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Basketball—in the spring?

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Staff

It might be the biggest, but head football coach Emory Bellard's spring training is not the only off-season athletic program on the Texas A&M campus.

Wanda Bender, women's basketball coach, will open her first spring training program at Texas A&M on Monday, April 3.

"This might be new to the girls here at A&M, but it won't be new to me," Bender said. She sees certain advantages to holding workouts in the spring as well as in the fall.

"In the spring we can work on in-

dividual weaknesses without having to worry about preparing for a game," the Aggie coach said. "In this process, we can look at last season's statistics, find out where each girl is weak and work in this area for the four weeks of spring training. Then, I would expect them to work over the summer and come back in the fall ready to play basketball."

Bender has a list of general weaknesses that she saw in her team last season. She hopes that work in these areas will improve the team's 19-18 record that the team posted in Bender's premier season with the Aggies.

"I plan to stress three areas exten-

sively," Bender said. "We will work hard on our man-to-man defense, our fast break techniques and our shooting."

"We set a goal for ourselves last fall. It was a goal that was well within our reach. We wanted to achieve a berth in the regional tournament. We lost out on our goal by two points. We allowed Lamar to beat us in the zone tournament 58-56, and more than anything, these three problems were responsible."

"In the last few seconds of that game, if our man-to-man defense would have been as good as it

should have been, would have fulfilled our goal. We missed some fast break situations also in that game. And our shooting percentage needs to improve. We got the shots in the game against Lamar, we just couldn't hit them."

"This is not going to happen to us next year," Bender said. "We ended up tied for seventh place in the state of Texas, out of 38 large colleges. That isn't bad, but it's not where I'd like to be."

Spring training will also serve as a tryout period for women on campus who are interested in being a member of the Aggie Ladies bas-

ketball team.

"This will be my chance to see any hidden talent that we may have on campus," Bender said. "Girls have already called me trying out."


Bender added that recruiting is going well for the Aggies. "Their prospects are large," she said. "We are recruiting girls that can step right in on our program next year."

The Aggie Ladies will play Monday through Thursday at 3:45 p.m. in G. Rollie Williams Gymnasium. Spring training will start April 27.

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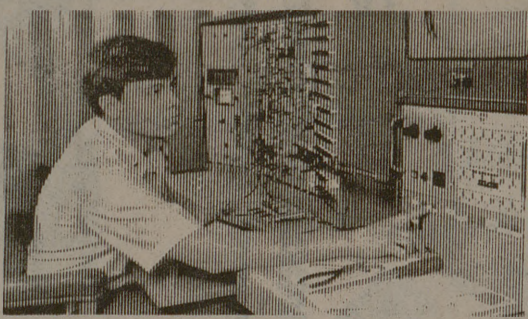
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It was a bad opening day
United Press International
HOUSTON — If Linda Williams was not so confident, she probably would rather have a courtroom rematch with the University Interscholastic League than to stand judgment again before the 12 male teammates on her high school baseball team.
Returned to the baseball diamond earlier this week by federal court order and against the rules of the UIL, Williams, 18, Wednesday became the first Texas girl to challenge the governing body of high school sports and play in a boys' baseball game.
With one day of practice behind her, Coach Eugene Jones sent Williams to right field in front of a more experienced boy, and she failed.
Williams committed a four-run error on her only tough fielding play. She went hitless in two official at-bats and she sagged dejectedly on the bench after her team was beaten 7-0.
"I guessed I missed it," she said. "I guess I was in a hurry. I guess I let them know I wasn't the only one who can play error."
Jones, who was criticized for his players for making a play under the pressure of continued his defense of her, had when he testified in court Monday in federal court. "I have no mixed emotions what I did," he said after the game. "I'm glad I played her. The missed was a line drive. It moved her in closer on the bench. The only wrong choice I made in selecting my starting pitcher."
Her teammates, who had constructed an 8-4 record before turning to the team Tuesday, were angry.
"I know I'm better than said Ruben Macado, the right fielder who lost his Williams."
"It was a mistake to play her," night with all you guys on said captain David Chason.

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