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Laredo Morning Times

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Tecolotes end season at Veterans tonight vs. Saltillo

BY SALO OTERO
Times sports editor

The 1999 Mexican League season ends in Laredo tonight with Los Dos Laredos Tecolotes hosting Saltillo at Veterans Field. The game starts at 7:30. General admission tickets will be priced at \$1 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Veterans Field ticket office. Saltillo, handled by ex-major league shortstop and player-manager Alfonso "Houston" Jimenez, is headed to the playoffs and the Tecos are staying home for the fourth straight season. The teams started their final three games of the regular season Monday at La Junta Park in Nuevo Laredo. Saltillo needed one more win in the final three

games to clinch first in the North Zone for the second half. Monclova won the North Zone first half by one-half game over Saltillo. The Tecos entered the Saltillo series at 27-27 in the second half. They lost at Monclova Sunday night 8-2. Los Laredos, which was 24-37 in the first half and finished 14 games behind, had to finish first or second in the second half for a chance at the playoffs. The Tecos made a run at it, winning six straight and eight of 10 in mid-July for a 23-21 mark. Since then, they have won four of 10. The season ends Wednesday night at La Junta Park. Autographed drinking glasses will be given away. The playoffs start Friday.

Los Laredos is 11-7 this season at Veterans Field, with one rainout. Centerfielder Willie Arano, who has made some great defensive plays, has been the Tecos leading hitter with a .327 average. Joel Chimelis is at .308. Alejandro Ortiz is flirting with .300 at .297. Chimelis has hit 16 home runs with 77 RBI and Ortiz 15 with 68. Other Tecos averages: Christian Armenta .289, Omar Bustamante .286, Gerardo Sanchez .273, Andres Santos .271, Isaac Estrella .261, Ernesto Carrasco .258, Gerardo Garza .235, David Dominguez .220 and Omar Espino .205. Four players are ending the season on the injured list, utility infielder Alejandro "Cuca" Villarreal .394 (hurt since the first two weeks of the season), centerfielder Jose Manuel Espinoza .286

(out for more than a month), second baseman Florentino Morales .245 (out for a month) and shortstop Julio Cesar Hernandez .236 (out the last three weeks of the year). No one on the pitching staff won in double figures this year. The pitching stats: Tony Metoyer 3-7, 2.98 (25 saves), Aaron Acosta 5-4, 2.98; German Jimenez 4-6, 3.58; Salvador Garibay 2-1, 3.82; Julio Cesar Parra 6-6, 3.94; Gene Caruso 6-8, 4.32; Rousell Almeida 3-1, 4.66; Luis Enrique Huerta 4-6, 4.74; Len Picota 8-3, 4.90; Juan Enrique Quintanilla 4-8, 5.36; Roberto "Chito" Garza 1-1, 5.40; Hugo Castellanos 0-0, 6.06; Hugo Verdugo 0-4, 6.51; Cesar Romero 0-0, 7.13 and Jose Dionisio Lopez 1-4, 9.22.

Cuba critical of Pan Am organizers

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Cuban officials denounced organizers of the Pan American Games on Monday after defections and disappearances that have plagued the team. With 19-year-old pitcher Danys Baez leaving the world champion baseball team, and in the wake of a demonstration at the ballpark by a man carrying a sign saying "Human Right First," the Cubans insisted that organizers tighten security. They also criticized officials for failing to stop the demonstrator from disrupting Sunday's semifinal victory over Canada. "Cuban athletes will not permit anyone or anything to humiliate them ... if their dignity is at stake," a statement from the Cuban delegation said. "From now on we will react with full energy to provocations." They already did that Sunday night as four Cubans got into a street fight with the demonstrator. The police said the protester was speaking to someone when the Cubans noticed him and "became involved in a dispute. Prior to police arriving there was a physical confrontation between those parties that was brought under control immediately." No charges were filed, but the protester, who police said gave a Miami address, was detained

Pan Am roundup

by immigration authorities and was in custody. Sports agent Joe Cubas, responsible for helping many Cubans defect to the United States, claimed in a release Monday that Baez sought asylum in Canada after the semifinal win. Although immigration officials were not available for confirmation — Monday was a civic holiday — Baez spoke to Miami television station WSCV 51 via telephone and said he was moving to the United States. "I want to tell the people of Miami that another Cuban in search of freedom is about to become part of the people of Miami," Baez said. "Wait for me over there." Baez's departure brings to eight the number of Cubans to leave that nation's delegation during the games. Runner Michal Ortiz, an unidentified female artistic gymnast and a soccer goalkeeper — the goalies here were Rene Castro and Rodney Valdes — also left the team on the weekend. The Cubans met the United States for the baseball gold medal at night. Canadian roller hockey goalkeeper Steve Vezina apologized for testing positive for three banned substances, costing his team a gold medal. At a news con-



PAN AM SOFTBALL: The USA's Laura Beck save on Colombia's Claudia Leon at Pan American Games Monday. AP Photo

ference in Saint-Adele, Quebec, Vezina said, "Those actions were not up to a high standard of an athlete that represents Canada." It apparently wasn't enough for teammate Kevin Kerr. "He ruined the chance of a lifetime for nine guys," Kerr said. "I know he's my teammate and I should be sticking up for him. I know I, along with nine other guys, we're clean. We did it the way we were supposed to do it." A Canadian Broadcasting Corporation report said Juana Rosario of the Dominican Republic, winner of the women's high jump, failed the 'A' portion of her drug test. Games officials would not confirm that report; rarely is drug-testing information made available before the 'B' sample is tested. The U.S. women's soccer team

advanced to the gold medal game by beating Costa Rica 2-0. Marcia Wallis and Kim Patrick scored for the Americans, who outshot Costa Rica 22-0 in the second half and 34-1 for the game. Mexico beat Canada in a shootout for the other spot in the finals, but Canada's baseball team beat Mexico 9-2 for the bronze medal. The world champion American softball squad gave up its first run in 100 innings of Pan Ams competition, but still won easily, 8-1 over Colombia. Lori Harrigan pitched a three-hitter, striking out 16. Tennis phenom Alexandra Stevenson got her first test at the Pan Ams, needing a third-set tiebreaker to edge Renata Kolbovic of Canada 7-6 (9-7), 4-6, 7-6 (7-4). She advanced to

the semifinals, but teammate Lilia Osterloh lost to Maria Vento of Venezuela 6-4, 6-0. In men's action, Bob Bryan beat Mexico's Marco Osorio 6-2, 6-3, and Cecil Mamiit beat Adrian Garcia of Chile 6-2, 7-6 (7-4). The U.S. women played their best basketball game so far, but couldn't hold a 16-point lead and lost to Brazil 77-72. Brazil's zone defense in the second half slowed down the Americans (2-2). The Brazilians chipped away steadily before going ahead for good with a 6-0 run in the final two minutes. "I think this team played like they're capable of playing," said U.S. coach Nell Fortner, whose team already has made the medal round. "Take away some defensive errors in the second half and we win."

Olympia medalists at national

Times staff reports

CLEVELAND — Laredo's Club Olympia has a silver medalist in the National AAU Junior Olympics track and field meet here. Jose Burrola captured silver Monday in the steeplechase with a time of 7:22. Burrola, a sophomore at United South, runs in a 15-16 age group. In another division, 17-18, Oscar Trevino, won the bronze medal in the steeplechase. His third place time was 7:20. Trevino is out of Nixon High. Also on Monday, Luis Escamilla ran 1:57 in the 800 to reach the finals, which are Wednesday. The top eight among 45 runners go to the finals. Escamilla is out of Martin High. No Laredoans are in action today. On Wednesday, joining Escamilla, the Hearn twins, Kathryn and Frances, run the 800 finals, in the 12-year-old group. Also, Vanessa Gonzalez (11) is in the high jump and Brenda Lozano (16) throws the discus. Lozano is from Nixon. On Sunday, Andy Vera (18) finished ninth in the decathlon. In the heptathlon, Gaby Pantoja (15) placed 10th, Kathryn Hearn (12) was 12th and Christian Cabello (17) was 13th. Vera is out of Martin, Cabello from Alexander and Pantoja, from Cigarroa. Club Olympia is coached by Alex DeLuna. The meet runs through Saturday.

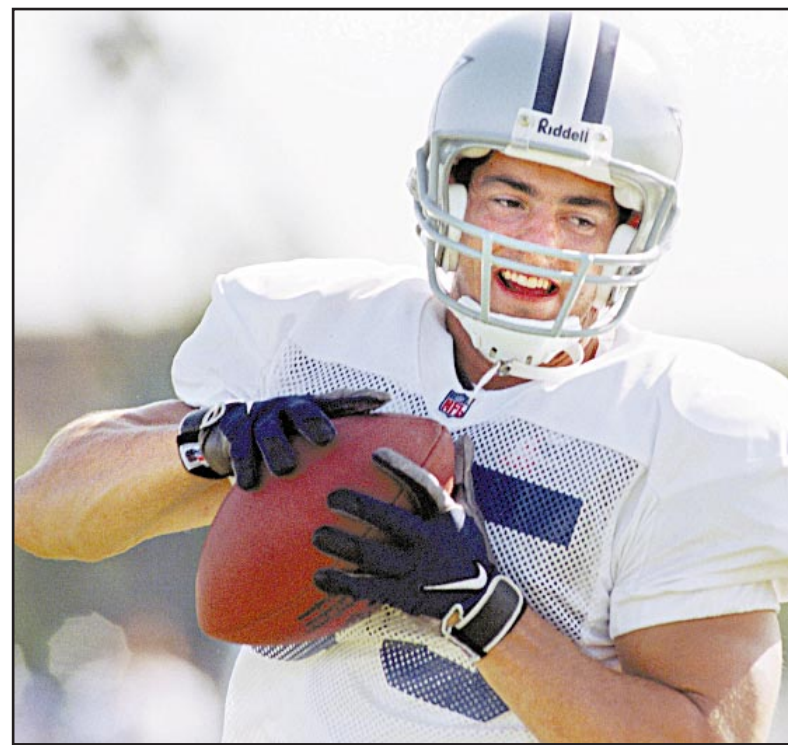
Cowboys' Ogden rises from obscurity to security

BY JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

WICHITA FALLS — A year after being the surprise of Dallas Cowboys training camp, receiver Jeff Ogden is turning heads again this summer. "The way he carries himself, his confidence, his hands — every aspect of his game has improved," said coach Chan Gailey, who was among Ogden's biggest supporters last year. "He doesn't even look like the same person who first stepped on our field last year." Imagine that: A guy who had to walk onto his college team at Division I-AA Eastern Washington, then made the NFL as an undrafted free agent, is now considered a vital piece of the Dallas Cowboys' offense. "Yes sir," Ogden said, smiling with pride. "I sure hope so." The 6-foot, 190-pound Ogden has been winning inspirational awards since his high school days in Sonohomish, Wash.

and watching him practice shows why. He began camp working out with rookies and newcomers instead of going through veteran drills. Ogden also practiced as if it were still 1998 and he had to outlast nine other receiver candidates for a job. "I still have a long ways to go," he said. "I've just got to keep working." But Ogden understands things are different. His all-out effort now isn't as much to make the team as it is to climb up the depth chart from being the fifth receiver to possibly as high as third. "I'm taking a more aggressive, more proactive approach to improving the team," Ogden said. "Last year, there were some times where I didn't improve the team. I was just kind of a guy who could fill in. This year, I'm actually trying to make a difference." An advantage Ogden has over newcomers James McKnight and rookies Wane

McGarity and MarTay Jenkins is his familiarity with Gailey's complicated offense. They're all trying to learn it, while he's refining what he already knows. "A lot more comes to me now on the field, where last year I was more into the book, memorizing things," he said. "I'm learning a lot more about how to get open, how to be alone when the ball gets there." Last summer, Ogden caught coaches' attention with his quick feet and sure hands. He backed it up in preseason games by catching seven passes for 126 yards, good for a team-best average of 18 yards per reception. In the regular season, Ogden contributed mostly on special teams, although he also caught eight passes for 63 yards. His most memorable game was Nov. 22 in Seattle when he caught four passes for 26 yards and ran 12 yards on an end round while playing in front of friends and family in his home



JEFF OGDEN: Cowboys' pass receiver in preseason camp at Wichita Falls. AP Photo

Elliott awaiting word on kidney

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Sean Elliott of the San Antonio Spurs will have to wait at least another two weeks before possibly undergoing a kidney transplant. Elliott's brother has a kidney that appears compatible for a match, but commitments prevent him from traveling to San Antonio for another week or so, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported Monday. When Elliott's brother arrives he will face several days of further tests to determine if he can be a donor. Elliott has been working out to remain in good shape before surgery, the *Express-News* reported. The 31-year-old forward hasn't identified which of his two brothers is the potential donor. Elliott wants to play for the Spurs after the transplant. He fought back from knee injuries and performed well this season in helping San Antonio to its first NBA championship.