

Fish Bites

The best is yet to come in Aggie sports

By PAUL McGRATH

Some columnists like to look over the events of the past year and make their predictions for the upcoming year in their last column.

However, I am not like other columnists, but I am still going to go ahead and lay my remembrances and predictions on you anyway.

It has been quite a positive year sportwise here in Aggieland, despite the day-after-Turkey Day massacre. And I feel quite lucky to somehow have been involved in it to the small extent that I was.

1974-75 will be a difficult year for any Ag to forget. After all, it's not every year your basketball team (unless you're at UCLA) wins the conference and your baseball team goes into the playoffs.

So let's go back to the early months and review the sports season in perspective.

Remembrance number one. Texas A&M brought a hungry and die-hard group of gridders into Baton Rouge to contest the SLU Tigers in their own snakepit stadium. The fact that in the waning moments of the fourth quarter a small contingent of Aggie enthusiasts were out-screaming, out-stomping and out-cussing the Cajun crowd told the story almost as well as the scoreboard did. The Bayou Bengal crowd sullenly left the arena as if the Christians had upset the lions. One slightly unsober LSU fan approached me after the game and humbly admitted, "You guys just beat the hell out of us." It was perhaps my favorite quote of the year.

Remembrance number two. I'd like to forget the outcome of the game, but the Amtrac trip to Kansas I can't forget. Thirty-six drunken Aggies in one train car and being called on to lead a yell practice for a gathering of former students would have to be considered quite out of the ordinary.

Baker leads golf match, shoots 74

A member of the Texas Aggie golf team, Bobby Baker, was the low qualifier in the Texas Amateur Golf Association sectional qualifier at the Champions Golf Course, Monday.

Baker, a sophomore from Missouri City, Texas, shot a 74, two shots over par. He led 24 other qualifiers who qualified from a 72-man field to compete for the state title in Austin, June 5-8.

Remembrance number three. The Aggies defeated TCU 17-0 and held them to negative yardage, but yet still caught a lot of flak from their "fans." Usually Aggieland was delighted with just the fact that the team won. Now they were complaining because they weren't winning "bad enough."

Remembrance number four. 20-0 in Waco and all of those then-frustrated Baptists.

Remembrance number five. Turkey Day-plus-one. I remember this one like Dracula likes to play with wooden stakes. But what I recall the most was the feeling that I got that the whole year seemed to have been wasted.

Remembrance number six. What a day it was when those Aggie cagers beat Texas and

clinched the SWC crown. I especially remember a lot of champagne flowing in the dressing room, quite a bit of which got to me.

Remembrance number seven. Walking the streets of Des Moines with several members of the track team was really a trip. Even though the town seemed to close up at 5 p.m. we managed to find something to do, like calling room service and sending a crib to some guy's room.

Those are just some of the highlights I remember most from over the year. But before I forget, I'd like for Jerry Honore to take a bow. This seemingly forgotten

fullback came through when the team needed him most. He was the hero of the Arkansas and SMU games, scoring four touchdowns in the two contests. Not bad for a guy they said was too slow to start.

Well, now it's time to go out on a limb and make my prophecy for next year. Here goes:

The Aggie football team will win the conference. Now where have you heard that before, I guess you're saying. But if you look at the squads and the personnel, you have to admit that the Aggies are the most feasible choice. They will be hard-pressed by Arkansas and Texas and pos-

sibly Baylor, but the Maroon should prevail.

Coach Metcalf's men will again be strong on the hardcourt and I have to go with them to repeat. This is if all of those new recruits live up to their press clippings.

The baseball I fear is heading for a slight fall as most of the talent will be graduating. Coach Chandler usually comes up with some fine talent but I don't think it will be enough. I see them taking third.

The Aggie thinclads are also bringing up some good recruits to go along with the present talent on the squad. People like Doug Brodhead and Scottie Jones will

be missed. But the new blood should more than make up for their loss. The Aggie tracksters look strong enough to win the whole thing and are (without in-

jury) a certain second.

So, from my viewpoint at least, 1975-76 looks like a banner year for A&M sports. What a way to welcome the centennial.

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Loomis, intramural superstar

Texas A&M has its first superstar! He may not rank with O. J. Simpson, this year's winner of the ABC-TV professional superstars competition, but he topped the field at TAMU.

Junior Ronnie Loomis moved through the six events in fine form, collecting 55 points to wear the title of A&M's initial intramural superstar. The events were tennis, bowling, 100-yard freestyle swimming competition, free throw shooting, the softball throw and an obstacle course race.

Loomis received stiff competition from 23 other entrants, especially Bobby Ellis who won the bowling and free throw shooting competition.



RONNIE LOOMIS

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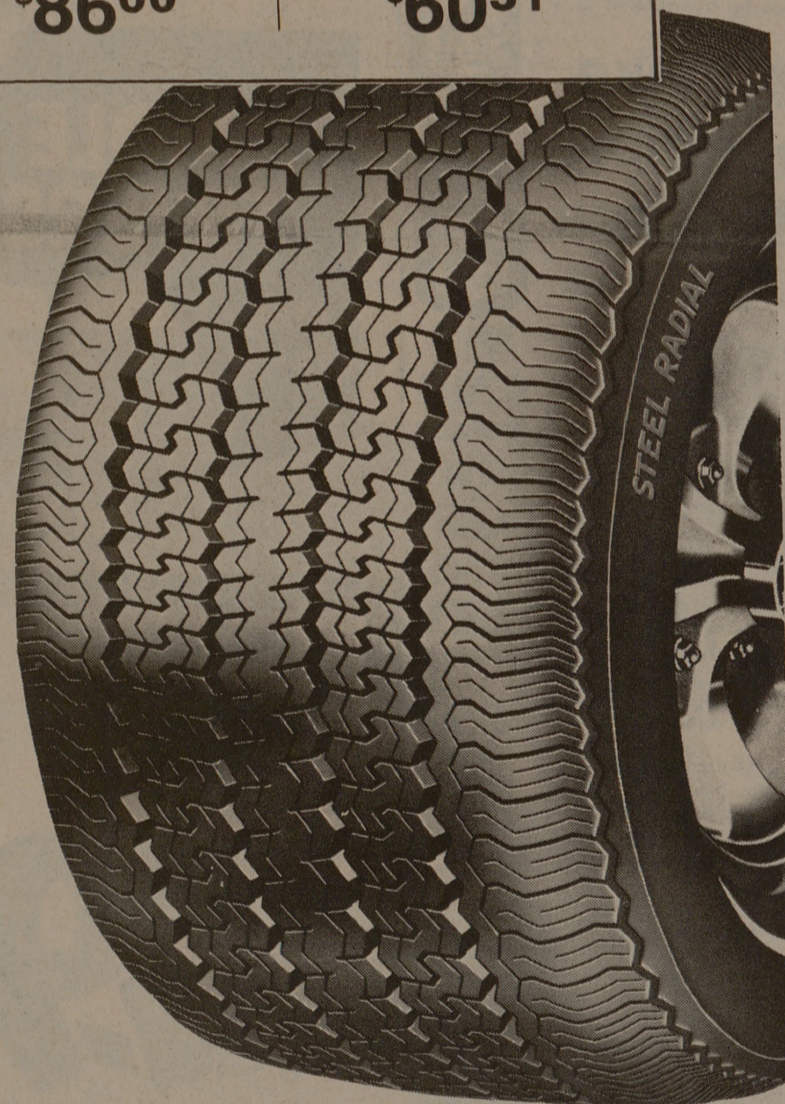
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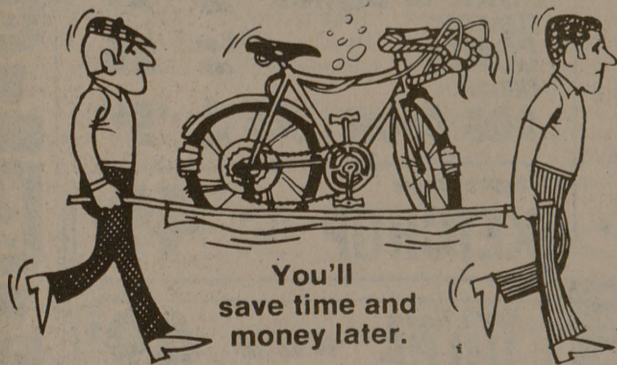
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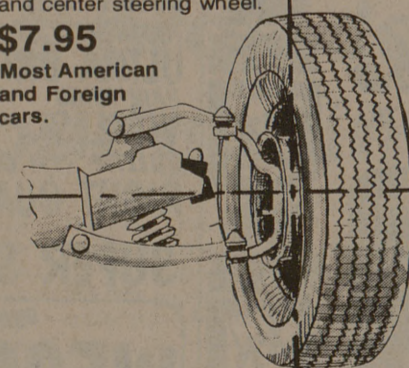
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