BIG SPRING
HERALD

INSIDE

Steers prepare for season opener vs. OHS Friday

Page 7

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 239 | THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2006 | COPYRIGHT 2006 | 50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 WEEKEND

Weevil wake?

No one crying as cotton pest numbers decline dramatically

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It's not a happy time for boll weevils in Howard County, or the Permian Basin, for that matter.

According to Deann Yates, zone manager for the Permian Basin area operation of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program, there has been a dramatic drop in the number of the pesky, cotton-eating insects over the past year.

> ***"And while last year's bumper crop can be attributed to God and plenty of rain, it's not hard to see the positive impact we've had on cotton farming in this area."***
>
> Deann Yates, zone manager

"Since 2005, we've seen a 97 percent drop in the number of boll weevils in the Permian Basin zone," said Yates. "Last year we caught 14,150 boll weevils with the traps, and this year we've only caught 210."

Yates said the Permian Basin zone covers six counties — Howard, Martin, Midland, Dawson, Ector and Borden counties — and 750,000 acres of cotton fields.

"We're really impressed to see the numbers come down the way they have," said Yates. "We've been able to accomplish a lot since the program began in 1995. And while last year's bumper crop can be attributed to God and plenty of rain, it's not hard to see the positive impact we've had on cotton farming in this area."

Yates said better coverage of area cotton farms has also played a big role in bringing the number of the insects down so quickly.

"When you have an area that's in the program right next to an area that's not, it can make it very difficult," said Yates. "You can keep treating the area that's within the program, but the migration of the weevils is a constant battle. That's a problem we had been having in the St. Lawrence area. Now that St. Lawrence is part of the eradication program, it's helping decrease the number of boll weevils we see in that area."

The program keeps track of the migration of boll weevils through bright green traps placed around the perimeter of cotton fields,

See **WEEVILS**, Page 3

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Lorretta Wahll, an employee with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program, checks a trap near a cotton field north of Big Spring. Boll weevil activity has dropped dramatically since 2005.

Glasscock County grand jury indicts 7

Herald Staff Report

Seven individuals were indicted by a Glasscock County grand jury this week, including one for felony indecency with a child and several for residential burglary.

Jimmy Randell Sherrod, 61, of 1901 Sherrod Road, Garden City, was indicted for the Dec. 8, 2004, offense of indecency with a child by contact, a second-degree felony.

Two 18-year-olds, Seth Allbright of 5301 Blugramatri in San Angelo and Kevin Huffman of 215 W. 15th Lee in Odessa, were indicted for the March 5, 2006, offense of burglary of a habitation. Allbright is currently being held in the Tom Green County Jail. Each man faces a second-degree felony.

Lancey Brown, 34, of 3618 Anetta in Midland, was indicted on a Dec. 12, 2005, offense of theft of more than $1,500 but less than $20,000, a state jail felony.

Tony Lewis Graham, 41, of 4410 Erie Dr. in Midland, was indicted on a July 30, 2006, offense of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger, a state jail felony.

Two others were indicted for driving while intoxicated. Jimmie John Robinson, 59, of 4717 Highway in South Greenville, was indicted for a July 31, 2005, offense, a second-degree felony, enhanced. Dorothy Littlefield Wheless, 35, of 1822 Magnolia in San Angelo was charged with a Jan. 26, 2006, offense, a third-degree felony.

John dumps heavy rain on Mexican coast

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press Writer

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — Hurricane John pummeled Mexico's resort-studded Pacific Coast with wind and rain Thursday, plotting a course that could take its eye close to land before nicking the tip of Baja California.

Authorities in Puerto Vallarta, among Mexico's most-visited resorts, scrambled to prepare emergency shelters while sending patrols to hunt for possible damage from John. But tourists and residents stayed calm even as the powerful hurricane rumbled closer.

John grew into a Category 4 storm Wednesday but later weakened to a Category 3. Still, it had maximum sustained winds of 125 mph and stronger gusts capable of ripping off roofs.

The storm was expected to strengthen Thursday, and Mexico issued hurricane warnings for about 400 miles of coast from the port of Lazaro Cardenas to the fishing and shipping community of San Blas, an area encompassing the bay where Puerto Vallarta is located.

> ***Impact for the Crossroads area includes a 50 percent chance of rain Friday evening and Saturday.***

While the center of John was forecast to remain just offshore, hurricane-force winds were expected to begin raking beaches near Puerto Vallarta by Thursday, the hurricane center said.

Forecasters said John wasn't likely to affect the United States — cooler Pacific waters tend to diminish the storms before they reach California. Instead, it was expected to skirt close to Mexico's Pacific Coast and head for the Baja California Peninsula by Friday.

Parts of the southern Baja Peninsula, including the resort city of Cabo San Lucas, were also under a hurricane warning.

At 8 a.m. EDT, the hurricane was 95 miles southwest of port city of Manzanillo, moving west-northwest at 14 mph.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm could drop up to 18 inches of rain in some places and create up to a 5-foot storm surge on the coast. The center warned of "life-threatening flash floods and mudslides" in mountain areas.

William Rousseau, vacationing with his family from Oregon, said Puerto Vallarta hotel officials warned about the storm, "but we're calm because they say it's not going to hit this city."

"We're continuing to enjoy the city," he said Wednesday. "They just asked us not to go into the ocean or on any bay tours."

Officials postponed the arrival of a Carnival cruise

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

LABOR DAY CLOSINGS

The Big Spring Herald office will be closed Monday in observance of Labor Day.

Newspapers will be delivered as usual that day.

Crossroads area residents are reminded that city offices in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Ackerly and Stanton will be closed Monday, as will county and federal offices in Howard, Martin, Glasscock and Dawson counties.

All area public schools, including Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, will be closed Monday and will reopen Tuesday morning.

MEETINGS TONIGHT

The board of directors for Moore Development for Big Spring will hold a special meeting today at 5:15 p.m. in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board room, located at 215 W. Third Street. The agenda includes an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

•••

Hebrew Jones Jr., named Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month for August, will be recognized in a reception slated for 6 p.m. today in the museum briefing room.

Jones is a Vietnam veteran who served under presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

The public is invited.

HE HAS OUR VOTE

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's shortest boy is waiting for word from the Guinness World Records, where he has applied to be named the shortest in the world, his supporters said.

Khagendra Thapa Magar, 14, is only 20 inches tall and weighs 10 pounds.

According to Min Bahadur Thapa, president of the Khagendra Thapa Magar Foundation, they are expecting to receive a reply from the London-based Guinness World Records in the next few days. There was no listing on the Guinness World Records' web site on a shortest boy category, but Thapa claimed their closest competitor was 25 inches tall.

Obituaries

David Leyva

David Leyva, 56, died Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2006, at his residence. Funeral services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• **THE ACKERLY LUNCH BUNCH** will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1200 E. Fourth. Lunch will be served at noon for $6.25 per person. Lunch will be Mexican food, including dessert and drink

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY,** sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for $18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH,** 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. 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 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• **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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.BigSpringHerald.com

Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

432-263-7331 (Main Switchboard)

432-264-7205 (Fax)

Missed Your Paper: **432-263-7335** (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-7p.m. Sun. 8a.m.-noon)

Susanne Reed	Publisher/Adv. Manager... Ext. 250
John A. Moseley	Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Duane McCollum	Circulation Manager... Ext. 244
John Armstrong	Production Manager... Ext. 256
Dianne Marquez	Business Office Manager... Ext. 255

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: $8.65 monthly; $93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: $12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; $13.25 elsewhere.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

• **AARON LANGFORD,** age not provided, of 2506 Gunter, was arrested Wednesday on a Haskell County warrant.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of Galveston.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
- in the 200 block of Marcy.
- in the 600 block of Ninth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• **ANDY YBARRA,** 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.

• **THOMAS FAY,** 66, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

• **SAUNDRA JO GARRARD,** 32, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license suspended.

• **JERRICK DELOVA STRAUGHTER,** 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony and violation of a protective order.

• **FRANCISCO VALDEZ,** 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of miscellaneous - Class C.

• **SIMON CHAVEZ,** 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

• **DAVID FERNANDO EVARO,** 27, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ALVAREZ FRANCISCO RAMIREZ,** 39, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **HECTOR MIGUEL RIOS,** 30, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 900 block of South Gregg Street at 10:04 p.m. Wednesday. Two people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of 17th Street at 8:01 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street at 9:48 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 900 block of Gregg Street at 10:04 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 900 block of South Gregg Street at 8:04 p.m. Wednesday. Two people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler at 6:57 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the east after midnight.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the mid 70s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 Mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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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.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a salad. 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 Big Spring Country Club.

• Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

• The Big Spring Evening Lions Club will hold at adult eyeglass clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Event Center,. 1607 E. Third St. This provides recycled eyeglasses for adults who cannot afford to pay for an eye examination or buy eyeglasses. For information, contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.

• Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 13-24-26-30-36-52.
Number matching six of six: 1. Prize: $26 million.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $4 million.

•••

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-13-14-36.
Number matching five of five: 3.
Prize per winner: $9,122.
Winning tickets sold in: Brookshire, Lubbock, North Richland Hills
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-3-4

su|do|ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

7								4
		2		3		1		
	1	5	4		6	9	3	
		1	5		4	3		
9								6
		7	2		9	8		
	2	3	7		8	6	4	
		9		4		7		
1								8

The Big Spring Herald will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day. Deadlines for Classified and Retail Advertising are:

RETAIL

Deadline for Tuesday, September 5th and Wednesday September 6th is 3 p.m. Friday, September 1st.

CLASSIFIED

Deadline for Monday, September 4th and Tuesday September 5th is 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 1st.

Office reopens at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 5th.

CIRCULATION PHONES

432-263-7335

Answered 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

You will still receive your Monday afternoon paper.

WEEVILS

Continued from Page 1

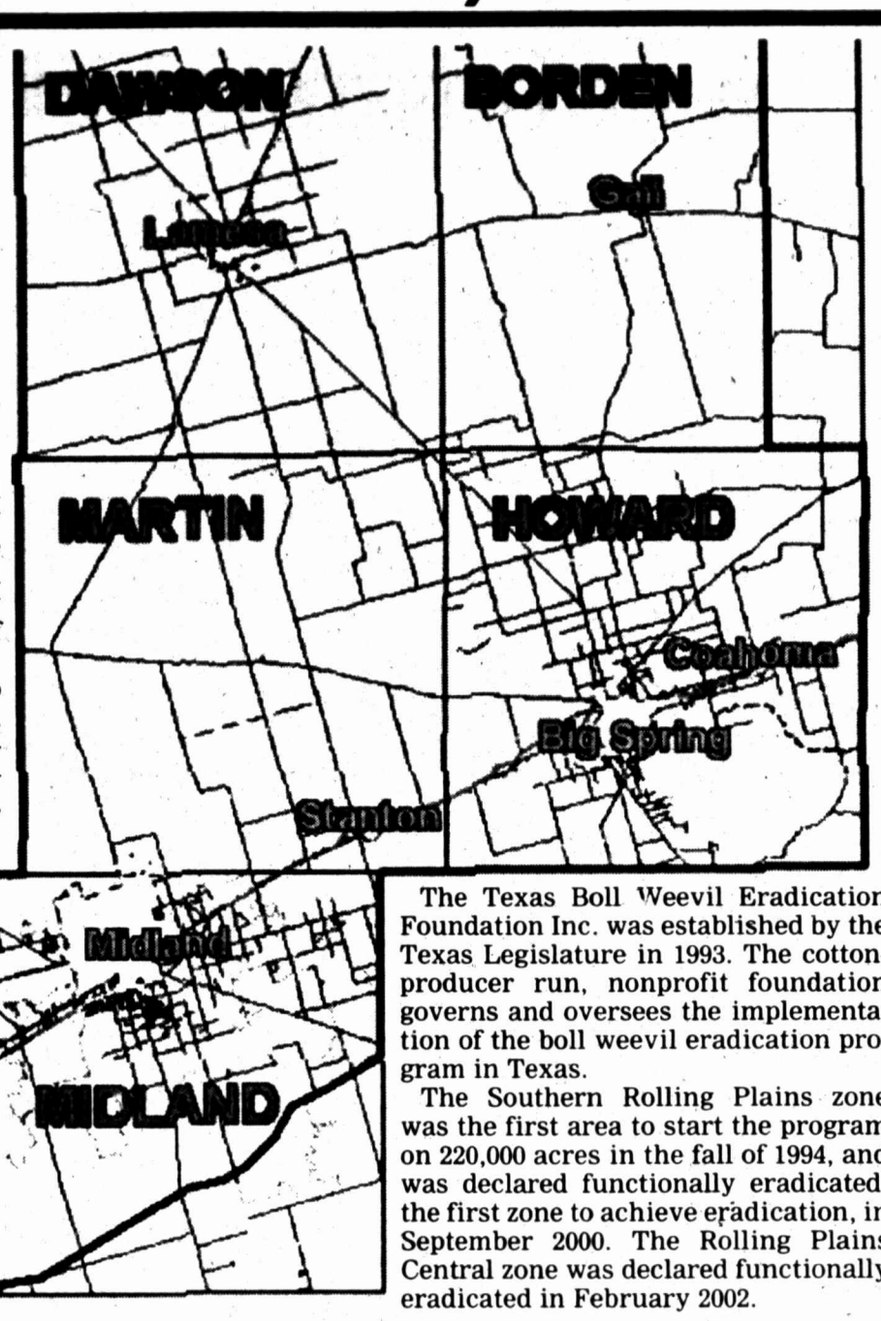
according to Yates.

"We have more than 65,000 traps throughout the zone," said Yates. "Each one of those traps has to be checked once a week, so it can be quite a challenge."

Less boll weevils means less burden on area cotton farmers, who finance the program along with money from the state of Texas, according to Yates.

"Last year we had to treat approximately 160,000 acres of cotton," said Yates. "The chemicals we use certainly aren't cheap. In fact, last year they made up more than 75 percent of our overall budget. However, this year we've only treated 19,000 acres, which means less of a financial burden for the farmers.

"I really feel like we're on track to reach our overall goal with the program, which is the eradication of the boll weevil altogether. That's where we're headed, not just in the Permian Basin zone, but in the state as well."



The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Inc. was established by the Texas Legislature in 1993. The cotton-producer run, nonprofit foundation governs and oversees the implementation of the boll weevil eradication program in Texas.

The Southern Rolling Plains zone was the first area to start the program on 220,000 acres in the fall of 1994, and was declared functionally eradicated, the first zone to achieve eradication, in September 2000. The Rolling Plains Central zone was declared functionally eradicated in February 2002.

JOHN

Continued from Page 1

ship, prohibited customary tours of the bay and announced public schools would be closed Thursday. Puerto Vallarta Mayor Gustavo Gonzales said 50 shelters had been readied, and emergency crews prepared to patrol throughout the night.

Some coastal communities in Jalisco state, where Puerto Vallarta is located, were being evacuated because of their proximity to two dams, state authorities said.

The sense of urgency was higher in Cabo San Lucas, where fishermen and authorities were hurriedly preparing for John's arrival. The city's port captain, Everardo Jimenez, said he had instructed the operators of a tourist boat to come back to dock.

"We are preparing shelters for the evacuation of civilians, if that becomes necessary," said Luis Armando Diaz, mayor of Los Cabos, on Baja's southern tip. "According to the information we have, the storm is coming right toward Los Cabos."

Back on the mainland, tropical storm-force winds and light but endless rain were reported in the resort cities of Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo, as well as Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico's deepest port.

Forecasters predicted up to 10 inches of rain on the coast and "torrential downpours" in the Jalisco state capital of Guadalajara, government news agency Notimex said.

Meanwhile, a new hurricane formed further west. Hurricane Kristy, with nearly 75 mph wind, was about 690 miles away from John, but forecasters said some interaction was possible.

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Janie Clinkscales Holcombe, 86, died Monday. Graveside Services will be 2:00 PM Friday at Trinity Memorial Park. Family will receive friends from 6-8PM Thursday at the funeral home.

David Leyva, 56, died Wednesday. Services are pending.

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◆ TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY (PG-13) 7:30
◆ INVINCIBLE (PG) 4:40 7:00
◆ SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) 4:50 7:20
◆ ZOOM (PG) 5:00
◆ WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG-13) 4:30 7:10
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Contract Bridge

Maintaining Trump Control

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠K J 7
♥9 7 4 2
♦A 9 8 6 3
♣6

WEST
♠10 8 5
♥A 5 3
♦Q J 10
♣Q 9 7 4

EAST
♠Q 6 4 3 2
♥10 6
♦K 7 5 2
♣10 3

SOUTH
♠A 9
♥K Q J 8
♦4
♣A K J 8 5 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♥			

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Trump control is a key factor in many deals, but it is not exclusively the province of the declarer. Today's hand shows how the defense can exercise control over the trump suit and in so doing stop a slam.

Declarer won the opening diamond lead with the ace and played a low trump to the king. The outcome of the hand now hinged on whether or not West took the king with the ace.

First, let's see what would have happened had West taken the trick. Presumably, he would have returned a diamond, ruffed by South.

Declarer would then have cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, led a trump to the queen and ruffed another club. This would have established his remaining clubs as tricks, and all he would then have to do is play a spade to the ace, draw West's last trump and claim the balance.

But when the hand was played, West realized that if he took the first trump, he could very well be aiding South's cause. Accordingly, he allowed the king to hold the trick.

As a result, South could no longer make the slam. If he tried to ruff two clubs in dummy, East would overruff the second one with the ten. And if instead South elected to play a second round of trumps before tackling the clubs, West would defeat the contract by taking the ace and returning his remaining trump. In that case, the queen of clubs would become the setting trick.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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All in the name of education

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Clark County School District kicked off the first day of school Wednesday with scant resources. But it got a major donation from the scantily clad.

The nonprofit corporation that supports the nation's fifth largest school district, the Public Education Foundation, accepted a $2,500 donation from a strip club, Scores Las Vegas.

Scores raised the funds at an Aug. 23 back-to-school event called "Detention" that featured strippers dressed as teachers, schoolgirls and librarians.

"It's back to school time and you know what that means. Detention for everyone who has been bad!" one advertisement read.

The performers peeled off clothes and offered lap dances to customers, said Scores' marketing director, Shai Cohen.

"In this town, money is money, regardless," Cohen said.

The money was earmarked for the foundation's exchange program, which provides new or slightly used materials, supplies and computers to Clark County teachers for free or little cost.

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21444

Happy 17th Birthday Ricky

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22706

Senior Circle
Scenic Mountain Medical Center Chapter
Invites you to join our...
September 2006 Activities

September 4 * Monday
• **LABOR DAY, SC Office Closed**

September 5 * Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Living - 10:00 AM
• Supper Club "Casa Blanca" - 5:30 PM

September 6 * Wednesday
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM

September 7 * Thursday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM
• "BUNKO" - 5:00 PM

September 8 * Friday
• Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

September 10 * Sunday
• **HAPPY GRANDPARENT'S DAY!!!**

September 11 * Monday
• GAMES - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

September 12 * Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Supper Club "Herman's" - 5:30 PM

September 13 * Wednesday
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM

September 14 * Thursday
• Mall Wallking - 8:00 AM
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM

September 17 * Sunday
• "Wee Care" Midland Theater - 1:00 PM

September 18 * Monday
• Lunch Bunch * Birthdays - 11:30 AM "Serendipity"
• GAMES - 1:00 - 3:00

Alzheimer's Memory Walk
Saturday, September 23
9:00 AM

Senior Circle Advisor / Volunteer
Anita Cline
268-4721
18199

In Observance Of
Labor Day
These Financial Institutions Will Observe These Holiday Hours....

Citizens FCU
Closed Saturday, Sept. 2nd
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

First Bank Of West Texas
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

Big Spring Government Employees FCU
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

Big Spring Education Employees FCU
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

Western National Bank
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

Electric Utilities Credit Union
Closed Monday, Sept. 4th

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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

It's time to start another football season in Texas

Time for preparation has expired. The 2006 high school football season officially gets under way in the Crossroads area Friday when all but two of the area's schoolboy teams begin play.

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

Big Spring's Steers will again open their season at home, playing host to Class 5A Odessa High's Bronchos at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Memorial Stadium.

Coahoma's Bulldogs will also be at home for the season opener, playing host to Reagan County's Owls at Bulldog Stadium in a game of Class 2A squads. Kickoff will be at 7:30. Stanton's Buffaloes, the area's other Class 2A team, will entertain Grape Creek's Eagles at 7:30.

Forsan's Buffaloes will open their season on the road, traveling to Kermit to take on the Yellowjackets, while Grady's Wildcats will be the first of the Crossroads' six-man teams to begin play, traveling to Sanderson for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff with the Eagles.

Garden City's Bearkats, the state's No. 2-ranked six-man squad, will not see action until 6 p.m. Saturday when they take on defending state champion Throckmorton at the Hico Classic. That game is drawing a great deal of interest since it pits the Greyhounds' Bryce Hogue, who some consider the state's best six-man player, against Bearkats quarterback Alex Halfmann, who is one of three or four players many consider Hogue's equal.

Sands' Mustangs will also wait until Saturday to kick off their season, taking on Spur at 4 p.m. in the Jayton Gridiron Classic.

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@bigspringherald.com.
- 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 Small Prayer

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, You are our sweetheart deal for life.

Amen

The honeymooners we were

When Leanna and I got married 18 years ago there was an elderly couple in our same church that celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary that same weekend. Our church prayed for all four of us and off we went, Leanna and I on our first honeymoon, the elderly couple on their second.

Troy Brewer

I had rented a house on a lake in the northern part of Arkansas where we could get lost in Loves Rhapsody. We were literally snowed in on the 2nd day there and I was thanking God that my prayers had been answered. A state away from her daddy and with everything legal, there was no place for her to escape.

Intoxicated with the wine and song of wedded bliss, I promised my young bride everything including 125 acres of prime real estate on the moon itself. She was going to have a wonderful life with me, full of riches, honor and all things grand. Bless her poor little naïve heart; she actually believed me.

The Honeymoon Is Over

A week later the snow thawed out and we came home to frozen pipes, a busted commode and a house that had no insulation or heat. The blizzard that hit Johnson County in late February of 1989 set all kinds of records and kept me from four days of my six-dollar an hour job. We spent a lot of time in the car that week because there was a heater and a radio that actually worked. During this time, I almost burned the house down around me by chopping up the entire front porch to feed our one wood-burning stove.

Fear and Loathing In Johnson County

My frozen bride learned in that same week what a true chicken I really was when a raccoon attacked me under the house as I was trying to wrap the busted pipes. It was the first time she ever heard me squeal like a little girl and the first time she ever saw me injure myself while trying to flee from a wooded animal.

That was the week I realized Leanna couldn't cook and the week she realized I was like a chimpanzee and could not even hold a hammer. It was the week we both discovered that I was not a plumber and how important an inside toilet actually is. Something I had never considered until then.

Now what's cool is that we were so in love with each other, we actually thought all of our major malfunctions were funny. We would prophesy that someday we would look back and cherish that time and laugh about it all. The beginning of our marriage was like the beginning of "Oliver Twist;" it was the best of times and it was the worst of times, but it was our time and we loved it.

Back at the Ranch

Now the first weekend we were back at church, the elderly couple met with Leanna and I to share whatever wisdom they might be able to pass down to us. They had gone to the same hotel in Missouri and stayed in the very same room where they had spent their original honeymoon 60 years earlier.

Being 22 years old at the time and not knowing any better than to ask such things, I inquired if their second honeymoon was as good as their first one? The old man didn't say anything but the old woman piped up, "This one was quite a bit different than the last one," she said, smiling through her false teeth. She winked as she whispered loud enough for the people in the booth next to us to hear, "This time he went to the bathroom and cried." The Brewer has been laughing about that for 18 years.

I have always loved old folks and that old lady was a pistol. Bonafide living proof that age, skill, and treachery will always overcome youth and arrogance!

Because of my Grandmother and my mom, Leanna learned how to cook and because of the yellow pages I learned how to hire people that can hold a hammer. Things really did turn out well after all.

God Loves Old Folks

This weeks Cup of Jehovah Java goes out to our Seasoned Citizens...the Veterans of foreign and household wars, plus the overcomers who have survived, endured and have lived to tell about it. God bless you in your old age and in the sundown of your timeline.

Before you turn out the lights, know that you are due a lot of respect and a tip of the hat. Even the Bible says so. We need your wisdom and your experience. "The glory of young men is their strength; of old men, their experience." Proverbs 20:20

The Bible also says that due honor should be given to the elderly. "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God." Leviticus 19:32

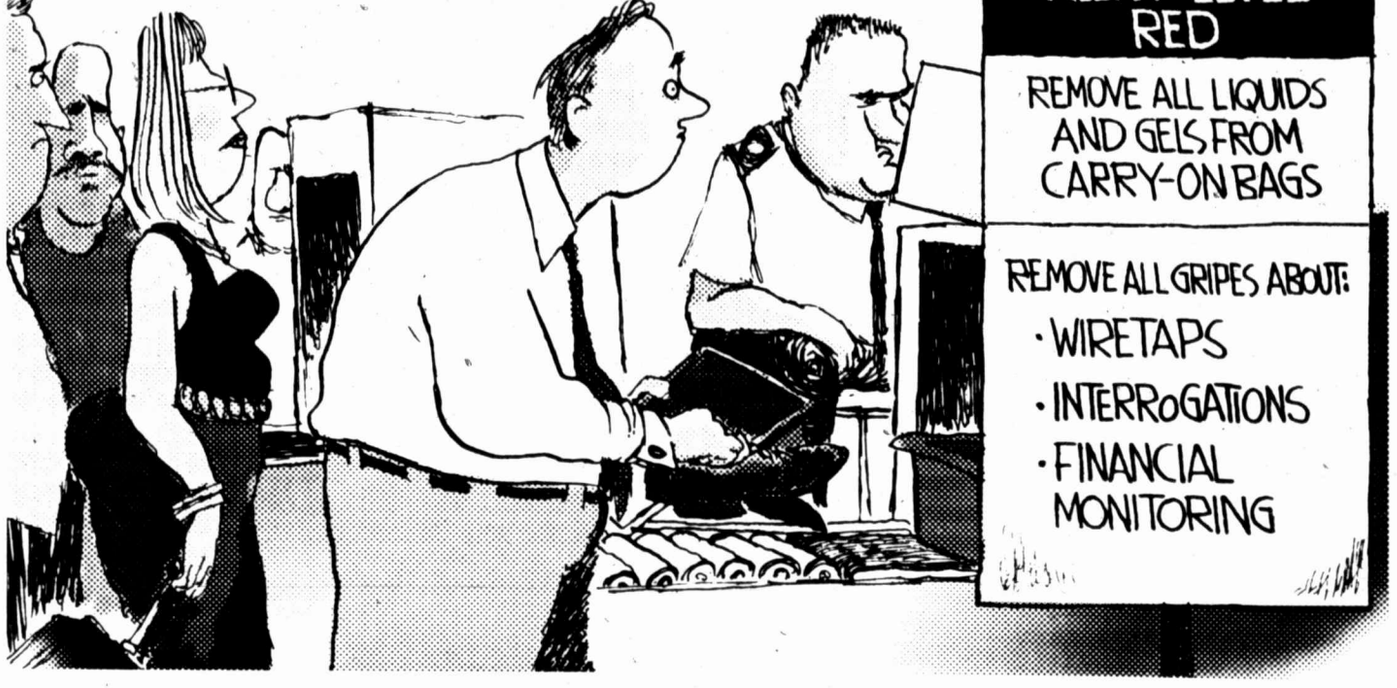
By honoring you, our Seasoned Citizens, we honor the Lord and I just want to say on behalf of all of us that are hoping to grow old some day, "Thank you."

Thank you for all you have done that we don't have a clue about. Thank you for not giving up when you could have and for being faithful when you didn't have to be. Thank you for going through all you have and for having a right mind and right heart today. Thank you for being a good friend to those that have died before you and thank you for still having hope after suffering so many disappointments.

We still need you and God's promise is that your best days are not behind you.

I thank God you're still here!

Troy Brewer welcomes your input at freshfromthebrewer@opendoorministries.org or he can be reached by phone at 817-297-6911.



No one deserves pureed baloney

I used to visit a nursing home that always seemed to be serving pureed baloney for supper. Woof. But since everyone sat there, spooning it up, I just figured by the time you're that old, you must not care *what* you're eating anymore (or how it smells). You're just not the person you used to be.

Lenore Skenazy

I got it wrong. And possibly, so did Anthony Marshall, Brooke Astor's son.

As you probably have been reading, Marshall stands accused of cutting back on even the most minor of Mrs. Astor's pleasures. Court papers claim he replaced her Estee Lauder cosmetics with cheaper ones, ditto her flower arrangements, nightgowns and medicine. In short, he went generic. But in a society that treats old people as generic, this is not so surprising.

"It's the idea that once you've seen one wrinkly face who has trouble chewing, you've seen them all," says Dr. William Thomas, author of "In the Arms of Elders." But even when you're old, he said, "you're still you."

This does not seem to be the working premise in the old-age facilities I've seen. The dumb decorations and non-stop TV seem designed for a clientele of interchangeable zombies. Even the pricey place that I recently called promised that if "mom" came there, she'd get plenty of Bingo.

My mom hates Bingo! How dare anyone assume that just because she's old, she must love it.

In fact, even as my mother gets more and more confused, the topics she dwells on are the same as always (mostly having to do with my finances, but what can you do?). Her tastes are still her tastes — buttered bagels rule. When will she eat baloney puree? When she's starving. So that's what I assume was going on in that institution I used to visit: desperation.

Dr. Thomas has developed an alternative to this grim scene. He calls it The Eden Alternative — filling nursing homes with plants, pets and, when possible, children, too. Residents get a chance to be part of life again. Spontaneity rules — not Bingo. Quick story about how this can work:

A few years back, after crashing his car in broad daylight, an 82-year-old entered a nursing home. Thomas saw the accident as a suicide attempt, and the man's subsequent refusal to eat, talk or get out of bed confirmed it.

Then Thomas' wife Jude brought the old man a parakeet.

"One day, while she was there to take care of it," says Thomas, "he said, 'No! He doesn't like it like that! Put the seed cup over *there*!' Within a couple of days, he was sitting up and helping her with the very slight care a parakeet requires. Then, he came out of his room and realized there were dogs living there. He said, 'You know, they've got to be walked.' So he would walk them up and down the hall." A few months later, he was strong enough to go home — all because someone had bothered to treat him as a human who simply needed something to live for.

Fortunately for Mrs. Astor, her plight came to light and now she, too, is being treated as an individual.

At what age does a person stop longing for kindness, respect and her favorite face cream? I don't think anyone has lived that long.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (lskenazy@nydailynews.com).

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Troubles:

Chrysler plagued by surge in recalls

By JUSTIN HYDE
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Alfred Davis thought he smelled something burning that day in March 2004 as he drove his month-old Jeep Grand Cherokee. Davis, 59, a paraplegic who owns a Texas oil field services company, quickly realized what was burning — his own body.

Davis suffered third-degree burns, and several skin grafts and hospital stays later, he has medical bills totaling roughly $1 million. He and five other paraplegics have filed lawsuits against the Chrysler Group claiming severe burns from heated seats in Grand Cherokees. Chrysler denies the claims but has settled three cases and, in June, it recalled 111,000 Grand Cherokees to replace their seat heaters.

Chrysler has issued 16 recalls this year covering nearly 1.8 million cars and trucks — more than any other automaker, according to a Detroit Free Press analysis of federal data.

Although Chrysler says it sees no trend of an increase in recalls, more could be on the way: Federal safety regulators have 12 investigations under way related to Chrysler vehicles, including reports of stalling engines, puncture-prone fuel tanks and seats that catch fire even though they're not power seats.

Chrysler's recall figures surpass its totals for all of 2005, and the increase in defects and investigations comes as the company has slowly made progress in a decadelong effort to improve quality. It reduced its recalls last year and recorded better scores in many surveys than Mercedes-Benz, the DaimlerChrysler luxury brand.

"If you have a problem in engineering or quality control, then it's probably going to show up in a lot of investigations and recalls," said Clarence Ditlow, president of the Center for Auto Safety, a consumer advocacy group. "It's unusual that Chrysler would be the leader of the pack."

Chrysler said the comparison could be skewed by its unusually low number of recalls last year — nine totaling 765,777 vehicles.

"These things cycle up and down, and it's hard to break them out by calendar year," said Chrysler spokesman Max Gates. "It's not a wildly out-of-character number, to have this many investigations going on. ... I don't want to downplay it, but the numbers don't appear to be enormous."

Of the 12 investigations under way on Chrysler vehicles by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nine are classified as "engineering analysis," the agency's highest level of scrutiny. It leads to recalls in about 60 percent of its cases. By comparison, there are six investigations open involving General Motors Corp., four for Toyota Motor Corp. and three for Ford Motor Co.

Eleven of the 12 investigations focus on Chrysler and Dodge minivans, wagons, SUVs and pickups made from 2001 to 2005. Chrysler has issued recalls for two of the nine problems under review, an action that typically ends an NHTSA investigation. But in some cases, Chrysler contends the problems are too inconsequential to be considered safety concerns.

Chrysler issued its largest recall of the year last month, for defective ball joints in the front suspensions of 827,000 Jeep Liberty SUVs — almost all of the Libertys it has built since 2001. The ball joints could come loose, causing the suspensions to fail.

Scott Shappee of Monroe, Mich., owns a 2003 Jeep Liberty that had been recalled for another ball joint problem in 2004. After that first recall, Shappee said he kept hearing odd noises coming from the front of his Liberty. He said he took it in for service on four occasions, but the dealer found no problems each time. Last month, as he turned the car into a video store's parking lot, a ball joint failed, sending his front axle crunching into the Liberty's wheel wells.

Shappee said the dealer first told him he would have to pay $2,000 for repairs, but then Chrysler agreed to pick up the tab.

"We've had so much trouble with this car, we're trying to sell it. I hate to say that, because I work for Chrysler," said Shappee, who works at the Jefferson North assembly plant in Detroit. "I'm just disappointed."

None of the other recalls appears to involve injuries as serious as the seat heater cases. Arthur Johnson, an Oregon attorney who filed the first lawsuit over the issue in December 2004, said he was aware of about 20 cases in which paraplegics or quadriplegics had suffered burns from a heated seat. Of those, 14 involved Jeep Grand Cherokees.

"Chrysler knows there's a problem and has not made an effort to make a global correction on all their vehicles," said Andy Stern, a Philadelphia attorney. He represents an 18-year-old paraplegic who suffered third-degree burns in a 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee — a model Chrysler's recall did not cover. "It's utterly unacceptable."

In a statement, Chrysler said it is aware "of a small number of incidents in which customers with reduced sensitivity in their lower body allege that they have sustained burns from heated seats in our vehicles and those of other manufacturers."

The company "intends to evaluate such incidents involving our vehicles on a case-by-case basis in an attempt to ensure that any customers who have sustained burns as a result of the seat heater subject to the recall receive fair and reasonable compensation for their injuries."

Chrysler's recall notice to the NHTSA said that the company received its first complaint about the seats in January 2005. It blamed the problem in part on switches that latch into the "on" position and don't automatically shut off. Chrysler also blamed a flaw in the heater element. The notice mentioned 32 reports of fire but said nothing about injuries, saying the recall would avert "potential ignition of materials left on the unoccupied seat."

Davis' attorney, Steve Mostyn of Houston, said Davis accidentally turned on the seat heaters in his Grand Cherokee with a clipboard and wasn't aware they were on until he smelled the burning. In Davis' lawsuit against Chrysler and Johnson Controls Inc., which made the seat heater element, his attorneys contend their tests of the seats show they could reach temperatures of 165 degrees.

"They describe it as a possibility of fire in unoccupied seats. If they would put it in proper context, it would have been a better advisory to the public," Mostyn said.

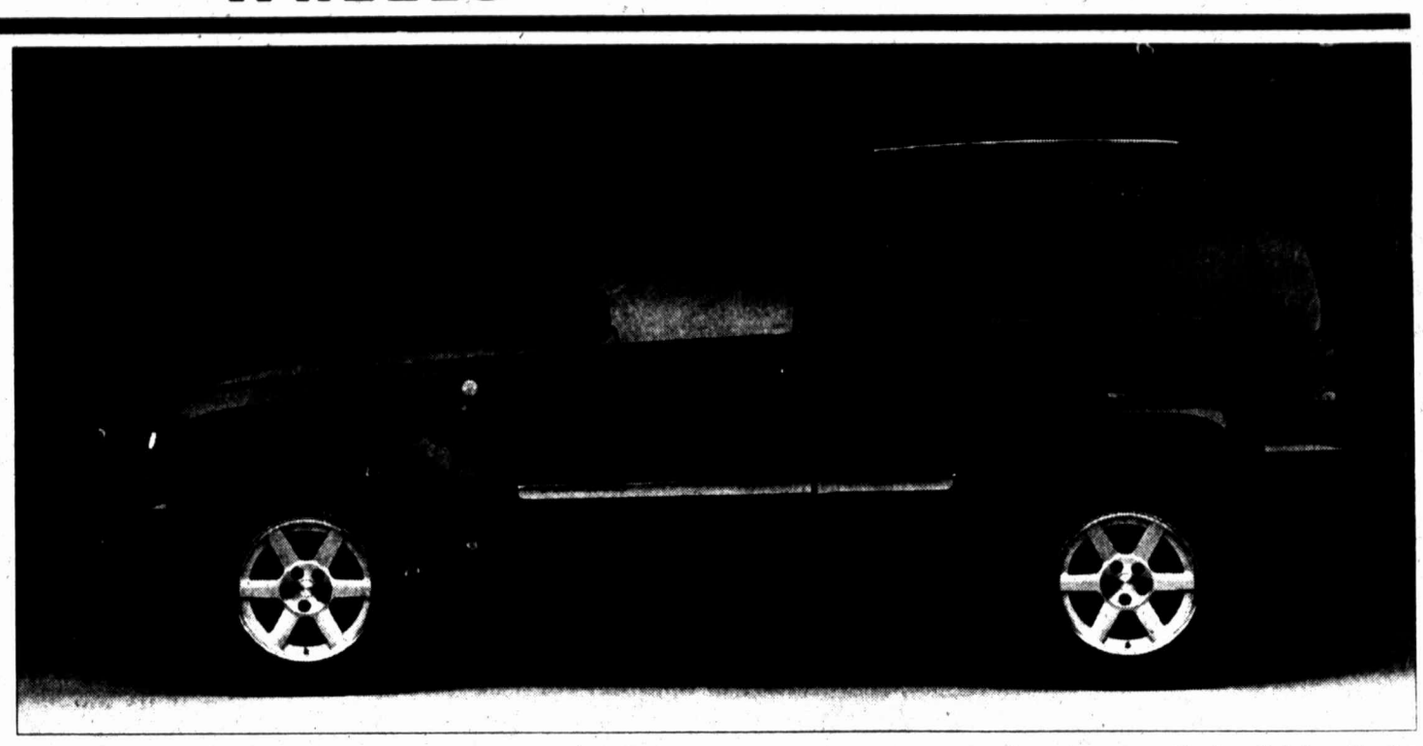
In addition to the Grand Cherokee cases, the Free Press found two lawsuits alleging similar injuries from heated seats in Dodge Durangos. Chrysler settled one lawsuit in California for an undisclosed amount. In the other case, it paid $4,000 to cover the medical bills of a man who sustained second-degree burns on a drive from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

Chrysler spokeswoman Elaine Lutz said the company used different suppliers and different designs for the heaters in the Grand Cherokee and the Durango.

Although the number of vehicles and recalls in the U.S. auto industry has fluctuated since the toughened reporting requirements under post-Firestone vehicle safety laws, many industry experts consider recalls a rough proxy for an automaker's overall quality. Several Detroit auto executives have noted that Japan-based Toyota's increased recalls this year contradict its vaunted quality reputation.

Ditlow said that GM went through a rough period of recalls and investigations in the 1980s and Ford did the same in the 1990s. Both were times when the companies struggled to improve quality.

"You can correlate investigation and recalls when they're also having problems in product quality," Ditlow said. "They all go hand in hand."



Courtesy photo from Chrysler

Chrysler has issued 16 recalls in 2006 covering nearly 1.8 million cars and trucks made from 2001 to 2005, including this 2005 Jeep Liberty. (Courtesy Chrysler/AutoDeadline/MCT)

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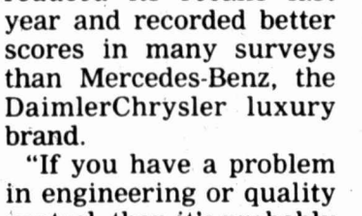

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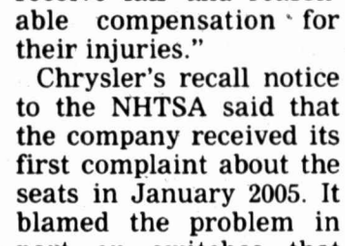

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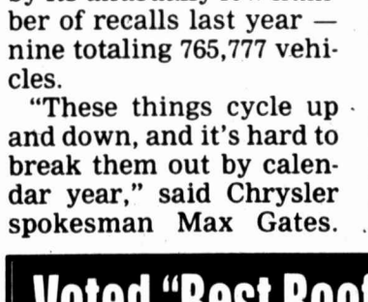

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Glenn Ford, longtime leading man in scores of films, dies at 90

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Actor Glenn Ford, who played strong, thoughtful protagonists in films such as "The Blackboard Jungle," "Gilda" and "The Big Heat," died Wednesday, police said. He was 90.

Paramedics called to Ford's home just before 4 p.m. found Ford dead, police Sgt. Terry Nutall said, reading a prepared statement. "They do not suspect foul play," he said.

Ford suffered a series of strokes in the 1990s.

"It comes to mind instantly what a remarkable actor he was," actor Sidney Poitier, who also starred in "The Blackboard Jungle," said Wednesday evening. "He had those magical qualities that are intangible but are quite impactful on the screen. He was a movie star."

Ford

Failing health forced Ford to skip a 90th birthday tribute on May 1 at Hollywood's historic Grauman's Egyptian Theatre. But he did send greetings via videotape, adding, "I wish I were up and around, but I'm doing the best that I can.... There's so much I have to be grateful for."

At the event, Shirley Jones, who co-starred with him in the comedy "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," called Ford "one of the cornerstones of our industry, and there aren't many left."

Ford appeared in scores of films during his 53-year Hollywood career. The Film Encyclopedia, a reference book, lists 85 films from 1939 to 1991.

He was cast usually as the handsome tough, but his acting talents ranged from romance to comedy. His more famous credits include "Superman," "Gilda," "The Sheepman," "The Gazebo," "Pocketful of Miracles" and "Don't Go Near the Water."

An avid horseman and former polo player, Ford appeared in a number of Westerns, "3:10 to Yuma," "Cowboy," "The Rounders," "Texas," "The Fastest Gun Alive" and the remake of "Cimarron" among them. His talents included lighter parts, with roles in "The Teahouse of August Moon" and "It Started With a Kiss."

On television, he appeared in "Cade's County," "The Family Holvak," "Once an Eagle" and "When Havoc Struck." He starred in the feature film "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," which later became a TV series featuring Bill Bixby.

"Noel Coward once told me, 'You will know you're old when you cease to be amazed.' Well, I can still be amazed," Ford said in a 1981 interview with The Associated Press.

▶ News in brief

Inmate set to die Thursday for South Texas double slaying

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Condemned inmate Derrick Frazier blamed a coerced confession for his death sentence but Frazier was "cool as a cucumber" as he talked about the slayings of a South Texas woman and her son nine years ago, the district attorney who prosecuted him says.

"There are videotapes," Michael Sheppard said of Frazier's discussions with Refugio County sheriff's detectives following his arrest for the shooting deaths of 41-year-old Betsy Nutt and her son Cody, 15.

"He's sitting on a couch, drinking a Coke, cool as a cucumber. It's the best evidence."

Frazier, 29, one of two men condemned for the 1997 killings, was set to die Thursday evening in Huntsville. His partner in the shootings, Jermaine Herron, was executed three months ago.

Evidence showed that when the pair knocked on the door of the Nutt family's mobile home, claiming car trouble and needing to make a phone call, the woman invited them in, gave them iced tea and offered to drive them in her pickup truck the 10 miles to town.

She wound up with two bullets in the head. Her son was shot four times, including two shots to the head. Jerry Nutt found the bodies of his wife and son when he arrived home from work that day, June 26, 1997.

"I can't wait for Frazier's execution," Jerry Nutt said after watching Herron die May 17. "We'll be here with bells on. It's what we've been waiting for, for nine years."

San Antonio officer convicted of violating transsexual's rights

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio police officer was convicted Wednesday of violating the civil rights of a transsexual who said the officer raped and beat her during a traffic stop.

The jury found that Officer Dean Gutierrez's conduct violated Gabriel Bernal's rights through aggravated sexual assault.

In the trial, prosecutors presented DNA evidence and the testimony of Bernal, 23. Prosecutors said Gutierrez, 46, stopped Bernal on June 10, 2005, ordered her into his car and drove her to a remote location where he physically and sexually assaulted her.

The defense argued in the trial that Bernal had consensual oral sex with Gutierrez and was lying about the incident in order to later win money in a civil lawsuit.

Although the names of sexual assault victims are usually withheld, Bernal has consented to have her name made public.

Parties close to settlement in fight over chimps

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The parties in a fight over the fate of seven chimps living at a Texas Hill Country sanctuary said they were close to reaching an agreement Wednesday that one attorney said would relocate the animals to a Louisiana facility.

A settlement was drawn up during closed-door meetings that could end a lawsuit filed against Primarily Primates Inc., by three people concerned about the treatment of the retired chimps, which were used for cognitive research at Ohio State University.

A majority of the seven members of the Primarily Primates board of trustees has to OK the settlement.

Four apparently agreed Wednesday but one backed out, said attorney Mickey Gayler. He represents two former caretakers of the chimps, Klaree Boose and Stephany Harris, and a California veterinarian, Mel Richardson, in their lawsuit against the 28-year-old sanctuary.

State agency increasing oversight of day-care directors

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is reinforcing its oversight of day-care directors in response to the death of a 4-year-old at a day care center, an agency official said.

Diana Spiser, assistant commissioner for child-care licensing, said the increased supervision of directors and retraining of agency employees is meant to prevent regulatory breakdowns like those involving Dream House Learning Center in Dallas.

The center's owner, Blynithia Washington, is charged with causing the death of Jacob Fox after she told police she found the child unconscious at a playground. Later, evidence suggested the boy died inside a sweltering day care van and his body was moved. The center was closed last month.

Washington's lawyer said she is not responsible for the child's death.

A subsequent investigation by The Dallas Morning News found that the purported director of Dream House Learning Center never worked at the facility, yet inspectors didn't know. Department officials said Washington deceived them and they never met the purported director.

RadioShack uses e-mail to fire 400 as part of planned job cuts

FORT WORTH (AP) — RadioShack Corp. notified about 400 workers by e-mail that they were being dismissed immediately as part of planned job cuts.

Employees at the Fort Worth headquarters got messages Tuesday morning saying: "The work force reduction notification is currently in progress. Unfortunately your position is one that has been eliminated."

Company officials had told employees in a series of meetings that layoff notices would be delivered electronically, spokeswoman Kay Jackson said. She said employees were invited to ask questions before Tuesday's notification on a company intranet site.

Jackson said the electronic notification was quicker and allowed more privacy than breaking the news in person.

"It was important to notify people as quickly as possible," she said. "They had 30 minutes to collect their thoughts, make phone calls and say goodbye to employees before they went to meet with senior leaders."

At coffee bar areas on each floor, the company provided boxes and plastic bags for employees to pack their personal belongings.

"Things went very smoothly. Everyone left very graciously and very professionally," Jackson said.

Derrick D'Souza, a management professor at the University of North Texas, said he had never heard of such a large number of terminated employees being notified electronically. He said it could be seen as dehumanizing to employees.

"If I put myself in their shoes, I'd say, 'Didn't they have a few minutes to tell me?'" D'Souza said.

Laid-off workers got one to three weeks pay for each year of service, up to 16 weeks for hourly employees and 36 weeks for those with base pay of at least $90,000.

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IN BRIEF

Dodgeball tourney slated for Sept. 9

A dodgeball tournament benefiting Relay for Life has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Goliad Intermediate School gymnasium.

Teams will be composed of four male and four female members.

Entry fees are $5 per person to play.

The tournament is being sponsored by The Yellow Dogs.

For more information, contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108.

Quarterback Club meets Mondays

Big Spring High School's Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Mondays at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Mark Tissue, the booster club's president, encourages all parents of BSHS football players and fans of the Steers to attend.

For more information, call Tissue at 816-3458.Douglas in 1898.

Roddick celebrates birthday with victory

NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Roddick took one final whack, trying to knock a ball completely out of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

That's the tradition at the U.S. Open — the winner autographs three balls, then hits them into the crowd. So what if the birthday boy only reached halfway up the top deck?

Roddick finished off a full day of tennis by showing fans that, yes, he's fully focused. He also answered the question that non-tennis fans wondered about: Is he going out with Maria Sharapova?

"We're not dating. I've said it a million times already," Roddick said. "We're friendly. We're in the same places. I think she's a great girl. We'll talk. That's about it."

Before Roddick beat Kristian Pless 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-3, Sharapova played on the same court and beat Michaella Krajicek 6-3, 6-0.

"I probably saw a total of four points in the match," Roddick said. Breaking into a big smile, he added, "but they were great ones."

Asked whether she bought him a present, Sharapova sounded convincing.

"Is it his birthday? I had no idea," she said. "I really don't talk about my personal life. And when two tennis players know each other and are friends, and are known around the world, people are going to talk. That's exactly what's happening."

A day after rain prevented anyone from finishing, 80 matches were played. The 24-year-old Roddick was among several former Open champions to win: Roger Federer, Serena Williams, Martina Hingis, Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin also advanced.

Andre Agassi could make tonight equally interesting when he plays against No. 8 Marcos Baghdatis. Once again, this could be Agassi's last match.

'Dogs hope to start something big in opener

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — For the Coahoma Bulldogs in 2005, their game against Reagan County was one of the few bright spots in a disappointing season.

This time around, they hope it's the start of something big.

The Bulldogs open the 2006 football season Friday when they host Reagan County at 7:30 p.m. in Bulldog Stadium.

Coahoma downed the Owls 12-6 in the season opener last year, but things went downhill from there en route to a 3-7 record.

While the Bulldogs hope for bigger and better things in 2006, they definitely wouldn't mind starting the season the same way as last year.

Not that they're expecting the Owls to be easy prey.

"It's been a tight game every time we've played them," Coahoma coach Ken Cates said. "I expect the same thing Friday."

Preparing for the Owls has been a two-part problem for Cates and the 'Dogs. For starters, Reagan County employs the spread offense, although the Owls run much more out of the formation than is standard.

Also, Reagan County has a new coach, which makes Cates' preparations that much harder.

"There's an element of surprise, of uncertainty," he said. "How have their kids adapted to a new coach?"

As the new season approaches, Cates admits to a bit of uncertainty on how his team will perform — but just a bit.

"After this weekend, I'll be able to tell you a lot more," he said. "But I feel like we're coming along fine ... The Rotan scrimmage exposed some things we need to work on, so we paid attention and worked on those things this week."

A big key for the Bulldogs will be limiting mistakes, he said.

"There's mistakes, and then there's mental mistakes," Cates said. "The team that makes the fewest mental mistakes will win."

On the injury front, linebacker B.J. Rodriguez has been cleared to play after suffering an ankle injury earlier this month, but Cates said Rodriguez will see limited, if any, action Friday.

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

What do Steers have this season?

Holt says questions remain in some areas

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

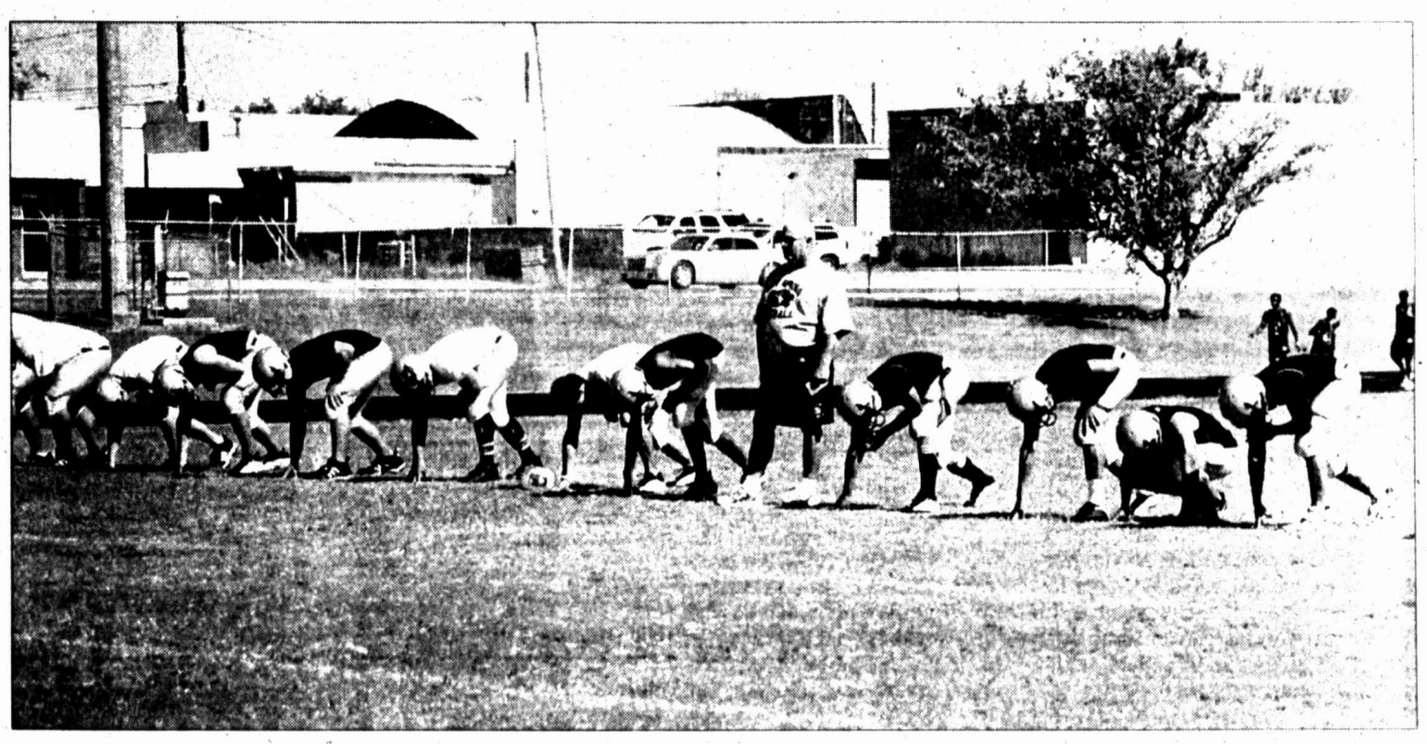
A lot of people are curious to see how the Big Spring Steers play in their football season opener Friday.

Count their head coach among the group.

Tim Holt, starting his second season at the helm of the Steers, said a lot of questions about the team were answered during Spring and August practices. But he admits some questions still remain.

"I'm excited to see just what we have," Holt said. "But we won't really know until we get onto the field."

The Steers open the regular season at 7:30 p.m. Friday when they host the Odessa High School Bronchos at Memorial Stadium. The game is a rematch of last season's opener, when Big Spring battled back from an early 21-0 deficit before falling, 28-21.



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring High School Head Football Coach Tim Holt, center, oversees conditioning drills at Blankenship Field earlier this week. The Steers open the 2006 football season when they host Odessa High School at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Memorial Stadium.

"It came down the last series ... and a busted play on our part," Holt said. "But the kids played really hard. If we play as hard as we did last year, I feel like we have a good chance to win."

Odessa is perhaps the poster child for the changing face of high school football in Texas. Long known for their running game, the Bronchos recently switched to the pass-oriented spread offense, a formation the Steers will see much of this season.

"They'll line up with as many as five receivers at a time," Holt said. "You don't know what's going to happen when they spread out the field like that."

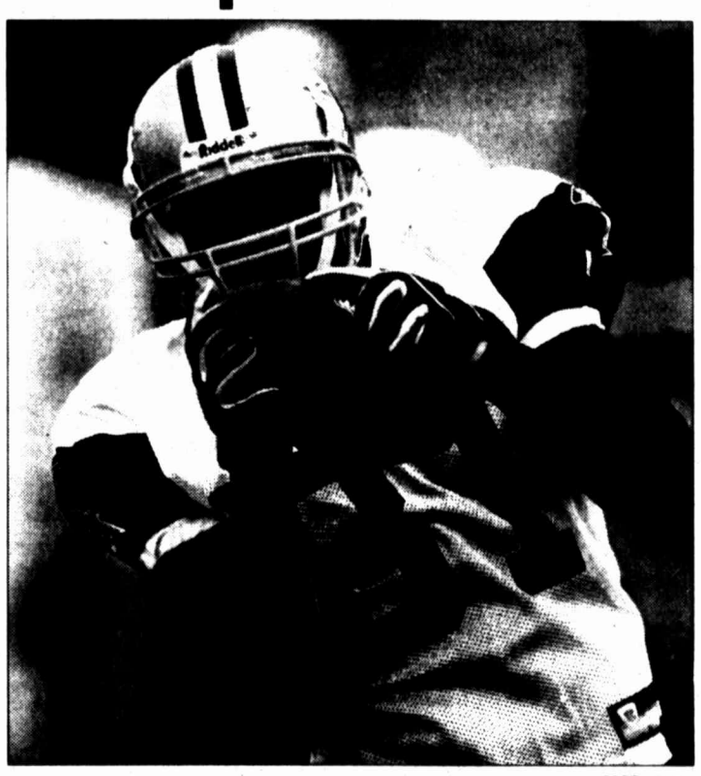
To combat an offense that will throw the ball perhaps 40 times a game, the Steers — particularly cornerbacks Scott Fankhauser and Brandon Ontiveros — will have to do yeoman's work in keeping 6-yard gains from turning into 60-yard gains, Holt said.

"We'll need to know when to drop back in coverage and when to apply pressure on the quarterback," he noted. "We need to open-field tackle and we need to limit their yards after the catch."

In comparison to OHS' attack, the Steers will look to be much more balanced on offense, mixing the throwing of quarterback Ryan Tannehill and the rushing of Lance Tissue and other running backs.

See **STEERS**, Page 12

It's up to Owens whether he plays tonight



MCT photo

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens makes a catch during training camp. Coach Bill Parcells says it's up to Owens as to whether or not he plays in tonight's preseason game with the Minnesota Vikings.

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Get your popcorn ready: Terrell Owens could make his highly anticipated debut for the Dallas Cowboys tonight.

Owens went through his second straight practice Wednesday morning following a 10-day layoff caused by a tender left hamstring. Although he was limited in both workouts, trainers pushed him hard earlier in the week — and he's emerged from it all feeling good enough to possibly be involved in the preseason finale against the Minnesota Vikings.

How much probably won't be known until kickoff.

Coach Bill Parcells said he's considering having Owens suit up, even if it's only to get him acclimated to the team's sideline routine. There's also a chance Owens will get into the game.

"That'll be up to him," Parcells said. "If he feels like he wants to get some plays, then we'll think about it. If not, we won't."

If so, the first time No. 81 trots on the field at Texas Stadium with a star on his helmet should be a wild scene.

He could get a standing ovation from fans thrilled to have him on their side. Or maybe he'll be booed by fans who haven't forgiven him for disgracing the star logo six years ago or for things he's done since joining the Cowboys. The best bet might be some of both.

For the most part, Owens has been embraced by the locals. His jersey already is a top seller and some fans might have purchased the blue and white "Getcha Popcorn Ready" rubber bracelets for sale on Owens' Web site; the quote was one of the more memorable lines from T.O. at his introductory news conference in Dallas.

In the two practices since Owens returned, his work was somewhat like a cram session. Most of the plays he ran were balls coming his way or situational tests Parcells puts the offense through to see how they'll respond.

"There were a lot of things he wants a feel for so he can be caught up a little," Parcells said.

While Owens has gone from likely being out as of Monday to perhaps playing as of Wednesday, Parcells refused to say Owens would definitely

See **OWENS**, Page 12

Orioles take out Rangers, 7-4, with 10th inning rally

By The Associated Press

LaTroy Hawkins faced one of the best clutch hitters in the majors, and came through for the Baltimore Orioles.

Hawkins pitched two innings of scoreless relief and Miguel Tejada had four hits as the Orioles used a three-run 10th inning to beat the Texas Rangers 7-4 on Wednesday night.

Hawkins (3-2) gave up two hits and threw a wild pitch in the ninth, but retired Michael Young on a flyout to keep the game tied at 4 with runners on second and third and two outs. Young began the night batting .390 with runners in scoring position, tied for second in the AL.

"I've been pretty good in those situations, too," Hawkins said. "No doubt he's a good hitter. I was able to get him to swing at my pitch."

In other American League games, it was: Kansas City 4, Minnesota 3; Oakland 7, Boston 2; Cleveland 3, Toronto 2 in 10 innings; Chicago 5, Tampa Bay 4; and Los Angeles 5, Seattle 3. New York and Detroit split a doubleheader, the Yankees taking the first game 2-0and Detroit winning the nightcap 5-3l

In the National league games, it was: Los Angeles 7, Cincinnati 3; San Diego 4, Arizona 1; Philadelphia 5, Washington 1; Atlanta 5, San Francisco 3; Houston 1, Milwaukee 0; St. Louis 13, Florida 6; New York 11, Colorado 3; and Pittsburgh 10, Chicago 9 in 11 innings.

Orioles manager Sam Perlozzo was confident Hawkins could work out of the jam, having already used closer Chris Ray.

"He did a good job," Perlozzo said. "There've been some struggles, but when he's on, he's tough to hit."

The frustrations continue to mount for the Rangers, who have lost six of nine to fall 9 1/2 games behind the AL West-leading Oakland Athletics.

"We know our chances are slim," Young said. "We know we have to win every game. We had chances to win it but they made

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

That's Racin'

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"I feel really relieved. This place gives me a lot of nerve troubles. I am pretty much a jerk all week coming into Bristol."

— Dale Earnhardt Jr., after running third at Saturday's Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway

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

The future starts now

Cup teams not eligible for the Chase are using remaining races to prep for next year

RUSTY JARRETT FOR NASCAR

Elliott Sadler began the season driving for Robert Yates Racing, but after announcing he would be driving for Evernham Motorsports in 2007, he has since been released from his Yates contract and now is racing for Evernham.

BY DAVID POOLE
McClatchy Newspapers

The disappearance of anything resembling an offseason in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series is rapidly becoming old news.

Thanks to the emergence of the Chase for the Nextel Cup format, calendars are now largely irrelevant in stock-car racing's top series.

This might only be Labor Day weekend of 2006 for everyone else, but for many of the teams that will be competing Sunday night at California Speedway, it's already 2007.

"I think the Chase has definitely changed NASCAR," Elliott Sadler said. "It's not a 36-race season anymore. It's a 26-race season with a playoff. If you don't run good in those 26 races, I think teams are more likely to make changes early, whether it's crew chief changes, driver changes, swapping teams back and forth within your own teams.

"I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. I think three or four years from now people are going to be switching teams in midseason if they're already out of the Chase. They're going to be building on next year."

Sadler, of course, is an example of this phenomenon. Instead of waiting until after the 2006 season to move from Robert Yates Racing to Evernham Motorsports, Sadler already will be making his third start in Evernham's No. 19 Dodge in Sunday's race.

Sadler got his release because, instead of waiting to put David Gilliland in the No. 38 Fords and run him for rookie of the year in 2007, the Yates team elected to put him in the car now and get a jump on next season.

Burton

"I don't know if it'll continue, but without a doubt, the trend is for people to make changes early and commit to each other and try to make that happen quicker than we used to," Jeff Burton said.

"When you've made the decision to change, or the owner has made the decision to do something different, I think it's in everybody's best interest to get that relationship building as quickly as possible. As long as the sponsors are good for it, the quicker you can make that move, the better."

It's not always about drivers moving to new teams, either.

Last year, Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. changed crew chiefs as soon as the Chase began in September. Steve Letarte took over at Gordon's team and Tony Eury Jr. moved into place with Earnhardt Jr., and they immediately began working on trying to get into this year's Chase after missing the 10-race title run in 2005.

Teams don't even have to make major changes in personnel to begin turning their thoughts forward.

"We're going to use these next 12 races to test for 2007," Carl Edwards said after finishing seventh last week at Bristol. "We've kind of had a long, rough year with our luck, so we'll just make the most of it."

Jeremy Mayfield, the driver Sadler replaced in the No. 19, is getting his own jump-start on 2007. While he's not scheduled to run Nextel Cup races with his new team, Bill Davis Racing, later this year, he is already testing in some of the Toyotas that team will put on the track beginning with the 2007 Daytona 500.

"You cannot afford to start with a new team and work with each other in the first six or seven races of a new season any more," Sadler said. "You cannot afford to give up those first six or seven races as a team because you only have 19 or 20 left to make the Chase. You can't give up 200 or 300 points learning each other, and that's why teams are making changes now.

"That's why Robert Yates wanted to get David in the car and give him some seat time so they can hit the blocks running next year. That's why it's worked out for me to go to Ray's this year to learn the communication and go from there and move on to next year. It's just a win-win situation, and I think you're going to see more of that in the future as the sport moves on."

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SONY HD 500

Where: California Speedway, a slightly banked paved 2-mile oval located in Fontana, Calif.

When: Sunday at 8:05 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: NBC.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: $5,993,974.

Worth mentioning: Jamie McMurray has four straight top-10 finishes in his six races at California. He is the only driver with top-15 finishes in all six of his races at the track. Jeff Gordon leads all drivers with three victories at California. He is the only driver with multiple wins there.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Your answer might depend on which time zone you call home, but does the 10 p.m. Eastern start of Saturday's NASCAR Busch Series race make you any more or less likely to tune in?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What do you think of the incident that occurred between Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Carl Edwards in the 2006 Food City Busch Series race and NASCAR's reaction to it?

Number of votes: 7,914

Response	No. of votes	Percent
The fine and probation are mere slaps on the wrist.	2,825	36%
Where are the penalties against Junior?	2,805	35%
Hey, that's racin'.	1,970	25%
Other write-in responses.	314	4%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

- **Matt Kenseth:** Won a championship under old format, looks poised to add another under the new one, too.
- **Kasey Kahne:** Running much better, but running out of time to make the Chase.
- **Kyle Busch:** Most underrated team in the series.

WHO'S NOT

- **Mark Martin:** Treading water to stay in the Chase.
- **Tony Stewart:** Bristol was probably his worst weekend of the season from start to finish.
- **David Gilliland:** Welcome to the big leagues.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

- If "points racing" — or consistency week after week — was the main problem with the old points system, nothing seems to have been solved with the addition of the Chase. Instead of playing it safe for 36 races, teams are playing it safe for 26, then playing it safe for 10. **Quick fix:** Make winning the most profitable means of making the Chase and winning the title.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Aug. 26:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	3499	21. Elliott Sadler	2395
2. Matt Kenseth	3492	22. Reed Sorenson	2384
3. Kevin Harvick	3178	23. Martin Truex Jr.	2384
4. Kyle Busch	3097	24. Robby Gordon	2260
5. Jeff Gordon	3091	25. Bobby Labonte	2256
6. Denny Hamlin	3070	26. Dale Jarrett	2238
7. Jeff Burton	3064	27. Jeff Green	2136
8. Tony Stewart	3056	28. J.J. Yeley	2113
9. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3051	29. Dave Blaney	2067
10. Mark Martin	3049	30. Ken Schrader	2044
11. Kasey Kahne	2959	31. Joe Nemechek	2029
12. Greg Biffle	2798	32. Kyle Petty	1904
13. Carl Edwards	2788	33. Sterling Marlin	1888
14. Kurt Busch	2659	34. David Stremme	1742
15. Ryan Newman	2586	35. Michael Waltrip	1678
16. Casey Mears	2564	36. Jeremy Mayfield	1647
17. Brian Vickers	2548	37. Travis Kvapil	1625
18. Jamie McMurray	2531	38. Tony Raines	1508
19. Scott Riggs	2477	39. Scott Wimmer	1411
20. Clint Bowyer	2463	40. Kevin Lepage	1040

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Aug. 25:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	4095	11. Jason Leffler	2724
2. Carl Edwards	3576	12. John Andretti	2704
3. Denny Hamlin	3533	13. Reed Sorenson	2675
4. Clint Bowyer	3429	14. Jon Wood	2524
5. J.J. Yeley	3391	15. David Green	2488
6. Paul Menard	3032	16. Ashton Lewis	2478
7. Kyle Busch	2975	17. Stacy Compton	2443
8. Greg Biffle	2921	18. Danny O'Quinn Jr.	2442
9. Johnny Sauter	2815	19. Burney Lamar	2430
10. Kenny Wallace	2760	20. Todd Kluever	2366

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Ameriquest 300, Fontana, Calif.

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 23:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Todd Bodine	2624	6. David Starr	2295
2. Johnny Benson	2470	7. Terry Cook	2248
3. David Reutimann	2304	8. Jack Sprague	2246
4. Ted Musgrave	2300	9. Ron Hornaday	2221
5. Rick Crawford	2229	10. Mike Bliss	2201

NEXT RACE: Sept. 16, New Hampshire 200, Loudon, N.H.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): The wave of momentum from his two straight victories gives us a new No. 1 this week. Last week: 2.

2. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): This team's Chase should start right now. Fighting to keep the lead is a worthwhile effort. Last week: 1.

3. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Without a flat tire he would have been a factor at Bristol. Two top 25s, and he's in the Chase. Last week: 3.

4. (tie) Tony Stewart (car No. 20), Mark Martin (car No. 6), Jeff Gordon (car No. 24), Denny Hamlin (car No. 11), Kyle Busch (car No. 5), Jeff Burton (car No. 31) and Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Who are we kidding here?

Only 48 points separate fourth from 10th, and these guys will spend the next two weeks shuffling this deck like they've been doing for the past month.

Stewart

One of the drivers in this group could fall behind Kasey Kahne and miss the Chase, but if these guys can manage top 10s at California and Richmond it's unlikely that Kahne will be able to catch any of them.

What these teams need to start focusing on now is stepping up their game for the final 10 races, because that's when the real money gets paid.

Last week: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, respectively.

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

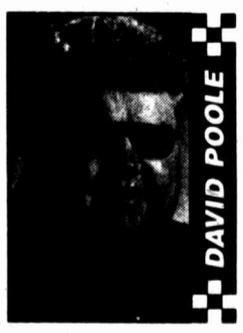
Next Cup visit to Bristol will be in new car model

If everything goes according to plan, an era ended Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway.

The Sharpie 500 won by Matt Kenseth is scheduled to be the final one there using current Nextel Cup cars. Bristol's March 25 race next year is to be the first using the sport's "car of tomorrow."

NASCAR plans to phase in the new version of its racing vehicle over the next three seasons, beginning with 16 races in 2007. Both races at Bristol, Martinsville, Richmond, Phoenix, Dover and New Hampshire, as well as single events at Darlington, Sonoma, Watkins Glen and the fall race at Talladega will use the new wider, taller car.

The new car will feature a splitter in place of front air-dams, designed to send air around the car instead of over its nose. Instead of rear spoilers, the car will have wings mounted on the rear deck lid. The aim is to create a car that works better in the turbulent air in traffic, with hopes that it gives drivers more ability to compete side-by-side and make passes than they have in the aerodynamically slick "bullets" of today.



DAVID POOLE

The new car is certainly different, and many have gone so far as to call it ugly. NASCAR believes it will be safer, with more room in the cockpit for drivers and more safety materials surrounding that compartment.

NASCAR has a lot invested in the car of tomorrow, and the teams that will have to build the new cars while phasing out their current fleets will have a lot of money invested as well. Safety enhancements notwithstanding, unless the car pays competitive dividends as well, the project will never be considered a success.

The most recent test came two weeks ago after the Cup race at Michigan, which would be among the 26 races in 2008 that would use the new car. Charlotte's Lowe's Motor Speedway and other intermediate tracks like it would come on line in 2009.

Predictably, with such a major change in the offing, there is trepidation.

"I have some concerns, there's no doubt about that," Jeff Gordon said after driving the car in the Michigan test. "I'd rather see them wait until 2008 and just run it everywhere. The things we're having to do as a team to try to build two different cars that are inspected totally differently, it's basically like running two different series."

Gordon took his concerns to NASCAR and said he believes the sanctioning body is bringing the right attitude into the tests, listening to what drivers and teams have to say and weighing that input.

That's going to be an important balancing act for the people running the sport, over the next few months and the seasons through which the new car will be phased in. A lot of the complaining you'll hear will just be teams resisting change, but it's inevitable that over the course of this changeover, some alterations will have to be made.

There will be neither a time nor a method of changing over to a new race car that will please everyone. NASCAR knows this. It also knows that at some point, you have to pick a time to start and go with it.

"Any time there is something different, there is mad panic," driver Jeff Burton said. "You hear, 'It isn't going to work! The sky is falling, the sky is falling!' But what will happen is that everybody is going to go to work and make sure the sky doesn't fall."

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GENERAL LABORER needed full-time with job advancement available. Starting pay $9.00 per hour. Drug test is required. Call (432)264-8610.

HELP WANED for all positions and shifts at our Midland Manufacturing Facility. Must be punctual and willing to work weekends as needed. Must have reliable transportation. Must be able to lift and carry a minimum of 40 lbs. Will train the right people. Apply in person at 1921 Alta Vista, Bldg. 4, Midland, TX 79702. Positions available on location in Pecos, TX as well. Se habla Espanol.

HILLCREST CDC is looking for Full Time Caregivers. Mon.-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school dipolma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700. No Phone Calls Please.

HUMAN RESOURCES admistrative assistant needed for local oil & gas service company. General bookkeeping skills a plus. Fax resume to (432)267-5280.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

LOOKING FOR energetic person to clean house twice a month. Must be thorough and pay great attention to detail. Call (432)264-6352.

Looking for part time work but don't want to smell like burgers and fries? Do you want to make money but have a social life too? Come join **Domino's Pizza!**
Want to work full time and get ahead in a growing business? Are you tired of working convenience stores and graveyard shifts? Love the money but sick of the oilfields.
Domino's Pizza needs Customer Service Representative's, Drivers, and Shift Leaders. High school, college students, senior citizens and homemakers, come work the busiest and best pizza delivery company in town. We pay a fair wage and the best mileage in the business. We have a reasonable delivery area.
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Come see Jeff Vanderroest, General Manager, and join the winning team
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(432)267-4111

Martin County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a **FULL TIME INSURANCE BILLER.** Please contact Alison Israel, CFO or Gwen Hawkins, Business Office Supervisor at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & $175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas. (325)573-2013.

NEED A operator to run a pulling unit with CDL in Big Spring. 8 Holidays and Bonuses. Call (325)207-0846 or (325)207-0858 ask for Tony.

NEED BACKHOE operator w/CDL. Good driving record. Must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.

NEED EXPERIENCE retail salesperson. Holiday and vacation pay. Must be able to lift 100 lbs. Harris Lumber & Hardware, 1515 East FM 700.

Help Wanted

NEED DRILLERS, roughnecks to work for a home grown Big Spring Oil Company which owns its own rigs. Drilling in West Texas area close to home. If hired, you will receive a $250.00 bonus after working one week. Health insurance available. Must be able to pass drug test. Call 432-238-3832 or 432-238-9001.

NEED FULL-TIME Toddler Teacher. HS Diploma/ GED a must. Day Care Experience & Child Development preferred. Call (432)263-7841 for more info.

NEED IMMEDIATELY Diesel Mechanic. Salary negotiable. Company truck. Must furnish on tools and must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.

NEED ROOFING helper. No experience needed. Call (432)267-5681, leave message.

NOW HIRING FOR 2006 POSTAL JOBS $18/hour starting, average pay $57/year. Federal benefits paid training and vacations NO Experience needed! 1-800-584-1775 ref #P6901.

NOW LOOKING for entertaining & upbeat dancers, bartenders, cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 leave a message.

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Big Spring, TX 79720

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PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Certified Nurse Aide. Great Working Environment and Competitive Pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST needed for part-time work in home health. Also need part-time LVN at assist on weekends. Please apply or inquire to Best Home Care, 1900 Gregg Street, or call 432-264-0044.

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PIZZA INN
Now Hiring wait Staff Must be dependable, hard working. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No phone calls.

Help Wanted

RESPONSIBLE PERSON willing to learn installation of gasoline dispensing equipment, computerized cash registers, electronic card systems, mechanical background, electrical, and plumbing experience helpful. Drug free, high school diploma, good driving record, background check. Call (432)935-1124.

RETAIL SALES needed part time. Must be dependable, honest w/good people skills. Pre-fer non smoker. Send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/147, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

SIGN UP BONUS POSSIBLE WANTED
Compressor mechanics and mechanic helpers. 60k and up annual earning potential for qualified applicants. Excellent benefis, 401K, insurance paid, paid vacation, uniforms, Extensive travel required, per diem and lodging paid while out of town. Please send resumes to: PO Box 69239, Odessa, TX 79769.

STORE MANAGER needed for payday loan services. Excellent customer service skills a must. High School diploma required, previous cash handling experience a plus. Apply at 1010 Gregg St., EZ Pawn Store.

TexaStone Quarries is hiring full time laborers to work in the plant and also in the quarry. Benefits available. Apply in person 1400 Sherrod Road, Garden City or call 432-354-2569.

WANTED PART time Clerk. Qualification must have a high school diploma or GED, must type at lest 40 wpm, computer knowledge, at least 1 year experience. No criminal background. If interested apply at the Howard County Juvenile Probation office at 315 Main Suite C.

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to $1500 or $5000 PT/FT.
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BLACK LEATHER Rocker recliner. Great for TV. Never sat on. $399. GORGEOUS Cherry Armoire $499. Traditional Queen Ann. Never used. 806-549-3110.

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Books 25¢-50¢, all clothes 50¢-$1.00, Hundreds of movies.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP mattress set, $145.. TWIN MATTRESS set, $99. KING PILLOWTOP mattress set $239. Full orthopedic mattress set $135. Brand new, warranty. 806-549-3110.

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WHY PAY Rent? 10'x12' Storage Buildings Only $49.00 a Month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

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FOR SALE: AKC Registered Miniature Dachshund puppies, 6 wks old. Call (432)394-4733.

FREE TO good home Australian Shepherd & Chow mixed, 6 months old. Needs a fenced yard. Call (432)457-0042.

SCHNAUZER PUPPIES, 6 weeks old. Only have 2 males left. $100.00 Each. Call 432-935-3660.

Real Estate for Rent

104 WEST 13th. One bedroom, 1 bath. $300. month, $150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

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1600 HARDING. Two bedroom, brick, carport. Fenced yard and landscaped yard. Near Prison. Call (432)268-1272.

1800 DUQUOIN, 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus den. $600.00 Month, $600.00 deposit. Call after noon, (432)264-3976.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. **(432)263-3461 -Tom.**

2002 JOHNSON, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, $350.00 month, $200.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath, CH/A, garage, fenced yard. $550. Month, $300. deposit. 1800 Wallace. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

4211 HAMILTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. CH/A. $450. month, $250. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

622 STATE 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CA/CH with garage. $450.00 month, $250.00. Call (432)270-3848.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

Real Estate for Rent

FOR LEASE 40x120 Building with 2 offices, [illegible] door head doors o[illegible] fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. $750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.
RENTED

FOR RENT, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, stove, fenced yard. 1202 Austin, two blocks from high school. $425. month, $250. deposit. References required: (432)213-4960.

SMALL ONE bedroom. 1501-1/2 Johnson, rear house. Call Mary, (432)714-4001, Call only between 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Real Estate for Sale

140 ACRES Prime creek bottom land. LOTS of DEER. Howard County. $1000.00 per acre. Contact Sue at the Real Estate Shop (432)263-7653.

1400 MARIJO, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, garage, fresh paint, new carpet. Low down payment! $65,000.00. American Realty (432)686-9020.

1801 ALABAMA 3 bedroom, large den/fireplace, fenced back yard, central heat/air, garage. Call: (432)263-1281.

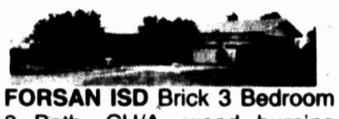
2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty.
Call **Maria (432)263-3461.**

AMAZING FORECLOSURE! $30,000!! 4 Bedrooms. Wont Last! For listings call 800-749-8106 ext. F-086.

#12 CHAPMAN ROAD, Coahoma - immaculate 3/2.5/2 with 24x24 workshop, RV carport. Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

CUTE 2 and 3 bedroom Homes. New carpet, paint and tile, big rooms and closets. Very Nice. Starting at $35k. Owner financing available. Call Gary Dennis Realtor at Keller Williams Reality Cell 432-556-1676 or 432-520-5151.

FORECLOSURE! 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, only $20,500! Must Sell! For listing Call 800-749-8106 ext F906.



FORSAN ISD Brick 3 Bedroom 2 Bath, CH/A, wood burning fireplace, double garage, 20 acres, fenced. Vacant. Ratliff Road. Call Dorthy (432)267-1384.

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(2) New 2005
7 Passenger Vans
$9,500 Off!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7421

$500! POLICE Impounds! Hondas, Toyotas, Nissan, etc. For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. A106.

1984 SUBURBAN for sale, 51,000 actual miles, some hail damage. Great crew vehicle. $1,100. Call (432)213-5517, leave message.

1993 FORD Thunderbird only $700! Must Sell! For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. N-237.

2002 YAMAHA 125 TTR Dirt Bike. Excellent condition. Used very little. $1675.00. Call (432)263-0033 or after 5:00 (432)267-2941.

2003 YAMAHA 1100 Silverado. Excellent condition. $7000.00 Firm. Call (432)394-4716.

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Help **STOP** Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
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2	6	1	5	8	4	3	7	9
9	5	8	3	1	7	4	2	6
3	4	7	2	6	9	8	1	5
5	2	3	7	9	8	6	4	1
6	8	9	1	4	2	7	5	3
1	7	4	6	5	3	2	9	8

Legals

HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET INCREASES
A copy of the proposed 2006-07 budget for Howard County is available for inspection in the office of County Auditor, Courthouse, Big Spring, TX 79720.
The budget reflects increases as follows:
$150 per mo salary increase for full time employees, including elected officials
$10 per mo increase for employees and officials qualifying for longevity
Benefit increases due to above
Total increase in health insurance premiums of approximately 3%
Purchase of vehicles for the Sheriff/ Jail: $130,000
Jail supplies $1500; Education $500; Prisoner travel $5000; Repairs to Jail $140,000.
A budget hearing will be conducted September 11, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 2nd floor of the Courthouse, 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Tx. Any citizen is welcome to attend.
Jackie Olson
County Auditor
#5055 August 31, 2006.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to John Grant, General Manager, will be received at the office of the:
Colorado River Municipal Water District,
PO Box 869
Big Spring, Texas 79721-0869,
400 East 24th Street,
Big Spring, Texas, 79720.
Until **3:00 PM, Wednesday, 14 September, 2006,**
For the purchase of the following item(s):
Employee Uniform Rental Service
At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.
Specifications are on file and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79721, telephone 432-267-6341. Inquires regarding specifications are to be directed to Ralph Truszkowski, P.E., Operations Manager, telephone 432-267-6341, fax: 432-268-1196, e-mail: ret@crmwd.org.
In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities. The District anticipates that it will notify the successful bidder(s) by issuing a Purchase Order within thirty (30) days after the bid date. No bid may be withdrawn within ninety (90) days after date on which bids are opened.
COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John W. Grant, General Manager
#5053 August 17, 24, & 31, 2006.

COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM
Public Notice
Effective September 1, 2006
The Howard County Indigent Health Care program is based on the rules and procedures mandated by the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act.
An Application Form can be obtained from the County Indigent Health Care Office located at:
Howard County Courthouse
300 Main Street, Room 310
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432)264-2219
Howard County follows the rules and procedures found in the County Indigent Health Care Program Handbook published by the Texas Department of Health to meet the criteria for the County Indigent Health Care Program, the following is required by verification:
Residency
Resources
Household Compensation
Income
Howard County will only accept and pay the Standard Payment rates as determined by the Texas Department of Health. Howard County will pay all inpatient hospital bills by interim percentage rate.
Irene Dominquez, Director
County Indigent Health Care
#5069 August 31, 2006.

Make a World of Difference
International exchange students from around the world are now being placed with host families. These families are preparing for an experience that will give them a lifetime of memories and friendships. English speaking high school students from Denmark, Thailand, Austria, Ecuador, Netherlands and many other countries have spent months preparing to live with an American family for a school year.

Become a Host Family
Each student is anxiously waiting for news that he or she has been placed with an American family who is willing to open their hearts and home to them. We hope your family will join US by becoming a host family.

"Experience the Culture...Experience the World"
If you have ever thought about hosting, now is the time. United Studies is presently looking for qualified host families in your area. For more information about this exciting opportunity please call today.

UNITED STUDIES Student Exchange
Call United Studies today... toll-free (800) 869-8585
info@unitedstudies.org • www.unitedstudies.org
a non-profit educational program

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

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6 :PM	News (CC)	News	Heridas	King of the Hill	News	Pre-Game	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	48 Hours:	"	CSI: Crime	Without a	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	Boston College	College Foot-	Want to Be a
:30	Entertainment	Wheel-Fortune	"	The Simpsons	Entertainment	"	Be a Millionaire	MLB Baseball:	John Hagee	"	Hard Evidence	"	Scene Invstgtn.	Trace (CC)	Black Carpet	That's-Raven	at Central	ball Kickoff	Superhero?
7 :PM	Grey's	Grey's	La Fea Mas	Celebrity Duets	Big Brother:	Futbol	Name Is Earl	San Francisco	Update/Israel	TX Mnthly Talk	A Haunting	Movie:	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Read It	Michigan	College	Want to Be a
:30	Anatomy	Anatomy	Bella	(CC)	All-Stars	Americano	The Office	Giants at	Sid Roth	TX Mnthly Talk	(CC)	Commando	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	and Weep	(CC)	Football:	Superhero?
8 :PM	Grey's	Grey's	Barrera de	"	CSI: Crime	NFL: Dallas vs.	The Office	Atlanta Braves	Light of the	A Closer Walk	A Haunting	"	UFC	Law & Order	Girlfriends	"	MLB Baseball:	South Carolina	Want to Be a
:30	Anatomy	Anatomy	Amor	"	Scene Invstgtn.	Minnesota	The Office	(CC)	Southwest	(CC)	"	:45 Movie:	Unleashed	(CC) (DVS)	Girlfriends	"	New York Mets	at Mississippi	Superhero?
9 :PM	Primetime	Primetime	Aqui y Ahora	Becker (CC)	Without a	"	Windfall (CC)	"	"	"	Most Evil	F/X	The Ultimate	Law & Order	Comicview	Emperor New	at Colorado	State (CC)	Ghost Hunters
:30	(CC)	(CC)	"	Friends (CC)	Trace (CC)	"	"	Movie: The	"	Encore! With	"	"	Fighter	(CC) (DVS)	(CC)	American Drgn	Rockies	"	(CC)
10 :PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	'70s Show	News	Noti-Telemndo	News	General's	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Supermax	"	TNA iMPACT!	Movie:	Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody	"	SportsCenter	Movie:
:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show-	Titulares y Mas	Tonight Show	(CC)	Healing	(CC)	(CC)	"	(CC)	Sleepers	Jamie Foxx	That's-Raven	"	(CC)	Exorcism
11 :PM	The Insider	High School	La Hora de la	King of the Hill	Letterman	Laura	"	(CC)	Curt Landry	Sign Off	A Haunting	Movie: FX2	CSI: Crime	(CC)	In Living Color	Phil of Future	NFL Yearbook	Baseball	(CC)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel	Football:	Risa	Malcolm-Mid.	U.S. Open	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	Midnight	Y. Salamanca	"	(CC)	"	Scene Invstgtn.	"	In Living Color	Kim Possible	NFL Yearbook	NFL Live	"
12 :AM	Live (CC)	Graham vs.	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Late Late	Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien	Money	Update/Israel	"	A Haunting	"	MXC	"	BET After Dark	Sister, Sister	Fantasy	SportsCenter	Want to Be a
:30	News (CC)	Midland	"	Divorce Court	Show	Pagado	Apex	Madness	Booker	"	"	"	Blind Date	"	(CC)	That's-Raven	College	(CC)	Superhero?

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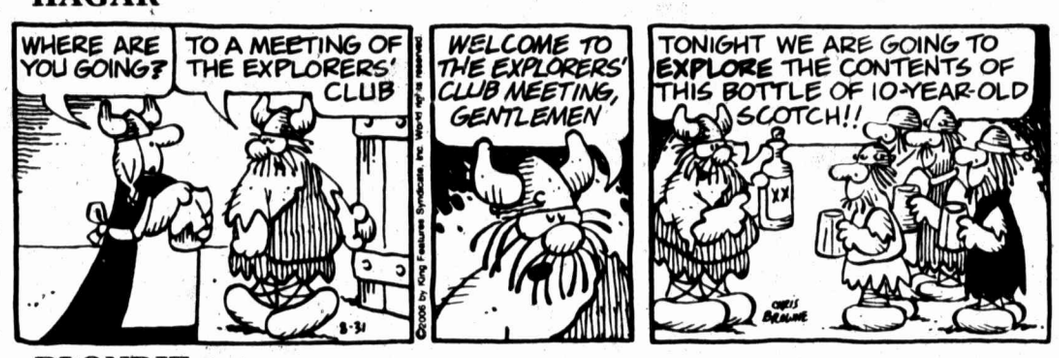
"If a giraffe steps into quicksand, help could arrive before he sinks up to his chin."

HAGAR



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THE OTHER COAST

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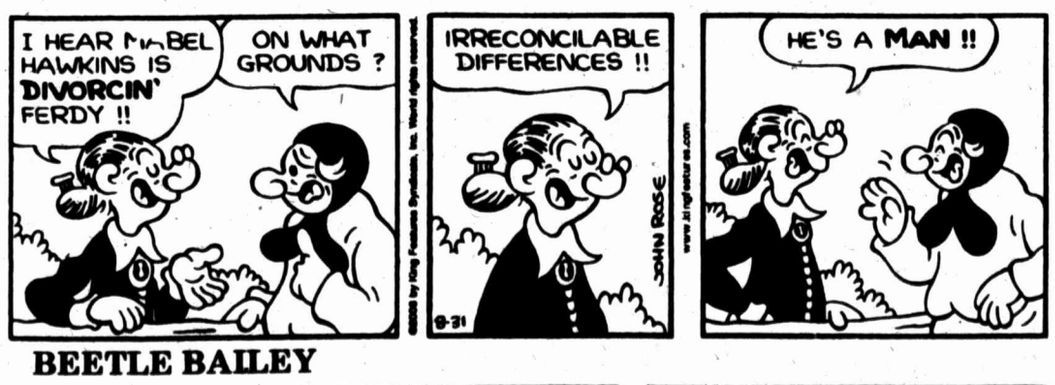

BEETLE BAILEY

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2006. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 31, 1886, an earthquake rocked Charleston, S.C., killing up to 110 people.

On this date:

In 1881, the first U.S. tennis championships (for men) were played, in Newport, R.I.

In 1888, Mary Ann Nichols was found murdered in London's East End in what is generally regarded as the first slaying committed by "Jack the Ripper."

In 1935, President Roosevelt signed an act prohibiting the export of U.S. arms to belligerents.

In 1954, Hurricane Carol hit the northeastern Atlantic states. Connecticut, Rhode Island and part of Massachusetts bore the brunt of the storm, which resulted in nearly 70 deaths.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent within the British Commonwealth.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1986, 82 people were killed when an Aeromexico jetliner and a small private plane collided over Cerritos, Calif.

In 1986, the Soviet passenger ship Admiral Nakhimov collided with a merchant vessel in the Black Sea, causing both vessels to sink; up to 448 people reportedly died.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Daniel Schorr is 90. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Frank Robinson is 71. Actor Warren Berlinger is 69. Rock musician Jerry Allison (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 67. Actor Jack Thompson is 66. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 61. Singer Van Morrison is 61. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 58. Actor Richard Gere is 57. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 49. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 49. Singer Tony DeFranco (The DeFranco Family) is 47. Rhythm-and-blues musician Larry Waddell (Mint Condition) is 43. Actor Jaime P. Gomez is 41. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 36. Rock musician Greg Richling (Wallflowers) is 36. Actor Chris Tucker is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamara (Trina & Tamara) is 29.

Thought for Today: "All history is only one long story to this effect: men have struggled for power over their fellow men in order that they might win the joys of earth at the expense of others, and might shift the burdens of life from their own shoulders upon those of others." — William Graham Sumner, American sociologist and economist (1840-1910).

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Answer to previous puzzle

C	E	D	E		M	A	L	T	S		P	R	O	P
A	X	E	L		A	L	E	R	T		L	A	V	A
P	I	L	E		D	I	N	A	R		O	V	E	N
	T	I	C	K	E	T	S	C	A	L	P	E	R	
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P	A	P		P	I	N	E		S	T	O	P	A	T
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	T	O	E	I	N	G	T	H	E	L	I	N	E	
B	A	R	D		T	E	H	E	E		P	A	R	T
A	R	E	A		E	N	E	M	Y		E	M	I	R
A	T	O	M		D	A	N	S	E		D	E	N	Y

Newsday Crossword

SUCCESS-FULL by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
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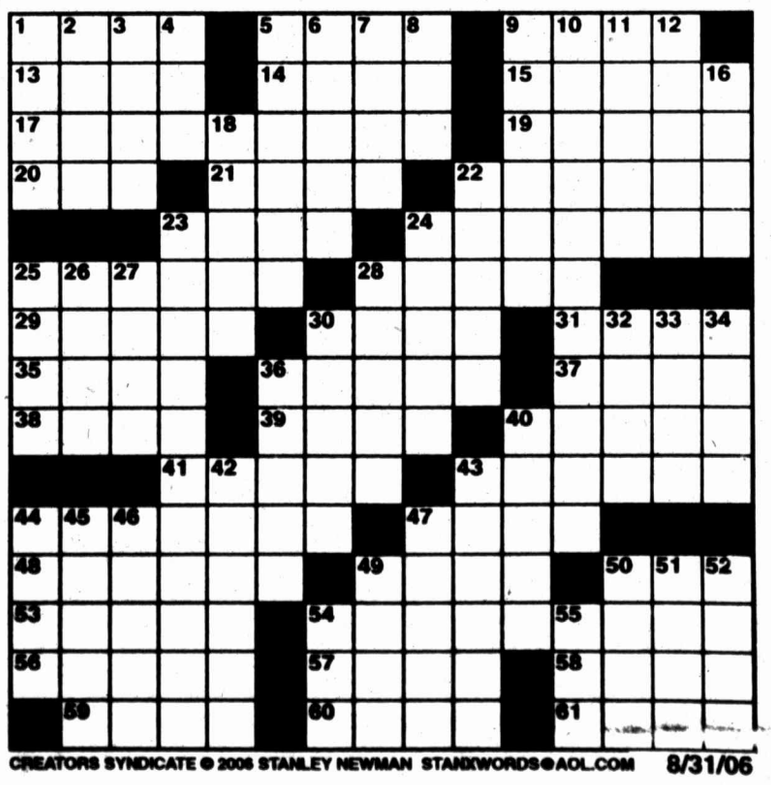
ACROSS
1 Slightly wet
5 British baby carriage
9 Like some electrical adapters
13 Resorts to
14 Singer Falana
15 Gourmet mushroom
17 Be successful
19 Author Zola
20 Dead heat
21 Axe handle
22 Prepares to be knighted
23 Travels around
24 Motorcycle races
25 Drawing rooms
28 Fresh, as lettuce
29 Blocks
30 Campus figure
31 Not careful
35 Love, in Lima
36 Vacuum tube
37 Its "A" tunes the orchestra
38 Swelter
39 Basilica area
40 Thai or Nepali
41 Realty units
43 Censors
44 Did a slow burn
47 Pigeon talk
48 Jams in tightly
49 Damsel rescuer
50 Tarzan neighbor
53 Bicker
54 Be successful
56 Demeanors
57 What is more
58 ". . . __ o'clock scholar"
59 Latin 101 verb
60 Gush forth
61 *Star Wars* series teacher

DOWN
1 Fine powder
2 Piedmont province
3 Unimportant
4 Chi follower
5 Answers a judge
6 Puts up shingles
7 Perched
8 Function starter
9 Improves upon
10 Be successful
11 Paint additive
12 Violin relative
16 Inferior
18 Mongol rulers
22 Piece of dinnerware
23 Be successful
24 Wear down
25 Picket-line crosser
26 __ mater
27 "Get a load of that!"
28 Crabby
30 Uttered shrilly
32 Lover of an Irish Rose
33 Shower bar
34 Female lobsters
36 Has the nerve
40 Cool in manner
42 Burger extra
43 Take temporarily
44 Enjoyed the pool
45 Ghostly
46 Narrowly defeats
47 Quit
49 Respond to an SOS
50 It helps fill a lot
51 Dappled
52 Sicilian landmark
54 Undergrad degs.
55 Glimmer of hope



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Astros take 1-0 win over Brewers on wild, confusing final play

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens and the Houston Astros had a moment of confusion before realizing they'd beaten Milwaukee on Wednesday night.

Clemens struck out nine in seven shutout innings and Mike Lamb scored on a strange play in the ninth to give the Astros a 1-0 win over the Brewers.

"We didn't know what happened," Clemens said. "Everyone didn't know whether to run on the field or not."

The Astros won their season-high fifth straight by salvaging another sharp outing from Clemens, who matched his season high for strikeouts.

The Rocket allowed three runs or fewer for the 13th time in 14 starts, but walked away with a no-decision.

Brad Lidge (1-4) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win, benefiting from a game-ending play few players had ever seen before.

Willy Taveras grounded out leading off the ninth against reliever Jose Capellan (2-1). Lamb and Craig Biggio followed with singles to put runners at the corners, and Capellan intentionally walked Lance Berkman to load the bases.

Aubrey Huff then hit a grounder down the line that first baseman Jeff Cirillo grabbed with a dive. He touched first — taking away a force at the plate — and then threw to catcher Damian Miller.

But Miller simply stepped on the plate, apparently not realizing he needed to make a tag. Thanks to his mistake, Lamb slid home with the winning run on Huff's RBI groundout.

"I've never had a game end like that or even seen that play," Miller said.

Lamb wasn't sure if he'd scored.

"It was pretty much the oddest ending I've ever seen," he said. "I didn't know for a long time what had happened. The umpire kept signaling he was out at first, so I was thinking he would need to tag me. But I wasn't sure."

When plate umpire Rob Drake finally called Lamb safe, the Astros spilled out of the dugout to celebrate.

OWENS

Continued from Page 7

play in the opener a week from Sunday in Jacksonville.

"Well, what's he looked like? How's he practiced? What does he look like he knows? There could be a lot of reasons why he might not play," Parcells said. "I don't know what's going to happen."

Whatever happens involving Owens — tonight, for the opener and throughout his Dallas tenure — probably won't surprise Vikings coach Brad Childress.

After all, Childress went through all sorts of ups and downs as Owens' offensive coordinator in Philadelphia the last two seasons.

Although Childress has received from Parcells "some sage advice on a couple different occasions," the first-time coach isn't about to return the favor on this subject.

"Bill is a big boy," Childress said. "He can stand on his own two feet."

The Cowboys have gone 3-0 this preseason without Owens. The defense has allowed only two touchdowns and a field goal, while quarterback Drew Bledsoe has led the first-team offense to four touchdowns and two field goals in eight drives.

Minnesota (2-1) should provide a tough test for Bledsoe. The Vikings' starters have allowed only one touchdown this preseason, and that came when Pittsburgh surprised them by using a no-huddle scheme.

Neither squad will be at full strength, though. Besides Owens' iffy status, Dallas left tackle Flozell Adams is out with a calf injury. Minnesota cornerback Fred Smoot (sore ribs) is likely to miss the game.

The Vikings have struggled to run the ball despite one of the best left guard-left tackle combos that money can buy in Steve Hutchinson and Bryant McKinnie. One reason could be the strong defenses they've faced already.

The bad news for Minnesota is that Dallas has one, too, and running back Mewelde Moore is questionable because of a knee injury.

"We still need to get that rhythm down, trying to get better techniques down," left tackle McKinnie said. "The more and more time we get on Thursday the better."

Childress said starting quarterback Brad Johnson likely will play the first two quarters, rookie Tarvaris Jackson will play the third and J.T. O'Sullivan will get the fourth. Not listed is Mike McMahon, who was signed to be a veteran backup for the 37-year-old Johnson but has a passer rating of 23.7 this preseason.

Parcells said his first-teamers will have more than a cameo appearance because of the 10-day layoff until the opener.

"I just don't want to lose the sharpness that we have coming out from camp," he said.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

pitches and we didn't get it done."

Jay Gibbons hit a go-ahead RBI double to spark Baltimore's rally in the 10th, and Nick Markakis homered for the Orioles.

Markakis has nine homers in August, setting a club record for homers in a month by a rookie.

With the game tied at 4 in the 10th, Melvin Mora hit a leadoff single and Tejada singled one out later off Ron Mahay (1-2) to put runners on first and second. Gibbons followed with his double into the right-field corner, making it 5-4.

After Kevin Millar was intentionally walked, Tejada scored from third on David Newhan's single. Danny Ardoin, signed as the backup catcher before the game, stretched Baltimore's lead to 7-4 with an RBI single off Rick Bauer.

"This is about as good as we've been playing all year," Gibbons said. "It's been a frustrating season and it would have been easy to lay down. But we don't want to lay down. We want to finish strong."

Gerald Laird went 3-for-4 with a homer, Gary Matthews Jr. also went 3-for-4, and Mark Teixeira homered for the Rangers.

Orioles starter Kris Benson pitched seven strong innings, allowing two runs and five hits, and handed a 4-2 lead to his bullpen. But the Rangers rallied to tie it at 4 with a two-run eighth.

Todd Williams began the eighth for the Orioles and the Rangers got leadoff singles from Laird and Matthews to put runners on first and third.

Laird scored on Williams' wild pitch.

STEERS

Continued from Page 7

But the biggest question for the Steers is how well their underclassmen perform.

"We'll have 30 players on the sideline and about a quarter of them will be sophomores and freshmen, and they're going to play and start a bunch," Holt said. "How well those kids play will go a long way toward determining what kind of team we'll be."

Holt said the season opener should be something of a mixed bag for both teams. The excitement of starting the season will be leavened by the fact that both squads are still smoothing out rough edges.

"The thing about season openers is that you won't see the best that either team has to offer," he said. "I know we're not even close to where we're going to be ... A lot of times, early season games come down to mistakes — every team is going to make them. Hopefully, we'll be able to limit our mistakes."

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

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AUGUST 31, 2006

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald

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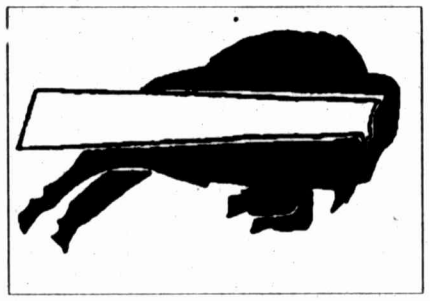
What's Inside...

Big Spring's Steers start the season with proven talent on both sides of the football, the real question for Coach Tim Holt is what to do about a lack of seasoned depth. Page 4

If Coahoma's Bulldogs can avoid the injury bug this season, they just might do some serious damage in their new District 5-2A digs Page 6



Forsan's Buffaloes find themselves with new district foes and have their sights set on changing last year's trend of losing close football games. Page 7

Stanton's Buffaloes need to get the 2006 season off to a good start and redevelop a winning tradition as they hope to make a return to the 2A playoffs. Page 8

Garden City's Bearkats enter the season loaded with talent and eyed as one of the state's best six-man football teams. Now they must live up to a No. 2 ranking. Page 10

Grady heads into the new season experienced and quick, returning all six starters — from last year's playoff squad. Page 11

The AP Preseason Schoolboy Poll

Here is The Associated Press' preseason high school poll with first place votes in parentheses and last season's records:

Class 5A

Team	Record
1. Southlake Carroll (14)	16-0
2. Lufkin (6)	14-1
3. Garland	10-3
4. A&M Consolidated	11-3
5. Euless Trinity	14-1
6. Austin Westlake	9-2
7. The Woodlands	7-4
8. Cypress Falls	9-5
9. Smithson Valley	13-2
10. Galena Park North Shore	11-1

Also receiving votes: Katy 38, Lewisville Hebron 20, Richardson Berkner 11, Mesquite 9, Converse Judson 7, Spring Westfield 5, SA Madison 5, Abilene 3, Houston Cypress Creek 3, Leander 3, SA O'Connor 3, Allen 2, Longview 2, EP Franklin 1, Mansfield Summit 1.

•••

Class 4A

Team	Recored
1. Brenham (13)	14-1
2. Texarkana (3)	9-2
3. Copperas Cove (3)	13-1
4. Stephenville	13-1
5. Corpus Christi Calallen	14-2
6. Denton Ryan	7-4
7. Lamar Consolidated	11-1
8. La Marque	12-1
9. Wolfforth Frenship	13-2
10. Highland Park (1)	15-0

Also receiving votes: Wichita Falls Rider 32, Aledo 21, Waco 16, Marshall 11, Houston Yates 5, Keller Fossil Ridge 5, Edcouch-Elsa 5, SA Alamo Heights 5, Pflugerville Connally 4, McKinney North 2, Kilgore 2, EP Riverside 1, Corsicana 1, Plainview 1.

•••

Class 3A

Team	Record
1. Cuero (12)	13-1
2. Gilmer (7)	10-2
3. West Orange-Stark	13-1
4. Texarkana Liberty-Eylau	10-3
5. Cameron Yoe	13-1
6. Wimberley (1)	15-0
7. Giddings	10-3
8. Hutto	13-3
9. Palestine	8-3
10. Celina	16-0

Also receiving votes: Sweetwater 27, Carthage 26, Bellville 20, Abilene Wylie 15, Dallas Madison 11, Snyder 6, Van 4, Medina Valley 3, Canton 3, Jasper 2, Gainesville 2, Kennedale 1, Rusk 1, Canyon 1.

•••

Class 2A

Team	Record
1. Tatum (20)	15-0
2. Crawford	13-1
3. Lexington	11-3
4. Newton	13-0
5. Early	12-2
6. Marlin	9-2
7. Jefferson	5-7
8. Mart	11-2
9. Hempstead	6-4
10. New Boston	6-4

Also receiving votes: Blanco 27, Paradise 27, Stratford 23, Boyd 16, Altair Rice 14, Childress 12, Arp 9, Wall 2, Lone Oak 2, Sanford-Fritch 2, Omaha Paul-Pewitt 1, Crane 1, Henrietta 1.

•••

Class 1A

Team	Record
1. Windthorst (15)	14-1
2. Chilton (5)	13-1
3. New Deal	10-2
4. Alto	9-2
5. Iola	12-2
6. Goldthwaite	10-1
7. Shiner	10-3
8. Roscoe	9-2
9. Brackettville	10-2
T10. Electra	6-5
T10. McCamey	11-1
T10. Wolfe City	7-4

Also receiving votes: Joaquin 14, Bremond 12, Grapeland 11, Nazareth 10, Falls City 8, Albany 6, La Villa 6, Thorndale 3, Sterling City 3, Memphis 2.

Huntress 6-man rankings listed on Page 9

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Maturing process main question about Steers

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

For the Big Spring Steers, quality won't be a problem in 2006.

Quantity, however, might be a bit of a headache.

The Steers have no shortage of proven starters returning from last year's 4-8 bidistrict champions. It's figuring out who will back up those starters that has Head Coach Tim Holt scratching his head.

Holt estimates the Steers will suit up between 31 and 34 players when they open the regular season at home against Odessa High School Sept. 1.

"It's not a bad 31 to 34," he said, "but the big, big numbers of talented kids are in the seniors, sophomores and freshmen."

With only four juniors on the roster, Holt and the coaching staff must rely on unproven underclassmen to fill valuable roster spots.

Among the sophomores who are being counted on to provide much-needed depth are linebackers Cade Hollandsworth and Antwone White, lineman Jonny Zambrano, receiver Sidney Parker, running back Gorgio Taylor and quarterback Chayson Holt.

"I liken them to baby T-Rexes," he said. "They're not full-grown dinosaurs yet. How fast those kids develop will determine how far we go this year."

Fortunately, the players those underclassmen will be backing up are all proven veterans.

Quarterback Ryan Tannehill and fullback Lance Tissue spearhead of group of seniors who all played key roles in last year's playoff run.

Other seniors counted on to provide leadership this season are offensive linemen Ricky Nunez, Trevor Sheppard and Ryan Harris, kicker/receiver Scott Fankhauser and defensive lineman Jonathan Woodson.

On offense, Tannehill is set as starting quarterback, with Tissue at fullback and either Taylor or Brandon Ontiveros at tailback rounding out the backfield.

They will line up behind Harris at center, Sheppard and Raymond Rodriguez at the guards and Nunez and junior John Smith at tackle.

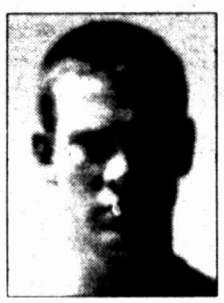
Fankhauser, Parker and senior Raul Aguilar will battle for playing time at wide receiver, while junior Matt Castaneda will man the tight end position.

On defense, one defensive tackle position is so wide open that Holt declined to even name a potential candidate for the spot, but probable starters have emerged at the other spots.

Castaneda, senior Gus Waddy and Antoine White will share time at the end positions, while Woodson is penciled in at the other tackle slot.

Linebacker will be filled among a group that includes Rodriguez, Holt, Jacob Cortez, Aguilar and Stiles, while the defensive backfield slots will be determined from

See **STEERS**, Page 14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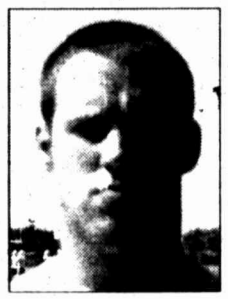

TISSUE

NUNEZ

WADDY

HARRIS

FRANKHAUSER

CORTEZ

RODRIGUEZ

CASTENEDA

PARKER

Big Spring Steers 2006 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Sept. 1	Odessa High	Here	7:30 pm.
Sept. 8	San Angelo Central	Here	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Hereford	There	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	Abilene Wylie	There	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	Sweetwater (H))	Here	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Andrews	There	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	*Pllainview	There	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	OPEN		
Oct. 27	*Frenship	Here	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	*Lubbock Estacado	There	8 p.m.
Nov. 10	*San Angelo Lake View	Here	7:30 p.m.

* Denotes District 4-4A games
(H) Denotes homecoming

Steers At A Glance:

Classification: 4A
District: 4-4A
School Colors: Black and Gold
Home Field: Memorial Stadium
2005 Record: 4-8 (Bidistrict champions)
Head Coach and Athletic Director: Tim Holt
Assistant Coaches: Keith Barnes, Mitchell Woodard, Clinton Clayton, Larry Dearen, Nick Roberson, Don Kelso, Chris Joslin and Reggie McConnell.
Athletic Trainer: Andy Rankin
Student Trainers: Chelsy Nanny, Kathy Gill, Joey Rios, Kristina Chang, Mandi Dominguez, Tasia Forman, Jana Stiles and Arelle Young

A work in progress, but another playoff bid possible

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring Head Coach Tim Holt certainly liked how his first year at the helm of the Steers ended. As he approaches the second year of his tenure, he'd like the beginning and middle to improve, as well.

HOLT

Holt's first season as head man at BSHS certainly got off to a rocky start, as the Steers lost their first five games. The team regrouped, however, winning three District 4-4A contests to earn a playoff spot.

Earning a playoff spot is always notable, but even more so considering the Steers were learning a new system under a new coaching staff, all without the benefit of spring training.

"Last season was successful, but not for the reasons people might think," Holt said. "We don't think that last season was the ultimate, but we feel like it was it was a success because the kids had every opportunity to fail.

The Big Spring Steers for 2006

"It was very difficult, both organizationally and motivationally," Holt added. "It was very tough on the kids, and they had every opportunity to hang it up. In the face of all that, the kids won a bidistrict championship."

As Year 2 of the Holt era begins, the coach sees several hopeful signs for the future.

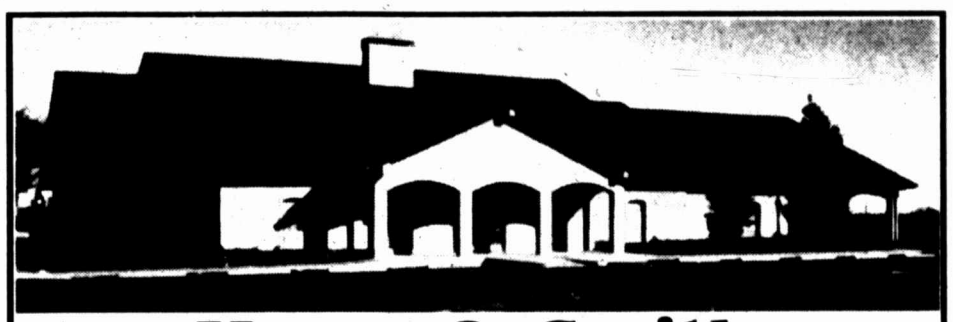
"We're like a third of a quarter of the way to where we need to be," he said. "It will probably take us three or four off-seasons to get where we need to be, but we're where we need to be after one season."

For starters, Holt has seen a five-fold increase in the number of players participating in off-season workout. But the improvement is not limited to team members.

"From a coaching standpoint, last season was tough because we didn't have time to slowly hand-pick each position like we needed to," he said. "We progressed so much, staff-wise, in the last 12 months. Our general knowledge of the kids is a long way from where we were last year."

Although Holt admits the Steers are still a work in progress, he won't rule out another playoff bid.

"We've probably got two more years before we really hit our rhythm," he said. "But I think this club has a good chance to be competitive."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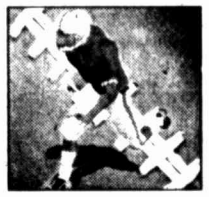
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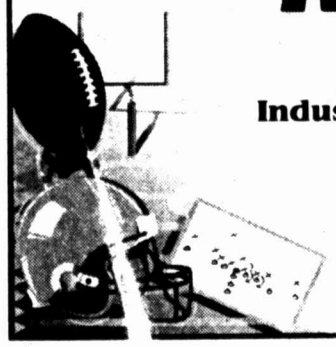
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Bulldogs figure to be long on talent but short on numbers this season

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — If the injury bug can stay away, the Coahoma Bulldogs might do some serious damage this football season.

As his squad that's long on talent but somewhat short on numbers prepares for the start of football season, Head Coach Ken Cates sees reason for optimism.

"I'd be disappointed if we're not in the mix (for a playoff spot)," said Cates, who is starting his second year at the helm at Coahoma. "We need to keep the injury bug away. Even though we have a little bit more luxury, depth-wise, we need to avoid injuries to key personnel."

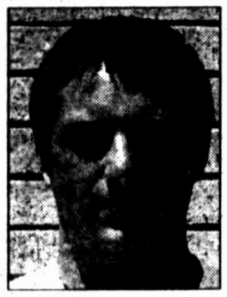
Having the players more familiar with his system also gives him confidence that the 'Dogs will improve on last season's 3-7 record.

"One of the biggest things is that this is their second year under the program," Cates said. "Last year, they were sill learning the offense and defense; now, they're more familiar with it ... We're way ahead of where we were last year."

Talent is truly apparent on the offensive line, where a quintet of seniors — Justin Cline, Cory Clanton, Jake McCain, Alecc

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 13

KERBY


HERRERA

CLANTON

GARCIA

MUNDELL

DAYLONG

McCAIN

ROBERTS

20006 COAHOMA BULLDOGS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
Sept. 1	Reagan County
Sept. 9	Roscoe at Sweetwater
Sept. 15	at Ballinger
Sept. 22	OPEN
Sept. 29	Merkel (H)*
Oct. 6	at Anson*
Oct. 13	Hawley*
Oct. 20	at Colorado City*
Oct. 27	Stamford*
Nov. 3	at Stanton*
Nov. 10	Haskell*

* Denotes District 5-2A games
(H) Denotes homecoming

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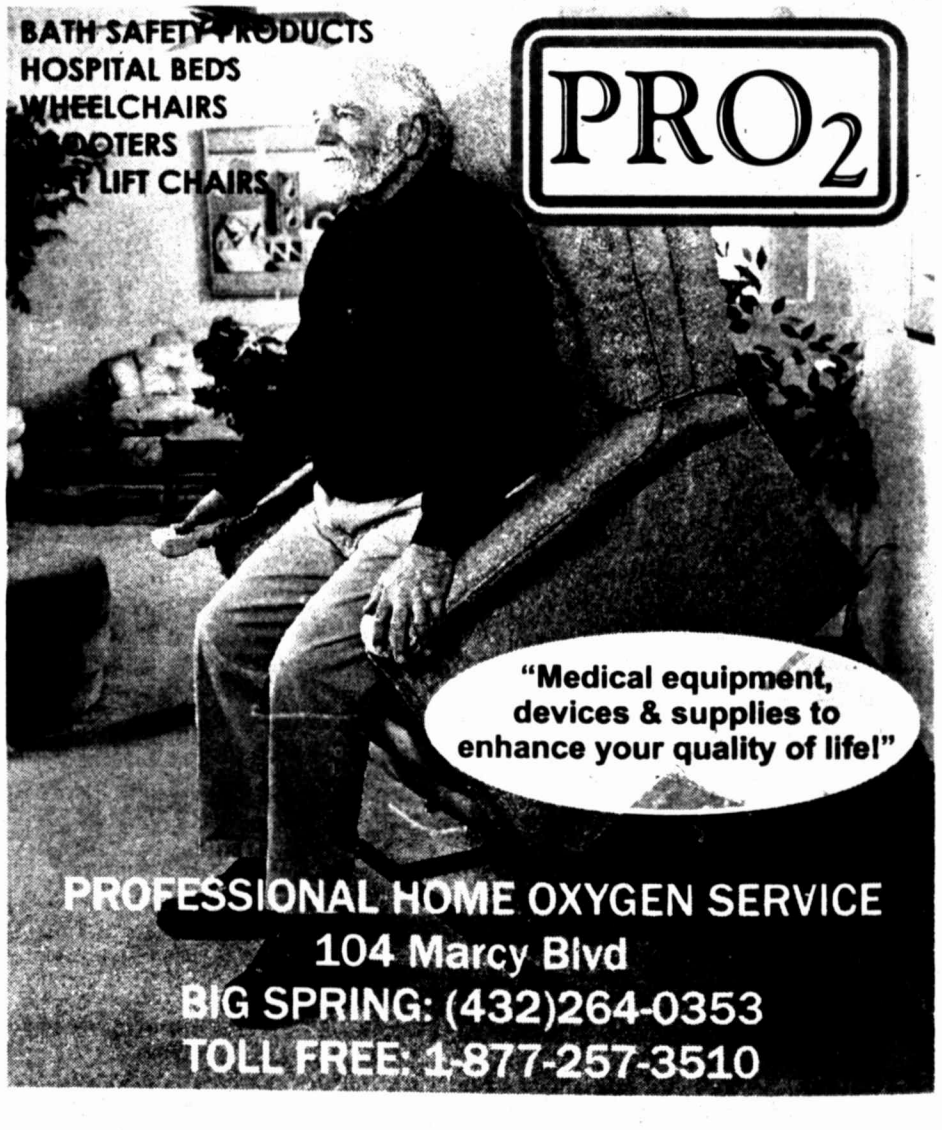


Forsan's Buffs find themselves with new 16-A foes

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — The 2006-2007 Texas schoolboy football season is just around the corner and with it the excitement of another chance to reach the ultimate goal, a shot at the playoffs and a state championship.

THOMPSON

You don't have to tell that to Forsan head coach Tommy Thompson and his Buffaloes, that's their team goal every year.

"Our team goal is to contend for the district championship," said Thompson, "and to make the playoffs."

For the Buffs, winning district this year will mean going up against some new faces.

At the end of the 2005-2006 season the districts were re-aligned with five new teams on the schedule for Forsan.

District 16-A this year will consist of some old match-ups — Forsan, Bronte and Sterling City — while Miles, Menard, Eldorado, Christoval and Irion County will hope to bring new rivalries to the district.

"Every district game this year will be key," Thompson said, "with probably the most important being Irion County where we open on Sept. 29. It would be a real positive start to get that first district win and build some momentum."

With the new teams entered into the mix it could take some time to see whoemerges as the favorite, but Thompson says likely that will be Sterling City, Christoval and Eldorado.

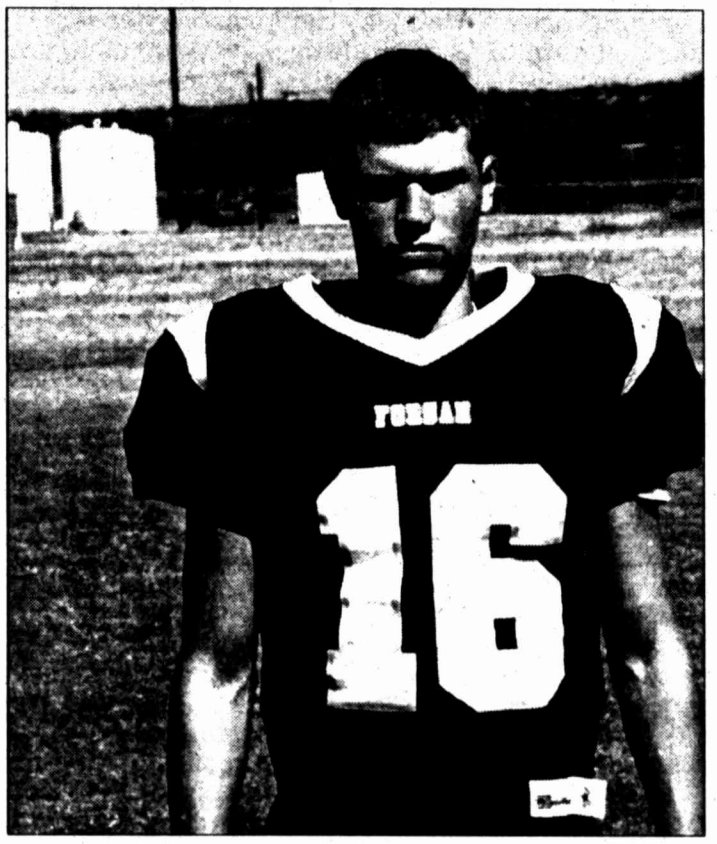
Thompson adds that the Buffs wont be thinking about that and instead focusing on the tough lessons they learned last year.

Finishing 2-8 last year was tough enough, but when you consider almost every game was a nail-biter to the very end, it's a bit tougher to swallow.

Four of the team's losses were by four points or less and two more games by less than two touchdowns.

Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson said there are a good number of student athletes playing football again this year.

"We were knocking on the door of success last year, each game was competitive," said Johnson, "These kids are excited and have speed. This year they are looking forward to knocking that door down."



Courtesy photos/Bob Fishback

Quarterback Seth Johnson (16) and tight end/defensive back Adam Bailey figure to be two of the leadders for this year's Forsan Buffaloes edition. The Buffs find themselves in a much different District 16-1A than they played in a year ago.

Forsan will enter this season without its leader from a year ago, Tye Baker. However, Thompson says he feels new leaders will emerge and this team will find its own identity very quickly.

"It will be interesting to see who will step up and lead the team this year, we have already seen some signs of who it could be," Thompson said. "There is always someone that the guys will look to, but I expect this team to respond not as individuals, but as a well-disciplined unit striving for the same goal."

Thompson added that he has a very solid group of seniors and will depend on them to take charge on the field.

Returning seniors Seth Johnson and Wesley Newcomb will look to lead the Buffs' wing-T and pro-I offensive formations this year.

Johnson, who played flanker last year, will take over the reins at quarterback for the Buffs, while Newcomb will look to better a remarkable year last season where he rushed for 1,042 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Returning from a season-ending injury in the first game last year is senior Skylier Sandridge. He will share time with his younger brother, sophomore Jace Sandrigde, giving the Buffs good depth and speed at the running back position.

Also returning is junior Adam Bailey at tight end. Thompson expects Bailey to be a big target in the passing game, but also plans to utilize his great blocking ability.

Returning junior starter James Marlow will anchor the offensive line from his guard position. He will lead what Thompson calls a "talented" front that includes junior center Blake Grantham, junior guard Aaron Hughes, and tackles Tyler Urbina, a sophomore, and junior Justin Stillwell.

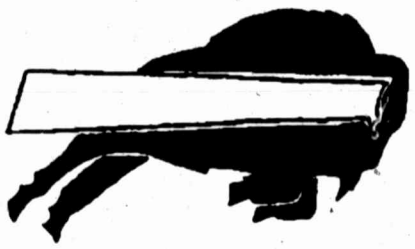
"The strength of our offense will be the line," said Thompson. "How well they play will determine how well we do offensively."

Defensively the Buffs will be seen in the 3-4-4 defensive formation this year.

Leading the defense this year will be senior Derrick Colegrove, who at 6 feet, 260 pounds will be the heart of the defensive line. Colegrove will play nose tackle with Grantham and senior Brandon Morrow setting up at the defensive end posts.

Seniors Cody Freitag and Curtis Gaston will lead the linebacking corps and Thompson says he expects them to make big plays.

See **FORSAN**, Page 13



2006 FORSAN BUFFALOES FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept 1	at Kermit
Sept 8	at Seagraves
Sept 15	Stanton (H)
Sept 22	OPEN
Sept 29	at Irion County
Oct 6	Sterling City
Oct 13	Miles
Oct 20	at Christoval
Oct 27	Bronte
Nov 3	at Eldorado
Nov 10	Menard

* Denotes District 2-1A games
(H) Denotes homecoming

Stanton needs to start strong before 5-2A play

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

STANTON — A new season is at hand and nobody is looking forward to Friday's kickoff of the 2006 football campaign more than Lee McCown and his Stanton Buffaloes.

"Things are great right now ... we're undefeated," McCown joked when asked how his team has fared thought the first three weeks of drills in this his fourth season at the Stanton helm. "We're ready for the lights to be turned on for those Friday night games. Our kids have been working very hard to get ready for the season. They're just as ready to get the regular seasons started as we coaches are."

There's reason for McCown and his charges to be optimistic, too.

After a season in which the Buffs developed hard-earned experience at the expense of a 1-9 overall record and 1-4 district slate, Stanton believes it can turn that seasoning into something special.

With 14 lettermen returning from that team, including seven starters on each side of the football, Stanton heads into this season with a couple of bonafide offensive talents in junior quarterback Garrett Fulton and senior running back Mike Carmona operating in an I-formation base attack. Carmona moves into the backfield from the wide receiver's position he held a year ago.

What's more, the Buffs' skilled personnel will be working behind an offensive line that returns intact. Center Adam Evans, guards Bobby Herrera and Eric Phillips, and tackles Joe Benny Bryant and Adrian George figure to be a much formidable force than they were a year ago.

"That's really our biggest asset offensively — the experience these kids got playing last year is going to help us," McCown said. "And having the entire offensive line back with a year's experience will make a big difference. And now we've got a seasoned quarterback, too."

Indeed. Fulton returns for his junior season after having thrown for more than 1,000 yards last year.

Stanton split defensive scheme figures to be led by returning all-district linebacker Angel Verastigui, a senior who will be a two-way performer for the Buffs. He's play tight end on offense.

Other defensive standouts figure to be seniors Evans and Zach Anderson at defensive end.

Asked about his team's weaknesses, McCown admitted his primary concern is depth. "We've just got to avoid injuries," he said. "Of course, everybody says that. You always want to be able to keep your top people healthy and on the field."

Most importantly, however, McCown says the Buffs need to get off to a good start when they play host to Grape Creek's Eagles tomorrow night at 7:30.

"We need to get in the habit of winning games again," McCown said. "We need to start strong and get to the point where we expect to win every Friday night.

"Winning is a habit," he added. "Unfortunately, so is losing. We had a taste of that last year and we want to get that turned around by getting off on the right foot. That way we can go into district play in the right frame of mind."

There won't be a lot of time to get

See STANTON, Page 14

2006 STANTON BUFFALOES FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept. 1	Grape Creek
Sept. 8	at Reagan County
Sept. 15	at Forsan
Sept. 22	OPEN
Sept. 29	Anson (H)*
Oct. 6	at Hawley*
Oct. 13	Colorado City*
Oct. 20	at Stamford*
Oct. 27	Haskell*
Nov. 3	Coahoma*
Nov. 10	at Merkel*

* Denotes District 5-2A games
(H) Denotes homecoming

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Bearkats upend defending champs in 6-on-6 finals

By TOMMY WELLS
Special to the herald

COLORADO CITY — Alex Halfmann threw for more than 200 yards and three touchdowns helped the Garden City Bearkats end the Valley Patriots' reign as the 6-on-6 national champions on July 22 at Colorado City's historic Wolf Stadium.

Sparked by two first-half touchdowns by Halfmann, the Bearkats rolled to a 28-12 victory over the Patriots in front of a small crowd at Wolf Stadium in Colorado City.

Valley had earned the inaugural national title a year ago by downing Follett, 25-14.

"This was big for us," said Garden City head coach Uriel Talamantes. "It shows (his players) that they can beat the best teams in the nation if they set their mind to it. Hopefully, this will carry over into the season for them."

Halfmann and his "Fab Five" receivers carried a lot of momentum into the championship game. The No. 1-seed from the Bryson regional qualifier, the Bearkats rolled through their first three games, outscoring their opponents by a 104-69 margin.

2006
6-on-6 National
Passing Championships
Final Results
1. Garden City
2. Valley
3. Rule
4. Meadow

In the championship game, Garden City hit on all cylinders early. The Bearkats took the opening possession and marched the length of the field on four plays to grab a 6-0 lead.

The Patriots, who had suffered a narrow 28-25 loss to Garden City earlier in the day, didn't back up. Valley rode the right arm of quarterback Cole Brown to a game-tying touchdown minutes later. Valley receiver Bryant Ortiz had several big receptions in the series.

With the score tied at 6-6, Halfmann shifted the GCHS offense into high gear. He hooked up with receivers Jared Bradford and Bo Eggemeyer and engineered a 45-yard drive that enabled the Bearkats to take a slim 14-6 advantage.

The Patriots, who own an amazing 13-2 record in 6-on-6 play over the past two years, answered right back. Valley managed to push the ball into the end zone late in the half and pulled to within 14-12.

Garden City picked up right where it left off in the second half. Despite facing a stifling rush from Valley's Jake Gass, Halfmann inflated the Garden City lead to 22-12 midway through the frame with his third TD strike of the contest.

Jansa came in at quarterback in the final series and tossed a long TD pass that iced the victory.

Valley survived a tough 26-24 battle with third-place finisher Rule in the semifinals. The Patriots' Justin Rucker caught a 31-yard touchdown pass from Brown with just under three minutes to play to help Valley rally for the two-point advantage.

Rule, the No. 2 seed from the Bryson tournament, had snared a 24-19 advantage just three minutes earlier when C.J. Saucedo pulled in a 28-yard scoring strike from T.J. Spitzer.

The Huntress
Preseason Six-Man Rankings

1. Richland Springs	31. Lometa
2. Garden City	32. Newcastle
3. Throckmorton	33. New Home
4. Trinidad	34. Crowell
5. Rule	35. Water Valley
6. Blum	36. Cherokee
7. Calvert	**37. Grady**
8. Valley	38. Rochelle
9. Meadow	39. Westbrook
10. Lorenzo	40. Ropes
11. Highland	41. Bynum
12. Fort Davis	42. Hedley
13. Robert Lee	43. Panther Creek
14. Rankin	44. Kress
15. Blanket	45. Gordon
16. Happy	46. Spur
17. Knox City	47. Bryson
18. May	48. Walnut Springs
19. Strawn	49. Whiteface
20. Petersburg	50. Brookesmith
21. Paducah	51. Buckholts
22. Wellman-Union	52. Penelope
23. Abbott	53. Kopperl
24. Aspermont	54. Rising Star
25. Santa Anna	55. Avalon
26. Eden	**56. Sands**
27. Ira	57. Chillicothe
28. Coolidge	58. Veribest
29. Aquilla	59. Gold-Burg
30. Silverton	60. Dallas Gateway

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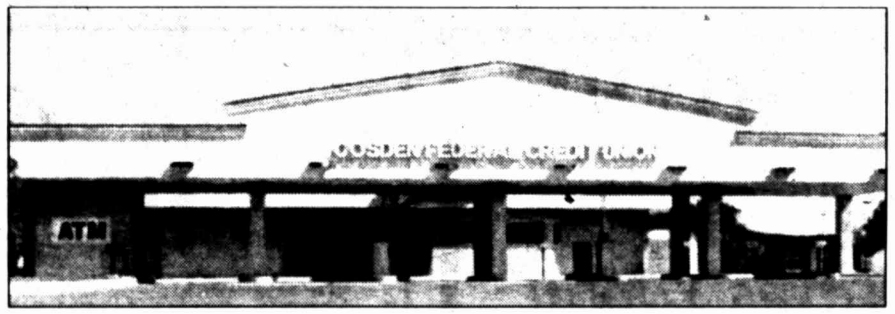
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Bearkats among 6-man elite, even with coaching change

By TOMMY WELLS

Special to the Herald

GARDEN CITY — My how times can change.

Three years ago, the Garden City Bearkats were mired in a long slump and a 10-year playoff drought.

Just two seasons later, however, Garden City fans find themselves as antsy and joyful as a kid at Christmas. Just two seasons after returning to the six-man ranks, the Bearkat faithful feel their team is among the game's elite programs and one of the favorites to vie for the newly-created six-man Division I state championship.

Here's the cold, hard truth: They're probably correct on both counts.

Garden City may well be the toast of West Texas this fall if they can adapt to a coaching change and a new offensive scheme quickly enough. The team has more than enough talent, depth and speed to make an extended postseason run into December.

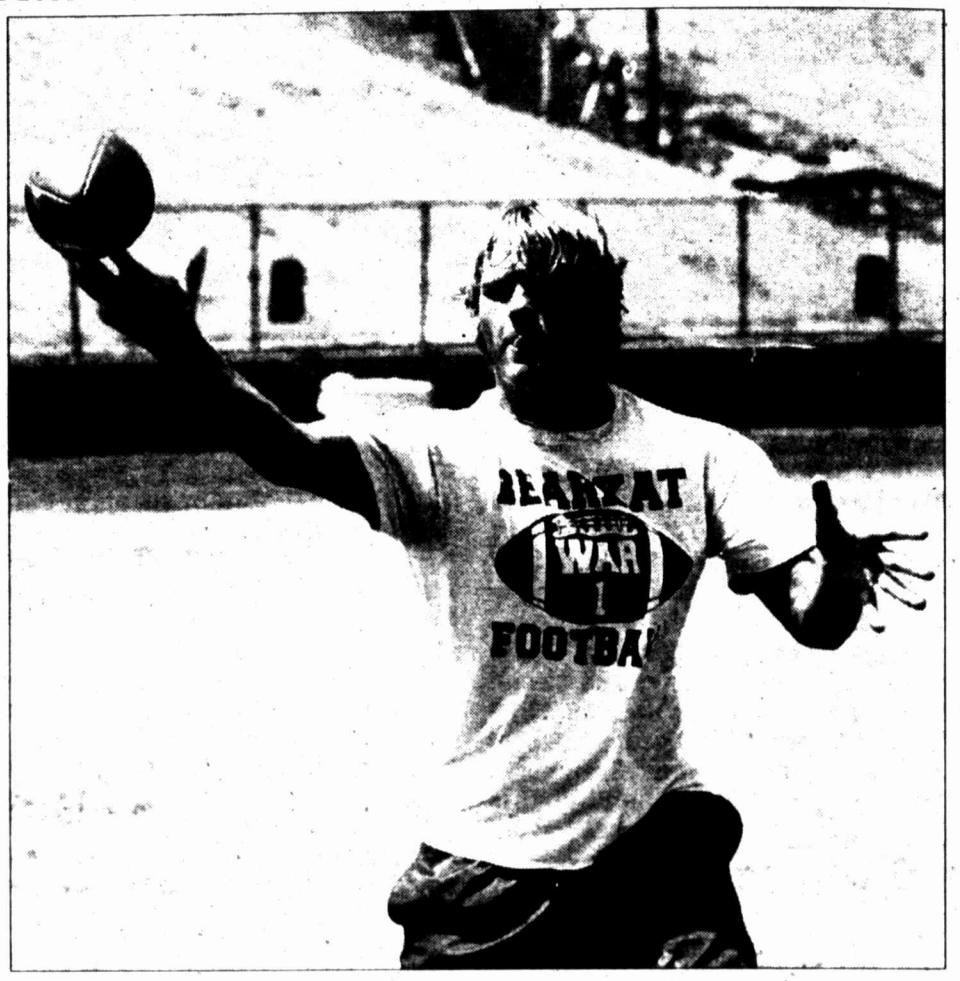
"We expect to win and be in the mix for a deep playoff run," said former Garden City head coach Ken Hoskins. "This team expects to win."

Hoskins, one of the most successful six-man coaches in the game's history, stepped down in the summer to assume the school's principal duties. He was 18-5 in two years with the Bearkats and 73-12 overall in an 11-year coaching career that included a six-man national championship at Whitharral in 2001.

The GCHS school board didn't waste any time in finding a capable replacement. Six-man coaching legend Vance Jones was hired in June to take over the program. Jones coached the Aspermont Hornets to the state playoffs in each of the last two years, and previously led the Sanderson Eagles to the state championship game.

Despite the change at the helm, Garden City still expects to win.

See **BEARKATS**, Page 13



Courtesy photo

Quarterback Alex Halfmann returns to lead Garden City's offense in 2006. The 6-foot, 190-pound senior is one of the reasons the Bearkats are ranked among the state's best 6-man teams.

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Wildcats hope to ride experience

By TOMMY WELLS

Special to the Herald

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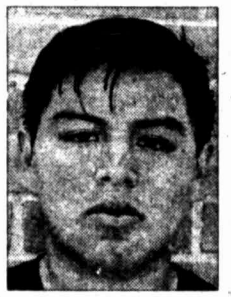
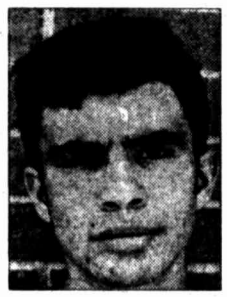
MITCHELL


SANJUAN


RODRIGUEZ

LENORAH — Last season, the Grady Wildcats knocked on the door of respectability. This year, head coach Joe Helms is hoping his experience squad can kick the door open.

Really wide open.

Truth be known, you can't really blame Helms — or any of the Wildcats — for harboring high hopes for the coming fall. Grady heads into the 2006 campaign as one of the most experienced — and quickest — squads in their new district as they return all six starters — from last year's playoff squad.

"We've got great depth back from last year's playoff team," said Helms, a Texas Tech graduate who has amassed a 47-41 record in eight years as a head coach. "If we can get out of a very tough district, I think we could be a strong playoff team."

The district Helms will lead the Wildcats into this fall is indeed tough. In fact, it may well be one of the toughest districts created by the University Interscholastic League's realignment process, pairing Grady with perennial state powers in Garden City and Fort Davis, as well as Rankin and Sands.

Despite being one of the smaller programs in the new district, Helms isn't ready to concede the Wildcats' chances — especially not with the talent he returns. Grady brings back 12 returning veterans from a year ago to mix with a solid class of newcomers.

The Wildcats, who averaged more than 350 yards and 40 points a game over the final five weeks of the 2005 regular season, will be led into the season with a potent 1-2 thunder and lightning punch in spreadbacks Tommylee Rivas and Clay Mitchell. The two combined for more than 1,500 all-purpose yards a year ago.

Rivas, a 5-foot-7, 145-pound junior, gives the Wildcats a quick elusive rusher with an ability to cut back. Mitchell, a 6-foot, 150-pounder has the size needed to pound the middle. Both are also accurate passers, as is quarterback Israel Sanjuan.

A 5-foot-7, 165-pound senior, Sanjuan is a three-year varsity player for the Wildcats.

Rivas, Mitchell and Sanjuan won't have to carry the brunt of the offensive load. Helms has a talented trio of running backs to help spread out the workload in Rolando Rodriguez, Luciano

See **GRADY**, Page 15

2006 GRADY WILDCATS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept 1	at Sanderson
Sept 8	Whiteface
Sept 15	New Home
Sept 22	Trent (H)
Sept 29	at Water Valley
Oct 6	at Hermeleigh
Oct 13	OPEN
Oct 20	Fort Davis*
Oct 27	Sands*
Nov 3	at Garden City*
Nov 10	at Rankin*

* Denotes District 1 games
(H) Denotes homecoming

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Mustangs hope to overcome growing pains

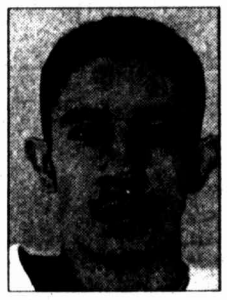
By TOMMY WELLS
Special to the Herald

Head coach Wayne Henderson is certain better days are ahead for the storied Sands Mustangs football program. Simply put, the Mustangs have too much tradition and pride to stay down too long.

Fresh off a 2-8 campaign and five years removed from a trip to the state semifinals, Henderson said he's confident his team is more than capable of ending the slide of a program that once ruled the West Texas scenery as much as mesquite trees and Johnson grass.

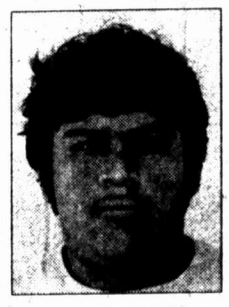
"We're going to be better this year," said Henderson, who is entering his third year at the helm of the Mustangs' program. "We've got good numbers out this year, and these young men have worked hard. I really think we're going to be better."

Last fall, Sands suffered through a tough season that included more than their share of lowlights. The team won just two of its eight games and struggled to find its groove on offense. The Mustangs averaged just 25 points a game a season ago and were held to less than two touchdowns in five of their 10 outings.


BRISENO

J. GOMEZ

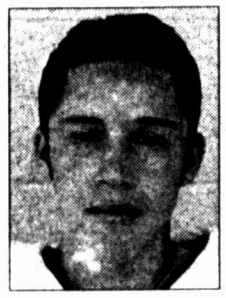
JESUS CASAS


M. GOMEZ

One thing Henderson is quick to point out, however. That was last year.

Although they won't have the services of Cevan Smithson, Santos Ybarra, Trent Rogers and Greg Carter, the Mustangs return a small corps of veterans they feel should be more than able to give Sands a shot at reaching the .500 plateau for the first time since 2001.

YBARRA


K. PEACOCK

Among the main stars back to push Sands' efforts this fall will be seniors Mathew Ybarra, Kenneth Peacock and Jesus Casas.

Ybarra will likely step into the limelight this season as the team's top rusher. The 5-foot-9-130-pound standout turned in solid effort a year ago as a junior, rolling up more than 700 all-purpose yards. The team's second-leading rusher, he motored his way to 567 yards and seven touchdowns on just 89 carries in 2005. He also hauled in 16 passes for 188 yards and two more scores.

Peacock, one of three seniors

See **SANDS**, Page 15

2006 SANDS MUSTANGS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept 2	Spur at Jayton
Sept 8	Wilson
Sept 15	Westbrook
Sept 22	at Loop
Sept 29	Klondike (H)
Oct 6	at Dawson
Oct 13	Garden City*
Oct 20	Rankin*
Oct 27	at Grady*
Nov 3	at Fort Davis*
Nov 10	OPEN

* Denotes District 1 games
(H) Denotes homecoming

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BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 6

Herrera and Skylar Mundell — will be called upon to open running lanes for Cate's option attack.

Fellow senior Blaine Kerby, who started the last four games of the 2005 season, is set as the starting quarterback.

"When he came in there (last season), he kind of got thrown in without a lot of experience," Cates said. "But he did a good job and got better as he went along."

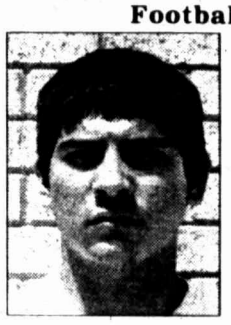
Cates currently has sophomores P.J. Daylong and Donnie Garcia listed as starting running backs, but said depth at those positions will probably result in several different Bulldogs carrying the ball.

"Overall, there's a lot of depth at running back," he said. "Anytime you have that, I wouldn't exactly call it competing for playing time, but it definitely is a good problem to have."

Seniors Domingo Rodriquez and B.J. Rodriquez, along with junior Colter Morgan, will man the receiving slots on offense.

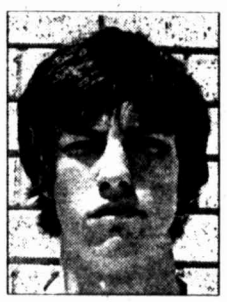
Defensively, the biggest question mark is in the secondary, where Kerby at safety and seniors

TEAFF



D. RODRIGUEZ

B.J. RODRIGUEZ



KENNEDY

Stephen Ewing and Jason Gonzales at the corners are the leading candidates for starting positions so far.

"The biggest concern, team-wise, is with the defensive secondary," Cates said. "We had some seniors there last season ... and it's one of those areas, if they get past our secondary, it's usually six points for the other team."

Elsewhere, though, the defensive lineup is fairly set. Herrera, McCain and Cline are set on the line, while Daylong, sophomore Cory Roberts and seniors David Rodriguez, Garcia and Dakota Teaff will man the linebacker slots.

The Bulldogs open the season at home Sept. 1 at home against Reagan County, then face Roscoe and Ballinger to conclude the non-district portion of their schedule.

"Those non-district games are pretty vital for making sure we have our personnel in the right positions," Cates said. "Because once we start district, that will be seven games in a row when we'll have to play our best."

UIL realignment brought Merkel down to Class 2A, where it will join Coahoma, Anson, Hawley, Colorado City, Stamford, Stanton and Haskell in the redrawn District 5.

Cates gives Merkel a pre-emptive nod, based on its years of playing in a higher classification, but added that anyone in the district has a chance at the playoffs.

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

FORSAN

Continued from Page 7

The secondary will be led by Bailey switching. He will be paired with Justin Wilson at the safety positions.

Along with starting cornerback Skylier Sandridge, they will give the defense speed and size and, according to Thompson, they are all "big hitters."

Thompson brings back a solid coaching staff again this year with Dave Park, Terry McDonald, Bradley Batla and Jason Phillips returning to the sideline. Batla and Phillips will once again coach the junior varsity as well.

He has also added two members to the staff as Gary Huckabee and Travis Breitschopf will head up the junior high program and assist with the varsity.

As always, the Buffs expect to have a strong following, with their fans filling the stands at home and away games.

The Buffs kick off the season at home as they welcome the Kermit Yellowjackets to Buffalo Stadium on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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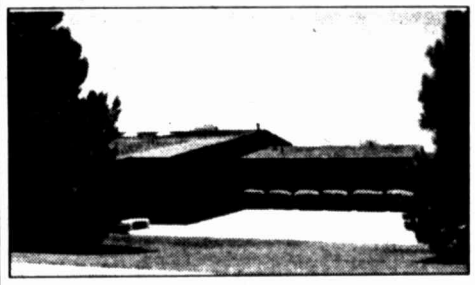

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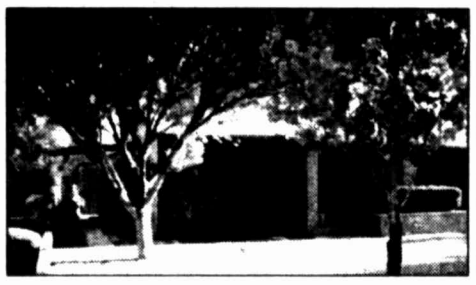

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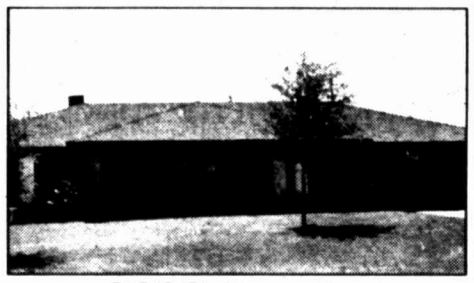

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HOLT

GROAGE

DANIELS

MEDINA

ZAMBRANO

MORGAN

AMARO

ANDERSON

STEERS

Continued from page 4

among Ontiveros, Fankhauser, Parker, Aguilar and Tannehill.

University Interscholastic League realignment, which took place earlier this year, moved long-time district foe Andrews down to Class 3A, but the Mustangs are retained on the non-district schedule, which also includes Odessa, San Angelo, Hereford, Abilene Wylie and Sweetwater.

Unlike previous seasons, the Steers' non-district schedule does not include as many teams from Class 5A and concentrates instead on Class 3A teams such as Wylie, Sweetwater and Andrews.

That, Holt said, does not mean that the quality of opposition will be any less fierce.

"Our goal was to have a consistently tough schedule from the first through the sixth games — with the opportunity to win or lose all six games," he said.

"We didn't want the competition so ridiculous that we didn't have a chance, and we didn't want it so easy that we just blew people out."

The redrawn District 4-4A includes Big Spring, Plainview, Frenship, Lubbock Estacado and San Angelo Lake View.

"This is one of those districts where four or five teams can beat everybody else," Holt said. "There's going to be a high level of competition for four weeks in a row."

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

STANTON

Continued from Page 8

ready for district play, however.

Following the University Interscholastic League's realignment of districts earlier this year, the Buffaloes find themselves in District 5-2A, an eight-team league. And that means Stanton has just three games to get ready for a slate of seven district games.

Joining the Buffs in 5-2A are Coahoma, Colorado City, Anson, Haskell, Hawley, Merkel and Stamford.

Asked to pick a favorite in the league, McCown said he simply couldn't.

"To be honest, it looks like we've got eight very similar football teams in this district," he said. "It ought to be a real war to see which three teams make it into the playoffs. That's another reason I think it's going to be awfully important for us to get off to a good start."

The Buffs enter regular season play after having scrimmaged both Sonora and Kermit. The latter of the two, McCown said, proved to be a time when his team seemed to take a big step toward where he and his staff want it to be.

"We really took a big step forward last week," he said. "We moved the ball well and played pretty well defensively. We gave up some big plays, but there's no question that we're improving. I think we'll be ready when Friday night rolls around."

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GRADY

Continued from Page 11

Najera and Aguedo Najera, a hard-running 5-foot-7, 150-pound senior.

Rodriguez and Luciano Najera are both juniors.

As good as the backfield may be, the Grady offensive front may be even better. In fact, pound-for-pound, the Wildcats' offensive front of Taylor Field, Justin Tubb abd Lane Shands could be the best six-man fronts in the United States. The three are big, quick, have good hands and deliver bone-jarring blocks.

Field, a 6-foot-1, 200-pound senior, headlines the Wildcats' version of the "triplets." He led the team in receptions last season en route to earning all-region accolades. He is a second-team preseason all-American selection by Six-Man Illustrated magazine.

Tubb, an athletic 6-foot-5, 215-pound junior, is just as impressice. He registered several clutch touchdown receptions last fall and was an all-district selection.

Tubb is a preseason honorable mention six-man all-American pick.

Though not as well known as the two receivers, the 5-foot-7, 165-pound Shands gives Grady a steady center and a viable option as a receiver.

Defensively, the Wildcats will have a speedy squad that should be able to give opposing offenses plenty of trouble.

Shands and Ernest Juarez, a 5-foot-8, 170-pound junior, will return as defensive ends, while Aguedo Najera and Santos Montoya, a 5-foot-8, 160-pound junior, are slated to return as linebackers.

Rodriguez and Field will man the safety positions again this fall.

The one thing Grady will have plenty of this season is depth. The Wildcats opened two-a-day practices with 27 players.

If there is one thing on Helms' preseason wish list, it may well be his team can get off to a quicker start than a year ago.

Grady dropped its first five games last season before rallying to win four of their final five outings to clinch a playoff spot.

A quicker start would enable the team to build some confidence before beginning district play on Oct. 20 against Fort Davis.

The Wildcats are scheduled to begin their 2006 season on Sept. 1 in Sanderson. From there, they will face Whiteface, New Home, Trent, Water Valley and Hermleigh in non-district action.

SANDS

Continued from Page 12

expected to start for the Mustangs this fall, will likely move into the full-time quarterback role this fall.

Fellow senior Manual Gomez will anchor a young offensive line this season. A 6-foot, 210-pounder, he has started at center in each of the last two years from Sands. Henderson said he expects several prospects, including 5-foot-9, 130-pound senior Alberto Briseno and 6-foot-1, 145-pound sophomore Jesus Gomez, to battle for the end positions.

Defensively, the Mustangs probably won't resemble the squad that surrendered 495 points in 2005. Although the team will still be young, Sands brings back three battle-tested stars to anchor the unit.

The Mustangs appear solid up front as Peacock and all-district returnee Jesus Casas return as defensive ends. Peacock, who played as a defensive back last fall, will give Henderson a speedy rusher, while Casas should continue to emerge as a defensive standout. Last fall as a sophomore, Casas averaged almost nine tackles a game.

Although Henderson will have to plug in two new linebackers, he won't have to look too far to find a defensive leader. Ybarra returns at safety to headline the Mustang defense after turning in an impressive effort as a junior.

Last year, he recorded a team-high 89 tackles.

Altough Henderson feels his program is about to turn the corner, he isn't trying to fool anyone. Getting to .500 won't be easy – especially with the new district Sands was placed into this past February by the University Interscholastic League. Among the Mustangs' new stablemates are perennial state powers in Garden City and Fort Davis as well as Grady and former 11-man superpower Rankin, which will be making its 6-man debit this season.

"It's a tough district," he said. "There are some very good teams in our district. We're going to have to play hard every play this year."

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BEARKATS

Continued from Page 10

And the reason the Bearkats expect to win is simple: They have a ton of top-notch players coming back. Overall, Jones heads into the season with four offensive and five defensive starters returning from a team that went 10-2 and advanced to the area round of the playoffs last year

One of the key figures in Garden City's plans this fall will be quarterback Alex Halfmann. The 6-foot, 190-pound senior will again be pulling the trigger on a high-octane offensive unit. Under Halfmann, Garden City averaged more than 40 points and more than 350 yards a game in 2005.

Last season, Halfmann was the fourth-leading passer in the state after completing 113 of 173 attempts for 1,960 yards and 30 touchdowns. He also rushed for 581 yards and six scores on just 63 attempts.

"He's definitely one of the best in the state," said Grandfalls-Royalty assistant coach Dale Means. "He does a lot of things well, and he doesn't beat himself."

Last seasons numbers — both personal and team-wise -- could pale in comparison to Halfmann could produce this fall considering the all-star cast he will have surrounding him this fall.

Back to help Halfmann light up the scoreboards in 2006 are two of the Bearkats' top offensive threats of a year ago — running backs Bo Eggemeyer and receiver Jared Bradford. Eggemeyer and Bradford accounted for more than 2,700 yards of offense a year ago.

Eggemeyer, a 5-foot-8, 140-pound junior, was the Bearkats' top rusher in 2005, rolling up 1,048 yards and a team-high 17 rushing TDs on just 68 attempts. He also hauled in 25 passes for 365 yards and another eight touchdowns.

Bradford, a speedy 6-foot, 170-pound senior, is a doual threat offensively. A year ago, he rushed for 664 yards and 14 touchdowns while also pulling down 39 receptions for 864 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Eggemeyer and Bradford aren't the only weapons Halfmann will have at his call. Should he need a crucial block or a big target to throw to he'll have little trouble finding Colton Schwartz. At 6-foot-2, 180-pounds, he is capable of dominating opposing rushers as well as catching the ball as an end. Last fall, Scwartz had six receptions — four for touchdowns — despite seeing limited time as a backup.

The biggest decision Jones will likely make during summer two-a-day drills is who will fill the other end position and who will serve as the team's center, replacing Cory Multer and Dusty Walker. Multer and Walter graduated last May.

Defensively, Garden City heads into the new season just as loaded — and fast. Heading into two-a-day workouts, the Bearkats have four returning veterans — all of which run the 40-yard dash in 4.9 or less.

Senior end Blaine Walker will highlight the Bearkats' defensive push up front. The speedy 5-foot-9, 150-pounder recorded 90 tackles last year as a junior.

Schwartz will anchor Garden City's linebacking corps. An all-state candidate, his size and speed (4.8) should enable him to create havoc for opposing rushers and receivers.

One area Jones will be looking for a younger player to step up is at the other linebacking position. Garden City was left with a big hole to fill this offseason when Cade Doss graduated. Doss led the GCHS defense in tackles in 2005 with 104 stops.

The Bearkats' defensive secondary will be one of the team's strengths as both Jason Flores, a 5-foot-11, 150-pound senior, and Halfmann, both return after posting stellar numbers last year.

Flores had four interceptions a year ago as a junior.

Making a run at the state playoffs — even as talented as Garden City will be — won't be easy. During the off-season, the Bearkats were placed into a tough district featuring playoff-tested squads from Grady and Fort Davis, an emerging six-man power in Rankin and a rapidly improving Sands squad.

Getting to district play won't be easy, either. In fact, it might well be the toughest non-district schedule in history. Of the Bearkats' first five opponents three won state titles last fall, one advanced to the state semifinals and the other was ranked among the nation's top independent squads.

The Bearkats open their 2006 season with a bang on Sept. 2 when they travel to Central Texas to compete in the annual Hico Classic — a six-man showcase featuring some of the top teams in the state. Garden City's first opponent of the season is none other than defending state champion Throckmorton.

2006 GARDEN CITY BEARKATS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept. 2	Throckmorton at Hico Classic
Sept. 8	Grandfalls-Royalty
Sept. 15	at Midland Trinity
Sept. 22	Abilene Christian(H)
Sept. 29	at Lorenzo
Oct. 6	EP Emmanuel Bapt.
Oct. 13	at Sands*
Oct. 20	OPEN
Oct. 27	Rankin*
Nov. 3	Grady*
Nov. 10	at Fort Davis*

* Denotes District 1 games
(H) Denotes homecoming

Following their matchup with Throckmorton, the Bearkats will host Grandfalls-Royalty on Sept. 8 before facing 2005 T-CAL state champion Midland Trinity and 2005 TAPPS champion Abilene Christian High School in back-to-back bouts on Sept. 15 and Sept. 22, respectively. They will face Lorenzo on Sept. 29.

No surprise: Southlake Carroll still No. 1 in AP poll

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Southlake Carroll begins this season like the end of the last one — ranked first and holding off Lufkin.

Carroll, the perennial North Texas power with three state titles and a 63-1 record the past four seasons, is the preseason No. 1 in Class 5A for the third straight year in The Associated Press high school poll released Sunday.

The Dragons received 14 of the 20 first-place votes but are just seven points ahead of Lufkin, which was ranked No. 1 on the six other ballots. Carroll beat Lufkin 46-28 in the Division II semifinals in December before defeating Katy for the championship.

Carroll has remained No. 1 for 23 consecutive AP polls. In other words, being the state's No. 1 team is all new Carroll quarterback Riley Dodge has known since he started high school in 2004.

"I do believe that the longer this goes on, the kids get better with playing with that bull's eye on their chest," said Carroll coach Todd Dodge, Riley's father.

Garland, A&M Consolidated and Euless Trinity round out the top five in 5A.

Brenham begins the season No. 1 in Class 4A after picking up 13 first-place votes. Texarkana and Copperas Cove each received three first-place votes and are Nos. 2 and 3, respectively.

Brenham's only loss last season was in the Division II semifinals to eventual champion Corpus Christi Callalen, which is ranked fifth. Stephenville is fourth, while defending Division I champion Highland Park cracked No. 10 in large thanks to a single first-place vote.

In Class 3A, a dozen first-place votes propelled Cuero to the No. 1 spot ahead of Gilmer, which topped the ballot of seven voters. Wimberley, the undefeated state champion in Division I last season, got one first-place vote and is ranked fifth.

Celina, the Class 2A Division II champion last year, begins its return to Class 3A ranked No. 10.

Gilmer's season ended last year in the Division II area playoffs at the hands of Canton and quarterback G.J. Kinne — the eventual 3A player of the year who has since transferred to Gilmer amid safety concerns and pledged to play college football at Baylor.

"This is easily the best team I've ever been a part of," said Kinne, whose family says felt threatened at Canton after a jury convicted a former teammate's father of critically shooting Kinne's dad, Gary Joe Kinne.

Canton's playoff run ended last year to eventual state champion Tatum, which dropped to Class 2A this year but elevated to rarified esteem: Tatum received all 20 first-place votes in Class 2A, becoming just the third team since 1998 to be unanimously selected No. 1.

Even without Young, 'Horns expect to roll

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

The outlook for the Big 12 this season has zigged and zagged like a Vince Young broken-field run ever since the Texas quarterback sprinted into the end zone to win the national championship.

Winners of 20 straight games, the Longhorns would've been a certain preseason No. 1 — in the country, not just the conference — had Young stuck around Austin for his senior season. After months of saying he would, Young turned pro, leaving Texas without an experienced quarterback and lowering expectations for 2006.

They weren't even picked to win their own division, the Big 12 South.

Oklahoma got the nod, in part because the Sooners went through the growing pains of breaking in a young quarterback last season. Sophomore Rhett Bomar won six of his last seven games and was only expected to get better, especially with running back Adrian Peterson returning to full strength.

Then, last week, Bomar was kicked off the team for violating NCAA rules.

So, ready or not, the Longhorns became the Big 12 favorites again.

Years of highly ranked recruiting classes have left Texas loaded with talent. Coach Mack Brown has 16 returning starters, including sophomore running back Jamaal Charles, and depth at nearly every position — except the most important one.

It was tough recruiting anyone to back up Young. Brown didn't fret over it because he wasn't expecting to need a replacement until 2007.

"I thought Vince would come back, very honestly; I might have been the only one in America that did," said Brown, quickly adding that he believes Young made the right decision.

The next decision is Brown's. Does he go with redshirt freshman Colt McCoy or Jevan Snead, who finished high school a semester early and began college in January?

"Both of those young guys exceeded our expectations in the spring," Brown said. "They've shown great leadership. ... But we also will not know who they are in practice. We'll have to wait until we put them in a pressure situation, in a ballgame, to learn more about them."

If he hadn't just won a national championship, detractors would be accusing Brown of making excuses. Not anymore.

He ripped off his "can't win the big one" label by leading Texas on a run that's featured the school's first national title since 1969, the first conference title of his coaching career, two Rose Bowl victories and the end of a five-game losing streak to Oklahoma.

Young's departure gives Brown some leeway this season, especially with Ohio State coming to Austin on Sept. 9. The Buckeyes will be looking to avenge a loss on their home turf last season and they'll be chasing a freshman quarterback.

Or two.

"We will work really, really hard to try to separate the two at some point," Brown said. "But since you do not hit your quarterbacks during practice, it will probably take game experience before we'll all know which one will lead the team more readily."

A capsule look at the teams in predicted order of finish:

SOUTH

TEXAS

Whoever wins the QB battle will still run the sprint draw that Young used to perfection, "but we probably won't have the third down-and-30 scrambles that we had for first downs," Brown said. ... Redshirt tight end Jermichael Finley (6-foot-5, 220 pounds) is drawing rave reviews. ... Starting safety Michael Griffin could be joined in the secondary by twin brother Marcus.

OKLAHOMA

Senior QB Paul Thompson will start his second straight opener for the Sooners. Bomar replaced him in Week 2 and Thompson was later moved to receiver. ... J.D. Quinn, who started four games at right guard last season and was Bomar's roommate, also was thrown off the team. ... Peterson — who is within 1,086 yards of breaking Billy Sims' school career record — was voted preseason offensive player of the year. LB Rufus Alexander was picked the top defender.

TEXAS TECH

After six years of leading the nation in passing while plugging in seemingly any ol' quarterback, Mike Leach is finally going to have a highly touted prospect take over. But will it be sophomore Graham Harrell, a former Texas prep star, or redshirt freshman Chris Todd of Kentucky? ... The Red Raiders have gotten rid of AstroTurf and switched to FieldTurf.

TEXAS A&M

Sophomore QB Stephen McGee got his first start in the season finale against Texas because Reggie McNeal was hurt and won over fans with his tenacious effort, plus his 108 yards rushing and two TDs. ... Coach Dennis Franchione switched defensive coordinators, asking former Texas coordinator Gary Darnell to rebuild a secondary that ranked last in Division I-A.

BAYLOR

Look out for a new offense imported from Division II, where it averaged 364 passing yards and 40 points per game for West Texas A&M. ... The Bears are coming off a 5-6 season. Two overtime losses prevented them from having a winning record for the first time since the Big 12 began 10 seasons ago.

OKLAHOMA STATE

DE Victor DeGrate came up with the nickname "The Regulators" for the defense during a meeting last spring. ... After winning two NCAA heavyweight wrestling titles, Steve Mocco is trying football. He'll be tried at defensive tackle, although he may not make it onto the field.

NORTH

NEBRASKA

The Cornhuskers were the media's pick to win the North. ... Coach Bill Callahan's conversion to a passing offense resulted in an average of 96 yards rushing per game, worst in the Big 12 last season. Much more is expected this season from TBs Cody Glenn, Marlon Lucky, Brandon Jackson and juco transfer Kenny Wilson.

IOWA STATE

In his 12th season, Dan McCarney is now the dean of Big 12 coaches. ... DT Brent Curvey, LB Adam Carper and CB DeAndre Jackson are the only full-time starters in place from the unit that allowed the fewest points in the North division last year. ... Senior RB Stevie Hicks, who had three 100-yard games last season but also was slowed by injuries, says he's 100 percent healthy.

COLORADO

New coach Dan Hawkins has won over players and fans since replacing Gary Barnett. Hawkins went 53-11 over five years at Boise State and much has been made of his fun-loving approach. ... Hawkins' son, Cody, is a freshman competing for time at quarterback. Juniors Brian White and Bernard Jackson are the front-runners to replace Joel Klatt.

KANSAS:

The Jayhawks should win more games simply because Texas A&M, Baylor and Oklahoma State replace Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Texas on their schedule. ... Jayhawks fans are excited about their new starting QB, freshman Kerry Meier, brother of Kansas State QB candidate Dylan Meier.

MISSOURI

Coming off their second bowl victory in 24 years, the Tigers must replace Brad Smith, a four-year starter at QB. ... Sophomore QB Chase Daniel is the favorite after leading Mizzou to an OT win over Iowa State when Smith was hurt.

KANSAS STATE

Bill Snyder retired after a second straight losing season and was replaced by 36-year-old Ron Prince, who had been Virginia's offensive coordinator. ... The QB battle is between Dylan Meier; sophomore Allan Evridge and Josh Freeman.

Texas tries to defend title without Vince

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — To this day, Texas coach Mack Brown insists he thought Vince Young would return for another season and a run at another national title.

"I may have been the only one in America who did," Brown said.

In Brown's defense, Young had said as much leading up his star-making performance in the Rose Bowl.

But the quarterback had a change of heart a few days later and left for the NFL. With one Sunday afternoon news conference, Texas fell from national title favorite this season into the pack of contenders.

That left Brown, who traded the derogatory label of "Coach February" for the exclusive "National Champion," trying to repeat the title with a team loaded with talent but led by a pair of freshman quarterbacks in Colt McCoy and Jevan Snead.

And there are some who think he can't.

See TEXAS, Page 23

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Red Raiders seek to break 10-win drought

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — On the 30th anniversary of their last 10-win season, the Texas Tech Red Raiders stand poised to break through again.

They can't get much closer than they did last season, when a wobbly game-ending field goal by Alabama in the Cotton Bowl gave the Crimson Tide a 13-10 victory and left Tech at nine wins for the fourth time since 1976.

Now the Red Raiders will try to remember how important each step along the way can be, said sophomore quarterback Graham Harrell, a strong candidate to be at the controls of the nation's most prolific passing offense.

He used as an example a 24-17 late-season loss to Oklahoma State, the only Big 12 win for the last-place Cowboys.

"I don't think we're missing anything physically," Harrell said. "I think this could be the year we get over the hump and, hopefully, stay there."

The Red Raiders have certainly shown some staying power in coach Mike Leach's six seasons. They've been to a bowl game each year, and last season's 9-3 record was good for a No. 20 national ranking and a second-place South tie with Oklahoma.

If Tech reaches 10 wins for the sixth time in school history, it will be with the first underclassman to start at quarterback for Leach since his first season in 2000, when sophomore Kliff Kingsbury started a three-year run that made him the school's all-time leading passer.

Harrell, a sophomore from Ennis who holds the state high school record for touchdown passes in a season (67), and freshman Chris Todd of Elizabethtown, Ky., have spent fall practices in competition for the starting job.

Leach said the program is no stranger to putting a quarterback out there who hasn't had much game experience.

"We've had pretty good success overcoming a lot of that in the past," said Leach, whose offense has led the nation in passing four straight seasons. Harrell and Todd "are real good students of the

See TECH, Page 24

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Baylor changing offense and expectations

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

WACO — Guy Morriss has been trying to change things since he got to Baylor: personnel, attitudes, perceptions and the outcome of the games.

Now in his fourth season, Morriss has changed the Bears' offense — and emphasized the expectations.

"One of our goals again is to get in a bowl," Morriss said. "We have to make that happen."

Baylor is the only Big 12 team without a bowl appearance — or even a winning season — since the conference was formed 10 seasons ago.

The Bears came close last year with a 5-6 record that included overtime losses at Texas A&M and Oklahoma, the latter in two overtimes after a missed extra point in regulation. They won two Big 12 games in the same season for the first time with their first conference road victory.

"The motivation is we're disappointed. We felt we should have definitely been better than 5-6," senior quarterback Shawn Bell said. "We don't look back at the games we won. Instead, we look back at we should have beaten OU and Texas A&M, instead of having just a half-decent season."

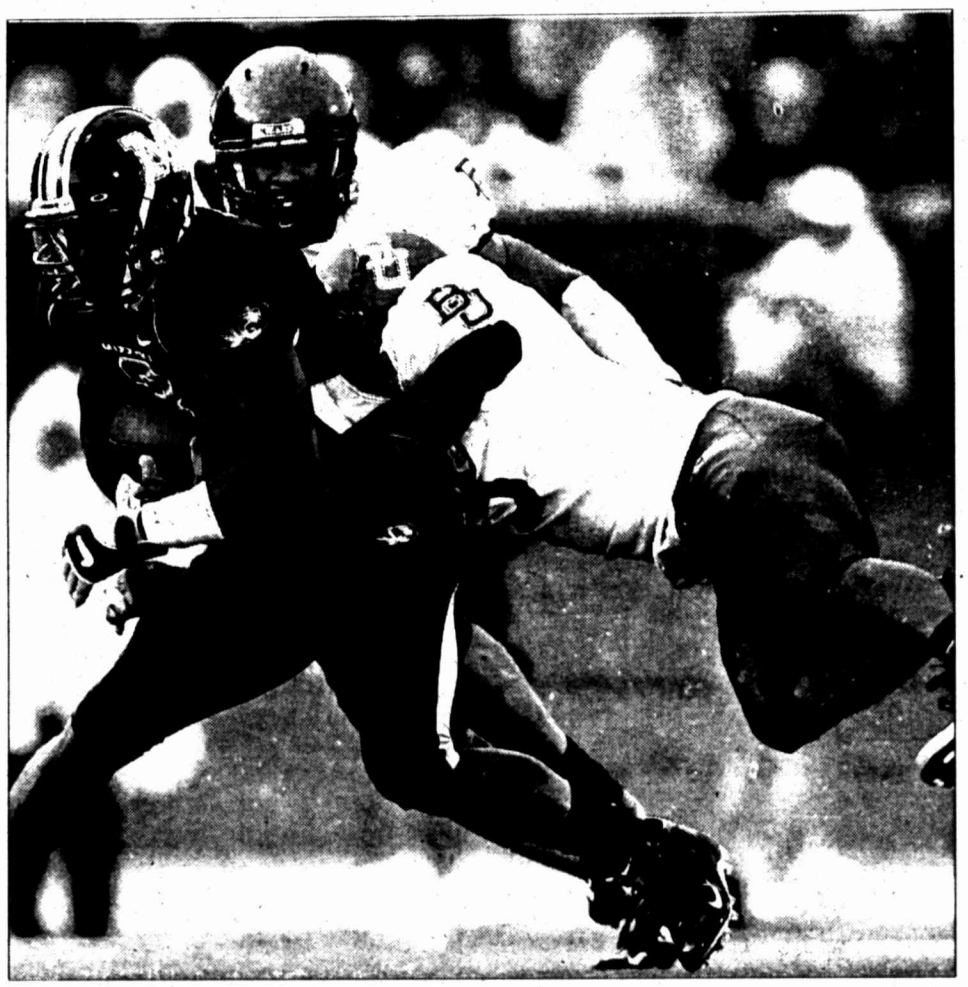
Morris has finally done something he has thought about since arriving at Baylor from Kentucky.

Baylor is now running a wide-open passing offense similar to the one Mike Leach and Morris were part of on Hal Mumme's staffs at Valdosta State and Kentucky. And the one Leach has used for six consecutive bowl appearances at Texas Tech.

"The turnaround gets fixed in a hurry if you win enough games. And I think changing this offense will help us win more games," said Morriss, 11-23 at Baylor. "We were close last year, but we needed a little bit more octane in the tank. Hopefully, this offense, if we execute it right, will do that for us."

What helped persuade Morriss to finally make the switch was being able to hire offensive coordinator Lee Hays and quarterbacks coach

See BAYLOR, Page 25



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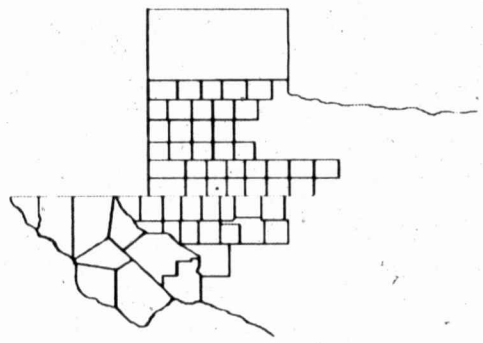

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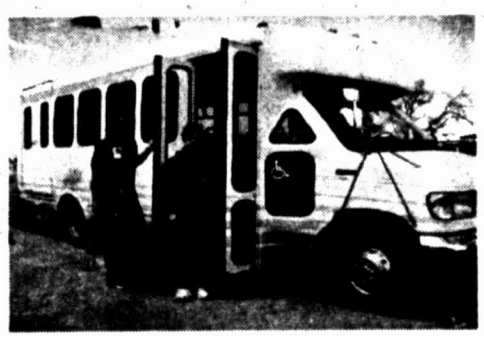

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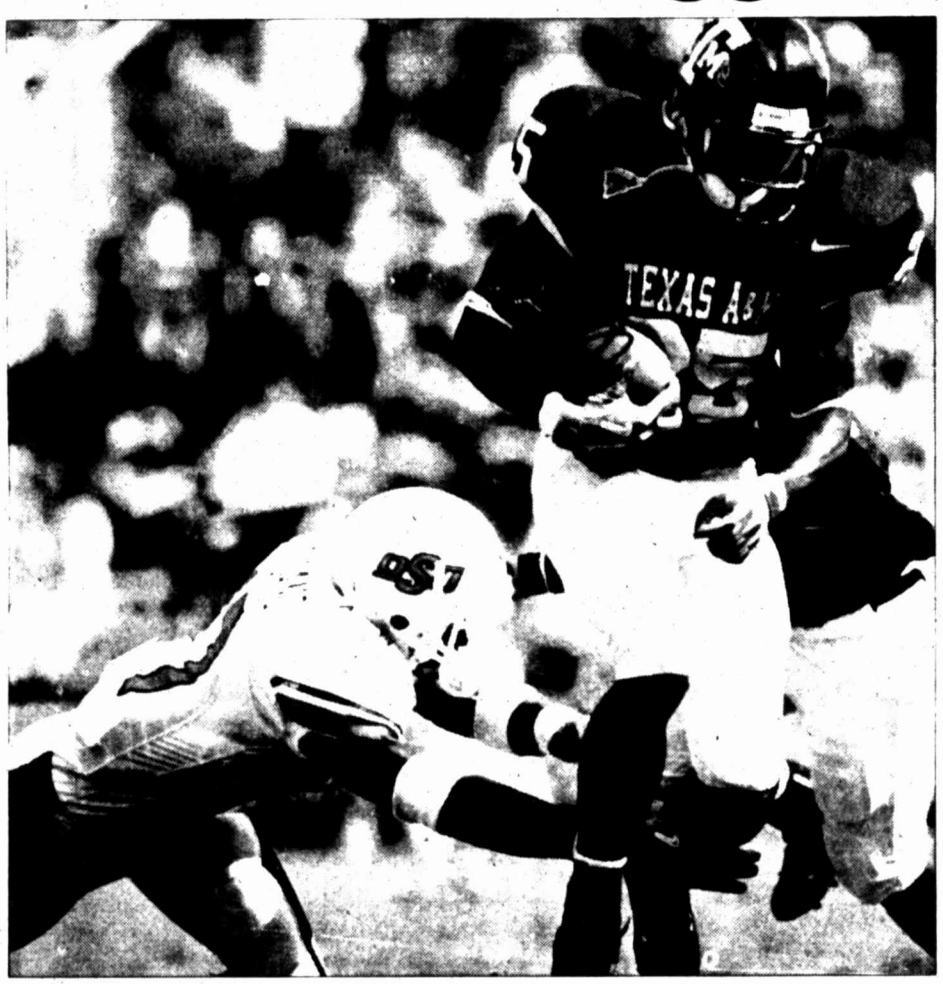
Franchione, Aggies facing a pivotal year



By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M fans won't stand for this much longer.

The Aggies went 5-6 last season, their second losing record in three years under Dennis Franchione. A&M hasn't had two losing seasons so close together since going 4-7 in 1980 and 5-6 in 1982.

Making matters worse, while A&M has stumbled, Big 12 South neighbors Oklahoma and Texas have soared, with one or the other reaching the last three BCS national championship games. The Aggies have lost 10 of the last 11 meetings against the Sooners and Longhorns.

Franchione, whose contract runs through 2011, said he isn't feeling the heat — yet — from the Aggies' traditionally demanding fan base.

"This is just like every other year," Franchione said. "I don't feel a lot different about this year than any other year I've had in coaching."

A soft nonconference schedule will ease the pressure, but Franchione can point to several areas that need improvement from last season, starting with one of the nation's worst defenses.

Texas A&M ranked 107th in yards allowed and last in pass defense in 2005, prompting Franchione to replace defensive coordinator Carl Torbush with former Western Michigan coach Gary Darnell.

Darnell, the defensive coordinator at Texas in the early 1990s, sold Franchione with a 4-2-5 alignment that subtracts a linebacker for a defensive back. Darnell's scheme also just happens to be the one Franchione used at previous coaching stops at New Mexico and TCU.

"We didn't need to make an earth-shattering change — we needed to make a change," Franchione said. "We were very good at this defense at New Mexico and TCU. I know this defense well. The flexibility of coverage is the big change. We can do so many more coverage combinations with easy adjustments than we could before."

See AGGIES, Page 26

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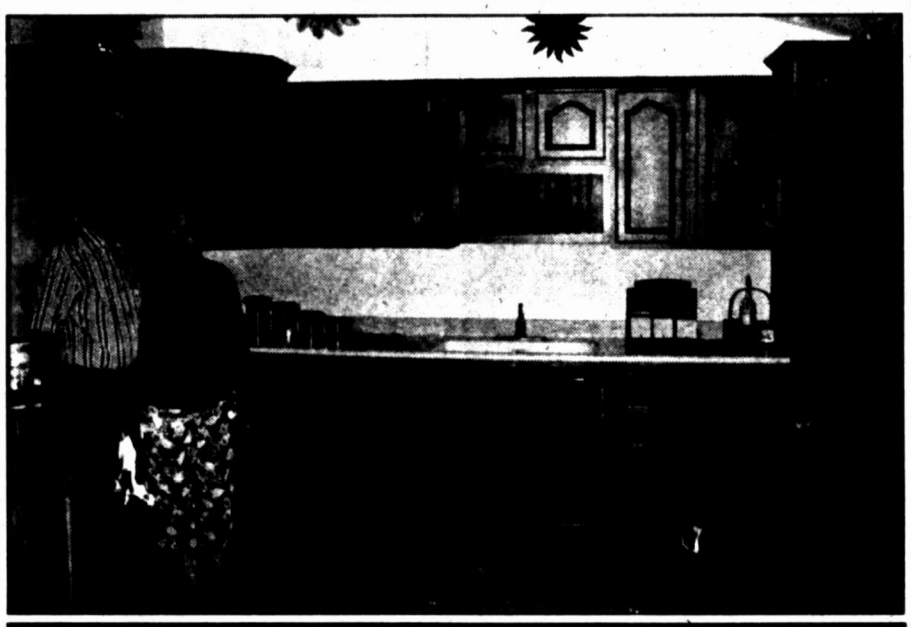
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TEXAS

Continued from Page 18

Until Oklahoma quarterback Rhett Bomar was kicked off the team, the Sooners were the trendy pick to beat Texas for the Big 12 South Division title.

"After Vince left, it changed our position nationally because if he had returned, people would have thought we would have had a great chance to repeat," Brown said.

"Repeating is very hard to do, but winning a national championship is very hard to do. There's been no complacency. In fact, there's been more urgency to see if they can do it again."

Doing it with a freshman quarterback will take more than willpower and hard work. Texas will need some lucky breaks and bounces — the Longhorns lost only nine of 35 fumbles last season — and someone else will have to take over Young's role as a 6-foot-5, 230-pound playmaker.

Texas hasn't started a season with a freshman quarterback since Shea Morenz in 1993.

Brown said Texas will use the same spread offense that Young ran to perfection even if McCoy and Snead don't scare defenses the way he did running the ball.

"We're going to run what we ran last year with different folks," Brown said. "We probably won't have the third-down-and-30 scrambles we had for first downs."

McCoy has the benefit of redshirting last season, and Brown said he would have played him if he had known Young would leave early. Snead graduated high school in December and joined the team for spring drills.

Brown has said he thinks both players grew up a little after a summer in the weight room.

"Colt has arms now," Brown said. "He didn't before."

Although McCoy is taking more snaps with the first team in practice, Brown says he'll play both quarterbacks, a prospect that makes some fans nervous.

Orangebloods remember the controversy that erupted around Major Applewhite and Chris Simms in 2000-2001 when Simms got the starting nod over Applewhite, the most prolific passer in school history.

In 2003, Young shared time with Chance Mock before taking over as the starter midway through the season.

"People love playing two quarterbacks around here," Brown joked.

"What we are planning to do is whatever we have to in order to win. I learned a lot through the time with Chris and Major, and one of the things we did learn is that it became about them instead of the team. That was really unhealthy."

McCoy called the competition with Snead "great."

"Our teammates are doing great with the whole situation. We're just trying to be the best we can be," he said.

Texas returns 16 starters to a team on a 20-game winning streak, the nation's longest. While the personnel losses were few, they were important.

Safety Michael Huff, who won the Thorpe Award last season, and tight end David Thomas must be replaced.

Former tailback Ramonce Taylor scored 15 touchdowns last season but left the team after academic and legal troubles in the spring.

Tailback is Texas' deepest position. Selvin Young, Jamaal Charles and Henry Melton combined for 1,771 yards and 29 touchdowns last season.

Defensively, the Longhorns may have their best front seven in years.

Texas at a glance:

SCHOOL COLORS: Burnt orange and white
FOUNDED: 1883
ENROLLMENT: 50,403
LOCATED: Austin
COACH: Mack Brown, ninth season at Texas (83-19), 23rd overall (169-93-1)
2005 RECORD: 13-0 (8-0, Big 12 Champion)
LAST BOWL: 2006 Rose Bowl, beat Southern California 41-38 to win national championship
STADIUM: Darrell K. Royal/Memorial Stadium (80,082)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 offense, 7 defense)
KEY PLAYERS: QB Colt McCoy, RB Selvin Young, RB Jamaal Charles, DB Michael Griffin.
KEY RECRUITS: QB Jevan Snead, LB Sergio Kindle
KEY DEPARTURES: QB Vince Young, S Michael Huff, DT Rod Wright, RB Ramonce Taylor

2006 SCHEDULE:
Sept. 2 — North Texas
Sept. 9 — Ohio State
Sept. 16 — at Rice
Sept. 23 — Iowa St.
Sept. 30 — Sam Houston St.
Oct. 7 — vs. Oklahoma, at Dallas
Oct. 14 — Baylor
Oct. 21 — at Nebraska
Oct. 28 — at Texas Tech
Nov. 4 — Oklahoma St.
Nov. 11 — at Kansas St.
Nov. 24 — Texas A&M

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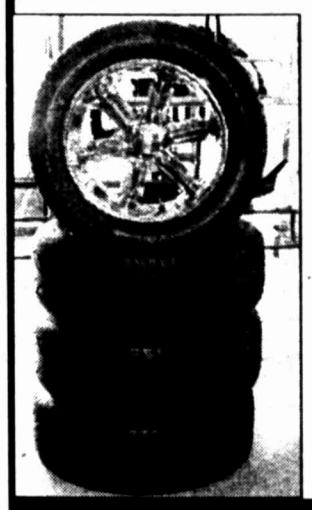
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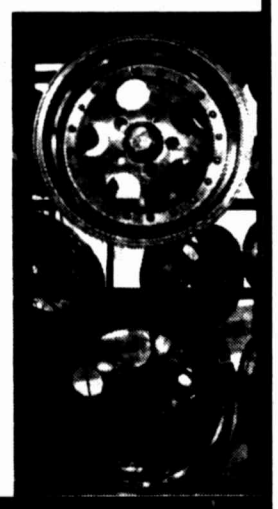
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TECH

Continued from Page 19

game, and so I think they'll compensate for that in a big way."

Todd and Harrell, who threw for 392 yards and three touchdowns in five games as Cody Hodges' backup last year, have similar strengths, Leach said. Both have strong, accurate and versatile arms, a good pocket presence and nimble feet, he said.

Harrell said he likes to stay in the pocket but will run if he has to.

"If there's a guy chasing you, you run as fast as you need to," he said.

At receiver, Tech lost only one strong contributor from last season, running back Taurean Henderson.

Joel Filani (87.3 yards per game), Robert Johnson (79.6 yards per game) and Jarrett Hicks (77.3 yards per game) finished in the top five in the Big 12 for average receiving yards.

Together, they combined for 2,849 total yards and 22 touchdowns.

Leach said he needs receivers to have short memories, but that isn't confined to dropped passes.

"A guy will squander a whole series because he's all happy about some catch he had," Leach said.

He mentioned Robert Johnson, who arrived at Tech two years ago as a quarterback but was moved to receiver last year. Leach called him "explosive" but with a caveat.

"He's just got to be a more consistent guy," he said. "As far as throwing the occasional great play at you, he was pretty good at that. It's the routine one that he battled a little bit."

Long maligned as a one-dimensional team, Tech has shown recently that it can slow offenses. In three seasons, the Red Raiders improved from No. 106 to 30th nationally in total defense.

Five starters return, defensively, plus three from 2004 who were injured for some or all of last season.

"We're not overly talented," defensive coordinator Lyle Setencich said. "If we play hard, stay healthy and be smart, I think we can be like we were last year."

Leach said he's excited to see what his team can do this year.

"I think we have a chance to improve," he said. "I'm excited about all seasons. They need to have this stuff year-round."

Texas Tech at a glance:

SCHOOL COLORS: Black and red
FOUNDED: 1923
ENROLLMENT: 28,001
LOCATED: Lubbock, Texas
COACH: Mike Leach, seventh season (48-28)
2005 RECORD: 9-3 (5-3, T2nd Big 12 South)
LAST BOWL: 2006 Cotton Bowl, lost to Alabama 13-10
STADIUM: Jones AT&T Stadium (52,702)
RETURNING STARTERS: 8 offense, 5 defense
KEY PLAYERS: QBs Graham Harrell and Chris Todd, WR Jarrett Hicks, WR Robert Johnson, LB Fletcher Sessions
KEY RECRUITS: DB Jamar Wall, QB Taylor Potts, LB Julius Howard, OL Ofa Mohetau
KEY DEPARTURES: QB Cody Hodges, RB Taurean Henderson, LG E.J. Whitley, DB Khalid Naziruddin
COACHSPEAK: "When the focus gets outside of improvement, I think is where you have problems. Where you start thinking about two games down the road, or if this happens. They don't need to worry about scenarios. They just need to worry about improving." — Leach

2006 SCHEDULE:
Sept. 2 — SMU
Sept. 9 — at UTEP
Sept. 16 — at TCU
Sept. 23 — SE Louisiana
Sept. 30 — at Texas A&M
Oct. 7 — Missouri
Oct. 14 — at Colorado
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BAYLOR

Continued from Page 20

Wes Phillips — the 27-year-old grandson of Bum. Their pass-oriented formations at NCAA Division II West Texas A&M produced 364 passing yards and 40 points a game last season.

"I'm a firm believer in the system," Morriss said. "I was fortunate that I found two guys that know the system. I think it levels the field a little bit."

With the Bears maybe throwing 50-60 times a game, Morriss is even getting more involved. The 15-year NFL lineman took over as offensive line coach, primarily to teach one-on-one pass protection.

The scheme is a definite departure from what Baylor has done offensively in the past, but the transition hasn't been that difficult.

"This offense is probably one of the simplest offenses I have ever been in. It's based on repetition," said Dominique Zeigler, who led the Bears with 48 catches for 563 yards last year.

Trent Shelton caught 39 passes last year, and speedy freshman David Gettis is finally expected to be in the mix. Gettis, a track standout, originally signed with Baylor in 2004, but didn't enroll in the program until this summer.

"It's very basic, high reps, high intensity," Bell said. "It's not too complicated. It has a few amount of plays. We want to be perfect at those. ... We're not looking to throw 40-yard passes all the time. We'll dunk and dink down the field."

Bell is a fifth-year senior who has started games in each of his three seasons. He finally became the regular last year, when he completed 190-of-320 passes (59 percent) for 1,964 yards with 12 touchdowns and six interceptions.

Already with an education degree and now enrolled in a sports management graduate program, Bell — the son of a coach — organized most of the offseason workouts during which he and the receivers kept going over plays.

"What Shawn brings is an excellent mind. I haven't come close to overloading him yet," Hays said.

"It's a quarterback's dream really to line up and throw that many times," Morriss said. "And we put a lot of play-calling and that kind of stuff in the quarterback's hands. I think he relishes that."

Baylor at a glance:

SCHOOL COLORS: Green and gold
FOUNDED: 1845
ENROLLMENT: 13,975
LOCATED: Waco, Texas
COACH: Guy Morriss, fourth season at Baylor (11-23), seventh overall
2005 RECORD: 5-6 (2-6, 5th Big 12 South)
LAST BOWL: 1994 Alamo Bowl, lost to Washington State 10-3
STADIUM: Floyd Casey Stadium (50,000)
RETURNING STARTERS: 7 offense, 4 defense
KEY PLAYERS: QB Shawn Bell, FB Paul Mosley, WR Dominique Zeigler, RG Will Blaylock, WR Trent Shelton, CB C.J. Wilson, NT M.T. Robinson, DE Marcus Foreman, P Daniel Sepulveda
KEY RECRUITS: FS Tim Atchison, WR David Gettis, DE Jameon Hardeman, WR Ernest Smith, S Brandon Stiggers
KEY DEPARTURES: OG Lequalan McDonald, OT Nick Pace, WR Shawn Rochon, LB Colin Allred, S Willie Andrews, FS Maurice Lane
COACHSPEAK: "We didn't finish in last place last year, and we think we are going to be a better football team than last year. ... I think at the end of this season that will become apparent. I just believe in what we're doing, and I believe in our kids." — Morriss
2006 SCHEDULE:
Sept. 3 — TCU
Sept. 9 — Northwestern St.
Sept. 16 — vs. Washington St., at Seattle
Sept. 23 — Army
Sept. 30 — Kansas St.
Oct. 7 — at Colorado
Oct. 14 — at Texas
Oct. 21 — Kansas
Oct. 28 — Texas A&M
Nov. 4 — at Texas Tech
Nov. 11 — at Oklahoma St.
Nov. 18 — Oklahoma

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AGGIES

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The secondary still could be vulnerable because of youth. Senior safety Melvin Bullitt is the only returning starter and will probably be surrounded by underclassmen.

But senior linebacker Justin Warren, who will coordinate the defense on the field, said the players quickly bought into the new system. Since Darnell arrived, Warren said, he's talked about returning to the "Wrecking Crew" days.

"Sometimes, change is for the better," said Warren, one of five returning defensive starters. "From the first day he came into the linebacker room, he said, 'Hey, we want the 'Wrecking Crew' back. This is how we're going to do it and this is how we're going to keep it. Everybody was fired up about that."

The Aggies have a better idea what to expect on offense, even after the departure of quarterback Reggie McNeal, who finished as A&M's all-time leader in total offense.

Sophomore Stephen McGee filled Aggie fans with hope in last year's finale against Texas, his first career start. Subbing for the injured McNeal, McGee rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns in the Aggies' 40-29 loss to the eventual national champion.

Franchione said McGee is mature enough to handle his new responsibilities. The Burnet native redshirted in 2004 before backing up McNeal last season.

"Even though he's going to be starting his second game, you kind of feel like you've got a pretty experienced guy," Franchione said. "He's gone through more than one spring practice, he's gone through more than one fall, he knows the system very well.

"We're handing him the ball at a time where I think he's most prepared to do it."

Injuries ravaged the Aggies' offense last season, but McGee should have a full complement of playmakers to help him.

Courtney Lewis was A&M's leading rusher, despite missing three games with a calf injury. Receivers Chad Schroeder, Earvin Taylor and L'Tydrick Riley are also healthy again, and Franchione will closely watch incoming freshman Mike Goodson, a standout running back

Texas A&M at a glance

SCHOOL COLORS: Maroon and White
FOUNDED: 1876
ENROLLMENT: 44,910
LOCATED: College Station, Texas
COACH: Dennis Franchione, fourth season at A&M (16-19), 24th overall (171-93-2)
2005 RECORD: 5-6 (3-5, 3rd Big 12 South)
LAST BOWL: 2005 Cotton Bowl, lost to Tennessee 38-7
STADIUM: Kyle Field (82,600)
RETURNING STARTERS: 7 offense, 7 defense
KEY PLAYERS: QB Stephen McGee, RB Courtney Lewis, RB Jorvorskie Lane, WR Chad Schroeder, TE Martellus Bennett, LB Justin Warren**KEY RECRUITS:** RB Michael Goodson, LB Anthony Lewis, DB Jordan Pugh, QB Jerrod Johnson, DL Cody Williams
KEY DEPARTURES: QB Reggie McNeal, WR Jason Carter, PK Todd Pegram, LB Archie McDaniel, DL Johnny Jolly
COACHSPEAK: "I know I've got a guy that's been a head coach, been at a lot of different places and seen how to do it in different ways, and somebody I have a lot of trust in." — Franchione on new defensive coordinator Gary Darnell
2006 SCHEDULE:
Sept. 2 — The Citadel
Sept. 9 — Louisiana-Lafayette
Sept. 16 — Army, at Alamodome, San Antonio
Sept. 23_ Louisiana Tech
Sept. 30 — Texas Tech
Oct. 7 — at Kansas
Oct. 14 — Missouri
Oct. 21 — at Oklahoma St.
Oct. 28 — at Baylor
Nov. 4 — Oklahoma
Nov. 11 — Nebraska
Nov. 24 — at Texas

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USC rebuilds, Texas replaces its star, BCS gets bigger

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP Sports Writer

The Southern California dynasty has been derailed, and the player most responsible won't be around to help Texas defend its crown.

For the first time in a few years, there will be a race instead of a chase for the college football national championship.

There's legitimate title talk at Ohio State, Notre Dame, LSU, Auburn and West Virginia. Hopes are high for Florida and California. And let's not forget USC and Texas.

Is there even a favorite this season?

"At this time of year, I never have an opinion," said USC coach Pete Carroll, whose Trojans were denied a third straight national title by Vince Young and Texas. "We just got to start playing and see what happens."

What college football fans will see this season is bigger — though not necessarily better: an expanded Bowl Championship Series; 12-game regular-season schedules for all major college teams and new replay rules.

Now, coaches can challenge a call but will lose a timeout if it's not overturned.

This season the often challenged BCS, always an easy target for those pining for a Division I-A playoff system, debuts a new five-game, double-hosting format.

The idea behind the expansion is to give better access to teams outside the six conferences with automatic qualification — ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC.

Since the BCS' 1998 debut, Utah of the Mountain West is the only team from outside the high-revenue leagues to play in a BCS game. The Utes needed to finish in the top six in the final BCS standings to earn a Fiesta Bowl bid.

Now teams from the MWC, WAC, MAC, Conference USA and Sun Belt need only finish in the top 12 to get a BCS invite.

"It's better than it used be, which is good," said Southern Mississippi coach Jeff Bower, whose team is a perennial C-USA contender. "At least you have a legitimate chance now."

The BCS championship game will be played Jan. 8, a few days after the Sugar, Rose, Orange and Fiesta bowls.

A brand new stadium in Glendale, Ariz., will host the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1. Seven days later, the top two teams in the final BCS standings will play for the national title. All BCS games — except the Rose Bowl — will be shown on Fox, which bought the rights for four years for $320 million. ABC, the TV home of the BCS since its start, will air the Rose Bowl.

Fox only can hope the BCS falls into place as nicely as it did last season, when Texas and USC combined for an indisputable championship matchup and Notre Dame returned to the BCS for the first time since the 2001 Fiesta Bowl.

Charlie Weis exceeded expectations of even the most optimistic Notre Dame fans in his first season as Fighting Irish coach. Weis' prizes for going 9-3 and getting the Irish back into the BCS: a fat contract extension and more preseason hype than any disciple of Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick could tolerate.

"I've been involved with three different programs that after having a good year, everyone got caught up and we had a bad year," Weis said. "It happened twice in New England and once with the Jets where we had a good year and then we had a setback."

Adding to the blaring Notre Dame buzz is quarterback Brady Quinn, already considered the Heisman Trophy front-runner.

One season under Weis' tutelage had Quinn looking like Tom Brady. Quinn passed for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdowns last season. Another season just like it might be enough to make him the first Notre Dame Heisman winner since Tim Brown in 1987.

Other players who enter the season with Heisman momentum are Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith and his teammate, receiver Ted Ginn Jr., and Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson, the 2004 Heisman runner-up as a freshman.

Smith, a smaller version of Vince Young who can win games with his arm or legs, and Ginn fuel an offense with head-spinning speed that could redefine

See COLLEGES, Page 28

COLLEGES

Continued from Page 27

"Tresselball" in Columbus.

Under coach Jim Tressel, the Buckeyes have made a living — and won a national title — with stingy defense, low-risk offense and clutch kicking. These Buckeyes are all about offense, having said goodbye to linebacker A.J. Hawk and seven other starters from one of the country's best defenses last season.

As difficult as replacing Hawk and two other NFL first-round draft choices will be for Ohio State, it's a minor renovation compared to the Carroll's extreme makeover at USC.

Now teams from the MWC, WAC, MAC, Conference USA and Sun Belt need only finish in the top 12 to get a BCS invite.

Texas snapped the Trojans' 34-game winning streak in the Rose Bowl. This season, USC must replace Heisman Trophy winners Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart, plus LenDale White and several other players currently in NFL training camps.

Carroll will reach deep into his bag of blue chips for replacements.

"Losing a Heisman winner has happened to us before," said USC center Ryan Kalil. "We know we have guys that are going to rise to the challenge."

Stepping in for Leinart at quarterback will be John David Booty, who's been waiting for three seasons. Unless, of course, redshirt freshman phenom Mark Sanchez beats him out.

Texas coach Mack Brown doesn't have quite as many holes to fill, but boy does he have one huge one.

Either a redshirt freshman Colt McCoy or fresh out of high school Jevan Snead will call signals after Young skipped his final year of eligibility. Either quarterback will get lots of help from the loaded team, led by running back Jamaal Charles, defensive end Tim Crowder and safety Michael Griffin.

For the second consecutive year, Texas and Ohio State will meet in a monumental early season non-conference game. The Buckeyes long to avenge last season's 25-22 loss at the Horseshoe.

Amid all the changes and uncertainty, Joe Paterno remains college football's ultimate constant.

Paterno led a Penn State renaissance last season, going 11-1, winning coach of the year and leaving no doubt that the game has not passed him by. This season will be his 41st season as head coach — a milestone that matches Amos Alonzo Stagg for the longest tenure with one major college.

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Look who's coaching: NFL bust Leaf now a D-II coach

By JOHN McFARLAND
Associated Press Writer

CANYON — Ryan Leaf's eyes are bloodshot and his hair is matted down after a 17-hour workday.

The new quarterbacks coach at West Texas A&M sets aside his Styrofoam tobacco spit cup and pauses to check his schedule.

It'll be another long day all right, with practice, meetings and plenty of time stuck in his cramped office. Leaf estimates he spends at least 70 hours a week in his new job — all for no paycheck.

Yes, this hardworking volunteer coach is the same Ryan Leaf who was supposed to take the NFL by storm but instead just stormed around. The same guy who was taken second in the 1998 draft, behind only Peyton Manning, then retired after four seasons best remembered for dreadful play, injuries and clashes with coaches, teammates, reporters and fans.

So, how exactly did he end up here, at a campus much closer to Amarillo than the Rose Bowl or NFL stardom? And what's he doing teaching kids?

"I think the failure in the NFL has humbled me in the fact that I don't think I'm the best," Leaf said. "I think I have some knowledge that can help."

Leaf's unlikely journey to Canyon began in late 2003, when his post-football life hit bottom.

While he was eager for distance from his NFL past, in November 2003 he realized how much he missed college football. He called his former coach at Washington State, Mike Price, and they devised a plan to get him back into the game.

Leaf started by going back to college at WSU and finishing his degree. Price, now at UTEP, encouraged Leaf to apply at West Texas A&M and recommended that Don Carthel give him the job.

"We all know, just as Ryan knows, that he messed up when he was younger," Carthel said. "But in the right environment, Ryan can use his good qualities and really help somebody achieve some great things."

The 30-year-old Leaf is now content in his little office with barren walls and stained carpet.

"There's no pay and it's work, but I like what I'm doing," he said. "Collegiate football with me was the greatest time in my life, and that's why I'm doing what I'm doing."

And if this coaching thing really takes off, could he one day return to the pros?

"I don't want to coach in the NFL," he said. "I don't want to be anywhere near the NFL."

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Parcells, Belichick sharing ideas, advice

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Two longtime football coaches were talking this summer about the way things used to be, back when they worked together and really pushed their players.

They lamented how much more coddling is done these days, especially in training camp. So they decided to do something about it. One said he was going back to the old way; the other said he'd do the same.

That might not seem like a remarkable tale, except that the conversation was between Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick.

And it was one of what's becoming a routine series of calls between them.

"Hey, he's a guy I think a lot of," Parcells said Tuesday. "It's a good sounding board, that's all. I'm probably using him right now more than he's using me."

The two Bills haven't talked about each other much since Belichick left Parcells and the New York Jets behind six years ago, dissolving a succession plan that was put in writing, ruining what many thought was more than a working relationship.

Belichick has gone on to win three Super Bowls, one more than Parcells. If that alone didn't rankle the Big Tuna, then talk of Belichick winning without Parcells but Parcells never winning without Belichick probably did.

Time apparently heals everything, as might the fact that Parcells' son-in-law, Scott Pioli, is the vice president of player personnel for the New England Patriots. Whatever the reason, the lines of communication are open and the coaches who've combined to win 25 percent of the Super Bowls over the last two decades may even have each other on speed dial.

"I have talked to him say four, five times in the last month," Parcells said. "We just talk. It doesn't take long to get to the point. One of us has something to ask. We just go right to it. I called the other day and I called him back the next morning to ask him another 30-second question about something that he was doing."

Parcells said he's bouncing off Belichick things like how many players at each position should make the 53-man roster.

"He knows what my problems are," Parcells said. "He knows the whole numbers on our defense with scheme and what do we have to keep here ... offenses are similar, too. It's someone to talk to about, 'What are you going to do here?' and 'What are you thinking about there?'"

One of their conversations earlier this summer was about practices. It was actually a question about Parcells' practice routine this preseason that led to his disclosure of his renewed ties to Belichick. Belichick already had spoken Tuesday and isn't scheduled to talk to reporters again until after a game Thursday night.

"I sat down with Bill Belichick this summer and we started talking about all this stuff we used to do," Parcells said. "He says, 'I used to get mad at you at the way you used to make us do this. Now I'm going to go do it.' He reminded me of a couple of things that we used to do."

Parcells said that over the years, coaches have become so concerned about players not getting injured in preseason that they've forgotten the No. 1 objective: have players ready for the season.

"Sometimes," he said, "you forget that you have to coach them hard."

The Cowboys have given up the fewest points in the NFL preseason, while the Patriots have scored the second-most points and allowed the third fewest.

Sure, it's only the preseason, but it's a good indication their strategy is working — like in their days together with the New York Giants, Patriots and Jets.

"I've always run a pretty hard camp," Parcells said. "But I'd say this year's camp was harder."

Parcells also is planning to shake up his schedule during the season. Players on the fringe of the roster will get less work on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

"I'm going back to where you're going to have to stick it out," Parcells said. "I just think that helps the mental toughness of your team."

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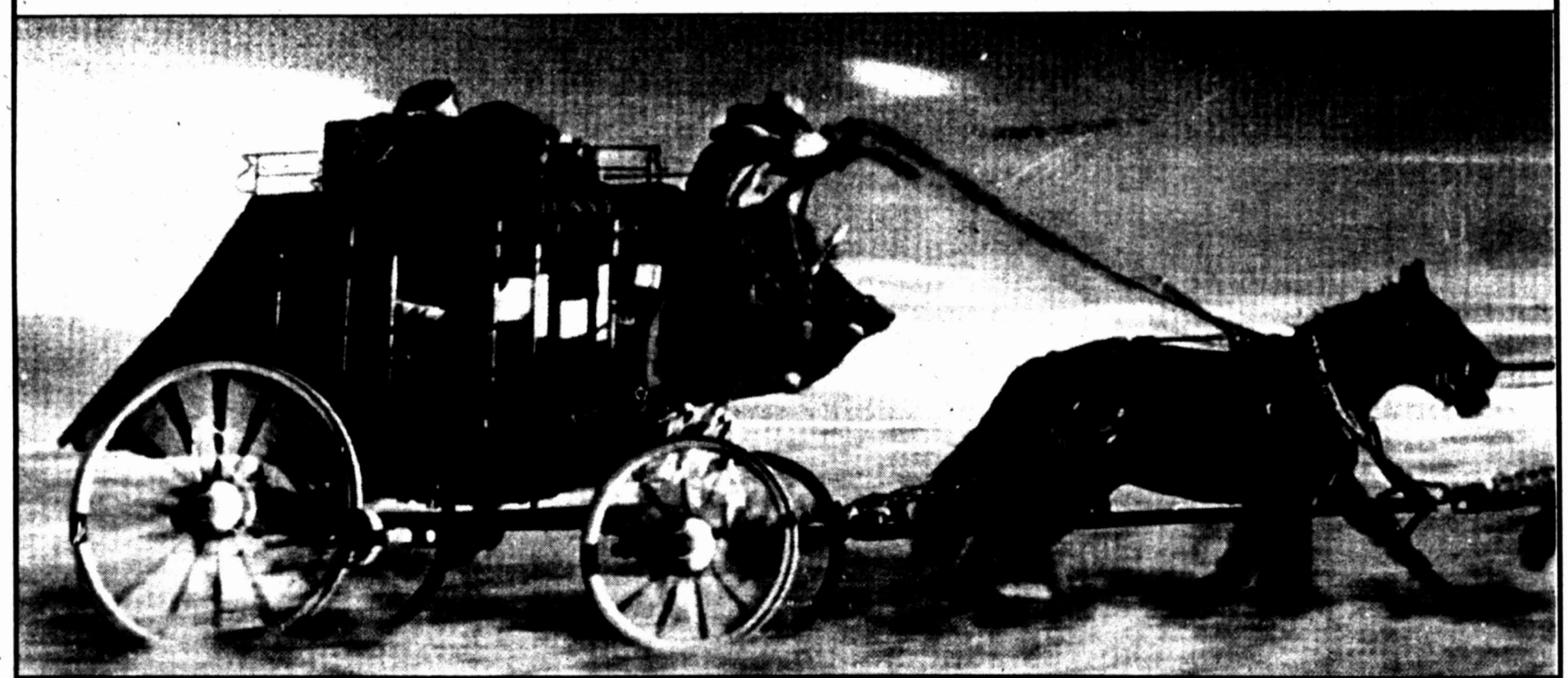

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