

NCAA Berth at stake

By PAT EDMONDSON
 Coach Tom Chandler's baseball team finishes Southwest Conference weekend as they battle Arkansas in a three-game series beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday in Fayetteville. The teams meet in a doubleheader Saturday at 1 p.m.
 Two victories in the series would give the Aggies sole possession of second place and enhance their chances of receiving a berth in the NCAA playoffs. The University of Texas currently holds the conference lead with a 17-4 record. If the Aggies win only one victory over the Aggies, the University of Houston would move into the second place spot and advance to post season action.


"We're looking forward to it," said Chandler. "Our boys are gonna bust their tails to be the NCAA representative."
 The Razorbacks have maintained a 12-9 mark despite the loss of three of last year's pitching aces. Mike Williams, Richard Miller and Randy Jones all were lost to graduation, along with batsmen Wally Erwin, Doug Pogue and Jim Andree.
 "Overall, they've got a pretty good hitting lineup," said Assistant Coach Jim Sampson. "They've got a sound defense too," he said, "but are lacking in quickness. And they are extremely tough at home," he added.
 Warren Hemm, Mark McClain and Scott Bull provide the pitching strength for the fifth place Hogs.
 Strikeout artist Clint Thomas, 8-3,

will start Friday's game with James "Hoot" Gibson, 13-1, and Davis Lockett, 6-2, throwing in Saturday's twin-bill.
 Shortstop Robert Bonner (.360), second baseman Buddy Grobe (.333), and third baseman Winston Whiddon (.303) lead the Farmers in the hitting category. Power sluggers Billy Raymer and Randy Blanchard follow with respective .293 and .268 averages.
 The remaining starters include first baseman Bob Dulak, left-fielder Robert Verde, centerfielder Mark Thurmond, and catcher John Biersner.
 In the only remaining SWC action, the University of Texas visits Lubbock to challenge the Red Raiders of Texas Tech.

Skeet team finishes second

The eighth annual ACU-I Intercollegiate Trap and Skeet Championships were held at Poughkeepsie, New York, April 22-25. A&M placed second in this tournament behind Trinity University, the defending national champion.
 Texas A&M placed high in several team events as well as individual events. The Ags placed second in American Skeet by breaking 936 out of 1,000 targets and second in International Skeet by breaking 359 out of 400. In American trap A&M broke 924 out of 1,000 and tied for fifth.
 The team was composed of Dick Costello, Derek Davis, Steve Hopper, Mark England, Les Meineke, Danny Thomason and Bill Norman. Meineke broke 200 out of 200 in American skeet and was runner-up

in the event. Thomason was the Class A champion with a 197 out of 200 and Costello was second with 196 out of 200.
 In International Skeet, Davis, Hopper, Costello and Thomason placed third, fourth, fifth and ninth respectively.
 In American trap Les Meineke placed second in Class B with 190 out of 200, and Hopper broke 193 out of 200 to place fourth in Class A.



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Comment

Mixture of old and new

By PAUL ARNETT
 Battalion Sports Editor
 It was a rainy night in College Station, but the water didn't stop David Shipman from raining pass after pass to his wide receivers.
 That's right, the Aggies threw the football, and not only that — they threw it well.
 Saturday night was no comfortable evening weather wise, yet the 6,000 hearty souls who braved the storm, took comfort in seeing Emory Ballard letting his quarterbacks throw the ball. Oh sure, it was the same 'ole wishbone formation, but it was not just limited to Woodard up the middle.
 The offense is the real question mark for next fall. Will the Aggies fall into the same offensive rut of run, run, run? Or will Ballard open up his game plan with a stonger passing game?

but the exciting facion was the outside option. The Aggies have been known in the past to fumble on this option, but Saturday night they ran it as smoothly as any wishbone team in the country.
 The Ags looked sharp, not only on offense, but on defense as well. They limited the White offense to just 29 total yards. That ain't half bad when one realizes that two All-Americans and four other lettermen have graduated from the squad. Granted, the White offense was not a Texas or Oklahoma, but it was promising to see strong gang tackling, and quick sideline to sideline pursuit by the Maroon defense.
 The man who was most impressive for the Maroon defense was linebacker Jessie Hunnicutt. Hunnicutt was in almost every play that came in his direction. He forced John Baber, White team quarterback, to hurry many of his passes and recovered one fumble which resulted in a touchdown six plays later.
 Hunnicutt is one man who will have extra pressure on his shoulders next year. He has to fill the shoes of Ed Simonini. Hunnicutt must have quick sideline to sideline pursuit next year in order to make the Aggie defense as tough as it was last year.
 Two other men on defense who will have extra pressure next fall are cornerback Willie Thompson and safety Lester Hayes. Hayes made a fabulous transformation to safety last

year. He played aggressive on the pass, and was Mister Everywhere when a fumble was jarred loose, running two back for touchdowns.
 Thompson was tested regularly last year since All-American Pat Thomas was at the other corner. Now Thomas is gone, and Thompson is the experienced cornerback on the defense. Thompson played well last year, but now must face a difficult situation. Opposing quarterbacks will not throw in his direction as often because of his experience. He must be careful not to be lulled into a sense of false security. Sure as he is expecting the pass on the other side of the field, he might find his own man open strolling in for the touchdown.
 The White team had one man on defense who impressed many who viewed the game. His name is Wadine Mills, who scored the only White touchdown on a 56-yard pass interception. Besides this fabulous return, Miles batted away two passes, and took on Woodard when he busted into the secondary.
 The Ags looked good Saturday night and should prove to be a formidable foe next fall. If their passing game and outside option on the wishbone work smoothly, there is no reason they can't be rolling in cotton on January 1, 1977. Can't you see the bumper stickers now? "While the teapips were playing rotten, The Aggies were picking cotton."



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Masters Swim Meet set for May 1-2

The second Masters Swim Meet, for men and women 25 and older, has been set May 1-2 at Texas A&M. An open meet sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the two-day event has swimmers coming from seven Texas cities, Oklahoma and Louisiana.
 The Masters Meet is open to all men and women swimmers, competing in five-year age groups from 25 years up. Events start at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1, and 9 a.m. Sunday. The meet will be held in P. L. Downs Natatorium.
 It is sponsored by the Texas A&M

Aquatics Club, College Station Recreation Council, Sea Serpents of College Station and Bryan and the College Station Kiwanis Club.
 For information about entering the meet, or Masters Swimming, call Will Morley at 845-7441 or 846-6570.
 It will feature two All Americans, Mildred Anderson of Houston and Jamee Stewart of Austin. Also swimming in the Masters Meet will be Tom Hetzel, of Corpus Christi, the world record holder for number of times (seven) to swim the English channel.

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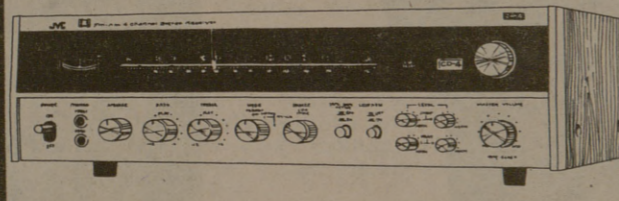
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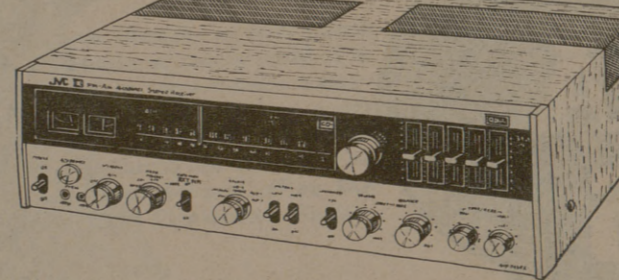
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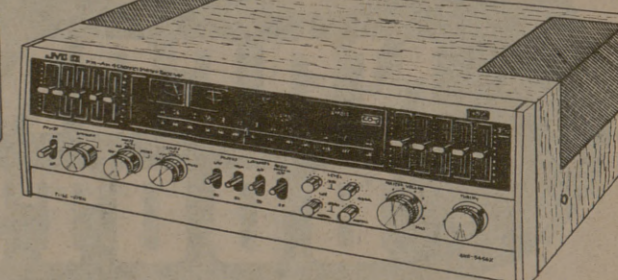
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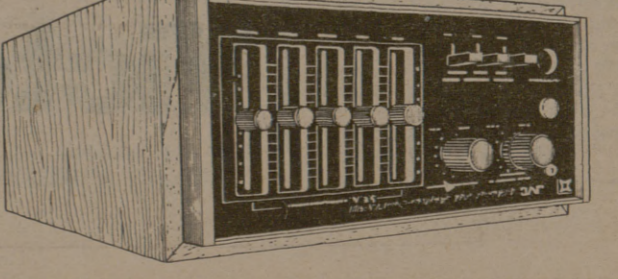
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