

Sportfolio

A sports editor bids farewell

By **MIKE BRUTON**
Sports Editor

It's a pity and a low-down dirty shame that after watching Texas A&M athletics climb from the pits of mediocrity to the peaks of excellence, I won't be here to witness each glorious moment of triumph this school year.

This upcoming year should be a renaissance in A&M sports. The football team is awesome, the basketball team could very well be the best to ever hit the hardwoods at G. Rollie White Coliseum, the aquatics will be in contention, the tracksters will challenge for the SWC crown, and baseball coach Tom Chandler is fresh off one of the best recruiting

hauls in recent Aggie baseball history. If the golf and tennis teams can be competitive (which I'm sure they will), the Aggies will walk away with the SWC all-sports trophy.

With this acquisition of the state's premier basketball prep star Karl Godine and a complete list of star-studded newcomers, the basketball team will be a thing of beauty to watch. Can you imagine a backcourt with Godine and Sonny Parker? Nobody will be able to run with those two.

And with help from Godine's high school teammate Jarvis Williams and big men Bryan Holland and Lyndon Swanson, Barry Davis will be able to play more wide open.

Even with the Houston Cougars in the conference, the Aggies should repeat as SWC Champions.

The record-breaking Aggie baseball team, which won a NCAA playoff berth this past season, will be fortified with an exceptional group of incoming freshmen. First baseman Bill Raymer, third baseman Kirk Campbell, pitchers Clint Thomas, James "Hoot" Gibson, and David Lockett all had fine performances in the summer leagues. The A&M hardballers should make a very strong bid for the title next spring. Thomas, Gibson, Lockett, Rick Gorizcki and Mark Thurmond will provide the Aggies with a strong pitching staff.

The water polo team will rule the Southwest again this year as it has for the past five years. Dennis Fosdick has coached A&M water polo teams to an 83-14 record for the last five years, losing only two matches last year.

The swimmers will be back after having a sub-par season last year, due to academic casualties. Three members of the swimming team might be seen in the 1976 Olympics. All-American Bob Leland, Don Wederman and Swedish import Svante Rasmuson will be candidates for the upcoming Olympic Games. Leland had the fifth best time in the nation last year in the 100-meter breaststroke at 1:06.4. Wederman and Rasmuson, both being spring freestylers, could possibly represent their home countries in Montreal. Wederman hails from Korea.

The injury-riddled Aggie track team finished third in the SWC track and field meet this spring. But this year they'll have more depth and additional talent. Craig

McPhail, who wore the Maroon and White as a freshman, returns to Aggie with excellent times in the 440 and the 440 intermediate hurdles after a year at Ranger Junior College. Returning will be top point-getter from last season Shifton Baker, along with Brad Blair, David Peterek, Pat Ruehle, Bill Newton, Ray Brooks, Charlie Dawson and many others.

When you talk about SWC football, you can't help but mention the Aggies, because that's the team that's on everybody's mind. There's really not much I can say about the 1975 Aggie football team, because I've already said it all in past articles and columns this summer. The Aggies will win, and win big. Whether they go 8-3, 9-2, 10-1 or undefeated, I cannot say. But A&M fans will enjoy one of the best Aggie football units in Texas A&M sports history. My deepest regret in leaving, is not being able to share every facet of the 1975 season with a bunch of guys who I've played with, wrote about and lived with.

New NCAA ruling could hurt golf squad in upcoming season

By **PAUL McGRATH**
Staff Sports Writer

Texas A&M Golf Coach Bob Ellis is a patient man. After all, he is only in his second year as a mentor of the Aggie linksters.

However, the man from Illinois' patience has about worn thin when it comes to a certain issue. Specifically, the recent NCAA ruling concerning scholarships for spring sports.

The organization cut the number of total scholarships from 208 to 80. This hardly grazed the skin on anyone's nose at A&M until it was learned that restrictions were also to be placed on each particular sport.

Whereas Coach Ellis once could have eight scholarships, now he can only have five. "It's going to hurt our experience and development," said the persevering young coach. "We'll have to be more selective now."

"We'll possibly be given a grace period but we'll have to evaluate our players anyway. It (the rule) hurts golf, hurts the game."

The much heralded silver lining can be found amongst the dark clouds however. Ellis proclaims, "We'll definitely be stronger than we were last year. Our recruiting went fairly well, although I missed two that I wanted badly."

Arriving at Aggieland this fall will be five new golf prospects:

★ Lin Lentz from Missouri where he was the high school state champion.

★ Doug Ward from Arkansas who has won the state title for the past two years in golf and match play.

★ Bif Alexander from Sequin is termed by Ellis as a "potentially great player."

★ Dave Watson from Metairie, La. was tabbed by his teammates as a "super striker of the ball."

★ Rusty Day from North Palm Beach, Florida is called a "fine player and a great competitor," by his soon-to-be coach.

This quintet will join the likes of Bobby Baker ("He came on real strong for us"), Steve Whiteside ("He's played some good golf for us") and Larry Gorzycki, who won the Bryan Golf Tournament over the summer. Also presently on the squad are Jerry Orbaugh, who recently captured the Men's All-American tourney in Houston, and Gail Mayfield.

In the team's first match last year, the Border Olympics, the Aggies gave perennial powerhouse Houston a run for their money but finished second in Laredo out of 24 teams. Later in the year, at the 36-hole NCAA qualifying meet between A&M, Rice, Houston Baptist and Louisiana Tech, the Aggies

proved overpowering, leading by nine strokes after the first 18 holes. The squad remained hot and went on to win by 24 strokes.

Although impressive achievements, these marks are in the past and Ellis is now preparing for the upcoming season.

On September 2 at 4 p.m. there will be a meeting for all interested to become walk-on members of the A&M golf team. Of those, Ellis will narrow down to the ten with the lowest scores after a 54-hole test match.

These ten will compete with last semester's walk-ons for the last six places on Ellis' potential 18-man roster.

Match play for the Aggies begins September 15 in Texarkana and later the squad will travel to Edinburgh to participate in the Jimmy Demaret Tourney at Pan Am on November 5.

Although Ellis cannot change the NCAA ruling, he may have better luck with a rule now in the Southwest Conference books. All SWC coaches will be present at a special meeting to attempt to change the rule which concerns not having multi-day matches two weeks in a row. If changed, the golf teams could participate in more tourneys and thus aid in gaining experience for the collegiate golfers.

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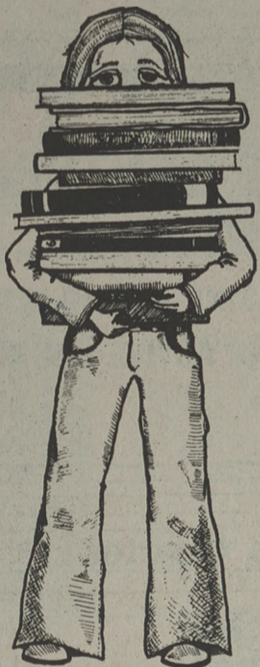
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