

Sports facilities battle bad weather

By DERRICK GRUBBS
Construction of two campus athletic facilities, both originally scheduled to be completed by December, has been delayed due to

inclement weather and construction problems. Completion of A&M's new \$710,000 tennis facility, located west of the educational television

building, has been set back indefinitely because of defects in the construction of the grandstand. A&M officials and representatives of Marcal Construction, Inc. of Bryan had

been conferring for nearly two months devising an acceptable solution to the problem. This past Monday John Merchant, head of the Building Con-

struction Department of Texas A&M, said that an agreement had been reached with Marcal that called for a 90-day extension of the project contract wherein the stands must be torn down and reconstructed.

The problems were initiated Oct. 21 when Marcal began pouring concrete for the grandstand risers and support beams. The concrete was pumped into an upright mold through a procedure known as "cast-in-place." Three weeks later, the forms were removed and it was discovered that the concrete had not settled properly. X-rays revealed tiny vein-like voids within the base of the structures.

"We wanted to be careful not to add too much water to the concrete mixture that would weaken the structures," Don Martell of Marcal explained. "Instead we had a lack of water and the concrete dried too fast, leaving the voids."

Although safety of the structure was the immediate concern of the University officials and Marcal, it became apparent after further examination that the longevity of the structure would be primarily affected. "After we were certain that safety was not so much a factor, we discussed the long-term aspects," said Martell. "Originally, we estimated the life of the structure at 30 years. We agreed that if rain got into the voids, it would rust the steel framework of the stands and their longevity would be shortened as much as ten years."

Consulting Engineers on the project, Lockwood, Andrews and Newman (Houston), made proposals for the reconstruction, as did Marcal, but no solution was reached until late last week.

"We've agreed to allow Marcal an extension in order to rebuild the stands using the same construction procedure," Merchant said Monday. "We would hope that the contractor exercises the proper quality control and workmanship control. It's a difficult and complex operation and I'm certain Marcal will take all precautions necessary to complete the project as soon as possible."

Merchant said the University requested the project be divided into three parts under the original contract. The concrete grandstand structure, which will accommodate up to 600 spectators and will include show and dressing room facilities underneath.

Eight varsity tennis courts, constructed for intercollegiate use. 14 intramural courts, also to be used by the physical education department.

The facilities included in each part of the contract will be inspected and accepted by the University on a separate basis at their discretion. Merchant estimates that the eight

varsity courts should be ready for inspection in about a month.

The other athletic facility on which construction has been delayed is the \$1.5 million baseball stadium located across Welborn Road. The facility, to be dedicated March 21 as C. E. "Pat" Olsen Field, has had its completion date set back indefinitely due to poor weather. The contract for the stadium has been broken down into three parts:

- Construction of the main access road to the stadium, to be named Beef Cattle Road.
- Parking, which includes two main lots, one south of the stadium and one west.
- The stadium itself, which will seat 5,000.

Currently, construction of the west parking lot is being held up due to the poor weather last week and the first part of this week. Because of the overall contract agreement, the baseball team cannot use the facility until the entire project is completed.

"We'll have to play our first few home games somewhere else like old Kyle Field or Travis Park in Bryan," said A&M baseball coach Tom Chandler. "Right now we're shooting to be in the stadium for our first Southwest Conference series against the University of Houston in early March."

The Aggies are scheduled to open the 1978 season on Feb. 17 at home against LSU.



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Aggie notes . . .

Defensive ends coach R.C. Slocum had a short stay at Ole Miss, in one day and out the next. "After arriving at Ole Miss and comparing everything there with Texas A&M, I decided I'd be much better off remaining with the Aggies," Slocum said. "I'm thankful Coach Ballard let me come back." Ballard said, "I'm very pleased that Coach Slocum decided to remain on our staff at Texas A&M."

Dennis Swilley, reminiscing on his rookie season with the Minnesota Vikings: "Against the Detroit Lions, I was the last man with a chance at tackling their kickoff return man when all of a sudden someone cut my legs from under me. Then I discovered the blocker was ole Aggie teammate Garth TenNapel. It was a weird feeling." SWC football signing date, usually on a Tuesday in the past, comes on Wednesday, February 8, this year. The Aggies are confident they'll reap another fine crop of high school recruits.

Andrea Welch, freshman from Madison, Wis., has a women's gold scholarship at Texas A&M but she can always fall back on skiing if her links play falters. On a recent between-semester skiing trip, the resident pro went down the slalom run in 24 seconds and announced that was as fast as anyone could go. Andrea then covered the run in 25 seconds. Texas A&M's men's golf team has 13 tournament appearances scheduled for the spring. Included are the Fresno State Classic in California, Deacon Invitational in Winston-Salem, N.C. and Southern Intercollegiate in Athens, Ga.

California Angels strikeout king Nolan Ryan will prepare for the 1978 season by working out with the Texas Aggies, starting next week. He'll also offer aid to Aggie hurlers. Keith Carter, senior Aggie cager from Youngstown, Ohio, lost the battle of the books and is scholastically sidelined. He had played in five games and had scored seven points. A&M's new \$700,000 tennis facility won't be completely ready for this season.

A&M's 1979 football schedule has been completed with the booking of pass-happy Brigham Young into Kyle Field on Sept. 8. The other two non-conference games that season find the Aggies journeying to Penn State on September 22 and to Memphis State on September 29.

"I'm as proud as I've ever been of a team that lost a game," Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said after his Aggies had dropped a 79-77

overtime decision to 15th-ranked Texas. Metcalf is hopeful that the full 45-minute effort by his players will signal the beginning of a drive toward a home-court berth for the first round of the SWC Tournament.

The Aggies are now 1-5 in SWC play with a Wednesday game against TCU in Fort Worth and a Saturday home TV appearance at 3 p.m. against Rice. Two Aggie wins would likely tie them with Baylor and SMU for fifth place at the end of the first round. Then Baylor comes to G. Rollie White Monday to open the crucial second round. Starters for A&M will be sophomore Dave Goff at the point, junior Joey Robinson and senior Willie Foreman at the wings, and freshmen Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright at the posts. Robinson had a career high 23 points against Texas while Wright (17) and Smith (12) combined for 29 rebounds.

The Texas A&M women's basketball team pulled a big upset Monday by beating the Texas women 59-52 behind Von Bum's 25 points. The Texas team was ranked 13th nationally and No. 2 in Texas.

The Aggie Ladies are now 11-8 for the season and play Lamar in Beaumont Wednesday, McLennan County in G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday and visit Texas Southern Monday.

Dedication ceremonies for Texas A&M's new 5,000-seat baseball stadium have been set for Mar. 21. The facility has been named for C.E. "Pat" Olsen, class of 1923 and a former major league player with the New York Yankees.

The ceremony will be held prior to the baseball game between the defending Southwest Conference champion Texas Aggies and perennially powerful Southern Cal Trojans.

Special guests will include several members of baseball's Hall of Fame along with Commissioner Bowie Kuhn.

Texas A&M's men's track team posted one first and four third places in the LSU indoor meet last weekend in Baton Rouge. The Aggies finished fourth behind Alabama, LSU and Houston.

Manfred Khors won the mile in 4:15.22. The thirds came from Pat Ruelle in the pole vault (16-0), Tom Glass in the 1,000-yard run (2:16.83), Billy Busch in the 60-yard high hurdles (7.65) and Lane Mitchell in the three-mile (14:19.76).

Wrestling team defeats top-rated Richland 45-10

By MICHAEL KITKOSKI
The Texas A&M wrestling team handily defeated highly rated Richland College Tuesday night after the Aggies were awarded five forfeit matches due to injured Richland

players. It was the second time this season that the Aggies had beaten Richland, this time by a point total of 45-10.

In the heavyweight division, Curtis Templet pinned Joe Grudza in just over a minute to seal the Aggies victory.

Other Aggie wins included Larry Johnson with a 7-4 decision over David Traver, John Sweatt with a 31 second fall over Scott McIntyre, and Bob Santini with a six minute fall over Bill Watton.

Richland victories included a 17-4 decision over Andy Cotes by Bob Hurst, and a 12-3 match with Ron Zeno defeating previously unbeaten Blake Purrell.

Texas A&M wrestling coach Larry Cannel said that Purrell was wrestling in a weight class higher than his listed weight in order to place a formidable opponent against the highly rated Zeno. Purrell wrestled in the 190 class against Zeno, up two classes from his accustomed 167.

"We weren't very worried about Richland because they've had quite a few problems with injuries," Can-

nel said. "Richland is the second best team in the state, but we've got three new kids on our team this semester that should make our team a lot stronger."

Bill Kelvey, Zane Smith, Billy Schlittler and Mel Mehrtens all posted forfeit victories last night due to injured Richland wrestlers.

The Aggies move on to Texas Tech this weekend where they will participate in an invitational tournament, and then on to Missouri for a match on the weekend of February 3-4.

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Rank	Team	Points
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2	Marquette	357
3	North Carolina	278
4	Arkansas	201
5	UCLA	171
6	Kansas	148
7	Michigan St.	147
8	Notre Dame	130
9	Louisville	68
10	Providence	60
11	Syracuse	55
12	New Mexico	37
13	Indiana St.	31
14	Georgetown	27
15	San Francisco	26
16	Florida St.	21
17	Texas	13
18	Colorado St.	12
19	DePaul	11
20	Duke	10

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DEADLINE JANUARY 27

Submissions to MOEBIUS A&M's student magazine of the Arts must be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. January 27. Poetry and prose entries should be turned into the English Dept. Office, room 511, Harrington. Art work and photography should be submitted to the Secretaries desk, Room 216, MSC.

For further information call the Arts Committee at 845-1515 or come by Room 216 MSC.

DEADLINE JANUARY 27

Submissions to the Arts Committee Poetry and Fiction Contest must be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. January 27. Entries should be submitted to the English Dept. Office, Room 511 Harrington.

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