

the sports

Extramural sports search for support



Water polo is only one of the 23 extramural sports at Texas A&M. Many of these sports clubs have trouble meeting financial needs with their limited budgets. The water polo team supplements its income by cleaning the stands in Kyle Field after football games.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

By CLAY WEBER

Imagine the Texas Aggie varsity football team cleaning up the stands of Kyle Field after a game in order to help raise money for transportation to their next out-of-town game.

Or imagine being confronted in the MSC by a varsity basketball player selling bumper stickers so he and his teammates will have money to pay the entry fee of their next basketball tournament.

These are things that members of the Texas A&M Extramural Sports Association do to help raise money for their activities.

Extramural sports clubs are recognized student organizations that are supported by the Office of Student Activities. Twenty-three sports are offered to Texas A&M students through the program, which includes activities from bike racing to orienteering to rodeo. Most of the clubs include both men's and women's teams. Team coaches are not paid.

Money for the programs comes out of student service fees, the extramurals' share of which amounts to about \$24,000. Any extra money the clubs need must be earned themselves. Hence the water polo team cleans the stands of Kyle Field after football games in order to pay part of their transportation expenses.

Extramural sports clubs have appealed to several sources for financial help and in addition have also asked for help from the athletic department.

According to Marvin Tate, assistant athletic director, the money to help support these clubs is just not there.

"We're not against extramurals in

any way," said Tate. "It's just a matter of dollars and cents. Supporting women's athletics costs us around \$450,000 and has made our budget even tighter.

"Football is our only sport that makes money and that comes through ticket sales, TV and radio revenue, bowl game money and contributions. Right now we can only support so many sports and we really can't afford to take on any others."

Tate said the athletic department had helped the water polo team recently by taking it on temporarily as a sport in order for them to compete in a tournament.

Tate also said the athletic department had helped the extramural program by allowing them the use of the weight room and Kyle Field.

"There are a lot of schools that just lock up their stadiums and the athletic facilities to the students," he said.

John Kelly, a member of the volleyball club, feels somewhat differently.

"I feel that if they spent one-tenth of what they spend on football for say, volleyball scholarships, we could have a really fine team," he said. "We have guys on this team who are good enough to get volleyball scholarships at other schools. I came here wanting to play on a team but they don't put any money into it."

"There is a lot of interest in volleyball in Texas. It's just a shame that good players have to go to California to play on scholarship."

Another thing that people in the extramural sports department would like is recognition of their sports by the NCAA. Recognition

by the NCAA would mean being able to play in NCAA tournaments.

Before a team may participate in an NCAA tournament they must be a member of a conference where that particular sport is recognized as a varsity sport. In order to be recognized, a sport must be sanctioned by the schools' athletic departments, follow NCAA eligibility rules and award a varsity letter.

Six of the nine schools in the Southwest Conference must vote to recognize and participate in a sport in order for teams in that sport to participate in NCAA competition.

"One of the reasons that the NCAA may object to non-varsity

competitors is because they feel that they may not be properly supervised," Jim Jeter, supervisor of the extramural clubs at Texas A&M said.

Jeter said the NCAA has a different committee for each sport and some will make exceptions to the varsity rule.

"A lot of it just depends on the committee's attitude toward the problem," he said.

Jeter is with in agreement with Tate about the difficulty of funding extramurals and feels the athletic department has a good attitude the situation.

"I hate to see anyone put the

monkey on the back of the athletic department because I know the situation that they are in," he said. "And the department here now is so different from those in the past that they are willing to talk to you about matters of this type."

"I believe that if the conference voted to have soccer as a varsity sport, Emory Bellard would go right out, get a good coach for soccer and start a good program."

"If some extramural clubs can get some kind of varsity recognition, then that's great. But if they cannot, then they will still provide a good program for A&M students," Jeter said.

Lewis examines team

United Press International

DALLAS — Whatever that inward motivation is called that drives a football team to greater success, the Dallas Cowboys currently are without it.

At least that's the opinion of someone who has a front row seat, linebacker D.D. Lewis.

The Cowboys' 27-14 setback against Los Angeles Sunday showed they were very much human.

"We need to get back that mental edge," Lewis said Monday. "Last year there was something in the back of our mind that no matter what the offense was doing we had to shut down the other team."

"We need to get that back. We've got to be meaner. We have got to

come out smoking in the weeks to come."

Lewis and the rest of the Cowboys made no excuses about the loss to the Rams. Los Angeles beat Dallas straight up — running over them early in the game and getting pinpoint passing later in the contest.

"It was kind of a shocker for us," said Lewis. "The thing that troubles me is that they hit plays in the area that is supposed to be the strength of our defense. It hurts when a guy like (Los Angeles coach Ray) Malavasi says they are going to beat our rears and they just go out and do it."

"It's no fun to lose and then fly for three hours to get home and now we have to go in and look at the films

and lose again. Coach (Tom) Landry is going to get on us pretty good."

"Maybe this will be good for us in the long haul. Maybe it will make us think we are not as good as we thought we are. We are going to have to get back to basics."

If there is a post-Super Bowl syndrome, Lewis thinks Dallas may have caught it.

"This year we say we want to get back to the Super Bowl and be the first team to win it three times. But I don't think we're hungry enough for it yet. We have a semi-great team. But we need to question ourselves. Do we really want it?"

"If we don't we will have a number of games like this."

J.R. goes for record

United Press International

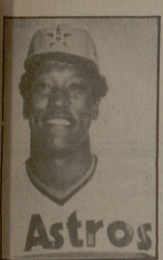
HOUSTON — Houston Astros pitcher J.R. Richard goes for a single-season National League strike out record tonight in a game against the Atlanta Braves.

Richard, a 6-foot-8 righthander who throws a 95 mph fastball and a 90 mph slider, enters the game with 279 strike outs. He needs 11 more to pass Tom Seaver as the most pro-

on the final day of the season, Oct. 1.

In recording a 17-11 record, Richard has averaged 8.4 strike outs in his 33 starts this season. The previous Astros record for strike outs was 235 by Don Wilson.

Tom Seaver fanned 289 batters to set the National League record for righthanders in 1971. Only two National League lefties, Koufax and Steve Carlton, have topped the 300 mark.

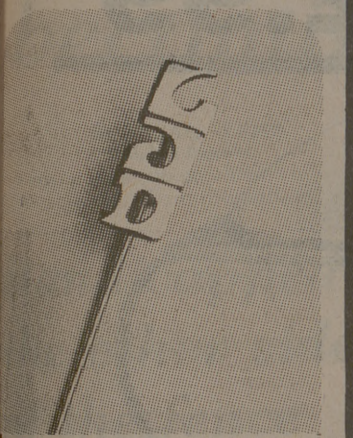


J. R. Richard

The righthanded strikeout pitcher in modern National League history.

The major league record of 382 strikeouts set by Sandy Koufax in 1965 is out of his reach, but Richard has a good chance with four more starts to become only the ninth major leaguer to fan 300 or more batters in one season.

Richard's other starts this season will be at San Francisco Saturday, at Atlanta on Wednesday, Sept. 27, and at home against San Francisco



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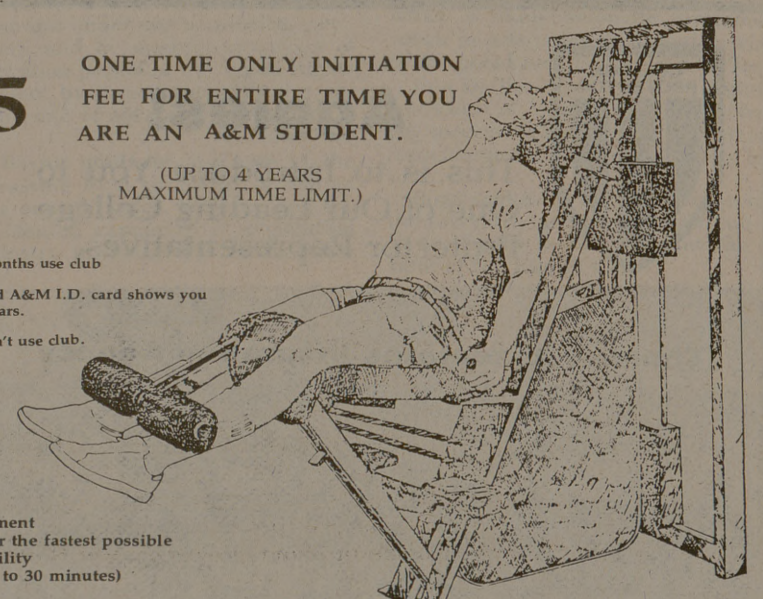
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