7 last year.

This year's Bulldog team brings back five starters on offense and four on defense from last year's team and will mostly rely on the play of five seniors to get back on the winning track.

"I will definitely try not to dwell on the past and the guys are going to have to forget about last season," said Cates. "We want to still be around at the end of the season and we are going to just take it week by week."

The five seniors who are going to be expected to lead this year are Terrell Bibb, Patrick Croft, Joe Holguin, Antonio Gonzales and Cody Griffith.

Bibb is the team's best defensive player as he will return to the starting lineup at outside linebacker. He is a team captain who

brings experience to the table.

"I expect him to lead us this year on defense and he will also play center for us on the offensive side of the ball," said Cates.

Croft will take over for Adrian Abrego at quarterback this year.

He got some time behind center last year when Abrego went down midway through the season with an injury, but this will be his first time in a starting

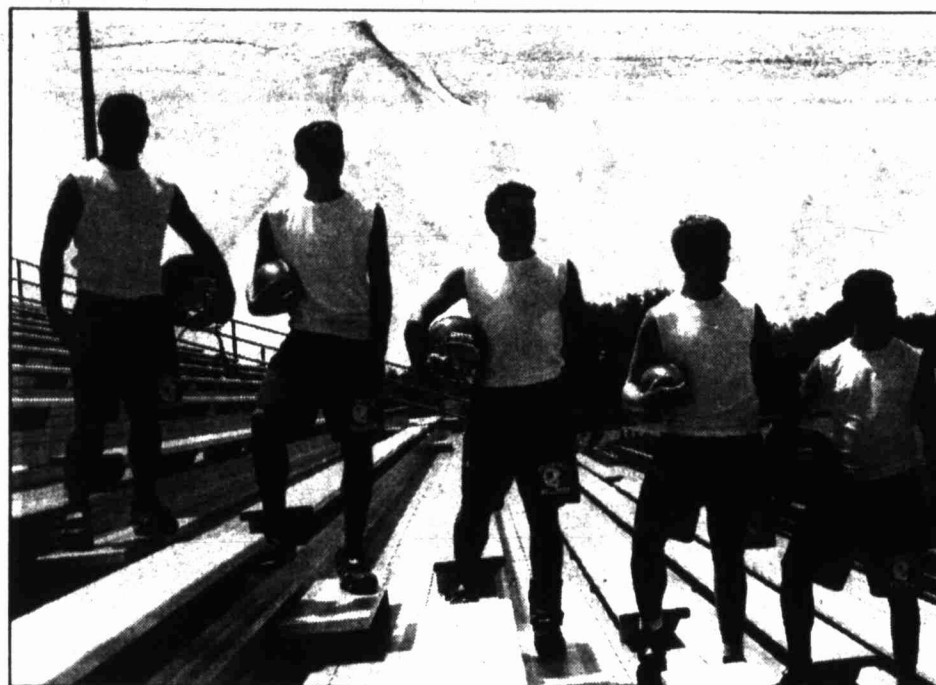
role.

"We will use several quarterbacks this year at first to see what we have, but either way Patrick will be on the field somewhere else if he isn't playing quarterback," said Cates.

Croft brings experience and is a good option quarterback who can throw, too.

"The option will be a big part of the offense so he will most likely play quarterback when we are doing that," said Cates.

Holguin ran into injury troubles last year, but is recovered and will bring experience and good athletic ability to the table. Holguin will see action in the sec-



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
From left: Antonio Gonzales, Joe Holguin, Cody Griffith, Terrell Bibb and Patrick Croft should all be key components to Coahoma's season this year as the Bulldogs try to bounce back from a disappointing year.

Cates gets promotion, takes over as head man

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

After spending time last year as Coahoma's defensive coordinator, Ken Cates was promoted to head coach of the Bulldogs after Robert Wood resigned from his position as football coach and athletic director.

Cates' football coaching resume is quite extensive as he started out as head coach and athletic direc-

tor in Seymour. Then after five years of service there, Cates moved on to Spring Lake-Earth where he served for 11 years.

He also coached at Lubbock Roosevelt and Clarendon before coaching stints at a high school in New Mexico and at Western New Mexico University.

Cates brings to Coahoma a very disciplinary mindset, which he says could be a reason why the numbers of now his program are down this year.

Coach (Kim) Nichols (the See CATES, Page 29

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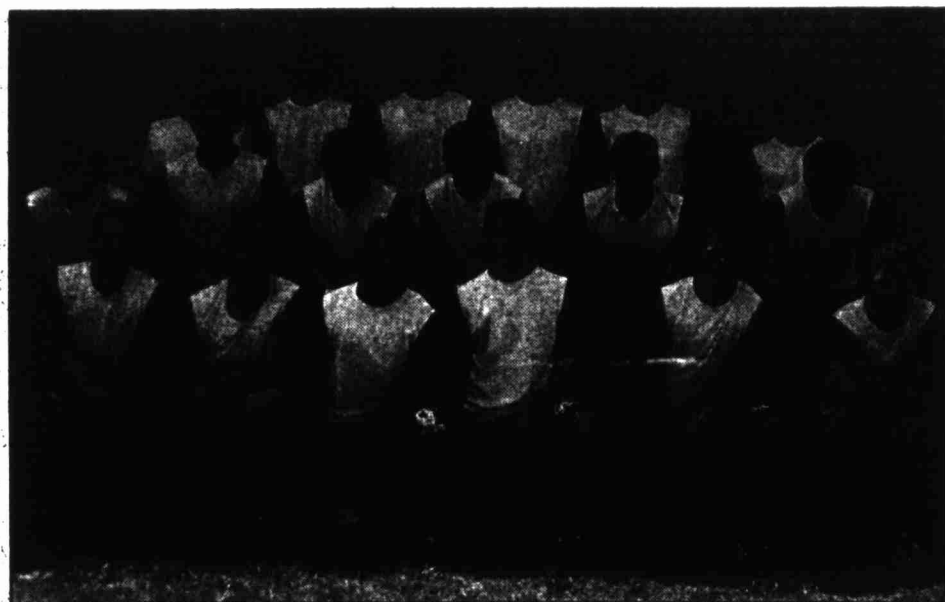
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Teresa Rocha, Secretary
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MASSES

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Tues.: 7:00 AM
Wed.: 7:00 AM
Fri.: 7:00 AM
Sat.: 6:30 PM
Sun.: 11:30 AM

Sacred Heart
Thurs.: 6:15 PM
Sat.: 5:00 PM
Sun.: 8:00 AM
10:00 AM

See STEP, Page 28



BULLDOGS

2005 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	@Reagan County	7:30
Sept. 2	Seagraves	7:30
Sept. 9	@Wall	7:30
Sept. 16	@Jim Ned	7:30
Sept. 23	@Clyde	7:30
Sept. 30	Open	
Oct. 7	*Colorado City**	7:30
Oct. 14	*@Anson	7:30
Oct. 21	*Stanton	7:30
Oct. 28	*Hawley***	7:30
Nov. 4	@Stamford	7:30

*District games

**Homecoming

***Parent's Night

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STEP

Continued from Page 27

ondary on defense and as a running back and/or wide receiver on offense.

Both Gonzales and Griffith are interchangeable on both sides of the ball. They both play fullback and linebacker and each will see plenty of action in both positions this year.

Gonzales started last year at running back and linebacker. He has a great desire to play and is very aggressive, according to Cates.

"Our offense is going to be very fullback oriented so both Antonio and Cody will play key roles in what we are trying to do," he added.

Griffith was injured in 2004. Expect his role to be similar to Gonzales' on offense as he too will get the ball enough to show his skills.

The Bulldogs have a deep group of juniors who will be counted on this year, as well.

The other two players battling for time at the quarterback posi-

tion will be junior Blaine Kerby — who was injured last year — and junior Stephen Ewing. Ewing was the starter on the junior varsity last year.

Juniors Ryan Kennedy and Dakota Teaff will battle for time in the backfield this year and will also try to find playing time in the secondary on defense. Junior B.J. Rodriguez is also another possible skill position player who could see significant action. Rodriguez is a wide receiver and linebacker.

Helping out Bibb on the offensive line will be Alec Herrera, Corey Clanton and Jake McCain. All three should see time on the defensive line, too. Herrera has turned some heads this year, according to Cates, and really looked good early on.

The Bulldogs used no huddle and shotgun primarily last year in games under former head coach Robert Wood. Wood is now gone and so is the offense he ran.

"We will always huddle up after every play," said Cates. "Most of the plays will be called under center, but we are not going to go totally away from the shotgun."

The offense this year under Cates will be fullback and option oriented and will primarily use a ball control style.

The Bulldogs ran a 5-2 on defense last year and that is expected to change under new Defensive Coordinator Jay Kennedy, who comes to Coahoma this year after spending more than 15 years at Big Spring under former Steer football coach and athletic director Dwight Butler.

See STEP, Page 29



GONZALES



BIBB



CROFT

• DRILL BITS •

Coaches Pick: Shotgun Alley

Who it benefits: Everyone

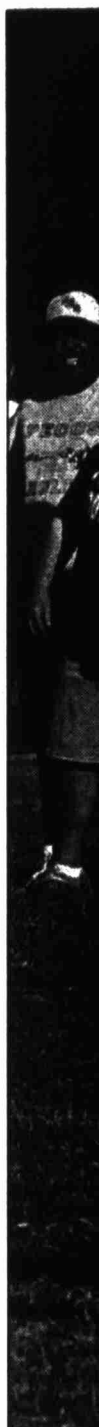
The purpose: The drill teaches aggressiveness. It is designed to help with blocking, tackling and running hard, as well.



KEN CATES

Years at Coahoma: 0

Coaching Record: 0-0



Coahoma
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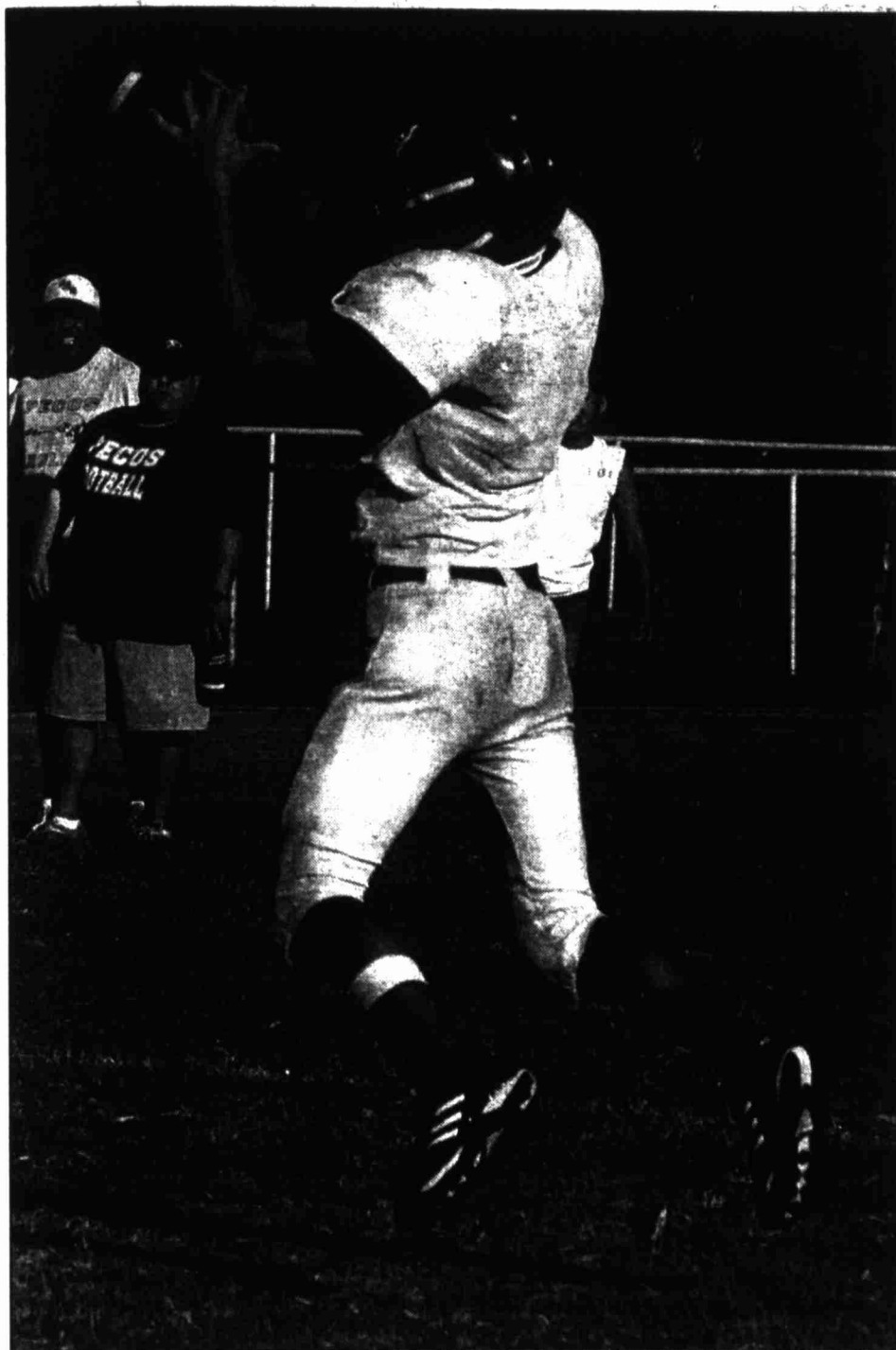
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HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma senior Joe Holuin catches a pass during the Bulldogs' scrimmage against Pecos last week. The Bulldogs begin their season Friday against Reagan County on the road.

CATES

Continued from Page 27

school's new athletic director) and I put in a strong discipline system in the offseason and I think numbers are down because it takes a lot of work to do this kind of stuff," said Cates. "I am not saying the ones that aren't out don't want to work, but I think that has something to do with it."

Besides discipline, Cates is also a firm believer in accountability and work ethic.

"I expect my players to be accountable for everything they do

or don't do and my teams will work hard," he said.

Cates chose to originally come to Coahoma because of the history that the football team had and because it was a good place for his family. Cates is married to Kayla and has three kids — Brandon (college junior), Kambra (high school junior) and Blake (eighth-grader). Brandon is a center on the Eastern New Mexico football team.

"I was content with the school system and community here," said Cates. "Now, I just want to see my team get better everyday. Hopefully I can get things turned around here."

STEP

Continued from Page 28

"We are going to adjust to the personnel we have this year and I would expect us to stunt more than we did last year," said Cates, who served as the defensive coordinator at Coahoma last year under Wood.

Coahoma is in a tough District 4-2A again this year, but also doesn't have a lot to look forward to in the non-district season.

The Bulldogs begin their season with four out of their first five games coming on the road, including their opener against Reagan County Aug. 26.

They also travel to perennially tough Jim Ned, Wall and Clyde. The only non-district game at home this year will be Seagraves Sept. 2.

Colorado City should remain the class of the district this season as Cates said the Wolves are "in a class of their own." The Wolves have been to the playoffs in 10 of 11 years under their head coach.

They return 2004 district offensive player of the year Brik McGuffin and highly touted

Roland Rivera and also will have the services of Kenneth Scott this year after he missed last year with an ACL injury.

"After Colorado City, the district is wide open," said Cates. "The district is really balanced this year, too, I think."

Stanton and Anson were the other two playoff teams from last year and preseason predictions have that being the case this year, as well. Stamford, Hawley and Coahoma will all have new head coaches this year.

"I am going by the number of returning players and Colorado City has a lot of key returners back this year."

Coahoma will play Colorado City — its biggest rival — this year for its homecoming Oct. 7. Parent's night will take place against Hawley Oct. 28 and the Bulldogs will host rival Stanton Oct. 21.

Injuries hurt Coahoma last year and the Bulldogs could not recover.

This year that factor will be even larger because overall numbers for the program are down.

"We must stay healthy if we are going to be successful," said Cates. "Things have gone good so far though."

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TURNING THE CORNER

Depth should help Buffaloes improve from last year

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Forsan now has numbers and it knows how to use them.

Unlike last year, overall depth should not be a problem this season when the Forsan

football team takes the field at the end of August. The Buffaloes and head coach Tommy Thompson will have around 25 players on the varsity including several solid seniors, a strong junior class and experience in the skill positions.

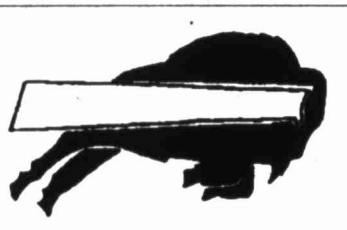
The newly found depth at Forsan has the Buffaloes believing they can win in District 10-A this season.

"I am excited about everything right now," said Thompson. "Our numbers are up and the kids have been getting after it every single practice."

Winning has not come easy for Forsan the last years, however. The Buffaloes have gone 1-9 in each of the past two seasons and struggled in a perennial tough dis-

trict.

Preseason predictions have Forsan picked to finish fifth out of seven teams in District 10-A. But the Buffaloes, who have nine starters on offense and 10 starters on defense returning from last year, hope to prove the critics wrong this year.



Roscoe is the clear preseason favorite to win the district. They have averaged nearly 10 wins per year under Wes Williams and appear loaded again led by Daniel Ruiz, Nick Joy and Davan Deleon. Ruiz rushed for more than 1,000 yards and 16 touchdowns last year. The Plowboys will start the year ranked No. 22.s

Winters, Sterling City, Roby and Forsan should challenge for the final playoff spot. Winters brings back Frank Perez and Aaron Colburn, who combined for 24 touchdowns, while Brian Cooks and Joe Posey return for Sterling City and Roby, respectively.

Forsan's squad should be anchored this year by athletes in



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Seniors Tye Baker, Anthony Acosta, Mitchell Murray, Justin Forshee, Clint Stanley, Taylor Barber, Steven Chavez, Tyler Phillips, Jon Sutton, Shelby Lefever and Josh Paredez all hope to lead the Buffaloes on the football field this year.

the skill positions.

Senior Tye Baker returns for his second year as a starter at quarterback. He had 600 total yards and 10 touchdowns last season and, according to Thompson, has gotten

bigger, stronger and faster.

"We are expecting him to lead us on offense and he should see some time in the secondary, too," said

See CORNER, Page 31

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• DRILL BITS •



TOMMY THOMPSON

Years at Forsan: 2

Coaching Record: 2-18

Coaches Pick: Roulette

Who it benefits: Quarterbacks,
Running backs and Wide Receivers

The purpose: The drill is designed to help with quarterback and receivers' timing. The quarterbacks work on their drop steps and reading the receivers and the receivers learn routes. The drill features lots of routes and timing.

CORNER

Continued from Page 30

Thompson.

Seniors Mitchell Murray and Anthony Acosta both played running back last year for the Buffaloes, but expect each to deal with position changes this year.

After racking up nearly 800 yards and eight touchdowns last year, Murray will move to fullback this season. Acosta will move to the offensive line because of lack of depth in the unit. Both Murray and Acosta will play linebacker on defense, too.



PHILLIPS

"Pound for pound, Anthony is the strongest guy on our team," said Thompson. "Murray will play fullback because he runs with good speed and power."

The anchor on the offensive line this year will be senior Tyler Phillips. He played every single snap last year and is expected to do the same this year.

Clint Stanley and Justin Forshee are both seniors who have been starting on the field the last two seasons in Forsan.

Stanley will lead the defense as a force at linebacker and will also start on the offensive line. Forshee will be a wide receiver and defensive back.

Expect senior Taylor Barber and junior Derrick Colegrove to lead the defensive line unit.

Seniors Josh Paredez and Shelby Lefever should provide experience and depth at the wide receiver position.

Several newcomers will make impacts at the varsity level this year. Besides Murray, Thompson expects the backfield to be made

up of Wesley Newcomb and Skyler Sandridge, both juniors, and Cody Frietag could see some time at fullback, as well.

Sophomores Adam Bailey and Justin Wilson both have pretty good shots to see action at receiver.

Bailey will also play some defense in the secondary.

"This team has a lot of speed this year, but we are going to be small up front and we won't have much depth on the offensive line," said Thompson.

The Buffaloes will average around 165 pounds on the offensive line.

"We weren't very consistent on offense last year and that is going to have to change if we are going to be successful this year," said Thompson.

Consistency on offense is one of Thompson's keys to victory this year. Another key to the winning track lies within the defense.

"We need to play good defense and prevent the big plays from happening," he said. "It is going to be huge for us if we can keep the other team's offenses off the field."

The Buffaloes will change defensive coordinators this year and that brings about a new defensive scheme, as well.

Dave Park gets the nod this year as the leader of the defense from the sidelines and Thompson said a more aggressive 3-5-3 is being implemented.

"So far the kids are responding to our new style of defense," said Thompson.

Other than that, the fans should expect to see no drastic changes as far as formations go. Thompson likes to pound the ball on offense, but also knows he is going to have to be balanced.

"To me, running the ball between the tackles is what football is all about, but I want to be balanced and try to throw some, too," he said.



BUFFALOES

2005 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	@Iraan	7:30
Sept. 2	Eldorado	7:30
Sept. 10	Hawley @Sweetwater	7:30
Sept. 16	Christoval	7:30
Sept. 23	*@Winters	7:30
Sept. 30**	*Sterling City	7:30
Oct. 7	*@Bronte	7:30
Oct. 14	*Roscoe	7:30
Oct. 21	*@Hermleigh	7:30
Oct. 28	*Roby	7:30
Nov. 4	Open	

*District games

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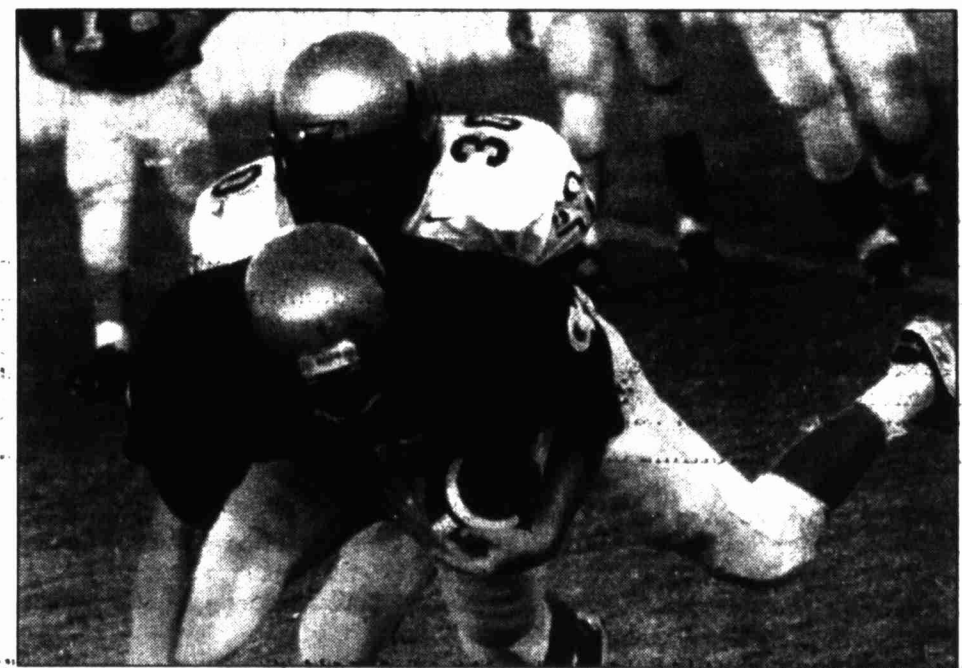
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HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Clockwise from above: 1)Big Spring sophomore Allison Ward hits a return shot during action last year on the tennis courts. 2)Last year's Big Spring football cheerleaders scream for the Steers during a game. 3)The Big Spring band performs during halftime of a game last year. 4)Big Spring senior Matt Hilarlo takes down a ballcarrier during action on the football field last season.

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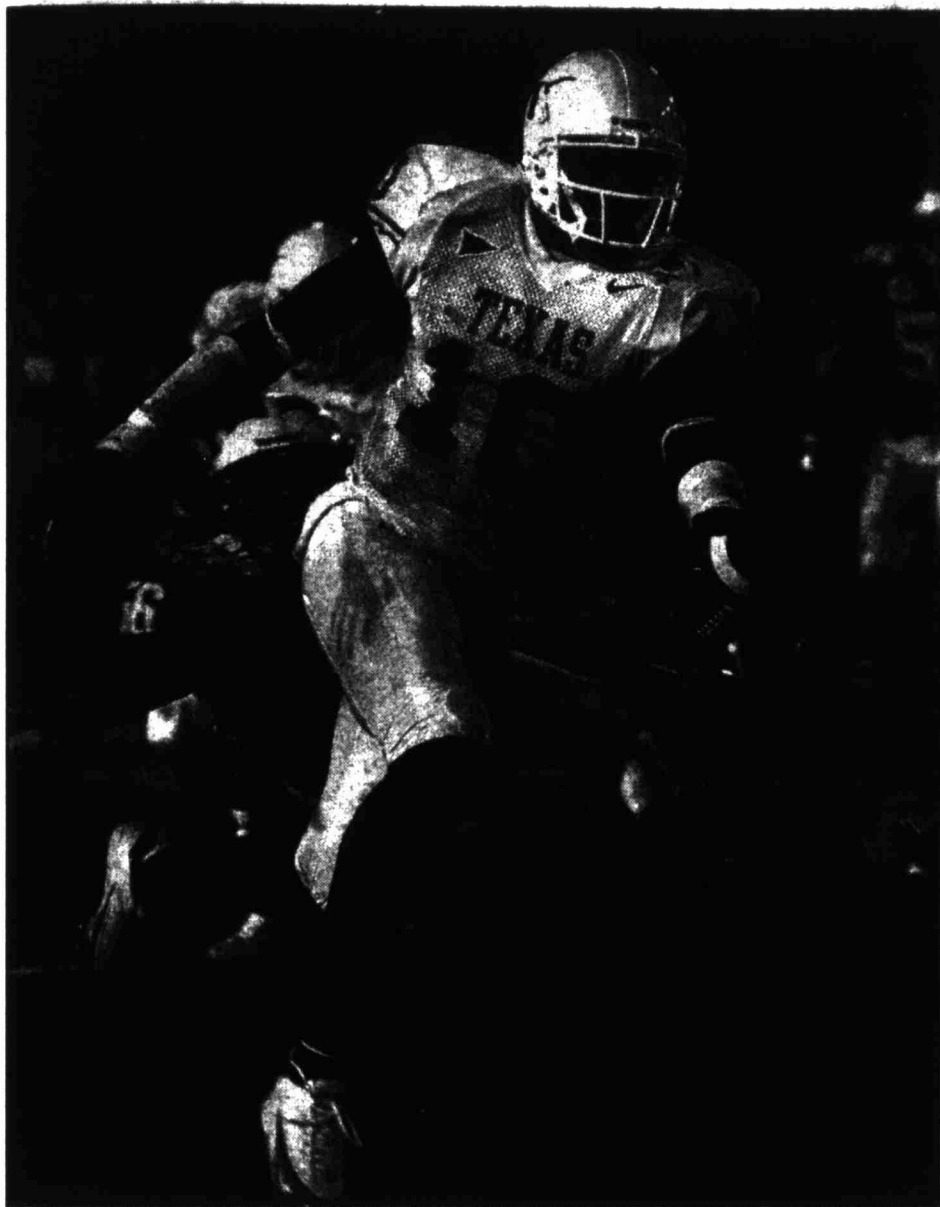
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KRT photo/Ron Jenkins, Fort Worth Star Telegram
Texas quarterback Vince Young (10) scores a touchdown in the fourth quarter — his fourth of the Rose Bowl game against Michigan. Texas defeated Michigan, 38-37, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., last season.

Texas hopes for return trip to Pasadena in '05

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Within minutes of beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl, the Texas Longhorns started dreaming of winning there again Jan. 4, 2006.

"We had so much fun," quarterback Vince Young said amid the confetti and pandemonium of the post-game celebration. "And we want to come back!"

A return trip to Pasadena would land the Longhorns in the BCS title game, giving them a crack at their first national championship since 1969.

Judging from the way Texas has marketed its Rose Bowl victory — including a billboard off Interstate 35 that proclaims the campus as "Home of the Rose Bowl Champions!" — the school's backers are counting on it.

"There's an exciting buzz around the program," coach Mack Brown said. "More than I've ever seen."

Most of it is generated by Young, whose jaw-dropping, five-touchdown performance against the Wolverines put him among the top contenders for the Heisman Trophy this season.

After nearly being benched midway through last season, Young led the Longhorns to six straight victories and almost single-handedly rallied Texas to the win over the Wolverines, which was secured by Dusty Mangum's wobbly last-second field goal.

"Anybody who watched the Rose Bowl got a whole new perspective on the University of Texas," Young said. "It put me out a little bit more as a quarterback and as a person. It showcased me."

He was so good that the story line to this season isn't replacing running back Cedric Benson and linebacker Derrick Johnson, both of whom went among the top 15 picks in the NFL draft, but what

See **LONGHORNS**, Page 34

Leach looks to build upon Red Raiders' bowl victory

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK (AP) — From the big numbers the offense continues to pile up to the shrinking ones allowed by the defense, the Texas Tech Red Raiders have some good reasons to be optimistic about this season.

And if they need anything else to get excited about, they can pop in the tape from the last game they played, a 45-31 throttling of No. 4 California in the Holiday Bowl.

That victory capped an 8-4 season and earned Tech the 18th spot in the final poll, its highest finish since 1976. Perhaps more important was the exposure and respect that came from beating a Cal team

trying to prove a point about being left out from the BCS.

"We've got a long ways to go, but it's exciting that we've got some folks interested in us," coach Mike Leach said. "I feel like we're getting better, we've improved."

Any new admirers will see what folks in West Texas have been watching ever since Leach arrived in 2000 — a wide-open, unrelenting passing attack that tries to pile up yards and points.

Tech quarterbacks have led the nation in passing five straight years. The past two seasons, it was done by fifth-year seniors who were first-time starters.

See **TECH**, Page 34

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LONGHORNS

Continued from Page 33

Young can do for an encore in only his junior season.

"He flipped the switch and had confidence and took over our team," Brown said. "This is now Vince Young's team."

That buzz Brown talks about is also fueled by the wishful thinking that Oklahoma might stumble a notch or two.

As usual, the Oct. 8 matchup with the Sooners will be likely determine who wins the Big 12 South. This year's game will be the 100th meeting between the schools and a sixth straight loss could dash the Longhorns' hopes of another Rose Bowl by midseason.

"We owe them one," said fifth-year senior Jonathan Scott.

The Longhorns will have four games to prepare for the Sooners — and they might need it.

Tight end David Thomas excelled last season but the rest of the returning receivers hardly scared anyone. They'll have to make more plays this year to ease the pressure on whoever replaces Benson, the fifth-leading career rusher in major college history.

Junior Selvin Young, who has shown flashes of talent but missed most of last season with an ankle injury, will be the leading candidate to replace Benson. The Longhorns also return speedy sophomore Ramonce Taylor and signed a trio of freshmen who could contribute early.

While Young could be Texas' most dynamic runner, he's been criticized for an awkward throwing motion and last season's poor ratio of touchdowns (12) to interceptions (11).

Young used to shrug off his critics, but now seems annoyed at suggestions he isn't a "complete"

quarterback. He connected on 59 percent of his passes last season for 1,849 yards.

Defensively, the Longhorns have a new coordinator, Gene Chizik, who helped Auburn to an undefeated season last year.

Two of his biggest jobs will be filling the gap left by Johnson and developing a pass rush on a front line that hasn't had a double-digit sack leader since 1999.

Aaron Harris, who developed into one of the biggest hitters on the team last season, will be expected to take over Johnson's leadership role on defense. Rod Wright, who was projected as a first-round draft pick last season, stayed in school for his senior season and will anchor the line.

Chizik's biggest challenge might not be designing defenses, but providing the same spark the unit had under last season's co-coordinator Greg Robinson and former assistant Dick Tomey.

In one year, those two helped transform a passive defense into an aggressive, play-making unit. They did it so well they both earned promotions; Robinson is now the head coach at Syracuse, Tomey the head coach at San Jose State.

Just how far Texas has come or has to go to reach the Rose Bowl could be evident Sept. 10 in a road game against Ohio State.

Otherwise, the Longhorns have a relatively favorable schedule as they try to provide Brown the first conference title in his 22 years as a head coach. The league road trips include stops in Missouri (Oct. 1), Oklahoma State (Oct. 29) and Texas A&M (Nov. 25), plus the date with the Sooners in Dallas.

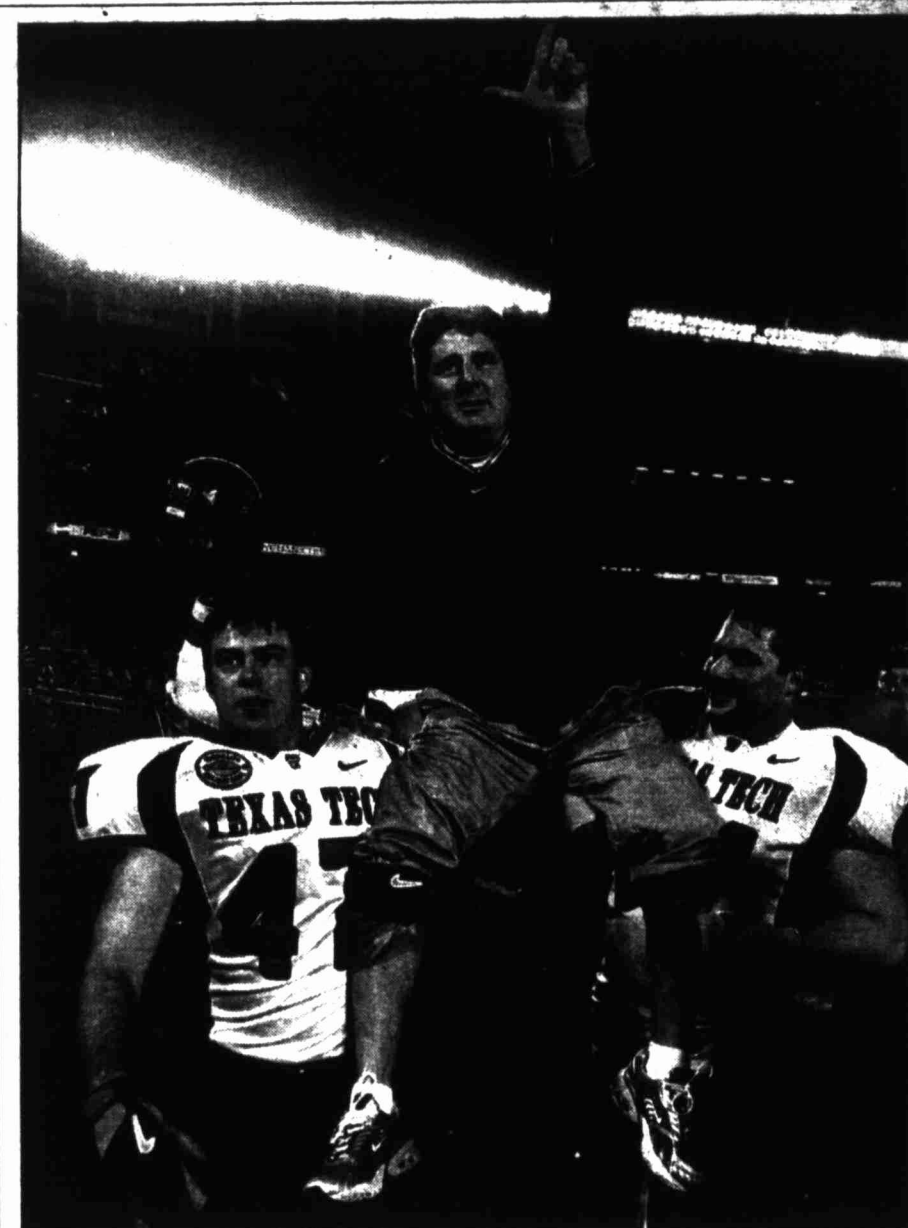
"We've done everything at this program except win a national championship," said fifth-year senior linebacker Eric Hall. "This would be a pretty good year to do it."



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KRT photo/Ron Jenkins, Fort Worth Star Telegram
Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach is carried off the field by players Clay McGuire (left) and Cody Campbell (right) after the upset over California in the Holiday Bowl at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif., last season.

TECH

Continued from Page 33

Although Leach has yet to formally name this year's QB, fifth-year senior Cody Hodges could make it three straight years that a starter watched from the sidelines for four seasons. Hodges said he expects to be the one who takes the snaps in the season opener Sept. 10 against Florida International.

Hodges has certainly put in his time.

A four-year starter at Hereford, where he threw for 6,500 yards and 70 touchdowns and ran for 30 more, Hodges was the new kid on the squad when Kliff Kingsbury was finishing his great run leading the Tech offense.

Then he saw B.J. Symons take

over in 2003 and put up remarkable numbers — 52 touchdowns and an NCAA single-season record 5,833 yards passing, and witnessed Sonny Cumbie lead the nation in passing last year with 32 TDs and 4,742 yards.

"I've had the opportunity to sit back and watch three great quarterbacks and kind of soak up different aspects of their games," Hodges said. "Then maybe I can add my own dimension and do something special around here."

Leach will pick between Hodges and Graham Harrell, a redshirt freshman from Ennis who broke his ankle in an off-field incident in the final week of spring practice. Harrell holds the state's high school passing records with career marks of 12,532 yards and 167 touchdowns.

See **TECH**, Page 35.

Franchione seeks next step in College Station

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

Associated Press Writer

Texas A&M coach Dennis Franchione often jokes that senior quarterback Reggie McNeal sometimes has to overcome his coaching.

As perhaps the top dual-threat quarterback in the country, McNeal has the unique ability to turn what looks to be a busted play into something good — and, occasionally, something spectacular.

That's why whenever Franchione has any doubts about what to do, he likes knowing he can "put it in No. 1's hands and let him do his stuff."

McNeal did it repeatedly last season, setting school records for passing yards (2,791) and rushing yards by a quarterback (718) while leading the Aggies to a 7-5 record and their first Cotton Bowl berth since 2001.

And the best may be yet to come.

Franchione was so impressed by the way McNeal dominated on and off the field that coaches named him their most improved player in the spring. With four of the five starters back on the offensive line and running back Courtney Lewis returning, it's no wonder A&M expects to challenge Oklahoma and Texas in the Big 12 South.

"Right now we feel like we are equal," McNeal said. "I think we can compete with anybody. Everybody has the heart and mindset and don't nobody want to settle for less."

Things weren't as optimistic this time last year, when the Aggies were coming off their worst season in 31 years. The embarrassment included a 77-0 loss to the Sooners.

Last year, A&M only lost to OU by a touchdown. However, A&M also lost in overtime to Baylor, providing the Bears their only conference win.

"We didn't do everything that we wanted to do, and we certainly had some areas along the way that we stubbed our toe," Franchione said. "But we grew in so many different areas and, you know what, obviously taking the next step this year is an important part of that."

The departure of leading receiver Terrence Murphy should be offset by a trio of strong receivers. DeQawn Mobley, Jason Carter and

Earvin Taylor will all be targets for McNeal.

"Our whole receiver group coming in is great," McNeal said. "It's basically everyone can make plays — all of them. You just give them the ball, they're going to catch anything in their area. They don't want to drop passes."

Running back Courtney Lewis ran for 742 yards and nine touchdowns last season despite battling injuries. He was healthy in the spring and Franchione hopes he'll be back to his freshman form when he ran for more than 1,000 yards.

"That's going to be huge," McNeal said. "That will take a lot of pressure off of me. With him running the route like he was doing two years ago, if he can bring that back it's going to be hard to stop us."

Senior strong safety Jaxson Appel will anchor the secondary and could become the first A&M player since Dat Nguyen to lead the team in tackles for three consecutive seasons. Appel is joined at safety by Japhus Brown, who led the team with three interceptions last year.

Perhaps the biggest question on defense is whether unproven players can step in to replace last year's top two cornerbacks.

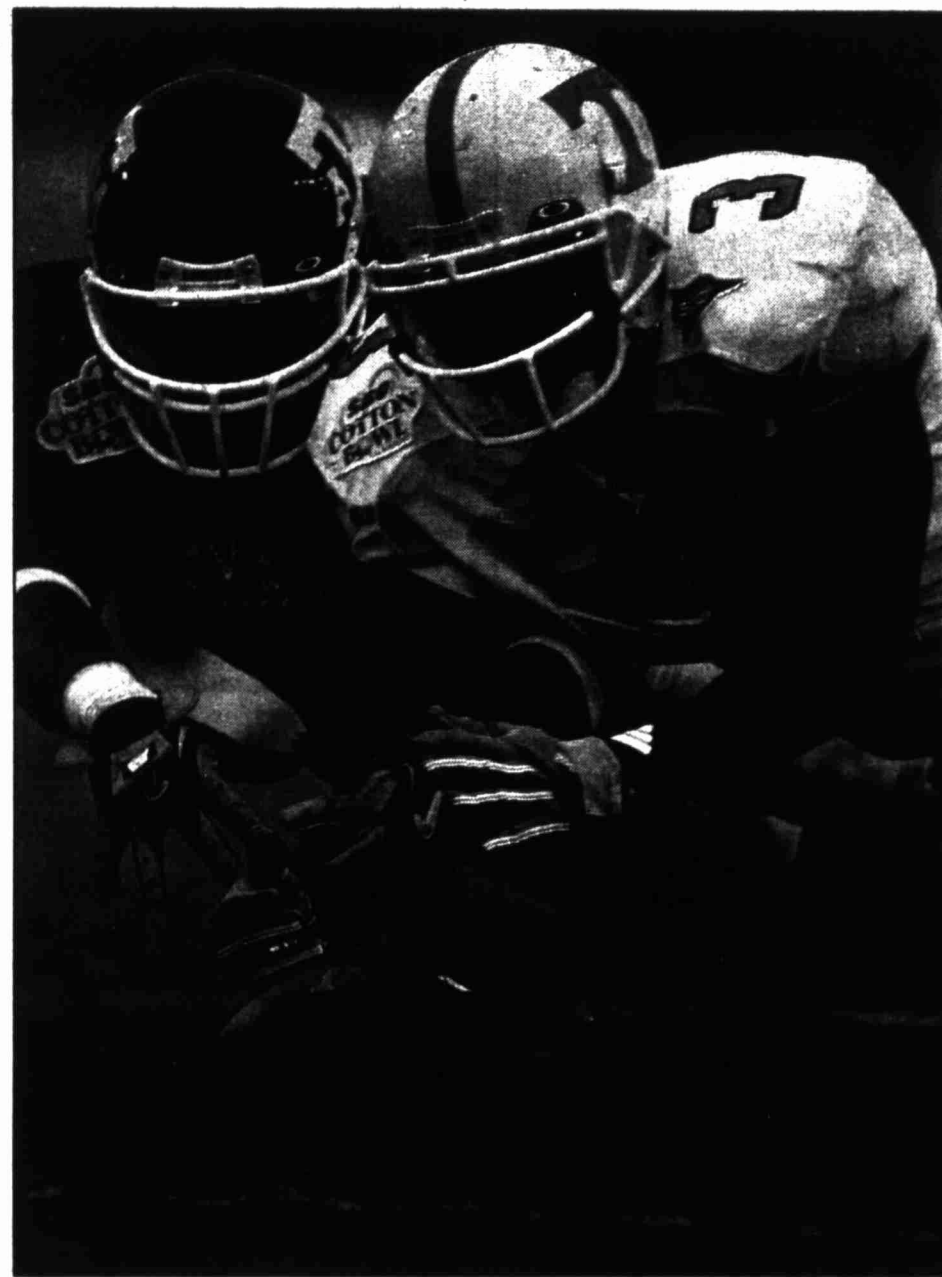
Brock Newton and Danny Gorrer are the leading contenders. Appel has already been impressed with Gorrer and thinks he can make an immediate impact.

"He wants to win," Appel said. "He wants to be one of the stars on the defense. I think he has a tremendous work ethic."

The Aggies had one of their most impressive recruiting hauls in recent memory in 2005 and Franchione expects some of those players to contribute immediately.

The most heralded of the group is Parade All-American Martellus Bennett, a 6-foot-7 tight end who flirted with the NBA draft before reaffirming his commitment to football.

His brother, Michael Bennett, also joins the team after signing with Louisiana Tech in 2004 but never enrolling. He will compete for a spot on the defensive line, as will fellow newcomer Kellen Heard. Heard originally signed with Miami but did not enroll.



KRT photo/Ralph Lewis, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Texas A&M returner Eric Mayes (16) dives with the Tennessee Volunteers Robert Meacham (3) for the ball, after Mayes drops a fair catch kick in the first half. Tennessee defeated Texas A&M, 38-7, at the SBC Cotton Bowl in Dallas, last season.

TECH

Continued from Page 34

Whoever is the quarterback, he will have bigger receivers than in the past, including Jarrett Hicks, who led the conference in yards per game (86 yards) and caught 13 TD passes last season.

"I think we've got quite a bit of talent," Leach said. "We're not lacking experience, but we're shy on it, I think."

Tech's defense, long known to wear down in games and during a season, improved considerably last year. The biggest improvement was against the pass, shaving 75 yards per game off their previous average to hit 15th in

the nation. With players returning into their third season, Leach said, "We're going to be a lot better."

"We got better last year as the year went," Leach said. "So now we're a junior defense with a lot of guys that have played quite a few years."

So if the offense keeps humming along the defense continues to improve, Tech could do better than last year, when it went 5-3 in the conference, tying for third in the South division.

"You constantly try to improve, constantly try to tighten the slack," Leach said. "It's not usually about improving a bunch of big things. It's just trying to be sharper at as many little things as you can."

Dallas Cowboys**2005 Schedule**

Sept. 11	@San Diego
Sept. 19	Washington
Sept. 25	@San Francisco
Oct. 2	@Oakland
Oct. 9	Philadelphia
Oct. 16	New York Giants
Oct. 23	@Seattle
Oct. 30	Arizona
Nov. 6	Bye
Nov. 14	@Philadelphia
Nov. 20	Detroit
Nov. 24	Denver
Dec. 4	@New York Giants
Dec. 11	Kansas City
Dec. 18	@Washington
Dec. 24	@Carolina
Jan. 1	St. Louis

Houston Texans**2005 Schedule**

Sept. 11	@Buffalo
Sept. 18	Pittsburgh
Sept. 25	Bye
Oct. 2	@Cincinnati
Oct. 9	Tennessee
Oct. 16	@Seattle
Oct. 23	Indianapolis
Oct. 30	Cleveland
Nov. 6	@Jacksonville
Nov. 13	@Indianapolis
Nov. 20	Kansas City
Nov. 27	St. Louis
Dec. 4	@Baltimore
Dec. 11	@Tennessee
Dec. 18	Arizona
Dec. 24	Jacksonville
Jan. 1	@San Francisco

Oklahoma no longer favored to win Big 12

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

Regardless of their standings in the poll, Oklahoma has to be considered the team to beat in the Big 12 until Texas proves otherwise.

And this might be the year coach Mack Brown's Longhorns finally do it.

They certainly have all the components — an offense led by junior Vince Young, the most exciting running quarterback since Michael Vick; a veteran-filled defense run by the coordinator who oversaw Auburn's perfect season last year and a Sooners squad that appears a notch below the ones that played in the last two national championship games.

"We're excited that people are excited about this team," Brown said, adding that his players go into the season brimming with confidence along with a No. 2 ranking, their best in the preseason since 1970. "They're not afraid to hear as a team they're supposed to be good. That's a little different. Some teams can't handle that. This one knows what it takes."

Still, No. 7 Oklahoma has beaten its Red River rival five straight years by a combined 189-54. Last year, OU handed Texas its first shutout since 1980 and Sooners fans would love nothing more than celebrating the 100th edition of the rivalry with another victory.

"It doesn't really matter to me whether we are picked favorites or not," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "You know, we have been in both situations and we found our way in other years to championships, and other years where we have been picked favorites and not been."

But if the Longhorns can beat their nemesis, more rewards could await. Brown could win the first conference title of his 22-year coaching career and perhaps bring the first national championship to Austin since 1969. He might even win over the casual fans who feel he talked his way into the Bowl Championship Series last season.

Then again, beating OU is only one of several challenges facing Texas.

The Longhorns have an early game at No. 6 Ohio State, plus post-Oklahoma games against two

other in-state foes on the rise — No. 17 Texas A&M and No. 21 Texas Tech.

They also must replace running back Cedric Benson and linebacker Derrick Johnson, both among the top 15 picks in the NFL draft. And the reason Texas hired Gene Chizik from Auburn was to replace two defensive coaches who left to become head coaches elsewhere.

Having Young under center makes anything seem possible, at least to anyone who saw him in the Rose Bowl. He ran for four touchdowns that had to be replayed in slow motion to be believed, threw for another and set up the kick that beat Michigan as time expired. His goal ever since has been getting back to Pasadena, the site of this season's final game.

Whoever wins the South will be a huge favorite over the North winner in the conference championship game in Houston on Dec. 3.

The North was the standard bearer when the league began 10 years ago, but Nebraska and Kansas State aren't what they used to be and neither is the division. Colorado and Iowa State tied for the best record last season at 4-4; that would've tied for fifth in the South.

Things are so out of whack between the divisions that there's been talk of getting rid of the structure and letting the two best teams slug it out in the title game.

That debate has quieted and it's just as well for conference commissioner Kevin Weiberg. He has plenty of other things to worry about as head of the BCS.

A capsule look at the teams in their predicted order of finish:

SOUTH

TEXAS — RBs Selvin Young, no relation to Vince, and Ramonce Taylor will get the ball plenty. But also keep an eye on freshman RB Jamaal Charles. ... The knock on Vince Young is his accuracy. He had 12 TDs and 11 INTs last season. ... With unproven receivers, don't be surprised if Young's favorite target is TE David Thomas, a preseason all-conference pick.

OKLAHOMA — RB Adrian

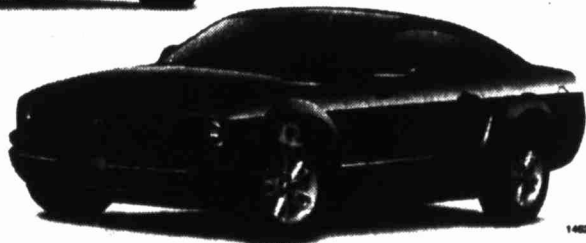
See **BIG 12**, Page 38

Good Luck To All Area Teams!

BOB BROCK FORD

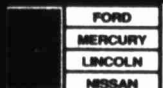
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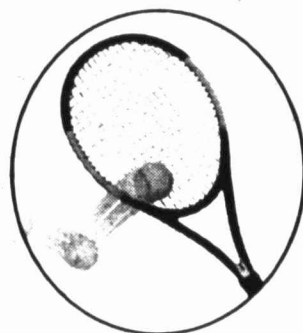
Wishing All Area Students A Great Season!

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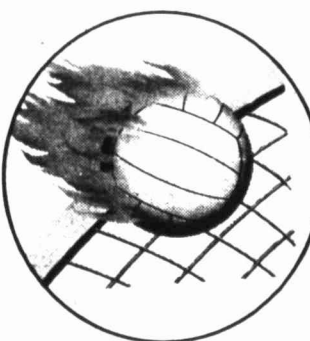
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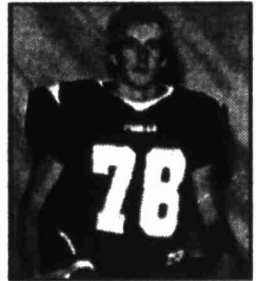
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Forsan High School

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Mom, Dad & Liz

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Big Spring Lady Steers

Tyler Phillips
Forsan Buffaloes

M'Lyn Swinney
Big Spring Lady Steers
Our Love,
PePaw and Mimi

Tim Davila
Forsan Jr. High

**GOOD LUCK
& HAVE AN
AWESOME SEASON!**
We Love You!
Mom, Dad, Marisol & Alicia

Big 12 composite schedule

Sat.	Sept. 3	TCU at Oklahoma CSU at Colorado Illinois State at Iowa State Florida Atlantic at Kansas UL Lafayette at Texas Texas A&M at Clemson Baylor at SMU Florida Int. at KSU Missouri vs. Arkansas State Maine at Nebraska Montana State at OSU	Sat. Oct. 15	Texas Tech at Nebraska* Kansas State at TexasTech* Colorado at Texas* Iowa State at Missouri* Kansas vs. Oklahoma* Nebraska at Baylor* Oklahoma State at Texas A&M*
Thu.	Sept. 8	OSU at Florida Atlantic	Sat. Oct. 22	Kansas at Colorado* Oklahoma State at Iowa State* Texas Tech at Texas* Texas A&M at Kansas State* Nebraska at Missouri* Baylor at Oklahoma*
Sat.	Sept. 10	Kansas State at Marshall Tulsa at Oklahoma Iowa at Iowa State Wake Forest at Nebraska Samford at Baylor Appalachian State at Kansas Florida Int. at Texas Tech Texas at Ohio State New Mexico State at Colorado New Mexico at Missouri	Sat. Oct. 29	Colorado at Kansas State* Iowa State at Texas A&M* Missouri at Kansas* Oklahoma at Nebraska* Texas Tech at Baylor* Texas at Oklahoma State*
Sat.	Sept. 17	SMU at Texas A&M Pittsburgh at Nebraska Oklahoma at UCLA Rice at Texas Louisiana Tech at Kansas Sam Houston at Texas Tech Baylor at Army Troy at Missouri Arkansas State at OSU	Sat. Nov. 5	Texas A&M at Texas Tech* Missouri at Colorado* Kansas State at Iowa State* Nebraska at Kansas* Texas at Baylor* Colorado at Iowa State* Kansas at Texas* Kansas State at Nebraska* Baylor at Missouri* Texas A&M at Oklahoma* Texas Tech at Oklahoma State*
Fri.	Sept. 23	Iowa State at Army	Sat. Nov. 12	Kansas at Texas* Kansas State at Nebraska* Baylor at Missouri* Texas A&M at Oklahoma* Texas Tech at Oklahoma State*
Sat.	Sept. 24	Indiana State at Texas Tech Colorado at Miami (Fla.) UNT at Kansas State Texas State at Texas A&M	Sat. Nov. 19	Oklahoma at Texas Tech* Missouri at Kansas State* Oklahoma State at Baylor*
Sat.	Oct. 1	Kansas at Texas Tech* Baylor at Texas A&M* Colorado at OSU* Iowa State at Nebraska* Kansas State at Oklahoma* Texas at Missouri*	Fri. Nov. 25	Texas at Texas A&M* Nebraska at Colorado* Iowa State at Kansas* Oklahoma State at Oklahoma*
Sat.	Oct. 8	Oklahoma vs. Texas* Texas A&M at Colorado* Baylor at Iowa State* Kansas at Kansas State* Missouri at OSU*	Sat. Nov. 26	Dr Pepper Big 12 Championship
			Sat. Dec. 3	

BIG 12

Continued from Page 36

Peterson, a Heisman Trophy finalist last year as a freshman, may be wondering where everyone went. The Sooners had 10 players drafted off last year's team, plus lost 2003 Heisman winner Jason White. ... The battle to replace QB White is between junior Paul Thompson and redshirt freshman Rhett Bomar. Sophomore Tommy Grady, the backup last season, is transferring.

TEXAS A&M — The Aggies rebounded in Year 2 under coach Dennis Franchione and look to keep it up with QB Reggie McNeal back for his senior season. ... A&M has nine games to prepare for a finish that includes a game at Norman and home against the Longhorns 13 days later.

TEXAS TECH — Expectations are high in Lubbock following a solid victory over California in the Holiday Bowl. ... For the third straight season, coach Mike Leach is making a first-time starter out of a fifth-year senior.

This time it's Cody Hodges. His two predecessors wound up leading the nation in passing. ... Taurean Henderson needs 26 catches to become NCAA career leader in receptions for a running back and 58 to be the conference's career leader for any position.

OKLAHOMA STATE — Offensive coordinator Mike Gundy replaced Les Miles as head coach. ... Having lost their leading rusher, the Cowboys will throw more to a WR corps led by D'Juan Woods, younger brother of former star WR Rashaun Woods. Another brother, Donovan Woods, is the starting QB, but being challenged by Bobby Reid.

BAYLOR — The women's basketball team won the national championship, bringing joy to a campus and community that sorely needed it. The football team's lone bright spot last year was beating A&M at home, the Bears' only win their last eight games. The outlook remains grim for the league's only private school.

NORTH COLORADO — For all their off-

field turmoil, the Buffaloes have won three of the last four North crowns. Last season's title-game berth earned Gary Barnett the league's coach of the year award. ... QB Joel Klatt is back for a third season running the offense, but the RB spot is less settled. ... The Buffs have a superb kicking tandem in K Mason Crosby and P John Torp.

IOWA STATE — The Cyclones are set at skill positions on offense and the defense is getting back Jason Berryman.

The league's 2003 defensive newcomer of the year missed last season while in jail stemming from an assault case. The talented end must work his way up from the scout team, but it shouldn't take long.

KANSAS STATE — The offense lost RB Darren Sproles to the NFL and returns QBs Dylan Meier and Allen Webb, which

may or may not be a good thing. ... The Wildcats allowed at least 31 points in all seven of their losses. ... Coach Bill Snyder has removed the players' names from the back of their jerseys after going from 6-2 division champs to 2-6 cellar-dwellers.

NEBRASKA — The last time the Cornhuskers had a losing season, they rebounded with nine wins. Forty-three years later, coach Bill Callahan is counting on JUCO transfer QB Zac Taylor to ease the transition from running team to passing club. ... Nebraska has an NCAA record 268 straight sellouts. In that span, the Huskers have more victories over ranked foes (38) than total losses (31).

MISSOURI — Mizzou fans are hoping QB Brad Smith will return to the elusive, entertaining style that yielded big plays as a freshman and sophomore.

He was too conservative last season. ... Coach Gary Pinkel may need a big season to save his job after high expectations last season resulted in a 5-6 record.

KANSAS — Charles Gordon, who can catch passes, cover receivers and is fun to watch on kick returns, is the Jayhawks' best hope for avoiding a 12th straight non-winning season. Coach Mark Mangino may need it; he's 12-24 over three seasons. ... Five of last season's seven losses were by six points or less.



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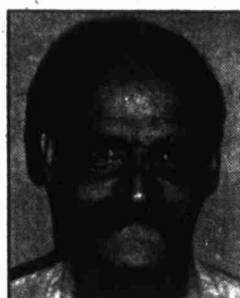


TROY HYDE

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Chargers, N.Y. Jets and Ravens
 NFC teams: Eagles, Lions, Panthers, Cardinals, Falcons and Cowboys
 AFC title game: Colts over Patriots
 NFC title game: Eagles over Panthers
 Super Bowl: Colts over Eagles

B.S. Herald Sports Editor

Favorite Teams
 Iowa Hawkeyes
 GO HAWKS!
 San Francisco 49ers

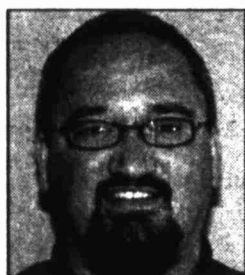


STEVE REAGAN

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Broncos, N.Y. Jets and Bills
 NFC teams: Eagles, Vikings, Falcons, Seahawks, Cowboys and Rams
 AFC title game: Colts over Patriots
 NFC title game: Eagles over Vikings
 Super Bowl: Eagles over Colts

B.S. Herald News Writer (Former Sports Editor)

Favorite Teams
 Texas Tech
 Red Raiders
 GUNS UP!
 Reformed Cowboy fan



JEFF LANE

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Jets, Steelers, Colts, Chiefs, Patriots and Chargers
 NFC teams: Eagles, Vikings, Falcons, Cardinals, Packers and Panthers
 AFC title game: Chiefs over Patriots
 NFC title game: Eagles over Packers
 Super Bowl: Chiefs over Eagles

Instructor at the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program at B.S.I.S.D.

Also: Foran freelance writer for the Herald

Favorite Team
 Dallas Cowboys



ERIC RODEWALD

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Raiders, Jets and Chiefs
 NFC teams: Eagles, Packers, Falcons, Seahawks, Vikings and Redskins
 AFC title game: Colts over Raiders
 NFC title game: Packers over Eagles
 Super Bowl: Colts over Packers

HC Assistant women's basketball coach

Also: freelance writer for the Herald

Favorite Teams
 Nebraska Cornhuskers
 (Not Bill Callahan)
 Oakland Raiders



RICK BOILES

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Chiefs, Jaguars and Raiders
 NFC teams: Eagles, Packers, Falcons, Seahawks, Cowboys and Vikings
 AFC title game: Colts over Steelers
 NFC title game: Eagles over Seahawks
 Super Bowl: Colts over Eagles

Water Distribution and Sewer Collections Manager (city of Big Spring)

Also: frontman for local rock band Rustic Circle

Favorite Teams
 Dallas Cowboys
 Texas Longhorns



ADAM DUNLAP

NFL Playoff Predictions
 AFC teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Raiders, Jets and Broncos
 NFC teams: Eagles, Vikings, Falcons, Rams, Cowboys and Packers
 Super Bowl: Steelers over Eagles

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