

Coach, Player, Spectator Hearts' Rates Checked

Heart rates of a basketball player, his coach and a spectator were recorded at A&M's season opening game in research to determine comparative work loads during an athletic contest.

Measurements by miniature radio-transmitted signals were penned on a 131-foot-long sheet of paper which will be analyzed by Health and Physical Education Department professors. The project was arranged and

conducted during A&M's game with the University of Southern Mississippi by Dr. Charles B. Corbin, Dr. Homer Tolson and Raymond L. Fletcher.

SUBJECTS FOR the test — which Corbin believes is the first conducted at a major athletic event — were A&M coach Shelby Metcalf, senior forward Harry Bostic of St. Paul, Ind., and aerospace engineering professor Dr. James A. Stricklin who at-

tended as a spectator.

"We expect to be able to differentiate heart rate response from player to coach to fan for a given situation during the competition," Corbin explained. "Recordings will show which situations caused changes in each's heart rate."

The professor who made similar remote measurements at the University of Toledo in a scrimmage and freshman game said

the obvious hypothesis that the player's heart works hardest of the test subjects was substantiated.

"THIS IS LOGICAL," he commented, "but analysis must take into account that he is expending vast amounts of energy which requires his heart to work faster, sending blood and oxygen to the muscles."

Corbin noted that real game tensions also cause more rapid heart rates in the coach and fan.

Data will help scientists understand mechanisms which prepare the human body for strenuous action.

SIGNALS FROM the battery-powered transmitters were converted to chart tracings showing heart beats per minute. Bostic's transmitter carried two sensors, the extra a cardiovascular pickup that produced directly readable tracings.

Corbin said surprising results

are evident from just a casual glance at the chart. Both Metcalf's and Bostic's rates increased before the game started, when starters were introduced.

BOSTIC'S GRAPH shows a pronounced increase and he did not start. Corbin expected peak player rates to reach 150 beats a minute during the most strenuous parts of the game.

Bostic's rate sustained at above 180 beats a minute for sev-

eral brief periods, 30 over the expected level.

If Harry had gone as hard for 10 minutes as he did for three at one time, he couldn't have continued. He wouldn't have a heart attack. He would just have been too fatigued."

Bostic's rates went highest midway through the second half, particularly during about a three-minute stretch when he scored six of A&M's eight points.

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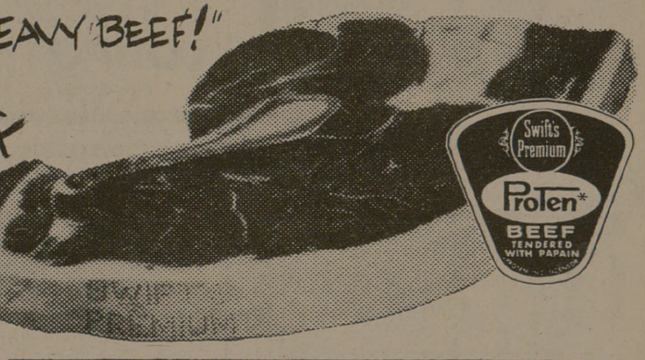
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