

Sportfolio

1974-75 'the year that was'

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

1974-75 should be called the "year that was" for Aggie sports. Not in the terms that Texas A&M had its greatest all-around year ever and definitely not its worst. But it should bear that name, because the year's achievements seemed like a renaissance for the entire scope of A&M athletic, intercollegiate, club and intramural.

It was a year that the pride of all Aggie sports partisans, football, rose up as an awesome force on the national scene. Coach Emory Bellard got his troops together and they displayed their talents posting a 8-3 record. Pat Thomas became the first front line All-American since Dave Elmendorf. The solid A&M defense was second only to perennial power Notre Dame in this nation in total defense.

It was a year that Shelby Metcalf got his 100th SWC victory en route to a conference title in basketball. In doing so the innovative Aggies brought due respect to SWC basketball with the aid of fine teams like Arkansas and Texas Tech, who also brought tons of excitement to fans when they played. For SWC basketball it was a year of transition.

It was a year that A&M's annually competitive baseball team got a bid to the NCAA playoffs after finishing behind an excellent Longhorn team in the conference race. The Aggie baseballers broke the all-time record for victories in one season with 32.

It was a year that women's sports excelled. Women's Athletic Director Kay Don with the help of some hard-working Aggie coeds ended up co-winners of the Texas Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women All-sports trophy, after only three years of existence. Playing in a tough league with schools who have had female sports programs much longer, Don and her women got to the state level in six of the eight sports sanctioned by the TAIW. A&M coeds also made it to nationals in three different sports.

It was a year that the Aggie water polo team did its usual thing and proceeded to continue dominance in the Southwest. The Dennis Fosdick coached team also fared very well out on the west coast where aquatic sports are king.

It was a year that the Texas A&M bowling team topped the Texas Intercollegiate Bowling Conference with a record of 40-14. Hal Vorland averaged 187 to lead the Aggie onslaught. This team was no doubt one of the greatest bowling teams in the school's history. It was such a pity that the Aggies had to host the tournament at the Cougar Lanes in Houston, because A&M officials wanted to save a few dollars.

It was a year that intramurals be-

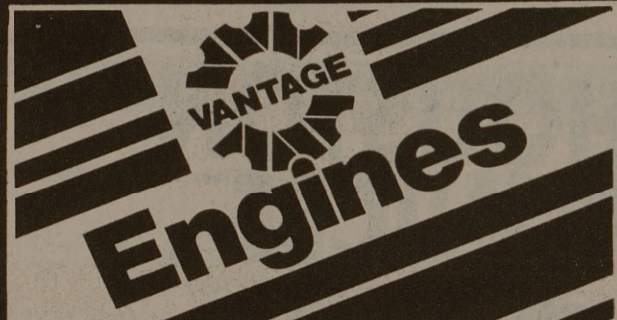
came an important part of student life. The intramural department said the participation in the programs was greater than ever before. Most important of all the landslide of campus athletes brought about efforts to increase the deficient budget.

It was a year that hardships also showed in many areas. The usually potent Aggie track team was hit with a rash of leg injuries that hampered their overall performance considerably. Texas robbed the A&M football team of a championship on three uncanny fumbles. The game was history after 54 seconds of play. The Aggie swim team, which ranks with the best in the conference with the exception of superior SMU, lost all their chief performers through grade deficiencies.

It was a year that Aggie athletes gained the respect of many. No longer will A&M be taunted by fellow SWC schools.

Most important, it was a year to build on. Again Bellard went out and got a prize crop of athletes to fill the ranks of missing seniors. The basketball team will surely be

boosted by the play of newcomers Carl Godine and Jarvis Williams of Houston Kashmere. The track and swim teams signed some quality athletes to strengthen their programs. In the near future A&M should have an extremely solid athletic program. But in the memories of all, 1974-75 will always be the year that was the beginning.



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Fastballer Ryan fires 4th no-hitter

ANAHEIM (AP) — Reid Ryan graduated from nursery school Monday and went pony riding. He was accompanied by the pitcher whom most people figure will be the first ever to hurl five no-hitters in major league baseball.

Nolan Ryan, only the second man ever to throw four no-hitters, takes his fatherly duties seriously. He and wife Ruth were up early to accompany son Reid on his day of achievement.

On Sunday, it was father Nolan doing the achieving, beating Baltimore, 1-0, in a no-hitter to match the feat of Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who became the first ever to pitch four no-hitters.

"I know how he feels and want to send him my congratulations," the now-retired Koufax declared, adding that the 28-year-old Ryan might pitch 10 or 12 no-hitters before joining him in retirement.

In American League history, only Bob Feller had pitched three no-hitters before Ryan.

Earlier in the week, after the California Angels lost to Cleveland, 9-2, Ryan had observed.

"I've yet to put it all together this season: I had my velocity the past two games, but not control. I've got to concentrate on getting the fast ball over the plate and low."

He did that against Baltimore, but it was his curve and change-up that befuddled the Oriole batters.

Ruth Ryan and Reid, known as "Choo Choo," were in the stands when Nolan fired the no-hitter, but the youngster doesn't yet quite know what baseball is all about. He wants to be a bronc rider back in Texas where the Ryans have their permanent home.

"He knows when Daddy wins or

loses, but that's about it," Mrs. Ryan declared. "Reid doesn't think a no-hitter is anything special."

The pitcher wasn't over-whelmed with his achievement, saying, "The biggest thing is that I wanted to be a stopper."

His Angels had lost five straight and it took his record equalling performance to end it there. Baltimore's Ross Grimsley gave up eight hits, but the only run of the game came in the third inning on consecutive singles by Mickey Rivers, Tommy Harper and Dave Chalk.

"We haven't been aggressive and we needed something to pick us up," said the quiet Ryan, who was helped by a great play by second baseman Jerry Remy.

"I've never witnessed a no-hitter before," commented Remy. "I just hoped I could keep myself in position."

Remy was in the right spot when pinch hitter Tommy Davis hit a high hopper over the mound and behind second base, the rookie infielder grabbed and threw to first in time.

Obviously pleased with his pitching feat, Ryan nevertheless commented, "It's something that won't change my thinking. I just don't go into games thinking no-hitter and I don't place that much emphasis on the single accomplishment."

Next outing for the Angels ace will be Friday night when they face Milwaukee and only Johnny VanderMeer of Cincinnati ever has thrown back-to-back no-hitters.

"I feel like I pitched a no-hitter," declared Ellie Rodriguez, who actually caught the game and had just come off the injured list a few hours before he did it.

SUMMER 1975

OPTIONAL BOARD PLAN

Summer students may dine on the board plan during each session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is elected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Board meals are not served July 4, 1975. Each meal is served cafeteria style in Sbsia Hall or in the Commons for individuals living in Krueger-Dunn.

Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building. Board fees for each plan are as follows:

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