

# Golfers have tough act to follow

By KEVIN PYLE  
With many of the top players gone, the Texas A&M golf team will be hard pressed to equal its 76-77 season in which it never finished worse than fourth place in any tournament.

Aggie golf coach Bob Ellis who wasn't pleased with last fall's performance is looking for a much improved spring semester.

"I stressed academics in the fall," Ellis said, which also was one of the main reasons for their not up to par performance. "This semester is much more important than last," he added.

The bulk of tournament schedule occurs during this semester, along with the conference and national golf tournaments.

"I feel we will be very competitive and I feel very good about the team," Ellis said.

If he seems optimistic he has a good right to be because of some very good players on his squad. Dave Orgin, a sophomore, is one of the main reasons.

Ogrin, from Waukegan, Ill., won the National Junior Freshman tournament last year and was an honorable mention All-American the same year. Ellis also says Richard Cromwell, of Stuart, Fla., who won the Bill Bass Intercollegiate last year and is currently leading tournament qualifying, is playing as well as Mark Taylor, a freshman who won the national Insurance Youth Classic this past summer.

Rounding out the 14 man team are

Ricky Jamison, a sophomore from Corsicana, juniors Biff Alexander of Seguin and Jerry Martin of College Station and seniors Dale Carlisle, Ft. Worth, Tim Carlton, Shreveport, La., and Russel Orth of Dallas. The remaining spots on the team will be filled by walk-ons who are currently qualifying for the team.

"We play or practice in all types of weather," Ellis said, "but when we

aren't qualifying I pretty much leave it up to the individual to either play or practice on his own and most of them do everyday."

This semester the Aggies will start off the season at the Al Pryor Intercollegiate at Atascosita in Houston, Feb. 4 and 5. Playing in seven tournaments until the Southwest Conference meet, April 21-23, the Ag-

gies will hopefully wind up at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

With only the top three teams from the district qualifying for the NCAA in Eugene, Ore., A&M will have its work cut out for it. Coach Ellis says the strongest teams are A&M, Houston, Texas and SMU, but barring any unforeseen injuries, the Aggies will be in the hunt for an NCAA bid.

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## Liability insurance killing competition

HOUSTON — A sporting goods industry leader Thursday said the skyrocketing cost of product liability insurance threatens the very existence of scholastic and other forms of sports competition.

Howard J. Bruns said during a panel discussion the increase of product liability lawsuits against manufacturers, sales agents and sporting goods dealers who make and sell the products has risen 20 to 25 times since 1960.

Bruns, president of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, said interscholastic football programs were the hardest hit, but all sports were affected since football is supported about 60 percent of all sports programs.

"No more than three years ago, there were 14 U.S. manufacturers of football helmets," Bruns said. "Today, out of the original 14 there are only eight left."

Bruns said those same manufacturers faced lawsuits totaling about \$100 million.

Bruns blamed the problem on a general lawsuit tendency developing in the population, what he called excessive fees of attorneys who get 30 to 60 percent of settlements, the escalating rates for insurance pre-

miums and lack of federal protecting legislation.

He blamed Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, for the federal problem because the Texas Democrat refused to hold hearings to allow the case to be pleaded in the open.

Eckhardt was invited to appear with industry representatives on the panel but declined, officials said.

"Only court reform will bring lasting relief to the product liability crisis," Bruns said.

Another panel participant, Bruce B. Durbin, executive director of the National Federation of State High Schools Associations, said currently there are one million participants in scholastic football.

But, Durbin said, the schools are reassessing the value of their programs in cases where insurance premiums have gone up 400 percent.

"It (football) is a much safer game, but the threat of being dropped is very real," Brice said.

He said sadly the person suffering a debilitating football or other sports injury often received the smallest share of the settlement.

"Our concern is that lawyers get more than the injured athlete and the insurance companies react on fear rather than on facts," Brice said.

## Werner enjoys game, leads team in scoring

By DANA GARDINA  
"If I wasn't playing basketball, I'd go crazy. I love to play," said Pat Werner, leading scorer for the Texas A&M Ladies.

Werner has been the leading scorer in seven out of 19 games this season, for an average of 12 points per game. She is shooting 47 percent from the floor and 62 percent from the free throw line.

Werner is a sophomore from Angleton. She has been playing for A&M for one year. Last season she started off slowly, but she recovered and became an asset at the center position. After her first semester she received a scholarship from A&M.

She has been playing basketball since junior high. Werner said that her father encouraged her to play because of her height (6-0).

The sophomore sensation has been married three months. Both she and her husband are P.E. majors planning to coach high school basketball when they graduate.

Werner practices basketball three hours on the days the team doesn't have a game.

She said that basketball takes up most of her time.

"Girls don't get near the publicity guys do," Werner said. "People don't know what they're missing. We play good ball too."

People are finally realizing we're here. I've seen it change since last

semester. We're getting a lot bigger crowd than last year."

Werner said that she has met a lot of new friends as a result of playing basketball and that people are beginning to recognize her.

"Everyone plays as a team," Pat said. "We go a lot of places together outside of basketball. Everyone's just buddies."

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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.

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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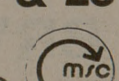
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