

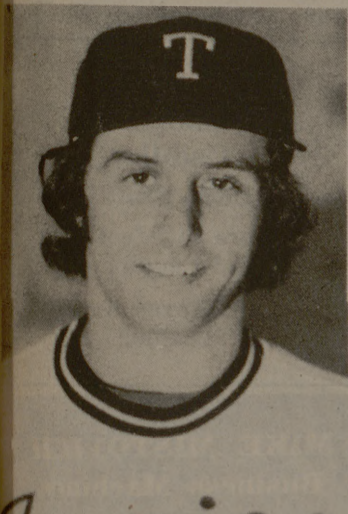
Hacker, Collins pace Battalion awards

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

In balloting by the sports department of the Battalion, Jim Hacker and Jean Collins walked away with top honors in the first Battalion Sports Awards.

THE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD goes to third baseman Jim Hacker, a sure All-America selection. His batting average of .477 led the conference and places him fourth on the all-time list. His outstanding play also netted him a spot the past fall on the All-World Amateur Team which copped a 2-1 decision over Nicaragua in the final.

All-American linebacker Ed Simonini was the close runnerup in voting. Simonini was chosen SWC Defensive Player of the Year for his outstanding abilities on the football field.



Jim Hacker

THE WOMAN ATHLETE OF THE YEAR goes to All-American Jean Collins. Collins was named A-A in the 400-yd. freestyle relay, 50-yd. freestyle, 50-yd. backstroke and 100-yd. freestyle. She was also a member of the 200-yd. freestyle relay team which set a state record.

The runnerup is basketball center Cissy Auclair. Auclair was the top scorer on the squad the past year in the Aggies' first women's basketball season. She was later invited to try out for the Olympic team.

THE COACH OF THE YEAR goes to swimming and Water Polo coach Dennis Fosdick. Fosdick led the swimmers to their best showing

at the conference meet in years. His water polo team has gained international prominence through trips to Brazil and the West Coast.

Second place goes to tennis mentor Omar Smith. Smith retires at the end of this season after 15 years as the head coach. His talented netters have earned him 12 straight winning seasons and two doubles championships.

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR is Shifton Baker, a nationally ranked schoolboy from Elgin. Baker has already proven himself a very consistent and capable performer in the hurdles and long jump. His best time of the year is 13.99 in the 120 highs.

Second to Baker is Fresh Quarterback David Walker. Walker, a Louisianan, came from second-man at a crucial time to add consistency to the faltering Aggie squad.

TRANSFER OF THE YEAR goes to new found Aggie basketball star John Thornton. Thornton caught fire in the middle of the season to end up as one of the Aggies top scorers. Thornton was honored as the SWC Newcomer of the Year and voted MVP by his teammates.

Runnerup is Fred Russ, new shortstop on the A&M baseball squad. Russ transferred from San Jacinto JC to add stability to a sorely lacking spot in the Aggie defense.

SURPRISE OF THE YEAR is Don Riggs, a freshman high jumper from Houston. Riggs entered A&M without the comfort of a scholarship with hopes of making the basketball team as a walk-on. He was refused, but was accepted by the track team on the basis of his best high school jump of 6-2. In his first collegiate meet, an indoor affair at Monroe, Louisiana, Riggs cleared 6-8, besting his previous high by six inches.

Second is awarded to David Walker, for proving to be a much more talented quarterback than anyone suspected.

THE BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE goes to junior tennis player Bill Hoover for his outstanding performance in the SWC tournament. Hoover waded through the seeded players, with such high-lights as beating third-seeded Lee Merry and tough Alan Boss. George Hardie of SMU defeated a weary Hoover in the singles final.

Second in this category goes to Jim Juhl, Aggie relief pitcher who saved the Friday game of the SWC series

with Rice. Juhl came in the top of the ninth with runners on second and third and one out. A&M was ahead 4-3 at the time and the score was in immediate jeopardy. Juhl struck out the first two batters he faced with six pitches.

THE BEST TEAM PERFORMANCE goes to the football team for their efforts against SMU during the football season past. The Ags easily played their finest game of the season in that contest.

Second goes to the baseball team for wiping the slate clean with TCU and in the process beating Frog ace Frank Johnstone twice.

THE CLUB SPORT OF THE YEAR goes to our most recent and long awaited National Champion, the Rugby Team. The ruggers ran up their usual season record, heavy in the win column. They also won the State Rugby Union championship just last week.

Second place goes to coach Fosdick's national contender Water Polo team.

The next group of awards are less than coveted awards, but ones which are assuredly deserved. Most can be understood from the titles of the awards.

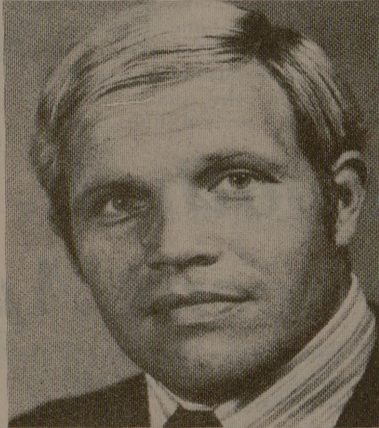
THE WORST PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR goes to the basketball team for their hopscotch match

with Rice. Juhl came in the top of the ninth with runners on second and third and one out. A&M was ahead 4-3 at the time and the score was in immediate jeopardy. Juhl struck out the first two batters he faced with six pitches.

Second place goes to the Track team for their not necessarily turtlish but lack luster performance at the Texas Relays, which brings us to the next award.

THE SORE LEG AWARD goes also to the track team for their increasing ability to come up with an ache or pain right before the big meet. Fortunately there has been considerable improvement the past two weeks and the team may lose the award next year.

THE WILD PITCH OF THE YEAR goes to Jim Juhl for the game-losing freebie he tossed in the Ags



Dennis Fosdick

last game. His throw kept A&M from breaking the school record for wins in a season and from at least taking the series from Texas who had just stripped the team of the title minutes before.

THE BAD HOP AWARD goes to cinch All-America second baseman Mike Schraeder, who lost his cinch when he collided with John Woods in a practice game rupturing his spleen. Schraeder sat out the rest of the season.

Sprinter Sammy Dierschke took second in voting. Dierschke just can't seem to stay healthy enough to win anything.

THE TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN AWARD goes to Ex-Aggie pitcher Bobby Falcon who allowed himself to be swayed by big bills and allowed the Aggies to suffer a second place finish for lack of adequate pitching.

THE BUM CALL OF THE YEAR goes to coach Emory Bellard for his heat of the moment decision in the Baylor game. The Ags were well ahead but Bellard opted to go for the fourth and one late in the game on a very wet field. The Ags failed to convert, the Bears took over and scored jeopardizing the outcome. The Ags held on to win but Bellard himself admitted that he committed a no-no.

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Goldsmith makes WSA semifinals

CONROE—Brenda Goldsmith, an A&M freshman, surprised defending champion Beth Barry of Mobile, Ala., 1 up, Thursday and gained a spot in the semifinals of the Women's Southern Amateur golf tournament.

Miss Goldsmith, a native of San Antonio, won on the fourth hole of a sudden death playoff. Miss Goldsmith parred the hole before Miss Barry missed a tying putt.

Both shots followed a controversial ruling, brought about because of water on the green.

Miss Barry's shot hit the green while Miss Goldsmith's shot was

slightly short, but still within putting distance.

Both golfers asked for drops and Women's Southern President Mrs. Willis Graham allowed them better positions. However, it was later determined that Miss Goldsmith should not have been allowed a drop but the original ruling stood.

In other quarterfinal action, Mary Ann Rathmell, tournament medalist from Houston, defeated Carol Templin of Sunrise, Fla., 3 and 2; Mary Beth Morgan of Houston defeated Nancy Hager of Dallas, 1 up; and Martha Jones of Decatur, Ga., defeated Pat Blocker of Tyler, Tex., 3 and 2.

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