

Texas A&M's Kelly Sullivan takes a shot against Lamar while her teammate, Susan Kimbro, waits nearby. The Aggie Ladies are participating in the Texas Classic in Austin this weekend. Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Ladies playing in Texas Classic

The TAAW state basketball tournament will be previewed in Austin this weekend when eight of the top teams in the state, including two of the top teams in the nation, get together for the Texas Classic in the Super Drum.

Texas A&M, 18-8 and ranked fourth in the state, plays a first round game against North Texas, ranked sixth in Texas, at noon today. Other teams in the tournament are the nation's No. 1 team, Stephen F.

Austin, No. 5 in the nation Texas, No. 5 in the state Houston, No. 9 in the state UT Arlington, No. 10 in the state Texas Tech and Southwest Texas.

If the Aggie Ladies win their opener, they will play the winner of the UTA-Texas game at 9 p.m. Friday. If the Aggies lose to NTSU, they will play the loser of the UTA-Texas game at noon Friday. The championship game will be at 3 p.m. Saturday.

After getting off to a great start against some tough competition, Coach Wanda Bender's squad has been in a slump recently, losing to Lamar 75-63 and to losing to Texas 75-41.

Aggie notes

Champs prepare to defend title

Texas A&M's defending Southwest Conference champion baseball team is starting preseason workouts with a strong nucleus of veterans and a goal of winning its third straight pennant.

Leading the returnees are pitchers Mark Thurmond, Mark Ross and Johnny Pockrus, catcher Buster Turner, first baseman Kyle Hawthorne, second baseman Randy Woodruff, third baseman Mark Warriner and outfielders Mike Hurdle, Gary Bryant and Shelton McMath.

Thurmond, a two-time Academic All-America, was 13-1 last year and has a career record of 24-4. In eight SWC starts he had five shutouts including a no-hitter against Texas Tech. Ross was 11-4 last year and has a career record of 24-8. Both are seniors and both have a good shot at breaking the school career record for wins of 26 set by Clint Thomas in 1973-76.

Hawthorne set school records for homeruns (14), runs batted in (53) and total bases (109) last year while hitting .310. Hurdle returns for his junior year after hitting .349 as a freshman and .331 last year. He has 14 career homeruns and 80 RBI's. Bryant hit .299, Turner .252, Warriner .250, McMath .232 before suffering a knee injury and Woodruff .219.

Coach Tom Chandler's biggest concern is finding a suitable replacement for All-America shortstop Robert Bonner who finished his career with numerous school records last season. The top candidate is junior college transfer

Bryan Little who hit .355 for Louisville (N.C.) Junior College and was a fifth round draft choice of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Other top newcomers are outfielder Simon Glenn who hit over .400 for Blinn Junior College, and freshmen pitchers Bobby Taylor and Brad Wiggins, both righthanders.

"It's going to be tough to defend our title," Chandler said. "There is going to be great balance in the league."

The Texas A&M women's track and field team, victorious in the LSU Indoor meet last Saturday, is idle this week but will be back in action on Feb. 10 at the Oklahoma City Indoor meet.

The Aggies won five first places and scored 44½ points to beat LSU and Alabama in a three-team meet at Baton Rouge, La., last Saturday night.

Texas A&M's five first places were fashioned by Lori Scott in the mile run (5:11.7); Sande Lambert in the long jump (17-5); Jan Chesbro in the high jump (5-4); Early Douglas in the shot put (42-10¼) and by the mile relay team of Sandra Brown, Beverly Porter, Evelyn Smith and Cindy Bartlett (4:09.7).

The squad also registered three second places, a tie for second, three thirds and two fourths.

Texas A&M's men's track and field squad goes to Monroe, La., for another indoor meet this week after a fourth-place finish in the LSU meet last Saturday night.

Houston won the meet with 54

points, followed by LSU with 52, Alabama with 28 and Texas A&M with 26.

However, the Aggies won three first places and got a school-record high jump from freshman Jim Howard of Alvin, who cleared 7 feet, 2 inches.

The other two winners were Leslie Kerr in the 440-yard dash (49.2) and Joel Vogt in the 1,000-yard run (2:16.69).

Coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson are hopeful that sprinter Curtis Dickey and freshman Miler Henning Gericke from South Africa will be ready to compete this weekend.

Coach Bob Ellis has nine men qualifying for six places in the coming Jim Deaton Invitational in Houston Feb. 3-4. Ellis said the five low players of the six in the Deaton meet will go to the American Invitational in Monterrey, Mexico Feb. 8-9.

The Texas A&M men's swim team will host the University of Texas Arlington Saturday at 3 p.m. Aggies defeated Lamar Feb. 10, lost to Texas 65-37 last week. Women's team beat Lamar and lost to Texas 67-33. In the meet, Texas A&M's Sharon set a new school record in the meter backstroke of 1:01.9.

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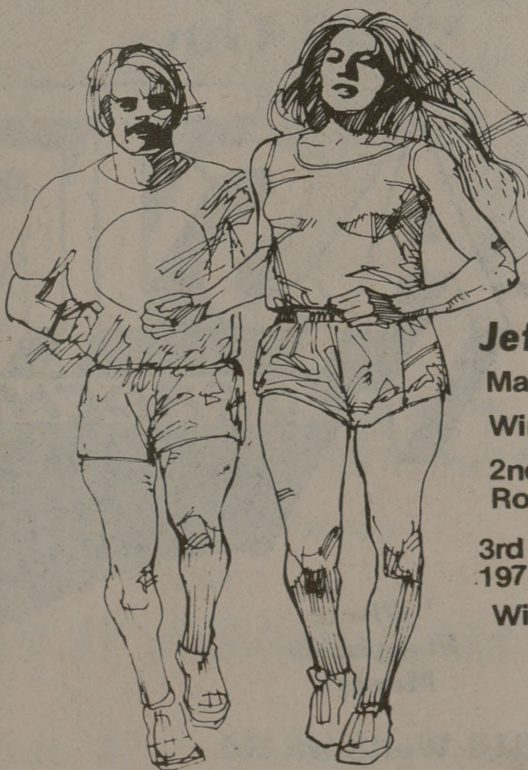
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