

# Former Aggie Golfer Honored

Bobby Nichols, former Aggie golfing great, was picked Saturday by the Golf Writers' Association of America to receive the 1962 Ben Hogan Trophy.

The 26-year-old Kentuckian, who tied for third behind Jack Nicklaus and Arnie Palmer in last June's National Open, and who is the ninth money winner of this tournament year, will receive the award at the national golf awards dinner in New York Jan. 9.

THE HOGAN trophy has been given each year since 1954 to golfers who have overcome serious physical handicaps and continued active participation in the game.

On Sept. 3, 1952, Nichols and three other high school students were riding in a car which struck a tree near Louisville. He was then 16 and a sophomore in Louisville St. Xavier High School. He suffered injuries including a con-

cussion, a broken pelvis, a punctured spine and liver, and damaged lungs and kidneys.

Nichols was in traction for 95 days, paralyzed from the waist down and supposedly never to walk again. He had already begun his career as caddy champion at the Audubon Country Club. His family kept a constant vigil with the young man, massaging his legs and tutoring him during the latter stages of his remarkable comeback.

THREE YEARS later Nichols was graduated from St. Xavier High School. Since his accident he had twice won the Kentucky state prep school golf title.

Bear Bryant brought the young golfer to A&M on one of the first scholarships offered in that sport. Hank Ransom, 1950 World Champion at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club, who had just taken

over coaching chores at Aggie land, took Nichols under his wing and improved his game as he has the games of many Ags since.

Nichols says that his success today is because of Ransom's improving his grip and the help of Louisville pro Bobby Craigs.

While at A&M, Nichols won the Southwest Conference title as a soph, then returned to Louisville the following summer, winning seven of the eight amateur tournaments he entered. In the 1958 National Open, he was one of the few amateurs to survive the 36-hole cut.

HE SERVED six months as assistant professional at Midland Country Club and made his first playing start as a pro in the Phoenix Open in 1960.

He shot a final round 64 for his first pro championship at the Saint Petersburg Open. A month

later he won the three-man play-off from Dan Sikes and Nicklaus with an eagle on the 19th hole at the Houston Open. At one time he had been three strokes down to Sikes.

ODDLY ENOUGH, the man for whom Nichols' well-earned trophy will be named was one of those most helpful in his recovery from the teenage accident.

An excerpt from a letter the Nichols family still treasures:

"I don't have to tell you the human body is the greatest machine in the world. Given a chance, it will heal any hurts, if the person afflicted has the will and determination to do the exercises your doctors have, undoubtedly prescribed for you. There are no short cuts, Bobby. I don't want to sound like a preacher, but I will remember you in my prayers. (Signed) Ben Hogan."

## Ten Ags Rate Green Belts In Judo Try-Outs

Ten Aggies, all members of the A&M Judo Club, received their green belts after examinations Tuesday afternoon in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The green belts mean that these Ags are no longer beginners at the old oriental art of self-defense. Beginners wear white belts. The black belt and the brown belt, respectively, are the highest and second highest ranks.

The students who received their green belts were Michael Dunn, William Miller, Joe Stucky, David Coulson, Ronald Hagan, Keith Huber, Glenn Piersall, Augustin Alvarado, John Roberts and Richard Stepp.

Capt. Lester R. Hewitt, an assistant professor of air science, is the team's coach and sponsor. He is a black belt, first degree. Hewitt received the black belt in Korea.

According to Coulson, the art of Judo began in ancient times. It was developed by monks who sought protection from warlords.



UP AND OVER ... coach tosses beginner in Tuesday judo exams

## Cagers Try LSU, Michigan Before They Take Vacation

Before they make it home for the holidays, Coach Bob Rogers' Aggie cagers will participate in the Houston Classic basketball tourney next weekend. They will meet LSU in the Houston Coliseum at 7 p.m. Friday and the University of Michigan at 9 p.m. Saturday.

The Cadets will take a 4-1 sea-

son record with them to the Bayou City, including Saturday night's triumph over nationally-ranked University of Houston, 69-67.

Both of the A&M opponents in the tournament will be tough ones. LSU lost three big starters from last year, but retained four reserves that saw plenty of action.

MICHIGAN has its top four

scorers from last year returning, and will doubtless better its 1962 mark of 7-17. It comes from one of the toughest conferences in the country, so even its last year's showing wasn't too bad.

Coach Jay McCreary's Tigers from Baton Rouge return starters Maury Drummond, a 6-7 forward who averaged 11.3; and 6-0 guard Ellis Cooper, who had an 11.0 norm. Reserves from last year are 6-6 forward Howard Keene, 6-4 forward Jack Belcher, 6-2 forward Bobby Fetter and 6-0 guard Sam Chase—all juniors.

There will be one soph in the Tigers' starting ranks. He is 6-5 forward Dick Maile, an exceptional shooter and rebounder. He'll go with Drummond, Cooper, Keene and Chase at the initial tipoff.

Making the Michigan Wolverines' offense click will be forward Tom Cole, who averaged 15.0 last season; forward John Oosterbaan, 14.7 last year; center John Harris, guard Bob Cantrell and one of last year's reserves, guard Doug Herner.

They will get a lot of help from sophomores. Center Bill Buntin, a 6-7 lad, has been rated one of the best pivot prospects in years at Ann Arbor. Others are forwards Larry Tegoning 6-5, and George Pomey, 6-4; and guard Charlie Adams, 6-2.

Michigan will have one of the tallest squads the Farmers will face this year.

THE AGGIES have so far averaged better than all their opponents in the statistics columns.

They hit 150 of 320 field goal tries for 46.9 per cent, against the enemies' 126 of 303 for 41.6. They lead opponents in rebounding, 226 to 192.

In the total points column, the Ags have 399 to 350. They have averaged 79.8 per game to the foes' 70.0.



FROM THE

## Sidelines

By Van Conner

Not too many years ago there was a young man enjoying his Christmas vacation from college while deer hunting on the Edwards Plateau. He and his dad had left their metropolitan home long before daybreak.

They were walking cautiously through an area of small cedar and brush, about 50 yards apart. They hoped that one of them would spook a nice, big buck for the other to have a shot at.

It was plenty cold, like it gets in the hills late in deer season—the best time for hunting. And it was not yet entirely daylight.

Neither man had a care in the world. It was one of those few times when father and son get together alone after the latter has gone away to college. They wanted to make the best of it.

Then it was there—the movement in the brush to the left that had to be a 12-point buck. What must have been antlers appeared in the dim light near where the sound had come from.

As he raised the 30-06 to his shoulder the young man thought, "I'd better not miss, Pop would never let me live it down."

He didn't miss. The 53-year-old man didn't even live long enough to forgive his son.

The above incident, and too many others like it, really happened. The young man wasn't an Aggie, but that is hardly essential to the point the story tries to get across.

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