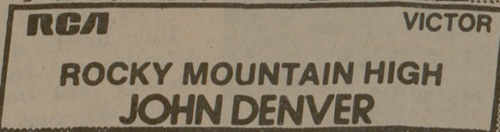
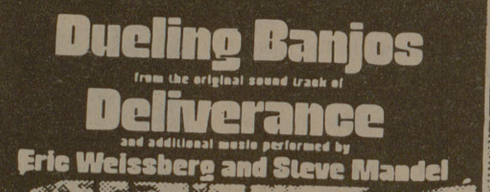
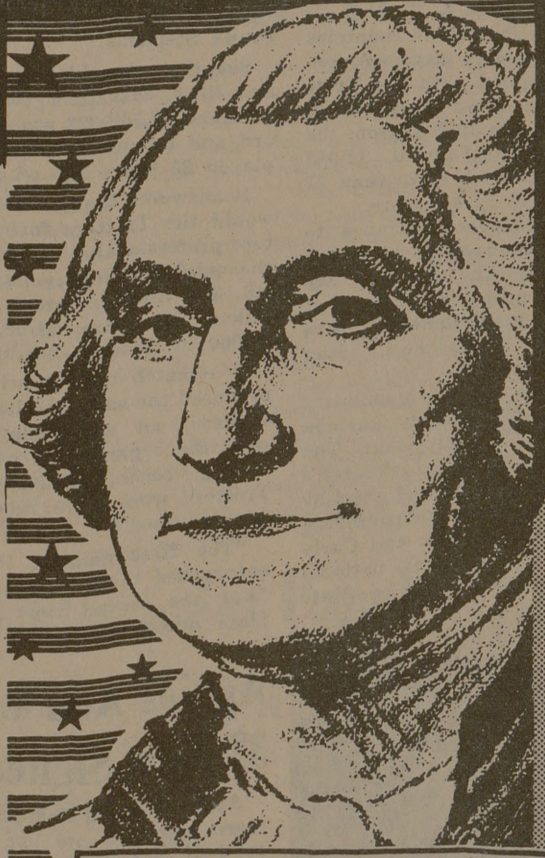


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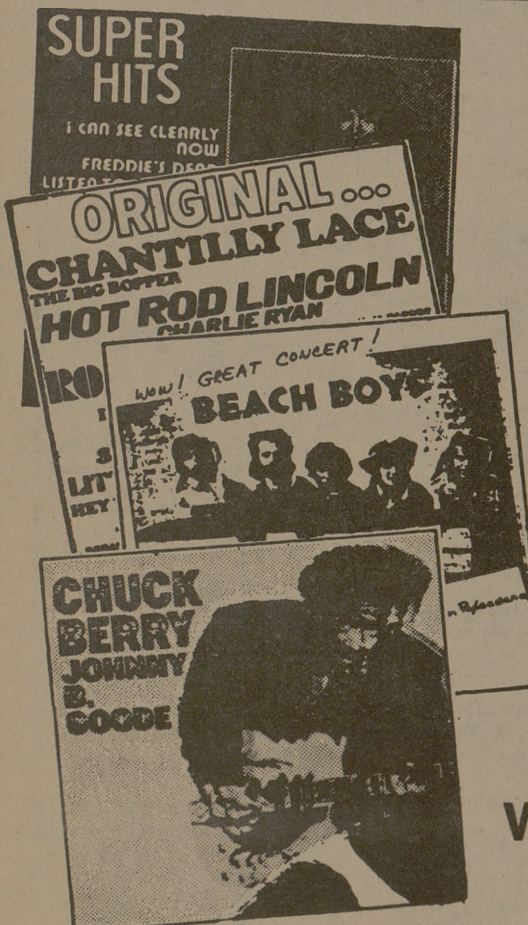


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A&M's Mario Brown Fifth In Pizza Hut Balloting

Mario Brown, A&M's top-notch floorleader, stands fifth in the voting parade for a berth on the West senior all-star team which will collide against the East in the second annual Pizza Hut Basketball Classic on April 14 in the Las Vegas Convention Center. Brown has accumulated 2,607 votes throughout the country thus far in the voting that ends March 8.

Leading vote-getter so far is another SWC standout, SMU's Ruben Triplett, with 3,926 votes after the first week of balloting. The game will pit the top eight vote-getters from the East and the West. Others on the West squad in the top five thus far are Swen Nater and Larry Hollyfield of UCLA and Richie Fuqua of Oral Roberts. The East squad's top five are

Dwight Lamar of SW Louisiana; Jim Andrews, Kentucky; Kevin Joyce, South Carolina; Allie McGuire, Marquette and Allan Britton, Virginia Tech. Other SWC members in the running are Steve Newsome of Houston who stands 13 with 1,832 votes and Martin Terry of Arkansas at 16 with 1,732 votes. Ballot will be available here for the fans to vote Feb. 20 when A&M and Rice collide.

Wrestlers Win State Meet

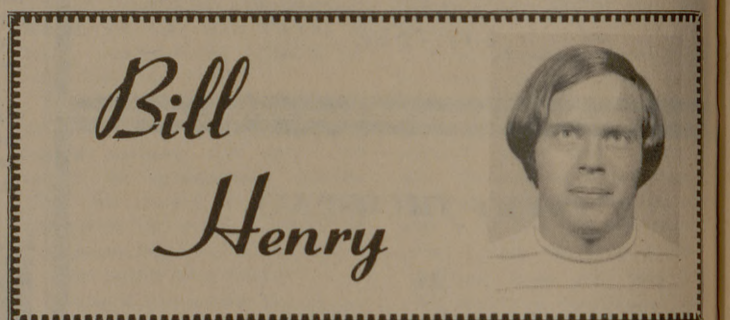
By RAY B. SHEPHERD
 The Texas A&M Wrestling team, the 1973 Wrestling Conference Champions, take on Pan American University Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Deware Field House. The Aggies won the championship two weeks ago as they battled the eight Texas Wrestling Conference teams in an all day tournament in Mesquite, Texas. The Aggies won the tournament by a seven point margin over the second place team North Texas State.

This is the second year that the Aggie mat men have won the title. The wrestling team dominated the tournament from the beginning as they entered the finals matches with five men.

Of the five, the Ags were able to take first in two of the ten weight classes. Eddy Peralta (118) and Jim Rike (Hwt) both came away with the title of state champions. Frank Cox (126), Frank Wietz (158), and Mike Trahan (177) were able to come away with second places as the first two were pinned and the latter was beaten 6-5 by their opponents.

Jerome Urbanosky (142) and John Manning (191) both took third in their weight classes but in doing so were able to add the final points that gave the A&M team its over all win. J. P. Jones (134) took a fourth with Bob Stewart (150) and Steve Lentsch (167) taking a fifth.

In this weekend's action the A&M wrestling team will face new opponents as the Pan American team will be bringing people that the Aggies have never faced before.



If recruiting is the life blood of college football, coach Emory Bellard and his staff gave A&M its second transfusion. The first was gained last year.

Three Texas bluechippers were signed Tuesday along with the nation's first team All-America high school quarterback, Joe McReynolds from Purcell, Okla. Three bluechippers remain unsigned after the first two signing days and the Aggies have a good chance on two.

Those remaining are Jeff Bergeron, John Klinger and Mike Ebow. The term "bluechipper" is not a well defined term for many people so for a basic knowledge of what's going on, let's explain it.

The Dallas Times Herald sports department asked each Southwest Conference head football coach to send in names of Texas high school prospects they felt were the best in the state. No limits were set on the number the coach could send in.

The votes ranged from Tech's Jim Carlen's 23 prospects to only four from Rice's Al Conover.

The top twelve vote-getters are named bluechippers. Bergeron was chosen by each coach, nine votes, and was determined the state's best football player.

The three Aggies picked ranged from eight votes to four. Jimmy Dean, 6-4, 245, lineman from Brazoswood High, was the second leading vote getter with eight. David Shipman, 6-0, 190, quarterback from Odessa Permian got seven votes and his teammate Grady Wilkerson, 6-3, 215, linebacker, had four votes.

Last year, A&M also signed three bluechippers and all started games. Richard Osborne, Bubba Bean and Glenn Smelser were honored as the state's best.

Other bluechippers that started this year were Wayne Morris and Kenny Harrison for SMU and Cary Jackson for Oklahoma. Marty Akins, another bluechipper, did not start but played frequently for the SWC champion Longhorns. Akins will start as a sophomore.

The other conference schools already have spots reserved for the bluechippers they signed Tuesday.

Houston, Baylor, Rice and Oklahoma grabbed the other six bluechippers that A&M left.

Houston signed two gargantuan linemen in Brenham's 6-4, 280 Wilson Whitley and Houston Reagan's 6-4, 260 Val Belcher.

Baylor signed Whitley's teammate, runningback Cleveland Franklin and Dallas South Oak Cliff's split receiver, Alcy Jackson.

Rice signed the state's top athlete as voted on by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Lee quarterback Tommy Kramer. He was also voted the state's top quarterback.

Oklahoma signed Austin Reagan linebacker Obie Moore.

OU also has the best shot at Bergeron along with Houston, Baylor and LSU as it looks right now. Bergeron won't make any hasty decisions, that's for sure.

The two remaining, Klinger and Ebow will be a fight to the finish but Bellard and his staff have high hopes in bringing both to Aggieland. For Klinger, the Aggies have to fight Texas and Colorado for Ebow.

If Klinger signs with A&M, that will leave Texas without a single bluechip prospect which has not happened in ages to the Longhorns.

With last year's crop, Bellard used 19 for varsity competition. He has vowed to give this year's group the same opportunity to prove themselves fit for varsity action. If things work out as expected, A&M will have, at the most, only two starters that were not recruited by Bellard and his staff.

The Aggies will certainly have the youngest team in the conference but these players have the ability to turn last year's dismal 3-8 record into 8-3 if they come here this summer ready for the challenge. You can bet Emory Bellard and his staff are ready for that challenge, they've shown that in the recruiting done the past two years.

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