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Ags open tonight

Frosh WP tourney

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Writer

The water polo season gets cranked up tonight as the Texas A&M freshmen host a ten team round-robin tournament in the Downs Natatorium.

The Aggie varsity will not see action until next Wednesday when they travel to Houston to face The Bunch, a local water polo club.

The tournament is divided into two brackets with the Aggie fish fielding a team in each bracket. The A team draws the opening card tonight at 6:30 p.m. and will play again at 8:30 p.m.

Five high school teams, a junior college squad and two swim clubs will participate in the 24 game tourney. Midland's freshman team is the only other collegiate entry.

The high schools include last year's state champion, Lamarque, A&M Consolidated, Clear Creek, McAllen, and Alamo Heights of San Antonio.

Joining the high schools, Midland and A&M's two teams are the Wichita Falls Swim Club and the San Antonio-based Chaparral Swim Club.

Action will resume on Saturday as the Aggies swim at 8:00 a.m. and at noon. The tourney will continue all morning until 3:00 p.m. for a break because of the football game.

The third place team will be decided in a 7:30 p.m. match and the champion decided at 8:30 p.m.

Besides the men's competition, the A&M women's team will take on Wichita Falls at the Art Adamson Pool at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Like the men, the women will also field two teams.

The varsity has been through two scrimmages thus far and the rust is just starting to disappear. "We're just starting to get out moves back and getting our timing down. Our first scrimmage looked like everyone was swimming in slow

motion," said Head Swim Coach Dennis Fosdick. "We're just now starting to get those automatic reactions back."

Varsity captains this season are seniors Jim Yates and Oran Marksbury. Although missing All-American Paul McKinzie at the goalie slot, the Ag varsity should equal or better their 18-2 record of last year.

For the A&M fish, Bill Yates, brother of the varsity captain, and Scott Harris have been named as the captains. The younger Yates was an All-American in high school in polo while Harris was an All-Stater and is now the freshman goalie.

Expected to start tonight for the Aggie tankers are Roger Lien from Santa Clara, David Stewart from Consol, Dallas' Bill Kuvlesky, Chris Shipp from Dearborn, Michigan and filling out the lineup will be two Texas products, Rick Golding and Brad Swendig.



athletic oatmeal

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

Well folks, an entire edition of football talent has come full circle in the Bellard machine. No more Stallard boys to blame. Bellard himself is looking for his fourth letterman head coach and may well be a strong candidate for All-American status.

Tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock, 5211 pounds of Aggie starters will line up opposite 5035 pounds of Ole Miss starters. The Aggies will have 22 Senior lettermen and 17 Junior lettermen enter the field.

The last names of three Aggie footballers begin with A, 15 with B, five with C, five with D, none with E, six with F, with G and so on. 27 people are listed as backs of one sort or another and another 60 are listed as linemen. The youngest Aggie player is 17, the oldest is 23.

It's easy to see how trivial and ridiculous figures, statistics and facts can become. I could have just as easily listed all the past honors awarded team players, listed their speed in the forty, and given a quote from a coach about "good moves, lateral action" or "good hands."

But there is only one intangible thing that will determine whether or not the Aggies win tomorrow, and all season and become SWC and possibly National Champions, which all players think they are, and for which they most definitely have the potential. That one, non-describable, yet most important property is desire, attitude if you will.

This team will always be remembered as that team of '75, the Cotton Bowl etc., and likewise it belongs to the class of '75. The class that has sweated through four years whether on the field, in the stands or next to the radio for this, the climax what will become the best Aggie athletic years in history. Those years will continue, but this is the end of the upward climb. Really, the beginning.

I have the luck to be able to attend the games and watch from the press box. Likewise, I guess, I am supposed to be unbiased at least in writing. Journalism and all that rot you know. But my heart will be pounding at the kickoff knowing that this may be the finest college football team I will ever see. I will suffer until then.

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Sportoon

By Guy Dow

Ags are set to light torch to successful season. Rebs are, unfortunately, the first victims.

Fans unaffected by NFL strike

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A year ago, when the National Football League Players Association went on strike at the start of the exhibition season, a lot of fans found they could do without those preseason games.

This year many of those fans are still doing without the exhibitions. And next year, the NFL may also find it can do without some of them, too.

Exhibitions, which used to be little more than interclub scrimmages attracting fans who paid a fraction of the cost of a regular-season ticket to watch the workouts, have now become business almost as big as the regular-season games. The two or three scrimmages of years past have become six full-fledged games, all but the first one or two played almost exclusively with front-line players.

It is being considered — and some insiders say it is almost certain — that when Tampa and Seattle join the league next year, the six-game exhibition schedule will be reduced to four games and the 14-game regular season will rise to 16 games.

Attendance averaged 54,413 fans a game in the 78 pre-season games of 1973, the year before the strike. In 1974, the fans decided to pay as much as \$18 a ticket to watch exhibition games chock with rookies, free agents and second- and third-line players was much. Attendance dipped to an average of 36,653.

There has been some reason this year. Heading into the weekend of exhibitions, the league has averaged 42,382 fans, up from 6,000 from last year but still down about 12,000 from two years ago.

The situation might be worse were it not for the fact that most teams require fans to buy an exhibition-game seat to buy a package with the regular season game season tickets.

There are clearly three vital sharing responsibility for the dwindling attendance:

- Discovery by fans that exhibitions are simply that, mainly games which don't count.
- Weaning off of the novelty of games between old NFL and AFL clubs, each of them once considered mini-wars with pride as the prize.
- The economy.

Davis Cups officials search for new match site

Associated Press

BAASTAD, Sweden — A Davis Cup official said Thursday that the semifinal match between Sweden and Chile should be moved to a neutral country.

Basil Reay, British secretary general of the International Lawn Tennis Federation's Davis Cup Committee, told a Swedish television station: "A final decision on this issue will be made Friday and I will advise the Swedes to move the match to a neutral country."

The decision will be made in London between officials of the ILTF and the Swedish Tennis Federation.

Meanwhile, thousands of Swedes demonstrated in the country's three largest cities Thursday on the 50th anniversary of the military coup in Chile.

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