

FORMER AG GOLFER

Nichols Wins At Houston

Two Aggies, neither of them students at present but very much Aggies, found last week a profit-

able one at the \$50,000 Houston Classic Golf Tournament. Bobby Nichols, an Aggie-ex who is in his third year on the professional tour, won a playoff victory over Dan Sikes and standout pro Jack Nicklaus Monday.

Nichols, Sikes and Nicklaus were left Sunday with 2-under 278's for the 72-hole tourney. In

the playoff match Monday, Nicklaus was eliminated after 18 holes, but Nichols and Sikes remained in a deadlock and were forced into a very abbreviated "sudden death" match.

On the 19th hole, or number one on Memorial Golf Course, Nichols was down in three for a sensational birdie that earned him \$9,000 and the championship.

Aggie golf coach, Henry Ransom, finished in an 8-way tie for 17th after the 72 holes. His 6-over par 286 was eighth from the lowest and earned him \$800.

Coach Ransom slacked off a bit from the fine 281 he had at last year's Classic. He had only five birdies this year in contrast to 14 for last year. The Bryan cattle rancher said he believed it was rusty putting that added more strokes last week.

In winning the tight playoff victory Monday, Nichols had to come back from three with only that many holes left. He picked up a birdie on the 16th to erase two strokes and watched Sikes blow his certain victory with a bogie on the 17th. He was in trouble on the front nine too but came back with an eagle on ten.

The big eagle came on the 19th, however, and Nichols' perseverance had paid off.

It paid off with the biggest

check for him in his three years. The championship was his second this year after he copped top honors in the St. Petersburg Open earlier in the season.

Coupled with the \$8,875 win at St. Petersburg, Nichols' Houston Classic championship gave him a season total of \$17,874.67. He is now the fourth leading money winner for the 1962 pro tour behind Arnold Palmer (\$37,008), Bill Casper (\$25,208) and Gene Littler (\$21,491).

The Classic victory itself, however, will mean exactly \$14,750 to Nichols. In addition to the \$9,000, he will receive a total of \$5,750 from the various sporting equipment companies he represents. And, by winning the tourney he has earned an invitation to the 1963 Las Vegas Tournament of Champions, which is worth a \$1,000 guarantee.

Brought to A&M by Bear Bryant to play golf on a football scholarship, Nichols went on to be the outstanding Aggie golfer of that era. In 1956, he earned the Southwest Conference Golf Championship.

He had a slow start in big-time professional golf, much as the former NCAA champion Nicklaus has had this year. The St. Petersburg won was Nichols' first professional championship.



SWC Golf Leaders

A&M's varsity golf team is rolling along on top of the conference, six and a half matches ahead. They are (from left to right): John Johnson, Harry Hoskins, Wayne man, Coach Henry Ransom, Dickie John Lively and Jim Fetters.

Open Tennis Play Begins Saturday

Registration for the open tennis singles will be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and matches will start at 2:00, according to Charles E. McCandless, intramural director.

Players for the open badminton singles will be registered at 7:15 p.m. on the third floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum, he said.

The games are open to all students excluding members of the A&M tennis team. Registration will be on the spot. As a requirement for the tennis players, they must bring two new tennis balls.

In Class A softball yesterday, G-1 defeated Sqd. 10, 7-0, and Maroon Band downed F-1, 4-1.

Results in yesterday's Class A tennis matches showed that Sqd. 6 won over E-1, 3-0; Sqd. 13 beat F-2, 2-1, and that Sqd. 4 downed Sqd. 9, 2-1.

With points added from the freshman tennis matches, the resulting top 10 Class B intramural teams are as follows: Sqd. 8 in first place followed by F-1 in second, Sqd. 1 is third, D-3 and Sqd. 10 are tied for fourth, Sqd. 6 is sixth, A-1 seventh, G-2 eighth, Sqd.

3 ninth and in tenth place is Sqd. 9. Without points added for tennis playing, the top 10 teams in Class A intramurals are G-1 and Sqd. 3 tied for first place, Sqd. 10 is third, Sqd. 6 fourth, F-1 fifth, Sqd. 11 sixth, A-1 and Sqd. 8 are tied for seventh, B-2 is ninth and Sqd. 7 is in tenth place.

The civilian top three intramural teams remain unchanged with Puryear Hall first, Mitchell Hall second and Hart Hall third.

In the game between G-1 and Sqd. 10, G-1 quickly took the lead and was ahead by one run going into the top of the second. In increasing their advantage by several good hits into the outfield, G-1 had a powerful lead of seven runs at the end of the second inning.

Coming back with strong determination, Sqd. 10 played a good inning in the top of the third by downing G-1 at bat, three up, three down.

Sqd. 10 failed, however, to maintain their drive and G-1 took the game 7-0 after the three innings of play.

Varsity Golf Retains SWC

Coach Henry Ransom's golfers are carrying on the same play that pushed them to the conference championship the last two years. They are a 23 1/2-6 1/2 season record percentage of .783, and are again in SWC play.

The Ags split a match with Baylor at Waco on April 21.

With only two matches to go, and the SWC it looks like the Ags will win their third consecutive championship. The second-ranked team this season are Baylor and each with 14-10 records and percentages.

Four of the Ag golfers are in the list of leading individual in match play. Johnny Johnson batting 1,000 so far with no and no losses.

Jim Fetters, Harry Hoskins and John Lively all have 4-1 records in match play with .800 averages.

Fetters and Lively lead the conference in four-ball match play with five wins, no losses and 1,000 average. Hoskins and Johnson are in the tie for third with percentage.

The Aggie golf team journeyed to Austin tomorrow for an important match with second-place Texas.

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