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DOWNTOWN BRYAN



## Sportfolio

By PAUL McGRATH  
Battalion Sports Writer

My how suddenly we let the polls go to our heads. Remember back in '69 and '70 when the highest ranking the Aggies were able to get was honorable mention in the Bottom Ten?

Have the memories of those frustrating years vanished with the successes of the past few months?

Before, there was jubilation and 'round-the-clock merry-making for even a single touchdown, much less the orgiastic celebration following a victory, if there was such a thing.

Now the sunshine fans at A&M seem disgusted with anything less than a 40-0 slaughter of a hapless opponent. Such conceptions are also found in the hearts of those supporting the institutions at Austin and Norman, Oklahoma.

Pity must be had for OU quarterback Steve Davis who was booed and jeered by the Big Red crowd for eating the ball to protect a 21-20 lead over Colorado instead of trying to fatten the scoreboard.

One has to look at the recent victory over TCU as an example of how this beat-the-dog-out-of-everybody, have-no-mercy line of thinking has infected the A&M student body.

Certainly, it was possible for the Ags to demolish the Horned Frogs. But because they didn't detract from the fact that they put more points on the board than TCU did. And that's what counts in the long run anyway.

Actually, there was no valid reason for the Ags to get highly charged for the Frogs, what with more crucial games ahead. Don't take me wrong, TCU is perhaps the most improved team in the Southwest Conference. However, their disguise as a threat lies somewhere in the future.

Another interesting item concerning Aggie fan reaction is their attitude towards the A&M defense. Despite holding a respectable Texas Tech team to only nine points, the fans complained about Coach Melvin Robertson's masterpiece giving up too much ground. When will we be satisfied?

One could say that the Aggie defense only gave up nine points so as to preserve the health of Tech's ill-stricken horse that gallops after each Red Raider score. Seriously though, many of us need to realize the fact that yards don't hurt on the scoreboard.

High rankings and defensive stats are nice, but they are only gravy compared to winning.

(By the way, for those interested, I did not pick TCU to win last weekend. It would be difficult to pick them in an intra-squad game. A former friend made all of my predictions while I was out of town.)

While football is drawing all of the current headlines, a large number of other A&M athletes are going unrecognized.

The A&M cross country team has just put in one of its finest performances ever, especially when the Youth of the team is considered. Coach Ted Nelson is to be saluted for the job he is doing and for his excellent recruiting.

One sidelight of the meet was the performance of Baylor walk-on Bill Adams, who was their top finisher in eighth place. He is the brother of Aggie marathon runner, Richard Adams.

A&M's Bruce Smith said he talked with Adams throughout the race, needling him for not coming to Aggieland.

Smith also revealed plans for a new cross-country team yell which will be unveiled this Saturday. He said it stems from an African jungle yell.

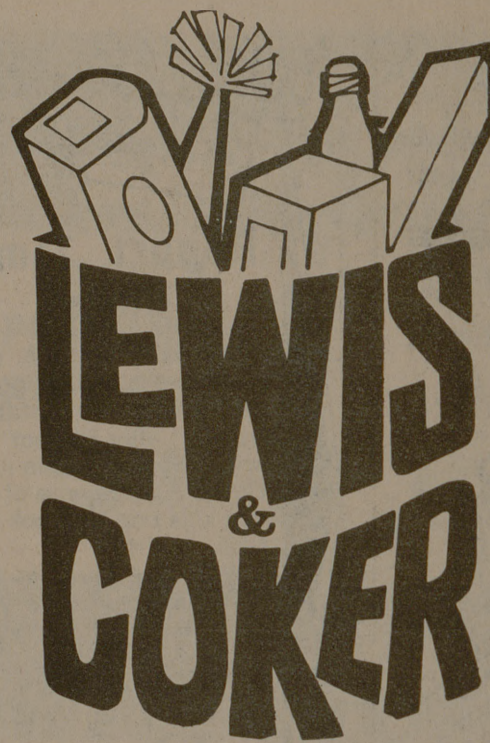
Another group of young men not getting their deserved share of the limelight is Coach Dennis Fosdick's Water Polo squad. One of the winningest programs on campus is still having problems getting funds for scholarships or anything else for that matter. Proposals may be on the way to see the team recognized by the NCAA. That is, if they can be recognized by their own school first.

### Ag jogger sets course record

Rusty Fusilier set a new course record of 10 miles and 687 yards in the Brazos Valley Joggers Club's Second Annual Championship One-Hour Run.

The 20-year-old Texas A&M student beat last year's top run by 223 yards. The 1974 winner, David Gillett, did not enter this year.

Twenty-two participants turned out for the endurance run Saturday at Kyle Field. R. B. Adams, 23, was runner-up with 10 miles and 330 yards to his credit, followed by John Crompton, 30, who legged out nine miles and 1,085 yards. Six-year-old David Reyna, youngest participant, covered five miles and 538 yards.



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