

Aggie notes

Waterpolo team wins

The Texas A&M water polo team defeated the University of Texas Tuesday night in P.L. Downs Natatorium. The 17-5 victory increased the Aggies' season record to 8-2.

"This is the best Texas team we've ever faced, even though the score doesn't show it," Aggie coach Dennis Fosdick said. "We were a little rusty; it's been a while since we've played."

Steve Sampson scored 5 points and Scott Harris scored 4 points to lead the Aggies. All-America candidate Vicente Tavarez played had a good game at his goalie position, Fosdick said.

The Aggies host Loyola University and the University of Illinois Chicago Oct. 27 and 28.

The Texas A&M women's softball team finished second in the TAJAW state tournament in Canyon, Tex., last weekend. The Aggies lost to TWU in the finals to closeout the fall season with a 27-6 record. All six losses were to TWU.

A&M opened play by beating Angelo State 7-3 with Cindy Gough and Vicki Markowsky getting three hits each. Then came an 11-5 romp over Baylor. Nancy Sullivan had a homerun in that game. TWU came from behind to knock the Aggies into the loser's bracket 4-3. A&M beat Sam Houston 7-1 with Sullivan hitting her second homerun of the tourney. Then the Aggies handed TWU its first defeat of the season 2-0 behind the 3-hit pitching of

Shannon Murray and Gough's first-inning homerun. But TWU took the title with a 7-3 win in the final game.

Gough had a great tournament with 13 hits in 20 at-bats. Sullivan and Marylou Wargo were 6-for-11. Murray ended the season with a 14-3 record while Sami Evans was 13-3.

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team finished second in the University of Houston Tournament

last weekend in Houston. The Aggies lost to UT Arlington in the finals, 9-15, 7-15, 15-13, 9-15.

The Aggies defeated 10th-rated Houston 15-1, 15-11, in the semifinals before losing in the finals.

The Aggies now have a 25-9 record.



Battalion photo by Michelle Scudder

A Texas player brings the ball down for the Longhorns as Texas A&M's Steve Sampson (24) and Jim Woodman prepare

to defend in Tuesday night's water polo game in P.L. Downs Natatorium. The Aggies defeated the Longhorns 17-5.

Bellard offers no excuses for team's loss to Houston

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

For the first time this season Bellard didn't shower the team with praise at his weekly conference. It was a quiet Bellard who addressed the press Tuesday answering questions on the team's last weekend.

"I have no excuses," Bellard said. "Houston came into the game prepared and played well. We didn't have time to start with and we couldn't catch up."

"At halftime I told the team we had to score 34 points. We didn't do it, but we needed some things to get into it. They never

did the big story in the aftermath of the Houston game are the injuries to the Texas A&M squad. Defensive backfield is suffering the most, with two starters listed as doubtful for Saturday's contest at Baylor.

"Emory (Dickey) is hurt and we're going to have a hard time getting him back," Bellard said. "He suffered a bruised foot and a bruised knee. He hasn't been able to run since then. Hopefully we'll have him back Saturday."

"Armstrong (halfback) is hurt as he was last week. He's doing everything we can for him. The knee is staying tight on him. His questionable this week is a big concern."

"Adams (quarterback) is out as well. The sudden shortage of halfbacks, Jay Dale has been hurt from his defensive safety to halfback. David Brothers

has been shifted to halfback from his fullback position.

If Dickey and Armstrong are unable to play against Baylor, the running back corps will include Brothers, Dale, Herbert Booker and Holly Wilson at halfback with Raymond Belcher and Roger Wiley at fullback.

The offensive backfield isn't the only position hurting this season. Starting center Ed Pustejovsky is definitely out for this week's game and it is not known when he'll return to the lineup. Backup center Don Wright sprained a knee in Monday's practice and is doubtful for Saturday's game. That leaves Preston Dickson and freshman David Bandy to handle the snapping duty for the Aggies Saturday.

"It seems like all of our injuries hit at one position at once," Bellard commented. "Before the season began we thought we had good depth at both the running back and center positions, but now we're short-handed at both."

"We won't alter workouts this week with all our injured. We'll work the people who are healthy and protect the ones that aren't. This team is hurt and rightfully so. If we can get everyone well again we'll begin to play good football, as we have all season. After all, this is the same team that won its first four games this year."

It was the fifth game that killed them. In the Houston game the Aggies called 23 passes and threw nine, completing five for 77 yards. It wasn't quarterback Mike Mosley's choice to carry the ball on the 14 plays that the ball wasn't thrown; he didn't have the chance to pass against the Houston rush.

"Offense is a game of blocking and if you don't block well you don't

move the football," Bellard explained. "We did not block well and Houston dominated the line of scrimmage. It wasn't a question of not knowing who to block. We knew who but we just didn't do the blocking."

It was the poorest showing for the Texas A&M offense thus far this season. Out of the 15 statistical categories kept, the Houston game was the worst for the Aggies in seven of the offensive categories, including first downs, total offense of offensive plays and, most obviously, scoring. It was the first regular season shut out of a Texas A&M team since 1971.

Defensively, out of the 13 high and low categories kept this season, the Houston game ranked lowest in nine of the categories for the Aggies. The defense had its worst game this year, allowing the most first downs, rushing yards, total offense in a game, touchdowns both rushing and passing, and, most importantly, points allowed.

No, it wasn't one of Texas A&M's better games. And it's up to the team to work its way back into the good graces of its fans. And, most importantly, back into the favor of Emory Bellard.

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