

# Aggie Rugby Club Entered In Aspen

Two time Texas rugby champions, the Rugby Club of A&M, will travel to Aspen, Colo., to participate in the annual Aspen Ruggerfest Oct. 13-14.

This is the first trip for the Aggies to this tournament which formally attracted the top rugby teams in the nation.

There are 24 teams entered in this year's tournament of which Air Force and Colorado State are the favorites. A&M will be a dark horse for this year's title.

The Aggies are one of three Texas teams which will play this year's tournament. The Austin Blacks and San Antonio, both of which the Aggies beat handily

last Spring, will make the long trip to Aspen.

The Aggies have won all but one tournament in which they have participated over the last two years. Among their victories were the Mardi Gras Tourna-

ment of last Spring, the Lone Star Tournament in Houston last fall, and the Galveston and Austin Tournaments of 1971 and 1972 respectively.

A&M will have to do battle with the high altitude of 9,600

feet plus the snow and low temperatures.

Gene Anderson and Steve Sturman captain the Aggies. Also making the trip to Aspen will be Iggy Gonzalez, John Gunn, George McCarroll, Randy Harju,

Judd Ouxall, Don Robertson, George Alden, Ricky Myers, Larry Gallego, David Unnerstall, Bobby Way, Rich Jones, Mark Anthony, Jim Goulding, Bruce Mills, Aaron Cahoon, Ken Bucek and Chip Newton.

## New Season Approaches For Bird

As far as Texas A&M's Max Bird is concerned, the 1972 football season is just beginning.

"We've got too much ability to let it go down the drain," Bird said after the disappointing loss to Army. "I'm not going to let it get me down. We're going to do a little soul-searching. Then we're going to get after them the rest of the way, beginning with Texas Tech."

That kind of determination has been a trademark of Bird's career at A&M. The 6-0, 223-pound defensive end has been one of the most under-rated players in the Southwest Conference. As a junior last year, Bird had 78 tackles including nine for 50 yards in losses. Against Army he was the team's leading tackler with 12 and sacked the Cadet quarterback three times.

"Bird is a solid dependable player," says coach Emory Belard. "He plays anywhere from good to outstanding. He's the kind of person that you would leave your store and moneybox with and know it was just as safe as in a bank."

The steady senior from Amarillo Tascosa High is also one of the top students on the squad despite majoring in the tough field of pre-dentistry. Bird plans on entering dental school after graduation from A&M. His wife Pamela will be right at his side

all the way. She is an Accredited Record Technician, a trained medical secretary.

Bird has a pre-game superstition. "I always put my left thigh pad in before the right one. I remember in high school that I broke an arm, and I had put in the right thigh pad first that night." Apparently it works, because Bird has not missed an Aggie game due to an injury.

Now that he has figured out how to stay well, he'd like to find the right combination for the team to get well. The first item in the prescription would be a victory over Texas Tech when the Aggies open Southwest Conference play next Saturday in Kyle Field.

If the team bounces back like Bird predicts, it should be a very interesting game.

## Cowboy's Other Thomas Ready For Football Action

DALLAS (AP) — The last of the Cowboy Thomases is ready and waiting for a call to arms.

Bill Thomas, the No. 1 draft choice of World Champion Dallas, says his surgically repaired left shoulder has healed and he'll play even if it means duty on the suicide teams.

"I don't feel part of the team," says the Boston College rookie who has been languishing on the taxi squad. "I hope I can get activated in the next couple of weeks and just help on the specialty teams if nothing else."

"I haven't been on a kickoff team since I was a junior in high school but I'll do whatever I can do to get back on the team."

Bill was one of three Thomases on the Cowboy roster when training camp began in Thousand Oaks. Running back Duane Thomas and defensive back Isaac Thomas were traded.

Bill Thomas' shoulder bothered him from an old college wound and he underwent surgery before he could play one down for the Super Bowl champions.

Now, Thomas is tempted to tug at Coach Tom Landry's sleeve and say "Hey, remember me? I sure love to play football."

"I may go talk with the man

if I'm not activated in several weeks," Thomas says. "I wanted to talk to Coach Landry after the Green Bay game but I decided that wouldn't be a very good time."

Dallas lost 16-13. Thomas has been running plays on the Cowboy scout team. That means he has been going up against members of the Dooomsday Defense.

"I've had several good collisions with linebackers Dave Edwards and D. D. Lewis in practice," Thomas says. "They were good pops and I didn't feel any twinge on my shoulder."

Thomas says "I guess they are waiting to see if the shoulder is all right. But I feel I'm lost in the shuffle. The coach has so many things to do . . . busy . . . busy . . . busy . . . that sometimes I wonder if he has forgotten about me."

Thomas is the fifth running back on the team behind fullbacks Robert Newhouse and Walt Garrison and tailbacks Calvin Hill and Mike Montgomery.

"I feel I know my assignments," Thomas says. "I know both the tailback and fullback slots. I like the running back position more because I feel more comfortable. I like standing up where you can see the linebackers."

Thomas works out with the team during the week and gets a ticket in the stands on Sunday. He'd at least like a seat on the bench.

## Aggies Lose; Host Raiders

Baylor beat Texas A&M 24-31 in the first cross country meet of the season. Pete Morales of Baylor was the individual winner with a time of 20:34 for the four-mile distance. A&M's Frank Ybarbo was second at 20:52.

Other Aggie finishers were Charles Cottle fifth, Danny Jones seventh, Paul Goodman eighth, Lynn Kitchen ninth, Jimmy Sheffield 11th and Harold Davis 14th.

The Aggies will host Texas Tech in a dual meet Saturday on the A&M golf course. Time will be set later.

## Carlen Expects Aggie Change

LUBBOCK, Tex. (AP) — Texas Tech Coach Jim Carlen said Monday that he expects a Texas A&M team much changed from the injury-plagued one which lost to Army two weeks ago.

"I think A&M will be a completely different team than they have been the past four weeks," said Carlen, referring to the A&M injury situation.

"They had Homer May out against Army, they had Brad Dusek out and apparently Mark Tech meet Saturday night in Col-

The Red Raiders coach said he was extremely impressed with the Aggie material. A&M and Baylor beat Texas A&M 24-31 lege Station in a Southwest Conference game.

"I think Dusek is more than a plus fullback," Carlen said. "I think their freshmen have given them outside speed and they have a strong offensive line. They have outstanding personnel to run the Wishbone or any other offense for that matter."

Carlen said he was pleased with his No. 1 units against Tulsa, but was dissatisfied with his No. 2 units.

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Oct. 9-13 ..... A-G  
Oct. 16-20 ..... H-M  
Oct. 23-27 ..... N-S  
Oct. 30-Nov. 3 ..... T-Z

Pictures Will Be Taken from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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