

THURSDAY

August 26, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT 73°-74° TOMORROW 94°-96°

INSIDE



Herald Sports Editor Troy Hyde breaks down falls sports teams in Big Spring and the Crossroads area.

BRIEFLY

**Bauer Magnet
Burger Bash today**

Bauer Magnet Elementary will be having its 12th annual Back To School Burger Bash from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today. Call Monika Kennemur at 816-1506 for information on tickets.

**Blood drive set
Friday afternoon**

Maranatha Baptist Academy will host a blood drive from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds, be in good general health and have valid identification. A free pizza party will be held for the classroom with the most donors. Call 263-7696 to schedule a donation time.

THIS WEEKEND



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Vol. 100, No. 234

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Chaplaincy session hopes to attract volunteers

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

A special question and answer session concerning the role played by emergency services chaplains has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday in the training room located above the council chambers at Big Spring City Hall.

Ken Childress, who began a volunteer chaplaincy in Howard County

about 18 months ago while serving as associate pastor of Community of Hope First Church of the Nazarene, will be on hand to answer questions posed by local ministers and lay people interested in serving as chaplains.

Childress is expected to leave Big Spring in the next two months or so, and the need to establish a permanent program has become apparent. He has agreed to help train

"They are people who are willing to help when people most need help."



Ken Childress

replacements as chaplains and a group of community leaders have

begun the process of putting together the structure for a permanent program.

Childress noted that chaplains provide front line aid for victims of crime and their families. They also help with needs beyond the realm of traditional public safety agencies.

"They're often called on to help families whose lives have been impacted by serious injury and

What: Chaplaincy program session.

Where: Training room above city council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

When: 5:30 p.m. Friday.

fatal accidents, sexual and physical assaults, suicide and homicide, family crisis and natural disasters," Childress noted.

See **CHAPLAIN**, Page 3A



HERALD photos/Nancy Koger and Thomas Jenkins
Above, contestant Ashton Evans visits during a "get acquainted exercise" prior to the Howard County Fair Queen competition Saturday. At left, Garden City High School senior Meagan Kothmann takes her victory walk down the runway moments after being named queen.

QUEEN SCHOOL

Contestants gets short course on poise, make-up, speaking, modeling and meeting people

There was a time when ruling a kingdom was by divine right, but nowadays there are classes for those who would be queen. In this case, the short course in "regalese" was preparation for the 17 young women vying for the title of Howard County Fair Queen of 2004.

Before they stepped up on the runway for judging on Saturday, these high school and college students participated in a morning of meeting, mixing, modeling, making-up and maximiz-

ing their assets and their confidence. Sonya Metcalf, experienced coordinator of the fair contest, introduced the contestants to the rules and "secrets" of the realm of scholarship competition, which they had entered by completing an application. She stressed the

idea that winning such a contest depends not on physical beauty as on the demonstration of an outgoing personality and the ability to interact with everyone who attends the fair, from farmers checking out the age exhibits to senior citizens fellowshipping with their neighbors to children learning about new parts of Howard County culture.

The initial assign-

Fair officials said this morning that Saturday's tractor pull will be held at 11 a.m. and not at 1 p.m. as had been previously posted.

ment for each contestant was to find someone in the group she

See **FAIR**, Page 3A

Local ACT scores make the grade

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School officials learned Monday that students' ACT scores from this summer were even better than they had expected. Not only did the school have 40 more students take the exam this year (107 compared to only 67 last year), they increased their score by more than half a point (20.9, up from 20.3 in 2003.)

"Congratulations to the students for scoring well, and also to the counselors at the high school for their efforts in recruiting students for the



DOWNES RITCHEY

tendent.

"ACT scores can be important to students because colleges look at ACT scores for admission and for qualification for certain academic scholarships," said BSHS Principal Mike Ritchey.

Judging from the ACT analy-

sis, students who took upper level English, mathematics, social studies and natural science did better on the exam than their counterparts (21.2 versus 19.3.)

"These scores are an indicator of the success of the upper level programs at our school. This is a clear sign to students that the harder courses are well worth the effort in preparing for college and scoring well on the ACT," explained Ritchey.

The next ACT assessment will take place in October and

See **ACT**, Page 3A

Large-item pick up planned Friday in District 5

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring will begin the fifth leg of its Large Item Pick Up Program, designed to help area residents get rid of large items they can't get to the landfill themselves, on Friday, working through District 5 of the city.

"The large item pick up is a program that started several years ago with the city of Big Spring," said Todd Darden, director of public works. "Unfortunately, it sort of died out some time ago. Recently, the council has asked the city staff to start offering the pro-

gram again.

"It's a widely used program. We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or otherwise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill. 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 premise they might not be able to get rid of otherwise."

Darden said there's no charge to use the program, which began approximately five months ago and continues to work its way through all six districts of the city, but you do need to be aware of what the crews can and cannot pick up.

"There's no charge to use the program," said Darden. "Some of the more typical items we pick up are tree branches, appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses. Those are the kind 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

See **TRASH**, Page 3A

Al-Sistani arrives in Najaf

27 killed in mortar barrage at mosque

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's top Shiite cleric made a dramatic return to Najaf at the head of a massive convoy Thursday hoping to end three weeks of fighting in the holy city, but hours earlier a mortar barrage slammed into a mosque filled with Iraqis preparing to join his march, killing 27 people and wounding 63.

Along with the mortar attack, another group of thousands of marchers heading into Najaf from its sister-city Kufa came under fire from an Iraqi National Guard base. At least three people were killed and 46 wounded.

Fierce clashes also continued Thursday in Najaf with U.S. warplanes bombing suspected positions of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia and explosions booming across the city.

The violence could undermine the attempt by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani to end the fighting between U.S.-Iraqi forces and al-Sadr's Mahdi Army.

The 75-year-old al-Sistani had been in London undergoing medical treatment throughout the fighting, and his return could be the best hope so far of ending the violence, which has repeatedly seen peace efforts fall apart.

Al-Sistani has held himself above the fray, supporting neither al-Sadr nor the U.S. troops and the pro-U.S. government. He holds the loyalty of a far broader swath of Iraq's Shiite majority than al-Sadr, a young cleric whose fiery anti-U.S. message has drawn many poorer, disillusioned Shiites but is seen by other Shiites as too radical.

Al-Sistani is calling for Najaf and Kufa to be declared weapons-free cities, for all foreign forces to withdraw from Najaf and leave security to the police and for the Iraqi government to compensate those harmed by the fighting here.

Al-Sistani's 30-vehicle convoy drove 220 miles from the southern city of Basra to Najaf, joined by at least a thousand cars from towns along the way, where supporters on the street cheered al-Sistani.

He arrived in Najaf just before 3 p.m. and went directly to one of his houses in the al-Sa'ad neighborhood, about a mile from the revered Imam Ali Shrine, where the militants were holed up.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad

See **IRAQ**, Page 3A

Obituaries

Deborah Joyce Brand

Deborah Joyce Brand, 46, died at her home in Monahans Aug. 24, 2004.

"Deb" was born in Cambridge, England Oct. 22, 1957, and came to the United States February 1958. She attended schools in Corpus Christi and Big Spring.

She graduated from The University of Texas at the Permian Basin summa cum laude with a degree in sociology. She was a social worker with the Texas mental health and mental retardation department for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Darin, and beloved stepchildren Jason Brand, serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq, and Ashley, of Dallas; step granddaughter Naley; her mother and stepfather, Pat and Mike Craddock; her father and stepmother, Bobby and Louisa Smith, of Canyon Lake; two brothers, Todd Smith and his wife, Sandie, of Midland and Mark Smith of Coahoma; nephews, Ian Smith of Lubbock and Tyler Smith of Midland; nieces, LeAnne and Ashley Smith of Coahoma and great niece Elizabeth; stepsister Micki Craddock of San Angelo; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins in England and in the United States.

Deb will be cremated and a memorial service will be held pending Jason's arrival from Iraq.

Viewing will be held from noon until 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004, at the Heritage Funeral Home in Monahans.

Services are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Jesse Travis "Bubba" Gonzales



Jesse Travis "Bubba" Gonzales, 21, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2004, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born May 15, 1983, in Stanton. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Catholic.

He is survived by his parents, Janie and Sammy Peacock of Big Spring and Kenneth and Amy Hagins of Big Spring; three sisters, Mellisa Gutierrez and Kimberly Hagins, both of Big Spring, and Shaunessy Peacock of Ackerly; maternal grandparents, Fred and Aurora Gonzales of San Angelo; one niece, one nephew, two aunts and three uncles.

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

Support groups

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

□ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8-9 p.m.

SATURDAY

□ Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5-6 p.m.

MONDAY

□ All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Police blotter

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

• **MARIA KAY STANDISH**, 30, of Ennis, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.

• **PAMELA LEFLER**, 41, of 1307 Mulberry, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **DONALD MITCHELL**, 65, of 1300 W. Third Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JIMMY GARRARD**, 30, of 1522 Tucson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SAUNDRA GARRARD**, 30, of 1522 Tucson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

Sheriff's report

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

• **DANIEL GENE CLAYBURN**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with government records - license/seal/certificate/permit.

• **DENISE KAYLA HORTON**, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• **MARCUS MARTINEZ ARMENDAREZ**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less and a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.

• **BARRY ELDON ALLEN**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.

• **JOE CANALES**, 29, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to register as a sex offender.

• **BRANDON LEE EDWARDS**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a parole violation.

Take note

□ **YOUNG LIFE MUCKFEST** for all high school students is set for 7:59 p.m. Monday at the Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

□ **MOSS ELEMENTARY FIRST GRADE CLASS** has set a Teddy Bear picnic for 2 p.m. today and a Grand Teddy Bear Parade for 9:30 a.m. Friday.

□ **HOME COMING ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR ALL COAHOMA EXES** is set for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 31 in Christine's Cafe. Officers will be elected and a state order homecoming dinner will be given to the officers of all schools.

□ **A FUND TO HELP DEFRAY** the funeral costs and medical bills of Johnny Darden, a Howard County man who was recently attacked and killed by a swarm of bees, has been set up at State National Bank under account no. 2007126.

□ **A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME** has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

□ **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

□ **MANNA RELIEF**, a non-profit ministry that provides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

□ **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1994** 10-year reunion is set for October 8-9. For more information, or to update name or mailing address, please call Kendra Carey Willingham at 1-888-820-4911 pin No. 6414 or e-mail BigSpringReunion94@yahoo.com.

□ **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1989** 15-year reunion is set for Oct. 8-9. For information or to update your name or mailing address, contact Christy Alexander at 972-567-8037 or Shanette Johnson at 972-874-9308.

□ **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.

□ **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

• Howard County Fair from 4-10 p.m. Adult admission is \$4, children is \$2, and children younger than 5 are admitte free.

• Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 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.

• Blood Drive at Maranatha Baptist Academy from 2-6 p.m. Call 263-7696 to schedule an appointment.

• Howard County Fair from 4-10 p.m. Adult admission is \$4, children is \$2, and children younger than 5 are admitte free.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

• Howard County Fair from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Adult admission is \$4, children is \$2, and children younger than 5 are admitte free.

SUNDAY

• Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between 3 p.m. and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.

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 Pounds Off 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 Pounds Off 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 6:00 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Young Life Muckfest for all high school students is set for 7:59 p.m. at the Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-17-24-35.

Number matching five of five: 0

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 2-3-8-25-40 and Bonus Ball 18.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$29 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-1-7

Weather

Tonight - Generally clear. Low near 75. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday - Mainly sunny. High 96. Winds S at 15 to 25 mph.

Friday night - Isolated thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low 73. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday - A few thunderstorms possible. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 60s.

Herald classifieds
get results!

Call 263-7331

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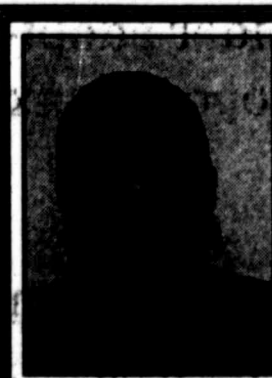
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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.

FAIR

Continued from

didn't know a few minutes about her, her likes and dis the place and her dream va After the que od, each pair "my new best

Following t acquainted ex would be que chance to tas realistic aspe celebrity by h bring in pote donated by a shop for stag tion. Then th Howard, a for Hub City con the Miss Tex who has spen teaching mod that contest a state.

Tania share the details of petitions and girl to draw a for which she have the rest before judgin late an answe each question everyone cou idea of the sc interrogation queries inclu do you know self that you a year ago?" comes to you town for a da would you ta what would y "What song t describes yo

To help par present them audience. Me uted a paper outline of "M Story," with l blanks for "I a ... In the would like to Each girl was some time to her answers prompts and personal statu herself with "being able t self to an aud

For the mor sion, Howard women to be they would b during the fo phase of the demonstrated in walking n standing in t togenic and a way, turning for runway p tions. Each y woman got t the technique moves she w required to n stage. Every instruction w to help the c feel comforta things expect during the ju reminded the ly that the m tant thing th wearing wou smile.

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ACT

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FAIR

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didn't know and spend a few minutes asking about her, her family, likes and dislikes and the place and reason for her dream vacation. After the question period, each pair introduced "my new best friend."

Following the get-acquainted exercise, the would-be queens got a chance to taste one of the realistic aspects of celebrity by helping bring in potted plants donated by a local florist shop for stage decoration. Then they met Tana Howard, a former Miss Hub City contestant in the Miss Texas contest, who has spent a year teaching modeling for that contest across the state.

Tana shared some of the details of such competitions and asked each girl to draw a question, for which she would have the rest of the time before judging to formulate an answer. She read each question aloud so everyone could have a idea of the scope of the interrogation. The queries included, "What do you know about yourself that you didn't know a year ago?" "If a tourist comes to your hometown for a day, where would you take them and what would you do?" and "What song title best describes you and why?"

To help participants present themselves to an audience, Metcalf distributed a paper with the outline of "My 30-Second Story," with fill-in-the-blanks for "I am _____, I'm a _____. In the future I would like to _____." Each girl was given some time to work on her answers to those prompts and make a personal statement about herself with the goal of "being able to sell yourself to an audience."

For the modeling session, Howard asked the women to wear the shoes they would be wearing during the formal wear phase of the contest. She demonstrated techniques in walking naturally, standing in the most photogenic and attractive way, turning smoothly for runway presentations. Each young woman got to practice the techniques and the moves she would be required to make on stage. Every phase of instruction was designed to help the contestants feel comfortable with the things expected of them during the judging. Tana reminded them repeatedly that the most important thing they would be wearing would be a smile.

Some of the fair directors — Nancy Howard

and Janiece Barnes, assisted by Tommy Corwin — furnished a tropical salad luncheon to give the "queens-in-training" further opportunity to get acquainted and to fortify themselves for the afternoon's activities, as well as to relax from the modeling practice.

The afternoon session began with the introduction of Deborah Foster, Mary Kay make-up team leader, and Pam Hadoran, Mary Kay senior consultant. Each contestant had a make-up mirror and product station to work from. The make-up began with cleansing and moisturizing the face, then proceeded with individual consultation on foundation, eye, cheek and lip coloration. Contestants chose the extent to which they used the professional advice and the products offered.

The training in queen competition concluded with mothers, sisters and friends coming in to help with hairdos and dressing in the informal or "denim" outfits worn in the first phase of competition. With such camaraderie, expert instruction and practice, each of the Howard County beauties was equipped to be a queen.

Fair schedule

Today
9 a.m.-noon — School tours
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Senior citizens ice cream and bingo.
3 p.m. — Steers begin arriving
4 p.m. — Fair opens
7 p.m. — Colgate Country Showdown

Friday
9 a.m.-noon — School tours
1 p.m.-3 p.m. — School tours
1 p.m.—Weigh and classify steers
1 p.m.-7 p.m. — Lambs arrive
4 p.m. — Fair opens
7 p.m. — Lamb weight cards due
7 p.m. — Fiddler Jana Jee
9 p.m. — Fiddler Jana Jee

Saturday
8 a.m. — Lamb showman-ship
9 a.m. — Lamb show
10 a.m. — Fair opens
10:30 a.m. — Kountry Kids
11 a.m. — Tractor pull
1 p.m. — Steer show, showmanship to follow
3 p.m. — Goats arrive
7 p.m. — Battle of the Cheerleaders
9:45 p.m. — Quilt drawing

Sunday
9 a.m. — Goat weight cards due
11 a.m. — Goat showman-ship
1 p.m. — Goat show

CHAPLAIN

Continued from Page 1A

"And they are also there to counsel police officers, fire personnel, hospital staff and others. Sometimes chaplains are also asked to assist with neighborhood problems and provide many other types of public assistance."

Given the wide range of scenarios chaplains encounter, Childress said an academy and a complete orientation is provided for any chaplain dispatched on a call.

"Chaplains are special people, available to help and support others in critical times of need," he noted. "They are people who are willing to help when people most need help. They are definitely part of the entire team that serves the community in times of emergency."

Representatives from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Big Spring Police Department, Victim Services, Howard County Sheriff's Office and Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room stressed the need for an emergency services chaplaincy program in Howard County

during a community awareness meeting two weeks ago and their message was clear — that they do not want to lose the program Childress has begun.

Most of those who spoke during the meeting admitted that prior to Childress' arrival and commitment to creating a chaplaincy they were unaware of the program's need.

"If you would have asked me five years ago if we needed a chaplain program, I'd probably have said no," Police Chief Lonnie Smith said. "That's not the answer I'd give you today."

The police chief noted that law enforcement training has changed a great deal over the years, but one of the last areas to be addressed has been training officers to deal/ Smith explained the law enforcement "brotherhood" is somewhat of a closed society and that officers often find it difficult to let down the barriers that often create emotional problems for themselves.

"Ken Childress was able to break that barrier because of his previous experiences (as both a law enforcement officer and minister)," Smith

noted. "His legacy in this community is the realization that a chaplaincy program is vital for both officers and the public."

Police Sgt. Tony Everett echoed his chief's sentiments, providing examples.

"We had a situation where a 7-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and murdered not too long ago," Everett recalled. "That affected a lot of people ... not just the little girl's family but everyone who had any dealings with the case. Ken had a group meeting with all of us and it helped a lot. He was there to help the family, just like Victim Services was, but was also there for us. This program is unbelievably important to our department and these other agencies."

Victim Services Executive Director Shann Thomas also told prospective volunteers to "be prepared."

"Sometimes it just gets too tough," Thomas said, tears filling her eyes and her voice wavering a little as she recalled the child's rape and murder case Everett had mentioned. "I absolutely bailed out after that one. I just couldn't handle it," she continued. "I called

Ken and he came in and we talked. It allowed me a chance to work it out and handle those emotions."

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker assessment was to the point: "We can't do without this program," he said. "This has to continue. This program is a Godsend and our officers need it desperately."

"I've called on Ken to help me deal with situations, too," Walker noted. "We're human, folks. We have feelings like everyone else, but our job puts us in a position that we have to deal with the immediate situation. We have to keep it together at the scene ... then we fall apart later."

"You're hearing desperate pleas from the law enforcement personnel in this community," he continued. "We handle scenes, but the chaplain handles personal tragedies."

Anyone needing additional information on the chaplaincy program or Friday's question and answer session can contact Childress by calling 267-7016 or 816-1658.

To contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley, call 263-7331, ext. 230. He can be e-mailed at editor@bigspringherald.com

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

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."

The city will wrap up the program next month, and while residents in Districts 1 through 4 have missed their chance for 2004, Darden said the city plans to start all over again next year.

"We wanted to pick a date that would be common for each month," he said. "It's going to be the fourth Friday of each

month. We began with District 1 in April and have worked from there. We plan to repeat the same schedule next year. We like to think of it as spring cleaning. We're going to start in the spring of each year and work through the beginning of fall to assist people with these large items."

"We have a council that is very proactive in trying to beautify Big Spring. We also have the Keep Big Spring Beautiful group that is really pro-

moting the 'clean and green' idea. We want people that come to our community to know we really care."

For more information on the Large Item Pick Up 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.

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

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

Allawi declared a 24-hour cease-fire in Najaf from the time of al-Sistani's arrival "to reinforce our commitment to peace."

Allawi expressed hope al-Sistani's peace initiative would succeed so the government would not have to resort to a long-threatened raid on the Imam Ali Shrine.

"I stress that this is the last call for peace and that this is the last chance to put an end to the spilling of innocent blood," Allawi said in a statement. "God willing, our prayers for Iraq's peace and stable security will be met."

Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurfi said Iraqi and U.S. forces would temporarily pull back from positions near the revered Imam Ali Shrine to allow for peace efforts.

Allawi and other government officials have repeatedly issued ultimatums for the militants to capitulate, but have yet to follow through on their threats.

Al-Sistani's aides have called on Iraqi Shiites nationwide to march on Najaf to support his peace bid, but asked them to wait on the edge of the holy city until his arrival. Al-Sadr's aides also asked their followers to join the march as well.

With officials from all sides supporting al-Sistani's march call, it was unclear who fired the mortars that hit the main mosque in Kufa, where thousands of Shiites had gathered intending to march to nearby Najaf.

Al-Sadr aides blamed U.S. forces, but American commanders denied their troops fired any mortars. Al-Sadr regularly preaches at the mosque, which has long been one of the

centers of his support.

"We were gathering outside and inside the mosque preparing to head to Najaf when two mortar shells landed, one inside the mosque and the other on the main gate," said Hani Hashem, bringing an injured friend to the hospital. "This is a criminal act. We just wanted to launch a peaceful demonstration."

One mortar shell hit the mosque compound itself and two others hit near the mosque gates, said Hussam al-Husseini, an al-Sadr aide. The blasts killed 27 people and wounded 63, according to Mohammed Abdul Kadhim, an official at Furat al-Awsat hospital in Kufa.

Blood was splattered on the pavement in a courtyard beside the mosque and a pair of sandals was left nearby, according to Associated Press Television News footage.

Shrapnel from the explosions tore small chunks out of walls and the pavement, but the compound did not appear to have suffered serious structural damage.

Outside the hospital's gate, crowds of angry people gathered, shouting "God is great!"

After the attack, thousands of demonstrators loyal to al-Sadr marched on nearby Najaf but came under fire from a base between the two cities housing Iraqi national guardsmen and U.S. troops, witnesses said.

The marchers scattered when the gunfire broke out.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Jesse Travis "Bubba" Gonzales, 21, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

ACT

Continued from Page 1A

the deadline for postmark registration is Sept. 17. Students can get registration materials from their guidance counselor or they can register online

at www.actstudent.org.

To learn more about testing dates and how to prepare for college, Ritchey advises students to communicate with the school's counseling staff. He also recommends that parents learn about the educational implications of their children taking

higher level classes.

For more information about tests and college preparation, parents need to watch for "Knowledge for College" coming in October. This event will provide checklists for scholarships and pre-college planning in addition to announcing further

testing deadlines and test information vital to college bound students.

The next ACT exam will also be available for free to low-income families, thanks to a grant from AXA Advisors to defray the cost of testing.

Contact Staff Writer

Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 9, 2004 at 101 N. St. Joseph Street, Stanton, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2004. The proposed tax rate is 0.01535 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District by 3%.

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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
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Are you ready for football? Well it's here

Time for preparation has expired. The 2004 high school football season officially gets under way in the Crossroads area tonight when Garden City's Bearkats play host to Grandfalls Cowboys at 7:30.

But the remainder of the area's teams will officially open their seasons this weekend — designated as Week 0 in the Texas University Interscholastic League's 11-week schedule.

Big Spring's Steers will open their season taking on Odessa High at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa.

At the same time, Coahoma's Bulldogs will play host to Reagan County's Owls.

Forsan's Buffaloes and Stanton's Buffaloes will also open at home, both playing highly-touted Class 1A teams. Forsan's herd entertains Iran's Braves, while Stanton hopes to create a surprise stampede on Roscoe's Plowboys. Both of those games are set for a 7:30 p.m. start.

Sands' Mustangs will also be homestanding on the first week of the season, playing host to Ropes in six-man action at 7:30 p.m..

Grady's Wildcats will be the last team to get into the action, as they take on Faith Christian of El Paso with a 1 p.m. Saturday 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

LETTER POLICIES

- The *Herald* welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A taste of their own medicine

Team Kerry wants President Bush to denounce an advertising campaign by an independent group called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which has criticized Sen. John Kerry's Vietnam record.

After months of the Democrats smiling and winking as well-funded independent groups that share their political views distorted the record on President Bush's service in the Air National Guard, they now are outraged when the same tactics are turned against them. How dare the Republicans stoop as low as they have.

Now, Team Kerry claims that the Bushies are behind the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth ads attacking Kerry's military record, even though there is no proof that Bush League is behind the attacks.

News flash (to The New York Times, which ran its story on the funding behind the anti-Kerry ad on Page One): People who support Bush have paid for the anti-Kerry ads.

Not a news flash: People who support Kerry have bankrolled anti-Bush ads.

For months now, readers have deluged my e-mail inbox, urging me to question Kerry's Vietnam record and to examine whether Kerry earned his three Purple Hearts. I have responded with unrestrained scorn. After all, I answer, Kerry saw more combat than Bush. Besides, the Kerry of today is running for the White House.

The Democratic National Committee, at its convention in Boston, alas, spent more time showcasing Soldier Kerry, with scant attention to Sen. Kerry. On

the one hand, it was a positive development that Democrats chose to salute military service. On the other hand, the Kerry who began his convention speech telling America he was "reporting for duty" was something of a farce.

How low the Democrats have sunk. Now, DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe, one-time enforcer for the draft-evading Bill Clinton, crows about Kerry's military prowess while bashing Bush for being "AWOL." When party biggies are reduced to arguing that their guy is better because he served in a war to which they objected, truly they have run out of compelling issues.

Note that Kerry's charges — that the Bushies are behind the Swift boat ads — come as the new Swift boat spots attack not Kerry's military record but what Kerry said in public testimony before the U.S. Senate in 1971. In that testimony, Kerry spoke of atrocities committed by American soldiers — this is testimony for which some vets never will forgive Kerry.

Now, Kerry is outraged that his critics are repeating what he said — quoting the speech with which he launched his political career.

Bob Dole, speaking for a generation for which military service has a different standard, quipped on CNN Sunday that Kerry is in the hot seat for a reason: "I mean, one day, he's saying that we were shooting civilians, cutting off their ears, cutting off their heads, throwing away his medals or his ribbons. The next day, he's standing there, 'I want to be president because I'm a Vietnam veteran.'"

On Sunday, a Washington Post story looked at charges that Kerry did not earn all of his medals and found that "although Kerry's accusers have succeeded in raising doubts about his war record, they have failed to come up with sufficient evidence to prove him a liar."

No surprise there. If there's one thing I've learned in life, it is to

discount what is said by any group or person that claims to represent "the truth." (This means filmmaker Michael Moore.)

Still, as Dole said, "Not every one of these people can be Republican liars." Indeed, the Washington Post story also found holes in the Kerry war-hero hagiography and reported that Kerry refused to release documents related to his military record.

Kerry, of course, would not be expected to release this information if he had not made his military tenure the core of his campaign for president.

It shouldn't be this personal, but it is because the race has become all about personality. It's odd: America is at war. Kerry and his fellow Democrats have disagreed with Bush on many aspects of the war. But rather than argue on the big issues, Camp Kerry has focused on nasty little digs.

Take Kerry campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter's response to Bush spokesman Scott McClellan's statement that Kerry was "losing his cool" on the Swift boat controversy. Cutter shot back, "Mr. McClellan needs to understand that John Kerry is not the type of leader who will sit and read 'My Pet Goat' to a group of second-graders while America is under attack" — a shot at Bush for remaining in a Florida classroom for several minutes after learning of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Talk about thin-skinned. I guess that's what happens when you are fed a dose of your own medicine.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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• **HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
Office — 264-2200.
BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE
— Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

Kerry's anti-war activities brought to light

Four months ago, I wrote a column suggesting that critics of John Kerry who disparaged his service in Vietnam might be barking up the wrong tree. "Kerry's problem isn't whether he deserved the medals he was awarded," I wrote. "His vulnerability is his record after the war — especially his involvement with the radical group Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and his role as an apologist for the communists we were fighting in Vietnam." At the time, almost no one had heard of Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, the organization now at the center of a storm of controversy over John Kerry's record in Vietnam. The group held a press conference May 4 that received almost no media attention.

Boy, what a difference a few months and a half million dollars make. The Swiftvets are now all the rage — thanks to a low-budget ad campaign (a small buy in only a tiny handful of states) that has dominated news coverage of the presidential campaign in recent days. The group has unhinged the Kerry camp, which has tried to censor the ads, threatened television stations that might air them, attempted to intimidate bookstores from carrying "Unfit for Command," a new, best-selling, anti-Kerry book by Swiftvets John O'Neill and Jerome Corsi, and fired back with its own ad claiming the Bush campaign is behind the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

The latter charge is blatantly false. The Bush campaign has been in the forefront of trying to

shut down so-called "527s," unsuccessfully challenging the legality of the groups at the Federal Elections Commission this year. Most 527s are on the Left and have spent more than \$60 million trying to defeat the president. Bush campaign officials are scrupulous in avoiding even the appearance of coordination with independent groups. The best way to ensure that your phone calls not be returned by anyone in the Bush campaign or the Republican National Committee is to be involved with a 527. The mere mention of a 527 sends the lawyers rushing in and campaign officials scurrying for the doors — I've seen it happen.

Yet the mainstream media seem far more interested in chasing down false leads about alleged ties between the Swiftvets and Bush-Cheney '04 than they do exploring the substance of the group's charges against Kerry, especially his dubious record in the anti-Vietnam War movement and its influence on his Senate career. The latest Swiftvets ad uses snippets from Kerry's 1971 testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations committee in which he said American soldiers "raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, ... cut off limbs, blown up bodies (sic), randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in a fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan ..."

Kerry based his statements not on his own knowledge but on the fabricated testimony of a group of anti-war activists at "hearings" sponsored by VVAW and paid for by Jane Fonda. Some of those who testified to witnessing atrocities later proved not to have served in the military, much less in Vietnam. Congressional and military investigations into these allegations found no substantiation of

the specific charges — which is not to say that atrocities did not sometimes occur. Just two months before Kerry testified before the Senate, Lt. William Calley was convicted by a military tribunal of killing 22 innocent men, women and children in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in 1968, which made Kerry's unsubstantiated charges all the more believable.

Why hasn't the media investigated Kerry's anti-war activities more closely or spent time tracking down the veracity of the allegations he made about atrocities?

Why haven't enterprising reporters asked Kerry why he went to Paris in 1970 to meet with representatives of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong during the Paris Peace Talks, or why he has never criticized the communist government of Vietnam in the years since the fall of Saigon? Why haven't journalists called him on his claims to have taken his boat into Cambodia during Christmas 1968 — an uncorroborated assertion he has made at least eight times since 1979, including once on the floor of the U.S. Senate in 1986, according to research by Dr. Joshua Muravchik of the American Enterprise Institute? News organizations spent considerable effort to investigate George W. Bush's National Guard service, devoting hundreds of stories to the issue, but they show almost no interest in getting to the bottom of whether Kerry made up stories about his involvement in what would have been an illegal incursion into Cambodia.

These are the real leads the media ought to be tracking — not the obvious distraction of the Swiftvets' purported ties to Republicans.

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LINDA CHAVEZ

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Dodge Sprinter

New commercial/passenger van raising the bar for efficiency

While the Dodge Sprinter van is something new for North America, it's not really new.

DaimlerChrysler's Mercedes division has been producing reliable, ultra efficient and safe commercial vans in Europe for years.

Dodge was in need of a new full-size van platform that could accommodate a multitude of applications — including a 12-seat passenger van.

Instead of re-inventing the wheel, DaimlerChrysler leveraged resources from its Mercedes division to provide a solution for its North American problem.

The result is the new Dodge Sprinter van that not only has raised the bar, but has changed the standards by which full-size van platforms will be judged in North America — particularly in commercial fleets.

Powered by a 2.7-liter I-5 turbodiesel engine (154 horsepower/243 lb.-ft. torque) and mated to a five-speed automatic transmission with Touch-Shift, the Sprinter is available in three wheelbases and two gross vehicle weight ratings (8,550 pounds or 9,900 pounds).

The flexibility allows consumers a large assortment of options — particularly commercial fleet customers — to customize vans to fit specific applications.

But the Sprinter isn't just for large companies needing a fleet of cargo vans. The Sprinter passenger van is ideal for organizations, churches and large families that often need to carry up to 12 passengers in comfort and safety.

As I mentioned before, this is made by Mercedes and marketed through select, DaimlerChrysler Dodge dealers licensed to service Sprinter vans.

Mercedes comfort and safety features can be found throughout the Sprinter van, including Electronic Stability Program (which reduces the danger of skidding and helps the driver maintain control), four-wheel anti-lock brakes with Electronic Brake Distribution, front

airbags and three-point safety belts for every passenger.

With an EPA fuel economy rating of 22 mpg, the Dodge Sprinter gets almost twice the mileage from a gallon of fuel than other full-size (commercial) vans in the market.

The Sprinter is also designed to require less maintenance, which also decreases the annual operating costs (and down time).

According to a report issued by DaimlerChrysler, during the first 100,000 miles of operation, the Sprinter is recom-

mended to have 10 scheduled service visits requiring 8.5 hours of maintenance estimated to cost \$2,514.65.

The report cites recommended scheduled service visits for 100,000 miles of operation, along with estimated costs, for competing full-size (commercial) vans at: Ford (19 visits totalling \$3,947.33); GMC (19 visits totalling \$5,464.96); and Isuzu (16 visits totalling \$3,656.07).

With a base price beginning at \$28,000, the Dodge Sprinter has set new standards in North America.

For those in the market for a cargo van or a 12-seat passenger van, the Dodge Sprinter is highly recommended for a test drive.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

MODEL:
2004 Dodge Sprinter Van
Rear-wheel drive
Passenger/cargo van
2-12 passenger seating
PRICE RANGE:
\$28,000 - \$36,000
ENGINE:
2.7-L I-5 turbodiesel
(154 hp/243 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed auto with TouchShift
EPA: 22 mpg
WHEELBASE:
118, 140, or 158 inches
PAYLOAD CAPACITY:
Up to 5,554 pounds
LENGTH: 196/225/263 in.
FUEL TANK: 26.4 gallons
FUEL: Diesel



Test vehicle provided courtesy of Berry Dodge, Corsicana

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AUG 26 2004

Young Life Muckfest set for Monday

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Feature's Editor

The seventh annual Young Life Muckfest Monday night promises to be a grimy, slimy, fun-filled time for about 100 high school students.

"We have so many students who attend this and it is just wild," said Shelly Warren, Young Life co-director.

Muckfest begins at 7:59 p.m. Monday at the Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

Muckfest brings the teen-agers together to slime and grime each other in fun. The admission is a can of shaving cream, and only the foam kind will be accepted. No gel cans are allowed.

Young Life co-director Matt Warren said this is a great time for the teen-agers and is the opening event for the Young Life program, which follows the school year.

"The kids really love this. They should wear clothes they can throw away, because we will get messy," Matt Warren said.

Young Life is a non-

denominational Christian ministry devoted to creating and maintaining relationships with high school students.

Club, as its called by its members, meets each Monday night in the Young Life club house, located on Owens Street behind Cornerstone Church.

"We start at 7:59 sharp," Matt Warren said.

Young Life is a community-supported, non-profit ministry that works through the help of adult Christian volunteers. The organization, now in its seventh year in Big Spring, is operated through a volunteer board of directors.

"It is unusual for us to have a Young Life in a town our size. Most Young Life Clubs are found in larger cities in the United States. We are so blessed to have community support for our club in Big Spring and this shows we have a real heart in Big Spring for teen-agers," Shelly Warren said.

Each week, special skits, songs and other wacky events engage the

teen-agers in activities designed to create an atmosphere of acceptance while promoting Christian values and choices.

Along with Muckfest, other annual events include summer camp in Colorado and a week-long trip during spring break. Various fundraisers are scheduled throughout the year to help with the cost of the camps, as well as materials needed by the club.

Young Life has a booth at the Howard County Fair, where more information about the program is available. A special game using clothes pins is also available for teen-agers at the fair booth, and prizes will be awarded.

"The point is to see how many clothes pins a teen-ager can put on their face. The one who has the most wins a burger basket from Buffalo Country Fina," Shelly Warren said.

For more information about Muckfest or the Young Life program, call Matt Warren at 213-4818.



Young Life directors Matt and Shelly Warren perform a skit during a club meeting. Muckfest is set at 7:59 p.m. Monday in Comanche Trail Park. Admission is a can of foam shaving cream. All high school students are invited.

2004 Property Tax Rates in Glasscock

This notice concerns 2004 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
Last year's operating taxes	\$2,011,594
Last year's debt taxes	\$185,393
Last year's total taxes	\$2,196,987
Last year's tax base	\$370,787,011
Last year's total tax rate	\$.59252/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$2,195,725
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$427,593,880
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$.513507/\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$.513507/\$100
x 1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearing	\$.528913/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

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)	\$2,010,438
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$427,593,880
= This year's effective operating rate	\$.470175/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$.507789/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$.036241/\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	\$.544030/\$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$.544030/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Glasscock County adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$.513507 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2003 taxes by \$284.

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	\$495,000

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
	\$120,000	\$27,285	\$0-	\$147,285
Total required for 2004 debt service			\$147,285	
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A			\$0-	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$0-	
- Excess collections last year			\$0-	
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2004			\$147,285	
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 95% of its taxes in 2004			\$7,364	
= Total Debt Levy			\$154,649	

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 Pruitt
Title Glasscock County Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared August 11, 2004

Family vacation halted by weather roulette

By JEANNE MARIE LASKAS

Special to The Washington Post

We are now going to take a vote. Because this conversation has gone on too long.

It's raining. We were supposed to take the kids — all five of them — to the amusement park. We do this every year.

My sister Claire and her family come out to the farm for a week, and we pick blackberries, pitch a tent, ride the pony and sooner or later note how Claire's kids, 5, 8 and 10, aren't, actually, the farm type (she has corrupted them into believing that a barn is a predominantly stinky place).

These rituals are followed each year by the highlight of the trip, indeed the very climax of summer fun — a day at the nearby amusement park. So it goes.

We've already done blackberries, tent, pony and many horrified exclamations of "pee-uuuuu!" and today, the last day of the visit, was to be the big day of roller coasters.

"Oh, well," I thought, when I awoke to see the rain.

But my two preschoolers are young enough to be diverted by spin.

"Wow, it sure is a splashy-splishy day!" I could say. "This is why God invented ... movies!"

Claire was in the kitchen, hunched over her coffee, all bones and agony.

"What's up with the hag look?" I said, as sisters are permitted.

"The husband," she said, shaking her head. "The son ..."

There was, apparently, a movement afoot to ignore the downpour. To go ahead and pack up the car with snack bags and juice boxes and those lit-

tle walkie-talkies we always take, and just behave as if this were one fine Ferris wheel day.

Claire's husband, James, walked into the kitchen.

"Look, I understand weather patterns, Claire," he said, as if continuing a conversation. "This rain will stop, and then it will be clear until 3 p.m."

Now, I know better than to get between a husband and a wife, so I bit my tongue and did not say, "Whence comes this meteorological expertise?"

"Where in the name of barometric pressure are you getting this?" was the way Claire put it. (Well done!)

James explained that he was up most of the night in the tent, and as he and his two sons tried to stop the leaks, they noted that hard rain seems to last for about an hour, and then you get a series of breaks before it really kicks in again.

"You were up all night doing this?" I said. "You could have come inside."

"We finally came in around 5," he said. "Let's do that again!" Matthew said. Listening to him go on like this, I remembered that there's a thing about rituals when it comes to kids, a very big thing.

Rituals are serious business. Rituals exist in muscle memory. To a kid, any change in ritual is a matter of profound disruption.

I sympathized. I started thinking that an amusement park in the rain wouldn't be so bad. I even brought up the idea of umbrellas and boots.

"I'm sure the place isn't even open," Claire said, prompting James to call. "A few showers doesn't

stop us!" the woman on the phone said, prompting Claire to open the newspaper and note that it didn't say "showers" or even "occasional thunderstorms." It just said "rain," underneath a little picture of a completely committed cloud.

Matthew was near tears, Claire was descending into guilt, and James was tapping his foot. Then my husband came out of the shower, saw us like this and wasted no time in divorcing himself from the drama.

"Well, I'm not going," he said. "Anyone want oatmeal?"

And so we have decided to resolve this, to take a parents-only vote.

"I don't need a secret ballot!" my husband is saying. "I want to be known for who I am!" Right. So I fill out his ballot for him. Then mine.

James reads them: "Yes." "No." "No." And "Whatever Claire voted." That last one was mine. Yeah, I'm a weenie, I know. But I can't bear to be the party pooper; that's why God invented sisters.

"No fair!" Matthew rightly says, erupting into tears. He runs outside, plants himself on a bench, hangs his head in the rain.

The grown-ups are thus forced to come together for an emergency meeting. Can we salvage this child's summer vacation? Is a ritual something you can replace?

Soon Claire yells out our consensus and our hope:

"Hey, Matthew, how about bowling?" He looks up mid-sob, lets the information settle in. "Yesss!"

LA Times/Washington Post

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IN B

Howard Coll

assist in tel

The Howard Athletic will be helping the Jerry Telethon at Spring Mall. A member of sport — m women's baseball, so rodeo — as cheerleaders will be phones and pledges.

Howard Coll opens booth

The athletic ment at Howa will have a b at the Howa Fair today Saturday.

The booth used to pro Hawk Flight to begin the athletic season. They will fair from 4 p.m. Wednes and from 10 p.m. Saturda

Big Spring a tennis club

Big Spring booster club holding a m p.m. tonight Spring Cafete

Anyone wi le on the t can attend, meeting is a new member

For more in contact Roy 466-1589.

Howard Col cheer camp

Howard cheer camp through six will be held the Doroth Coliseum.

Registratio event will a.m. and the Cheer class a.m. The cos

For more in contact Linc 264-5024.

Howard C seeking sin

Howard Athletic Dep seeking Anthem sing upcoming seasons.

Anyone in being a sing make a ta (with the singing) and at the athl with atten Howard.

For more in call Howard

Peloteros a final tourna

The Texa have set up the year soft ment for Fri at Cotton M

The tourn \$115 to ente ning team \$200, while third place shirts and t

For more Manuel at or Edna at 4

ON TH

IN BRIEF

Howard College to assist in telethon

The Howard College Athletic Department will be helping out with the Jerry Lewis Telethon at the Big Spring Mall Sept. 6. A member from every sport — men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball and rodeo — as well as cheerleaders and trainers will be answering phones and taking pledges.

Howard College opens booth at fair

The athletic department at Howard College will have a booth set up at the Howard County Fair today through Saturday. The booth will be used to promote the Hawk Flight Club and to begin the selling of athletic season tickets. They will be at the fair from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Big Spring announces tennis club meeting

Big Spring's tennis booster club will be holding a meeting at 6 p.m. tonight in the Big Spring Cafeteria. Anyone with an athlete on the tennis team can attend, but the meeting is also to find new members. For more information, contact Royce Islas at 466-1589.

Howard College sets cheer camp dates

Howard College's cheer camp for first through sixth graders will be held Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. and the Dance and Cheer class starts at 9 a.m. The cost is \$25. For more information, contact Linda Berry at 264-5024.

Howard College is seeking singers

Howard College's Athletic Department is seeking National Anthem singers for the upcoming basketball seasons. Anyone interested in being a singer needs to make a tape or CD (with the person singing) and drop it off at the athletic office with attention Tana Howard. For more information, call Howard at 264-5155.

Peloteros announce final tournament

The Texas Peloteros have set up an end of the year softball tournament for Friday-Sunday at Cotton Mize Field. The tournament costs \$115 to enter. The winning team is awarded \$200, while second and third places receive T-shirts and trophies. For more info, call Manuel at 432-263-8219 or Edna at 432-816-6159.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, Aug. 26	7:30 p.m.	Odessa Roughnecks vs. Lubbock Lonestars
Friday, Aug. 27	7:30 p.m.	Odessa Roughnecks vs. Lubbock Lonestars
Saturday, Aug. 28	7:30 p.m.	Odessa Roughnecks vs. Lubbock Lonestars

Rangers lose despite Blalock's re-emergence

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON

Minnesota didn't hit Texas starter Ryan Drese very hard, the Twins just hit him a lot in an 8-5 victory Wednesday night. The AL Central-leading Twins had 13 hits off Drese (11-7), a career-high against the right-hander and one shy of a Rangers record. He pitched just 3 2-3 innings, his shortest outing this season. Only one Minnesota starter didn't have a hit the first two innings, when the Twins already had 10 hits and a 6-2 lead. They had four infield singles and a bloop to left

while scoring twice on grounders and then on Drese's errant pickoff throw. No. 9 hitter Luis Rivas had a double and triple off Drese, then homered against Carlos Almanzar leading off the eighth. Lew Ford went 3-for-5, a triple and two singles off Drese. Justin Morneau, back in the starting lineup after missing two games with a swollen hand, drove in runs with a groundout and a single the first two innings. His solo homer in the fourth made it 7-3 and was the last run off Drese. Minnesota, which fin-

ished with 17 hits, maintained its eight-game division lead, while Texas lost for the third time in four games since an eight-game winning streak and dropped two games behind Boston in the wild-card race. The Rangers have 70 wins, just one shy of their total last season. Kyle Lohse (7-10) allowed five runs and eight hits in five innings. Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his 35th save in 38 chances, escaping a bases-loaded jam when Laynce Nix hit a game-ending flyout to deep center. Drese's career-best win-

ning streak was snapped at four and his home ERA, which was the best in the AL, jumped from 2.17 to 2.78. The Twins started the game with three straight singles, including Jacques Jones' infield hit that deflected off Drese and Torii Hunter when the ball dribbled only a few feet down the third-base line after he took a full swing. Morneau's groundout pushed home the first run, and Ford followed with a slow roller to shortstop for an RBI single. Hunter scored on the throwing error by Drese, and Corey Koskie's RBI

double made it 4-0. Hank Blalock hit his 28th homer in the bottom of the first, a two-run drive. It was his fourth homer over a six-game stretch in which he has hit .454 (10-for-22). R.A. Dickey allowed just one hit while retiring 10 of 11 batters in 3 1-3 innings. David Dellucci, in the leadoff spot for Texas for the first time, went 4-for-5 with an RBI single in the fourth. It was Dellucci's fifth four-hit game and second this season. Michael Young set a career high with his 15th homer, a solo shot in the third.



Marion Jones of the United States waves to fans after qualifying in the long jump at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece Wednesday.

Richmond knocks off Morganton, title closer

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer
S O U T H
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Texas is two steps away from a world championship. Chance Murski hit a grand slam and Randal Grichuk hit a three-run homer to lead Richmond, Texas, to the United States final with an 8-2 win over Morganton, N.C., Wednesday night at the Little League World Series.

Texas plays the winner of the Thousand Oaks, Calif., vs. Preston, Md., game on Saturday for the championship. The world championship is Sunday. "I'm just about as excited as you can get. I'm just emotionally drained," Texas manager Jim Michalek said.

Vice President Dick Cheney watched the game from a hill beyond the outfield wall, and "Born in the USA" blared from the speakers as Texas played in its second straight semifinal.

In the second inning, Tyler Ford doubled, and Matt Daniels and Dustin Moehlig hit consecutive singles to load the bases for Murski. Murski, hitting only .167 in the series, crushed one to left field off Dykora Spiess (0-1) for a 4-0 lead.

"I hung in there and got that pitch," said Murski, who went 1-for-3. "I feel pretty good, but the rest of the at-bats I didn't do that well."

Grichuk, back for his second consecutive Little League World Series, added a three-run homer in the fourth to make it 7-0. It was his fourth homer of the series and sixth in two years.

Grichuk is one shy of tying the career home run record held by two players, including Pittsburgh Pirates manager Lloyd McClendon in 1971.

Grichuk, a pitcher and first baseman, is the only returning player on the Texas team.

"I just go up to the plate thinking, 'Hit the ball,'" he said.

Daniel Homann (2-0) earned his second win of the series, allowing four hits and striking out eight. After the final out, he bounded off the mound and celebrated with his teammates near the first-base line.

Cheney sat with his wife, Lynne, on the popular hill where families gather.

Texas activates Park from DL, will start tonight

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON — Chan Ho Park will come off the disabled list Thursday and make his first start for the Texas Rangers since May 19. Park (2-4, 5.80 ERA), who has spent more time hurt than pitching since signing a \$65 million, five-year contract with the Rangers before the 2002 season, has been on the disabled list with a strained lower back. The

right-hander will start the finale of a four-game series against AL Central-leading Minnesota. "I feel great. I haven't really been off. I've been pitching in minor league games," Park said this week. "I want to pitch hard and to win, just relax and pitch like it's any other game. My back is pretty good." Texas is expected to put right-hander Mickey Callaway, who has an injured right shoulder, on

the disabled list Thursday to make room on the roster for Park.

In 10 rehab starts in the minors, Park was 1-5 with a 4.01 ERA. His last was Friday, when he gave up four runs on six hits over 6 1-3 innings for Triple-A Oklahoma against Memphis.

"We're going by what he tells us," manager Buck Showalter said. "He feels good and is ready to go. He showed us that in his last outing."

Before signing with Texas, Park never was on the DL in six seasons with Los Angeles.

Park is 12-15 with a 6.00 ERA over 40 starts in Texas, with five trips to the DL.

Park missed two months because of two DL stints (hamstring strain and blistered finger) in his first Texas season. He was 9-8 with a 5.75 ERA in 25 starts.

Last year, Park was lim-

ited to seven starts (1-3, 7.58) due to lower back problems. His last game was June 7, when he gave up four runs over two innings against Montreal.

Bearcats begin six-man season at home tonight

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Garden City — The Bearcats of Garden City will begin its six-man era tonight at home against Grandfalls-Royalty as kick-off is set for 7:30 p.m. The Bearcats struggled in 11-man last season, but are the preseason favorites to win their six-man district. Tonight's contest is senior night and all the seniors will be honored starting around 7 p.m.

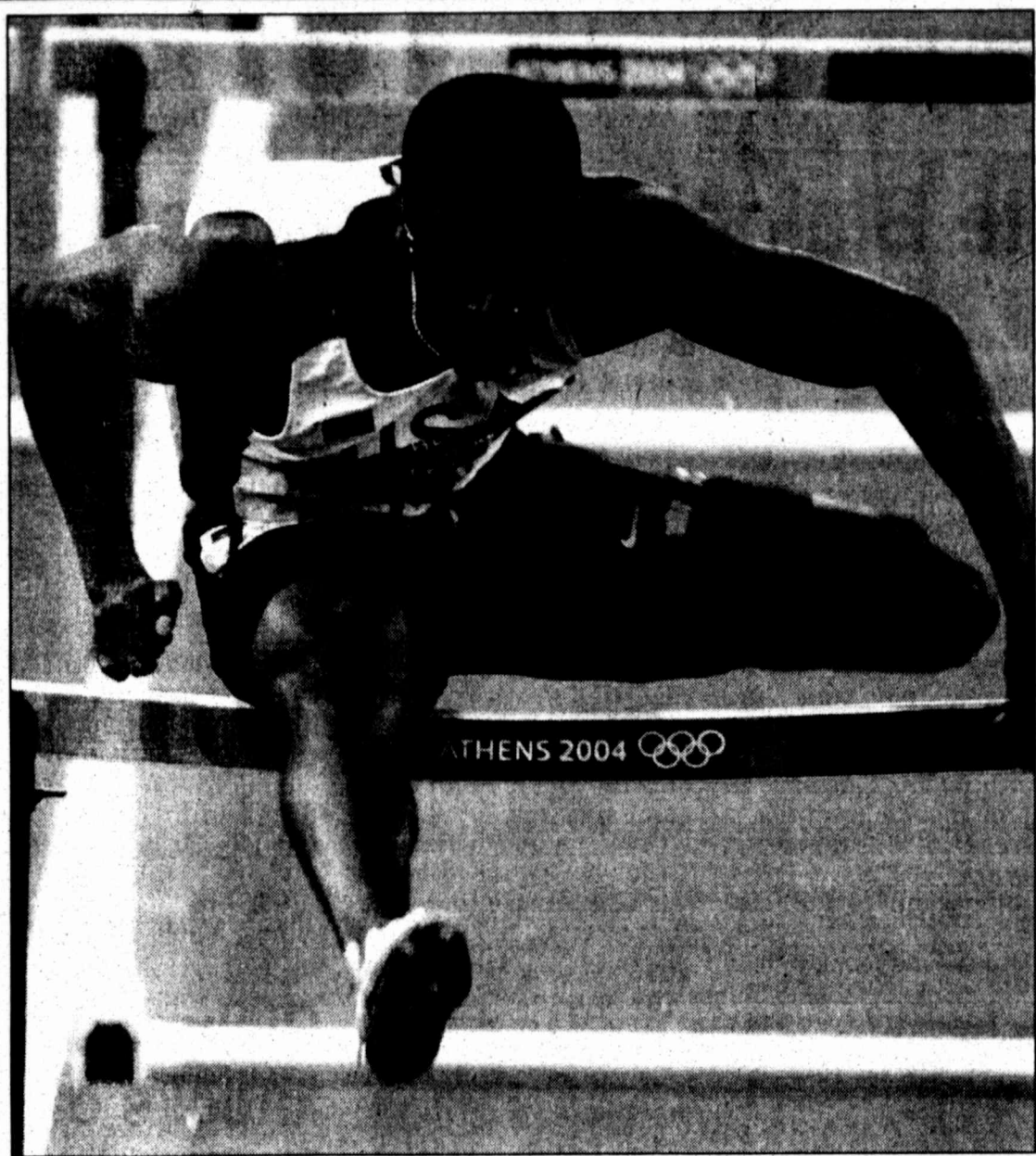
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Terrence Trammell of the United States competes in the 110-meter hurdles preliminaries at the 2004 Olympic Games Wednesday.

Parcells prefers age before beauty in latest QB debate

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
IRVING — Vinny Testaverde won't guarantee that he'll make it through the full 16-game season for the Dallas Cowboys.

That's not going to stop coach Bill Parcells from relying heavily on the quarterback who turns 41 midway through the season and has played a full schedule only twice since 1996.

"Everybody's ready to put him in the cemetery," Parcells said Wednesday. "I'm trying to dig him up."

Parcells reunited with Testaverde this summer, bringing him to Dallas for an 18th NFL season to push Quincy Carter, who started every game and led the Cowboys to the playoffs last season.

When Carter was unexpectedly cut early in training camp, Testaverde became the starter. And the only experienced quarterback.

"Forget about my age. Any player, whether he's 23 or 43, can get hurt and miss some games," Testaverde said. "Not very many starting quarterbacks do make it through a full season, no matter what the age."

Only 14 quarterbacks — less than half of the starters in the league — played every game last season.

That's still Testaverde's goal. And Parcells' hope.

"You don't want to burn out, but at the same time, you don't want to not do enough and run out of gas," Testaverde said. "You just go until you can't go anymore, and hopefully that takes you through the whole season."

Testaverde said Parcells still teases him about his age, just as he did when they were in New York in 1998.

Testaverde had a Pro Bowl season (3,256 yards with 29 touchdowns and seven interceptions) and the Jets went to the AFC championship game.

Still, starting quarter-

backs in their 40s are a rarity in the NFL. Those who succeed are even rarer.

Warren Moon defied age, throwing for 3,678 yards and 25 touchdowns during a Pro Bowl season for Seattle in 1997 when he was 41.

George Blanda was 48 when he retired, but his last nine seasons were as a kicker and backup quarterback, averaging just 26 passes per season. Johnny Unitas started the first four games for San Diego in 1973 at age 40 but was then benched and retired.

Many expected Testaverde to retire after the Jets announced he wouldn't go through off-season workouts. But that was never his plan.

Testaverde kept working out everyday on his own.

He signed with Dallas in June, just days after being officially released by the Jets.

Parcells marvels at Testaverde's conditioning and knows the quarterback is motivated by those who think he's too old.

"At some point in time, everybody's going to be right about that. The game is a young man's game and we know that," Parcells said. "I cited the example of Warren Moon being pretty successful at

an older age than this, but there haven't been many. ... I personally feel that this guy's physical condition allows him to have the chance to do that."

Testaverde will start the final two exhibition games next week, even though the games are only three days apart — Monday night against Tennessee and Thursday against Kansas City.

Testaverde is 17-of-24 for 158 yards, having played the equivalent of about three quarters the first two games.

But the first-team offense hasn't scored a touchdown, settling for field goals on all three possessions at Oakland Saturday night.

After playing every game for the Jets in 2000 and 2001, Testaverde became Pennington's backup — a role Carter took over when he signed Tuesday with New York — and played just 12 games the past two seasons.

His last full season before that was 1996 in Baltimore, when he had career highs of 4,177 yards passing and 33 touchdowns and went to his first Pro Bowl.

It may not be the luxury model, but the Cowboys don't think they have an old junker either.

Kent's eighth-inning homer sends Houston past Phillies

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — The Houston Astros sure wish they'd play this way against everyone else.

Jeff Kent hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Astros beat Philadelphia 7-4 Wednesday to sweep the season series from the Phillies for the first time.

"Hopefully, we can play everybody the way we've played the Phillies," Houston's Craig Biggio said. "If you're going to win a lot of games, this is the way you've got to do it."

Kent also connected in the second inning, and Carlos Beltran and Morgan Ensberg each homered. Houston went 6-0 against the Phillies and won for the eighth time in 10 games overall. The Astros' only other season sweep was against Montreal in 2001.

Kent's big swing in the eighth ensured another frustrating flight home for the Phillies. Manager Larry Bowa plopped down into his chair after the game, the dejected look on his face betraying the optimism in his voice.

Bowa has been doing the math on the Phillies'

playoff chances and the numbers don't look good.

"Until the numbers tell you you're out, you're not out," an unusually subdued Bowa said. "But, obviously, there are a lot of people in front of us."

Philadelphia (62-65) has lost 11 of 15 and is three games behind the Astros (64-62) for sixth place in the NL wild-card race. The Phillies are three games under .500 for the first time since April 25, when they were 7-10.

"We've got to keep going and keep fighting," Jim Thome said. "It's been disappointing. When we do click, we just can't seem to keep it going."

Houston can gain more ground in the NL wild-card race starting Thursday with its three-game series at Chicago. The Cubs took two of three against the Astros last week.

"We lost everything for the past couple of months," Jeff Bagwell said. "It's nice to see us turn around. I hope it's not too late."

The Phillies took a 4-3 lead in the seventh on Jimmy Rollins' run-scoring triple off Mike Gallo, but the Astros rallied in the eighth, when Felix Rodriguez (5-7) opened

with walks to Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell. Lance Berkman singled home the tying run, and Kent homered to left.

With 267 homers as a second baseman, he moved past Joe Morgan for second on the career list at that position, trailing only Ryan Sandberg (277).

"When you get a win late it's an emotional uplift for everybody," Kent said. "We have to just keep this going now."

Chad Qualls (2-0) pitched a perfect eighth and Brad Lidge, Houston's fifth pitcher, got three outs for his 17th save in 20 chances, completing a five-hitter.

Phillies starter Eric Milton allowed three solo homers and five hits in six innings, and was denied a chance to become the first pitcher since Red Donahue in 1899 to start the season 14-2.

Jim Thome scored the game's first run in the second when Doug Glanville grounded into a double play. Rollins scored on sacrifice flies by Bobby Abreu in the third and fifth innings to give the Phillies a 3-1 lead.

Texans relieved after latest injury

By MARK BABINECK

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — Gary Walker wasn't the only one thinking "Uh oh" when his groin forced him out of practice earlier this week.

"I have been through a lot in my three years here, more so than anywhere else," the veteran defensive lineman said.

Walker had offseason groin and hernia surgeries before the Texans' inaugural 2002 season, then never was healthy last year with shoulder and toe problems. So it was a relief to both Walker and the team when his groin problem Monday turned out to be a mild strain.

The muscle tightness

Walker felt was disconcerting enough that he needed help to get off the Texans' practice field and have an immediate MRI exam to find out the extent of the injury.

Walker won't travel to Denver for Friday's exhibition game and isn't a sure bet to play in the preseason finale at home against Tampa Bay.

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Borger, located in the Texas Panhandle about 45 miles northeast of Amarillo, is a community of just over 14,000 people. Benefits include health (medical and dental) as well as life insurance, paid holidays, vacation and 401k. Interested applicants should possess a background in newspaper advertising sales as well as strong communication skills. Interested individuals may submit a resume to publisher@borgernews-herald.com or mail to Publisher, Borger News-Herald, P.O. Box 5130, Borger, TX 79008-5130. Resumes may also be brought to the office at 207 N. Main in Borger during regular business hours.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

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Help Wanted

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RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY POSITION Mon.-Fri., 9:00-5:00, apply at Home Realtors, 110 W. Marcy Dr., Computer and office experience, No Phone Calls.

STAFF ACCOUNTING POSITION open with local CPA firm. BBA in Accounting required. CPA a plus. Salary negotiable. Mail resumes to Personnel, P.O. Box 949, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Help Wanted

Taking applications for Counter Clerk/ Delivery. Must be very enthusiastic. Duties include filling, computer, phone and etc. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

THE HOUSING Authority of the City of Colorado City is accepting applications for a full time maintenance person. The desired employee will have experience in multiunit complexes. Must be able to work well with people, adjust to situations as they arise and be dependable. Pay will depend on experience. Position does come with benefits. Applications may be picked up at the Housing Authority located at 439 Oak Street. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

THE HOWARD County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a part-time dispatcher. Applications are available in the Sheriff's office, 1st floor of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. M-F, 8-5 EOE.

Wanted: Drip truck driver to transport condensate crude oil at Natural Gas Plant. North East of Big Spring. Must have Valid CDL. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor at 11703 East FM 846, Coahoma TX. 79511 or fax: (432)399-4290.

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1305 MT. Vernon. Two bedroom, two living areas, one bath, CH/A, fenced backyard. \$325. month, \$175. deposit. Leave message. Call (432)264-6931.

1513 WOOD. Large four bedroom, two bath, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookups. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1610 STATE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage, workshop, fenced yard, new carpet & paint. \$335. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

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201 JEFFERSON. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, washer & dryer connection, CH/A, fenced yard. \$550. month, \$400. deposit + 1 year lease. Call (432)267-2336.

2100 ALABAMA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$525.00 month, \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2713 REBECCA Drive. Large 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, double garage. One year lease required. \$900/month, \$500/deposit. No Pets. Call (432)263-0441 Owner/Broker.

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712 GOLIAD. 2 or could be 3 Bedroom house. Completely remodeled. Kitchen cabinets, carpet, tile, plumbing, electric, paint. CH/A. \$425. month. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

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TWO BEDROOM, 1 bath. 1404 Tucson. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

TWO BEDROOM, 1 bath. No Pets. 1102 Lancaster. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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2200 RUNNELS. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A. New carpet & paint. \$1,000 down, \$328.00 month. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1605 & 1607 Oriole. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 living area, new carpet, 2 car garage, fenced backyard. Good neighborhood. Sell immediately. Serious inquiries only 903-891-8266.

EXCELLENT LOCATION: Large swimming pool, small price, needs some repairs. Call 432-263-8513. Also 3 bedroom, 1 bath for sale or lease. Excellent location. call 432-263-8513.

FOR SALE By Owner: Owner Financing Provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath brick home with shop out back. 1202 West 15th. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

FOR SALE By Owner: 1503 Cherokee St. West; 3 bedroom, 1 bath; cash price or owner finance w/\$1,000 down, \$300 month. Call (806)798-9306 (432)556-3296.

Real Estate for Sale

FOR SALE, 2 lots at Lake LBJ. Call (432)263-7978.

FOR SALE: "AS IS" for \$265.79 per month. 609 Holbert. 1-800-804-7110.

IN COAHOMA 104 Ash. 4/2, double car garage, plus one carport. Super cool treehouse! \$75,000. Call (432)394-4671 or 264-0060, ext 202.

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1103 College.
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PRICED FOR quick sale. All Brick home, 4 bedroom 3 bath, double car garage, swimming pool. Too many extras to list. Asking \$195,000. 713 Craigmont. Call (432)264-9047 or 270-7803.

Rent to Own 3202 Auburn. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath with 1 car garage. New Evaporated Air Condition, fenced yard. \$400 month plus taxes and insurance. Owner Finance with \$2000 down and References. Call (432)267-6667.

SALE By Owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment. Low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, freshly painted outside, fenced backyard. 1611 Owens. Call Kelly, (432)425-9994.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath brick home. Coahoma, 408 N. 4th St. New roof, by city park. Two car carport, large backyard. Call (432)557-0575 or 557-8181.

UNIQUE TWO-STORY on 1 acre near Scenic Mountain. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, office, fireplace, two living areas, gazebo, 2 storage bldgs, tree shaded lawn. Great view. Very private. \$120,000. Call (432)263-4080.

WILL FINANCE/ EZ Qualify. 511 South Benton, Big Spring. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/detached garage. \$500 down, \$112 month. Call 1-800-322-8798.

WOULD YOU like to own your home but have bad credit or not enough credit. 1209 Sycamore could be that home. I can work with you on the down payment Call Annette Sanchez @ 432-413-0549 or 432-620-8285 I will Finance you a house for 10 Years.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are as magnificent as the purpose you choose. Think about your focus and how you might fine-tune it to represent what you'd like to create in this life. Innovation is needed in your love life.



JOYCE JILLSON

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's better to be direct than diplomatic now. Confrontation brings about healthy change. Nothing is as big or as scary as it seems. Lies lose their power when the truth is spoken. Financial opportunities will unfold tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A touch of obsession isn't a bad thing. It shows that you're driven enough to make it no matter what or whom you're up against. Tonight, you'll have to release something in the name of progress — a very mature move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If operating in a group, you cover solid ground by sticking to the plan. Into the hours after noon, you're more suscep-

tible to influence. You could be romanced into something you once opposed. At least you have an open mind!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Feel free — you are. Those who know you well also know that you're at your best when you can't feel the boundaries locking you in. Reinforce great behavior from loved ones, and you'll get more in the days to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you don't choose adventure, you're choosing a humdrum day. Go against your need for convenience, and do something unreasonable and just plain fun. When you're playful, you attract all kinds of luck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The closest of kin sometimes seem to be the furthest from knowing the real you. Remedy the situation now. Being completely comfortable in relationships makes you feel that all is well in the world. Laughter forms a lasting tie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no need for force events into your preconceived notion of what they should be. When you relax, what happens naturally is inspired and sometimes hilarious. Even tedious

work is fun if you have the right attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). New people are featured, and you make a superb first impression. You can expect to receive follow-up phone calls from folks who spot you as someone to get to know. Family members have requests — say yes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People around you admire how cool you are under every circumstance. It wasn't always so. You can relate to someone who's taking the situation way too seriously — he or she reminds you of yourself in the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sharing your extensive knowledge of a certain subject will help you establish your place with those you admire. Don't be surprised if you're included in exciting plans for future enterprises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You won't regret listening to your inner voice, though it seems to make no sense in the moment. If someone owes you money, try collecting it! You're mighty persuasive now and will get most of the results you try for.

ASTROLOGICAL

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My siblings and I are worried that our mom is being asked to give more than a tithe of her income to her church. Please don't think we are looking for an inheritance. We have good jobs and don't need her money.

Former parishioners have told us that Mom is being taken advantage of. She is beginning to sell her assets in order to pay her regular living expenses, even though she and our deceased father had good retirement plans. Her accountant, by the way, is also a member of her church.

Is there anything we can do, or should we stand aside since it is her money? — Connecticut Children

Dear Children: If Mom is enjoying good mental health and wishes to contribute more than one-tenth of her income, that is her business. However, if it is affecting her ability to support herself, then it becomes your business.

Talk to Mom, and let her know about your concerns. Ask if she would like help with her finances, and check to see what percentage of her income is actually going to the church. If you believe her accountant is manipulating the situation, he needs to be reported to the state regulatory agency or the AICPA (aicpa.org). However, it is possible that Mom is selling her assets voluntarily in order to contribute more. The only way to find out

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

is to ask her. Please don't wait.

Dear Annie: I am at my computer giving some advice to "New Jersey," whose husband's family history puts him at high risk for prostate cancer, but he refuses to see a doctor because he is too embarrassed and doesn't want anyone touching him. That's too bad, because he can be sure the mortician is going to touch him — and sooner than he thinks.

This man knows he is showing symptoms, yet he does nothing. Thank you for telling him to look into information available through the American Cancer Society. Years ago, my husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Very little information was available to the public at the time. He had surgery, follow-ups and 12 years of office visits in order for this information to be compiled.

Please tell "New Jersey" to have her husband read

this and think about his wife and family. If he cares about them, he will do whatever is necessary to stick around. — Lived Through It in Michigan

Dear Michigan: Our readers were quite concerned about this man's willful disregard of his health and hoped he would change his mind soon. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I would like to say something to "New Jersey's" husband: The only embarrassment you will suffer is when others find out you did nothing to protect your health. Your doctor visits are private, and members of your immediate family will know only that you are going in for a check-up.

I also am at high risk of developing prostate cancer because both my grandfather and father died of it. My father fought the cancer for over seven years. During that time, I had many opportunities to tell him I loved him. He showed me many strengths by not quitting, denying or looking for false hope. I miss my father greatly, but his lessons are ingrained in me.

At the age of 37, I began regular prostate checks. I am now 45. A digital exam may be uncomfortable, but it is not painful. A PSA blood test is done along with all my other blood work. I am on the right track to discover prostate cancer early enough to beat it if it comes knocking on my door. I want to tell him: Be strong, get yourself checked, and live life to the fullest. — A.M.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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THURSDAY

	WFAA	Dallas
6	PM	News (CC)
7	PM	Wheel-For
8	PM	Extreme Makeover
9	PM	Movie: Charlie's Angels (CC) (DVS)
10	PM	News Nightline
11	PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel
12	AM	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey

DENNIS



"DAD! I GOT A LADY WASHING YOU LIKE SO M..."

BC



WIZARD



AGNES



HI AND



THE OT



SNUFFY



BEETLE



THURSDAY

AUG. 26

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLN (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (30)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Atenas 2004	News Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hagee	West Tex Jmi TX Mthly Talk	Casino Cops (CC)		Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie Special	Sister, Sister That's Raven	2004 World Series of Poker	NFL Live	(CC)
7	PM Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Mariana de la Noche	Simple Simple	Big Brother 5 (CC)	Pasion-Gavilan	XXVIII Summer Olympics (CC)	Colorado Rockies at Atlanta Braves (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Death Cat Canyon	Movie: The Longest Day		Wildcat Police Videos	Movie: The Specialist (CC)	The Parkers	Movie: Zenon: Z3 (CC)	Little League World Series	NFL Preseason	Movie: Mr. Jones (CC)
8	PM Movie: Charlie's Angels (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Charlie's Angels (CC) (DVS)	Amarie es Mi Pecado	Simple Simple	CSI: Crime Scene Invstg.	Gitanas		Atlanta Braves (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Wide Angle (CC)	American Hot Rod (CC)		MXC MXC		Movie: Squeeze	Phil of Future	American Semi.	Pittsburgh Steelers at	
9	PM News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Faltaba		Weapon 2 (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Death Cat Canyon		MXC MXC	Movie: The Specialist (CC)	Nightly News Moad Sports	Even Stevens Boy World	WTA Tennis: Pilot Pen	Philadelphia Eagles (CC)	Halloween: Resurrection
10	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	En las Mejores Familias Spin City	Becker (CC)	(CC)	Laura	News XXVIII Summer		Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe.	Sign Off	American Hot Rod (CC)	Movie: Halls of Montezuma	Wildcat Police Videos	Movie: The Replacement	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's Raven	Baseball Tonight (CC)	Rome-Burning Outside-Lines	Movie: Cahoots (CC)
11	AM Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Mujeres Enganadas	Blind Date	Show (CC)	Faltaba Juegos	Olympics (CC)	12:10 Movie: Lethal Weapon	Update/Israel A.F. News		American Hot Rod (CC)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Killers (CC)	Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	NFL Yearbook	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie:
12	AM Oprah Winfrey	Paid Program																	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DAD! I GOT A PICTURE OF THAT NEIGHBOR LADY WASHING HER CAR IN THOSE SHORTS YOU LIKE SO MUCH."

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"PJ shouldn't complain about taking a short nap. Cicada moths sleep for 17 years."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 26, the 239th day of 2004. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was declared in effect.

On this date: In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain.

In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began erupting with increasingly large explosions.

In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2KBS - a double-header between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn

Dodgers at Ebbets Field. The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.

In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In 1961, the official International Hockey Hall of Fame opened in Toronto.

In 1964, 40 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic national convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1974, Charles Lindbergh - the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic - died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected the 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I.

In 1986, in the so-called "preppie murder" case, 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was

found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Today's Birthdays: Former Washington Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee is 83. Author Ben J. Wattenberg is 71. Former Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro is 69. Singer Vic Dana is 62. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 55. Actor Brett Cullen is 48. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 44. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 43. Actor Chris Burke is 39. Rock musician Dan Vickery (Counting Crows) is 38.

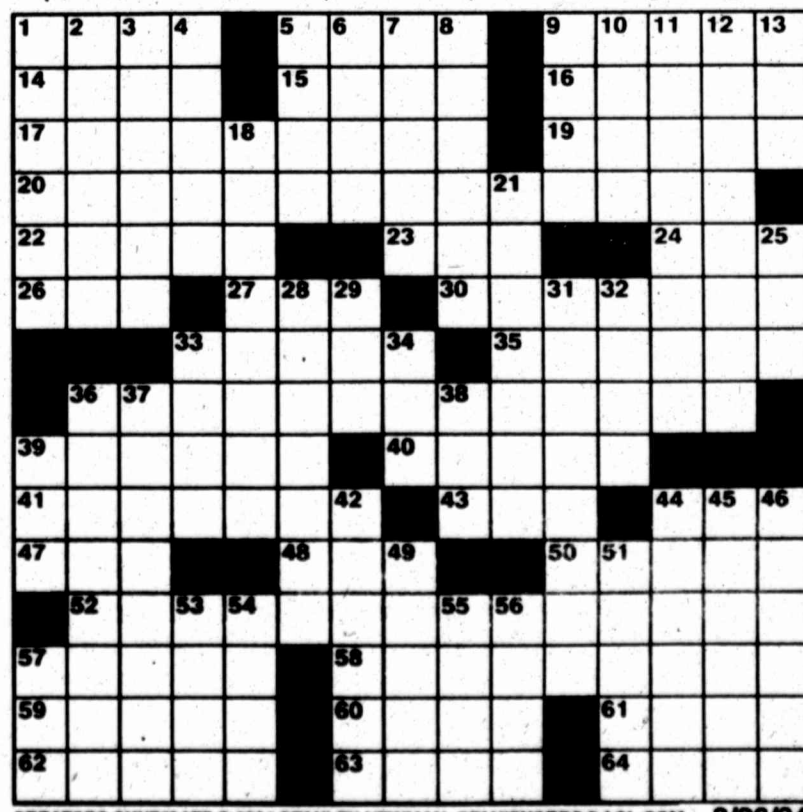
Answer to previous puzzle

PTAS	OPAL	BATON
LENT	MODE	ADORE
ENDO	LOON	BONER
AEROSOL	BOMB	GOD
STELLA	EXALT	
	INT	VERBAL
COHAN	YORE	IOTA
ALASKA	KING	CRAB
REUP	BEST	REEDS
LOLITA	ASA	
	COSTA	ACTIVE
AGE	AHAB	THEARAB
LAVES	MOMA	TILE
AGENT	EVER	USSR
SANDY	RONA	MEET

Newsday Crossword

BEST FRIENDS by Sheldon Bernardo
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sinclair Lewis title character
 - 5 Agatha Christie, for one
 - 9 Roundtree role
 - 14 What the suspicious smell
 - 15 "I'll say!"
 - 16 The Spoonful
 - 17 Full of information
 - 19 Torpid
 - 20 "I'm So Excited" group
 - 22 Let
 - 23 Exist
 - 24 Sault Marie
 - 26 Marvin or Meriwether
 - 27 "De-Lovely"
 - 30 Freshwater fishes
 - 33 Stayed home for brunch
 - 35 Tatty
 - 36 Quest in a Hammett novel
 - 39 Weasel relative
 - 40 Pay a call on
 - 41 Circulatory word form
 - 43 Fed. purchasing agcy.
 - 44 Super Millionaire network
 - 47 Building add-on
 - 48 Recede
 - 50 Quotable catcher
- DOWN**
- 1 tunnel
 - 2 Small space
 - 3 Row (London garment district)
 - 4 Pitman person
 - 52 1898 uprising
 - 57 Dumpty dwelling
 - 58 Shortly
 - 59 Gladiator venue
 - 60 Army members
 - 61 Ratio words
 - 62 Upright
 - 63 Big Board initials
 - 64 Venison source
 - 5 Chip's toon partner
 - 6 Mideast potentate
 - 7 High-IQ group
 - 8 Surround
 - 9 Narrow cut
 - 10 Whet
 - 11 Against
 - 12 Just released, as a film
 - 13 Cable channel
 - 18 Fluttering
 - 21 Flounder alternative
 - 25 Sixth sense
 - 28 Comparatively wee
 - 29 Bro's sib
 - 31 To be counted on
 - 32 Diplomacy
 - 33 Der (Adenauer)
 - 34 Black Rock Desert st.
 - 36 Vermont college
 - 37 Esthete
 - 38 Fruit tree
 - 39 Fannie
 - 42 '50s
 - Wyatt Earp portrayer
 - 44 Melodic
 - 45 Heathcliff's creator
 - 46 Fortrightness
 - 49 Bandleader Goodman
 - 51 Moor fighter
 - 53 Warrior princess of TV
 - 54 Flier to Ben-Gurion
 - 55 Dugout display
 - 56 In (really)
 - 57 Stage hog



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AUG 26 2004

That's Racin'

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Go online and check out www.thatstracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.THIS
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WILD CARD

Championship format raises stakes for title contenders, hopefuls at Bristol

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

From the moment NASCAR's new Chase for the Nextel Cup championship format was introduced, the Sharpie 500 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway has loomed as a potential joker in the deck.

Saturday night's race will be the 24th of 26 that will be used to select the drivers who will be eligible to compete for this year's championship. With time running so short, and with the standings as close as they are, bringing that battle to the 0.533-mile Bristol bullring seems like a recipe for fireworks.

Two of the three races left to the championship cut-off, in fact, will be short-track events. After Bristol this weekend and California Speedway next week, the 26th race will be at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway. With only 70 points separating 10th from 15th in the standings, that seems like adding two big dollops of hot sauce to five-alarm chili.

Dale Jarrett says a tight points race isn't necessary to have fun at places like Bristol and Richmond. He thinks having up to 30 cars capable of competing for a good finish is a recipe for a crazy night.

"I am not sure the format is going to make Bristol and Richmond any more wild than they have been," said Jarrett, who enters the Sharpie 500 in 14th place in the standings, 58 points behind 10th-place Kasey Kahne. "I think it's the competition that's going to do that."

Elliott Sadler, Jarrett's teammate at Robert Yates Racing, is seventh in the points standings. However, a 32nd-place finish at Michigan, his worst result of the season, cut into the cushion he wanted to have coming into a track where trouble has a way of finding him. Sadler, 78 points ahead of 11th place in the standings, has finished 42nd and 38th the past two night races at Bristol.

"I get so caught up in the excitement and we usually have such good cars there," Sadler said of Bristol, the track where he also got his first Cup victory in March 2001. "I am not as patient as I need to be. You really need to put patience first. The driver's got to use his head and try to stay out of trouble."

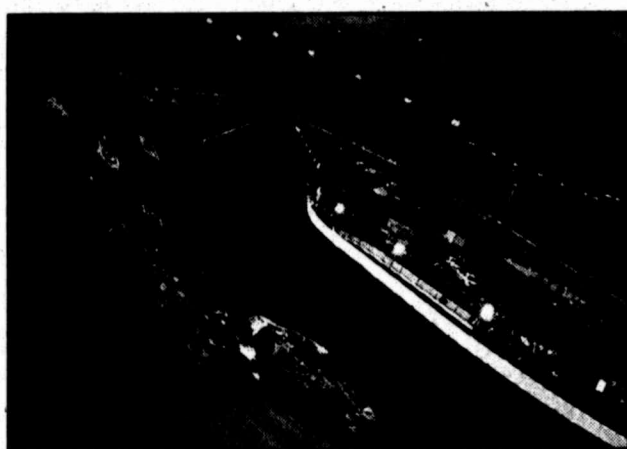
Sadler, Kevin Harvick, Bobby Labonte and Kahne will all be trying to hang onto their spots in the top 10 during the next three races while Jeremy Mayfield, Mark Martin, Ryan Newman, Jarrett and Jamie McMurray try to take one or more of them out of the championship mix.

Jarrett said he doesn't know how to answer when he's asked what his team can do to try to move up into the group that will race for the title over the season's final 10 races.

"We can't try any harder, first off," he said. "We're doing everything we possibly can."

But Jarrett does have a very direct answer when asked if he believes the race to get a shot at the championship will turn ugly over the next three weeks.

"I think everybody is trying to make it like we're going to Bristol and going to Richmond and hunt down



Saturday night's race at Bristol Motor Speedway will be an important one for drivers with title aspirations.

whoever is ahead of us (in the points) and take them out," Jarrett said. "Well, if that's the way I have to get into the top 10, then I'll quit."

"I am going to race them hard and if we can go into the next three races and outrun everybody we're racing back there and somehow get into the top 10, that would be great."

"We're going to race hard, and it may come that guys in eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th are all in the same accident or are banging on each other. But that's not going to be because of the point system, it's just going to be because of the nature of the race track and how close the competition is."



HAND ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL TRAPIKRT
CARD ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC GOODWIN/KRT

Track diagram



Bristol at a glance

■ Distance: 0.533 miles.

■ Degree of banking:

• Turns: 36 degrees.

• Straights: 16 degrees.

■ Straightaways: 650 feet long.

Concrete racing surface is 40 feet wide.

■ Seating capacity: 160,000.

■ Qualifying record: Ryan Newman, 128.709 mph, 14.908 seconds.

■ Race record: Charlie Glotzbach, 101.074 mph, 2 hours, 38 minutes, 12 seconds.

■ Most Bristol wins (driver): Darrell Waltrip, 12 (seven consecutive).

■ Most Bristol wins (car owner): Junior Johnson, 21 (eight consecutive).

■ Most Bristol wins (manufacturer): Chevrolet, 36 (Ford is second with 23).

■ Most Bristol poles (driver): Cale Yarborough, nine.

SOURCE: BRISTOL MOTOR SPEEDWAY

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SHARPIE 500

Where: Bristol Motor Speedway, a 0.533-mile highly banked concrete oval located in Bristol, Tenn.

When: Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,820,438.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Worth mentioning: Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin lead all active drivers, each with seven poles at Bristol. The race has been won from the pole on 20 occasions at Bristol, the most of any starting position.



Busch

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

There are three races left before the Chase for the Championship begins. Who outside the top 10 will make it into the chase?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Given the tension of the Chase for the Championship competition, how heated do you expect the racing to be in the next few weeks?

Number of votes: 6,476

Response	No. of votes	Percent
Very heated	5,102	79%
No more heated than usual	1,226	19%
Not heated at all	148	2%

STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Things to watch for as the Nextel Cup circuit makes its way to Bristol Motor Speedway this week:

BRISTOL STANDOUTS

■ Kurt Busch has won four of the past five races at Bristol and has led in all five races. He has only competed in seven career races at the track.

■ Matt Kenseth, Busch and Kevin Harvick have all finished in the top 10 in the last five races. Harvick has six consecutive top 10s, the longest current active streak at Bristol.

BRISTOL STRUGGLES

■ Three of the current drivers in the top 10 in points have failed to finish in the top 10 in their last three races at Bristol. Tony Stewart has finished 15th or worse in his last five races; Elliott Sadler has finished 11th or worse in his last six races; and rookie Kasey Kahne was 40th in his only race at the track.

■ A Dodge has not won at Bristol since Richard Petty swept both races in 1975.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Aug. 22:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Gordon (24) ... 3254		21. R. Gordon (31) ... 2377	
2. J. Johnson (48) ... 3186		22. J. Burton (30) ... 2364	
3. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8) ... 3115		23. T. Labonte (5) ... 2341	
4. T. Stewart (20) ... 3089		24. B. Vickers (25) ... 2341	
5. M. Kenseth (17) ... 3018		25. J. Nemechek (0) ... 2319	
6. K. Busch (97) ... 2909		26. S. Wimmer (22) ... 2226	
7. E. Sadler (38) ... 2864		27. R. Rudd (21) ... 2157	
8. K. Harvick (29) ... 2832		28. W. Burton (0) ... 2054	
9. B. Labonte (18) ... 2799		29. S. Riggs (10) ... 1950	
10. K. Kahne (9) ... 2792		30. B. Gaughan (77) ... 1950	
11. J. Mayfield (19) ... 2786		31. K. Petty (45) ... 1911	
12. M. Martin (6) ... 2759		32. J. Green (43) ... 1909	
13. R. Newman (12) ... 2748		33. K. Schrader (49) ... 1897	
14. D. Jarrett (88) ... 2734		34. R. Craven (32) ... 1840	
15. J. McMurray (42) ... 2722		35. J. Spencer (4) ... 1359	
16. C. Meares (41) ... 2555		36. D. Blaney ... 1295	
17. M. Waltrip (15) ... 2488		37. J. Sauter ... 1217	
18. G. Biffle (16) ... 2422		38. D. Cope (50) ... 929	
19. R. Wallace (2) ... 2417		39. M. Shepherd (89) ... 707	
20. S. Martin (40) ... 2396		40. K. Lepage (51) ... 582	

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Aug. 21:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr. ... 3488		11. K. Wallace ... 2549	
2. K. Busch ... 3391		12. T. Fedewa ... 2494	
3. J. Laffler ... 3080		13. S. Compton ... 2485	
4. G. Biffle ... 3052		14. M. Waltrip ... 2469	
5. R. Hornaday ... 2952		15. D. Stremme ... 2465	
6. D. Green ... 2938		16. K. Kahne ... 2446	
7. J. Keller ... 2934		17. C. Atwood ... 2445	
8. B. Hamilton Jr. ... 2896		18. J. Sauter ... 2415	
9. M. Bliss ... 2729		19. R. Pressley ... 2383	
10. A. Lewis ... 2588		20. M. Wallace ... 2354	

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

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 14:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton ... 2288		6. T. Musgrave ... 2043	
2. D. Setzer ... 2204		7. T. Kvapil ... 2038	
3. C. Chaffin ... 2092		8. R. Crawford ... 1903	
4. C. Edwards ... 2084		9. M. Skinner ... 1886	
5. M. Crafton ... 2075		10. D. Starr ... 1885	

NEXT RACE: Sept. 9, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series 200, Richmond, Va.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): He was just so-so at Michigan, but with his top-10 spot secured it's not time to do anything special yet. Last week: 1.

2. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): It's hard to believe that until this week, Gordon hasn't had the points lead since winning the 2001 title. Last week: 3.

week: 3.

3. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Three straight DNFs fell out of the sky right onto this team's collective head. Last week: 2.

4. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Other teams with a shot at the title are having problems with consistency. That's this crowd's specialty. Last week: 5.

5. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Has four finishes outside the top 20 in the five races since the driver got hurt

in that LeMans race. Last week: 4.

6. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): Going for his fourth straight Bristol win and his fifth win in six races at the short track. Last week: 7.

7. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): This team has shown it's good enough to shake off a bad day and bounce back. Last week: 6.

8. Mark Martin (car No. 6): His rally from 28th to second after a penalty at Michigan featured some remarkable driving. Last week: 11.

9.. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):

Returns to the top 10 in points for the first time since dropping out of it at Talladega back in April. Last week: 13.

10. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Just 46 points in front of playoff precipice. Can expect a good Bristol run, and needs it. Last week: 8.

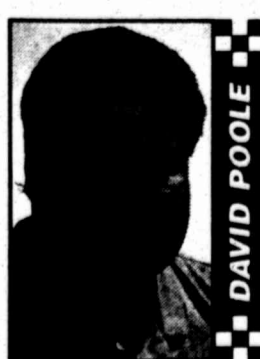
For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

Biffle sorts out problems, helps make Roush's day

Greg Biffle has been parsley in the NASCAR rumor mill for the past couple seasons. Just about every time speculation has been dished out about an open ride, his name has seemingly been on the plate.

Biffle fueled a lot of the talk himself, grousing openly at times about his race cars and how things were going for him in the No. 16 Fords at Roush Racing. But after his victory in Sunday's GFS Marketplace 400 at Michigan International Speedway, Biffle certainly had nothing to complain about.

"It was obvious that earlier in the season we weren't getting the results that we set out to get," Biffle said. "I was unhappy with the performance we were putting on the race track."



DAVID POOLE

Anybody who would have been happy... should have quit racing."

Biffle won the pole for this year's Daytona 500 at the track where last year he got his first career Nextel Cup victory in the Pepsi 400 in July. He started in the top five four times in the season's first seven races and qualified no worse than 13th in that span.

But through the season's first 19 races, Biffle's only top-10 finish was an eighth at Atlanta in March. Until he moved up six positions to 18th with his dominating victory on Sunday, he hadn't been in the top 20 in the points standings since dropping out after Martinsville.

But Biffle finished fourth at Pocono and sixth at Indianapolis before running 35th at Watkins Glen, where Sterling Martin called him a

"bugged-eyed fool" after an incident early in the road-course event.

"We've got the problems solved," Biffle said after getting his second career win in only his fifth career top-five finish in 65 Cup starts. "That's all I want. I want to be able to have a chance to compete every week and win every week, that's all any driver wants."

One of the challenges team owner Jack Roush faces in running a five-car Ford team is that even on days when one of his cars wins a race there's usually another team that had a problem and finished poorly.

That wasn't the case Sunday, as all five of the team's cars finished in the top 10 — Mark Martin was second, Kurt Busch was sixth, Matt Kenseth

was eighth and Carl Edwards, in making his Cup debut in the No. 99, was 10th.

"I liken myself to the nursery rhyme about the old lady who lives in a shoe and has so many children she doesn't know what to do," Roush said. "This business ebbs and flows. ... As we started this year I told Greg I was going to spend a lot of time with his program making sure that if we did go upside-down with it that I couldn't look back at it and say I hadn't done my best."

With Biffle happy and all five of his cars finishing in the top 10, Sunday would have been a gratifying day for Roush if it had happened anywhere. To have it happen at Michigan was especially nice, however, since Roush is from nearby Livonia, Mich. "This was a banner day for me," Roush said. "Racing in front of the home crowd here is always one of my favorite things."



Biffle

THURSDAY, AUG. 26

**WHAT'S
INSIDE:**

**football previews
from these area
high schools:**

COAHOMA BULLDOGS

STANTON BUFFALOES

FORSAN BUFFALOES

GARDEN CITY BEARKATS

GRADY WILDCATS

SANDS MUSTANGS

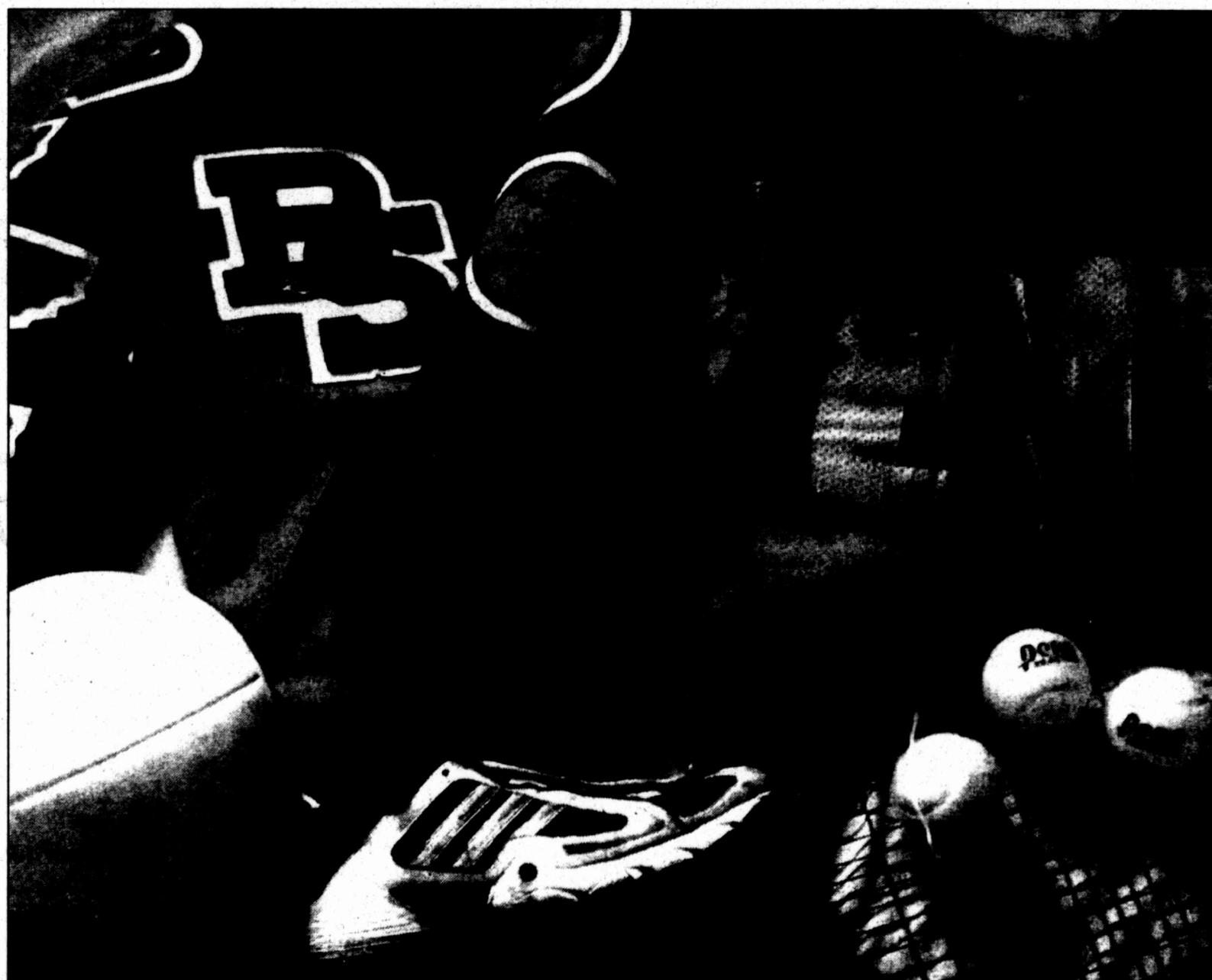
plus:

**TEXAS LONGHORNS
PREVIEW**

**DALLAS COWBOYS
PREVIEW**

**THE
BIG SPRING HERALD**

FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS



2004 CROSSROADS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

**A
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**2
6**

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4**

Coahoma Football

Abrego, Roberts look to become next dynamic duo

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs went 10-3 a year ago and advanced into the playoffs for the sixth time in school history. Head coach Robert Wood returns for his sixth year to lead the red and white through another grueling season on the gridiron.

Last year's team featured record-setting quarterback Sam Tindol and receiver Kelby Kemper, but neither one will be back this year as they both graduated and moved on to play at the collegiate level.

However, Wood hopes six returning starters on offense and four on defense will be enough to compensate for the absence of Kemper and Tindol. The Bulldogs also return 12 letter winners.

The offense, which is mainly going to be a spread formation, returns seniors Adrian Abrego, Lance Roberts and Andrew Brown.

Abrego and Roberts were both receivers last year, but while Roberts will remain a wideout, Abrego changes positions this fall, leading the Bulldogs as the team's starting quarterback.

Roberts, who could possibly be Abrego's top target this season, caught 66 passes last year for 927 yards, and five touchdowns.

Brown is expected to be the anchor on the offensive line this year and should, along with Abrego and Roberts, give college recruiters something to look at.

"We have good offensive lineman returning and Adrian should develop into a real quality quarterback," said Wood.

Wood expects several other players to step up offensively this year, including four returning starters.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Adrian Abrego, Andrew Brown, Zack Phillips and Lance Roberts will do their best this year to get the Coahoma Bulldogs back into the Class 2A playoffs. The Bulldogs went 10-3 last year and were 4-1 in district play.

Senior wide receiver Clint Walker started at wideout last year. He caught six passes for 120 yards and one touchdown.

Three other starters on the offensive line return for Coahoma.

Senior tackle Zach Phillips and junior center Terrell Bibb were each second team all-district players last year.

Dusty Martin, who was a part-time starter at guard last year, also returns, but will most likely switch to tackle.

Seniors Gerand Jernigan and Darrick Shifflett, as well as junior Joe Holguin, could see extensive playing time this year at wide receiver, while junior Antonio Gonzales and sophomore David Rodriguez will both battle for minutes at running

back.

Senior Andy Rose returns to the team this year after not playing last season. He started as a sophomore and is expected to start at a guard position this year.

Coahoma's offense averaged 33 points per game last year. It also accounted for 295 yards of offense through the air and just under 100 yards on the ground.

The Bulldog defense will be primarily a 50 formation with multiple sets. Last year, Coahoma gave up 23 points per game on defense.

The unit also gave up 194 rushing yards and 141 passing yards.

This year, Wood and the Bulldogs return several lineman and linebackers

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 23

'DOGS

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27	Reagan County	7:30
Sept. 3	@Seagraves	7:30
Sept. 10	Wall	7:30
Sept. 17	Jim Ned	7:30
Sept. 24	**Clyde	7:30
Oct. 1	Open	
Oct. 8	*@Colorado City	7:30
Oct. 15	*Anson	7:30
Oct. 22	*@Stanton	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Hawley	7:30
Nov. 5	***Stamford	7:30

*District games

**Homecoming

***Parent's Night

BULLDOGS

Continued from
but lack experience
secondary.

"We have good interior defensive linemen and linebackers returning," said Wood. "but we must find solid replacements at defensive end and in the secondary."

Abrego and Brown will lead the defense this year, as

Abrego, who team all-district both offense year ago, will second after bringing down 88 ball carriers last season from his linebacker position.

Brown had tackles last year and will anchor the defensive line this season.

Roberts will anchor the line backing corps and Rodriguez to move into at defensive

The defense will be finalized with Martin and Phillips, who were both back-ups on defense last year.

Beside Abrego, the secondary expected to feature Holguin, Shifflett and Jernigan.

Wood expects Colorado City to be Coahoma's opponent in 4-2A, and excellent non-district well.

"We could

Coahoma Football

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 22

but lack experience in the secondary.

"We have good interior defensive line-men and line-backers returning," said Wood, "but we must find solid replacements at defensive end and in the secondary."

Abrego and Brown will lead the defense this year, as well.

Abrego, who was a first team all-district player on both offense and defense a year ago, will anchor the secondary after bringing down 88 ball carriers last season from his linebacker position.

Brown had 56 tackles last year and will anchor the defensive line this season.

Roberts will anchor the line-backing corps, while Bibb and Rodriguez are expected to move into starting roles at defensive end this year.

The defensive line should be finalized with Martin and Phillips, who were both back-ups on defense last year.

Besides Abrego, the secondary is expected to feature Holguin, Shifflett and Jernigan.

Wood expects Colorado City to be Coahoma's toughest opponent inside of District 4-2A, and expects a tough non-district schedule, as well.

"We could develop into a

good football team, but some players are going to have grow up in a hurry," said Wood. "We have to develop unity and stick together through our tough pre-district schedule."

"This team could go either way because of some immaturity."

Coahoma opens the season at home Friday, Aug. 27, against Reagan County. After

traveling to Seagraves in week two, the Bulldogs host Wall, Jim Ned and Clyde (homecoming) in succession. Coahoma's bye week comes Oct. 1 before the start of district play.

The Bulldogs will know where they stand in the district early this year as they travel to Colorado City

Oct. 8. They also host Anson and Stamford in district play.

Wood has compiled a 35-22 record in five years at Coahoma. The school qualified for the playoffs in 1964, 1965, 1972, 2001 and 2003.

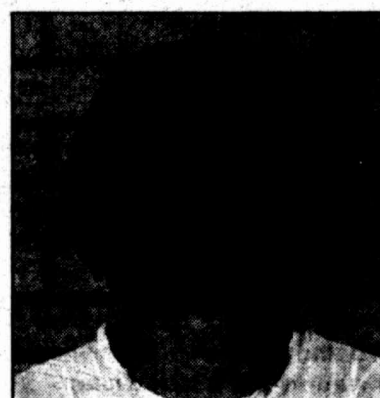
Its deepest run during the playoffs was 1965 when Coahoma reached the quarterfinals.

Kemper will attend Midwestern State University this fall.

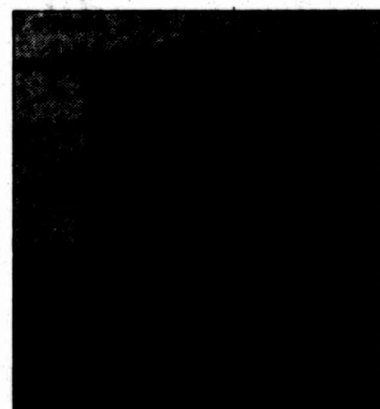
Tindol will play his college football at East Central Oklahoma this year, as well.



BORN



SHIFFLETT



HOLGUIN



'DOGS 2004 football

Coach

Robert Wood, sixth year

District

4-Class 2A

Last Year

The Bulldogs ended their season last year at 10-3. They advanced to the playoffs after compiling a 4-1 record in district play.

Coahoma defeated Sweetwater and Ozona in the playoffs before losing to Panhandle, 36-27.

Strengths

The offensive features a good core of offensive lineman returning and Adrian Abrego could develop into a great quarterback.

The defense has strong interior lineman and linebackers returning.

Weaknesses

The Bulldogs will not have much team depth and they must find leadership early in the season.

Most Anticipated Game

The Bulldogs' biggest rival will again be Colorado City. Both teams qualified for the playoffs last year and both are predicted to do so this year.

AUG

26

2004

Stanton Football

Offensive, defensive lines to lead Stanton attack

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Coming off a 3-7 overall and a 1-4 District 4-2A record a year ago, second year head coach Lee McCown hopes 11 returning letter winners and some team speed can help improve Stanton's football team.

The Buffaloes lost 12 seniors from last year's team, but return seven offensive starters and six defensive starters.

The offensive and defensive lines will anchor both sides of the ball this year as each side returns three starters — seniors Alex Shafer and Henry Armendarez and junior Marcus Arguello.

Shafer is back for his third year as a Buffalo starter and his experience will make him a leader on both the offensive and defensive lines and on the team. He was an all-district member last year, as well.

Armendarez and Arguello also both return to the offensive line at the center and tackle spots, respectively. Both guys started last year.

Senior Bobby Decker and junior Sloan Kelly, who each saw time a year ago at the fullback position, return this year, but will see action in the same backfield this time.

Decker was a second team all-district player last year.

"Both players are tough, fast runners and that is exactly what we need them to do this year," said McCown. "I am expecting a lot out of both of them."

Decker is 210 pounds, while Kelly tips the scale at 200 even.

Kelly will play tailback and McCown expects him to fill in well. He will also be a key member of the linebacking corps on defense.

"He has worked hard



From left: Junior Marcus Arguello and seniors Henry Armendarez and Alex Shafer will pose big threats from their offensive and defensive line positions this year. Head Coach Lee McCown says both the offensive and defensive lines should anchor Stanton's attack this year. The Buffaloes are coming off a 3-7 year in 2003, but the team returns 11 letter winners from that team this season.

everyday on his speed and strength," said McCown.

Sophomore Michael Washington moves into the starting quarterback position this year after playing wide receiver last year.

"He is a 6-3 versatile athlete who can pretty much play anywhere," said McCown, "but he is more comfortable playing quarterback."

Washington caught two touchdown passes last year on offense, while leading the team in tackles and intercepting four passes on defense. He will also start this year in the defensive secondary.

Besides Shafer, the defensive line will feature all-district members Joe Hinojosa and Matthew Ireton, who are both seniors and returning starters.

Hinojosa will play nose guard, while Ireton will hunt down the quarterback from his defensive end position.

"Matthew is not a big end, but he is very quick and he plays very smart," said McCown. "He makes the safe tackle, which is an asset for us."

Stanton's district (District 4-2A) got a complete overhaul this off-season as three teams moved in and three teams moved out. Stanton, Coahoma and Colorado City are the only three teams that remain from last year's district. Coming in this year will be Anson, Hawley and Stamford. Seagraves and Crane are still in Class 2A, but not in the same district anymore, while Forsan

See STANTON, Page 26

BUFFALOES

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27	Roscoe	7:30
Sept. 3	@Reagan County	7:30
Sept. 10	**Seagraves	7:30
Sept. 17	@Iraan	7:30
Sept. 24	@Alpine	7:30
Oct. 1	Open	
Oct. 8	*Anson	7:30
Oct. 15	*@Stamford	7:30
Oct. 22	*@Coahoma	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Colorado City	7:30
Nov. 5	*Hawley	7:30

*District games

**Homecoming

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Stanton/Forsan Football

PLAYOFFS-95,96,98,00,



BUFFALOES

2004 football

Coach

Lee McCown, second year

District

4-Class 2A

Last Year

The Buffaloes went 3-7 overall last year and won one game in district play.

Strengths

Stanton will have a strong offensive and defensive line this year and the Buffaloes will possess a little more team speed this year than in the past.

Weaknesses

Stanton is going to lack team depth and Coach McCown said avoiding injuries and keeping their key players healthy will be key.

Most Anticipated Game

Stanton's biggest non-district game of the year takes place when the Buffaloes travel to Iraan Sept. 17. The Buffaloes biggest district game is the one that can make or break their team, said McCown.

STANTON

Continued from Page 24

dropped from Class 2A to Class 1A.

Colorado City and Coahoma are the early season favorites in the district this year after both qualified for the playoffs last with double-digit wins. Hawley and Stamford went a combined 2-18 last year, while Anson finished 6-5 and qualified for the playoffs in its district.

"Colorado City is going to be tough because they return a lot of speed," said McCown.

The Wolves have reached the playoffs nine out of the last 10 years and they return Kenneth Scott, who was the district's defensive MVP a year ago.

"Our most important dis-

trict game this year will be the one that could make or break our team," said McCown. "Hopefully it will be the game that could decide a playoff berth."

Stanton's non-district schedule will be tough again according to McCown. They play Roscoe, Reagan County, Iraan, Alpine and former district rival Seagraves.

"All those teams will be strong and tough games, but I hope and think we have a chance to win," said McCown. "It will be a battle every week."

"Our biggest non-district rival and game this year will be Iraan."

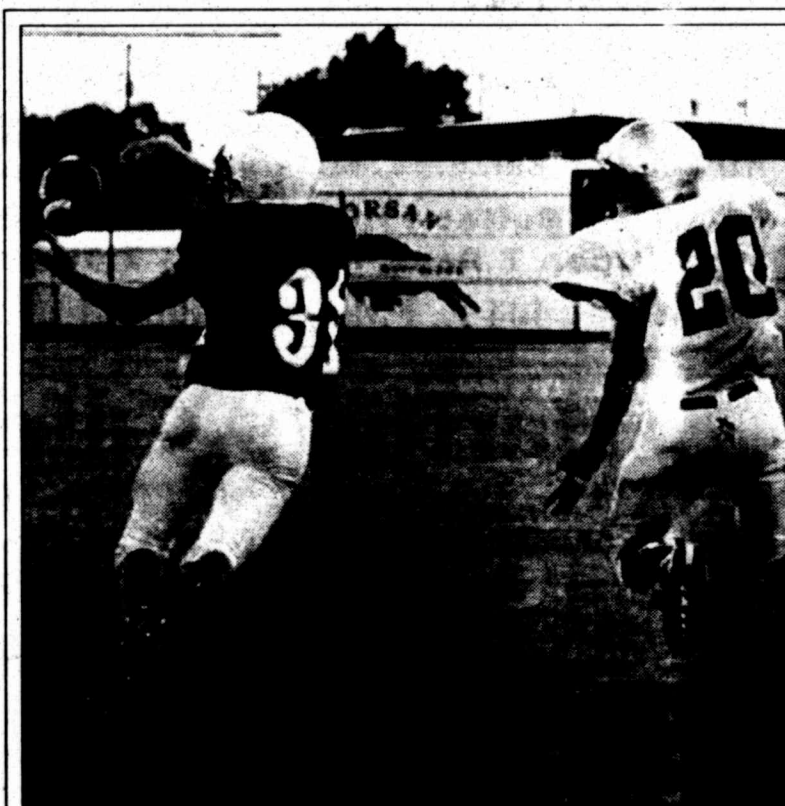
The Buffaloes open the regular season Friday, Aug. 27, at home against Roscoe. This year's homecoming game will be played against Seagraves Sept. 10 and Stanton's off week takes place Oct. 1.



VILLA



DECKER



courtesy photo/Bruce Schooler
Forsan's Justin Forshee nearly intercepts a pass during the Buffaloes scrimmage against Reagan County Friday, Aug. 20. Forsan opens the regular season Friday against Iraan.

Buff

By TROY HYATT

Sports Editor
Forsan's
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Buffaloes to
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Forsan Football

Buffaloes see drop to Class 1A as new challenge

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

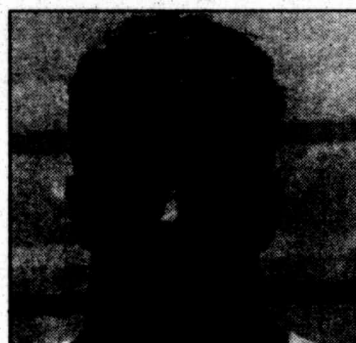
Forsan's Tommy Thompson led the Buffaloes to a 1-9 overall record last year in his first year as head football coach.

This season, Thompson is hoping a drop from 2A to 1A and a strong junior class can help make the Buffaloes more competitive.

"Class 1A is no slouch, but we hope with some of the players we have return-

ing and the fact that we dropped down a class we will be able to have a more even playing field with our opponents," said Thompson.

The Buffaloes lost seven seniors to graduation last year, but return five more seniors this year, as well as 10



CHAVEZ

with a one back set. However, the team does plan on using some wing T

starters and 12 letter winners.

Forsan will feature several players on both sides of the ball, as well.

The offense will be primarily a spread offense

formations and might even break out some shotgun, said Thompson.

Forsan's junior class will definitely be a big key on both sides of the ball, he said.

"We have a strong junior class and they are probably our biggest strength this year," added Thompson. "There is just a lot of them and not a lot of seniors."

The offensive line will be led this year by juniors Steven Chavez, Clint

Stanley and Tyler Phillips, as well as senior Brent Wood.

Chavez was a starter at right tackle last year and Thompson looks at him to anchor the line this season. Stanley saw action last year, but really needs to break out this year and step it up, according to Thompson.

"Clint will be good for us," he added.

See **FORSAN**, Page 28

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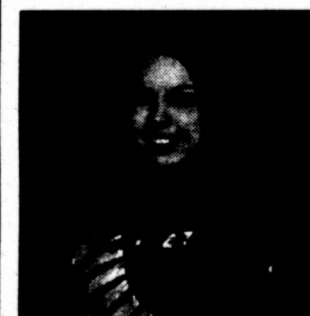
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AUG

26

2004

Forsan Football

FORSAN

Continued from Page 27

Wood is player who can fill a spot at any lineman position.

"Brent is a returning starter who is going to be crucial to us this year and a key component in the running game," said Thompson.

Phillips is expected to start at guard this fall.

The Buffaloes return a host of receivers this year, led by senior Trey Paredes and junior Jonathan Wright. Paredes and Wright both started last year at wide receiver and tight end, respectively, and are the top returners as far as production last year.

Junior Justin Forshee will move to wide receiver after playing a back-up running back role a year ago. Thompson also hopes for a big year out of junior

Shelby Lefever and senior Clay Kuykendall.

Kuykendall did not play receiver last year, but showed good footwork and really good hands during the spring, said Thompson.

The other skill positions will be filled by juniors Adam Johnson, Anthony Acosta and Mitchell Murray, as well as junior Tye Baker.

Expect Johnson, Acosta and Murray to all split time in the backfield. Baker is the leader heading into practice for the team's starting quarterback position.

Baker was the junior varsity starter a year ago and the back-up to graduate Josh Helmstetler.

"Tye needs to step up his game this year," said Thompson. "He needs to control the offense and have a strong leadership

See FORSAN, Page 29



Forsan returns 12 letter winners from last year. Head coach Tommy Thompson hopes those letter winners, a strong junior class and a drop to Class 1A will make the Buffaloes more competitive this year. The letter winners include: Trey Paredes, Adam Johnson, Justin Forshee, Cory Reyna, Anthony Acosta, Clint Stanley, Steven Chavez, Brent Wood, Clay Kuykendall, Luke Smith, Jonathon Wright and John Martinez (not pictured).

HERALD photo/Trey Hyde

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FORSAN

Continued from

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Oct. 15
Oct. 22
Oct. 29
Nov. 5

***District**
****Homeco**

Forsan Football

FORSAN

Continued from Page 28

role on the field."

The defense this year will be primarily a 4-3 with a cover two in the secondary.

And the best and deepest unit will be seen at the linebacker position as several players look to make contributions.

Stanley and Acosta will anchor the defense from their linebacker positions, but Johnson and seniors James Branham and Cory Reyna will also see a lot of playing time.

Johnson is the returning tackles leader from last year. Reyna started last year at linebacker, as well, but injured his back halfway through the season.

"We have a lot more depth at the linebacker position this year and that is something we just haven't had in past years," said Thompson.

The run stoppers on this year's defense will be Chavez, Wood and Phillips, said Thompson.

Thompson also looks for big things out of his defensive ends — Wright and junior Jon Sutton.

2003 results (1-9)

Iraan — lost, 40-0
Garden City — won 26-14
Roscoe — lost, 51-14
Sonora — lost, 34-6
Rankin — lost, 60-0
Crane — lost, 73-21
Stanton — lost, 61-0
Coahoma — lost, 58-24
Seagraves — lost, 55-0
Colorado City — lost 63-14

The secondary will be led by Forshee and Paradez and junior Luke Smith and John Martinez could also see starting roles, said Thompson. Forshee and Martinez both started in the secondary last year.

Forsan will play in District 10-1A this year after playing the last several years in Class 2A.

Thompson hopes the drop will bring more wins.

"It's exciting to have a little better playing field this year," said Thompson. "I

have a chance to make a run at the playoffs this year," said Thompson, who

went on to say that Winters, Roby and Sterling City should all be strong, as well. Roscoe returns eight and nine players on offense and defense, respectively, including quarterback Cale Smith and offensive line-

man Tate Mayfield. The Plowboys reached the regional quarterfinals last year after finishing 4-1 in the district. They were 9-4 overall.

Winters also dropped down this year from 2A to 1A after finishing 1-9 last year.

Roby reached the regional finals last year, but returns only five starters this season. Sterling City returns 14 starters from last year's 6-4 team, while Bronte welcomes back six from its 7-3 squad. The Hermleigh Cardinals, who finished 2-7 last season in the six man division, round out the district as they make their debut in 11-man.

"Our district will be very strong this year," said Thompson.

The Buffaloes open their season Friday, Aug. 27, against Iraan.

"We need to set the tone for the rest of the season," said Thompson.

feel like we can be more competitive in the smaller class."

Thompson sees Roscoe as the early favorite to win the district, but says its anyone's guess which team falls after the Plowboys.

"Roscoe should be tough, but I think we

FORSAN
2004 football

Coach

Tommy Thompson, second year

District

10-Class 1A

Last Year

In Class 2A last year, the Buffaloes went 1-9.

Their only win came against Garden City, who has since dropped from 1A to six-man.

Forsan will play in Class 1A this year.

Strengths

Coach Thompson feels his junior class will be strong this year. Every junior will play a key role because of the number of kids.

Weaknesses

The Buffaloes must improve their running game from last year. The team relied too much on the pass last year and didn't run the ball well.

Most Anticipated Game

The Buffaloes biggest game this year will come in week one when they take on Iraan. Coach Thompson wants to set the tone that night for the rest of the season.

BUFFALOES

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27	Iraan	7:30
Sept. 3	@Eldorado	7:30
Sept. 11	Hawley @Sweetwater	7:30
Sept. 17	@Christoval	7:30
Sept. 24	*Winters	7:30
Oct. 1	*@Sterling City	7:30
Oct. 8**	*Bronte	7:30
Oct. 15	*@Roscoe	7:30
Oct. 22	*Hermleigh	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Roby	7:30
Nov. 5	Open	

*District games

**Homecoming

AUG 26 2004

Garden City Football

Depth, experience could send Bearkats to playoffs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Ken Hoskins was brought to Garden City last year with the anticipation of the team dropping down to the six-man ranks the year after. That year will be this season as the Bearkats will be playing in District 8-six man.

Hoskins came to Garden City last year after many successful years in Witharal, where he won a state title in 2001.

What does Hoskins want to do now? He wants to turn Garden City into a successful playoff team. The playoffs is something the school has not seen since 1991. The Bearkats won their last district title in 1990. But, Hoskins' all-time six man record is 55-7. So, if anyone can turn

Garden City into a winner it is Hoskins. And he has already gotten started in the right direction as the Bearkats are ranked seventh in the state to start the season.

Last year, Garden City went 2-8 overall in District 8-1A (11-man), but lost only one senior from that team. He returns 17 letter winners, including six starters on both sides of the ball. This year's team consists of 37 players, so according to Hoskins, depth and experience shouldn't be a problem.

"We really have three strengths this year," said Hoskins. "We are very deep with lots of experience and team quickness. "We also have several kids that can play several differ-

See BEARKATS, Page 31



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Sophomore Alex Halfmann, senior Timothy Schniers (back), junior Cory Multer and senior Trey Hillger should lead Garden City to a successful six-man season.



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BEARKATS

Continued from Page 30

ent positions."

The big weak team this year adjustment to of play in six man. Hoskins said ferent game and time to adjust, good about this

"We have to learn the new and these kids learn how to Hoskins.

Hoskins and Coordinator K plan on using offense to give lot of looks.

"We will use anced wing offense early on son and by dist should be runn ferent format Hoskins.

The defense, be run by Coordinator Richardson, w and split loc advantage of quickness.

"We will use on both sides said Hoskins.

With 37 kids depth, several players will be both sides of t

Sophomore Halfmann ret team's quart safety.

He started a last year at qu a freshman. seven touchdo more than 1, total offense.

"He should the new syster to see the field Hoskins. "He arm and is able."

Seniors Tim Trey Hillg Machicek a Lopez return will serve as c

Schniers sta last year and same this ye

Garden City Football

BEARKATS

Continued from Page 30

-ent positions."

The big weakness of the team this year will be the adjustment to a new style of play in six man.

Hoskins said it is a different game and it will take time to adjust, but he feels good about this season.

"We have to be able to learn the new style of play and these kids also have to learn how to win," added Hoskins.

Hoskins and Offensive Coordinator Koby Abney plan on using multi sets on offense to give defenses a lot of looks.

"We will use an unbalanced wing and a spread offense early on in the season and by district time we should be running 10-12 different formations," said Hoskins.

The defense, which will be run by Defensive Coordinator Cory Richardson, will use a 3-1 and split look to take advantage of the team's quickness.

"We will use a lot of guys on both sides of the ball," said Hoskins.

With 37 kids and a lot of depth, several Garden City players will be featured on both sides of the ball.

Sophomore Alex Halfmann returns as the team's quarterback and safety.

He started all 10 games last year at quarterback as a freshman. He scored seven touchdowns and had more than 1,000 yards of total offense.

"He should flourish in the new system and be able to see the field better," said Hoskins. "He has a strong arm and is very coachable."

Seniors Tim Schniers, Trey Hillger, Wade Machicek and Robert Lopez return this year and will serve as co-captains.

Schniers started at center last year and will do the same this year. Hoskins

said he is strong physically, smart mentally and has a lot of experience with the team's offensive schemes.

Hillger and Lopez will be the two featured running backs for the Bearkats.

Hillger, who has been a varsity member since his freshman year, is a quick runner who knows how to find the holes.

Lopez is one of the fastest players on the team this year.

"Robert has improved his catching ability this year and we are going to try to get him the ball in the open field so he can utilize his speed," said Hoskins.

Machicek is a very quick and agile tight end, split end and defensive end.

Junior Cory Multer, who earned all-district honors last year on defense, returns to the starting lineup as a lineman this year, but his versatility may also see him as a fullback in the "I" formation, said Hoskins.

Seniors Travis Coats and Colby Hirt will also see extensive time this year.

Coats is the fastest player on this year's team and can play quarterback, running back and defensive back.

Hirt is very versatile and will play three different positions, as well.

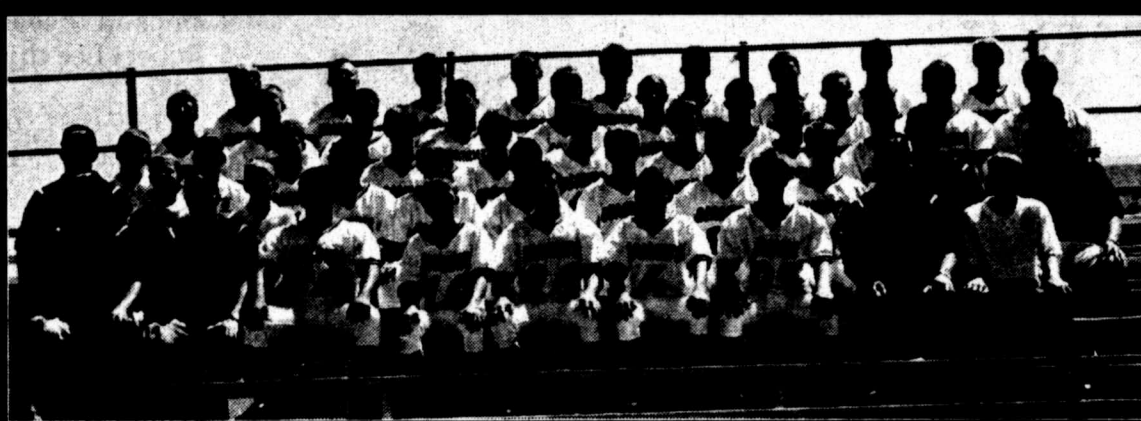
Besides Halfmann, two other sophomores should get action this year.

Jared Bradford and Taylor Nieheus both started for Garden City on defense last year in 11-man action and Hoskins said they will both play key roles again.

"Jared is a hard runner on offense and will also see time at split receiver and Taylor can play anywhere on the field," said Hoskins. "Taylor is also a very smart football player."

The rest of the varsity roster this year includes senior Mitch Rider, juniors Dusty Walker, Grant Schwartz and Uriel Talamantes and sophomores Blaine Walker

See BEARKATS, Page 31



BEARKATS

2004 football

Coach

Ken Hoskins, second year

District

8-six-man

Last Year

Garden City went 2-8 last year in 11-man Class 1A, but will be playing this year in the six-man ranks.

Strengths

The Bearkats will have lots of numbers, experience and team quickness this year.

Weaknesses

Coach Hoskins said the team has to be able to learn the new style of play in the six-man ranks and the team also needs to learn how to win.

Most Anticipated Game

Garden City's biggest game of the year will take place Oct. 8 at Robert Lee. That game will kick-off the district season.

"We will know where we stand in the district right away," said Hoskins.

AUG 26 2004

Garden City Football

BEARKATS

Continued from Page 31

and Colton Schwartz.

This year's schedule will be tough, but Hoskins feels every game is winnable.

"We can't take anyone lightly this year because we are new kids on the block,"



SCHNIERS

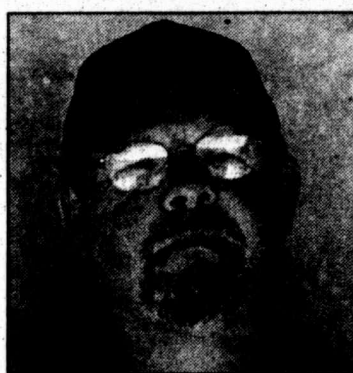
Hoskins. "But, if we adjust well this year I think we can do some things."

Garden City's non-district schedule includes ninth ranked Ira and eighth-ranked Sanderson, as well as Grandfalls, El

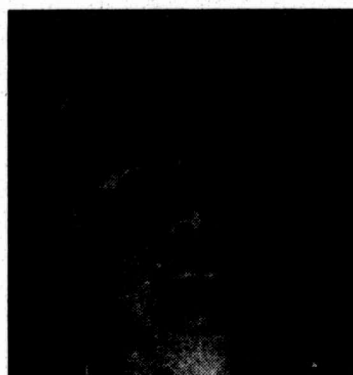
Paso Jesus Chapel and Midland Trinity.

Hoskins sees Robert Lee, Water Valley and his Bearkats as the early preseason favorites to win the district.

Water Valley is the only team in the district that had a winning record last year. Also, Robert Lee hired one of the best six man coaches in the game during the offseason. Mitch Lee, who won a state title at Panther Creek,



HOSKINS



MULTER

steps in to lead Robert Lee this year.

The rest of district is made up of Veribest, Paint Rock and Blackwell.

Hoskins said the team's keys to success are simple.

"We must tackle better than we did last year, make better on-field adjustments on defense, take care of the ball on offense and stay healthy," said Hoskins.

The rest of the staff is made up of Brent Kirkland, Josh Fee and trainer Jimmy Fine.

BEARKATS

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 26	**Grandfalls-Royalty	7:30
Sept. 3	@Ira	7:30
Sept. 10	Sanderson	7:30
Sept. 17	Open	
Sept. 24	***El Paso Jesus Chapel	7:30
Oct. 1	@Midland Trinity	7:30
Oct. 8	*@Robert Lee	7:30
Oct. 15	*Water Valley	7:30
Oct. 22	*@Veribest	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Paint Rock	7:30
Nov. 5	*Blackwell	7:30

*District games

**Senior night

***Homecoming



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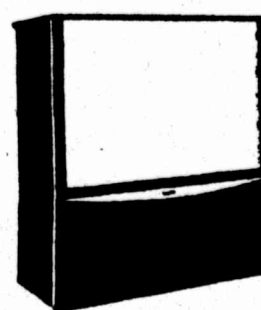
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Villa,

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Optimism and this year as first coach Joe Helms Wildcats team mately compet trict crown.

"We'll be co the district th we have pla tions," said coached at d Dawson last ye

Having seven letter winner starters back year's 7-4 team and the Wildc able shot.

Grady went 4 trict last year the first round offs to Fort Da

This year's t ture strong se ship and a lo kids with goo Helms.

And leading be seniors A and Ben Hirt started last ye

The 5-7, 165 will be the tea back in the offense and e back or lineba defensive set.

When

Aug. 28

Sept. 3

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Sept. 24

Oct. 1

Oct. 8

Oct. 15

Oct. 22

Oct. 29

Nov. 5

*District ga

Grady Football

Villa, Hirth make Grady legitimate title contenders

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Optimism and confidence is brewing high at Grady this year as first-year head coach Joe Helms says his Wildcats team will legitimately compete for the district crown.

"We'll be competitive in the district this year and we have playoff aspirations," said Helms, who coached at district rival Dawson last year.

Having seven returning letter winners and two starters back from last year's 7-4 team gives Helms and the Wildcats a reasonable shot.

Grady went 4-1 in the district last year, but lost in the first round of the playoffs to Fort Davis.

This year's team will feature strong senior leadership and a lot of skilled kids with good speed, said Helms.

And leading the way will be seniors Andrew Villa and Ben Hirth, who both started last year.

The 5-7, 165-pound Villa will be the team's running back in the tight set on offense and either cornerback or linebacker in 2-3-1 defensive set. Helms said

he is a very strong player with decent speed that makes good decisions.

"He is definitely a potential all-stater this year," said Helms. "The system will be new, but I don't see why he wouldn't make it."

Helms said Villa, who will also throw the ball on offense, is a big key to his team's success this year. And, don't count on the athletic Villa coming out of the game much either.

"He is a good leader and one of my captains," added Helms, "and he won't sit out much."

Villa ran for 1,380 yards a year ago and reached the end zone 22 times, all while leading his team in tackles with 117.

Hirth will be the team's other running back on offense and he will play cornerback when his team doesn't have the ball.

Helms said the 6-0, 190 pound Hirth is not as shifty of a runner as Villa, but he is stronger.

"He will be our change of pace back and will be featured on offense," added Helms, "but he will lead our defense. He loves contact."

Helms said Hirth, who is

also a team captain, also has the chance to be an all-stater.

The other two captains are seniors Jobe Christon and Doug Rutledge, who will both play the end position on offense this year. Christon is also expected to play safety on defense.

Helms said Christon is a vocal leader who goes all out on every play and Rutledge has good hands and will be featured as the team's deep threat in the spread offense.

The center this year will most likely be senior Gus Rodriguez.

The 6-0, 180-pound Rodriguez also has good hands and could be featured in passing routes.

"He is a good blocker who will do what he needs to be done," said Helms. "He gives everything he's got on every play."

The quarterback position is still up in the air at this point as freshman Justin Tubb and sophomore Tyler Fields have been competing at the start of the year.

Tubb, who stands 6-5, has the edge so far, but Helms expects a lot from Fields this year, as well.

Tubb is an athletic player with a lot of poise and control and Fields brings a lot of skill to the table, as well, according to Helms.

"Justin really wants to play on the varsity and he is not afraid of getting after it, and Tyler has a lot going for him and will see extensive minutes on both sides of the ball."

The defense will also feature senior Nedy Flores and sophomores Aguedo Najera and Aaron Bracken.

Flores and Najera are both projected to start at defensive end, but both could also see time on offense, said Helms.

Both players are very strong and coachable.

"Nedy gives our defense several different looks



'CATS

2004 football

Coach

Joe Helms, first year

District

5-six-man

Last Year

The Wildcats went 7-4 overall last year and 4-1 in district play. Grady lost in the first round of the playoffs to Fort Davis.

Strengths

The Wildcats have three strengths this year: 1) strong senior leadership, 2) overall quickness and 3) A lot of skilled position players.

Weaknesses

The team will have a lot of unproved kids due to a new system. The offense will take time to learn.

Most Anticipated Game

Grady's biggest game of the year will be against Wellman in Grady Oct. 15, but its game against Sands during the season's final week could also have playoff implications.

'CATS

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 28	Faith Christian @Jayton	7:30
Sept. 3	@Rule	7:30
Sept. 10	Ira	7:30
Sept. 17	Borden County	7:30
Sept. 24	Highland	7:30
Oct. 1	Open	
Oct. 8	*@Loop	7:30
Oct. 15	*Wellman	7:30
Oct. 22	*@Dawson	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Klondike	7:30
Nov. 5	*Sands	7:30
*District games		

because he can play pretty much anywhere," said Helms. "And Aguedo is aggressive and likes contact."

Bracken will most likely see time at cornerback on defense, but like most of his teammates, could also see time on offense as a

running back. The 5-10, 160-pound Bracken is strong and very quick, but needs time to develop, said Helms.

"He will become better as he matures," said Helms. "He needs to find

See GRADY, Page 34

AUG 26 2004

Grady Football

GRADY

Continued from Page 33

confidence. When he knows he has what it takes he will be good."

The Wildcats will play in District 5-six man again this year, along with Wellman, Sands, Dawson, Loop and Klondike.

Helms sees Wellman and Sands as two of the early season favorites to win the district, but also added that you can't take any team lightly this year.

"Wellman and Sands are traditionally strong, but I look for the other district teams to fight every week, as well," said Helms. "I think we will have a chance to contend this year because we have a great group of kids."

Wellman went 9-2 last year, while Sands finished



Seniors Ben Hirth, left, and Andrew Villa will lead the Wildcats on the football field this season. Both could be all-staters this year, as well, according to head coach Joe Helms.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

See GRADY, Page 37



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New

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

First year head coach Wayne Henderson is a strong traditionalist, returning letters from last year's squad helps the ball team to stay year.

"The kids are coachable," Henderson.

The Mustang seniors from last year's team and returning starters from last year. However, Henderson remains optimistic about his chances in the future.

"We had a good year, but I think the team will be able to get back to playing like we are used to playing," Henderson.

The tradition of Henderson's school would be to have 32 players in the team has reached the regional level three times in the past (one coming in 1990 and 1991).

200

When
Aug. 27
Sept. 3
Sept. 10
Sept. 17
Sept. 24
Oct. 1
Oct. 8
Oct. 15
Oct. 22
Oct. 29
Nov. 4

* denotes district
**Homecoming

Sands Football

New coach, same strong tradition for Mustangs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

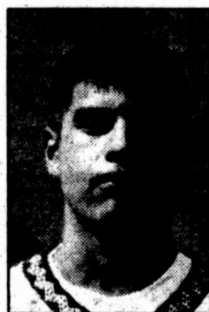
First year head coach Wayne Henderson hopes a strong tradition and eight returning letter winners from last year's Mustangs' squad helps the Sands football team to success this year.

"The kids are also very coachable," said Henderson.

The Mustangs lost seven seniors from last year's 3-7 team and return only two starters from that squad. However, Henderson remains optimistic about his chances in the district.

"We had a down year last year, but I think the team will be able to get back to playing like they are used to playing," said Henderson.

The tradition Henderson speaks of would be the school's 32 playoff appearances. The team has reached the regional quarterfinals three times with the last one coming in 2002 (also in 1990 and 1991).



VARELA

2003 results (3-7)

Wellman - lost, 37-16
 Sanderson - lost, 54-8
 Balmorhea - lost, 49-0
 Westbrook - lost, 31-16
 Ropes - lost, 58-31
 Loop - won, 48-0
 Borden County - lost, 16-12
 Grady - lost, 41-22
 Dawson - won, 55-26
 Klondike - won 34-14

This year's team will be led by senior quarterback Marcelo Barraza, who will also play safety on defense. According to Henderson, Barraza is very smart and coachable and he listens really well.

"(Marcelo) runs the show for us - basically," said Henderson. "He knows where everyone is and where they need to be."

The team's two running backs are both juniors but are really two different types of players.

"They are both leaders, but each goes about it a different way," said Henderson.

Cevan Smithson is a great leader who brings

strong motivation skills and high intensity to the game, while Santos Ybarra is a quiet leader who leads more by example and gives 100 percent on every single play, said Henderson. Both Smithson and Ybarra will play linebacker on defense.

Henderson expects sophomore Jarrod Fry and junior J. R. Varela to be impact players this year, as well.

"Jarrod is up and coming this year and should help us out, while J.R. should be a strong leader for us soon," said Henderson.

Both players saw extensive minutes at the junior varsity level last year.

The keys for this year's team according to Henderson are early success and staying healthy.

"If we can get some wins behind us early that will help our confidence," added Henderson. "But, to do that we have to stay healthy. If we have the wrong person go down, that could hurt our chances at a playoff run."

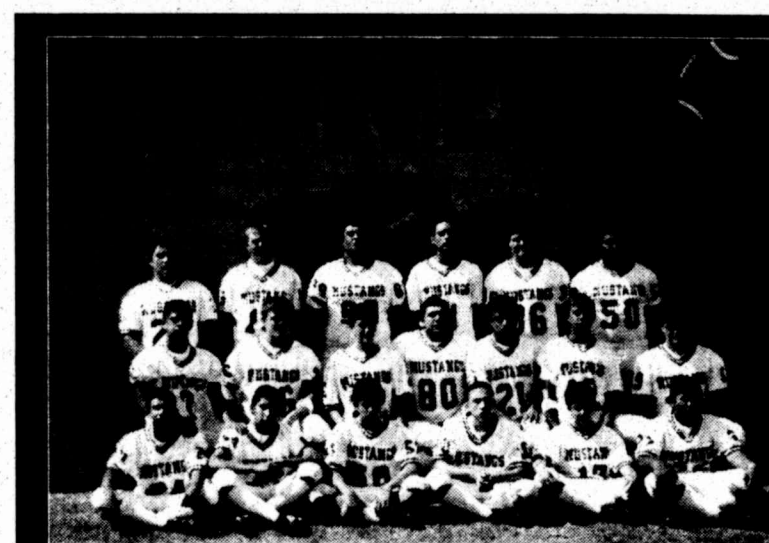
The Mustangs have only 21 kids out this year, so health could indeed play a role for the team.

The Mustangs will play in District 5-six man this year and the team will see many athletic opponents throughout the season.

Henderson said the pre-season district favorites are Grady and Wellman due to both teams having lots of numbers back from last year. They are also both very athletic. The rest of the district is made up of Loop, Dawson and Klondike.

Henderson also sees some tough competition outside of district play with Ropes and Grandfalls expecting to be strong this season. Both teams are young, but athletic, added Henderson.

Wellman and Grady each went 4-1 in district play last year.



'STANGS 2004 football

Coach

Wayne Henderson, first year

District

5-six-man

Last Year

The Mustangs went 3-7 overall last year and won two games in district play.

Strengths

The Mustangs have three strengths this year:

- 1) the overall tradition of Sands football,
- 2) being able to use eight kids on the varsity team and 3) having very coachable players.

Weaknesses

The Mustangs will not have a lot of numbers this year and they do not possess a lot of overall speed.

Most Anticipated Game

Sands' biggest game this year will be when they take to the field against Grady. The Wildcats have been and continue to be Sands' biggest rival. The two teams will meet in Ackerly Sept. 30.

'STANGS

2004 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27	Ropes	7:30
Sept. 3	@Grandfalls	7:30
Sept. 10	@Westbrook	7:30
Sept. 17	@New Home	7:30
Sept. 24	**Loraine	7:30
Oct. 1	Open	
Oct. 8	*Klondike	7:30
Oct. 15	*Dawson	7:30
Oct. 22	*@Loop	7:30
Oct. 29	*Wellman	7:30
Nov. 4	*@Grady Lenorah	7:30

* denotes district games

**Homecoming

Dawson went 4-6 last year, while Klondike finished 4-6 and Loop ended the year at 0-10.

The Wildcats of Grady have a new coach in Joe Helms, which coached in Dawson last year.

Wellman set a school record last year with more

than 1,600 passing yards, but might have to rebuild this year due to lack of experience and not much depth.

Klondike has good overall team speed, while Loop, which gave up 466 points last year, should be stronger this year.

AUG 26 2004

Sands Football

Henderson begins first year at Sands

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Sands' new football coach — Wayne Henderson — takes over the reins of the Mustang team this year after spending the last three years at Rochester. He guided Rochester to a 3-7 record, but the team scored 96 points in its first game last year.

While at Rochester, Henderson also coached track, basketball and golf.

"I pretty much coached all the boys sports and even coached the girls during track season," said Henderson.

Henderson went to high school at Silverton and became an assistant coach there, as well. He went to

college for two years at South Plains College and then finished his final years — five of them — at West Texas A&M. He majored in education and coaching.

"I worked in construction during school and probably could have finished sooner but just didn't find it to be necessary," said Henderson.

Besides coaching football at Sands, Henderson teaches history and physical education.

Sands will compete in district play this year with Wellman, Grady, Dawson, Klondike and Loop.

The Mustangs got wins over rivals Klondike, Dawson and Loop last year.



From left: Santos Ybarra, Marcelo Barraza and Cevan Smithson will lead first-year head coach Wayne Henderson's Sands Mustangs this year.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

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6:00 P.M. Evening Worship

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7:00 P.M. Junior Choir Practice
7:00 P.M. Youth Service

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Helms

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The search for the new High School's football coach is over.

Superintendent Tubb has announced the position has been filled by Coach Joe Helms.

"I am very excited about the opportunity," Helms said.

Helms takes over from Krug, who stepped down after the school's first year. Krug will still be in position as head coach, however.

After graduating from Texas Tech University in 1992, Helms began his coaching career at Dell City High School, where he served as one of the assistants on the football team.

Nov

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2006

Grady Football

Helms takes over as Grady's new head man

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The search for Grady High School's new six-man football coach is officially over.

Grady Superintendent Johnny Tubb has announced that the position has been filled by Coach Joe Helms, who comes to Grady from Dawson High School.

"I am very excited about the opportunity," said Helms.

Helms takes over for Carl Krug, who stepped down as the school's football coach. Krug will still hold his position as head basketball coach, however.

After graduating from Texas Tech University in 1992, Helms began work for Dell City High School and served as one of the assistants on the football team

for three years before eventually becoming the head coach, where he stayed for one year.

After Dell City, Helms became the head coach at New Home and eventually Dawson.

Helms coached New Home for three years and spent two years at Dawson.

The Wildcats will play in the six-man District 5 again this year.

Last year, Grady finished 7-4 overall and was the district runner-up with a 4-1 record.

The Wildcats lost in the bi-district playoffs to Fort Davis, 64-33.

Only the Wellman Wildcats finished with a better regular season record (9-2). They also lost

in the first round of the playoffs.

Besides Grady and Wellman, District 5 also consists of the Dawson Dragons, Sands Mustangs, Loop Longhorns and Klondike Cougars.



HELMS

Grady loses five starters from last year's district runner-up team, but return Andrew Villa and Ben Hirth.

Much of the players this year are freshmen and sophomores, said Helms.

"This is somewhat of a rebuilding year since we lost so many starters, but I won't know for sure until practice begins in August," said Helms. "The best thing about the situation is that I know most of the

kids from last year because I was the coach at Dawson."

Every team Helms has coached has been of the six-man style and he says the best thing about the game is the fast paced offense.

"It works well with my wide open style," said Helms. "My offensive style is kind of like the run and shoot. However, just like 11-man, fundamentals are the key to success."

Since the offense is the best part of the game, defense is usually the hardest in the six-man method.

"The defense is not the worst part, but it is definitely the hardest," said Helms. "It is a negative part to the game because it is often hard to stop other teams' offenses."

GRADY

Continued from Page 34

3-7. Klondike and Loop were 4-6 and 0-10, respectively.

Grady's non-district schedule also features some tough teams. The Wildcats open the year against Faith Christian of El Paso at the Jayton Gridiron Classic Aug. 28 and then they take on top 10 ranked Ira.

The team's schedule also includes Rule and former district rival Borden County.

Grady hosts both Wellman (Oct. 15) and Sands (Nov. 4) and has its bye week Oct. 1.

"Our final game against Sands will most likely have playoff implications attached to it," said Helms.

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Texas Longhorns

Can Midland's Benson lead 'Horns past Sooners?

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — With new faces on the coaching staff, a load of returning talent and a tough but favorable schedule, the Texas Longhorns again stand as one of the Big 12 heavyweights.

So will 2004 be the year Texas can get past Oklahoma in the South Division to become a national title contender? That question has been asked in Austin for a long time.

"The things we haven't accomplished, our ultimate goal ... (beating) Oklahoma leads to all of it," said head coach Mack Brown, who has suffered four straight losses to the Sooners, including 65-13 last year.

After three straight years

with at least 10 wins but no Big 12 title, Brown hopes to get over the hump with defense.

He hired former Kansas City Chiefs coordinator Greg Robinson and former Arizona coach Dick Tomey to bring new life to a unit that played its worst in some of Texas' biggest games last season.

Robinson's defenses in Kansas City were among the NFL's worst the last two seasons, but he was part of two Super Bowl titles as a coordinator for the Denver Broncos. Arizona's defense under Tomey was known as "Desert Swarm" and was one of the best in college football.

The defense returns seven starters and got a major boost when senior

linebacker

Derrick Johnson, the preseason Big 12 defensive player of the year, stayed rather than leave for the NFL.

"I want to take another shot at the national championship," Johnson said.

Texas also returns sophomore quarterback Vince Young, one of the league's most exciting young players last season, and senior tailback Cedric Benson.

Benson's march through the school record books has placed him in the company of Heisman Trophy winners Ricky Williams and Earl Campbell.

He ranks third on the Texas career rushing list with 3,706 yards and 45 career touchdowns. He could pass Campbell (4,443 yards) by midseason. He and Young (998 yards) give

Texas a potentially dominant rushing attack.

Another pressing question is who will start at quarterback and how often will Brown rotate Young and senior Chance Mock.

Mock began last season as the starter and took the final snaps after relieving Young in the second half of a 28-20 Holiday Bowl loss to Washington State.

"Right now, Vince Young is our starter," Brown said.

"Those two guys will give us a chance to be great. They're both good enough to start anywhere in the country. The important things is that we have to be fair and give ourselves the best chance to win."

Young, who passed for 1,115 yards in seven starts, sparked the six-game winning streak last season that

got Texas within reach of the Bowl Championship Series before Kansas State upset Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

Mock had a hand in the streak too, throwing a TD pass in the final minute of a 43-40 win over Texas Tech.

After considering transferring during the offseason, Mock decided to stay even though he might not start.

Roy Williams, B.J. Johnson and Sloan Thomas are gone after four years of playing together.

Brown will count on a group of freshman receivers to contribute immediately.

The Longhorns will have their annual slugfest with the Sooners in Dallas Oct. 9.

Parcell

By STEPHEN I

AP Sports Writ

Bill Parcells laid a winning needling just to get the Dallas back into the

Never in his ous coaching he also took coming off lo had Parcells postseason so breakthrough come in year

So now, in ond season, h ning to spend repeating hi teaching.

"In a lot of r be less patie because my are that the p know a heck than they did year," Par "These guys ti

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Dallas Cowboys

Parcells brings in veterans to lead Dallas

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

Bill Parcells has already laid a winning foundation, needing just one season to get the Dallas Cowboys back into the playoffs.

Never in his three previous coaching stops, where he also took over teams coming off losing records, had Parcells gotten to the postseason so quickly. The breakthrough had always come in year two.

So now, in Parcells' second season, he isn't planning to spend a lot of time repeating himself or re-teaching.

"In a lot of respects I will be less patient this year because my expectations are that the players should know a heck of a lot more than they did going in last year," Parcells said. "These guys that have been

here for a year, they need to know what to do."

Returning players know Parcells' no-nonsense approach. He doesn't tolerate a lackadaisical approach or silly mistakes, especially from players who've been with him before.

That means being ready from the get-go July 31, the start of 11 sets of two-a-day practices over the first 12 days of camp in Oxnard, Calif.

But have the Cowboys done enough to better — or even equal — last year's 10-6 record? Especially in the NFC East that now has coach Joe Gibbs back in Washington and Terrell Owens with other big additions in Philadelphia.

Two quarterbacks were added, 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde and former pro

baseball player Drew Henson. Defensive end Marcellus Wiley was signed and receiver Keyshawn Johnson came in a trade from Tampa Bay for Joey Galloway.

The Cowboys made a splashy move Friday, signing running back Eddie George to a one-year, incentive-filled deal. To cash in, he'll have to beat out second-round draft pick Julius Jones, who heads into camp hoping to become Dallas' first rookie starting running back since NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith 14 years ago.

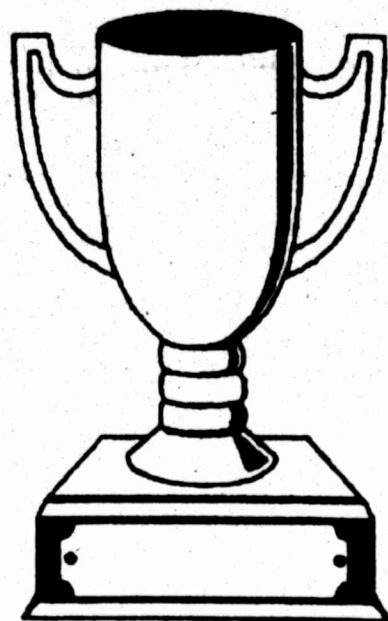
Testaverde signed expecting a chance to start while serving as a mentor to Carter, Henson and Tony Romo.

Dallas opens regular season play Sept. 12.

COWBOYS

2004 Schedule

When	Who	Time
Sept. 12	@Minnesota	3:15
Sept. 19	Cleveland	3:15
Sept. 27	@Washington	8:00
Oct. 3	Bye	
Oct. 10	New York Giants	Noon
Oct. 17	Pittsburgh	3:15
Oct. 24	@Green Bay	3:15
Oct. 31	Detroit	Noon
Nov. 7	@Cincinnati	Noon
Nov. 15	Philadelphia	8:00
Nov. 21	@Baltimore	Noon
Nov. 25	Chicago	3:30
Dec. 6	@Seattle	8 p.m.
Dec. 12	New Orleans	Noon
Dec. 19	@Philadelphia	Noon
Dec. 26	Washington	3:15
Jan. 2	New York Giants	7:30



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4-H

Rachel Wheeler - FHS



FFA

Matthew Earhart - CHS



BASEBALL

Adrian Abrego - CHS
Matthew Earhart - CHS
Blaine Kerby - CHS
Kyle Piercefield - BSHS



CHOIR

Callie Paige - CHS



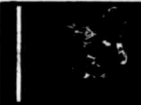
STUDENT COUNCIL

Kyle Piercefield - BSHS
Rachel Wheeler - FHS



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Krista Kerby - CHS
Callie Paige - CHS
Kayla Stanley - FHS



TENNIS

Blaine Kerby - CHS
Callie Paige - CHS



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Krista Kerby - CHS
Callie Paige - CHS
Kyle Piercefield - BSHS
Kayla Stanley - FHS



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Krista Kerby - CHS



TRACK

Kyle Piercefield - BSHS



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Kyle Piercefield - BSHS



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Callie Paige - CHS



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THURSDAY, AUG. 26

**WHAT'S
INSIDE:**

*fall sports
previews of these
Big Spring teams*

FOOTBALL

VOLLEYBALL

TENNIS

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plus:

TEXAS TECH PREVIEW

TEXAS A&M PREVIEW

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2004 BIG SPRING FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

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Big Spring Football

Doportto, Rodriguez hope to lead Steers to playoffs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Dwight Butler begins his 13th year as the Steers' head football coach. And this year he hopes more on-field experience and a few changes on both offense and defense help improve on last year's 3-7 overall record.

The Steers return 17 letter winners from last year, as well as six starters on offense and four starters on defense.

The team will have around 24 seniors on this year's team after graduating 23 last year.

THE OFFENSE

Last year, the offense switched to an "I" formation late in the season due to some injuries. This year, Butler and Offensive Coordinator J.R. Compton will still use the "I" formation, but fans can count on the team using a lot more plays out of the shotgun.

The Steers have four returning starters that hope to lead the offense this year.

The offensive line will be anchored by the biggest Steer of them all — J.R. Rodriguez, who is a 6-4, 360 pound guard. Butler says he is the most experienced and definitely the biggest lineman on the team.

Rodriguez has also caught the eye of a few Division 1 college teams, including the University of Iowa, UTEP and Texas Tech, who have all shown some kind of interest in the massive lineman.

"J.R. is a very gifted athlete for his size," said Butler.

Jerry Doporto, who played quarterback last year, will switch to more of a utility role this year for the Steers. Butler says Doporto will see action at slot receiver and running back and he will also be used to return punts and



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Seniors Jerry Doporto, J.R. Rodriguez, Curtis Osburn and Tavience Clemons will be responsible for the offense this year. Doporto will move from quarterback to a utility position this year, said head coach Dwight Butler. "We want to take advantage of his talents more," he added. The Steers are coming off a 3-7 year, but bring back 17 letter winners from last season, including six starters on offense and four starters on defense. Butler's overall record with the Steers is 75-63-1.

kicks.

"He's a very versatile young man," said Butler. "We need to utilize his talents for us better and we feel like we can do that with him not having to play quarterback."

Butler expects Tavience Clemons to play a big role at the running back position this year.

"He had a real good off-season and brings lots of experience to the table," added Butler. "For our offense to work correctly we have to have a good running game to open up the passing game and vice versa."

And to help with the passing game will be J. Rich Sparks, who is the team's leading returning

wide receiver from last year. Sparks caught three touchdowns a year ago and is the most consistent receiver returning this season.

"He is a big target (6-2) with really good hands," said Butler.

The front runner to take over at quarterback this year for Doporto is junior Andy Lasater. He stands 6-1 and has a real strong arm, said Butler.

"He was the back-up to Jerry last year and did not get a lot of snaps," added Butler. "He must be able to see the field better this year for us."

Another change on offense comes through the

See **STEERS**, Page 3

STEERS

2004 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27	@Odessa High	7:30
Sept. 3	Odessa Permian	7:30
Sept. 10	@Hereford	7:30
Sept. 17	@Lubbock High	7:30
Sept. 24	Open	
Oct. 1	San Angelo Central	7:30
Oct. 8	*Lakeview (Homecoming)	7:30
Oct. 15	*@Andrews	7:30
Oct. 22	*Estacado	7:30
Oct. 29	*@Frenship	7:30
Nov. 5	*Plainview	7:30

* denotes district games

STEERS

Continued from

tight end position.

"We haven't had a tight end for three years, so we can't feel like we can win this year," said Butler. "That's why we will give us a little more versatility out of the one back sets."

"We won't use the tight end a lot, but hopefully it will keep our opponents honest."

The player will step up tight end Piercefield.

Butler feels the Steers has the tools to play tight Steers this year.

THE I

Big Spring's man defensive head coach I became defender in 1988. going to coach according to I.

The Steers their defense season and the to personnell.

"We just don't have enough line man to run a good four man front," said Butler. "And we have a lot more skill position players this year that can run."

Butler hopes the change will make more versatile defensive side against opponents and wide-open.

The defense anchored by starters from

Big Spring Football

STEERS

Continued from Page 2

tight end position.

"We haven't used a tight end for three years, but we feel like we can this year," said Butler. "That will give us a little more versatility out of the one-back sets."

"We won't use the tight end a lot, but hopefully it will keep our opponents honest."

The player Butler hopes will step up this year at tight end is Kyle Piercefield.

Butler feels Piercefield has the tools offensively to play tight end for the Steers this year.

THE DEFENSE

Big Spring has run a four man defensive front since head coach Dwight Butler became defensive coordinator in 1988. Things are going to change this year, according to Butler, however.

The Steers will change their defense to a 3-5 this season and the move is due to personnell.

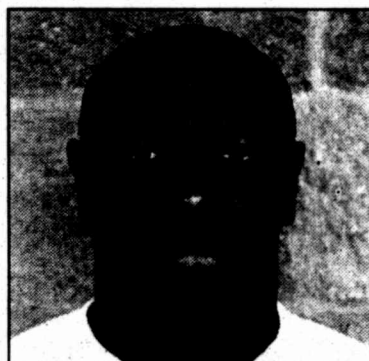
"We just don't have enough line-man to run a good four man front," said Butler. "And we have a lot more skill position players this year that can run."

Butler hopes the change will make his team more versatile on the defensive side of the ball against opponent's spread and wide-open offenses.

The defense will be anchored by four returning starters from last year.

Steven Heffington, who is 6-3, 295 pounds, will be the team's nose tackle and Butler is expecting him to be a force.

"He needs to be physical on the defensive end," added Butler.



COMPTON

The Steers also have two linebackers that will be counted on heavily, as well as one defensive back.

Daniel Castillo and Quentin Vanderbilt will lead the linebacking corps, while Sparks returns as the most experienced defensive back.

Castillo is a hard-nosed player who Butler hopes can direct traffic.

Defensive Coordinator Jay Kennedy will run the defense this year.

THE SCHEDULE

Big Spring will again have a tough preseason schedule to get ready for the grueling games in District 4-4A play.

The Steers open the season against four 5A schools — Odessa High, Odessa Permian, Lubbock High and San Angelo Central — this year and then have the

pleasure of taking on Class 4A's Hereford, which is perennially good, according to Butler.

"If we are going to get to the playoffs this year, we are going to have to play at a 5A level,"

said Butler. "We have never backed down from a challenge. I play the teams that I feel like will get us ready to try to make a run at the playoffs."

And making the playoffs in District 4-4A is not easy.

2003 results (3-7)

Odessa High — lost, 35-17
Odessa Permian — lost, 48-19
Hereford — won, 49-7
Plainview — lost, 51-0
S.A. Central — lost, 13-7
S.A. Lakeview — lost, 32-14
Frenship — lost, 21-3
Levelland — won, 14-7
Estacado — won, 27-21
Andrews — lost 48-28

"The district is historically strong and will be again this year," said Butler. "Somebody in our district goes three rounds deep into the playoffs every year."

Big Spring will be the second smallest school in the district again. Big Spring has more students than only arch rival Andrews.

This year, the district will see changes, as well. Levelland, one of Big Spring's wins last season, dropped down to 3A.

Replacing the Lobos will be Plainview, which returns to District 4-4A after a short stint in 5A. Plainview played in Class 4A the past two years and defeated Big Spring last year, 51-0.

And this year Butler sees the Bulldogs as the early preseason district favorite.

"I also think Frenship will be strong," added Butler. "Both schools just have so many kids to choose from."

Plainview went 10-3 last year and reached the regional final, while the Tigers finished with an 8-3 overall record, which also qualified them for the playoffs.

The other playoff teams to come out of the district last year were Andrews and Lakeview.

THE OUTLOOK

With the experience this team brings to the table this year, Butler expects an improvement from last year, but fans can expect

STEERS

2004 football



Coach

Dwight Butler

District

4-Class 4A

Last Year

After earning a trip to the playoffs in 2002, the Steers went 3-7 last year. They defeated Hereford, Levelland and Estacado.

Strengths

The Steers will have a good offensive line due to experience and the return of J.R. Rodriguez.

The defensive unit will have a strong linebacking corps led by Quentin Vanderbilt.

Weaknesses

Big Spring will lack a lot of depth this year and will have inexperience at the skill positions on both offense and defense.

Most Anticipated Game

Big Spring's biggest rival recently has been Andrews and that won't change this year.

The two schools are separated by around 75 students each year. The two teams will do battle in Andrews Oct. 15. Andrews defeated Big Spring last year, 48-28.

See STEERS, Page 4

AUG 26 2004

Big Spring Football

STEERS

Continued from Page 3

the team to be small compared to other opponents.

"We have never had much size because we just don't have a lot of big kids," said Butler.

"The problem with last year was we didn't have experience and we started completely over from our 2002 playoff team. This year, we have kids that at least saw action last season," he added.

The team will have two players — Heffington and Rodriguez — at or near the 300 pound mark, which is the first time Big Spring has had that since 1989.

The Steers last made the playoffs in 2002 and have qualified in seven out of the last 11 years.

Butler's overall record as a head coach is 75-63-1.



From left: Seniors Quentin Vanderbilt, J. Rich Sparks, Daniel Castillo and Steven Heffington are going to be counted on to lead the Steer defense.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde



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Nett

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Big Spring team went to District 4-4A its way to the first district years.

Five senior Phillips, Le Timmi Ka'Rissa M LaKenya "Ki — from that t over the su graduation, l year coach l with a few problems wi squad.

However, th only weakne Steers have a a lot better id has to work v as opposed to

"We will enced a bit i son, but I f weakness I handle and manage," sai

Daggett doe letter winn starters from all five of th vide much o ship this seas

Other strei great chemis al balance an ership from captains — F and Shannon and returning

"Everyone varsity ros about the tea said Daggett. also balanced any one girl star on any but the san necessarily every nigh keeps other ance a bit."

Adams was all-district r last year as s the starting s ing the latte season.

Adams will

Big Spring Volleyball

Netters' continued success lies within seniors

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Big Spring volleyball team went undefeated in District 4-4A last year on its way to the Lady Steers' first district title in 18 years.

Five seniors — Lindsay Phillips, Leina Braxton, Timmi Blackshear, Ka'Rissa Magers and LaKenya "Kim" Wrightsil — from that team vanished over the summer due to graduation, leaving second year coach Revis Daggett with a few inexperience problems with this year's squad.

However, that may be the only weakness the Lady Steers have as Daggett has a lot better idea of what she has to work with this year as opposed to last year.

"We will be inexperienced a bit in the preseason, but I feel that is a weakness I think we can handle and eventually manage," said Daggett.

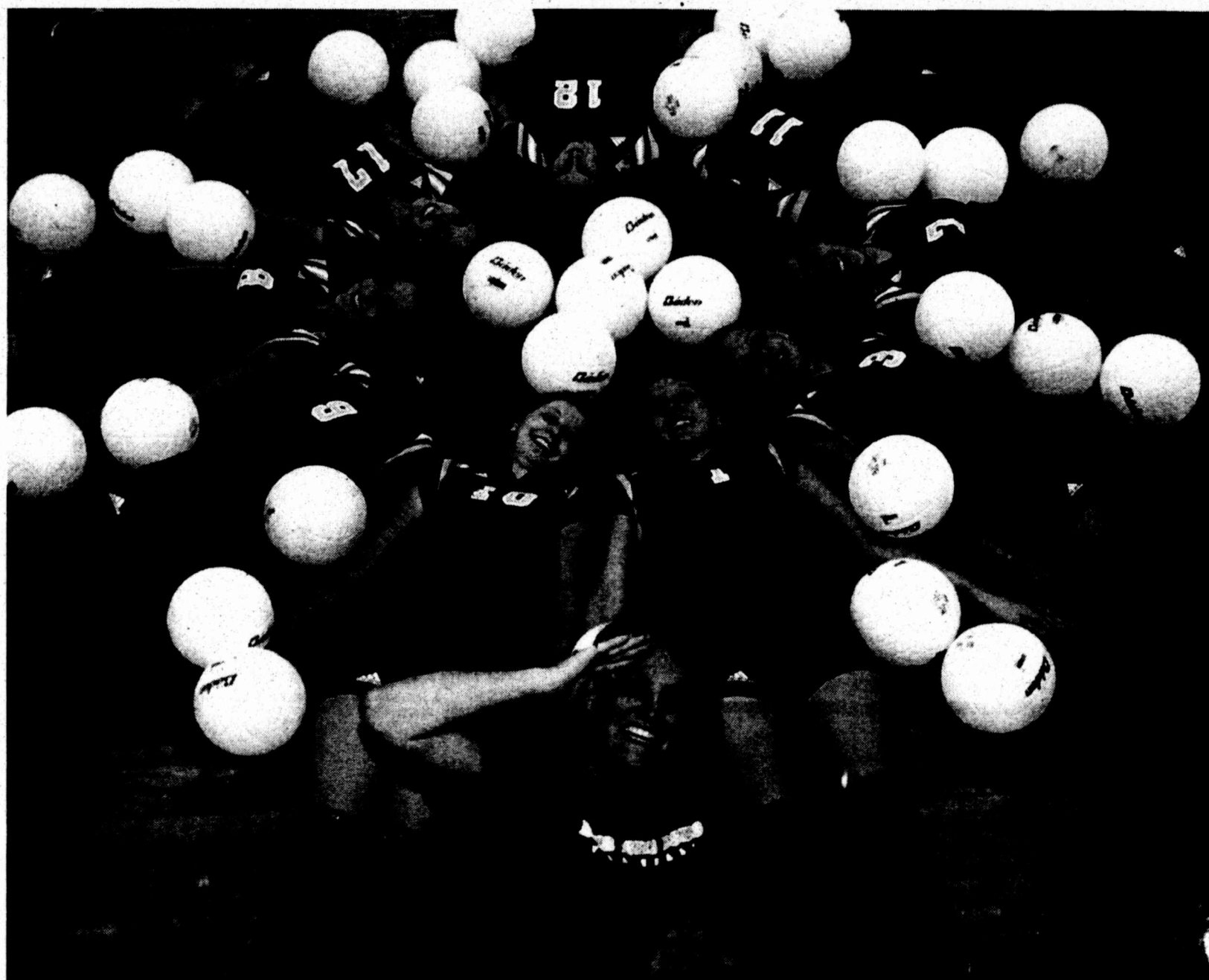
Daggett does return five letter winners and two starters from last year and all five of them will provide much of the leadership this season.

Other strengths include great chemistry, exceptional balance and strong leadership from this year's co-captains — Kendal Adams and Shannon Higgins — and returning starters.

"Everyone on the JV and varsity rosters are all about the team this year," said Daggett. "This team is also balanced so much that any one girl could be the star on any given night, but the same girl won't necessarily be the star every night. And that keeps other teams off balance a bit."

Adams was a first-team all-district representative last year as she moved into the starting setter role during the latter part of the season.

Adams will be one of the



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Clockwise starting with front: Head coach Revis Daggett, senior Kendal Adams, senior Cycelye Tuitt, junior Raegan Ritchey, junior Heather Policky, junior Krista Chesworth, junior Carmen Lewis, junior Brenn Swinney, senior Stefani Scott and senior Shannon Higgins. Daggett begins her second year with the team and hopes to capture her second district championship.

two setters this year in Daggett's 6-2 formation.

"Kendal brings valuable big game experience and leadership on and off the court," said Daggett.

Higgins was also a first-team all-district member last season. She was primarily a middle hitter, but Daggett says this year Higgins will be the other setter in the 6-2 and an outside hitter, too.

"Shannon brings versatility and her work ethic is just amazing," added Daggett. "She is also our

dreamer — meaning she looks ahead and visualizes where this team can possibly get to at the end of the year.

"Shannon and Kendal are a great tandem as far as the setting position goes."

Daggett selected Adams and Higgins as captains on criteria of having "bones."

The first bone is a backbone, which is the ability to say difficult things and share them with teammates in a gentle way.

The second bone is a wishbone, which means

they must imagine the team doing great things that might not be possible.

"They have to set goals high, be dreamers and then lead their team there," said Daggett.

And the third bone is a funnybone, which means the girls are humorous when appropriate. They also make teammates laugh and laugh themselves.

Besides Adams and Higgins, several other Lady Steers should shine in the varsity spotlight this

season.

Senior Stefani Scott is a returning letter winner who played a varsity reserve role last season. Daggett has high hopes for Scott this year and says there is a potential starting spot at outside hitter in the cards.

"She has an absolute hammer for an arm," said Daggett. "She will be one of the most powerful hitters in the district this year."

"If she can get her foot-

See LADY STEERS, Page 6

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Big Spring Volleyball

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 5

work figured out, she could be lethal."

Big Spring also returns two left-handed athletic hitters from last year's team.

Juniors Carmen Lewis and Brenn Swinney will most likely find themselves in a starting role this year.

Lewis was the first reserve off the bench last year in a utility role.

"Wherever I needed her, she played," said Daggett. "She is an incredibly versatile player who brings needed experience."

Lewis is the most athletic player on the team and is expected to play middle hitter this year, said Daggett. However, she will see time at other hitting positions, as well.

Swinney is another

returning reserve player from last year's squad. She is also a utility player, but will primarily be a right hitter this year, said Daggett.

"She has come on strong physically of late," added Daggett. "Her tremendous growth brings improved quickness and jumping ability this year."

Junior Raegan Ritchey was last year's junior varsity captain, but expect her to move into a big-time varsity role this year as a middle hitter. Ritchey was injured early on last year and that limited her to JV action.

"Raegan is one of our most athletic girls," said Daggett. "Her junior varsity time last year will help her this year at the varsity level."

Adams, Higgins, Ritchey, Swinney and Scott all played club ball (USA volleyball) this past January

through April.

In addition to the above mentioned girls, Daggett expects a tough battle for the remaining varsity spots.

That battle will most likely be between senior Cycelye Tuitt, as well as juniors Heather Policky, Chalesa Johnson and Krista Chesworth. Chesworth and Policky also played club ball during the offseason, added Daggett.

Last year's roster went 11 deep, but Daggett expects to cut that number this year to eight and maybe nine, but no more. That also goes for this year's junior varsity team.

Another change from last year is the addition of a sophomore team to go along with the usual freshman team.

"The extra team will put

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 7

LADY STEERS

2004 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 27-28	@San Angelo Tourney	TBA
Aug. 31	@Midland High	7:30
Sept. 3-4	@Seminole Tourney	TBA
Sept. 11	@Monahans	Noon
Sept. 14	@Lubbock Coronado	5:00
Sept. 18	*Lakeview	3:15
Sept. 21	*@Andrews	7:15
Sept. 25	*Estacado	3:15
Sept. 28	*@Frenship	7:15
Oct. 2	*Plainview	3:15
Oct. 5	*@Lakeview	7:15
Oct. 9	*Andrews	3:15
Oct. 12	*Frenship	7:15
Oct. 16	*@Estacado	3:15
Oct. 19	*@Plainview	7:15

* denotes district games

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LADY S

Continued from

six more kids to take their role and that's our program," said Daggett. "It allows kids to be on the bench."

Big Spring's district matches came at the Lakeview area. The Lady Steers won four games, including a victory over Andrews on Friday, and defeated Lakeview.

However, the Lady Steers' matches against the other teams were 1

Senior captain
leyball team
playoff team.

Sett

1. Kendal

2. Shannon

3. Katy

Big Spring Volleyball

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 6

six more kids in a starting role and that is valuable to our program," said Daggett. "It also doesn't allow kids to sit around on the bench."

Big Spring's toughest district matches last season came at the hands of rivals Lakeview and Andrews. The Lady Steers needed four games to defeat Andrews on the road last year and five games to defeat Lakeview.

However, both home matches against these two teams were fairly easy.

This year, Daggett expects much of the same as far as the standings go.

"I can say right now that all three of us will be the

playoff teams from the district this year," said Daggett. "The only thing I don't know at this point is where each team will finish at the end of the year."

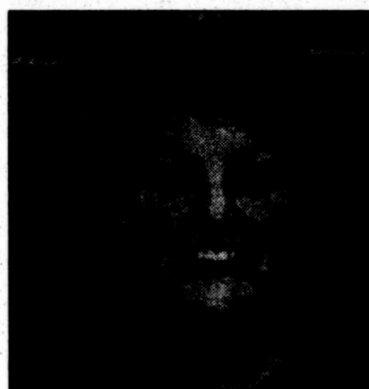
However, I feel we are a great candidate to win the district title."

The Lady Steers opened this year's season Aug. 10 in Abilene. Their district season kicks off Sept. 18 at home against Lakeview.

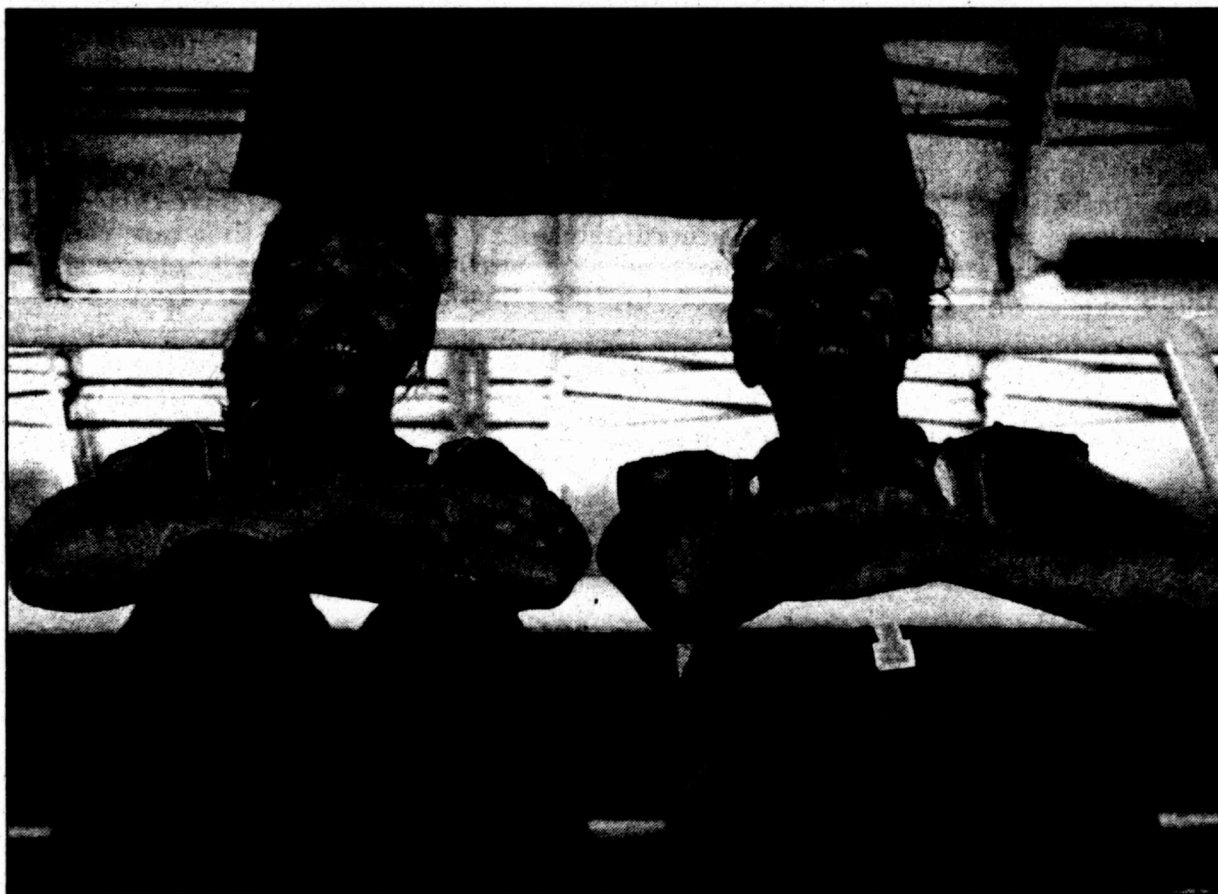
They follow that up with a road match against Andrews.

Big Spring also takes on Lakeview and Andrews in back-to-back fashion Oct. 5 and 9, respectively.

Also, Tanya Nolen and Debbie Churchwell will be the assistant coaches helping out Daggett this year.



DAGGETT



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Senior captains Kendal Adams, left, and Shannon Higgins should provide the Lady Steers volleyball team with some much needed experience. Both players started on Big Spring's 2003 playoff team.

Three-Deep varsity lineup

Setter

1. Kendal Adams
2. Shannon Higgins
3. Katy Abner

Middle Hitter

1. Carmen Lewis
2. Raegan Ritchey
3. Brenn Swinney

Right Hitter

1. Brenn Swinney
2. Shannon Higgins
3. Carmen Lewis

Left Hitter

1. Stefani Scott
2. Kendal Adams
3. K. Chesworth



LADY STEERS 2004 volleyball

Coach

Revis Daggett

District

4-Class 4A

Last Year

The Lady Steers won the District 4-4A title after going undefeated last season. It was Big Spring's first volleyball district title in 18 years. The Lady Steers advanced to the state playoffs and were defeated in the Regional Quarterfinal.

Strengths

The Lady Steers will have great chemistry this year and every member of the junior varsity and varsity team is all about the team. The team also features committed leadership by its two senior captains – Shannon Higgins and Kendal Adams.

Weaknesses

The Lady Steers lost five seniors – Leina Braxton, Timmi Blackshear, Lindsay Phillips, Ka'Rissa Magers and LaKenya "Kim" Rightsil. Daggett says the team's inexperience may show early.

Most Anticipated Matches

Big Spring's biggest rivals this year are expected to be Lakeview and Andrews. The Lady Steers' first two district matches will come against Lakeview and Andrews Sept. 18 and 21, respectively. They also take on both teams in back-to-back fashion in early October.

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2004

Big Spring Tennis

Strong senior leaders, talented youth lead Steers

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Seven seniors and a strong group of underclassmen has Big Spring head tennis coach Sarah Corse optimistic about the upcoming fall season of team tennis.

Corse begins her fifth year as head coach at Big Spring and will try this season to bring home the school's third district title under her direction. Big Spring won back-to-back district crowns in 2001 and 2002 before settling for runner-up last year to rival Andrews.

However, the good news is Andrews lost nine seniors from its title team last year. That too, makes Corse optimistic about her team's chances this year.

Leading the way this year

again on the girl's side will be senior Veronica Villarreal, who counting this year has been the team's No. 1 girl four straight years.

"She is just remarkable," said Corse. "She played a lot of tennis this summer and will be really big for us this year."

Two other seniors will do their best in helping out Villarreal this year as Alex Gariepy and Jessica

Rodriguez return to the courts in hopes of having a great senior campaign. The two seniors qualified one and two, respectively, during preseason tryouts. Last

year, J-Rod was fourth and Gariepy fifth on the team's depth chart.

Corse expects a lot out of both girls this season.

Sophomore Reinilde

Robinson qualified fourth this year at tryouts after getting experience

last year at the junior varsity level. Rounding out

the team's top six players are juniors Natasha

Neighbors and

Jamie Jordan.

Both Neighbors and Jordan make their way into the singles rotation this year after playing mostly doubles and mixed doubles last year.

"The singles lineup has been finalized for now, but as the season goes on things could change," said Corse. "Also, the kids who will play in the singles rotation will also most likely see action in doubles, as well."

As a matter of fact, almost everyone on this year's squad played doubles last year, including Villarreal.

The boy's team subtracts its No. 1 player from last year in Vishal Shroff, but four seniors and two strong sophomores hope to fill the void accordingly.

This year, Shroff's younger brother Roshan

takes over as the boy's No. 1. And with that No. 1 placement comes a lot of pressure, according to Corse.

"The pressure of being

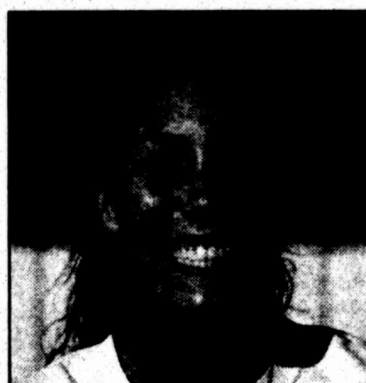
No. 1 is definitely tough because you can't really take a night off," added Corse.

"Everyone pretty much knows that whoever is playing in the No. 1 spot on the other team is very

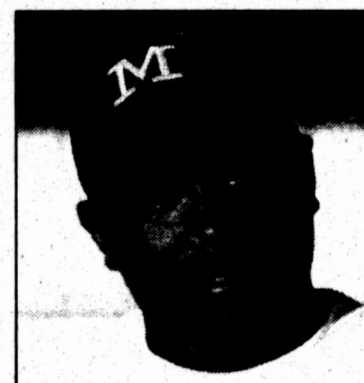
good as well.

"The one weakness our team will have this year is the fact that our younger

See TENNIS, Page 9



GARIEPY



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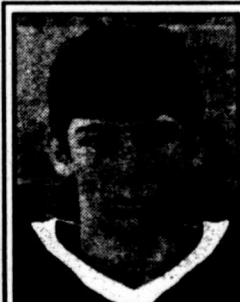
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TENNIS

Continued from

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Both senic the team las strong lead according to

Senior Jas play in the fi sophomores and Robert out the top

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Big Spring Tennis

TENNIS

Continued from Page 8

players will have to play roles this year that they are not used to playing. And by that I mean a more significant role in matches that actually mean something."

Three senior boys make up the No. 2, 3 and 4 spots in the lineup after preseason tryouts.

Nick Rivera, known as little Nick by his teammates, will play the No. 2 role this year, and "Big Nick" Nick Paredez will be in the third slot in the lineup.

Both seniors played for the team last year and are strong leaders, as well, according to Corse.

Senior Jason Vela will play in the four spot, while sophomores Bryan Juan and Robert Andrade round out the top six at five and

six, respectively.

Both Juan and Andrade join the varsity this year after strong junior varsity seasons a year ago.

"I expect these two guys to step up for us this year and have strong seasons," said Corse. "Jason and (senior) Matt Islas will also be good for us no matter where they fall in the lineup."

Besides the top six players on both the girl's and boy's sides, Corse expects freshmen Allison Ward, Jeremy Landin and Aihan Nghiem to make an impact in their first year's of high school tennis.

"They looked good over the summer and are very promising kids for the future of our team," said Corse. "It is nice to see young players play well because that bodes well for our future."

Corse expects both Big Spring and Frenship to

challenge for the district title this year, but won't count out Andrews for having another strong year.

Corse said all three teams should be good this year, but adds that Big Spring and Frenship are probably the favorites because Andrews graduated nine seniors.

"Frenship was a real competitive match for us last year and they have a good corps of players returning," said Corse. "The rivalry we have with Andrews is always intense so I can't really count them out because we always play each other tough."

Levelland dropped down to 3A this year and will not play with Big Spring and others in District 4-4A this season. However, the district adds Plainview, which returns to the district after

See TENNIS, Page 12

BIG SPRING

2004 Varsity Schedule

When	Who	Time
Aug. 31	Odessa	3:30
Sept. 10-11	@Abilene Tourney	TBA
Sept. 14	@Odessa-Permian	3:30
Sept. 18	*Lakeview	TBA
Sept. 21	Midland	3:30
Sept. 25	*@Plainview	TBA
Sept. 28	Abilene Wylie @Sweetwater	3:30
Oct. 2	*Frenship	TBA
Oct. 5	@Sweetwater	3:30
Oct. 9	*Estacado	TBA
Oct. 16	*@Andrews	TBA
Oct. 29-30	Regionals @Wichita Falls	TBA
Nov. 5-6	State @Austin	TBA

*denotes district matches

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Big Spring Tennis

TENNIS

Continued from Page 9

a short stint in 5A and some time in another 4A district.

"I don't know much about Plainview at this point, but we will play them like they are the best until we know for sure what they have," said Corse.

Corse, who served as the team's assistant coach for nine years before becoming head coach, said the non-district contest against Pampa this year will be a big match, as well.

"That match will be big because it will help us for regional seeding and winning that match could keep us from playing a team from Wichita Falls in the early rounds," added Corse.

Last year, the team was knocked out of the regional tournament in the first round by Wichita Falls High.

Big Spring lost to Pampa in Levelland Aug. 21 and hosts Frenship at Comanche Trail Park Oct. 2.

The Steers and Lady Steers also travel to Andrews Oct. 16. That match is the regular season finale.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Sophomore Roshan Shroff, left, and senior Veronica Villarreal will lead the Big Spring tennis team this year. Both players earned top-seed for the boys and girls teams, respectively. Villarreal has been the girls' No. 1 seed for four straight years.

BOYS SINGLES- by seed

1. Roshan Shroff
2. Nick Rivera
3. Nick Paredes
4. Jason Vela
5. Bryan Juan
6. Robert Andrade

GIRLS SINGLES- by seed

1. Veronica Villarreal
2. Alex Garipey
3. Jessica Rodriguez
4. Reinhilde Robinson
5. Natasha Neighbors
6. Jamie Jordan



BIG SPRING 2004 tennis

Coach

Sarah Corse

District

4-Class 4A

Last Year

After winning the district titles in 2001 and 2002, Big Spring settled for second to Andrews last year. The Steers qualified for regionals and lost to a team from Wichita Falls in the first round.

Strengths

The team will have seven seniors and Coach Corse expects great leadership from all seven of them.

Weaknesses

Several new, young players are going to have to perform in high magnitude matches and they have not been accustomed to that before.

Most Anticipated Match

Andrews lost nine seniors from last year's district champion squad. This year, Coach Corse expects Frenship to be the team's biggest match of the year, but the Andrews rivalry will not be forgotten.



Hugh

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Senior Jess returns this year the Big Spring team in the West Texas. And with her comes first-year head coach Casey Pacheco and seniors Kendra Weeks, Randy Yanez, Scott Thomas and senior diver Todd Seber.

Hughey was the best Big Spring swimmer in the pool earning a regional medal finished third the 200-meter



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Big Spring Swimming

Hughey returns to water for one final run at state

By TROY HYDE

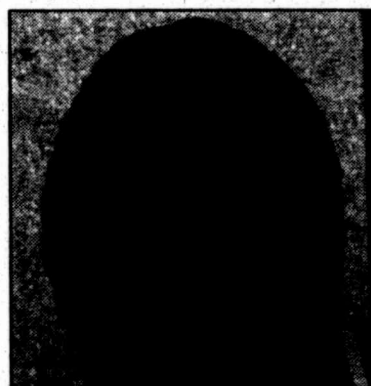
Sports Editor

Senior Jessica Hughey returns this year to lead the Big Spring swimming team in the pools across West Texas. And with her comes first-year head coach Casey Pacheco and seniors Kendra Weeks, Randy Yanez, Scott Thomas and senior diver Todd Seber.

Hughey was the best Big Spring swimmer in the pool last year, earning a trip to the regional meet, where she finished third overall in the 200-meter freestyle and

200-meter backstroke.

The top swimmer at each regional meet and the eight additional best times throughout the state advance to the state meet in Austin.



HUGHEY

Hughey said that is her goal this year. She currently trains in the pool before and after school and served as a lifeguard over the summer and swam on a club team in Midland.

"She has a good chance at advancing to state this year," said Pacheco. "But, our goal as a team is to win the district meet."

This year's team is made up of 18 girls and eight boys and already Pacheco has seen leadership from his seniors.

"They are good leaders and you always know they are going to step up when the season starts," he added.

The above-mentioned seniors as well as senior Sloan Diaz, who is a first year swimmer, will be expected to lead a young group this year.

"We are very young," said Pacheco. "The sophomores and juniors should be a strong group. They are a little deep in the water right now because they haven't swam much, but they swim very smooth."

Aside from winning the

See **SWIMMING**, Page 15

BIG SPRING

2004-05 Swimming Schedule

When	Who
Oct. 1-2	@Odessa Permian/UTPB
Oct. 8	@Lubbock Relays
Oct. 12	Andrews
Oct. 22-23	Big Spring Invitational
Oct. 29-30	@Abilene Invitational
Nov. 12-13	@Pecos Invitational
Nov. 19-20	@Monahans Invitational
Dec. 10-11	@Seminole Invitational
Jan. 28-29	Districts @Abilene Wylie
Feb. 10-12	Regionals @Lubbock
Feb. 18-19	State @Austin



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2004

Big Spring Cross Country

Britton must find leadership from young, talented runners

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Youth and plenty of inexperience is a good way to describe this year's cross country team at Big Spring High School.

The boy's team, which finished fifth in the state last year, will have five freshmen and four sophomores, while the girl's team will feature two freshmen and two sophomores.

The boys also have a junior that has never been out before and the girls have two seniors.

So experience is far and few and between.

But you won't hear head coach Randy Britton complain about it.

"I don't make excuses about things and I still

expect us to be able to compete," said Britton. "Now that doesn't mean we will win the district meet, but we will be competitive."

The Steers lost five seniors from last year's state meet team. That team won 11 straight meets, including districts and regionals.

"We lost the one that mattered the most though," said Britton.

Last year's Steer team was ranked second in the state heading into the state meet before settling for

fifth.

"We are basically starting over this year with all new kids on the boy's side," said Britton. "I told the guys we have potential here, but I just feel like it will take two years to see it really develop."

"The transition from eighth to ninth grade is just too difficult to expect more from them."

In high school, runners run 3.1 miles, while in junior high the distance only covers



RODRIGUEZ

See **RUNNING**, Page 17

BIG SPRING

2004 Varsity Schedule

When	Where
Aug. 28	Brownfield
Sept. 4	@West Texas Micro
	Graphics Invitational in Lubbock
*Sept. 11	Plainview
Sept. 18	Big Spring Invitational
Sept. 25	@Lubbock Invitational
Oct. 2	Big Spring 4x1600 relay
Oct. 9	@Odessa Invitational
*Oct. 16	Midland
Oct. 23	Big Spring tri-meet
Oct. 30	Districts @Lubbock
	(Mae Simmons)
Nov. 6	Regionals @Lubbock
	(Mae Simmons)
Nov. 13	State @Round Rock

*Sept. 11 and Oct. 16 are tentative at this time

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SWIMMING

Continued from F

district as a team would like to go to relays to state.

"Everyone has been determined so far and the participation is great, but we need to get into better shape," he said.

Although this is Pacheco's first year, he knows about a few things. Spring's district is District 1-4A.

"I know both from Pecos and both of them should be solid," he added.

Ironically, Andrews are biggest rivals.

"In order to win the district, we need to work as a team and work as a team," Pacheco said. "The



From left: Senior Big Spring to a regional qualifier

Big Spring Swimming

SWIMMING

Continued from Page 13

district as a team, Pacheco would like to get a couple relays to state.

"Everyone has been determined so far and the participation is great, but we need to get into better shape," he said.

Although this is Pacheco's first year, he knows

about a few teams in Big Spring's district, which is District 1-4A.

"I know both coaches from Pecos and Andrews and both of those teams should be solid this year," he added.

Ironically, Pecos and Andrews are the team's biggest rivals.

"In order to win our district, we need to stay active and work as a team," said Pacheco. "The kids have

set goals and they need to stay on them."

The other remaining district teams which will compete against Big Spring this year are Abilene Wylie, Monahans and Fort Stockton.

The most anticipated meet of the season is the district meet at Abilene Wylie Jan. 28-29.

"That will be big because everyone swims and we get to see

who really wants to move on and advance to regionals," said Pacheco.

Pacheco also hopes to use some footage of this year's Olympic Games throughout the season to help motivate his kids.

"I will put a lot of emphasis on the Olympics because they show miracles," said Pacheco. "Watching them will keep them motivated and make them want to continue to

swim."

Big Spring opens this year's season Oct. 1-2 against Odessa at UTPB. The Steers will host two meets this year, as well. The first one will be Andrews' meet held at the Big Spring YMCA pool Oct. 12 and the second one — the Big Spring Invitational — is just 10 days later.

The district meet (Jan. 28-29) is at Abilene Wylie this year, while the regional meet (Feb. 10-12) will take place in Lubbock at Texas Tech. The state meet is Feb. 18-19 in Austin.

Pacheco was hired by Big Spring July 28. He swam at Abilene High for four years and then swam in college at McMurray University for four years.

At Abilene High, he was an all-district and all-region swimmer. Pacheco began swimming competitively at age nine.

"I wanted to try something different at first, but then I fell in love with the sport and the workouts," said Pacheco. "You can be on a team, but an individual can shine, as well."



PACHECO



BIG SPRING 2004 swimming

Coach

Casey Pacheco, 1st year

District

1-Class 4A

Strengths

Every member of the team has positive attitudes and is dedicated. The team is also strong in sophomores and juniors.

Weaknesses

The team is very young and some swimmers will have to swim in events they are not used to swimming in.

Most Anticipated Meet

The District meet Jan 28-29 in Abilene.

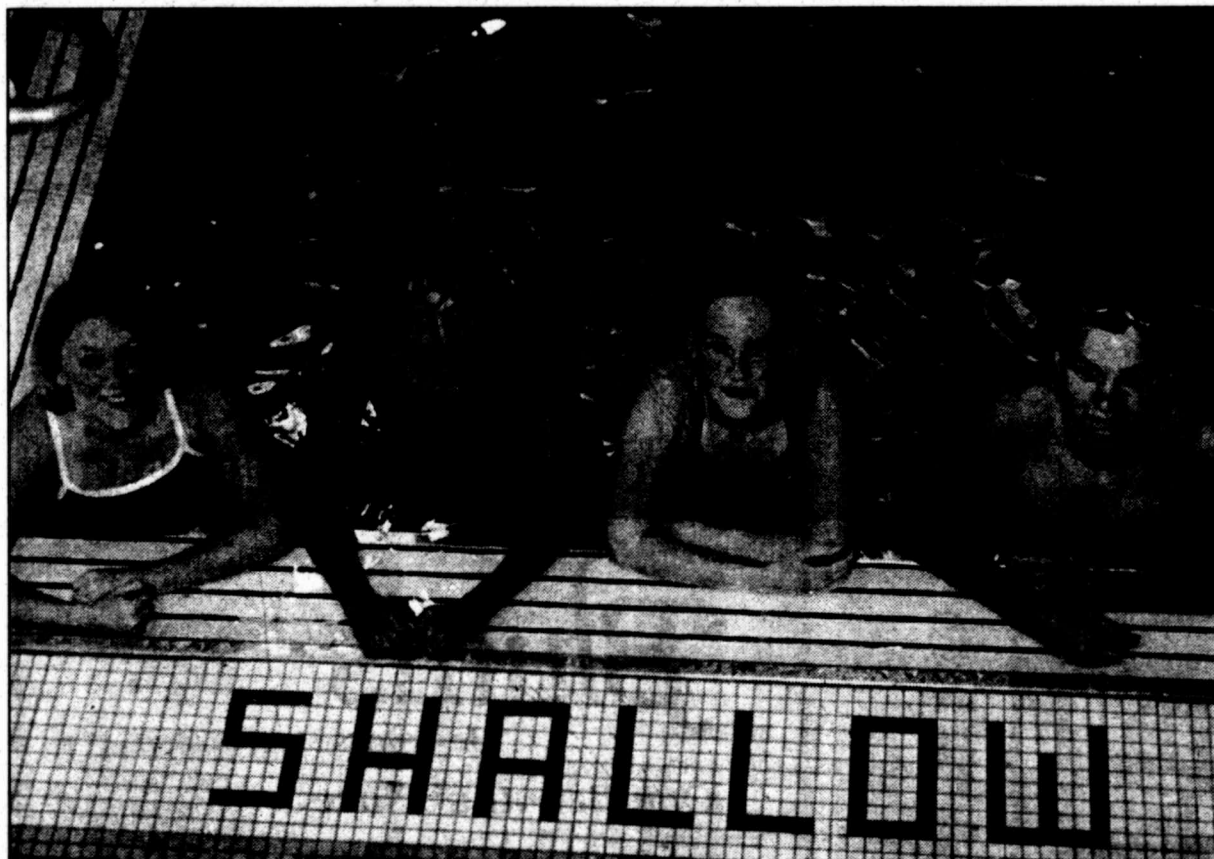
The Roster

The Girls

1. Jessica Hughey — senior
2. Meagan Matthews — senior
3. Kendra Weeks — senior
4. Crystal Carrisalez — junior
5. Anita Guette — junior
6. Genevy Jacquez — junior
7. Brittany Landis — junior
8. Kasey Pointon — junior
9. Brandi Wrye — junior
10. Tawna Mills — sophomore
11. Samantha Pettin — soph.
12. Brittany Rodriguez — soph.
13. Amber Sleight — sophomore
14. Whitney Connaly — freshman
15. Story Hart — freshman
16. Ashley Oliver — freshman
17. Whitney Wilkins — freshman
18. Antonette Tubera — freshman

The Boys

1. Sloan Diaz — senior
2. Scott Thomas — senior
3. Todd Seber — senior
4. Randy Yanez — senior
5. Steven Lucas — junior
6. Daniel Pike — junior
7. Weston Graham — sophomore
8. Ryan Hughey — sophomore
9. Daniel Shanahan — freshman
10. Randy Yanez — senior
11. Bradley Foster — sophomore
12. Braedon Burchett — sophomore



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

From left: Seniors Jessica Hughey, Randy Yanez, Kendra Weeks and Scott Thomas should lead Big Spring to a successful season under first-year head coach Casey Pacheco. Hughey was a regional qualifier last year, but has a shot at state this season, said Pacheco.

AUG

26

2004

Texas Tech Football

Pass happy offense should continue for Raiders

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Like B.J. Symons before him, Sonny Cumbie has waited for his chance to take charge of the super-charged Texas Tech offense.

The fifth-year senior watched Symons use his only season as the Red Raiders' starting quarterback in 2003 to post astonishing numbers — 52 touchdowns and an NCAA single-season record 5,833 yards passing — as he threw the ball all over West Texas.

Although coach Mike Leach has yet to formally name a starter, Cumbie expects to be the one who gets the ball for the season opener Sept. 4 against Southern Methodist.

"I'm just waiting for that

day," Cumbie said. "After sitting and watching those guys for so long I'm just ready to get out there and win some ball games."

Symons blossomed quickly in his only season under center.

In his fourth game, he threw for 661 yards. Cumbie suggests he can put up some big numbers too if given the chance.

"I don't want any first game, second game, getting acclimated to things going on and getting used to the game setting," he said. "I'm not saying we're going to throw for 600 yards a game but that isn't, in my estimation, something that's unreasonable to happen."

Cumbie won't get the job unchallenged. Junior college transfer Robert

Johnson and Tech junior Cody Hodges also expect to compete.

Johnson has the most impressive passing numbers with 4,367 yards and 34 touchdowns the last two seasons at Reedley College in California and he arrived on campus in time for spring workouts. Cumbie has thrown for 374 yards and one TD in his career and Hodges has only three pass attempts under his belt.

Leach says Cumbie has the advantage of having learned the Tech offense over the last four years and enjoys a familiarity with the receivers.

"Sonny's been around the longest," Leach said. "At some point you've got to make your decision, and you hope to make the right

decision."

Whoever gets the job, Leach won't change an offense that throws the ball deep, short and across the middle some 60 times a game.

"We throw for a living, not for a hobby," said assistant head coach Ruffin McNeill. "That won't change."

What will change is who catches the ball.

Wes Welker, Mickey Peters and Carlos Francis, who all finished in the top 10 in the Big 12 in catches and yards per game last season, are gone, taking with them 250 catches, 3,251 yards and 30 touchdowns from last season.

But coming back are Nehemiah Glover and Taurean Henderson combined for 1,586 yards and 15

touchdowns. Leach plans to replace the departed receivers with a trio of tall pass catchers in Jarrett Hicks (6-4), Bristol Olomua (6-5) and Jason Glover, (6-4), Nehemiah's brother who transferred from Reedley College where he caught passes from Johnson.

"We'll be a little less experienced at receiver," Leach said. "I don't think we'll be short on them."

While there's no doubt the Red Raiders will keep throwing the ball with abandon, it remains to be seen whether it can help them climb to the top of the Big 12.

Despite possessing arguably the most explosive offense in the nation, Tech went 4-4 in the Big 12 in finishing 8-5 overall.

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RUNNING

Continued from

1.5 miles.

This year's should be le mores Micha and Christoph who are th returners ba year.

The team's classman is Salazar and sophomores Sanchez and Salazar.

The fresh includes Za Abel Diaz, Michael Ro Mark Salazar

Coach B Frenship a Lakeview as son favorites district, but to count out l inexperienced

"(Frenship Lakeview) strong tradit still must t can and w Britton. "We these guys hopefully regionals so the team wha all about."

In the past boy's cross won 19 meets three times.

The Girls

1. Patricia Fr
2. Tasha Rios
3. Lorissa Ro
4. Kendra Du
5. Maria DeL
6. Mistie Agu
7. Esther Tob

Big Spring Cross Country

RUNNING

Continued from Page 14

1.5 miles.

This year's Steer team should be led by sophomores Michael Rodriguez and Christopher Martinez, who are the only two returners back from last year.

The team's only upper-classman is junior Mike Salazar and the other two sophomores are Jessie Sanchez and Christopher Salazar.

The freshman class includes Zack Dawson, Abel Diaz, Kevin Porras, Michael Rodriguez and Mark Salazar.

Coach Britton sees Frenship and possibly Lakeview as the early season favorites to take the district, but doesn't want to count out his young and inexperienced Steers.

"(Frenship and Lakeview) both have strong traditions, but we still must think that we can and will win," said Britton. "We need to keep these guys together and hopefully qualify for regionals so we can show the team what that level is all about."

In the past two years, the boy's cross country has won 19 meets and lost only three times.

The girl's team placed fourth in the district last year and just missed qualifying for the regional tournament.

This year, the team consists of seven girls — two seniors, three sophomores and two freshmen — and should be led by freshman Esther Tobar, who hopes to take over for sister Eve. Eve Tobar currently runs for Wichita State and will be a sophomore next year.

"(Esther) is my best runner, but she is just inexperienced," said Britton.

The two seniors are Patricia Franco and Tasha Rios, while the sophomore class includes Kendra Dutchover, Lorissa Rodriguez and Maria DeLos Santos. The other freshman is Mistie Aguilar.

"This team could be competitive this year," said Britton. "Hopefully, we can field a group of five people that can compete and advance to regionals."

Like the boy's teams, Britton sees Frenship as the district favorite as well as Andrews and possibly even San Angelo Lakeview.

Big Spring's first meet will take place Aug. 28 at Brownfield. The Big Spring Invite occurs Sept. 18, while the district meet at Mae Simmons in Lubbock takes place Oct. 30.



BIG SPRING

2004 cross country

Coach
Randy Britton

District
4-Class 4A

Last Year

The girls team finished fourth at the district meet last year, while the boys team went undefeated until the state meet. The Steers finished fourth at state and won 11 straight meets, including the district and regional meets.

Strengths

The young teams will have no pressure on them to succeed now, but any kind of success is the added bonus.

Weaknesses

Both teams are very young and inexperienced. The girls team has two seniors, while the boys team has none.

The Roster

The Girls

1. Patricia Franco — senior
2. Tasha Rios — senior
3. Lorissa Rodriguez — sophomore
4. Kendra Dutchover — sophomore
5. Maria DeLos Santos — sophomore
6. Mistie Aguilar — freshman
7. Esther Tobar — freshman

The Boys

1. Mike Salazar — junior
2. Michael Rodriguez — soph.
3. Jessie Sanchez — soph.
4. Christopher Salazar — sophomore
5. Christopher Martinez — sophomore
6. Zack Dawson — freshman
7. Abel Diaz — freshman
8. Kevin Porras — freshman
9. Michael Rodriguez — freshman
10. Mark Salazar — freshman



AUG 26 2004

Texas A&M Football

Despite offseason troubles, Franchione stays upbeat

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Dennis Franchione is certain that better days are ahead for Texas A&M. That's a modest goal considering his rough debut as the Aggies' head coach last year.

Coming off a 4-8 season that was A&M's worst mark in 31 years and an offseason fraught with troubles, Franchione simply hopes to end the deterioration of a program that once ruled the Big 12 South.

"Year two is always much easier than year one," Franchione said. "We've been through a season full-cycle now, where last year every day was a new day."

Franchione's first season

had more lowlights than highlights.

Texas A&M suffered through its first losing season in 21 years, key offensive reserves Dustin Long and Derek Farmer transferred to Division I-AA schools and nine players and one recruit were arrested from November to July.

Speaking to various Aggie clubs in recent months, Franchione has preached patience as he tries to rebuild a program that has finished fifth in the six-team South division two straight years.

"Aggies are great football fans because they understand the game, they understand where you are going and what needs to be done," Franchione said. "My explanations are that

we need to recruit speed and we need to recruit strength, and we need to upgrade our facilities, which we have done. The support has been as good as a person could ask for."

The Aggies return only eight players from a team that lost its final three games by a combined score of 168-37, including a 77-0 rout at Oklahoma and a 46-15 home loss to archrival Texas.

The rebuilding starts with the Aggies' defense, which allowed a school-record 465 points and bore no resemblance to the school's "Wrecking Crew" tradition.

Franchione recruited junior college standouts Aaron Brown and Terrence Smith to shore up A&M's struggling linebackers and

added redshirt freshmen Jason Jack and Joseph Bryant to a defensive line that lacked depth.

Free safety Jaxson Appel led the defense last season with 135 tackles and solidifies a secondary that returns all but one starter.

Still, that group finished last in the Big 12 in pass efficiency defense in 2003.

"You don't block it out," Appel said. "You have to remember it for motivation."

Erratic junior Reggie McNeal will start at quarterback again, even though he missed all of spring practice recovering from surgery to his non-throwing shoulder.

McNeal passed for 1,782 yards with eight TDs and seven interceptions, numbers that show he struggled

at times in Franchione's complex scheme but give no hint to his athleticism, strong arm and playmaking ability.

"Reggie has matured a lot. He watches a lot of film, and has gotten better at running the offense," said receiver Terrence Murphy. "He's coming around."

The running game will be keyed by sophomore tailback Courtney Lewis, who became the school's first 1,000-yard runner since Dante Hall in 1998. Lewis is small — 5-foot-11 and 195 pounds — but shifty and strong.

Even with Franchione's optimism, the Aggies will find it difficult — due to a tough schedule — to earn their first bowl berth since 2001.

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By STEPHEN H

AP Sports Writer

Guy Morris is positive about Baylor's program, the approach as they have a system.

"The thing that was lacking before was hard work, discipline," linebacker Crooks said. "Things define his foot down things."

Not only has attitudes and his first 20 m job, Morris is better feel for strengths and He also has seen up close.

And Morris probably won't judge the Bear

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Baylor Football

Change of attitudes, habits surround Baylor Bears

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

Guy Morriss notices the positive changes in Baylor's program, primarily the approach of players as they have adjusted to his system.

"The thing the team was lacking before he came in was hard work and discipline," linebacker Justin Crooks said. "Those two things define him. He put his foot down on a lot of things."

Not only has he changed attitudes and habits during his first 20 months of the job, Morriss has gotten a better feel for his team's strengths and weaknesses. He also has seen the Big 12 up close.

And Morriss knows it probably won't be fair to judge the Bears' progress

this season by how many games they win or lose.

"At the end of the season, we can be a heck of a lot better than last year and still win only three or four games," Morriss said. "Everybody else is going to get better. It's a hard conference to gain a lot of ground."

Especially for the league's smallest and only private school with just five conference wins in eight seasons. Baylor won Morriss' Big 12 debut last season, but finished 3-9 overall, losing its last seven games by an average margin of 37 points.

"I want us to be in every game," Morriss said. "Obviously, we're not going to win every game. But we can't have any more 30-40 point blowouts."

Baylor returns seven

starters on both sides of the ball.

The same as Morriss' first season, the Bears began their preseason work in bootcamp-like conditions with the players living together for several days of intensive workouts.

Four candidates compete for the quarterback job, three returners and a highly touted junior college transfer.

Senior Aaron Karas started the first 10 games last season before sophomore Shawn Bell, listed No. 1 on the preseason depth chart, took over.

Dane King was the nation's top junior college passer last season (311 yards per game) and Terrance Parks redshirted.

"What needs to happen with those four guys, one of them has to step up and

take the position," fullback Jonathan Evans said. "What the coaches don't want to do is have to give the position to somebody."

Karas completed 135 of 239 passes (57 percent) for 1,481 yards with 10 touchdowns and 11 interceptions last season.

Bell was 60-of-98 (62 percent) for 576 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

During the spring, King was still learning the offense and Parks missed time for academic reasons.

"I was hoping, and think more wishful thinking than anything, that we had a clear-cut favorite," Morris said. "I want our quarterbacks to settle the job on the field."

The Bears must replace 1,000-yard rusher Rashad Armstrong and leading

receiver Robert Quiroga. Morriss has big concerns at offensive line, where three starters had surgery.

"If those guys can stay healthy, we should in pretty good shape," Morriss said. "All three guys go down, our season's going down."

The Bears want to set a positive tone in their three non-conference games. Two of them are against teams they lost to last season: Alabama-Birmingham, where they play their opener Sept. 4, and North Texas.

"Those two teams are the ones we focused on during the offseason ... those games are a little more personal," Crooks said. "We believe we have to go 3-0 going into conference."

Because then things really get tough.

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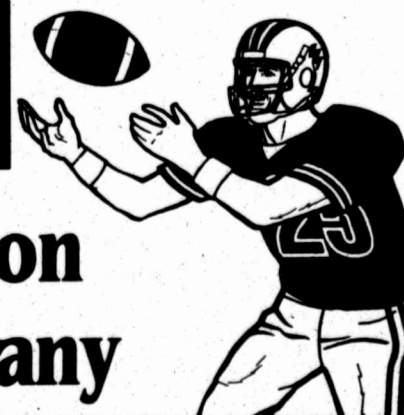
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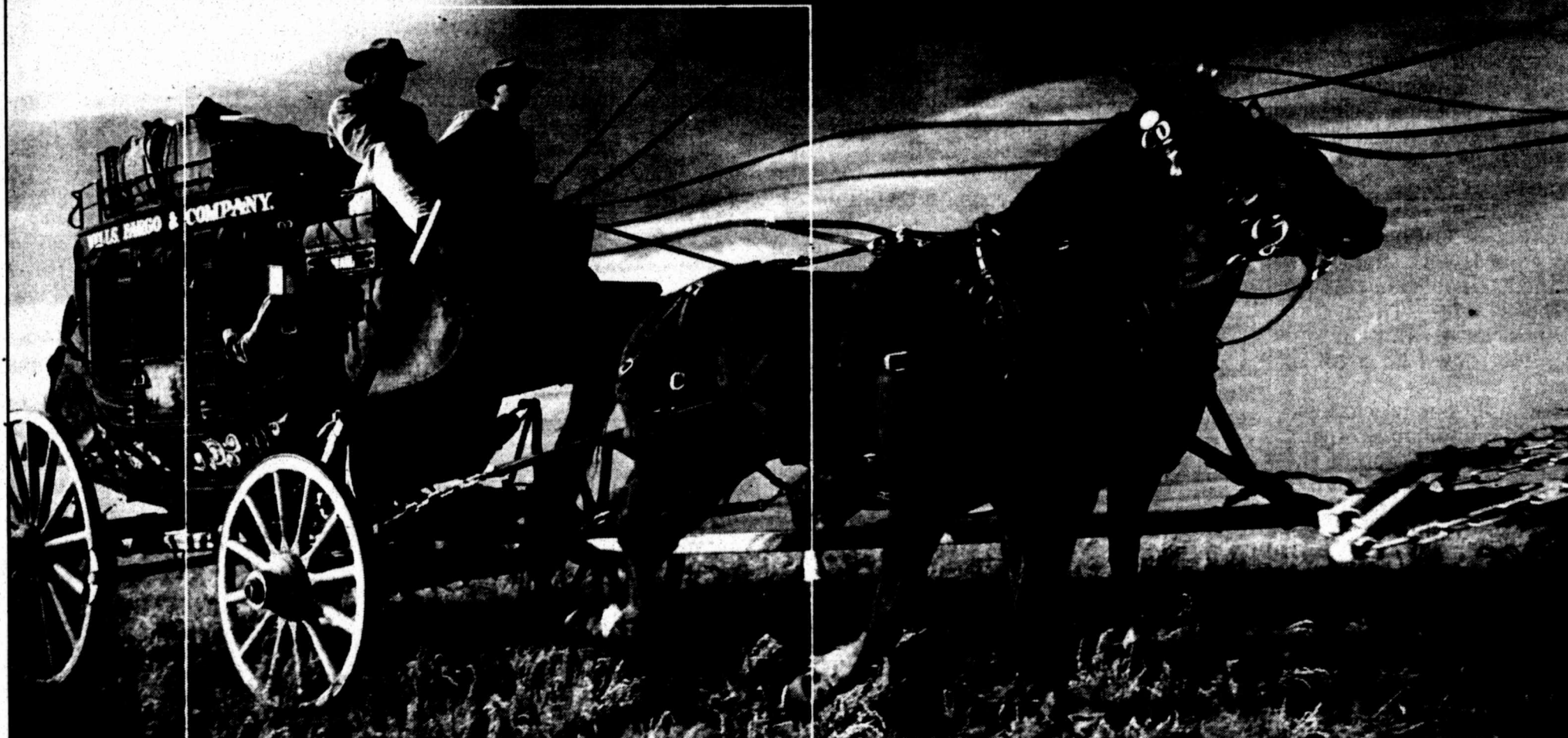
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