

the sports

New game in town

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Reporter

The American and Danish Olympic Team Handball teams played an official international match Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

One hundred and fifty spectators watched the Danish team, ranked 4th in the world, defeat the young Americans 25-11.

A fast-paced game that combines the physical contact of hockey with the skill of basketball, team handball is roughly comparable to soccer except that players on two squads play with their hands.

Second only to soccer in Europe, team handball has been an Olympic sport since 1934.

Played on a 20 x 40 meter indoor court, usually a converted basketball court, it involves two teams of seven players including a goalie.

Scores are made by throwing a ball two-thirds the size of a volleyball into a 2 x 3 meter soccer-type goal.

The goal is surrounded by a 6 meter semi-circle, in which no

player but the goalie may enter. The ultimate score is to dive into the air toward the goal from the 6-meter circle where the defense usually sets up. While in the air, the shooter tries to throw the ball past the goalie into the net.

The match in G. Rollie White was hosted by Texas A&M University's men's and women's team handball teams along with the MSC Recreation Committee.

Team handball has been a sport at the University for only two years, but the men's team finished fourth in the country in collegiate play last year and many Aggie players have received national recognition.

Two Aggies, Bobby Wilson and former Aggie basketball player Joey Robinson are currently on the U.S. Olympic team.

The game was brought to Texas A&M by Mark Noble, who coached the team for the past two years. He has since departed, leaving the team with no coach at this time.

"Most people who've never seen the sport confuse it with handball

played on a four-wall court," Randall said. "When we try to tell about it, the first question usually asked is 'How do you get 14 people in that little room?'"

Lucinda Sekal, team president, was pleased with the crowd turnout.

Sekal, a senior physical education major, started the women's team two years ago. The women's team has also competed on the national level.

The Danish and American teams have also played in Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Antonio. The match played Monday was their third official game, the Danes have won all three games.

The U.S. team travels to Mexico City on Jan. 3 for the Western Zone Olympic trials. Coach Mike Cavanaugh feels the team has a good chance to repeat their 1972 and 1976 performances and earn a spot in the Olympics.

Ford wants extra year

United Press International

DALLAS — Southern Methodist coach Ron Meyer said Monday junior quarterback Mike Ford, out for the season after knee surgery, had indicated to him that he would like to remain at SMU an extra season if he should be granted a bonus year of eligibility.

Southwest Conference officials said that if Ford wanted the extra year it was almost a foregone conclusion that he would get it.

Ford, the NCAA's total offense leader a year ago, went out of last Saturday night's game against TCU with a knee injury. Surgery was performed Sunday morning for a torn ligament and Ford will miss the rest of the season.

SWC rules say that if a player competes in no more than 20 percent of a team's games he is eligible for a "hardship" judgment in which he is granted an extra year of eligibility.

The alternative for Ford would be to pass up a fifth year of schooling and become eligible for the professional draft in 1981.

Meyer also said the tackle which put Ford out for the season was not all that hard a blow.

"It certainly wasn't malicious," said Meyer. "Mike had scrambled out of the pocket and one of the TCU tackles was pursuing him. After Mike threw the pass the defender lunged and and did not even hit him with a hard blow. Mike was hit on the upper part of the thigh and his leg just happened to be planted the right way."

Texas Christian coach F.A. Dry expressed his disappointment that Ford will not compete for the rest of the season.

"It is regrettable anytime that a fine football player like Mike Ford get's hurt," said Dry. "A player like Mike is good for college football."



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

This is handball?

Yes this is team handball and it's not played in your four-walled court either. It's a fast-moving game with a mix of soccer and basketball. Rick Abrahamson of the American team takes a shot against the Danish team during an official game played Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Pastorini will play Sunday; Nielsen still number two

United Press International
HOUSTON — If healthy, Dan Pastorini will return to the Houston Oilers lineup Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals, his coach said Monday.

"He's all right. He could have played against Kansas City. If we had had to put him in the ballgame, we could have," Oilers coach Bum Phillips said.

Although backup quarterback Gifford Nielsen made his first pro start and did "outstanding" in a 20-6 win over the Chiefs, Phillips did not hesitate when asked if there was any question in his mind that Nielsen might start again. Pastorini had suffered a severely bruised right shoulder two games ago and did not practice last week.

"No question. None," the coach said. In the past he has used uncertainty about his quarterbacks' health to keep an upcoming opponent guessing, and Sunday it worked to his advantage.

"We figured Pastorini would play," Kansas City safety Gary Barbaro said after watching Pastorini pass in pre-game warmups.

Pastorini said he could have started, "But Bum wanted to go ahead and start Giff, and as usual he was right."

Nielsen was the former NCAA passing leader at Brigham Young University in 1976. Against Kansas City, he completed 12 of 18 passes for 173 yards, he did not throw an interception and he was showered with praise from veteran Oilers.

"Knowing Dan," center Carl Mauck said, "it'll be hard to keep him out of next week's game. That's Bum's decision. But Giff did a good job, and that's what counts. He was a big plus for us in a big game."

Nielsen, 24, remained diplomatic about his status, although he admitted he had told Pastorini he wanted his job.

"I told Dan that I wanted to play well enough to keep him off the field. I'm very pleased with the way I played."

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