Backlashes and Blown Patterns

By KARL WOLFSHOHL

Hello happy deer hunters! The season is just around the corner now and what are you doing about it? Reading back issues of Field & Stream? Taking target practice on mocking birds with your Daisy spittin' image?

While we're going through all this heavy preparation for killing those critters the Texas Parks and Wildlife men are out stomping around in the bushes counting them for us. Now if you've read much hunting material at all you know that somebody figures out how many deer there are in the state each year and then gets that information printed up for the knowledge and well-being of all us rugged outdoorsmen types.

Now this is called a deer census, but that's not to imply that the wildlife people are walking door-to-door asking how many deer are there in your family.

No, determining deer populations accurately is not a simple process and there are a lot more factors to consider than we average sportsmen want to think about.

The method used most often in Texas for taking deer counts is the deer census line, officially called the Hahn cruise line, and it works like this. The game officials pick a set block of land, usually with distinct boundaries like roads, fences, etc. and they determine its acreage. Then a count line is formed, two miles long and as nearly straight as it can be.

The counters walk along this line and look for deer, making note of all sightings. The counts begin one hour before sunset and ends at sunset.

Sightings are recorded and later compared and averaged in with others from the area to determine density of deer populations in a given zone, usually expressed in number of acres per deer. The game people around Bryan-College Station cover a five county area with 50 or 60 census lines.

The Hahn cruise line has its restrictions. Deer in these parts usually have a range of about two miles, making it necessary to space the lines at least four miles apart to prevent sighting the same animal more than once

Also, sightings may not tell exactly how many deer there are in an area so a correction factor of about 25 percent is figured in.

Fawns are counted as well as grown animals to get some indications of what the deer crop will look like next year. But this is by no means the only factor that will determine future populations. Food availability, weather, disease and die-offs also figure in heavily.

Doe permits are issued when too many deer are found in a given area. The permits are placed in the hands of landowners who then dispense them to hunters. In this way the landowner becomes a distribution agent for the wildlife department. Thus he saves the department some trouble while at the same time getting rid of unwanted or overabundant deer on his land.

Local state wildlife people have found deer populations to be down just very slightly from last year in Brazos and Grimes counties and note that concentrations of post oak acorns, a prime deer food, are spotty. Deer counts in our area are being completed now.

UT favored to defend track crown 3 p.m. day before publicatio **By BOB GIBBONS Staff Sports Writer** SPECIAL NOTICE Track meets seem to be won by team depth and this is why the Uni-BASSIN'S BIKE SERVICE versity of Texas is a heavy favorite to successfully defend its Southwest Conference track crown. Texas owes its track and field 306 Redmond Dr., No. 144, C.S. 846-3896 evenings. depth and SWC track titles the past

two years to 40 track scholarships they give out each year. Aggie track coach Charlie Thomas can only allow 23 based on the existing athletic budget at A&M. Although this situation will be alleviated in 1976 when each team will be allowed a maximum of 23 track scholarships, this year's conference meet will probably feature tight competition for second place between Texas A&M, Baylor and Rice.

Page 10 THE BATTALION THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974

Coach Thomas sees improvement in this year's team, especially in the area of field events. Three reasons for this probable improvement are the additions of Frank West, a transfer from UTEP who has thrown the shot put 60 feet in practice, freshmen Lynn Byrd, a 6'10" high jumper and Pat Ruehle, a 15 foot pole vaulter.

Field event men Bill Newton in the javelin and Brad Blair in the pole vault are back to defend their 1974 SWC titles. These four should give A&M opponents quality competition in their respective events.

The remaining SWC title-holders back from last year's team are conference meet high point men and 440-yard dash champion Doug Broadhead and 120-yard high hurdle winner Scottie Jones, who was also the SWC high point man for the 1974 track season. Both runners are seniors

In regard to the 1975 track season, Broadhead said, "If we can eliminate injuries and improve our relays we have an outside chance of beating Texas. They lost some good people from last year's team."

The Aggies should be stronger in their only deep position, the sprints. Returning speed demons Charles Dawson, Gerald D'Ambrosio and Sammy Dierschke will be joined by freshmen Chuck Butler of Pittsburgh, Pa. and the Texas AAA high school 100 and 220 yard dash champions, Robert Harris and Ray Brooks.

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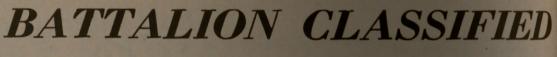
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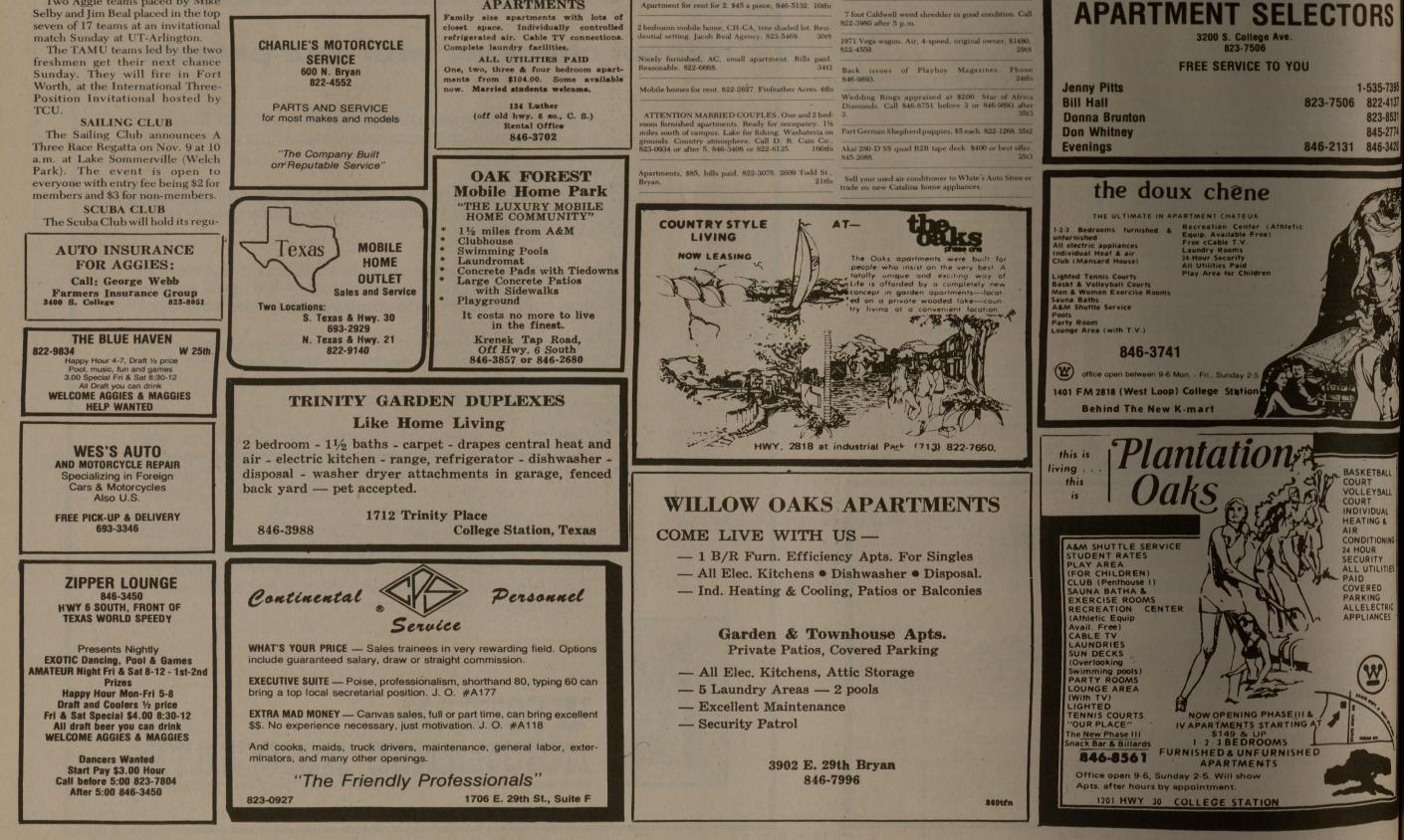
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