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Buckles leading qualifier

Women pave way to nationals

By SANFORD RUSSO
Battalion Contributing Editor

On the heels of a third place finish at the Texas Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state meet, the A&M swimmers continue to bring down their times for the National AIAW meet, March 17-20. The team is led by Jeannie Buckles, a freshman recruit from California. Buckles has proven herself to be

the top backstroke in the state with a first place finish in both the 50-yard and 100-yard events and a second place in the 200-yard event.

Buckles has decreased her times since she came to A&M and has shattered the standing school record, set by all-American Jean Collins.

At the state meet, Buckles swam a nationally qualifying time of :28.99 in the 50- and a 1:02.21 in the 100-yard event, setting a state record. She

finished the 200-yard backstroke with a 2:18.48, behind Margie Hickley of SMU, who swam a 2:16.49.

Debbie Starr, a sophomore, took second at the state meet with a :55.70 in the 100-yard freestyle. She took third in the 50-yard free with a :25.92. Starr is a national qualifier in the 100-yard free.

A&M has another national qualifier in a Pan American transfer who

dove with an injured foot. Jeannie Neilson took third in the one-meter diving event behind two world class divers.

The other women who are national qualifiers are Vicki Brown, Beth McArthur, Kathy Singletary and Carol Hemphill. These four have qualified as members of relay teams.

Brown, a sophomore, swims the sprint freestyle and the individual medley. She placed in these events at the state meet. She has qualified to swim the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relays.

Beth McArthur, a senior, is a four-year member of the team and has seen good times and bad as the team quadrupled in size from four to

20 swimmers. McArthur placed the 100 yard free, 50-yard fly. McArthur is qualified in the 200-yard medley, 400-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle.

Singletary placed for A&M in the 100-yard individual medley, 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly, 50-yard fly. Singletary qualified in the 200-yard medley and 200-yard free.

Hemphill placed in the 200-yard breaststroke, 200-yard medley, 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard breaststroke. She qualified in the 200- and 400-yard medley.

At the state meet, the University of Texas finished first with the Methodist University taking

texas a&m flying club
march 11, 1976
308 rudder
8:00 p.m.

Jim Ryun announces retirement

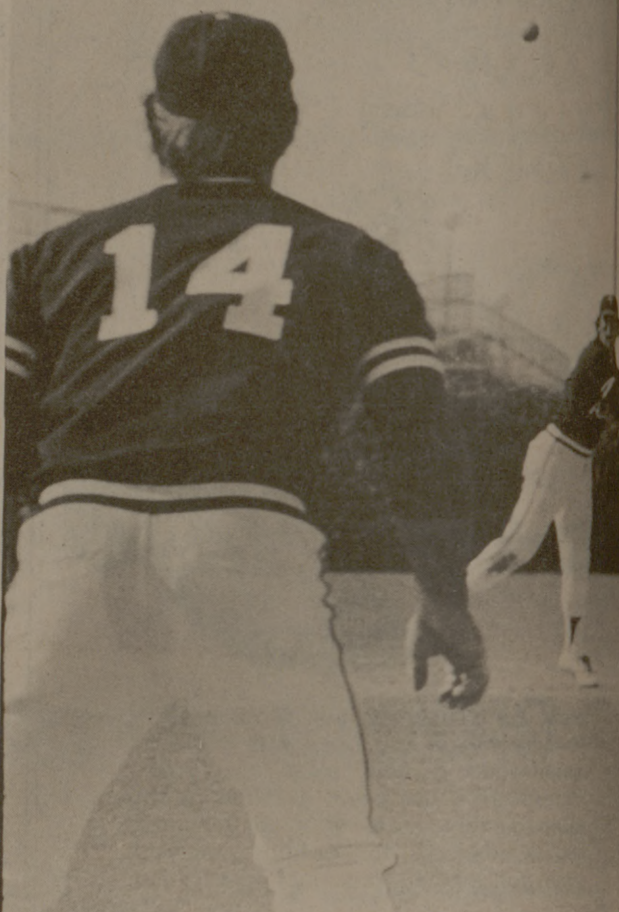
Associated Press

Jim Ryun, whose name has become synonymous with the mile run for almost a decade, said a "vision from God" gave the courage to quit running.

"I finally found peace with myself to retire," the former University of Kansas star said Wednesday.

"About a week ago God spoke to me, saying, 'You fought a good fight, you ran a good race, but now you're finished,'" he said during his retirement announcement at the university.

The 28-year-old Ryun, who set world records in the mile and the 1,500-meter run as a teen-ager at Kansas, had been bothered by injuries since turning pro and joining the International Track Association in 1972.



Texas A&M shortstop Robert Bonner (right) makes a play on first baseman Kirk Campbell (left) during a game yesterday's doubleheader sweep.

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Intramural referees catch criticism in unpopular job

By MARK WILLIS
Battalion Staff Writer

Texas A&M University's intramural referees are generally underpaid, undertrained and often unfairly criticized by students doing an unpopular job, say former and present referees.

"There are always openings for referees," Jack Tackett, a former referee said. "I quit because the money is not worth the time and the abuse that the job involves."

Referees are usually scheduled to work six to ten hours a week, in shifts of two to four hours. Pay starts at \$2.26 per hour and increases to \$2.35 and \$2.50 with experience.

"The main problem is that you can't get enough time in to make any money," Tackett said, who has refereed football and basketball.

The major problem for referees is their lack of training. Often the new referee is given a rule book to study, goes to a one hour referee's meeting and starts work the following week.

"The first week is pure hell," one former referee said. But, due to a limited budget and the overcrowded

conditions of the intramural areas, it's hard to hold any clinics.

"We try to have the new referee call a practice game before the season begins, but once a sport starts there is no time for practice," referee supervisor said.

"The worst part of the job is abuse the players give you on court," Tackett said. The referees call a technical foul, but the bad things still remain, he said. "Any who thinks intramurals are strictly for fun hasn't been on court with some of these teams."

Several referees said that have come close to ending games early because they feel they were losing control. No games have been stopped, although referees have the power to do so though the turnover rate in sports personnel is high, many stay and enjoy the job's relationship to sports.

"If your skin is thick and you get in enough time to become the job can be enjoyable," Tackett said.

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