

John Curylo

Band has shown reluctance to participate

The Aggie Band made a big mistake last week, and coupled with their previous goofs, it hopefully will not be overlooked.

The reference is to the fact that the "Pulse of the Spirit of Aggieland" voted 270-21 before Christmas not to return to school 30 hours early to play at the A&M-Southern Methodist basketball game last Saturday night.

Instead, the athletic department secured the able services of the Bryan High School Stage Band for musical entertainment. This is not the first instance of lack of willingness to participate in school activities by the Aggie Band.

Last spring, the group refused to perform at home baseball games, an action that broke many years' precedence. Last fall, the Band did not make any of the out of town football games, with the exception of short trips to Houston and Fort Worth. Although the football team played in places that were not out of range of a chartered bus—Baton Rouge, Lubbock and Little Rock—the Band did not make any of

these games.

In December, the Band refused to show up at any pre-conference basketball games, saying that this would cut into their studies too much. They added that playing at conference games was enough of a burden without asking for more.

The demand on time is great for a member of the Aggie Band. Drills every afternoon in the fall and practice sessions twice a week limit free time. However, the University of Texas Band was out in force for the Mississippi-Texas game Dec. 1. Also, while time is a great factor, the Band still should feel some obligation to perform its job as a part of the school. They all knew the demands when they signed up for the Band.

Without the publicity given the Aggie Band by the athletic department, they would be virtually unknown. Appearances on television, exposure to thousands of football fans and such things as being featured in the Thanksgiving Day football program have boosted the Band.

The Aggie Band has received numerous offers to perform at professional games, in addition to bowl and all-star games, all expenses paid. These come as a result of the publicity of the athletic department. The fact that Lt. Col. E. V. Adams, director of the Band, has chosen to refuse these offers is their business—the opportunity was there.

It is interesting to note that last fall when KORA Radio in Bryan was playing the Aggie War Hymn in spot announcements supporting the football team, Adams said that the song was the property of the Aggie Band and could not be used without their permission. No comment.

The Humble Radio Network drew criticism from the Band for their description of the halftime performance during football games. As a spotter for these broadcasts during three conference games this season, I was impressed to note that the announcers say more and have more praise for the Aggie Band than they did for the other schools.

It is obvious that there are problems within the organization. Several solutions arise in the immediate business at hand—basketball. Six home games remain, three on Tuesday nights and three Saturday nights.

A common complaint from Band members is that they all must go to the games. The best idea for all involved is to have a part of the group perform. Half, one-third, or even one-quarter of the Aggie Band is sufficient. Why not divide into sections and play at all the games with a partial Band?

Another course of action involves high school bands. For some of the games, area school bands could perform, taking the pressure off the Aggie Band to participate. This would not apply, obviously, to the televised home game Feb. 26. One advantage of having high school bands is that some halftime entertainment could be provided. Adams refuses to allow any pom-pom girls or drill teams to perform when the Aggie Band is present, although

several have requested to do so.

A more difficult solution to accomplish would be the forming of some sort of A&M stage band. Other schools do this for basketball, and we used to have a similar group, the Aggieland Orchestra. Such an organization would take the obligation to appear away from the Aggie Band, in addition to allowing civilians and coeds to participate.

Regardless of what result the negligence of the Aggie Band produces, the solution, like the problem, is within the organization. A change of attitude needs to occur in the leadership of the group.

"We have better things to do," was the response of one prominent member when asked to perform at a pre-conference basketball game last month. The eight sophomores in the Band who drove to the Nebraska football game without tickets and worked on the sidelines assisting the managers indicate that future leadership will be more energetic and active.



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APPLICANTS MUST APPLY EARLY.

Lee Trevino wins Associated Press honors by being selected Male Athlete of the Year

By TOM EMORY
Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP)—Lee Trevino, a professional golfer whose style is as unorthodox as his success is stunning, was selected Wednesday as the Male Athlete of the Year by The Associated Press.

Trevino won six tournaments during 1971, including the United States, Canadian and British Opens within four weeks. He won over \$227,000 to finish second to Jack Nicklaus on the Professional Golfers Association money winners' list and was voted PGA Player of the Year.

But through it all, the Dallas native kept up his banter on the golf course which before his appearance as the surprise winner of the 1968 U.S. Open was unusual for a golfer involved in a pressure-wracked pro tournament.

Trevino received 118 votes in the nationwide balloting of sportswriters and sportscasters. Baseball players Roberto Clemente of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Joe Torre of the St. Louis Cardinals, both of the National League, tied for second with 31 votes,

while Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Milwaukee Bucks of the National Basketball Association received 24 votes.

Others in the balloting included Vida Blue, Oakland A's, 17; Pat Matzdorf, high jumper, 14; Phil Esposito, Boston Bruins, National Hockey League and Ed Marinaro, Cornell football player, 13; Nicklaus, 9; and Pat Sullivan, Auburn football player, 7.

His flat swing, which was once laughed at, is now familiar and feared on the PGA tour. Any tournament the one-time pitcher-and-putt assistant pro is in, he is one of the automatic favorites.

Trevino, 32, arrived on the golf scene after a poverty-stricken childhood, a 10th-grade exit from formal education, a hitch in the Marines and jobs as an assistant pro on dirt and dust driving ranges.

His first break came when he became an assistant pro at the Horizon Hills Country Club, El Paso, course in Texas. In 1967 he traveled to the U.S. Open at Baltusrol, N.J., and won \$6,000 for a fifth-place finish. He won

it all in the 1968 Open in Rochester, N.Y.

Many of the gallery regulars at golf tournaments find Trevino more than unusual. He doesn't appear to be concentrating on his shots. He makes conversation with his admirers. He predicts where his shots will drop and does not appear to be affected by the silence that surrounds many tension-torn opponents.

As a result, Trevino is a favorite. Arnold Palmer, another golfer great, has a following called "Arnold's Army." Trevino tagged his fans as "Lee's Fleas."

The Mexican-American's good nature and bright outlook also focuses on bringing some happiness to others, besides his jokes and stories. Several times he has donated part of his tournament winnings to hospitals and children's homes, saying he feels he is being watched over and feels he should repay the favor in whatever way he can.

Trevino began his four weeks of wonder June 21 when he defeated Jack Nicklaus in a sudden-death playoff for the U.S. Open title on the Merion Country Club course in Ardmore, Pa. Both finished the 72 regulation holes tied at 280. But Trevino shot a two-under-par 68 to Nicklaus' 71 for the championship.

The next week he went to Canada and took that national title with little opposition. His hot streak continued as he played the Royal Birkdale course in England, but he faced a tough, wirey opponent in Hiang Huan Lu of Taiwan.

A strong lead after the third round faded and Trevino found the popular "Mr. Lu" close. But Trevino rallied to pull out a one stroke victory 278-279, despite a double bogey seven on the 17th hole.

After the victory he donated \$4,800 to the Southport Orphanage.

Toward the end of the tour, and after teaming with Nicklaus to help the United States claim the World Cup, Trevino began to feel the pressure of the pro grind. His game slipped and he skipped several tournaments, missing his opportunity to claim the PGA high-money spot.

Trevino is married with one child, and his wife, Claudia, acts as his personal finance manager, giving her husband spending money.

Students Can Sign Up For Long Distance Service This Week In The MSC Lobby

Students who want to add long distance calling privileges to their room telephone should sign up at our desk in the Lobby of the Memorial Student Center, Wednesday, January 19 through Friday, January 21 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

You should check with our desk if:

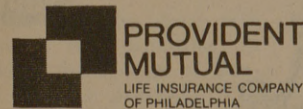
1. You want long distance service and did not sign up last semester.
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