

Countdown to football



Newsorthy

Miller receives Clemens Award

HOUSTON — North Carolina left-hander Andrew Miller, who led his team to the championship round of the College World Series, won the third annual Roger Clemens Award on Wednesday night.

The Houston Astros pitcher presented Miller the award that honors the top pitcher in college baseball during a sold-out banquet.

"To win an award with Roger's name on it is special," Miller said. "He talked to us all about baseball earlier, and it was really an honor to talk with him."

The 6-foot-6, 210-pound Miller was the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year with a 13-2 record and 2.48 ERA. The Tar Heels lost to Oregon State in the best-of-three final at the College World Series.

Miller set school records for season strikeouts with 133 and career strikeouts with 325, and was taken by the Detroit Tigers with the sixth overall pick in last month's draft.

"I was almost certain it would be somebody else," Miller said. "I didn't think I had a chance with the numbers the others guys put up. I would never have thought this could happen."

Other finalists were Houston right-hander Brad Lincoln, Rice right-hander Eddie Degerman and Washington right-hander Tim Lincecum.

— The Associated Press

Former slugger sues ChiSox docs

CHICAGO — Oakland Athletics slugger Frank Thomas is suing two White Sox doctors, claiming their misdiagnosis of his broken foot in 2004 led to further injury and his eventual departure from the team.

Attorney Thomas Demetrio said the doctors misdiagnosed a fractured bone in Thomas' left foot as a bruise and cleared him to continue playing, which led to a second broken bone in the foot last year.

"They failed to diagnose and properly treat the injury," Demetrio said. "He's 280 pounds. He shouldn't have been walking on that foot, let alone playing baseball."

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Cook County, alleges medical negligence. It does not specify an amount Thomas is seeking in damages.

The Sox declined to comment about Thomas' allegations. The team is not a party to the lawsuit.

Named in the lawsuit are Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush and two of its doctors, Gregory P. Nicholson and Kathleen Weber. A call to Midwest Orthopaedics, an independent contractor hired by the Sox, went unanswered Thursday.

— AP

Scoreboard

Major League Baseball
 Houston 5, Florida 1
 Texas 15, Baltimore 1
 Kansas City 4, Detroit 6

Texas snags ESPY trifecta

2006 Rose Bowl voted Best Game of the year, Vince gets Best Championship Performance



By Gerren LaQuint Fisher
 Daily Texan Staff

Longhorn Athletics claimed three ESPY Awards from six nominations at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood this week.

Texas football shared the Best Game ESPY for the 2006 Rose Bowl Game with the University of Southern California. The 41-38 national championship shoot-out featured 1,130 offensive yards from both teams and one of the most memorable finishes in college football history as Vince Young ran in the winning touchdown on fourth-and-five on the 8-yard line with 19 seconds left in the game.

Young won the Best Championship Performance ESPY for that game by racking up 267 passing yards, 200 rushing yards and three touchdowns. This added another award to Young's already impressive collection of junior honors, which include National Player of the Year, Big 12 Male Athlete of the Year, the Davey O'Brien trophy for the nation's top quarterback, the Maxwell Award for the nation's top football player, the Manning Award for the nation's top quarterback, the Cingular-ABC Player of the Year and consensus first-team All-American.

Cat Osterman took home Best Female College Athlete for her senior season as staff ace for the Texas softball team. In 2006, Osterman went 38-4 with a 0.42 ERA, and set NCAA records for career strikeouts with 2,265 and strikeout ratio with 14.4 strikeouts-per-seven innings. Osterman also ranks No. 2 all-time in career shutouts with 85.

Texas natives, including Young and Osterman, and "Glory Road," a movie about the 1966 Texas Western national championship basketball team, accounted for six ESPY wins. Cyclist Lance Armstrong won Best Male Athlete for the fourth consecutive year. Armstrong, who won his record seven straight Tour de France last summer, served as the host of the ceremony. Houston Comets All-Star forward Sheryl Swoopes won Best WNBA Player honors.

The 14th annual ceremony honoring the best in sports will air at 8 p.m. Sunday on ESPN.



Notable 2006 ESPY winners

- Male Athlete: Lance Armstrong
- Female Athlete: Annika Sorenstam
- Team: Pittsburgh Steelers
- Game: Texas vs. USC, Rose Bowl
- Championship Performance: Vince Young
- Sports Movie: "Glory Road"
- Male College Athlete: Reggie Bush
- Female College Athlete: Cat Osterman
- Moment: Jason McElwain, High School basketball
- Baseball Player: Albert Pujols, St. Louis Cardinals
- NBA Player: Dwyane Wade, Miami Heat
- WNBA Player: Sheryl Swoopes, Houston Comets
- NFL Player: Shaun Alexander, Seattle Seahawks
- Golfer: Tiger Woods



Shannon Sibayan | Daily Texan Staff

Texas Quarterback Vince Young celebrates Texas' victory over USC at the 2006 Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, Calif.

Former childhood friend gets into Bonds' legal issues

Hoskins named key witness in slugger's Grand Jury probe

By Jordan Robertson
 The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds and Steve Hoskins were childhood friends who went into business together and made a lot of money selling autographs of the San Francisco Giants slugger. But the relationship collapsed when Bonds accused Hoskins of stealing from him and took the case to federal prosecutors.

Now, the Redwood City businessman may be getting his revenge by talking to investigators about Bonds' alleged steroid use and the alleged diversion of proceeds from memorabilia sales to Bonds' girlfriends.

A grand jury considering possible perjury charges against Bonds met again Thursday in San Francisco, and Bonds' lawyer, Michael Rains, identified Hoskins and the player's former girlfriend, Kimberly Bell, as key witnesses in

the probe.

Hoskins' lawyer, Michael Cardoza, declined to say Thursday whether his client testified before the grand jury, but he discussed the falling-out between his client and Bonds and said Hoskins believes the slugger's angry outbursts at the time were caused by steroids.

"It appeared he was in a sort of steroid rage, the way he was acting," Cardoza said. "That's what we thought was causing him to act that way."

Steroid allegations have dogged Bonds since 2003, when he testified before a different federal grand jury about his relationship to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the nutritional supplement lab at the center of doping scandals in both track and field and baseball.

Hoskins did not return messages left Thursday at his home and business, Kent Collectibles, in San Carlos.

He and Bonds grew up together outside San Francisco, and after Bonds signed with the Giants as a free agent in 1993, the ballplayer

helped Hoskins go into business selling sports memorabilia bearing Bonds' signature.

Hoskins became a fixture in the Giants clubhouse, but a rift opened during spring training 2003 when Bonds spotted a fan wearing a jersey bearing his autograph that he claimed was a fake, Cardoza said.

He flew into a rage, and Hoskins had to convince him the autograph was authentic, but simmering tensions between the two came to a head, Cardoza said.

"That's what started the big rift," Cardoza said. "And the big rift was already going on, because Barry was demanding more from Steve. He was being even more demanding and abusive of Steve. The chasm between Barry and Steve really started to widen then."

Some of the tension can be traced to an arrangement Bonds had requested for delivering money to two girlfriends, Cardoza said.

Bonds gave more than \$100,000 of his profits from the business to Hoskins to pass along to those

girlfriends, including down payments on homes and a car for Bell, Cardoza said.

Rains could not be reached Thursday to respond to Cardoza's claims.

Bonds claimed Hoskins was forging the player's signature on contracts and keeping proceeds from sales of memorabilia that was to have been split between the two partners, according to Cardoza.

Bonds made "an obscene amount of money that would make a normal human being cringe" for the autographs, but felt Hoskins was not paying him what he was owed, Cardoza said.

Soon after, Bonds went to the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco and filed a complaint about Hoskins, Cardoza said.

Hoskins met with federal prosecutors, according to his lawyer. He presented detailed records of all disputed transactions and the investigation was dropped a year later, Cardoza said.

Hoskins did not know whether Bonds was paying taxes on profits

from the memorabilia business, Cardoza said.

The timing of the dispute between Bonds and his former friend raises questions about whether Hoskins agreed to cooperate with federal prosecutors investigating whether Bonds lied to a grand jury in December 2003, when he reportedly said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

A grand jury has been meeting in secret for months to consider charges against Bonds. Witnesses known to have testified in the probe include Giants trainer Stan Conte and Bonds' surgeon, Arthur Ting.

With the panel widely expected to deliver its findings soon, the relationship that boiled over between Bonds and Hoskins could play a key role in any indictment against one of baseball's greatest sluggers.

If charged with perjury and convicted, Bonds could face up to five years in prison. He could face another five years if charged and convicted of money laundering.