

Aggie notes and quotes

The Texas A&M baseball team heads into its lightest week of the season thus far, and coach Tom Chandler is thankful for the time off.

"We're really crippled up," Chandler said. "We need these days off to get some people well. It looked like we had good depth, but now we're really hurting."

The injury list includes centerfielder Mike Hurdle (hamstring), shortstop Robert Bonner (bruised shoulder), catcher Buster Turner (fore elbow), third baseman Mark Warriner (hyperextended knee), and right fielder Shelton McMath (knee). McMath injured a knee in a pregame warmup Friday and faces possible surgery. The other four players are expected to be ready for the important three-game series against Baylor in Waco Friday and Saturday.

The Aggies got some strong pitching and timely hitting to sweep a league series from Rice last weekend in Olsen Field. Complete game wins by Mark Ross, Mark Thurmond and David Pieczynski keyed the sweep. Thurmond tossed a three-hit shutout, his third straight in SWC play this season. A&M's junior lefty is now 6-0 for the season and 3-0 in conference action. Ross and Pie-

zynski are both 3-3.

The Aggies are now 19-10 for the season and 6-3 in SWC play. A&M faces current leader Baylor in a 3 p.m. single game Friday and a 1 p.m. doubleheader Saturday. Chandler will go with the same rotation he has used all season—Ross in the first game followed by Thurmond and Pieczynski Saturday.

With the injury situation still unresolved, Chandler is uncertain of his starting lineup for the Baylor series.

Defending Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M will host the Houston Astros in an exhibition game April 5 in 5,000-seat Olsen Field. The game will start at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets for the game are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for all students and will go on sale at the athletic department ticket office April 3.

The Astros are stopping in College Station on their way to Cincinnati for the National League opener April 6.

Forty-four lettermen will lead the charge this week in the first drills of Texas A&M 1978 spring football practice.

The Aggies' first workout was Tuesday and the squad will work every day through Saturday. They'll

have four weeks of five-drills-per-week, winding up with the Maroon-White game at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 22.

One letterman—defensive tackle Johnnie Donahue—will miss work while recuperating from a knee operation.

The Aggies will put in the "I" formation this spring to go along with their powerful wishbone attack.

Coach Emory Bellard has announced that there will be more scrimmaging this spring than at any time since he's been here.

"We're going to find out who wants to play with the most intensity," Bellard said. "There will be no first or second teams, as such, during the first two weeks. We'll take a good look at everyone. After two weeks we'll begin lining up teams."

The Texas A&M women's track team competes in the TWU Invitational in Denton Saturday. TWU won the Texas A&M Relays last Saturday with the Aggies finishing fourth. Prairie View A&M was second and Wisconsin third in the 21-team university division.

A&M took two first in the meet. Jan Chesbro qualified for nationals by winning the high jump in 5-8 1/8 while Donna Branch won the javelin

in 138-8. Aggie ace Linda Cornelius, who tripped over a hurdle and did not qualify for the finals, was third in the long jump with 19-0 1/4. Sande Lambert was fifth with 18-4 1/2. Darcy Ehman was sixth in the discus with 129-5 1/2 with Iris Tipton second in the shot with 44-3. Cornelius also finished sixth in the high jump with 5-2.

In the running events, Martha Sartain was third in the 3000 meters in 10:10.0 and fourth in the 17:27.22. Ileana Hocking was second in the 800 meters in 2:13.37 and third in the 1500 in 4:40.98. Cindy Bartlett was fifth in the 400 meter hurdles in 1:06.02. A&M was fourth in the 400-yard relay, fifth in the 880-yard medley relay.

The Texas A&M men's and women's tennis teams have a busy week on tap. The men's team hosted Trinity and the women's team hosted Missouri Monday.

The men's team, 24-12 in Southwest Conference play after losing to Arkansas 9-0 in 31 degree weather in Fayetteville Saturday, meets Houston Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. on the A&M courts and plays at Texas Saturday.

The women's team meets North-

ern Louisiana Wednesday in Austin before competing in the University of Texas Tournament Thursday through Saturday.

The Texas A&M women's golf team is entered in the Lady Paladin Invitational in Greenville, S.C. Thursday through Saturday while the men's team takes the weekend off after hosting Sam Houston State in a dual match Tuesday.

The men finished fourth in the Morris Williams Invitational in Austin last weekend. Biff Alexander shot an even-par 216 to tie for fifth. Dave Orgin has 219, Tim Carlton 223, Richard Cromwell 233 and Jay Kent 236.

Texas A&M's Lady Gymnasts closed their best season ever by finishing second in the AIAW Region IV championships in Baton Rouge, La. Coach Jan Fambro's team was undefeated in Texas collegiate competition and won the state championship by 25.95 points over the second place team.

"We made tremendous progress this year and are planning on doing even better next year," Fambro said. "We've received letters from prospective Class I gymnasts from several states."

By Paul Arnett

Coaches say the darndest things

Coaches say the darndest things. In the darndest situations. At the darndest times.

One of these darndest quotes occurred at coach Emory Bellard's press conference last fall. Bellard's bluntness was due in Fort Worth in four days to play the TCU Horned Frogs. Coach Bellard has never been a man who wasted words. And this press conference was no exception.

The press conference opened with the usual jokes and small talk before John Hollis of the Houston Post asked the critical question of the week.

"Coach. How do you defend a team that has won only two games in its last 30?"

Bellard puffed on his pipe, waiting for the laughter to die down.

"John, TCU has a darn fine football team. They have good people at the skilled positions.

A minute of shocked silence passed before a writer replied to Bellard's remark.

"Then they must be lousy at the unskilled positions."

Raucous laughter filled the room. Bellard waited patiently for it to subside before stating his usual quote.

"TCU is a young team, but our guys know it's gonna be a heckuva challenge and a tough old fight. We'll have to play with intensity. They'll be a tough old nut to crack. I'm sure they'll have their ears pinned back and ready to give us a tough old ball game."

No matter who the opponent, Bellard always described them in this manner. After hearing the same speech some 20 times, this writer has come to an inescapable conclusion.

A coach he is; an orator he is not.

Coach Shelby Metcalf is a good coach and a good orator. Metcalf has coached at A&M for 20 years and has spun many a funny line. One of his best occurred this season.

A&M had just lost a closely contested game with the Houston Cougars. The officials blew a couple of whistles that Metcalf didn't agree with. In the dressing room after the game Metcalf's Comedy Hour was drawing raves from the press.

"Well after tonight's game I know one place the officials don't work, and that's the Holiday Inn. They surprised everyone with those two calls at the end of the game."

Another of Metcalf's classic lines was spoken after the Ags halted a four-game losing streak. One writer asked Metcalf if there was a champagne celebration scheduled in the locker room.

"Well there was, but while I was bottling toilet water the commode

seat fell on my head. And that ended that."

Funny quotes have found a home with basketball coaches. Another great orator in the basketball ranks is coach Abe Lemons of the University of Texas.

Last year coach Lemons entered C. Rollie White for the first time. He was greeted with the hisses of some 3,000 Aggies.

"I thought this was supposed to be Hollar House on the Brazos. I've heard louder crowds at a cock fight in Mexico."

But the best lines uttered by a basketball coach were by retired

mentor Al McGuire. During the Arkansas-Kentucky contest last weekend McGuire described the leaping abilities of Hog forward Marvin Delph in this manner.

"He jumped so high on that rebound, I know he talked with God."

And last, but certainly not least.

"Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton believes in defense. He has it stamped on the butts of all the players' practice pants."

It took Curt Gowdy a couple of seconds to recover from that national television remark. Mr. Gowdy now knows that coaches will say the darndest things.

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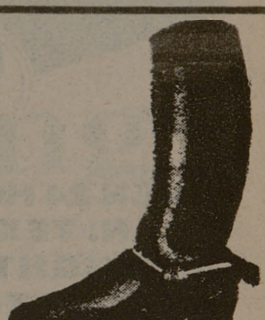
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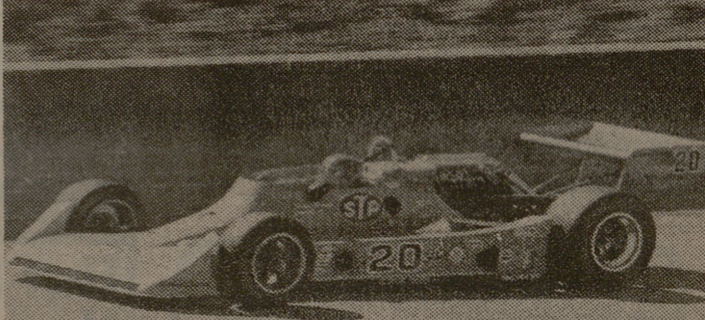
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10. What is the world record, set in College Station, for the tallest bonfire?

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