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Ags Face Stiff Test In 'Bama Tourney

(Spl)—Texas A&M, only remaining unbeaten team in the Southwest Conference, faces its toughest test in the Birmingham Classic Friday and Saturday.

Coach Bob Rogers' Aggies meet Alabama in the opening round Friday while Auburn and Wyoming tangle in the other first round game. Winners and losers meet each other Saturday night.

The Aggies have beaten Houston and Sam Houston at home and Trinity and Centenary on the road thus far this season with Capt. Neil Swisher, Victoria senior, setting the scoring pace with an 18.5 average.

Swisher teams with Wilmer Cox, Kilgore Junior College transfer and Houston Milby product, to give the Cadets a solid guard combination. Cox, a junior, is runner-up to Swisher in scoring with a 13.5 average and has been a rugged defensive performer.

At forwards for the Aggies are Wayne Lawrence, 6-7 Pawcatuck, Conn., junior, and Archie Carroll, 6-6 senior from Lon Morris JC and Redlands. Lawrence has posted a

13.0 average while Carroll has a 10-point mark. Jim McNichol, 6-5 senior post man from Philadelphia, owns a 7.0 per game average.

The sixth "starter", Ernie Turner, Beaumont senior, is the first substitute and although a good defender, has scored but 11 points in the four games. Lack of an adequate bench has forced Rogers to play these six men almost 100 per cent of the time.

Fortunately, the Aggies have seen only two players to foul out on personals McNichol did so against Houston while Cox drew his fifth foul late in the Centenary game.

With the three-day Southwest Conference tournament at Houston coming during the holidays and the 14-game conference slate looming in January and February, Rogers must get more help from his reserves.

He will have Kelly Chapman, 6-4 Tyler Junior College transfer, for the final nine conference games. Chapman, with a tremendous eye for the basket and a good rebounder, is not eligible this first semester.

After the SWC tournament at Rice gym, Dec. 26-29, the Aggies open loop play at Dallas against SMU Jan. 3. The home conference opener is Jan. 6 against Rice.

For the first time in recent years the Aggies have matched the opposition on the backboards. Lawrence and Carroll are the rebounding leaders with 35 and 31 respectively as the Aggies lead their opponents in this department, 176 to 158.

That the Cadets are getting good shots and hitting them is proven by the team's .437 percentage from the field.

SPORT SLANTS

By FRED MEURER

Fate's icy fingers hold no scruples at grasping out and snatching life or limbs from even the most noted personalities in any walk of life—including the sports world.

It holds no regard for title when its spins its "Wheel of Misfortune" and comes up with another accident schedule. With this in mind, Sports Slants will digress from the usual sports chatter today and look at the won-and-lost column that designates athletes involved in career-ending accidents. In this box score, victories are few.

Through the years, numerous figures prominent to readers of the sports page have made sensational news of the worse variety due to this thing called Fate. Very few have won, many have lost and several have luckily broken even.

Perhaps a glance pretty close to home would be the best way to begin this cross-section of tragedy. Remember Frank Eidom, great Southern Methodist University halfback? He was killed in a highway accident shortly after graduation and just before he was to play professional football.

Farther back in the sports annals lies the account of another Texas athlete who had his baseball career halted in its early stages. This is Monty Stratton, pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, who had his leg amputated after he accidentally shot himself while hunting. The accident came after only four years in the majors, just at the dawn of a great career.

Last January in New Jersey, Roy Campanella, great Negro catcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers, was seriously injured when his car spun out of control on an icy curve. Campy is still partly paralyzed and his baseball career has been shattered.

Turn the newspaper pages back only a few weeks and you will find accounts of Mel Ott. Recent ones don't tell about his outstanding career with the New York Giants or about his selection to baseball's Hall of Fame. They tell the grim story of a curve and two vehicles—and the resulting death of him and his wife.

Ben Hogan, one of the greatest golfers ever to tour the American greens, was one of the "lucky" ones. After an auto accident some years ago, doctors looked at his maimed body and said he may not live, much less play golf. Ben overcame the odds and continued his career.

But you say you aren't a great athlete, Aggie? You want to know where you fit in?

Perhaps you have not yet climbed the pedestal of recognition, but some day you might be riding high in any career you choose—sports or anything else.

Well, as mentioned before, fate holds no regard for title. In fact, fate may not let you attain any title at all.

But your chances of doing so are much greater if you practice a little care in anything you do, be it driving on the highway, hunting game in the forest or just casually crossing from one side of the street to the other.

Ags in Underdog Role At SWC Tank Relays

Texas A&M swimmers enter the Southwest Conference Relays at Texas Tech Friday as the third place choice behind Southern Methodist and the University of Texas.

This will be the 10th annual meeting of this type for SWC teams. The Ponies lead in the series with five wins, the Longhorns are second with three and A&M has one.

SMU walked away with the relays last year, besting A&M, their nearest opponent, 116 points to 10. In the conference championship meet later, they piled up 188 1/2 points to runner-up A&M's 91.

Aggie swimmers this year are

led by Dieter Ufer and Orlando Cossani, boosted by a horde of promising sophomores. Tops among the latter are John Harrington, backstroke artist from A&M Consolidated, Jack Scholl of Corpus Christi Ray and Mike Fulton of San Antonio.

Myers Places 65 On Tentative List For Grid Letters

Thirty varsity players and 31 freshmen have been recommended for football letters at Texas A&M College, Jim Myers, head coach and director of athletics, announced this week.

In addition, two members of the cross-country team have also received letter nods. They are Freddy Dulock of Axtell and Richard Hickman of College Station.

Aggie varsity lettermen include: Ken Beck of Minden, La.; Powell Berry, Snyder; Bill Cauthorn, Del Rio; Bill Darwin, Houston; Ray Doucet, Nederland; Ed Dudley, Pampa; Jack Estes, Olton; Jon Few, Midlothian; Carter Franklin, Kerens; Robert Garner, Palestine; Richard Gay, Shreveport; Bill Godwin, Orangefield; Allen Goehring, San Marcos; George Gray, Amarillo.

Luther Hall, Dallas; Tommy Howard, Galveston; Wayne Labar, Harlingen; Gordon LeBoeuf, Port Neches; Carl Luna, Garland; Charles Milstead, Tyler; Joe Munson, Angleton; Roy Northrup, Amarillo; Gale Oliver, Refugio; Buddy Payne, Houston; Stan Roper, Austin; Bob Sanders, Seadrift; Randy Sims, Houston; Don Smith, Phillips; Ralph Smith, Phillips; and John Tracey, Philadelphia.

Fresh lettermen: Bob Caskey, Gonzales; Darrell Dean, Ingleside; Gary Finch, Dalhart; Franklin Fisher, Brenham; James Fleet, Gilmer; Wayne Freiling, San Antonio; Dennis Gaubitz, West Columbia; Fred Gibson, Odessa; S. J. Halpin, Beaumont; Russell Hill, Dallas; John Hitt, San Benito; Calvin Janner, Brenham; Daryle Keeling, Tyler; Ray Kelley, Yoakum; Dink Love, Corpus Christi; Richard Love, Lampaas; Rodger McFarland, Fort Worth; Jesse McGuire, Plainview; Woodie Myers, Longview; Bruce Miller, Leveland; Jim Murphy, El Reno, Okla.; David Powitzky, Pasadena; Fred Praetorius, Fort Worth; Bobby Scott, Odessa; Wayland Simmons, San Antonio; David Skinner, Fort Worth; Larry Smith, Brady; John Stradinger, Bellaire; Jim Street, Nederland; Charles Sulak, Fort Worth; Eddie Van Dyke, San Antonio; Bill Vincent, Morgan City, La.; Mickey Walker, Fort Arthur; Ray Wilkins, Homer, La., and James Willis, Graham.

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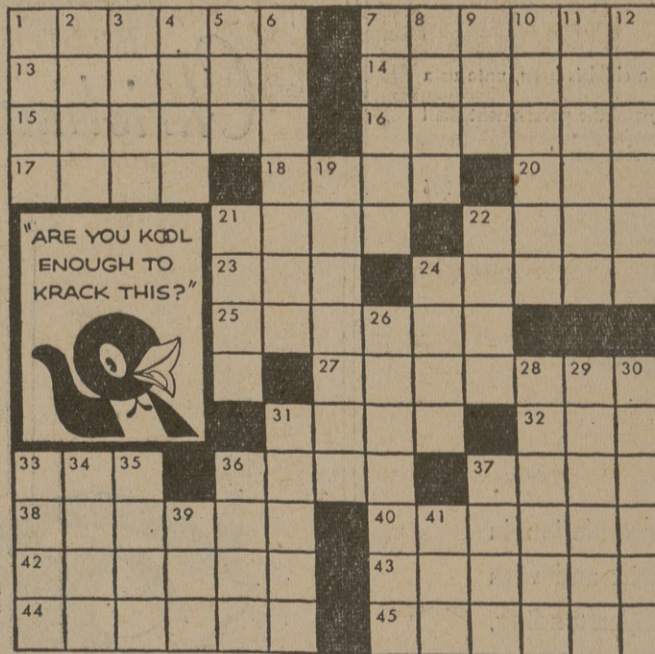
from the

LOUPOTS

KOOL CROSSWORD

No. 12

- ACROSS**
- Fraternity deal
 - Patches skin
 - Therefore
 - Understands, in spades
 - Toujours
 - This is strong in the stretch
 - Fumble noise
 - The dueling coming-out thing of all
 - Hail
 - Key word for sailors' liberty
 - It would be if you didn't get 10 Down
 - Now there are 98 in the U. S.
 - Where U. of Wyoming is
 - The original space cadet
 - Magazine article
 - What makes Kools cool
 - Heel, to some gals
 - A constellation
 - Small Seniors
 - Yesterday in Paris
 - Undergarment that may be a mistake
 - It's properly dunkable
 - Pluses mightily
 - Sniper's spot
 - Calm
 - It's time you pack of Kools
 - Romantic suit
- DOWN**
- Kind of face
 - De fellow who was looking for a fountain
 - Noted equestrian
 - Fancy porch
 - Kind of band
 - This is a Slaughter
 - Chairmanless board
 - Kind of Khan
 - Baseball's man
 - Opposite of to go steady
 - Locale of 13 Across
 - Magazine article
 - The original space cadet
 - What makes Kools cool
 - Heel, to some gals
 - A constellation
 - Small Seniors
 - Yesterday in Paris
 - Undergarment that may be a mistake
 - It's properly dunkable
 - Pluses mightily
 - Sniper's spot
 - Calm
 - It's time you pack of Kools
 - Romantic suit
 - Kind of face



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Answer on Pg. 10

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