

the sports

Happy Birthday, Bear

United Press International
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Alabama Coach Bear Bryant, surrounded by former players Joe Namath and Lee Roy Jordan at a boisterous surprise 65th birthday party, said he got a sneak preview of his own funeral.

Bryant had a hearty laugh Monday night as former players and coaches from around the nation emerged from a darkened room to pay tribute to the crusty coach of the top-ranked Crimson Tide at the Birmingham Touchdown Club.

"This is what I always felt my funeral would be like," said Bryant, dressed casually in a polo shirt and slacks. "I would have dressed up some."

The accolade from "Broadway Joe" Namath, perhaps Bryant's greatest disciple, was interrupted as ABC-TV wished the Crimson Tide coach a happy birthday during its Monday night football coverage. Namath sat down as the volume on the banquet room television set was increased.

Back at the lectern, Namath flashed a grin and said, "If Howard Cosell ever cuts me off again."

Also on hand were Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles, Texas Athletic Director Darrell Royal, former Michigan State Coach Duffy Daugherty, former Tennessee Coach Bill Battle and television star Dale Robertson.

Telegrams were read from a number of coaches, including Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys and Bud Wilkinson of the St. Louis Cardinals, and there were several anecdotes poking fun at Bryant's ambitious recruiting.

Broyles admitted that he is still in awe of Bryant. He said he is still scarred by Bryant's remark to him as a fledgling coach as he prepared Missouri — Alabama's opponent next Saturday — for a game.

"He came up to me before the game and said, 'Frank, you ain't got a damn athlete out here.' I wonder if anybody else has the nerve to tell a young coach that? And he was right with the score something like 28-0."

Bryant has announced his intentions to coach at least four more years in an attempt to become the winningest football college coach. He has an all-time record of 272-76-16 in

33 years, including 20 years at Alabama, which is 42 wins short of tying the record set by Amos Alonzo Stagg.

He took a moment to reflect on this year's crop layers.

"We've had some poor practices, what with the girls back in town and the hot weather," Bryant said. "But Missouri really got their attention when they beat Notre Dame. We've got the best attitude of any group ever."

"If I do worth a darn, by November we could have a good team."

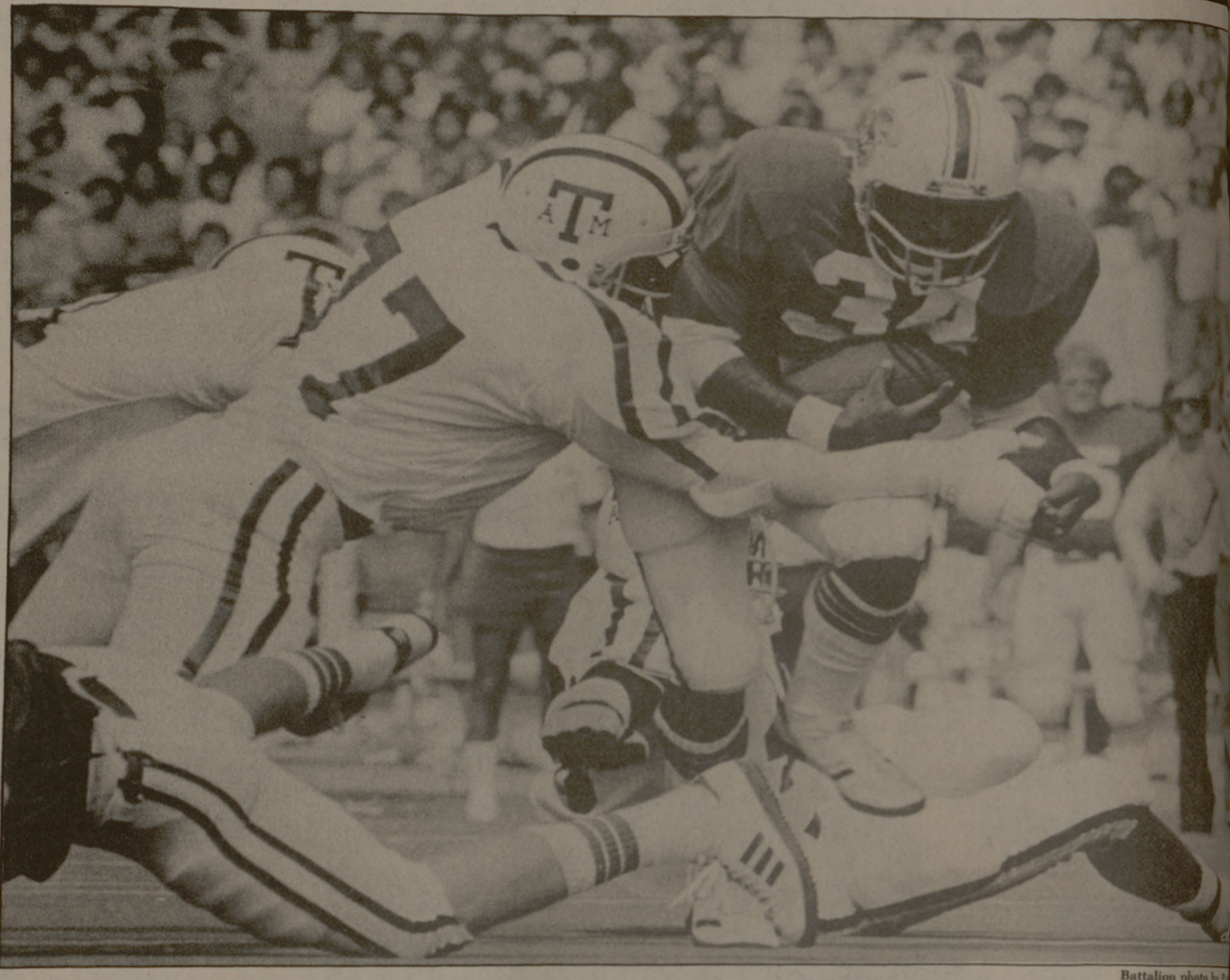
Fighters preparing

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks went through a pair of light sparring sessions, and both fighters appear to be approaching Friday night's heavyweight championship rematch with little emotion.

Ali went through a lackluster six rounds Monday in which he was knocked to canvas by sparring mate Tony Tubbs. Ali shook his head to the crowd, saying he was just clowning.

Ali said his weight was right at 220 pounds, four pounds lighter than when he arrived in New Orleans Aug. 31.

Spinks also sparring five rounds Monday evening and said he was tapering his work to prepare for Friday night's fight in the Superdome.



Standing in the way of progress

Texas A&M defensive end Jacob Green wraps up Kansas full-back Max Ediger during action in Saturday's game. The Aggie defense held the Jayhawks to 83 yards rushing and 54 yards

passing. Texas A&M won the season opener 37-10. The Aggies have an open date this week but return to action next week against Boston College.

Aggie notes

Kent, tennis team debut in Midland

New Aggie tennis coach David Kent makes his debut this week when he takes his team to the Midland Invitational Tournament in Midland Friday through Sunday.

The Aggies have a young, but fairly experienced team with the top six players from last year returning. They are seniors Mike Moss and Robin Baker and sophomores Reid Freeman, Trey Schutz, Max King and James Grubert. The team is also bolstered by the addition of JC transfer Alberto Jimenez, the No. 2 player in Colombia and the national JC doubles champion at New Mexico Military.

Ted Nelson takes his squad to Austin Friday for a 7 p.m. test over 10,000 meters in the 1978 season opener.

Leading returnees for the Aggies are senior Manfred Kohrs and senior Joel Vogt.

The Texas A&M volleyball team will open its 1978 season in Arlington Thursday in a three-way match against Nebraska and UT-Arlington.

A&M plays Nebraska at 7:15 p.m. and UTA, the defending state champion, at 8:30 p.m.

Action will continue Friday and Saturday as the Aggies travel to the North Texas State Tournament in Denton.

Texas A&M cross country coach During the 1977-78 season, the

team finished third at state and regional and placed ninth at nationals.

The team members are Kristen Bloom, Donna Branch, Crystal Cobb, Dianne Douglas, Lisa Duncan, Nancy Dunn, Pam Hill, Vicki Marshall, Pam Miller, Mary Raschke, Krista Sodich and Wendy Wilson. The coach is Dave Schakel.

In July, Wildon and Bloom participated in the National Sports Festival sponsored by the Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs, Colo. Wilson was named the Most Valuable Player and Bloom was selected as the Best Setter. The Aggie duo also played on the U.S. team in the Pacific Rim Cup Tournament in Hilo, Hawaii.

are Baylor, UT Arlington, Tech and North Texas.

The Texas A&M women's team travels to Midland Friday for the season opener in the 28th annual Midland Invitational tournament. The Aggies are coached by Ellen Hooten and Ferol Hooten.

Representing A&M are Guerra, Susan Schilling, Sissom, Judy Willard, Hooten and Ferol Hooten. The seventh team member is a four-time state champion school who was also all-state volleyball and is playing with the volleyball team for the fall.

The Texas A&M women's team will hold their second annual Children's Clinic Saturday at the White Coliseum.

The first session from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. will feature instruction for girls 5-10 years of age. The session runs from 1-4:30 p.m. for ages 11-17. Registration is free.

The clinic will be directed by Aggie coach Jan Fambury. Gymnasts are Kathy Prater, Shearin, Sharon Freydenberg, Mossbarger, Cindy Green, Perri Harrington, Shelly Hill and Melissa Hill.

Texas A&M's defending state champion women's cross country team will start the 1978 season in Denton Friday at 4 p.m. in the North Texas Invitational on the NTSU golf course.

Running for the Aggies will be Beartha Sartain, Sandra Brown, Lorie Scott, Cathy Coker, Debbie Coker, Kim Mallory and Keress Hawkins. The team is coached by David Williams.

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