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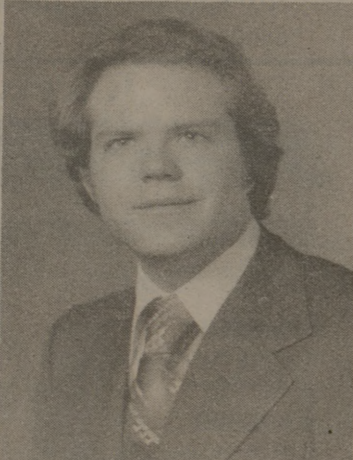
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**Jefferson Standard**

# Canoe racing

## A&M team leads Texas

By PAUL McGRATH  
Battalion Sports Editor

A century ago, the canoe was a common mode of transportation — used both by Indians and pioneers. Now it is being utilized for a relatively new, grueling, competitive sport.

The aluminum and fiberglass crafts are raced over a variety of distances in nearly every state, with competition split into men's, women's and mixed divisions.

Canoe racing should not be confused with rowing, although oars are used in both sports. Canoeing involves longer distances — the course averaging 10 miles for men and six miles for women.

It is an arduous sport, one which involves endurance, strength, skill and a little luck.

A half dozen of these adventure-some folk compete across Texas while representing Texas A&M in an unofficial capacity. Although not recognized as a student organization by the University, the club members — mainly Texas A&M graduate and undergraduate students — wear maroon and white and refer to themselves as the A&M Canoe Club.

The club currently leads the state in team point standings in both men's and women's divisions, while the mixed crew is tied for first. Points are accumulated only during designated "state" races with 10 points going to the winner, nine to the second place finisher and so on down to one point.

There are seven state races and the A&M team has swept both of the two already staged — good for 20 points in both divisions.

John Bugge, the team's coach and a canoeist since his Boy Scout days as a pre-teenager, and Mike Schively, who has raced competitively in Indiana, comprise the men's

team. Bugge's wife Donna and Kay Edwards pair up for the women's team. John and Edwards make up the mixed team. Two veterinary students, Terry Stanford and Robin Harris, have competed in the novice division, but because they have been so successful, will soon have to compete in the men's category.

The men's division is divided into men's cruising (where a fast, streamlined 18 foot fiberglass canoe is used) and men's aluminum, which uses a heavier craft of 17 feet. The women compete only in the cruising category.

There is one other category in which racers compete, termed the unlimited. Competitors are allowed to use almost anything that will float.

"One year we saw a man use car hoods," Edwards said of a competitor in this division.

While the club takes the sport seriously — Schively considers it a loss to finish second — there are amusing moments.

Last weekend the club competed in a 72-mile race down the San Marcos River with the men winning and the women placing fifth in a race where no state points were given.

Along the course, the two women felt the need to answer the call of nature and paddled their canoe to a secluded spot along the shoreline.

Enjoying their imagined privacy, they discussed what route they should take and other matters about the race. Upon returning to their canoe, they were greeted by a cheering group of people on the far bank. Naturally, there were some reddened faces.

The club works out three or four times a week on local lakes. Donna said they practice windsprints for 200 yards to build upper body strength. They go to the lake near



Donna "Zig" Bugge and Kay "Zag" Edwards canoeing and may compete in nationals. (in rear) lead Texas' women's division in

Battalion Photo by Steve Goble

the Dansby Power Plant to work on distance.

Chest and upper body strength is important in canoeing. "You get your stroke from your upper chest, it's not your arms at all," Donna said.

She said she and Edwards gain strength by training on the Nautilus weight machine on the A&M campus and by swimming.

Bugge, and Edwards, the state's leading women's team, are nicknamed "Zig" and "Zag" because in their novice period they had problems keeping the boat on a straight course.

"If we hit someone (with the canoe) they didn't get mad because they knew we couldn't drive," Edwards said.

Bugge, a mother of two with another on the way, continues competing despite her condition. She will be five months pregnant when she and the team compete in the national meet in New York on Aug. 20 and 21.

While some states name their best team to compete in the national meet, the Texas Canoe Racing Association sends the team which has accumulated the most points at the end of the season and thus earning the state championship.

However, this year the national meet falls in the middle of the season, causing the TCRA to determine the state's representative by selecting the team with the most points at the time of nationals. With only one state race remaining before

nationals, A&M is the favorite to be the Texas representative.

Since canoe race courses cover different distances and are held on varying water surfaces, some strategy is used during a race, Bugge said.

"We always try to get out first, so we try to get out as fast as we can," she said. "Everyone tries to do their little sprint to get out."

"If you're behind there are several strategies you can use to sneak up on a boat ahead of you or legally hit their boat. If you're quiet, they won't know you're coming up on them because they won't turn around if they don't hear you calling your changes (the two crewmen alternating the sides of the canoe they paddle)."

There is also a degree of danger to canoe racing. Edwards said that the many logs on the San Marcos River and the treacherous current were hazards to each competitor. Her canoe, as well as many others, fell victim to the river and was overturned.

The A&M men's team will compete in a 419-mile race this weekend, again on the San Marcos River. The race will last from Saturday until Wednesday's deadline of 4 p.m. The A&M team hopes to complete the race sometime Monday.

There will be no stopping along the way for food — only water.

"Everything has to be in the boat before the race is started," Edwards said. "If you lose it, that's just too bad."

## Ex-Ag golfer Steve Veriato strikes paydirt

United Press International

ATLANTA — Having to wait years to defend his Atlanta Classic crown didn't slow Steve Veriato down too much.

Irwin shot a 67 for a 15-under-par 273 that was two strokes higher than the tournament record he set in 1975 when he won by four shots the last time it was held.

Steve Veriato, who had a 68-72 was the big surprise. The 30-year-old Hawaiian out of Texas A&M University had made the cut in one of 16 previous tournaments in this year, when he tied for 51st in the New Orleans Open. And \$22,800 he won Sunday was about double all of his previous earnings since he graduated, on fourth try, from the PGA qualifying school in the fall of 1975.

The former Aggie appeared to headed for a sudden-death playoff with Irwin when he sank a 124-yard birdie putt on the final hole. Irwin, who had birdied the 72nd hole to take the lead, put his second shot on the green, 40 feet from the cup, on the par-5 final hole and down in two for his victory.

"I told my caddy I'd have to shoot a 32 on the back nine to win — and shot a 32," Irwin said elatedly. "It's a good feeling. It's been a long time since I've been that excited."

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