



Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

A high-percentage shot

Rudy Woods, Texas A&M's 6-11 center, slams the ball through the hoop during one of the Aggie basketball team's workouts. The dunk shot is not as easy as it looks and, believe it or not, the players have to work on it in practice.

Runners run for SWC title

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M cross-country coach Ted Nelson will take a group of inexperienced runners to Willis, Texas, Monday for the Southwest Conference Cross-Country championship.

The runners will run a 10,000 meter — 6.2 mile — course set up on the Texas National Golf Course, which is seven miles north of Conroe, to determine this year's Southwest Conference team and individual champions.

The meet will be hosted by the University of Houston.

"The course has four or five different types of terrain and that makes for a tough course," Nelson said.

Last year, the Aggies, led by seniors Manfred Kohrs and Lane Mitchell, finished fifth in the conference. This year the only senior on the team is Rick Huggins, who has been the team's No. 1 runner most of the season.

Last week the Aggies went to Georgetown for a meet with 12 teams from the Southwest, Lone Star, and Southland conferences. The men in maroon ended their regular season by finishing ninth.

"At present, our team is weaker than it has been for the past few years," Nelson said. "We are in a rebuilding stage right now."

"We were also hurt when David Nelson, our No. 2 runner and a freshman, had knee problems early in the season. He'll be at the meet Monday, but he's missed out on a lot of training."

Other younger runners who show promise, Nelson pointed out, are sophomore Ray Munich, the Aggies' top finisher in last week's meet, and John Blyel, a junior who has consistently run third for the team this year.

The cross country team does not give out scholarships but three of the runners are on track scholarships, Nelson said.

"Three years ago the NCAA cut track scholarships from 23 to 14," Nelson said. "It's hard to maintain a good track or cross country team with that kind of cut."

The top three teams and the top five individual finishers at Monday's meet will go to the District Six cross country championships on Nov. 10 at Georgetown. District Six is made up of schools from all over the Southwest.

Polo team to vie for title

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M's undefeated water polo team travels to Fordham University this weekend to compete for the National AAU championship.

Head Coach Dennis Fosdick said he hopes the team will do well in New York even though his team has only played eight games.

The water polo team is self-supporting, raising money by cleaning up Kyle Field after home football games. The money earned is most of their income.

"We really couldn't schedule many games because we didn't know if the stadium would be ready," Fosdick said.

Water polo has existed at A&M since the 1930s. Since 1970, when Fosdick took over, the team has amassed a record of 179-30-1.

In 1976, the Texas A&M Athletic Department granted official NCAA sanction to the team. During the three years of NCAA eligibility, the team was selected to play in the eight-team NCAA championship tournament twice; 1976 and 1978.

This year the team has returned to club sport status. Marvin Tate, Texas A&M Athletic Director said the separation of the swimming and water polo teams is the reason for the University's denial of varsity status for the water polo team.

"In the past, swimmers played water polo and water polo players swam," Tate said. "This year, we

hired a new swimming coach, Mel Nash, and swimmers are not allowed to be on the water polo team. The emphasis now is on swimming."

Fosdick had been the swimming coach up until Nash was hired to coach this year's team.

"They (the athletic department) just decided they weren't going to let us go NCAA this year," Fosdick said. "Before, we would make yearly agreements with the athletic department in the form of a contract. It usually said that we wouldn't ask for any money in return for NCAA recognition. This year they just said they weren't going to do it."

Fosdick said the team was upset because they couldn't participate in both sports and they couldn't win varsity letters as water polo players.

"George Dallam gave up a swimming scholarship to play for us," Fosdick said.

Fosdick is leaving Texas A&M in December to go to Long Beach City College where he will be head swim coach and assistant to the water polo coach.

The AAU championship in New York will mark the first time since 1965 that the Aggies have competed in an AAU event. The following weekend, the Aggies host the Southwestern Championship, with teams from Arkansas, California,

Arizona and Texas scheduled to compete.

"We have 30 games scheduled to take place in that tournament," Fosdick said.

Not all Southwest Conference schools have teams and the SWC doesn't have a league format.

As for the team's chances in New York, Fosdick is uncertain.

"Our biggest problem is that we haven't faced a decent team yet this year," he said. "Our starting team usually plays just one quarter in order to keep the game reasonably close."

"We have the best team in Texas and our second team is the second best in the state."

Opponents in the AAU tournament such as Brown, Fordham, Bucknell, Princeton and Pepperdine are all nationally ranked and have played at least 15 games each, Fosdick said.

"Right now the team we have is more knowledgeable about the sport than any team I've coached since I've been here," Fosdick said. "Physically, we are not in as good of shape as I would like because players aren't going to two (polo and swimming) workouts."

"This tournament should be interesting because we should find out how we would have been ranked if we would have been ranked and in the NCAA."

In New York, the Ags may face Slippery Rock, a team coached by 1957 Texas A&M water polo all-American Dick Hunkler.

The Aggie team is led by junior Vince Tavarez, whom Fosdick says is the best goalie in the South, senior Steve Sampson, a 6-foot-6 senior whom Fosdick says has an arm like a cannon and junior George Dallam, the team's defensive specialist.

Jim Woodman, Bob Probe, Bob Leeland, Jim Yates and the track team's number one javelin thrower, Mike Newsome make up the rest of the team regulars.

Cleaning up Kyle Field after home football games pays the team's transportation. Players usually stay with students of the host school and pay for their own meals. Last Sunday, the 8-0 water polo team financed its trip to New York by cleaning up Kyle Field again.

"I'm not complaining," Fosdick said, "I think every team should try to support themselves."

Fosdick does think the University needs more facilities though.

"We very desperately need more facilities," he said. "Now that it's getting cold the swimming and water polo teams, as well as several P.E. classes, have to share that indoor pool."

Rockets to Celtics 100-99

United Press International
HOUSTON — Celtics well scored 20 points in two pressure free throws seconds to play Wednesday to lift the Boston Celtics 100-99 victory over the Rockets.

Houston, which suffered its first home loss in three seasons, took a one-point lead with 16 seconds to play as Murphy's two free throws in the final second of Tomjanovich pass was stolen.

Boston trailed by eight in the final quarter, but a play by rookie Larry Bird 7:37 to play started their way to their first seven games.

Robert Reid led Rockets with 20 points. Malone added 19, and chipped in 18. Malone took control of the game in the quarter with Boston Celtics. Cowens out of the game before halftime.

Cowens scored 17 points. Bird had 15.

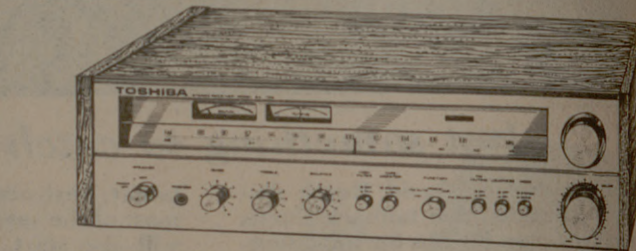
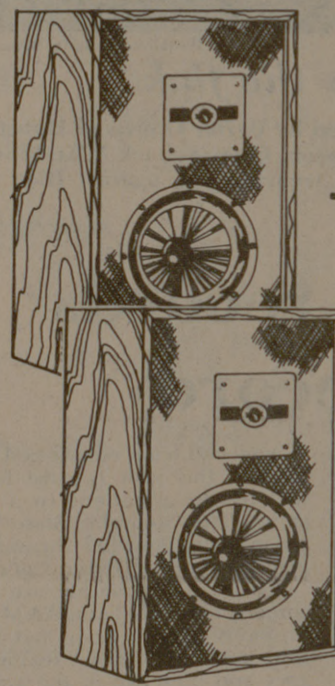


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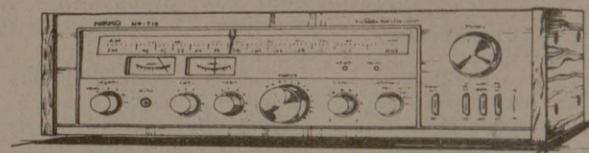
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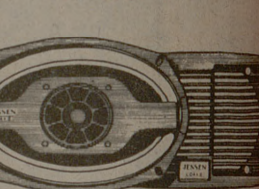
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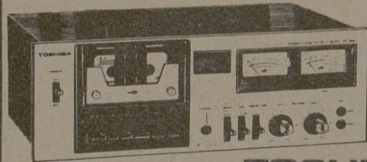
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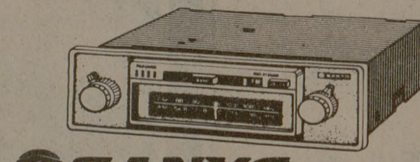
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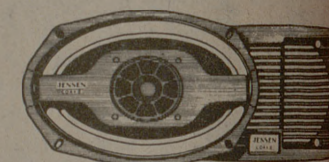
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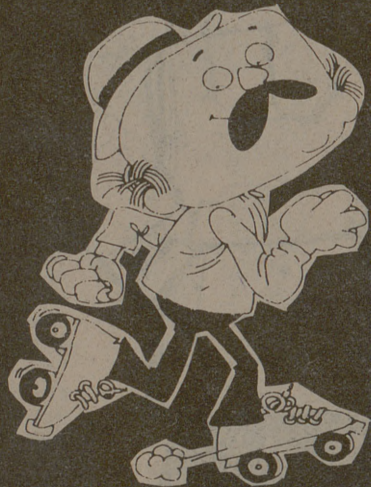


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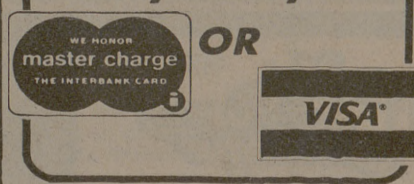
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