

Aggies host a swinging time

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

For all interested parties, there will be approximately 75 female swingers at the Briarcrest Country Club Feb. 25, 26 and 27.

How could a respectable place like a country club entertain such a group of women?

It's easy, because those 75 females will be swinging their woods and irons on the golf course in the fourth annual Texas A&M Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament.

A strong field of 15 teams will be in Bryan to compete in the only home tournament the A&M women's team will have this season. According to Aggie coach Kitty Holley, the favorites in the three-day tournament would have to be defending champion SMU, the University of Tulsa, the University of Texas and Texas A&M.

"We are very excited about playing this tournament at Briarcrest," Holley said. "The course and the greens are in great shape right now. The only thing we are waiting on now is a good report from the weatherman."

The tournament used to be played at the Texas A&M campus golf course but was moved to Briarcrest because the facilities are better for a tournament.

"Briarcrest has a practice range which the campus course doesn't

have and you really need for running a good tournament," Holley said. "We are very pleased with the arrangement we have at Briarcrest and it's just about as tough as any course we'll play on this year."

"Lengthwise all the courses we play on are about the same. But Briarcrest is one of nicest courses we'll play on and you can get in trouble very fast if you're not careful."

The Aggies will have a little advantage in the tournament in that they practice at Briarcrest everyday except Monday.

"This course is tight," junior Carol Berry said. "You have to play placement rather than trying to kill the ball because of the narrow fairways. If you hit too long, you'll end up in the trees."

"Real aggressive players will come in here and try to kill it and that's when they run into trouble," said Rita Aguilar.

The Texas A&M tournament is the first one for the women this spring and Holley is hoping for big things from the young team later in the year.

"Our goal is to get into the top 10 in the country," Holley said. "We have a young team with two freshmen (Shirley Furlong and Monica Welsh), two sophomores (Andrea Welch and Kim Bauer), two juniors (Aguilar and Berry), and one senior (Betty Chio).

"We have real good depth on our team. In fact, there should be a good recruiting crop out of high school in 1980 and with another good girl we could win the national championship in two years."

Holley is expecting a lot out of the younger players on the team but golf is different from other team sports in that the younger players really can't count on the older ones to cover for them if they make a mistake. Golf is an individual sport where each player takes her own shot and the crowd doesn't roar constantly.

"I was very nervous my very first qualifying round for a college tournament," said Furlong. "You don't know what to do or how you're going to perform. I still get nervous each time we have qualifying rounds."

"We have to find our own motivation," Aguilar said. "We have to go out and want to play well for ourselves and the team."

"A lot of our motivation is team spirit," Berry said. "we really want to improve and go far nationally."

A good sign of the motivation the women have is their continuous attempt to practice in the Bryan-College Station weather the last two months. Besides, you can't go to the gym and hit golf balls when it's raining.

"We've had about 10 to 15 days of good practice since school started,"

Holley said. "We've played five full rounds (of 18 holes) and three or four nine hole-rounds."

"But we're not in any worse shape than any of the other teams coming to the tournament. The teams north of us have had snow and ice so we probably got more practice. All we need is some good consistent practice, and of course, good weather."

"But overall, we are in real good shape this year. I think we could finish seventh or eighth in the country. I'm very confident of this team, in fact, I've already made reservations for the national tournament in Stillwater, Okla. I'm ready to go and I know the team is."

Although the Aggies are not picked to win their tournament, they should do well and could easily win it.

"We play better as underdogs," Holley said. "We mess around the first days and then jump over about five teams the final day. I just hope we jump over five teams the first day and stay ahead."

The 15 teams in the tournament, which starts Sunday at 8:30 a.m., will be SMU, Tulsa, Texas, Texas A&M, Houston Baptist, Lamar, Memphis State, Midland College, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin, Temple Jr. College, TCU and Texas Tech.



A run in the sun

Texas A&M's Kyle Hawthorne makes one of his frequent trips around the sunny basepaths last season. Hawthorne and the Aggies are hoping for sunshine today as Texas A&M's

1979 baseball season gets started with an exhibition game with Hosei University of Tokyo, Japan. Pre-game ceremonies are scheduled to start at 3 p.m. at Olsen Feld.

Mustangs gig Horned Frogs

United Press International

FORT WORTH — Freshman Billy Allen scored a game-high 23 points Wednesday night to lead five Southern Methodist players in double figures for an 89-77 win over Texas Christian.

The game was a makeup of last Saturday's iced-out contest.

The win enabled SMU to tie Houston for sixth place in the Southwest Conference and force a coin flip for home court advantage in the first round of the post-season tournament Saturday. The toss was won by Houston, which will host the Mustangs in a 12:40 p.m. game Saturday.

Allen scored 14 points in the second half as the Mustangs broke out of a 38-38 halftime tie into a commanding eight-point lead just seven minutes into the second half. TCU never could get any closer than seven points, that coming on a John Mansbury jumper with 8:43 left.

Also in double figures for SMU were Phil Hale with 18, Brad Branson at 14, Richard Harris at 12 and Reggie Franklin 11.

Mansbury was high scorer for TCU with 21 points while senior Steve Scales, playing his last home game, hit for a season-high 19 points and pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

TCU finished the regular season at 6-20 overall and 1-15 in the SWC while the Mustangs ended up 12-16 and 6-10.

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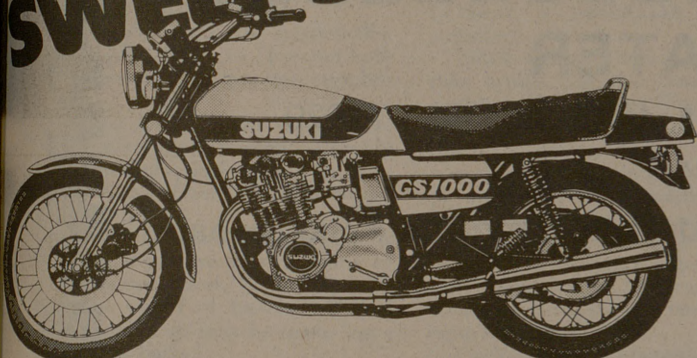
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