

Intramurals grow more popular

By DANA GARDINA
Intramural sports at Texas A&M University has "come a long way baby." Over the past 52 years it has become increasingly more organized and popular.

W.L. Penberthy, 77, an Ohio State University graduate in physical education organized the intramural sports program at Texas A&M in 1926.

"It had been started, but I expanded and promoted it," he said. In 1926, there were only four or five intramural sports. Today, there are 40 competitive sports in intramurals.

In 1978, students, faculty and staff are eligible to participate, but in 1926, when Texas A&M was a military school, intramural sports were organized on a battalion basis. Later it was broken down to a com-

pany basis. Then, competition was divided into classes.

"The original arrangement didn't offer very many students a chance to participate," Penberthy said. "After it was on a smaller scale each boy had a greater chance to participate."

In 1972, intramurals expanded to include a womens division, and in 1973 a co-educational division.

"Intramurals had officials, but not to the extent they do now," Penberthy said. "Someone from the outfit would officiate."

Today, anyone wanting to officiate an intramural game must apply for the job, attend clinics and take an official's test. An official is paid between \$2.30 and \$2.75 an hour, whereas, in 1926 all those who participated in the intramurals program received a P.E. credit.

"There are 618 slow pitch softball teams this year," said John Angell, assistant director of Intramurals. "I'll guarantee there's not another university in the nation with that many softball teams."

Almost all of the sports have in-

creased in participation, since last year; punt, pass and kick has increased 290 percent.

Penberthy attributes the growth of the program to the increased emphasis placed on physical fitness and sports.

"Until the 40s, students were isolated at A&M; there were no automobiles and no married students. The students didn't have a chance for recreation, but the intramural program provided the opportunity," he said.

Wind and golf over par

By KEVIN PYLE

The weather and the golf course were the real winners in the Lamar Intercollegiate golf tourney in Beaumont this week, but the University of Houston walked away with the title.

With temperatures in the low 30s and the wind gusts up to 30 mph, the Cougars finished the 54-hole tournament at 921. That was a whopping 57 strokes over par on the Pinewood Country Club course which plays to a par 72.

For Texas A&M University's golf team it was another poor showing. It was their worst tourney of the year

as they finished 14th out of 16 teams and a distant 40 shots behind conference foe U. of H.

Oral Roberts University was second at 927 followed by Pan American University with 931. Host Lamar tied Texas at 934.

Other conference team scores were Rice 936, SMU 951 and TCU 954.

Aggie golf coach Bob Ellis attributed the Ags' poor play to the weather and trying too hard.

"They want to do well so bad that they are just trying too hard," he said.

Joe Bassett of Oral Roberts Uni-

versity won medalist honors with an eight-over-par 224 while Louisiana Tech's Bill Periot had a 225 for second place.

A&M's top finisher was Dave Ogrin who also led the Aggies in the last tournament. The sophomore from Waukegan, Ill., had a 54-hole total of 234.

Junior Doug Ward finished next with 237, followed by freshman Mark Taylor with 241.

Sophomore Ricky Jamison and junior Jerry Martin each had 249 totals.

A&M's next tourney is the Waterwood Intercollegiate at Waterwood Country Club in Huntsville on Saturday and Sunday. A team composed of Dave Ogrin, Doug Ward, Mark Taylor, Richard Cromwell, Jay Kent and Biff Alexander will represent A&M.

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