

Constantly on the road

Televising games no pushover

By MARLA GAMMON
Battalion Sports Writer

It's Saturday afternoon and time for the football game of the week. You sit down in front of the TV and ABC Sports keeps you occupied for three hours. You enjoy the game, turn off the TV and that's it. But have you ever stopped to think about how much work and time is spent behind the scenes so you could enjoy the game of the week every week?

This last weekend ABC came to College Station and televised the A&M-Illinois game. For those Aggies not in attendance it was an enjoyable game to watch. For the ABC people it was three to four days of hard work.

For a Saturday game the crew and engineers arrive on Tuesday. They pack the trucks, lay cable, set up the cameras and make sure the equip-

ment is ready and in working order. On Thursday the production people arrive. This includes the directors, producers and announcers. Thursday and Friday they work on the pre-game, halftime shows and talk to coaches.

They become acquainted with the campus and the people on it. Friday evening there is a production meeting and a "full dress" rehearsal. They go over the format then sit back and wait for the kick-off.

There were 35 engineers and 10 production people working with 5 cameras at Kyle Field. When ABC televised the U.S. Open they used 24 cameras and over 300 people.

The production truck is set up either under the stadium or right behind it. Inside are five small screens that correspond to each camera. It is from these screens that the

director chooses which picture to broadcast. There is also a screen for the slow-motion tape machines. The producer watches these two screens.

If the slo-mo is isolated on someone who makes a good play he makes the decision to use the replay. The director and producer each have switches in front of them that enable them to talk to the cameramen. They can talk to one at a time or all of them at once.

The hierarchy of ABC decides early in the spring which games will be broadcast in the fall. There are a number of people who do nothing but research football teams all year round. They collect predictions, and talk to coaches and recruiters. After all the information is compiled it is then bound into a manual. It is from this manual that the games are chosen.

However, they do not solely rely on this information. These people have been around football long enough to know which teams are going to perform well and draw interest. They draw heavily on their own experience in choosing the games too.

The games that are picked are announced 6 weeks prior to the opening of the season and promotional work is started. There are several wild-card weekends that are left open. The games for these weekends are chosen a few weeks before the games are to be played.

Even though working for ABC Sports provides a wide variety of work, it's a seven-day a week job. The people have no set working hours. They work until they finish whatever is to be done. Travelling to 5 or 6 places a week puts quite a strain on your personal life too. Everything that is done is in some way related to working for ABC Sports. The men and women who work for ABC must make their work their whole life. There is no time for anything else.

Terry Jastrow producer of the Aggies' game against Illinois said that A&M is one of the most enjoy-

able places ABC has been.

"We truly and genuinely enjoy A&M. We love the people and it's a very comfortable place to be. One of the main reasons for this is that Aggies really care about everything. The emotions and traditions involved are just great. To us, A&M exemplifies the college football weekend. It's not the same anywhere else."


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Ladyman takes awards at Gulf Coast amateur

David Ladyman took the top honors when Rice University hosted an open foil and epee tournament for the Gulf Coast Division of the Amateur Fencers League of America on September 20, 1975. In addition to fencers from Texas A&M University, the following schools or clubs were represented: Dad's Club of Houston, Bellaire Recreation Center, The University of Houston, Rice University, the United States Air Force, and Houston Fencing Club.

foil and epee. The finalists in each event were as follows:

Men's Foil (17 entrants)

1. Al Snyder (HFC)
2. David Ladyman (Rice)
3. Kevin Crowder (A&M)
4. Fred Rodriguez (A&M)
5. Tom Buesing (A&M)
6. Stan Caplan (A&M)

Open Epee (15 entrants)

1. David Ladyman (Rice)
2. Richard Lanfear (A&M)
3. Kevin Crowder (A&M)
4. Stan Caplan (A&M)

Women's Foil

1. April Yellott (Bellaire) 4-0
2. Barbara Smith (USAF) 3-1
3. Denise Gordon (A&M) 2-2
4. Lisa Crispin (A&M) 1-3
5. Francine Baggett (UH) 0-4

The next scheduled action for Texas A&M fencers will be the Franks Memorial Sabre Tournament and one-touch open epee competition on October 11, 1975, at the Bellaire Recreation Center in Houston.

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Baylor's McNeill back at full speed

WACO, Tex. - Fullback Pat McNeill, who missed last week's game against Michigan, returned to practice Monday and will play for the Baylor Bears Saturday against

South Carolina in an intersectional football match.

Quarterback Mark Jackson, who played with a slight shoulder separation, came out of the game in good condition.

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