

Spring training filled with enthusiasm



Tim Scott, Texas A&M's premiere discus thrower, prepares for the Texas Relays. The 50-year old event will be held this Friday and Saturday in Austin.

Battalion photo by Jana Thieme

By NATHAN HINES

The smell of Ben-Gay was strong in the air, with a few people moving rather slowly, as the effects of the first day of spring training were being felt in Cain Hall yesterday morning.

Wednesday was slow getting started, with a few eight o'clocks being missed, but at four o'clock that afternoon the football players were back at it again.

All the soreness that some had complained of earlier in the day seemed to disappear under the thrill of being back in full pads for the second day. The good natured kidding came back as footballs were passed around before practice actually started.

Then it began. The team was called together for stretching exercises and agility drills. The shrill sound of the whistle broke the air as Coach Robinson sent the players through each agility drill.

After agilitys the team broke into groups for individual skill practice. The quarterbacks and receivers worked on passing, the defensive linemen and backs worked on tackling, running backs worked on running over and around people, and the offensive linemen worked on blocking.

Coaches: yelling, telling, and showing how it should be done, mixed with the sounds of shoulder pads hitting each other.

An air horn sounded and the groups broke into offensive and defensive sections. Plays were run by the offense against the scout defense, while the scout offense was running plays against the defense on the other end of the field.

There was plenty of back slapping and congratulating as the teams ran against each other. "Nice catch... that's the way to run... way to hit" and other remarks were said by the players.

Pro scouts and coaches, along with some professional football players, watched the practice. Bubba Bean, Jackie Williams and Pat Thomas were a few of the pros who were watching and giving some advice to the players during breaks. A Coach from the Pittsburgh

Steelers and one from the New York Giants wrote notes in their notebooks and told their tape recorders about the Ags. They could see that the Ags have potential.

The final horn sounded and the team grabbed cans of Gatorade and some salt tablets and went in to take a shower. The second day of spring training was over.

The activity in the dressing room was lively. C.J. White joked with receivers about missing passes, while the receivers joked back about the poor quality of passes being thrown. Towels were being popped and pads were being thrown, as the sound of the showers tried to drown out the team's shouting.

David Brothers felt a little sore after two hard days of practice. "I'm a little sore," Brothers said, "but that comes natural with everyone hitting on you."

Tony Franklin had his own area of soreness. "My foot's a little sore, but it takes a few days to toughen it back up," Franklin said. "I kicked a

couple of 60-yarders today and I'm going to kick a 70-yard field goal this year if it hair lips the Governor."

David Appleby the Aggie punter said, "I'm already punting better than last year and I'm averaging around 50 yards."

David Walker seemed quite enthusiastic about the prospects of next season.

"I'm glad we are playing in Michigan so the people up north can see the caliber of football we play here," Walker said. "I feel Michigan will be a tough game, but I feel that we have the potential and ability to beat them."

"It's hard not to be excited about this team. The front is super, and they are coming in ball good. We've only been practicing two days and it looks like they've been practicing since the South. The whole team has enthusiasm they know we can win."

Coach Emory Bellard summed up yesterday's workout as one of the best.

"We had a good workout with coach Bellard said. "Everybody busting gut out there to win and when everyone does that, you can't do anything but improve."

NFL players get big settlement

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Stars such as O.J. Simpson, run-of-the-mill third string quarterbacks and draftees who never made it are going to get a cut of a multi-million dollar out-of-court settlement pie under the new contract between the NFL Players Association and the pro football owners.

Ed Garvey, executive director of the players union, announced yesterday that U.S. District Judge Earl R. Larson in Minneapolis gave preliminary approval to a complex formula for allocating to veterans and draftees \$13,675,000 paid by the owners in exchange for settling legal damages in two major federal court cases which they lost.

Garvey estimated that the payment to regulars could run from \$2,350 up to \$16,500.



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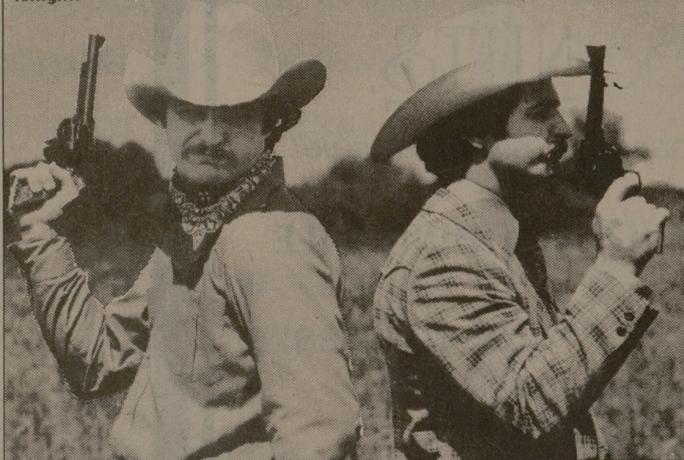
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