

Reservation policy for courts altered

Texas A&M students should find a little easier to play handball when they want to thanks to a change in reservation policy.

The reason we're making the change is to make better use of the courts," Dennis Corrington Director of Intramurals said. "The major change comes in the reservation policy."

Reservations must now be confirmed within 15 minutes of the hour. They are confirmed by reporting to the Intramural Reservation Office. A current faculty, staff or student ID must be presented to confirm the reservation.

Courts may be reserved at the Intramural Office in DeWare Fieldhouse, or by calling 845-2624. Courts may also be reserved one working day in advance.

All reservations are for one hour periods and begin on the hour. Courts are available for reservations at the following times: On Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon until 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. until midnight. On Tuesday and Thursday at 12:10 p.m. until 1:10 p.m. and 4:00 until midnight. On Saturday from 8 p.m. until midnight and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Persons unable to secure a reservation may sign a waiting list at the Intramural Office. Courts not claimed prior to 15 minutes after the hour will be reassigned by the Intramural Supervisor.

Next year this system will be used at the tennis courts Corrington said. All that is needed is someone to be a tennis court supervisor.

Pole vaulter qualifies for track all-American

By PAUL MCGRATH

Texas A&M pole vaulter Brad Blair cleared a school record 16-6 to win that event at the United States Track and Field Federation indoor meet held last weekend in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Blair, this year's Southwest Conference indoor champion, won the event despite an injured heel obtained at the conference indoor meet. As winner, he is awarded the title of track all-American.

His vault is two inches better than the previous A&M indoor mark, also set by Blair earlier in the year. Blair also owns the outdoor vault record of 16-7 feet.

Teammate Shifton Baker finished fourth in the finals of the 60-yard hurdles in a close race, barely missing a track all-American position.

Both Blair and Baker were honored along side several of their teammates at the Texas A&M track banquet held Sunday night at the

Three C Bar-B-Q restaurant.

The banquet honored members of the 1976 Aggie track team which placed third at the conference outdoor meet. Team captains Bill Newton, Manfred Kohrs and Baker received electric clocks while Newton and Baker received electronic wrist watches for obtaining the most points in the track and field event categories. Newton's 52 points came in the javelin and the shot put and Baker's 90 points were accumulated in the hurdle events.

The Aggie top ten scorers were awarded plaques detailing their event and achievement. The honorees were: Baker, Newton, Blair, Kohrs, Randy Scott, Craig Carter, Steve Stewart, Tony Wheeler, Ray Brooks and Frank West.

The Aggies open the outdoor portion of their season by hosting the University of Texas this Saturday at Kyle Field. The field events will start at 1 p.m. and the running events will begin at 3 p.m.

Sportsfolio

By PAUL MCGRATH



It was only last spring that Curtis Dickey, the celebrated running back of Bryan High School, continued adding to his laurels by proving himself one of the state's top schoolboy sprinters.

Dickey, on a football scholarship at Texas A&M, was the AAAA champion last year in both the 100- and 220-yard dashes with best times of 9.3 and 21.1 seconds respectively. He also was a key factor in the Vikings' second place finish in the 440-yard relay.

Yet there's a good chance that Dickey's talent, and that of other A&M football players, will go untapped for competition in spring sports.

A&M freshman football players are discouraged, although not prevented, from participating in spring sports so that they may concentrate on football an athletic department official said.

Thus, speed merchants such as Carl Roaches and Lester Hayes discontinued promising track careers while George Woodard, a shot putter in high school, has never reported to Coach Charlie Thomas' track squad.

Other Southwest Conference schools, such as Texas, Baylor, Arkansas and Houston for instance, are more liberal in their approach to having riders compete in the spring. Baylor Head Football Coach Grant Teaff is a former track coach and encourages his players to go out for spring sports. Bear footballers Aley Jackson, Ricky Thompson and Scooter Reed each missed spring drills to participate in track. Thompson was the conference winner in the long jump last year.

Texas also takes an open-minded view towards spring competition. Freshman running back and former Olympian Johnny "Lam" Jones was second in the conference indoor 60-yard dash last week and anchored the Longhorn mile relay foursome to victory. The Longhorn staff okay's spring competition as long as the athlete is a starter in the particular sport or is making a noticeable contribution.

Houston and Arkansas, as well as

other SWC schools, also approve of their football players competing in spring sports.

Coach Emory Bellard's Texas A&M staff may have valid reasons for discouraging their athletes, such as possible injury or falling behind in the football program. An injury to either Dickey or Woodard would seriously hurt the Aggie hopes both on the field and at the gate.

But the notion that the players could not ably concentrate on football is a slur at the intelligence of the players, especially in a program which does not plan any major changes in its offensive or defensive schemes. Texas' Jones continues to compete despite the fact that new Longhorn Coach Freddie Akers plans to revamp the UT offense.

Players in skill positions such as running back actually can't be taught that much, their abilities are natural gifts. The conditioning received from a spring sport would match that obtained in spring football drills and some coaches argue that some spring sports are more beneficial, using the improved speed from track workouts as an example.

While it is still up to the individual athlete to decide whether or not he will compete in a spring sport, more encouragement could be given from the higher echelons. Thus, a highly regarded football program might also help support the "other" sports on campus.

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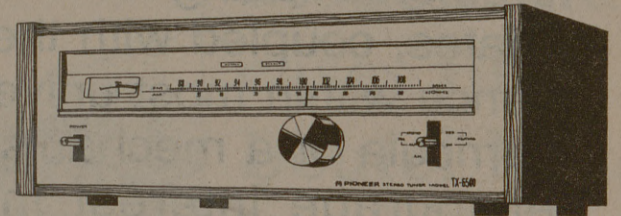
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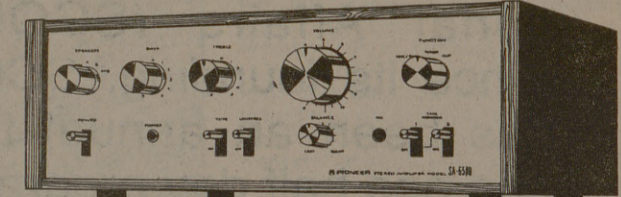
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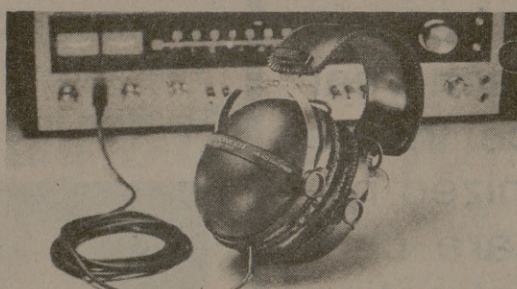
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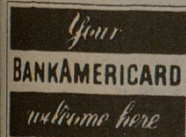
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