

Conrad, Dendy Star in Grid Practice

Sophomores Bobby Conrad and Billy Dendy highlighted A&M's second day of spring football practice yesterday, climaxed by a rugged 40 minutes of scrimmages staged by six full teams.

Head coach Paul Bryant sent his 80-man squad through its second two-hour workout in a row and drilled it on just about every phase of football in the book.

He was assisted by Jim Owens,

Elmer Smith, Tom Tipps, Phil Cuthin, Pat James, Willie Zapalac and Jerry Claiborne, and 1954 starters Bennie Sinclair and Larry Winkler.

Conrad, a quarterback, and Dendy, a halfback, each intercepted two passes in scrimmage, both returning one all the way. Both also ripped off impressive gains on offense. Conrad's TD return was a one-handed snatch near the sideline.

Faced with the problem of developing sophomore linemen to fill vacancies left by departing lettermen, Bryant said, "For the most part they're eager, and that's the important thing." Later he said,

"We'd have a pretty good team if we didn't have to rush through practice." The Cadets have their annual Maroon-White intrasquad game set for March 5, a week from Saturday.

In addition to the scrimmages, the squad went through sessions on blocking, tackling, passing, pass defense and signals, then finished the workout with wind sprints.



Regional Cage Meet Set Here

Region 3 high school basketball champs in class A and AA will be decided here Saturday in a tournament at White coliseum.

Six games are scheduled, with the A title game at 7:15 p.m. and the AA championship game at 8:45.

Llano, district 23-A winner, and Thorndale, 22-A titlist, open play at 8:45 a.m. Newton, 17-A, and Buna, 20-A, meet at 10:15 a.m.

Teague, 19-AA winner, tackles Gatesville, 21-AA, at 11:45 a.m. San Marcos, 23-AA, plays Spring Branch, 18-AA, at 1:15.

Tickets are 60 cents per session.

SPORTS SHORTS

By JERRY WIZIG
Battalion Sports Editor

In the last few years the trend in collegiate athletics has been toward shorter and more restricted practice periods, especially in football. The Pacific Coast conference and the Ivy league at one point even went so far as to eliminate spring football sessions entirely.

The National Collegiate Athletic association rules that its members can have 20 practice days in a 36-day period. Southwest conference teams, under league rules, have an even shorter time—18 practice days in 28.

Emphasis Taken Off Work—Bryant

Last night, after A&M's second day of spring drills, Paul Bryant let it be known what he thought

of the present situation, and in typically outspoken terms. In all fairness to Bryant, it should be made clear that he wasn't peeved at the Aggie practice showing.

"The rule-makers have taken the emphasis off work," Bryant charged. "You can't make a football player anymore—now you've got to go out and recruit one—you've got to try to get some ready-made ones."

It's Bryant's contention that the more time an athlete spends in practice, the more he'll hit the books. "When a student is in some kind of supervised activity—and I don't mean just football—he'll spend more time instead of less in the study hall and library," Bryant said.

"Take those guys in the corps. I'd like to see them learn to shine their shoes in 18 days.

"It used to be that if you found a player with just a little ability and something here (thumping his heart), you could work with him and make a football player out of him. The premium is not on work anymore, it's on pure ability."

'Like In Washington'

Bryant continued, "I think our legislation in collegiate athletics is a lot like our legislation in Washington—it encourages people to sit around on their tail, and I don't think that's the American way. At least, it didn't use to be that way."

Disagreeing with those who say athletic practice must be strictly limited, else it would take up too much studying time, Bryant cracked, "I'd like them to check the records and let's just see if students are making more A's now than they used to. I don't think they are—I know they're not making as many touchdowns." (See SPORT SHORTS, page 5)

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