

Aggie golfers finish qualifying rounds

By BILL HENRY
Assistant Sports Editor
Through rain, sleet and high winds, the A&M golf team finished its qualifying rounds, all 180 holes of them.

Tommy Shelton mastered the physical feat, which lasted two weeks, seven over par at 708. The play was conducted at the A&M golf course on the campus from Jan. 22 until Feb. 8. Eight days, over the 16-day span, were needed to play the required 10 rounds of golf.

Coach Henry Ransom feels this tough, lengthy competition will enable his linksters to be more of a challenge when the South-west Conference meet is held April 27 in Fayetteville.

The field, which numbered as many as 30, slimmed itself down

to 16 on the final day of competition with the participants trying to win a place on the varsity team which would be cut to 10 after the day's round.

Players were competing for scholarship money, which would be allocated for the top 10, and for the advantage of getting in some free golf.

Shelton, a three-year letterman from Houston, finished the first

day's competition with a one-under-par 69 for the lead and never relinquished it throughout the remaining rounds.

Steve Veriato, a two-year letterman from Hilo, Hawaii, was looked on at the beginning of play as the one to beat after finishing first in the SWC tourney last season.

In the SWC fall tourney, held in Fort Worth, Shelton unseated

Veriato by copping third in medal play. Veriato slipped to a three-way tie for third.

Veriato, however, gave Shelton a fight most of the way through the tourney but was never able to take over the intensely competitive Shelton and settled for second place.

Tommy Gilbert, three-year letterman from Nocona, ended up the ordeal in third place.

Other members of the team this season are Tom Johnson, Jr., two-year letterman from San Benito; Wayne Batten, Jr., from Bryan; Paul Dieckert, Jr., from Bryan; Bill Schmidt, Jr., from Bartlesville, Okla.; Randy Tickner, Soph., from Rawlins, Wyo.; Ed Pennington, Fr., from San Antonio; Al Pryor, Fr., from Dallas, and Charles White, Fr., from Bryan.



THREE BAT GIRL APPLICANTS, (left to right) Becky Upham, Kathy Wolfe and Charae Roques, are shown with Joe Hughes, who is in charge of selection of the 12 A&M coeds who will perform at four non-conference home games

this season. Deadline for applying is Friday. Forms may be picked up in the University Women's office. Any questions should be directed to Hughes, 845-1108. (Photo by Mike Rice)

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Seaver inks high-paying pact

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Tom Seaver became the highest paid player in New York baseball history Wednesday when he signed with the Mets for a reported \$120,000.

When the 27-year-old right-handed pitching ace reached agreement with General Manager Bob Scheffing, he became the youngest major leaguer to reach the \$100,000 plateau.

Scheffing also announced the signing of right-handed pitcher Gary Gentry, 12-11 in 1971, reportedly got \$40,000.

"I didn't sign for the figure I actually wanted," Seaver said following a fifth and final meeting with Scheffing. "You never do."

But, added Seaver, "I would be 100 per cent happy if I had signed for \$5,000 more."

This will be Seaver's sixth major-league season, all with the Mets.

He was named Rookie of the Year in the National League in 1967 after posting a 16-13 record. After a 16-12 year in 1968, he recorded a 25-7 mark in 1969 as the Mets won the pennant and went on to upset the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series.

In 1969, he was named the Cy Young Award winner as the best pitcher in the National League

and also was voted the Hickok Professional Athlete of the Year.

Seaver dropped to 18-12 in 1970. Last season he came back to post a 20-10 record, with a 1.76 earned run average—best in the majors—and 289 strikeouts, a National League record for right-handers.

After signing and before joining the other Mets pitchers and

catchers in a workout, Seaver telephoned his wife Nancy, who also is in St. Petersburg.

Asked what her reaction was to his making more than Willie Mays did in New York or Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio or Mickey Mantle, Seaver replied:

"She said, 'Don't forget to bring some paper towels home.'"

Patterson becomes Rockets' head after successful tenure with Bucks

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK (AP)—Ray Patterson, who in three years turned the Milwaukee Bucks into champions of the National Basketball Association by winning a coin flip for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and trading for Oscar Robertson, was named president of the Houston Rockets Wednesday.

Patterson, who held the same position with the Bucks, tendered his resignation, effective May 1, although he will conduct the April draft of college players for his new club.

At the press conference announcing his move from Milwaukee to Houston, Patterson put his stamp of approval on Coach Tex Winter, saying, "I have no reason to entertain thoughts of a new coach," and said he felt the Rockets "are where Milwaukee was three years ago."

Three years ago the Bucks were as young as the Rockets, who moved this season to Houston from San Diego. But Patterson

won a coin flip with Phoenix for the No. 1 draft pick and the Bucks selected Jabbar, then a UCLA senior named Lew Alcindor.

Later, Robertson was brought in as a steady factor, and the Big O and Jabbar led the Bucks to the NBA championship last season.

One of Patterson's last trades was with the Rockets, a deal in which the Bucks acquired Curtis Perry and a No. 1 draft choice for Greg Smith. Houston has been criticized for the transaction.

Patterson takes over a Houston club that has been having considerable difficulty, first because of the shift from San Diego and second because of the head-to-head confrontations between Winter and his star, Elvin Hayes.

The club, which met the New York Knicks Wednesday night, currently is in fourth place in the Pacific Division. Under realignment plans, the Rockets are scheduled to move into the Midwest Division with Patterson's old club, the Bucks.

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