

Anglers' excuses fool no one

By BRUCE L. SUBLETT
Columnist

Since the first broken line, fishermen have cultivated the art of making excuses. As used by many anglers, the excuse remains a sloppy, mumbled thing, not good enough to fool anybody.

If technology can give us depth finders, oxygen meters and graphite rods, why can't we keep up and come up with some scientific reasons for not catching any fish?

I've got my own theory to explain lousy days down at the fishing hole. The Backlashes Failure Syndrome

covers all aspects of non-production, and it has been tested.

The most recent test came last Sunday. Cornell Green, Agricultural Extension Service visual specialist, asked if I wanted to go to Victoria to spend the weekend. He said his father, A. C. Green, might want to go fishing. I said yes, and set myself up for part one of the syndrome: The Anticipation Aspect.

The Anticipation Aspect is simple. The more you think about an upcoming trip, the less chances for success.

Leaving College Station in a driving rainstorm, I was hit by the first symptoms of Weather Watcher's Worries. I expected rain for the whole weekend, but Sunday dawned beautifully gray and dismal. It was pure garbage weather, but not bad enough to keep us from going.



As we roared up the Lavaca River out of Point Comfort, the dense fog gave me another excuse: The No Target Nullifying Factor. How can a man catch fish if he can't even see the water?

We settled down to business,

throwing weedless gold spoons for redfish feeding on the flats. I realized that another factor was at work: The Comfortable Boat Clause.

A.C.'s 18 foot Bull-a-Gator is the most comfortable boat I have ever fished out of. He designed it from the hull up with the fisherman in mind. Everything is in the right place and the high-rise seats feel like easy chairs. I always figured that to catch fish, you have to be a little uncomfortable.

Cornell and A. C. were using long salt water popping rods with plug-casting reels. I had the same kind of reel, but mounted on a worm rod with all the tip action of a broomstick. The Bad Tackle Blues were right there with me.

A. C. took us to all his honey

holes, stressing that conditions were right for good action. The Perfect Conditions Penalty was added to the list of anti-fish factors.

As you may have suspected, I failed to connect. A. C., who usually brings home a pile of fish, caught two reds and two specks. Cornell caught a bad attack of sinus, but no fish.

That brings up the final excuse, a highly specialized one enjoyed only by a select few: The Outdoor Writer's Shutout. It's an unwritten law that when I go fishing to get material for this column, I must fail miserably.

Remember these excuses. Not catching any fish is bad, but not being able to explain why is worse.

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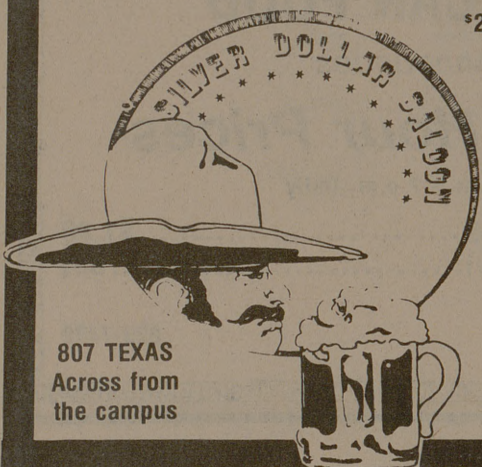
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Intramural growth shows director's time worthwhile

By CHRISTY KELM
Contributor

A 28 per cent increase in football, a 55 per cent increase in bowling and a 956 per cent increase in racketball over last year's intramural statistics mean someone somewhere's doing something right.

Yes, the staff in the intramural office deserves credit. The intramural directors in dorms are devoting time, effort and even ingenuity.

In a look at this side of the ballgame, three directors of dorm intramurals commented on their jobs — the problems and the rewards.

David Cates of Walton Hall, Dan Miller of Squadron 2 and Sharon Coins of Hughes Hall all serve in this capacity because they want to.

Cates, an elected officer and thereby a member of the dorm council, feels the key to being a successful intramural chairman is "wanting to do it and having enough time for it."

Coins, also a dorm elect, and Miller, an appointed Athletic Sergeant, on the average spend about six hours a week with intramurals.

The process filling this time involves regular visits to the in-

tramural office to obtain rules, turn in entries, clarify scores of previous games and check playing times.

Next, the director must get the information to the dorm residents by phone calls and posted signs. "Sometimes it becomes a matter of door-beating," Coins added.

Finally, the teams must be organized and practice schedules arranged. This is a problem for Coins in that conflict occurs in individuals' schedulings.

Miller finds it difficult locating facilities. "Too many people want to practice at the same time," he said.

All three agree that relations with the intramural office have been excellent. They provide available information readily. "They're always willing to help," Coins said.

Finding a coach in the different dorms is handled uniquely in each.

Coins tries to "find a guy to coach the team sports." She assumes the organizational duties for individual sports such as table tennis.

Cates, also the organizer, calls the first practice and then asks the leader in the group to coach or has the team vote on a coach.

Miller as Athletic Sergeant is in charge of all fish who are required to participate in and/or attend intramural sports. He works with the Athletic Corporal and Athletic Officer in upperclassmen competition.

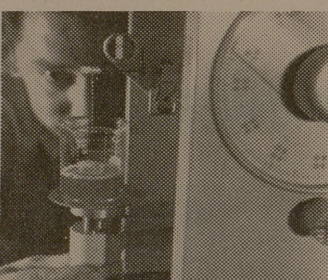
Oakland A's to arbitration

OAKLAND (AP) — Seven members of the three-time World champion Oakland A's including Reggie Jackson and Sal Bando, say they'll take their salary demands to arbitration for the second time in two years, according to newspaper reports.

Reports said hurler Rollie Fingers, the 1974 World Series Most Valuable Player; 19-game winner Ken Holtzman; clutch hitter Joe Rudi; first baseman-catcher Gene Tenace, and veteran catcher and World Series hero Ray Fosse also are headed for arbitration.

Paperwork

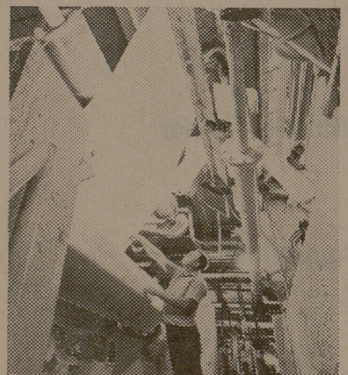
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