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Goldsmith keeps driving

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Staff Writer

Which shall it be — a nine iron or a sand wedge? Decisions like these are part of Brenda Goldsmith's everyday life.

Goldsmith, a junior from San Antonio, is the premier player on the Texas A&M women's golf team. Nationally, she is ranked among the best. Looking at her long lists of accomplishments, it's easy to see why.

After winning the State Championship her senior year in high school, Goldsmith came to A&M on a four year scholarship. She finished 10th in the National Championships her freshman year and fifth her

sophomore year.

Last October she won the prestigious William Tucker Invitational, the largest golf tournament held in the fall for men and women. Recently she took top individual honors in the Texas A&M Invitational Tournament. And the list goes on.

What does it take to reach such proficiency in a sport? A helpful background for one thing, and of course, a lot of hard work. Goldsmith has had both.

Coming from a golfing family, she was already on the course by age 12. Her older brother attends the University of New Mexico on a golf scholarship.

But mostly, it's the endless hours of work and dedication that makes a champion. "Golf is a game you have to practice everyday to be the best at," says Goldsmith. "I try to practice everyday and I usually go home on the weekends and work with my pro. I'm at the point now where I can be the best if I have my mind ready to do it. Sometimes there are mental problems such as having your confidence up."

Along with the work comes many fringe benefits, including the chance to see a variety of people and places. "Last summer I went to play in the British Amateur," she said. "We played at St. Andrews Golf Course in Scotland, which is where golf was born. It was very interesting because it was the first year they ever allowed women to go into the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse."

"Golf has taught me a lot about mental situations," she continued. "You're exposed to a lot of different people. I've met a lot of good, old Ag alumni by representing A&M, which is fantastic."

Although she hasn't given it that much thought, Goldsmith feels her future will probably be golf-

oriented. As an agronomy (major, she would get a job working on a golf course perhaps be a consultant on course design.

Then there's always the prospect of playing on the women's professional golf tour, although Goldsmith says she doesn't have a strong intention to turn pro.

"It's not the question of asking the question of wanting to do it," she said. "Playing professionally isn't a glamorous life at all. It's a serious job. It involves ten months of traveling and there's a pressure from sponsors."

Having played in eight tournaments last summer, more than familiar with the necessity of constant traveling.

"I get tired of it sometimes," she says. "It's easy to get burned mentally. It's hard to get psyched for tournaments all the time."

This June she will be competing in the National Collegiate Championships in Lansing, Michigan. Judging from her talent and determination, don't be surprised if Brenda Goldsmith comes out as a winner.



Brenda Goldsmith of Texas A&M's women's golf team.



Backlashes

By BRUCE SUBLETT
Battalion Staff Writer

"Backlashes" has been appearing off and on for more than a year now, but there hasn't been a word about what a backlash really is.

Anybody with a baitcasting reel knows exactly what a backlash is. With all the descriptive cussing aside, a backlash happens when the spool of a baitcasting reel turns faster than the lure can pull line out. The line loosens on the reel, hangs somewhere, then causes the spool to start turning backwards. The result is a snarl of line that may go 50 yards deep in the pool.

At best, a backlash takes time to pull out. At worst, it means cutting out most of the line on the reel.

A backlash can happen to anybody, but the pros call them professional overruns. It sounds more important but it amounts to the same thing. I usually carry at least two extra spools of line in my tacklebox as backlash insurance.

An equivalent thing can happen

with a spinning reel. When the line is new and stiff, or when it's twisted, it can fall off the spool loops that get tangled up in the line carrying out the lure. The tangles are even harder to work than backlashes, so they always call for new line.

While we're talking about let's look at some different line and their advantages and

vantages. There are actually two line readily available now. Nylon isn't used much, but it has some good points. It's monofilament, it doesn't give more positive hook power. For the same reason, it breaks easier than mono.

Monofilament is far and away most used line. It comes in tests from 1 to more than 100. A manufacturer puts out several different kinds of mono, not just a chandising trick.

For example, Berkley makes Trilene, Trilene XL, Trilene Tuff and Trilene Tensimatic. Trilene is just plain line, XL is limp and cally brightened, Dura-Tuff is an abrasion-resistant and Tensimatic is for saltwater use.

Optical brighteners are the recent innovation in line. One manufacturer now has line in three colors: yellow, orange and blue. The glow above the water, makes easy to see. Because the glow is produced by the action of ultraviolet light on the brighteners, the glow supposedly disappears under

I had my doubts about this last weekend. I have been using blue line but have shied away from the yellow because it looks like rope. But I was given a spool of low 8-pound line, so I put it on an ultralight rig. In the week tournament out of Cove Marsh, Livingston, every fish I weighed was caught on the yellow line. I was convinced that the bright stuff was all right.

Like all your other tackle, line deserves a little attention. In fact, it deserves a lot of attention. Monofilament starts deteriorating as soon as it goes on the reel spool. It weakens by sunlight and water sorption, not just by pulling around stumps.

It makes sense to buy line in spools and change it often. I use quarter-pound spools for about each. There are about 600 yards of 20-pound line on a quarter-pound spool.

I change line about once a month or more often when it gets tattered. I always change it before a tournament. Line is the most fragile between you and the fish, so it's good sense to keep it in the shape possible.

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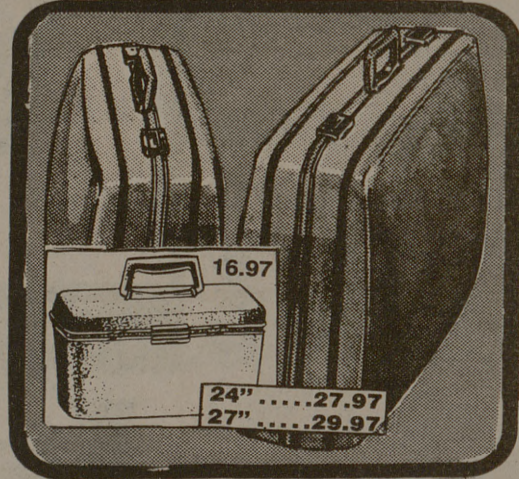
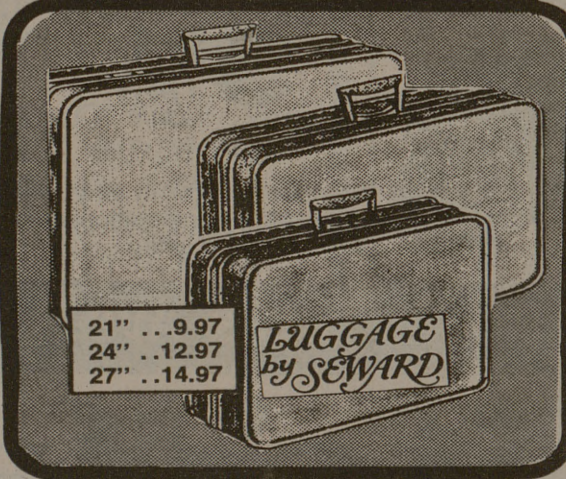
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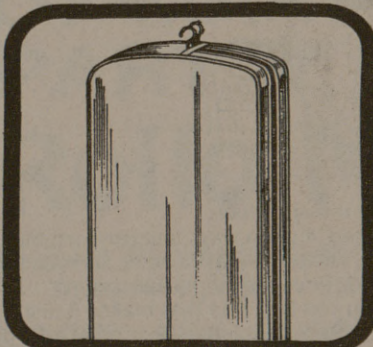
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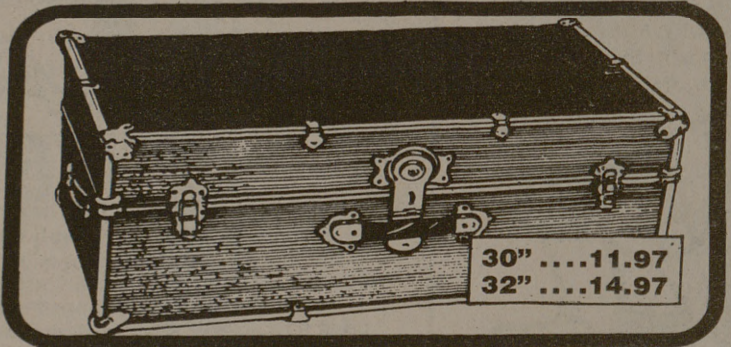
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